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

**Is Gender relation changing in the 21st century**

In this current generation of 21st century, gender is often misunderstood as promotion of women who have taken more active role in different sectors and careers feminist movement gained momentum in the 1960’s and 70’s in the United State together with other human right groups that advocated for equal human rights among all genders . Gender roles in communities changed lately whereby women now play equal role as men in owning large companies, very active in community and their family, own personal businesses, manage big organization, head political groups, earn higher academic degrees from all sectors equal to men, to mention but few compared to early centuries. In this 21st century there has been some improvement which has been able to demonstrate equal participation of both genders in different activities as compared to early centuries that kept women behind by being responsible for domestic chores. For example there have been countries who have been able to improve gender equality/relation for examples countries like Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark , Rwanda , India, South Africa etc

For instance Iceland, Norway, Finland , Sweden and Denmark ) have the smallest gender gaps on global level, Iceland was the first country in the world to decide to introduce equal pay through legislation, and has been a frontrunner on the global gender gap index for 11 years in a row, Rwanda one of the African country that has made an impact in gender relation for example let’s start with the economy , 86%, Rwanda has one of the highest rates of female labor force participation in the world , in Rwanda women earn 88 cents for every dollar men do, Rwanda has also top the global list in female political participation. For here have been improvement in politics compared to before for example Finland’s prime minister is a woman ( Sanna Marin) appointed at the age 34 and she’s the youngest sitting head of government and now the social democrat will lead a coalition of 5 parties all headed by women , this just shows how gender relation has been improving. There is also marginal gains in educational attainment and health and survival, both of which are nearing parity at 96.1% and 95.7% respectively.

With the examples mentioned above there have been some improvement concerning gender relation although there are some areas lacking I do believe that gender relations are changing in this 21st century although some countries do need improvement there are rules or laws that are been implemented to help through the struggle.

**Areas where gender relation have changed**

There have been some areas where gender relation has changed and which will be mentioned below:

Employment: in the 1980’s half of the nation agreed that the role of men was to go out to work and to be the main breadwinner of the family, while the role of women is to stay at home and look after the children and the house but now women are being employed and given full time jobs and can hold the financial responsibilities to their home in the past financial responsibility were expected in the role of men, women are becoming bosses and hold influential position in society which did not exist before.

More acceptance of working moms: in 2008, 74%of employees said working mothers can have as good of a relationship with their children as stay-at-home moms , that’s up from 58% in 1977, while among men the figure was 68% in 2008 and 49% in 1997. For women, 81% in 2008 believed working moms can equally good child relationships, up from 71% in 1997.

Balancing power: for the first time in survey history , it showed that women under age 29 are just as likely as men to wants jobs with more responsibility and now women are given top positions in businesses , organizations etc

Traditional gender role have changed over time that female are no longer restricted to what was once considered traditional such as house chores and care-giving and this is due to advancement in education on the part of women, for instance we are now see that men who were once considered the bread winner, they are taking up their roles as care –giver in their families. In 2008, 55% men said they did at least half of the cooking up from 34% in 1992. (Sullivan, 2004)

**Factors driving the change of gender relation**

Education ; many of the girls and women in African countries have never stepped inside a school, due to the lack of education about 774 million people around the world cannot read and 61% of them are girls.

Economic independence; even if some women were allowed to visit the school and get education, they still face a problem of inequality when participating in labor market, they work hard but pay lower wages and it happens because women are thought to be weaker employees if compared to men

Child marriages; this problem destroy not only the hope for a happy future but isolates the young girls from the world and the opportunities , which are accessible to men.

Violence against women and sexual assault; women often becomes the victims of violence and sexual both at work and home.

Human trafficking; about 71% of the total human trafficking rate is accounted for women and girls. In most cases, they trafficked with the purpose sexual exploitation.

Access to medical care; most of the mothers in the developing countries, which have problems with gender inequality , give birth to their babies in improper conditions , while the men get both necessary medical care and vaccination.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion there have been improvement which has been done in gender relation , countries are now seeing the importance of women in the society which is changing the world.

**Reference**

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Sullivan, O. (2004). Changing Gender Practices within the Household : A Theoritical Perspective. Gender& Society , 207-222.