

# Youth Awareness & Acceptance for Gender Equality in Present Scenario

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**Abstract:** *The present study was designed to identify the "Youth awareness & acceptance for gender equality in present scenario". The survey method design was used in this study. The sample for the present study was taken from Post Graduate Government College, Sector-46, Chandigarh. Students of the above said college (10 Boys & 10 Girls) in the age group of 17-21 were interviewed and their opinions taken with the help of Questionnaire to find out the acceptance level of gender equality in male & female. Data analysis was done by using SPSS & t-test done for finding the significant level in male and female groups. Result indicates that youth are equally aware & accepting gender equality in present scenario.*

**Keywords:** Gender Equality, Youth, Gender Inequality, Gender Acceptance, Awareness

## 1. Introduction

Gender is the range of characteristic pertaining to, and differentiating between Masculinity and female. Depending on the context, these characteristics may include biological Sex male/female (Wikipedia). Gender is a common term where as gender discrimination is meant only for women because females are the only victims of genders discrimination (Siva Kumar.M.2008). Gender Inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender (Male & female). Women facing lots of discrimination against them in our society. Women are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. They have less access of property ownership not giving enough and nutritious food, not allowing to go to school, abortion of female, early marriage, eve teasing, dowry, divorce due to educational backwardness, Caste religious belief, culture, customs and beliefs, races etc. Gender equality is human rights. Women are entitled to live with dignity and freedom from want and from freedom. Gender equality is achieved when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economics participation and decision making and when the different behavior aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favored. (Siva Kumar.M.2008).

Youth is an experience that may shape an individual's level of dependency, which can be marked in various ways according to different cultural perspectives. Personal experience is marked by an individual's cultural norms or traditions, while a youth's level of dependency means the extent to which he still relies on his family emotionally and economically.

The English terms youth, adolescent, teenager, kid, and young person are interchanged, often meaning the something, but they are occasionally differentiated. Youth can be referred to as the time of life when one is young. This involves childhood, and the time of life which is neither childhood nor adulthood, but rather somewhere in between. Youth also identifies a particular mindset of attitude, as in "He is very youthful". For certain uses, such as employment

statistics, the term also sometimes refers to individuals from the ages of 14 to 21. However, the term adolescence refers to a specific age range during a specific developmental period in a person's life, unlike youth which is a socially constructed category. (wikipedia).

## 2. Review of Literature

The present study pertains some of the important studies conducted by researcher in the past. This literature has been helpful to put some light on the area of the present study. Here, under the previous studies are given for a better understanding of the gender perspective:

Sonalde Desai (1994) observed that parents reluctance to educate daughters has its roots in the situation of women. Parents have several incentives for not educating their daughters. Foremost is the view that education of girls brings no returns to parents and that their future roles, being mainly reproductive and perhaps including agricultural labor, require no formal education.

Kalyani Menon Sen and A.K. Shiva Kumar (2001) found that girls in India are discriminated against in several ways – fewer months of breastfeeding less of nurturing and play, less care or medical treatment if they fall ill, less of "special" food, less of parental attention. As a result, girls are far more susceptible than boys to disease and infections, leading to poor health and a shorter lifespan. It is this life-long discrimination in nurturing and care that is the real killer of girls – less visible and dramatic, but as unequivocally lethal as female feticide and infanticide.

Anna-Maria Lind (2006) stated that India's population still leads traditional lives in rural areas. Religious laws and traditions still determine the lives of many people, particularly women. Even if women are formerly entitled to own land and resources social and religious factors make many women refrain from this right in order not to cause distortions within the family. The preference for having sons permeates all social classes in India, which sets the standard for girls throughout their entire lives.

## 2.1 Finding from the literature

From the review of literature it was found that large scale studies have been conducted by at National as well as international level from different gender perspectives. However, most of the studies have been concentrated upon the gender problems, gender movements etc. It was also found that no study has been conducted at the micro level taking both male & female as respondents. Thus, the present study tries to highlight the gender awareness and level of acceptance among both male & female.

## 3. Importance of Gender Equality:

As gender is a burning issue of the present context, hence any study on gender carries much significance. A few important issues have been mentioned here under:

- Gender equality is intrinsically linked to sustainable development.
- Gender equality plays a vital role to realization of human rights to all.
- Gender equality makes women live their life with dignity and freedom.
- Gender equality is a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligation in all spheres of life.

## 4. Objectives

The present paper has been studied with the following objectives:

- To assess the awareness level of the youth on gender equality.
- To find out the effectiveness of questionnaire among youth acceptance on gender equality.
- To assess the youth acceptance level on gender equality.

## 5. Methodology

### 5.1 Prepared Checklist

It was developed to find out the youth awareness & acceptance level for gender equality. The gender equality measure and awareness has been selected. The items in the checklist were arranged domain wise in a logical sequence. Checklists divided into five domains were:

- 1) Family
- 2) Society
- 3) Education
- 4) Employment
- 5) Religious and Cultural

The items were four in domain-1, four in domain-2, four in domain-3, five in domain-4, three in domain-5. A provision for recording the level of awareness was made in the checklist.

The following scores were used for recording the youth acceptance level in checklist is given below:

- Fully Agree = 3
- Agree = 2
- Partial Agree = 1

- Disagree = 0

The scoring for checklist “Assess the youth acceptance level on gender equality was done by using numerical codes ranging from (0-3), fully agree is given a score 3, Agree-2, partial agree-1, disagree-0.

## 5.2 Procedure

The primary objective of the study was to find out the youth awareness & acceptance for gender equality in present scenario. Information was taken individually on the issue of gender equality checklist. The respondents filled in the checklist themselves and put their opinion of cognitive level. Calculation was done to obtain marks and Total marks to get the percentage of awareness and acceptance level. Collected data was analyzed with the help of SPSS.

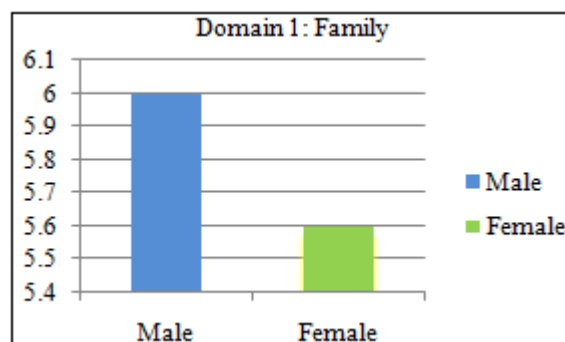
## 6. Result and Finding

The Present study titled “Youth awareness & acceptance for gender equality in present scenario” is based upon five major domains. In fact the study has been stratified into five domains, as it will be convenient to analyze the significance and gravity of the problem therein. The major five domains are family, Society, Education, Employment & Religious and Culture. However, here we will begin with the first domain & the components therein.

S. No	Domain	Mean Score		Significant
		Male	Female	
1.	Family	6.00	5.60	.065
2.	Society	6.70	7.20	.233
3.	Education	6.90	8.60	.009
4.	Employment	5.90	6.60	.957
5.	Religious & Cultural	7.80	8.70	.397
Total Score		34.90	34.70	.717

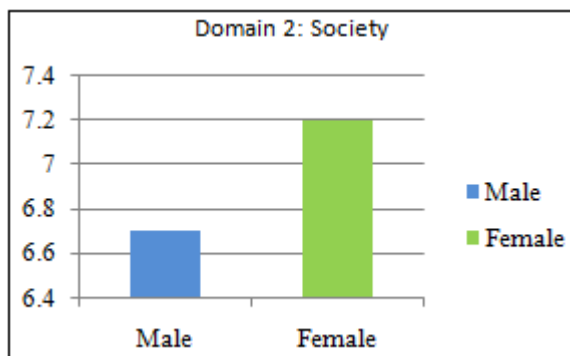
### 6.1 Domain-1(Family)

So far as our study is concerned, most of the respondents say that boys are given more waitage in family. In most of the family activities and decision making process male dominate. Parents usually are not ready to reduce their gender bias mind set. However, most of the families spent more for the marriage of their girls. It is surprising from this study that, parents not only spent more for the marriage of girls, but also give their daughter marriage at an early age as according to them it will provide safety and security to the girls. Research data very clearly indicates that boys are significant in comparison to the girls by (.065).



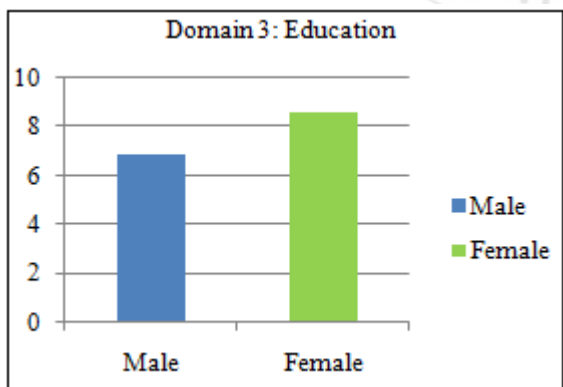
**6.2 Domain2 (Society)**

With regard to a study of the general society pertaining to the broad area of our study, most of the young boys say that they do have a positive, constructive and at the same time critically defined role in the fighting against violence to women. But, most of the male respondents say parenting is difficult in changing social & cultural environment. However, most of the girls agree that dowry system create discrimination among them and their boys counterpart. In the same manner most of the female respondents frankly agree to the decline of their status due to rape or other form of sexual harassment. A study from the domain of the society makes it clear that girls out number in comparison to the boys. Out the four questions asked under this domain, in answer of three questions the girls have responded highly. In other words in this domain the girls are significant to the boys by (.233).



**6.3 Domain3 (Education)**

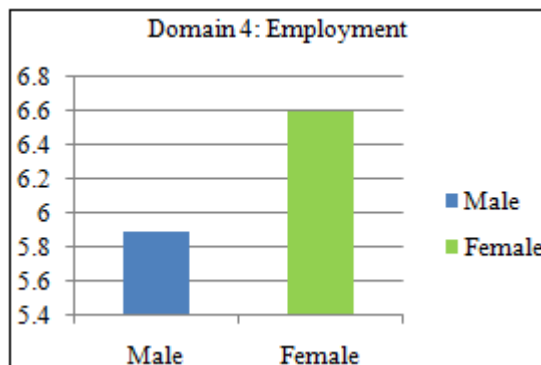
So far as the study on educational domain is concerned, some of the male respondents say that girls coming from remote areas having poor financial background should get higher education. Abortion/female feticide is not the right way. These practice abortion/female feticide are doing illegal activities & declining the status of women in society. However, all the girls do agree on these issues. Overall responses of this domain indicate that girls are significant in comparison to the boys (.009).



**6.4 Domain4 (Employment)**

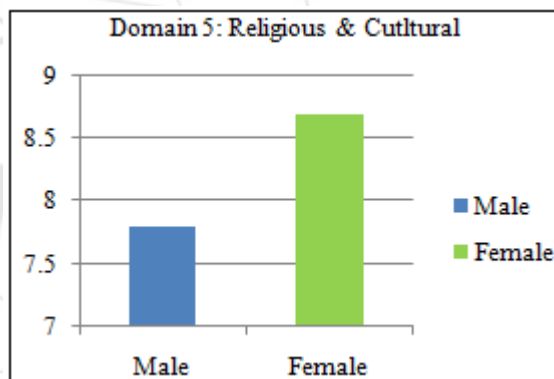
With regard to study of employment is concerned, most of the boys say that in an advertisement for employment, there should be a provision/column both for boys and girls. Most of the male respondents further agree that more women

should come for job and normally they are more duty oriented and strictly follow the rules of duty with reference to these issues all the girls agree. Most of the girls also say that they have best managing skills and thus they deserve high salary than boys. Overall respondents indicate that girls are significant as comparison to boys (.957).



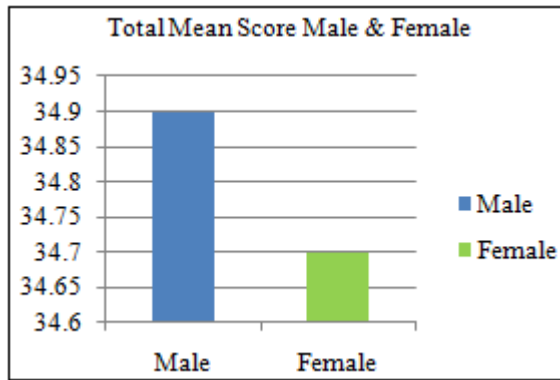
**6.5 Domain5 (Religious & Cultural)**

In this domain most of the girls state that caste, race & religion are not important aspects to get a job. Further most of the girls disagree with the tradition of denying women into the religious places. Most of the boys also given similar responses. But overall, the domain indicates that girls are significant in comparison than to boys (.397).



**7. Conclusion**

In a nutshell, the present study reveals that a male & female response on gender equality varies from question to question. But at some time, overall responses of domain wise male/female response differ from individual questions. In some items/questions girls score is higher than boy, on the other side in some items boys score were higher than girls. Overall male mean score is 34.90 and the girls mean score is 34.70. So, we can say that there is no difference in between male and female responses related to gender equality. Youth are equally aware and accepting the gender equality in the present scenario.



## 8. Limitations of the Study

- **Sample Size:** The sample size in the present study is small. Hence, there is a need to conduct the study on a large group.
- **Place:** Present study was done in Post 76 Graduate Government College Sector- 46, Chandigarh for generalization process same research should be done at different place.
- **Age factor:** In this study the age group was 17-21 years. Some researcher should take other age group of college going students.
- **No. of Item/questions:** In this present study question in the checklist was less. It should be more than 20.

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