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Preface...

The World Economic Forum (WEF) recently released the Global Gender Gap Report 2023 evaluating the status of gender parity across 146 Countries. The report benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity in four key dimensions including economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, Health and Survival, and Political empowerment. On the basis of findings of the report, the stakeholders within each country are able to set priorities relevant in each specific economic, political and cultural context. The global gender gap in 2023 stands at 68.4%. India has made progress rising from 135th (In 2022) to 127 in 2023 out of 146 countries which indicates improvement in its ranking.

In the past years, many initiatives have been taken by the government to reduce gender gaps in social, political, and economic areas by introducing many policies, schemes and programmes for different target groups. Recently passed landmark bill in India “Nari Sahkti vandan Adhiniyam” 2023 which seeks to reserve one-third of the total seats in Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies for women is a new chapter in the endeavors of social change. The law will enable greater participation of women in policymaking and equitable governance at state and national levels.

But cases and data related to increasing crime against women are very disturbing and need to be addressed especially through gender sensitization and awareness where attempts should be made to work on different agencies of socialization in society and also through work on prevailing gender norms in society. Positive gender socialization seeks to challenge and change negative gender norms which would address the issues of increasing crime against women to some extent.

In this regard, Asha Paras International Journal of Gender Studies (APIJGS) is an initiative to address gender issues both at the national and international level and bring them to the forefront through evidence-based research papers, articles, and manuscripts.

Credit goes to the entire APIJGS team for bringing this issue in front of you, due to their tireless hard work, dedication and research point of view, this excellent journal is being presented before you. Also, all the authors who contributed through research papers in this issue deserve congratulations whose research papers were received. It is hoped that this issue of the Journal will be well received and appreciated by academicians of the allied field also.



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