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QUESTION: Is gender relations changing in the 21st century? What are the areas of change and the factors driving the change?

Gender relations refer to relations between men and women that are socially determined by culture, religion or socially acceptable ways of behaving. This includes how power and control over resources id distributed among the sexes. Since gender relations are socially constructed, they are dynamic and can be transformed overtime.

Yes, it is agreeable to say that gender relations are and are continuing to change in the 21st century. From women finally being able to earn an education and work for themselves to women being able to vote and have an opinion in affairs going on in the world. In the 1900s, women’s movements largely surrounded the rights of women as well as laws that will improve their living. It was mainly focused on granting women the right to education, right to work and earn a living, equal inheritance and property rights, equal rights in marriage, right to divorce and very importantly right to vote. If we observe, most of these are being enjoyed by women round the world s their rights as human beings. Women are now more than ever previously recorded on their way to equality with men. The 21st century has seen a significant shift in some countries in gender roles due to multiple factors such as family structures, education media and so on. It is good to also note that over the years, women’s desires wish to be less and less involved solely in the household management and child care but also to be involved in other issues like their work, politics and so on. So yes, relations between the genders are changing just as times are changing and modernizing and these are obvious in various aspects.

The right for women to vote now is a big win as over the globe, women are being able to vote and participate in politics as equal to their male counterparts. As of today, we have women in powerful positions over the globe, from Queen Elizabeth to Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama, Angela Merkel the chancellor of Germany and Sheikh Hasina Wajed the prime minister of Bangladesh. This proves that women are being involved in the aspect which is politics now more than before when it was viewed as a problem.

Women now have the right to work and earn their salaries which used to be a major hinderance before as their properties were acquitted to their husbands. Though this is still a problem in few countries of the world, women now enjoy the freedom of being able to earn their own living and have properties in their name regardless of their status as married women or single. The earn the equal rights in marriage now which is enjoyed y a lot of countries in the world.

Women also have a right to education. In most countries of today, women, girls are allowed to go to school and earn a sound education. But despite all these there are at least 20 prominent countries that do not allow women to earn an education even till this day and age. Countries like South Sudan, Mali with only 38% of girls finishing their primary schooling education, Niger where only 17% of women between the ages of 15 and 24 are literate.

But despite all these factors, things are changing and situations are getting better and the factors that have helped drive this change consist of the social media platform which has given a platform for people to be able to speak up against these issues affecting the female gender and for their voices to be heard since we live in a digital age now. Education is another factor as women now know their rights and are able to stand up for themselves in situations that require that thanks to them being educated.