

## **Perception of college going students regarding gender inequality**

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### **Abstract**

*The aim of the study was to find out college going students' perception regarding gender inequality in various fields. The main fields investigated by the researcher were child care, financial decisions, women's unpaid work, employment, political participation, legal rights, all type of decisions (social, cultural, & family related), right to education, health & nutrition. A multistage random sampling was used. The sample was made up of 432 college going students of Agra Region including 216 girls and 216 boys. The result revealed that overall average score of students was medium. In other words the perception of students towards gender inequality was mostly unfavorable and little bit favorable.*

Key Words: - Gender Inequality, Perception, College Going Students

### **Introduction**

Gender inequality is a major contemporary social problem which is not a same type of phenomenon, but it is a collection of disparate and interlinked problems. Gender inequality is present in all fields as social, political, legal, physical, educational, economical and cultural. Countless literary fiction references are made to females being the fairer, weaker sex and males being the strong, invincible hunters of the world. Our social and religious beliefs left little room for equitable thinking for centuries. There are many aspects of gender discrimination which show a big gap between male and female in all fields.

A child's behavior is influenced by his/her parents and peoples around him/her. Perception constitutes attitude which affects behavior. Adolescence is very important phase; it is a process of growing towards maturity to become a full fledged adult. It is the phase of human growth extended from, the dependent childhood to the physical and psychological maturity of adulthood. Gender-equitable attitude are often constructed during adolescence making this a critical time to alter gender perceptions. Hence, this study was conducted to find out the perception of college going students (adolescents) regarding gender inequality in various fields.

#### *Objective of the study*

To study the perception of college going students regarding gender inequality.

### **Research Methodology**

The study was carried out in Agra Region of Uttar Pradesh. Multistage random sampling technique was used to select 432 students from 6 colleges of 2 districts (216 students; 108 girls, and 108 boys from each district), namely Agra and Mainpuri. For primary data collection a questionnaire was developed. It was designed to know the perception of students regarding gender inequality. The five point scale was used giving five alternative responses "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree". In this score range was divided into three categories low, medium, & high. The score range for different fields were depend on the number of statements included in particular field. Ranges for the total of all fields were low (68-158), medium (159-249), & high (250-340). High score represented unfavorableness and low score represented favorableness towards gender inequality.

### **Results and Discussion**

The results of investigation carried out are presented through summary table showing the perception of college going students regarding gender inequality which are related to various aspects.

*To study the perception of college going students regarding gender inequality*

Table 1 shows the average score of students' perception for different fields regarding gender inequality in Agra Region. In the case of child care and all type of decisions (social, cultural, and family

Table 1: To find out the perception of college going students regarding gender inequality related to different fields in Agra Region.

S. No.	Fields related to gender inequality	Mean
1	Child Care	31.77(SD 4.78)
2	Financial decisions	20.75(SD 3.38)
3	Women's Unpaid Work	17.44(SD 2.94)
4	Employment	25.30(SD 4.23)
5	Political Participation	34.72(SD 4.72)
6	Legal Rights	20.70(SD 3.00)
7	All Type of Decisions (Social, Cultural, Family related)	44.40(SD 6.33)
8	Right to Education	24.33(SD 3.29)
9	Health and Nutrition	21.11(SD 3.75)
10	Total	240.52(SD 22.04)

related) students had the perception level highly unfavorable towards gender inequality.

In all other fields' financial decisions, women's unpaid work, employment, political participation, legal rights, right to education, and health & nutrition the level of perception towards gender inequality was medium that means students' perception was mostly unfavorable and little bit favorable regarding gender inequality.

Table 2 Indicates the perception level of students regarding gender inequality according to their sex. In the fields of child care and all type of decisions (social, cultural, and family related) girls and boys both perception were high towards gender equality. All remaining fields both had medium level of perception.

Table 2: To find out the perception of college going students regarding gender inequality related to different fields in Agra Region according to their sex.

S.No.	Fields related to gender inequality	Agra Region (N=432)	
		Girls (N=216) Mean	Boys (N=216) Mean
1	Child Care	32.72 (SD 4.66)	31.26 (SD 4.85)
2	Financial decisions	21.13 (SD 3.73)	20.37 (SD 2.94)
3	Women's Unpaid Work	17.53 (SD 3.14)	17.36 (SD 2.72)
4	Employment	25.81 (SD 4.28)	24.78 (SD 4.11)
5	Political Participation	35.57 (SD 4.65)	33.87 (SD 4.64)
6	Legal Rights	21.02 (SD 3.28)	20.39 (SD 2.65)
7	All Type of Decisions (Social,Cultural, Family related)	44.89 (SD 6.14)	43.92 (SD 6.48)
8	Right to Education	24.23 (SD 3.21)	24.43 (SD 3.36)
9	Health and Nutrition	21.72 (SD 3.74)	20.49 (SD 3.66)
10	Total	244.18 (SD 22.13)	236.86 (SD 21.33)

( Z = 3.5 p < 0.001 )

Table 3: To find out the perception of college going students regarding gender inequality related to different fields according to city.

S.No.	Fields related to gender inequality	Agra (n=216) Mean	Mainpuri (n=216) Mean
1	Child Care	31.00 (SD 4.39)	32.54 (SD 5.02)
2	Financial decisions	20.52 (SD 3.49)	20.97 (SD 3.26)
3	Women's Unpaid Work	17.52 (SD 2.56)	17.37 (SD 3.27)
4	Employment	24.68 (SD 3.47)	25.91 (SD 4.38)
5	Political Participation	33.90 (SD 4.46)	35.54 (SD 4.84)
6	Legal Rights	21.18 (SD 3.04)	20.23 (SD 2.88)
7	All Type of Decisions (Social,Cultural, Family related)	42.69 (SD 6.74)	46.12 (SD 5.37)
8	Right to Education	23.55 (SD 2.96)	25.11 (SD 3.41)
9	Health and Nutrition	20.95 (SD 3.84)	21.26 (SD 3.65)
10	Total	235.98 (SD 23.59)	245.06 (SD 19.34)

Z = 4.375 p < 0.001

The average score of girls regarding gender equality was more than boys in all fields by a short head except right to education. In that field the score was almost equal. Statistically Z value was found 3.5 at the 0.001% level of significance.

Table 3 indicates the perception level of students regarding gender inequality according to their type of city. In case of child care and all type of decisions (social, cultural, family related) students' perception were high towards gender equality. All remaining fields students had medium level of perception from both cities.

Further table shows that average scores of students' perception regarding gender equality from Mainpuri city was more in the fields of child care, employment, political participation, all types of decisions (social, cultural, family related), right to education, health & nutrition, and total of all fields. Scores were almost equal in all remaining fields.

Statistically all over value of Z score were 4.375 at the 0.001% of significance level.

Table 4 depicts the perception level of students towards gender equality in different fields according to their type of college. In the case of child care and all type of decisions (social, cultural, and family related) students from both Girls College and Co-ed College were highly favorable to gender equality. In all other fields students from both colleges had medium level of perception towards gender equality.

The average score of students from girls college was found more in the fields of employment, political participation, all type of decisions (social, cultural, and

family related), and total of all fields. In remaining fields minor difference was found between both types of college's student. All over statistically value of Z was 5.00 at the 0.001% level of significance.

Table 5 reveals the perception of students regarding gender inequality related to different fields according to their stream of the study. Students from all three Arts, Science, and Commerce streams had high level of perception towards gender equality in the fields of child care and all type of decisions (social, cultural, and family related). Whereas for all the remaining fields all students from all three streams the level of perception towards gender equality was medium.

The average score of science students was more in the fields of child care, financial decisions, women's unpaid work, employment, political participation, all type of decisions (social, cultural, and family related), health & nutrition and the total of all fields. In the fields of legal rights and right to education students of commerce stream scored more. All over difference was found significant. Z scores were arts/science 5.315 at 0.001% level, arts/commerce 2.312 at 0.05% level, and science/commerce 3.26 at 0.01% level of significance.

### Conclusion

The study was carried out in Agra region of Uttar Pradesh. Multistage random sampling technique was used for the sample selection of 432 college going (graduation) students from two districts Agra and Mainpuri. From each districts two Co-ed colleges and one Girls college were randomly selected. The sample

Table 4: To find out the perception of college going students regarding gender inequality related to different fields according to their Type of College

S.No. Fields related to gender inequality	Type of College	
	Girls College (N=144) Mean	Co-Ed College (N=288) Mean
1 Child Care	32.92 (SD 4.99)	31.19 (SD 4.57)
2 Financial decisions	21.74 (SD 3.72)	20.25 (SD 3.09)
3 Women's Unpaid Work	17.81 (SD 3.57)	17.26 (SD 2.54)
4 Employment	26.79 (SD 4.66)	24.55 (SD 3.78)
5 Political Participation	36.71 (SD 4.74)	33.73 (SD 4.39)
6 Legal Rights	20.49 (SD 3.71)	20.81 (SD 2.56)
7 All Type of Decisions (Social, Cultural, Family related)	45.24 (SD 5.88)	43.99 (SD 6.50)
8 Right to Education	24.58 (SD 3.27)	24.20 (SD 3.29)
9 Health and Nutrition	21.54 (SD 3.73)	20.89 (SD 3.74)
10 Total	247.82 (SD 22.39)	236.87 (SD 20.93)
Z = 5.007 p < 0.001		

Table 5: To find out the perception of college going students regarding gender inequality related to different fields according to their Stream of Study

S.No.	Fields related to gender inequality	Stream of Study		
		Arts (N=144) Mean	Science (N=144) Mean	Commerce (N=144) Mean
1	Child Care	31.27(SD 4.46)	32.92(SD 4.99)	31.12(SD 4.67)
2	Financial decisions	20.26(SD 2.89)	21.74(SD 3.72)	20.24(SD 3.27)
3	Women's Unpaid Work	17.46(SD 2.30)	17.81(SD 3.57)	17.06(SD 2.75)
4	Employment	24.18(SD 3.75)	26.79(SD 4.66)	24.92(SD 3.77)
5	Political Participation	33.26(SD 4.37)	36.21(SD 4.74)	34.20(SD 4.36)
6	Legal Rights	20.42(SD 2.47)	20.49(SD 3.71)	21.20(SD 2.60)
7	All Type of Decisions (Social,Cultural, Family related)	43.22(SD 6.66)	45.24(SD 5.88)	44.75(SD 6.25)
8	Right to Education	23.68(SD 2.99)	24.58(SD 3.27)	24.72(SD 3.49)
9	Health and Nutrition	20.29(SD 3.30)	21.54(SD 3.73)	21.49(SD 4.04)
10	Total	234.04(SD 21.60)	247.82(SD 22.39)	239.69(SD 19.84)

Arts/Science Z = 5.32 p <0.001, Arts/Commerce Z = 2.31 p <0.05, Science/Commerce Z = 3.26 p <0.01

students were from arts, science and commerce streams.

Overall the result reveals that

- In the fields of child care and all type of decisions (social, cultural, family related) the average score of students was found high that means perception of sample towards gender inequality was highly unfavorable. They believed in gender equality more.
- In the fields of financial decisions, women's unpaid work, employment, political participation, legal rights, right to education, and health & nutrition in all these fields the average score found medium. It means the perception of students towards gender inequality was average. In these fields students believed in gender equality but less, it means there is still need to improvement of students' perception towards gender equality.

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