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**GENDER INEQUALITY AND ITS EFFECTS**

Gender inequality or gender imbalance is a very common problem which the world faces today and it has always been an issue that has been debated on for decades. It refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender, this arises from differences in socially constructed gender roles. Gender is the range of characteristics pertaining to and differentiating between masculinity and femininity while inequity is the quality of being unequal or uneven. It mainly affects the female gender, it is doubtless that the female gender suffer a lot compared their male counterpart, it is only in rare cases where men are victims of gender based inequity.

The first case is that women across the world lack educational skill to guarantee them a job when you compare them with men, this is the reason for higher number of unemployed females than males. Thus, you hardly find a woman in lucrative job position and for the few who get there, they might never get promotion to higher positions. Most schools register fewer girls than boys and it is worth noting that whenever there is gender imbalance in primary level, it widens when students graduates to secondary schools and even higher learning institutions. It is part of the reason why women account for a larger number of illiterate people in the world than men.

The second problem is concerned with access to resources. Most women in the world lack access to resources like capital, which are necessary in establishing and growing a business. This is even worse during divorce cases where most land and property law discriminate against women and girls a lot. Thus, women end up languishing in poverty unable to support themselves and are at risk to further exploitation by the society. A good example is the situation in Africa where women account for 90% of food production yet they own 1% of the continent’s land, in South America, women constitute to one third of landowners. Women can hardly access credit, it is estimated that less than 10% of credit is exhausted to women globally.

Gender imbalance is also manifested in decision making. In most cases, women are incapacitated to act on their own as agents of change in the society. Sometimes, women are underrepresented in higher position of power and influence. Common areas where this inconsistency is common includes NGOs, boardrooms, unions, in government etc. Because of this, it is almost impossible for women pursue and protest their interest.

The position of women in the society promotes gender inequality. For example, 75% of them spend most of their time on house hold chores, which attracts no pay. Most people believe that women are to take care of children, the home and the elderly. This means that women miss from formal employment figures as they are always at home and as a result their economic status and power drops drastically.

Many women in the society are victims of gender inequality as a perception has been built that women are weak and cannot fight for their right. Many cases on domestic violence have been reported frequently and this cases have consequences that people are not able to live with. Men have gone to the extent of abusing their wives, mothers and even their children and in many incidents, the victims have lost their lives, left suffering in depression while others are contemplate divorce or separation. Women face rape, female genital mutilation, early marriage, gender based violence and more which results to physical and emotional illnesses and weaknesses.

While it is true that women are mostly affected by gender based violence, there is a need to appreciate that men can also be abused, emotionally, sexually and physically. Young people said that boys are often raped, but that these acts are stigmatized, meaning they are kept hidden and unreported. Men are abused by their women partners, but this is not understood to be a reality. In general it is difficult for men to speak out about sexual and other forms of abuse because the attitude is that men are tough and invulnerable, and that they do not express their pain or suffering.

There are particular forms of gender based violence carried out against young men who do not participate in the cultural practice of traditional circumcision or who end up having to go to hospital during the ritual because of injury, infection or other medical problems. A man who is not traditionally circumcised will not be considered “a real man”. He is very likely to face discrimination in the form of emotional and physical abuse.

Gender inequality of an individual in the society whether male or female is an issue that has reduced our great societies to the most uncouth places to be associated with.