Breaking the Patriarchal Pandemic

Gender Equality Issues in Digital World

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Pandemic and digital space

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Internet user ranks grew to 4.9 billion in 2021, from 4.1 billion in 2019.

- However, approximately 2.9 billion people, 96 percent of whom live in developing countries, remain without Internet access and risk being left behind by the digital revolution.

Source: International

Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Gender gap in digital world…

Worldwide:

- 69% of males and 63% of females have access to the internet

In South Asia:

- 26% of women are less likely than men to have access to mobile phone

Source: ITU, and UN woman

Facebook is the

- Most used social media having 2.8 billion monthly active users

- 300 million new photos uploaded daily

- Six thousand tweets are sent every second

Studies consistently highlight that online gendered violence intersects with other forms of discrimination, such as castism, racism, disabilities, homophobia, and transphobia, making the experiences of marginalized women even more complex and severe

Source: UN woman

Women in politics..

- Women's political representation has increased from 25.6% to 26.2% globally from 2020 to 2021

However,

- In A global survey among women, parliamentarians 41.8% of respondents reported facing humiliation, spreading of sexual images through social media

Source: UNDP, grf survey

Experience of gendered violence in politics…

Research conducted in Nepal among women and LGBTQ+ political leaders, by Purple Foundation/NDI

- 91% reported that gendered violence in politics is prevalent (online and offline)

- 28% reported facing online gendered violence, and 63% reported misinformation and hate speech rising during elections

- "Character Assassination" is reported as the most used weapon to demean and demotivate online or offline

Experience of gendered violence…

- 61.4% reported the perpretretures of such violence are from own political parties

- 50% reported they lack responding mechanism in their political parties

- 95% of respondents reported gendered violence affects their life negatively: mentally and physically, following 48% said it leads to dropping out from politics

The consequences…

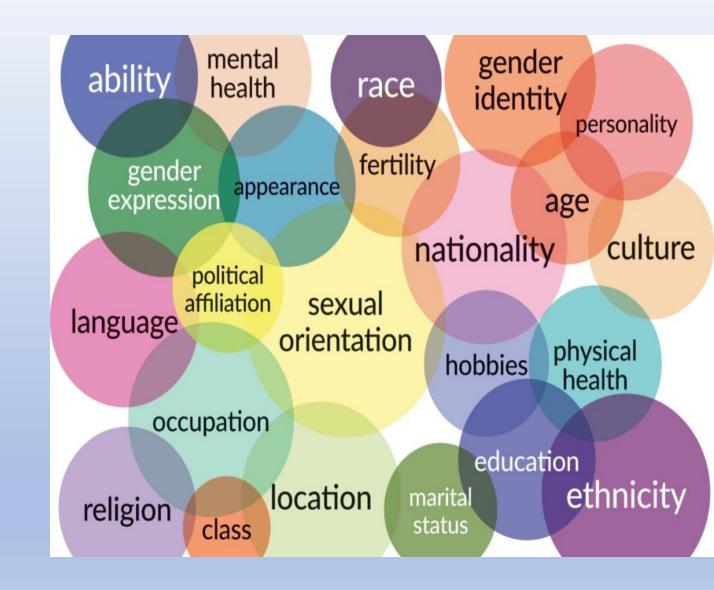# Silencing the women, minority, and LGBTQI+ leaders

A serious violation of human rights

Relearning and reconstructing social values and norms are fundamental

Intersectional intervention in technology is preconditional

Undermining the good governance and rule of law

Threat to inclusive democracy

Opportunities..

- Recognize online gendered violence as a serious issue and have developed legal frameworks to address it

- Focus on Prevention efforts, promoting digital literacy, safe digital space for all

- Challenge the social norms that perpetuate online or offline gendered violence

- Ensure support services for victims, training for law enforcement

Opportunities…

- Responsible and accountable journalism and media

- Greater political commitment

- Collaboration between governments, tech companies, and civil society

The future of technology must be a future of equality!

Any queries, please?