

GENDER INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH STATUS AND HEALTH CARE

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Introduction

The distinct roles and behaviors of men and women in a given culture, dictated by that culture's gender norms and values, give rise to gender differences. Gender norms and values, however, also give rise to gender inequalities - that is, differences between men and women which systematically empower one group to the detriment of the other. The fact that, throughout the world, women on average have lower cash incomes than men is an example of a gender inequality.

Both gender differences and gender inequalities can give rise to inequalities between men and women in health status and access to health care. For example: A woman cannot receive needed health services because norms in her community prevent her from traveling alone to a clinic.

Women's health also recognises the importance of studying of gender differences, recognises multidisciplinary team approach and includes the values and knowledge of women and their own experience of health and illness, recognises the diversity of women's health needs over the life cycle and how these needs reflect the differences in race, class and culture . Sexual preferences, levels of education, access to medical care, inequalities in the social and economic status of men and women, disproportionately deprive women and child of their good health.

Gender inequality is commonly seen in most of the countries. Social and cultural factors deny girls and women the same nutrition, health care and other support that males receive. These values on gender roles and status influence health later in life.

Objective :

The paper attempts to describe deficiencies and inequalities related to women's health. It also aims at explaining how support for the rights of women is not just a matter of social justice but is recognised through national laws and international covenants.

Methodology:

Secondary data collection method will be used in collecting the required information.

Conclusion:

The paper presentation may help in learning various aspects of health discrimination on the basis of gender.