



GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIA

Workshop by Smita Premchander and Anjana Balakrishnan

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This 50 minute workshop, crafted for a group of 14-17 year old students, explores the idea of gender inequality in India.

It was planned and run by development consultant Smita Premchander and communications specialist Anjana Balakrishnan.



Picture Credit

GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIA

Gender inequality in India is a vast topic, one which Smita has spent her lifetime working on. We faced two challenges:

- ❑ Providing a substantial overview in a 50 minute workshop
- ❑ Personalising the problem of gender inequality



Picture Credit

GENDER INEQUALITY IN INDIA

We decided to look at three facets of our lives where this inequality is apparent:

- ❑ Family
- ❑ Institutions
- ❑ Society



Picture Credit



PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Duration: 15 mins

ICE BREAKER

- ❑ Close your eyes. Think of your first or strongest experience of gender discrimination.
- ❑ Give them up to a minute to process.
- ❑ Ask the team for their responses. If no one volunteers facilitator to share their experience.
- ❑ As experiences come up, identify the element of inequality within the experience and discuss.



Picture Credit

OUR EXPERIENCES

- ❑ Personal: I was 13 years old when two of my friends began ‘dating’. Dating in the nineties meant hanging out together in school and walking home on either side of a bicycle. But I soon noticed that in our circles the boy was perceived as the ‘achiever’ but the girl was the ‘renegade’. This was the first time I became aware that all genders were not equal.



Picture Credit

OUT IN THE WORLD

- ❑ Social: I bought my first car in March 2014. I was 29 years old, newly married and gainfully employed. I was using my hard-earned money to buy this car. My husband and I went to the car dealership where we were met by a salesperson. This salesperson refused to talk to me about the car. He addressed all information about the car, its functions and the dealership's offers to my husband. To his credit, he insisted that the salesperson talk to me directly because I was purchasing the car. But the salesperson did not budge.



Picture Credit

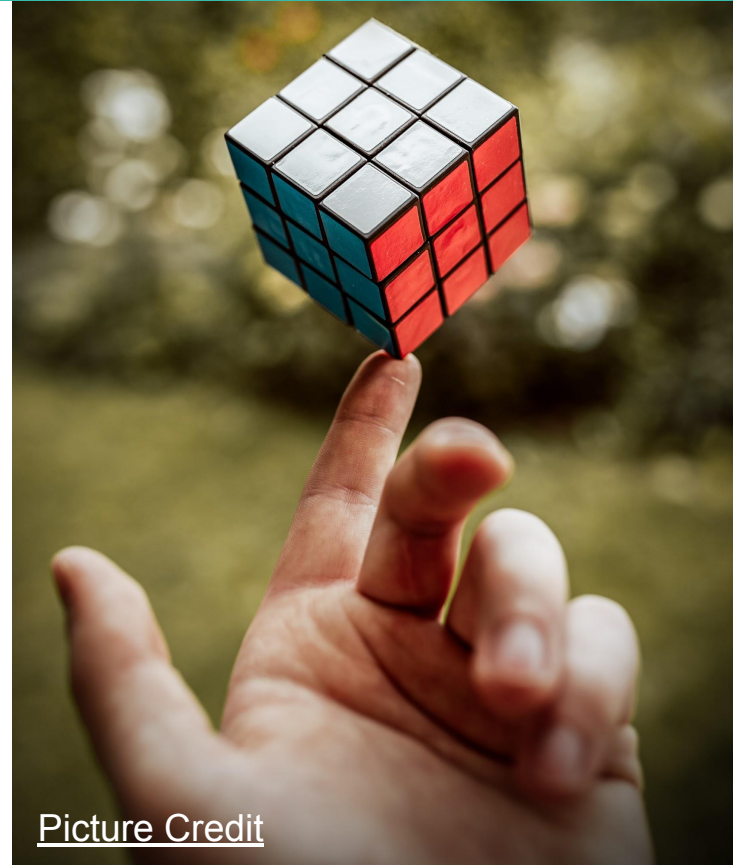


FROM PERSONAL TO DATA

Duration: 15 mins

INSTRUCTIONS

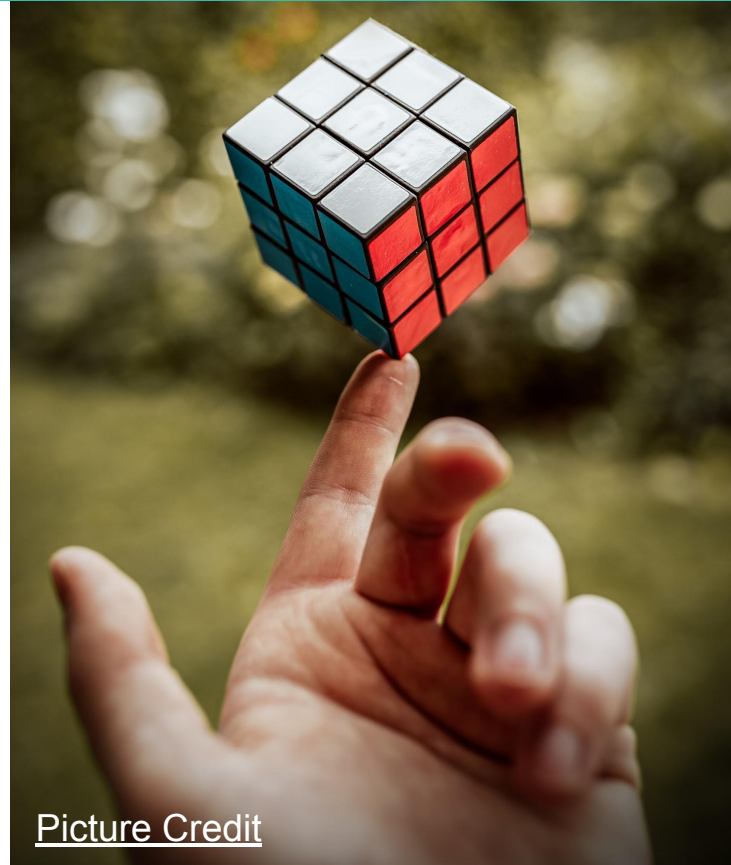
- ❑ Hold the quiz on a service like kohoot or just have them respond in chat.
- ❑ Quiz takes around 5 minutes.
- ❑ After the quiz, use the answers to discuss relevant themes of education, child marriage, political representation and violence against women.



Picture Credit

THE QUIZ

- ❑ Q1: When is International Women's Day? | A1: 8 March
- ❑ Q2: What % of rural women in India are illiterate? | A2: [37.6%](#)
- ❑ Q3: True or false: According to Census 2011, 33% women in India are married under the age of 18? | A3: [True](#)
- ❑ Q4: What % of women are elected to parliament? | A4: [14%](#)
- ❑ Q5: True or False: Every third women in India have experienced physical violence | A5: [True](#)



Picture Credit



ROLEPLAY GAME

Duration: 15 mins

PLAYING THE GAME

- ❑ The incident is narrated to the group.
- ❑ The group is then divided into three:
Women, Police, Society
- ❑ They discuss within each group, what could have been done differently by the group they represent and whether they agree or disagree with Bhagyalakshmi's actions.
- ❑ The group reconvenes to discuss the issue together.



Picture Credit

THE INCIDENT

- ❑ Vijay P Nair, a 50 year old upper caste YouTuber, posted an abusive video titled ‘Why feminists in Kerala don’t wear underwear’. The video made extremely derogatory comments about women. The video ran ads, bringing Vijay P Nair revenue. This video went viral on social media.



Picture Credit

THE INCIDENT

- ❑ Bhagyalakshmi, a popular dubbing artist in the Malayalam film industry was named in this video. She lodged complaints with the police, Kerala Women's Commission, Cyber Cell, Social Justice Department. No action was taken.



[Picture Credit](#)

THE INCIDENT

- ❑ Then she (+2 fellow feminists) went over to his residence and poured motor oil over him as a sign of protest. They slapped him, made him apologise and confiscated his laptop and mobile and went over to the nearest police station to hand over this evidence. The whole event was broadcast on facebook live.



Picture Credit

THE INCIDENT

- ❑ The police refused to accept this as evidence. Police charged a case of criminal intimidation, trespassing and robbery against the women (non-bailable offence). Following public outcry, they also charged Vijay with outraging modesty (bailable offence).



Picture Credit

THE INCIDENT

- ❑ Subsequently Bhagyalakshmi said that she would proudly go to jail for this offense as she had only stood up for herself.
- ❑ Sessions court denied them bail. They have appealed to HC.

Resources: [Facebook live video](#). Reports in [The Quint](#) and [NIE](#)



[Picture Credit](#)



ADDITIONAL CONCEPTS

Duration: 15 mins

A TRICK UP YOUR SLEEVE

It's always great to be prepared with extra content when running a workshop. In case of a technical glitch, a quiet group or an unforeseen situation, this preparation will come in handy.

We created a list of further readings for students.

Wherever possible, we plugged this into our discussion time with the students under each segment above.



FURTHER READINGS

- ❑ The language of violence: In cases of violence against women language helps make the role of the man in the crime invisible. ScoopWhoop Unscripted, an online content creator made [this post](#) on the importance of language.
- ❑ Not just against women: [Mohanaswamy by Vasudhendra](#): Introduces the idea that patriarchy is against anything that's not status quo.



Picture Credit

FURTHER READINGS

- ❑ Normalising sex work: The Autobiography Of A Sex Worker: Nalini Jameela's life and work is a byproduct of patriarchy. Her's is a voice that needs to be represented.
- ❑ Smashing patriarchy: [Dear Ijeawele by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#): It's a simple, practical look at how to identify and overthrow patriarchy in your personal life.



Picture Credit

FURTHER READINGS

- ❑ The idea of beauty: [The Beauty Myth by Naomi Wolf](#): Introduces the idea of the current beauty standards as a construct of the market.



Picture Credit



IN CONCLUSION

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

We ended the session with this reiteration:

We don't know what ground zero is for gender equality because we've inherited this unequal world. As demonstrated today, inequality exists in families, institutions and society at large. And the best way to tackle inequality as individuals is by asking the tough questions that need to be asked to these structures of power.



Picture Credit