

Exacerbating Gender Inequality In Covid-19 Crisis

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Abstract

Background: The COVID-19 threat variables are gendered, not gender-neutral. These disparities lead to a vulnerability to the gendered epidemic. The present research discusses the specific gendered risk factors that girls and women are vulnerable to as a result of the worldwide gendered pandemic and their effects on gender inequality.

Method: The descriptive research design with survey method was use. 100 respondents were contacted from Delhi NCR.

Conclusion: The results from the comprehensive study reveal that the gendered risk determinants that exacerbate the gender equality gap cause women's pre-existing vulnerabilities to be amplified in the wake of the pandemic. Researcher argues in the conclusion that the results of the study justify a vulnerability-based strategy to disasters.

Keywords: COVID-19; gendered; gender equality; risk factors; vulnerability.

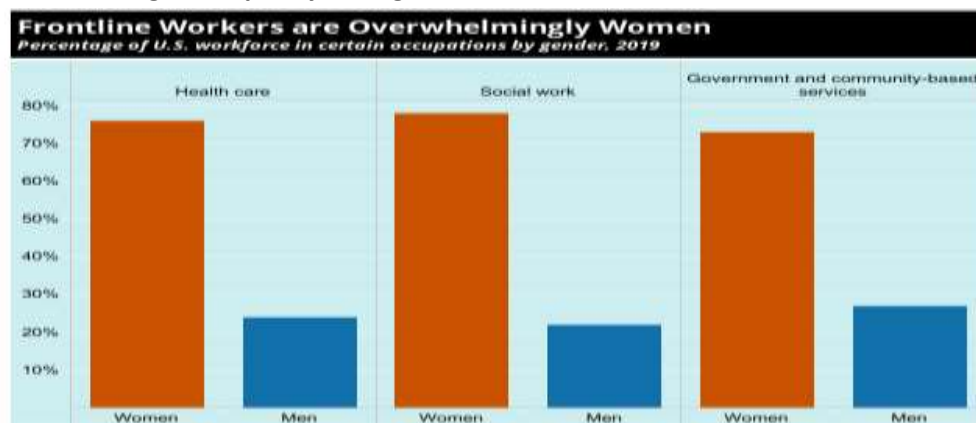
Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic's risk factors are gendered, not gender-neutral (Masroor, S. 2020). Despite the fact that this is a disease outbreak, there are distinct ramifications for men and women in terms of employment opportunities, access to social security, and the distribution of unpaid domestic labour and care. Men and women are affected differently by the epidemic depending on their pre-crisis roles and the regulations in place that either lessen or intensify these effects (Yenilmez, M. I. 2020).

The pandemic has so far slowed down numerous efforts to advance gender equality, women's empowerment, and

measures to lessen gendered violence. In a worldwide perspective, the epidemic has created grave gender dangers for women (Ryan et al. 2020). When women are exposed to many risk variables during and after an outbreak, even children and other dependents are at danger (Park, S. 2021). Risk variables are situations that raise the possibility of or susceptibility to unfavourable results. These can include actions, events, or components that would support gender disparity in the environment. Women and men are more at risk than males when an outbreak affects their livelihoods due to pre-existing gender inequality (Collins, C., et al 2021). Men and women handle risks differently from one another in terms of gendered risk exposure, perception, and handling. As a result, the pandemic presents a number of risk factors, such as the deeper entrenchment of pre-COVID attitudes that have impeded the advancement of women. Gender equality is significantly impacted by these risk variables, both during the epidemic and the ensuing recovery phase (McLaren, H. J., et al 2020).

Fig. 1 Inequality during COVID-19



Source: <https://inequality.org/facts/gender-inequality/>

Aim and Objectives

The objectives of the study are-

- 1) To examine the exacerbating gender Inequality in the society during the pandemic
- 2) To examine vulnerabilities faced by women due to gender inequality at work and home in the pandemic of Covid-19.

Hypothesis

The researcher formed following hypothesis for the research-

H1: The gender inequality in the society exacerbated during the COVID-19

H2: Women faced different challenges at work and home during the COVID-19

Literature Review

In the wake of crises, women's already existing vulnerabilities are increased. As per (Dugarova, E. 2020) women were forced to leave the workforce on their own due to the lockdown and travel restrictions. The growth in work done at home for children's online learning and physical and social development followed the closing of schools.

Additionally (Mansoor, T. 2020) say that women are generally responsible for providing care for aging parents and family members. In addition, COVID-19 has had a significant negative impact on industries with a high proportion of female employees; many of these women are now unemployed and without a source of income, which forces them to stay at home and take on extra domestic duties. Gender disparities in labor force participation, pay, and unpaid care work have widened as a result of this. In addition, female workers were targeted in many companies' pandemic-related layoffs.

A survey was conducted by (Akmal et al. 2020) among organizations that offer educational services in 32 different nations in South Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa. Girls are more likely than males to suffer negative effects from the COVID-19 school closures, according to nearly 70% of respondents.

As per (Hawkes, S., & Buse, K. 2021) different jurisdictions' imposed restrictions on mobility during lockdown have caused females to experience mental problems like depression, excessive anger, suicidal thoughts, etc. that have negatively affected mental health. Frontline health workers, caregivers, and community members who are women are especially vulnerable to stress and trauma related to the outbreak because they fear getting sick or spreading it to others.

(Laster Pirtle, et al. 2021) say that the causes of inequality and discrimination that lead to gender-based violence are relating to the community. It includes unfavorable gender norms that limit women's autonomy and privilege, high rates of poverty and unemployment, violence and crime. There are

discriminatory laws pertaining to marriage, divorce, and child custody, lower rates of women in employment and education, no laws addressing violence against women etc.

Research Methodology

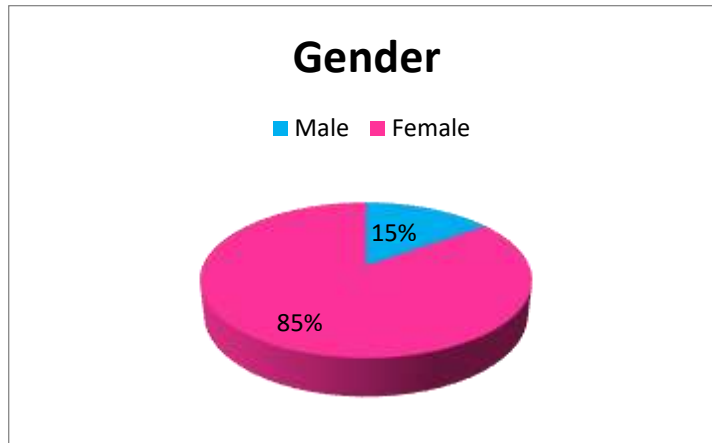
The researcher employed a descriptive research design for the given study. With a descriptive research methodology, it is possible to conceptually examine the survey's issues and inquire what and why aspects of escalating gender inequality in society.

Data collection: The researcher employed the survey approach to gather data and used the internet to administer an online questionnaire. All respondents were given the questionnaire via a convenient sampling procedure. Delhi-NCR was selected as the study area, and a total of 100 sample size was taken. A 5 question questionnaire was distributed.

Data analysis: The analysis of the data was done through MS-Excel and correlation method was used to verify the hypothesis.

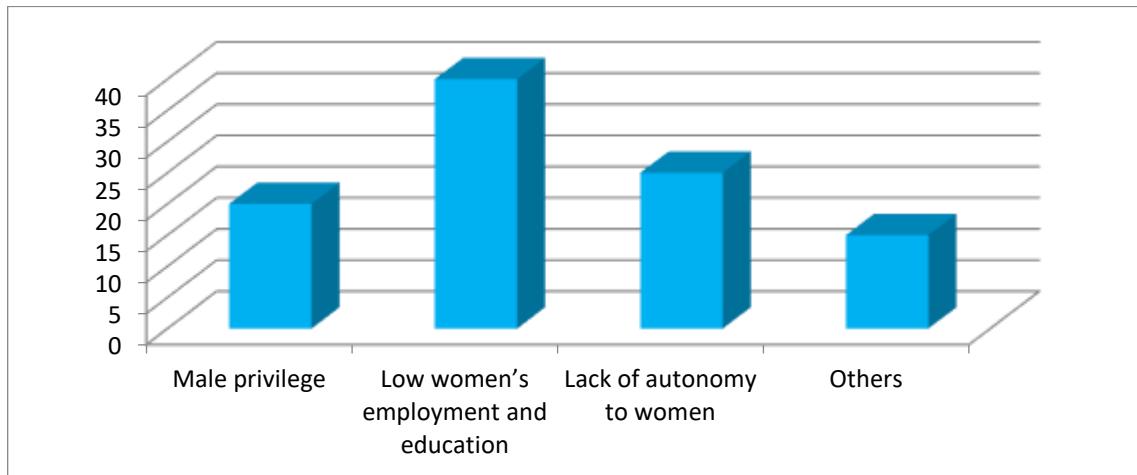
Data Analysis

1. Please select your gender



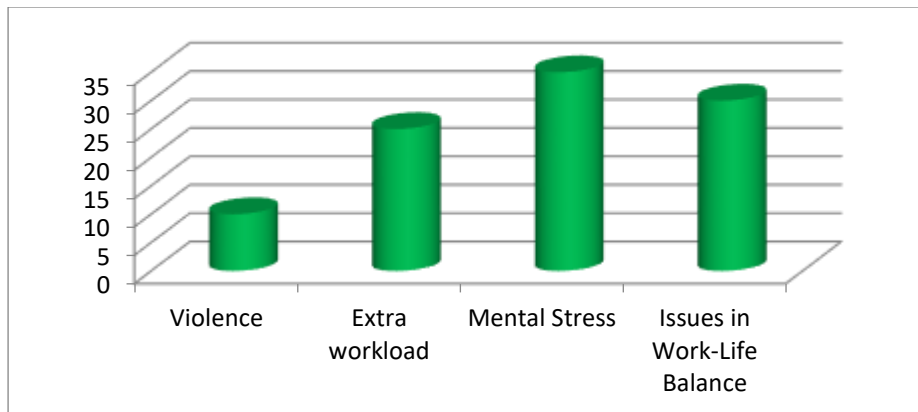
As per the data given above it can be seen that around 85% of the respondents who participated in the survey were women and around 15% were men.

2. What according to you have made the gender inequality persistent in the society?



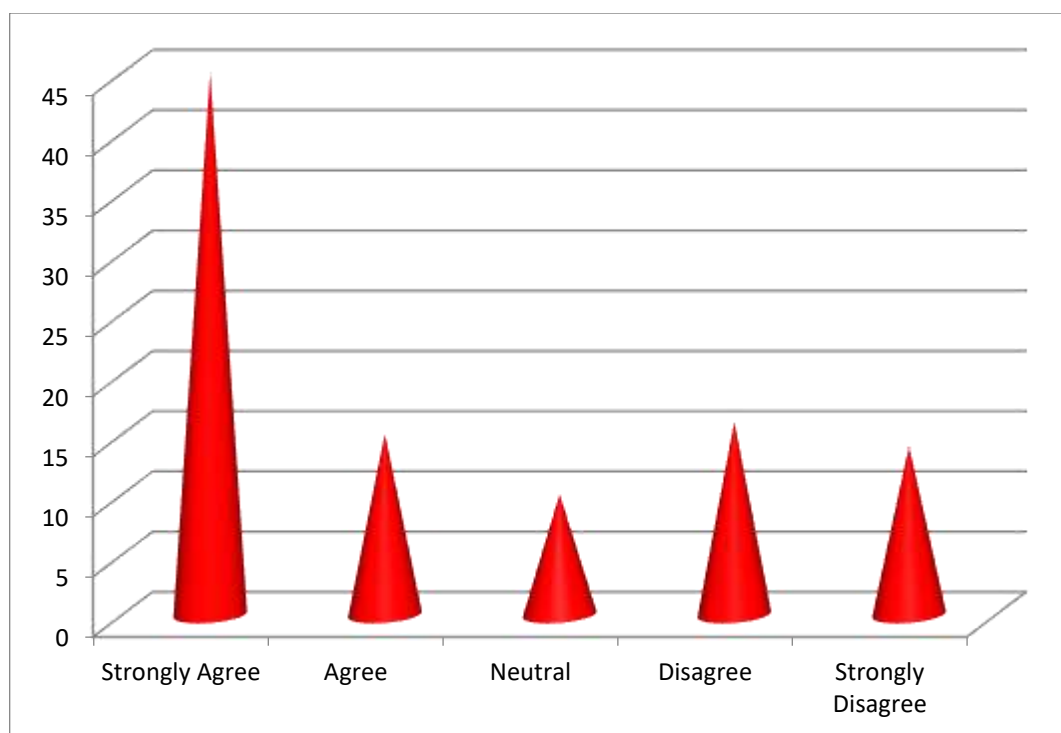
Around 40% of the respondents said that the main cause of exacerbating gender inequality in the society is the low women's employment and education. Other factors that make gender inequality persistent in the society is the privilege to males, lack of autonomy to women.

3. During COVID-19 what kind of vulnerabilities you faced?



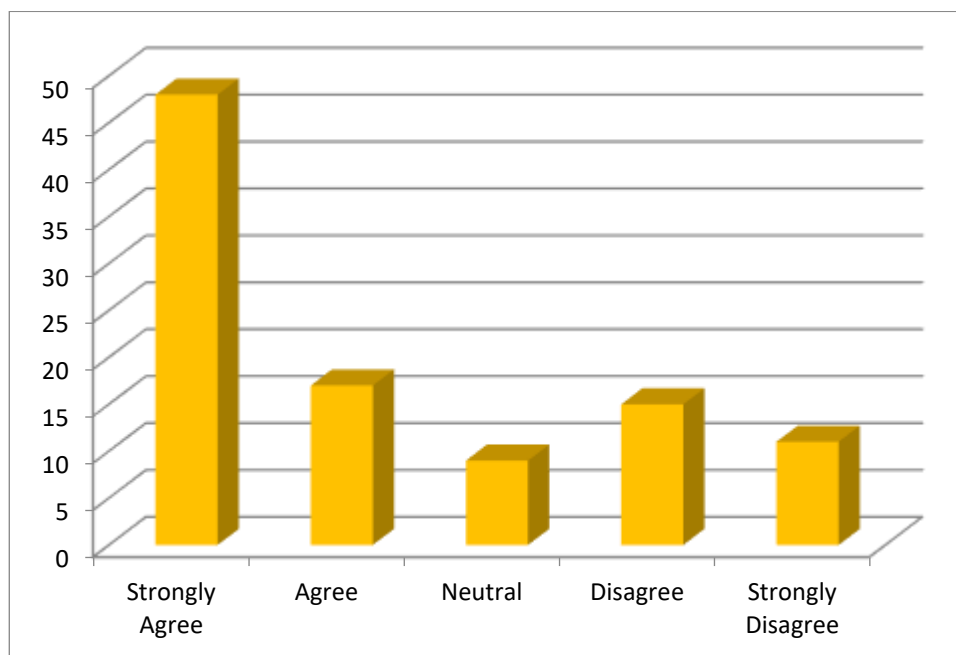
Around 35% of the respondents who participated in the survey faced mental stress due to COVID. Around 30% respondents faced issues in their work and life balancing and around 25% respondents faced extra workload during COVID.

4. The gender inequality factors have impacted the wellbeing of women at home and workplace during pandemic period



Around 45% strongly agree and 15% agree that the gender inequality factors have impacted the wellbeing of women at home and workplace during pandemic period. Around 14% strongly disagree only.

5. There is exacerbating crisis of identity with the women because of prevailing inequalities in the COVID-19 crisis

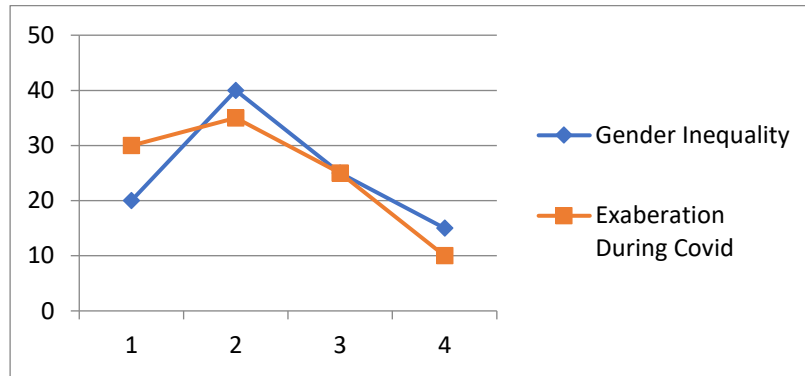


Around 48% of the respondents strongly agree and around 17% of them agree with the fact that there is exacerbating

crisis of identity with the women because of prevailing inequalities in the COVID-19 crisis. Only about 11% disagree strongly.

Hypothesis Testing

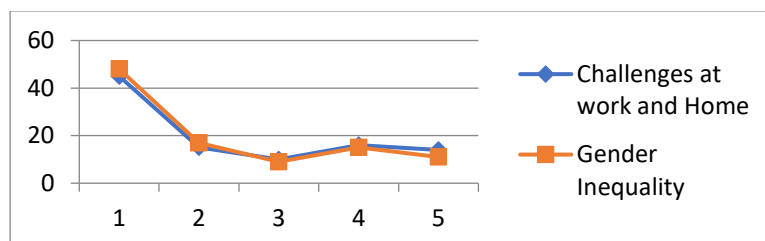
H1: The gender inequality in the society exacerbated during the COVID-19



	Gender Inequality	Exacerbation During Covid
Gender Inequality	1	
Exacerbation During Covid	0.785714	1

As per the response of the question no. 2 and 3 of the survey there is correlation($r=0.78$) between gender inequality in the society exacerbated during the COVID-19. Hence it's proved that there is gender inequality existing in the society in COVID-19 period. In this way the first hypothesis is proved.

H2: Women faced different challenges at work and home during the COVID-19



	Challenges at work and Home	Gender Inequality
Challenges at work and Home	1	
Gender Inequality	0.993968	1

As per the response of the question no. 4 and 5 of the survey there is correlation($r=0.99$) between Women facing challenges at work and home during the COVID-19 because of gender

inequality. Hence it's proved that there is gender inequality existing in the society in COVID-19 period. In this way the second hypothesis is proved.

Results and Discussion

Most of the female respondents who participated in the survey strongly believe that there is exacerbation of gender inequality in the society. The main cause of exacerbating gender inequality in the society is the low women's employment and education. Other factors that make gender inequality persistent in the society is the privilege to males, lack of autonomy to women. Women faced mental stress due to COVID along with facing issues in their work and life balancing and extra workload during COVID.

Conclusion

Due to the pandemic's exposure of women's vulnerabilities depending on their pre-pandemic social, economic, and political circumstances, hard-won advancements in gender equality could be undone. Thus, both during the pandemic and during the later recovery period, the pandemic poses a number of risk factors that have important ramifications for gender equality. The results from the study reveal that the gendered risk factors that worsen the gender equality gap cause women's pre-existing vulnerabilities to be amplified in the wake of the pandemic both at work and at home.

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