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**THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF GENDER INEQUALITY  
IN OUR SOCIETY.**

It goes without saying that gender inequality is one of the most important issues facing us today. This issue has been going on for thousands of years and it continues to affect our society in various ways, some that we may even deem normal.

Gender inequality can be defined as the act of allowing people different opportunities due to recognized differences based solely on issues of gender. In other words, gender inequality acknowledges that men and women are not equal and that a person's gender affects his/her living experience. Anyone can experience gender based inequality but in our society it is mainly experienced by the female gender. There are various stereotypes and 'rules' regarding how men and women, boys and girls should be which begins from childhood and follows through adulthood. A common example of such 'rule' can be the idea that the colour blue is for boys and the colour pink is for girls. The major cause of gender inequality is culture. In most cultures women are perceived as weak and made to focus solely on getting married and bearing children in order to continue the family line. In the household, there is also an unequal distribution of responsibilities with the mother bearing the majority of caregiving and chores. Some cultures still abolish women from attaining a standard education and getting jobs.

There are various forms of gender inequality some important ones include; inequality in employment and earnings, ownership inequality, survival inequality, gender bias in the distribution of education and health, inequality in freedom of expression and lastly inequality in respect of violence and victimization. For thousands of years, men have always been able to participate in work outside of their homes while women are left to perform their responsibilities in their home making them to most times work longer hours than men. In addition, women then tend to work in a narrow range of occupations which are termed 'female industries' which consists of food and beverages, textiles, clothing,

electronics etc. thus making them to have lower wages compared to other industries. The term ownership inequality can also be placed under social inequalities. In earlier years in our society women were not allowed to own properties from inheritances' or just own properties in general. This still occurs in some certain cultures and religions. Survival inequality has to with the fact that women live longer than men which leads to more boys being born than girls. In most developed countries due to the absence of gender-bias in health and nutrition, women outnumber men but in developing countries women receive less support and care than men and 'son preference' prevails.

In some societies women lack the ability to air their opinions on some certain subjects. This is common in the male-dominated societies where they feel that women are not educated enough to give their inputs on certain subjects and also deny women the right to vote. In society today, women are subject to both physical and sexual violence. Research shows that about one in three women in the world have either been beaten or have been raped during her lifetimes. Research from the director of ASU's institute for Humanities research, Kitch, analyses how race and gender judgements evolved together and influenced one another. She goes on to discuss the process of granting US citizenship and makes us to understand that women lose their US citizenship when they marry non-American men and she cannot transfer her US citizenship to her children. This is a form of gender inequality that has already been deemed normal in the society.

Correspondingly, gender inequalities has led to various adverse effects in our society a major example being sexual harassment and women and child trafficking. Many of these operations are led by male perpetrators who feel the need to make money while exploiting females and not males. Another effect is early child marriage and pregnancy which has led to the deaths of a wide number of people in the society. Due to the wide gap in unequal pay between both genders, it has created an avenue for increased poverty in the society. Research has proven that the powerful factor affecting women's social power and status is their ability to bear children. Lack of input and labour force of women in some certain jobs forces a lot of jobs to shut down hence increasing the rate of unemployment in the society. In modern societies, there has been creation of new genders such as the transgender male/female. They also receive gender inequalities which may lead to mental illness, verbal and physical abuse and social exclusion. This also leads to the invasion of their human rights.

However, a lot of women empowerment schemes and fights for women's right have been heard and approved and now in most societies, women can now vote, own properties, have custody rights, pursue careers and attain whichever level of education they want. Furthermore, with all that has been discussed, people should begin to accept the changes in the society and should change their mindset on how they feel things should be and rather open their minds and accept the changes. Parents should give their female children the best education they could afford and encourage them to do their best in all they do. There should also be equal pay in places of work in order to reduce the rate of poverty. Security measures should be put in place in order to avoid sexual harassment and male children should be taught that it is not okay to sexually harass women and they should also be taught how to control their sexual urges. People should learn to help their fellow citizens in little ways that they can.

In conclusion, gender inequality should be abolished from our society and solutions to rid our society of this issue should be considered.