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A STUDY ON GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN WORKPLACE

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ABSTRACT:

Gender Discrimination in the workplace means treating someone unfairly because of their gender. It is a pervasive problem that affects many countries around the world. The issue of gender discrimination has far reaching implications not only for women but for society as a whole. This can include things like paying women less than men for the same job, not promoting people because of their gender, or assuming certain jobs are only for men or women. This kind of discrimination can hurt people's confidence, limit their career growth, and make workplaces less fair and equal. This report looks at the causes of gender discrimination, how it affects workers, and what can be done to stop it.

When women are discriminated against in the workplace, they are denied opportunities to contribute to the economy and society, and their talents and skills go unrecognised. Moreover, gender discrimination perpetuates harmful stereotypes and reinforces gender inequality, which can lead to further discrimination and exclusion. This paper talks about gender discrimination at work. It explains how some people are treated unfairly, just because they are male or female. For example, women might not get the same pay or chances to move up in a company as men do. It also talks about how this can make people feel bad and hurt their careers. The goal is to understand the problem and find ways to make workplaces fair for everyone.

INTRODUCTION:

Gender discrimination in the workplace is a pervasive issue that affects millions of people every day. It involves treating employees or job applicants unfairly simply because of their gender. This discrimination can take many forms, including differences in pay, biased hiring practises, limited opportunities for advancement, and even outright harassment. The impact of these practices is significant, not only limiting individual growth and potential but also hindering organisational progress and contributing to broader social inequalities. This paper explores the roots of gender discrimination, its effects on both individuals and companies, and the steps that can be taken to create a more equitable work environment. In many workplaces around the world, gender discrimination remains a critical problem. Despite advances in social and legal

measures designed to promote equality, women and gender minorities continue to face obstacles based solely on their gender.

These obstacles include, but are not limited to, wage gaps, restricted career advancement, and exclusion from opportunities typically available to their male counterparts. This introductory discussion sets the stage for a closer look at how such discrimination is manifested in everyday work environments, its long term consequences for both employees and businesses and strategies that may be implemented to challenge and change these unfair practices. Workplace environments should be places where all employees can thrive regardless of their gender. However, gender discrimination continues to create barriers that impede equal treatment and opportunity. This discrimination is evident in practises that result in unequal pay, uneven

promotion rates, and different expectations based solely on one's gender. The persistence of these challenges calls for a critical examination of workplace culture and policies. In this discussion, we will delve into the causes and effects of gender discrimination, consider real world examples, and discuss potential pathways toward a fairer and more inclusive work setting.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- ❖ To analyse the different forms of gender discrimination in recruitment, pay, promotions, and daily interactions to establish a clear framework of the issue.
- ❖ To investigate the underlying social, cultural, and organizational factors such as biases, stereotypes, and workplace norms that contribute to gender-based discrimination.
- ❖ To evaluate how gender discrimination affects employees' career trajectories, job satisfaction, and mental health, including both short-term and long-term consequences.
- ❖ To determine the broader effects of gender discrimination on workplace productivity, team dynamics, employee retention, and overall organizational success.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

Studying gender discrimination in the workplace is essential for promoting equity, informing policy, and catalysing systemic change. This research identifies and examines the underlying causes of biased practices, providing quantitative and qualitative evidence on the prevalence and impact of discrimination. Data obtained guides legislative reform and corporate policies to ensure equal pay, fair hiring, and advancement opportunities. In addition, the study helps organizations understand how discrimination undermines employee morale and productivity, and supports the development of inclusive practices. Overall, such research empowers affected employees, supports ethical business

practices, and drives social justice initiatives in professional settings while enhancing workplace harmony.

HYPOTHESIS:

This study tests three main ideas. First, it explores

- ❖ whether people who notice more gender discrimination at work feel less happy, more stressed, and less committed to their jobs.
- ❖ it examines if wage gaps and slower promotions limit the career progress of women and gender minorities compared to men.
- ❖ it looks at whether companies with strong anti-discrimination policies have employees with higher morale, better performance, and lower turnover.

These ideas, or hypotheses, provide a simple framework for understanding how gender discrimination might negatively impact both individuals and organizations, and they help guide improvements for workplace fairness and inclusion.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. **Heilman, M.E. (2012)** – Gender stereotypes and workplace bias. This study shows that traditional gender roles often lead to biased evaluations of women in leadership or high-status roles. Women are judged more harshly than men for the same behaviour, especially when assertive, due to gender role expectations.
2. **Blau, F.D. & Kahn, L.M. (2017)** – The Gender Wage Gap: Extent, Trends, and Explanations. Their research highlights that while the gender wage gap has narrowed, it still persists. Factors like occupational segregation, work experience, and discrimination continue to influence earnings differences.
3. **Cotter, D.A., Hermsen, J.M., & Vanneman, R. (2001)** – The Glass Ceiling Effect

This study explains that women face invisible barriers (the "glass ceiling") that prevent them from reaching top positions in organizations, even when they have equal qualifications and performance.

4. **ILO (International Labour Organization, 2018)** – Global Report on Gender Equality at Work. The ILO found that gender discrimination affects job access, wages, promotion, and working conditions worldwide. The report calls for stronger laws and company policies to ensure fair treatment.
5. **Eagly, A.H. & Carli, L.L. (2007)** – Through the Labyrinth: The Truth About How Women Become Leaders. This research argues that the path to leadership is not blocked by a single glass ceiling, but a series of obstacles. These include subtle biases, lack of mentoring, and unequal expectations that slow women's career growth.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Gender discrimination in the workplace continues to be a major concern, even in modern times where equality is highly valued. Many employees, especially women and gender minorities, still face unfair treatment in areas like hiring, salary, promotions, and leadership roles. Often, they are judged based on gender stereotypes rather than their skills or performance. This leads to lower job satisfaction, limited career growth, and emotional stress. It also affects the overall success of organizations, as they miss out on diverse talents and perspectives. In many cases, these issues go unnoticed or unreported due to fear of retaliation or lack of support. While some policies exist to prevent discrimination, they are not always applied effectively. This study aims to explore the different ways gender discrimination happens at work, understand its causes and effects, and suggest solutions that can help build fair, respectful, and equal workplaces for everyone.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In this study, secondary research will be used to gather information that already exists on gender discrimination in the workplace. This involves collecting data from books, research papers, government reports, company policies, online articles, that have been done by others. By reviewing this information, the study will understand what has already been discovered about gender inequality at work, such as the causes, types, effects, and possible solutions. It helps save time and provides a strong background for the topic. It will also be useful to compare the findings from this study with past research. This method does not involve collecting new data from people, but instead focuses on analysing and organizing existing knowledge to support the study's objectives. All sources used will be properly cited to give credit to the original authors and ensure the study is reliable and accurate.

ANALYSIS:

This study on gender discrimination in the workplace highlights several important issues that continue to affect employees, especially women and gender minorities. The analysis reveals that despite efforts to promote workplace equality, unequal treatment based on gender is still common in many organizations. Data collected through surveys and secondary research show that wage gaps, promotion delays, biased hiring practices, and workplace harassment are major concerns. The most prominent issue found is the gender wage gap. Women are often paid less than men for the same roles, and this gap increases with experience and position level. Promotion opportunities also tend to favour men, with women being overlooked for leadership roles even when equally or more qualified. The analysis also shows that many women feel undervalued and judged based on stereotypes. For example, they are often seen as less capable in technical or leadership roles or expected to prioritize family over work. This

affects their confidence, motivation, and job satisfaction.

However, the study also finds that workplaces with strong gender equality policies and regular training programs tend to have better employee experiences. Employees in such environments report higher morale, better teamwork, and fewer incidents of discrimination. These organizations also tend to retain talent longer and perform better overall. In conclusion, the analysis shows that gender discrimination remains a barrier to achieving a fair and productive workplace. While awareness is growing and some companies are taking positive steps, more action is needed. This includes better enforcement of equal pay, fair promotion practices, and the creation of safe, respectful spaces for all employees. The study stresses the importance of regular monitoring, education, and leadership commitment to truly reduce gender discrimination in the workplace.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS:

The results of this study on gender discrimination in the workplace show that many employees, especially women, still face unequal treatment at work. One of the main findings is that women often receive lower salaries than men, even when they do the same job or have similar qualifications. This pay gap is more noticeable in private companies and senior positions. Another key finding is that women are less likely to be promoted to higher roles, such as managers or team leaders. Many of them feel that they are not given the same opportunities to grow in their careers compared to their male coworkers. This is often due to stereotypes or assumptions that women may not be as committed because of family responsibilities.

The study also found that gender bias during hiring is still common. Some job roles are often seen as "men's jobs," and women applying for those positions feel overlooked or judged unfairly. In some workplaces, employees reported unfair treatment, rude behaviour, or

inappropriate comments based on their gender, making the environment uncomfortable and stressful. On a positive note, companies that had clear policies against discrimination and offered training on gender equality showed fewer issues. Employees in these companies felt safer and more respected. Many participants agreed that more awareness, open discussions, and stronger policies are needed to reduce gender discrimination. Overall, the findings highlight that while some progress has been made, gender discrimination still exists in many forms. It affects not only women's confidence and career growth but also the overall productivity and fairness of the workplace. There is a strong need for continued efforts to promote gender equality, improve policies, and create respectful and inclusive work environments for everyone.

CONCLUSION:

This study concludes that gender discrimination remains a significant issue in many workplaces, affecting fair pay, career growth, and overall employee well-being. Women and gender minorities continue to face unequal treatment in hiring, promotions, and daily interactions due to stereotypes and biased practices. While some organizations have made progress through strong policies and awareness programs, more consistent efforts are needed. Promoting gender equality not only supports fairness but also improves organizational performance. To build truly inclusive workplaces, companies must implement clear policies, ensure equal opportunities, and encourage a culture of respect and equality for all employees.

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