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Gender Inequality in China Today

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Abstract

Equality between men and women has been a basic state policy in the People's Republic of China since its inception and has advanced significantly during the early stages of socialism. On the contrary, there has been a historic reversal in gender awareness and a progressive widening of the gender gap, which is at odds with China's economic gains, as reform and opening up have advanced gradually and China has grown to be a significant player in the global economy. From the perspectives of discrimination against women in the workplace and the conflict between women taking care of their families, the latent inequalities in the field of education, and the issues women encounter in the marriage system in terms of dating, marriage, and divorce, this article will discuss the most notable manifestations of gender inequality in China and the causes of these phenomena. Specifically, Confucian patriarchal ideology, societal norms of gender roles under state collectivism, and the elimination of the social safety system due to marketization. The government's degree of implementation is muddled during the legal compliance process, and the actual outcome is at odds with the initial policy purpose.

Keywords

Gender inequality; feminism; patriarchy; collectivism; social roles