

Time men changed attitude towards women

Women, actually, are more important than men. And, women's values are clearly superior to those of men. For example, data has shown that women repay their debts faster than men. It is just one example. Time is long overdue for all of us to show respect to women, to ensure that they are safe and secure, to understand and appreciate their uniqueness and to always recognise that they can be the best of friends.

SHARE ARTICLE

- **Updated At:** Oct 15, 2022 05:58 AM (IST)
- 2939



Gender equality: India still has a long way to go. Tribune photo



Tarun Das

Former Director-General, Confederation of Indian Industry

A public debate is going on about women, their empowerment and their importance in society. There are multiple analyses and suggestions. Of course, women are not perfect or blameless. But the first issue actually relates to men. How do they look at women? Do men in India respect women? Do they look at women as wife/ mother/ housekeeper? Do men share a part in doing domestic duties? Do men look at women as sex objects, especially office-going, working women? Do men look at women who drink alcohol, even in moderation, or wear western clothes as women who are not to be respected?

Many more questions in this regard could be put to men and the true responses may not be what we want or would like to hear. The first issue regarding 'women' is, therefore, 'men' and their attitude, their approach, their conduct towards women.

Men need to change and change drastically to enable women to not just survive, but also prosper, hold their heads high and occupy a position of equality in society. This has not been the case till now. Generally, men slot them into some fixed boxes. The fault starts from the time the boys are growing up. The Indian boy has a free rein, but the Indian girl has no such freedom. She is subjected to strict discipline and, then, 'given away' in an arranged marriage, usually based on caste, wealth, status, etc. Her happiness is not necessarily the key issue.

There are at least 10 issues which call for men to change in regard to women. They are:

First, to recognise that a woman can be a friend without a physical relationship. That women can be very good friends, wise, practical and loyal. More so than male friends. Friendship is a key connect.

Second, that women must be respected. They deserve respect, they command respect. This is a change which needs to become universal in men.

Third, that women can be trusted. Friendship and respect are based on trust and this is a very special way to connect with women. Trust them. They, more than men, deserve to be trusted.

Fourth, that women need to be given space to grow and evolve without being restricted, constrained and subjected to a level of discipline not applicable to boys and men, who, actually, need a great deal more of discipline.

Fifth, women are to be supported. They are the weaker sex, physically. They are more vulnerable than men, by far. Men need to support women.

Sixth, women are ready to meet challenges. There are numerous examples of women facing challenges with success. Men need to recognise this and stand by them in their times of challenge, personal and professional.

Seventh, women have courage, just as men do. Courage is not the exclusive preserve of men. Physical strength has nothing to do with courage. Attitude of mind and heart determine courage. Both have it. Perhaps, women more than men.

Eighth, women are different. This is a very important issue to recognise and accept. Men are different from women and men must accept and understand that women are different from men. Different is not worse.

Ninth, equality is important, essential and critical. It starts with equal pay and emoluments. There should not be any differentiation in remuneration. It is vital for equality to be serious and sincere.

Tenth, security and safety of women are extremely important. The rape scenario is one extreme. Violence, especially, domestic violence, is another reference point. Men have to change their 'physical' approach to women. Women cannot be the objects of violence of any kind. They must be safe, they must be secure.

These are 10 issues and there would be many more. And, all women cannot be lumped into one group or category.

Single women have somewhat different issues to deal with; different challenges; greater insecurity and vulnerability.

Married women face another set of challenges on the home front and, if they are working, these challenges multiply.

Separated women, after marriage, would have to deal with their own unique difficulties.

Divorced women, again, have to deal with issues where, often, they are looked down upon or seen as 'fair game'. It is totally uncalled for.

The single parent woman with a child or children to look after has another set of problems to cope with.

Then, there are different circumstances for married women living in a joint family or living separately with the husband. Each situation poses a set of challenges that may not all be necessarily the same.

The young working mother, with a baby, has to face multiple difficulties peculiar to her situation.

How many men think of women and all these issues? How many men start from the basic position of respect for a woman? How many men instinctively want to support a woman? How many men want, most of all, that a woman should be safe and secure?

Men operate on double standards. One standard for the mother and sister, and a different one for the others, often including the wife in the latter category. How many young men say to their parents that their sister and they should be subjected to the same rules?

India has a long way to go insofar as women are concerned. Indians have a long way to go. Male Indians have the longest way to go.

Women, actually, are more important than men. And, women's values are clearly superior to those of men. For example, data has shown that women repay their debts faster than men. It is just one example.

Time is long overdue for all of us to show respect to women, to ensure that they are safe and secure, to understand and appreciate their uniqueness and to always recognise that they can be the best of friends.

Time men changed attitude towards women



TARUN DAS
FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

Women, actually, are more important than men. And, women's values are clearly superior to those of men. For example, data has shown that women repay their debts faster than men. It is just one example. Time is long overdue for all of us to show respect to women, to ensure that they are safe and secure, to understand and appreciate their uniqueness and to always recognise that they can be the best of friends.

A public debate is going on about women, their empowerment and their importance in society. There are multiple analyses and suggestions. Of course, women are not perfect or blameless. But the first issue actually relates to men. How do they look at women? Do men in India respect women? Do they look at women as wife/ mother/ housekeeper? Do men share a part in doing domestic duties? Do men look at women as sex objects, especially office-going, working women? Do men look at women who drink alcohol, even in moderation, or wear western clothes as women who are not to be respected?

Many more questions in this regard could be put to men and the true responses may not be what we want or would like to hear. The first issue regarding 'women' is, therefore, 'men' and their attitude, their approach, their conduct towards women.

Men need to change and change drastically to enable women to not just survive, but also prosper, hold their heads high and occupy a position of equality in society. This has not been the case till now. Generally, men slot them into some fixed boxes. The fault starts from the time the boys are growing up. The Indian boy has a free rein, but the Indian girl has no such freedom. She is subjected to strict discipline and, then, 'given away' in an arranged marriage, usually based on caste, wealth, status, etc. Her happiness is not necessarily the key issue. There are at least 10 issues which call for men to change in regard to



GENDER EQUALITY: India still has a long way to go. TRIBUNE PHOTO

women. They are:

First, to recognise that a woman can be a friend without a physical relationship. That women can be very good friends, wise, practical and loyal. More so than male friends. Friendship is a key connect.

Second, that women must be respected. They deserve respect, they command respect. This is a change which needs to become universal in men.

Third, that women can be trusted. Friendship and respect are based on trust and this is a very special way to connect with women. Trust them. They, more than men, deserve to be trusted.

Fourth, that women need to be given space to grow and evolve without

being restricted, constrained and subjected to a level of discipline not applicable to boys and men, who, actually, need a great deal more of discipline.

Fifth, women are to be supported. They are the weaker sex, physically. They are more vulnerable than men, by far. Men need to support women.

Sixth, women are ready to meet challenges. There are numerous examples of women facing challenges with success. Men need to recognise this and stand by them in their times of challenge, personal and professional.

Seventh, women have courage, just as men do. Courage is not the exclusive preserve of men. Physical strength has nothing to do with

courage. Attitude of mind and heart determine courage. Both have it. Perhaps, women more than men.

Eighth, women are different. This is a very important issue to recognise and accept. Men are different from women and men must accept and understand that women are different from men. Different is not worse.

Ninth, equality is important, essential and critical. It starts with equal pay and emoluments. There should not be any differentiation in remuneration. It is vital for equality to be serious and sincere.

Tenth, security and safety of women are extremely important. The rape scenario is one extreme. Violence, especially, domestic violence, is another reference point. Men have to change their 'physical' approach to women. Women cannot be the objects of violence of any kind. They must be safe, they must be secure.

These are 10 issues and there would be many more. And, all women cannot be lumped into one group or category.

Single women have somewhat different issues to deal with; different challenges; greater insecurity and vulnerability.

Married women face another set of challenges on the home front and, if they are working, these challenges multiply.

Separated women, after marriage, would have to deal with their own unique difficulties.

Divorced women, again, have to deal with issues where, often, they are looked down upon or seen as 'fair game'. It is totally uncalled for.

The single parent woman with a

child or children to look after has another set of problems to cope with.

Then, there are different circumstances for married women living in a joint family or living separately with the husband. Each situation poses a set of challenges that may not all be necessarily the same.

The young working mother, with a baby, has to face multiple difficulties peculiar to her situation.

How many men think of women and all these issues? How many men start from the basic position of respect for a woman? How many men instinctively want to support a woman? How many men want, most of all, that a woman should be safe and secure?

Men operate on double standards. One standard for the mother and sister, and a different one for the others, often including the wife in the latter category. How many young men say to their parents that their sister and they should be subjected to the same rules?

India has a long way to go insofar as women are concerned. Indians have a long way to go. Male Indians have the longest way to go.

Women, actually, are more important than men. And, women's values are clearly superior to those of men. For example, data has shown that women repay their debts faster than men. It is just one example.

Time is long overdue for all of us to show respect to women, to ensure that they are safe and secure, to understand and appreciate their uniqueness and to always recognise that they can be the best of friends.

* * * * *