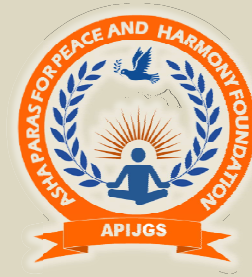


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Preface

Gender inequality is a major concern in the private and public sphere. Discriminatory practices existing at home and society produces gender gap in learning and skill development. School text books, print media, social media and other digital forms of the media percolate gender norms and paves way to gender discrimination. For example, according to the UNICEF Annual report (2019), 1 in 4 girls, between the ages of 15 and 19, are neither employed nor in education or training, compared to 1 in 10 boys. The same report also shows that 1 in 20 girls between the ages of 15 and 19, faced forced sex in their lifetimes. Globally it accounts to 13 million girls who faced forced sex between the ages of 15 and 19. Not only girls but boys also face gender discrimination. For instance, social conception of masculinity can fuel child labour, gang violence, disengagement from school and recruitment into armed forces, according to the UNICEF report. In this context reducing inequality is the need of the hour, to strengthen economies and build resilient societies that provide better prospects to fulfill their potential. The **Asha Paras International Journal of Gender Studies** published by **Asha Paras for Peace and Harmony Foundation** of India is an international online open access peer-reviewed Bi-Annual Research Journal that tries to bridge the gender gap existing in the Global society.

Strong discussion on gender norms and production of new knowledge to build a gender equal society can be achieved through such publications and exchange of knowledge. As a Chief in Editor of the Journal, I am happy to share my views about APIJGS Journal. I congratulate the team of the Journal Editors - Dr. Jaya Phookan & Dr. Kamlaveni, Sub-Editor- Dr. Ramshankar and Managing Editor - Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta with Editorial Board for their efforts in publishing the Journal and contributors for their contribution in the present issue of the Journal which addresses the current need of the society. It is my most emphatic belief that gender-neutral publications can add to the journey of founding a Gender-neutral society. I wish a grand success to everyone on board.



Prof. Asha Shukla
Editor-in-Chief
APIJGS