

GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN INDIA: SCENARIO AND SOLUTIONS

Currently, one of the most crucial and acute issues in India is gender discrimination. The point is that nowadays there is a tendency in India that the male population is much larger than the female one. According to the latest data (December 31, 2019), there are 717 105 446 of man and 670 192 006 of woman in India. According to the data for 2019, in 132 villages in the Northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, no girls have been born during the period of three months. And such situation is happening now in many States of India. These alarming numbers are the result of gender discrimination that is expressed in various forms. Women are subjected to physical and moral violence, their rights are very limited compared to those of men, and their lives are worthless. For example, in 2012, the entire progressive world was struck to the core by the eerie story of the group rape of a 23-year-old girl who was traveling on a bus in Delhi. And this story is not the only one, and women in India are constantly become the victims of various types of crimes. Such a state of affairs is especially evident in poor provinces, where the standard of living leaves much to be desired.

Gender discrimination also incites diverse negative consequences: the practice of selective abortions, numerous refusals of girls in maternity homes, high infant mortality among girls, the prevailing number of girls in orphanages and so on. Moreover, there is a high probability that in the near future Indian men will not be able to marry, because the gap between the number of women and men is only gaining momentum. And, certainly, one of the most alarming consequences is the emerging markets for the illegal sale and resale of women.

The reasons for these tendencies are in the Indian traditions, culture and mentality. Historically, India is a patriarchal and conservative state where all the rights of men and women differ significantly. Men have a large number of privileges. In turn, women are not appreciated, they are considered to be a burden in the family and their main purposes are to take care of their husbands and children, perform household duties and, of course, their overriding mission is to give birth to a son. The birth of a girl does not become a happy and long-awaited event for parents. It symbolizes financial ruin for the family, as there is a tradition in India, that the bride's family is responsible for all the wedding expenses and dowry payments for the bride.

The Indian Government was striving to change the situation. For example, in 1994, India passed the law that prohibited doctors to divulge the gender of a child and to tell it to mother and her relatives, now this law is called "Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act". Moreover, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a nationwide campaign called "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" ("save the daughter, educate the daughter"). Additional benefits are paid to young families to encourage them not to be afraid of the birth of a girl.

However, diverse experts say that the authorities, acting only in this way, will not be able to eliminate the essence and origins of the problem. Until men in India radically change their attitude to women, this situation will not change for the better.

M. Kravtsova

THE HISTORIC FACTOR IN THE EMERGENCE OF HONG KONG ENGLISH

The historical past of Hong Kong as a major colony of Great Britain affected all aspects of life in this urban megalopolis of the People's Republic of China.

Great Britain in the course of its colonial expansion in the 19th century took over control of Hong Kong after the Opium Wars making English the official language in the colony, only at the end of the 20th century was returned to the People's Republic of China. The official status of English in the colony could not but affect the status of English in the former colony. Here the Chinese administration continued to support and respect the established status of English.

Today, English remains the main language of the business environment and is overwhelmingly used in the megalopolis. Messages and announcements, signs and menus are bilingual. And since taxi drivers, sellers, tourism workers, police and passers-by have sufficient knowledge of this language, tourists usually do not experience communication difficulties in this exotic Asian region.

The vast diversity of cultures and the exotic character of Hong Kong bears its influence in the manifold life of Hong Kong by its complex history. Most common residents use Chinese in everyday speech, but you can also hear a mixture of several languages, especially regarding English.

Hong Kong English has major features which enable the users to maintain communication with the local population. So, [tr] turns into [tʃ], and the word tree sounds like chee, and [ð] becomes [t], which makes it sound like [tou]. Another inconvenient feature of Hong Kong pronunciation is the stunning of the final consonants.

In Hong Kong people would say “jetso” meaning an economic offer or simply a discount. The British would use “discount” or “special offer”. “Pitch” here means “field” – in ordinary English one could say field. What is “sit” for British people is “chok” for Hongkongers.

The simplicity with which foreign and indigenous languages coexist in Hong Kong reflects a significant level of tolerance in the region, where, along with Buddhist, Sikh and Taoist buildings, you can find mosques, Christian