

ABSTRACT

**WOMEN AND PATRIARCHY: THE FIGHT FOR GENDER JUSTICE
CONTINUES**

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The Girl child problem around the world has many dimensions but the root of all kind of discriminations and bias against the girl child lays in the customs, traditions and the typical mindset of the society which looks at the girl child and women as inferior beings. A report by an Indian NGO, Plan India³, states that before birth and till the age of a year, a girl faces the danger of foeticide, infanticide, infant mortality, neglect of health, and even discrimination in breastfeeding and infant food. Girls are vulnerable to trafficking, child marriage, domestic chores, etc. The problems of a girl multiply further to include child-bearing morbidity, frequent pregnancy, domestic violence, dowry harassment, desertion, polygamy and divorce.

Although women have excelled in the field of cinema, music and sports but, they are the ones with the least access to development. They are either burdened by poverty or suppressed due to patriarchy. The situation is such that women are not even given ownership to their own fruits of labour and access to education and information is a distant, even a utopian dream for them.

Living in this patriarchal society, the rights and liberties of women are not fairly addressed. Gender discrimination is rampant and the male members of the society always have an undue advantage over their female counterparts.

This paper seeks to address the challenges faced by women due to our patriarchal society and also the legal measures taken to solve this problem. The authors will also focus on the lacunae in the system and will make some suggestions for better enforcement of these measures.

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³ Plan India is part of Plan International, one of the world's largest community development organizations. Plan's vision is of a world in which all children realize their full potential in societies which respect people's rights and dignity. Plan is independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations. (www.planindia.org)

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