



AWARENESS ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Every day, both boys and girls witness gender inequity in their communities and households. Mothers may shoulder the majority of caring and home chores, with parents taking on unequal responsibilities. Women make up the bulk of low-skilled, underpaid community health professionals who care for children, and they have little opportunities to advance in their careers. Girls' demands for cleanliness, safety, and hygiene may be disregarded, preventing them from consistently attending school. Gender disparities in learning and skill development are also a result of discriminatory teaching methods and educational resources. As a result, compared to one in ten boys, almost one in four girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are neither employed nor enrolled in school or training. Reducing inequality boosts economies and creates robust, stable communities that benefit everyone.

KEYWORDS: discriminatory practices, equality, gender inequality, safety.

INTRODUCTION

Women and girls in all parts of the world suffer discrimination and violence. Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic right, but is also crucial for a sustainable future. It is proven that empowering girls helps economic growth and development, It is a necessary foundation (1) (2). Equal access to education is a very major: part in the understanding



of Gender Equality, having enough health care to maintain health at a good level is also a very important aspect of this Topic. Job opportunities irrespective of gender is also an area where there should be more progress and opportunities. Implementing new frameworks and legal laws in support of women are also necessary (3)(4)(5). Many New laws were made in favouring women in India. Nationwide outrage over the brutal going rape against Jyothisingh in Newdelhi was the driving force behind the formation of the Criminal, Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (6)(7)(8).

One in five women between 15-19 years has experienced sexual violence, according to a survey. In 49 countries, there are no laws to protect women (9) (10). The main objective is to eliminate such practices around the world and create awareness by which we see that all women are respected and given importance in every aspect of life. India's low ranking in the world EconomicForum is mainly due to Gender Inequality and discrimination. About 42 % of the Girl children in India are Under-weighed. Women of lower Education attain struggle to make healthier food choices (11). A survey shows that sexual violence against women is a grossly neglected public health issue (12), (13), (14).

According to the World Economic Forum (2019), achieving worldwide gender equality will take roughly 100 years, or 99.5 years. The 100-year estimate shows that women still need to fight harder for their rights, and this figure illustrates how society is slow to act on SDG5, even though everyone is aware of it. Additionally, 10% of adolescent girls worldwide between the ages of 15 and 24 do not attend school. Reports addressing the problem of illiteracy highlight developing and undeveloped nations with extremely low rates of female and female enrollment in educational councils. Additionally, this significantly affects women's economic possibilities and engagement. One participant in our study didn't know that women have the right to maternity leave and didn't agree with giving them unreasonably extended leave. Now the growing trend in this area motivated us to pursue this project (15), (16), (17).

A 2020 United Nations research found that almost one-third of women globally have been victims of violence at some point in their lives. Furthermore, according to a 2019 nationwide survey on violence against women in Vietnam, nearly two-thirds of women (roughly 63%) had experienced some kind of economic, psychological, sexual, or physical abuse during their lives, in addition to controlling conduct from their spouses. In addition, over 32% of women had experienced violence in the past 12 months. Proactive steps should be taken to stop aggressive behaviors and provide a safe environment for women and girls in order to eradicate violence against them (18).

Empowerment is the utmost goal of the result, respect towards women has to Increase , there should be equal chances for women in Empowerment (19–21). The survey fulfills some deficiencies which other authors Couldn't do. Indian Culture, Rural conditions Awareness in



college students are taken importance in this survey (22). The aim of the Study is to create Awareness on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment among college students.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The scientific review board of Saveetha Dental College in Chennai gave its approval to this prospective observational study. One hundred college students made up the sample size. The basic random sampling technique was used. College students were given access to a self-structured questionnaire consisting of fifteen questions using Google Forms. After gathering demographic data, the results were compiled into pie charts and bar diagrams. SPSS software was used for data collection and statistical analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results were collected and data was analysed. Majority of the students were from dental sciences. There is a need to understand the importance of gender equality and women empowerment. Many surveys were done about this topic.

Age groups - 78.3% of the population were in the age group of : 15-20 years. 13.2% in the Age group of 20-25 years. 8.5% belong to the age group of 25 and above years (Figure 1). 51.9 % of the Population were male whereas 48.1 % were female (Figure 2). 96.2% of the population said that they have heard about gender equality while 38% of people: didn't hear about it (Figure 3).

98.1% of the population said they know what it means while 1.9% didn't know about it (Figure 4). 67.9% of people feel that we live in an equal society in India , while 21% said no to it (Figure 5). 84% of the people think that feminism strives for the equality of sexes, while 16% said no (Figure 6)

71.7% of the population Identifies themselves as Feminist's, while 28.3% said no to it (Figure 7). 67.9%. of the population Said that Feminism is the movement for equality while 32.1% said no (Figure 8). 87.7% of the population said that there should be an international Men's day as well as International women's day, while 12.3% said they don't think so(Figure 9). 84.9% of the people think that India is a male dominated society while 15.01% people said no (Figure 10).

73.6% of the people think that women have equal chances as men in Job placements while 26.1% of people Say no (Figure 11). 75.5 % of the people think that EducationSystem in India is favored by a particular group of people , while 14.5 % said no to it (Figure 12). 57.17 % of the people feel that there is general discrimination in the public's attitude towards Female interests in job placements, while 28.3% Said no (Figure 13). 56.6% of people missed a Scholarship / promotion / Job because of their gender, while 43.04 % of people Said no (Figure 14).



We have seen the chi square analysis of comparison of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about gender equality (Figure 15), Chi square analysis of comparison of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about the perspective of society in India on gender (Figure 16), Chi square analysis of comparison of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about feminism striving for equality of sexes (Figure 17), chi square analysis of comparison of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about celebrating men's days (Figure 18), Chi square analysis of comparison of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about male dominance in the society (Figure 19), Chi square analysis of comparison of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about equal chances for women in job placements (Figure 20), Chi square analysis of comparison of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about job placements and promotions of women (Figure 21).

The gender gap persists in India despite the country's rapid economic progress and the numerous government initiatives promoting gender equality. In order to make social and political institutions more representative, women must participate more in these spheres. Gender equality means that men and women, girls and boys, have the same rights, obligations, and opportunities. In addition to being a fundamental right, gender equality is crucial for reducing poverty and promoting long-term economic progress (23).

Surveys of marital conflict may rise as a result of women's increased involvement in household duties and the struggle between work and family. Women in communities across 150 countries evaluated gender inequality based on global indicators like labor force participation, health, and education. Political representation and participation did not always rate their lives as less satisfying or under their control than did males (24). According to reports, 96% of the nation's female workers were working in the unorganized sector, despite all the development initiatives. We might obtain more reliable and accurate answers after we get over our constraints, which include regionalism, a smaller sample size, and the inability to assess practicality (25).

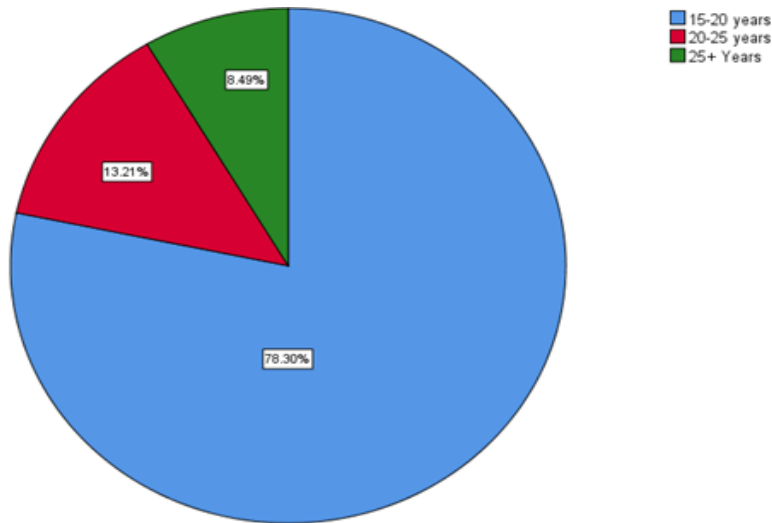


Figure 1: Pie chart showing the percentage distribution of responses on the age group of participants. 78.3%(blue) of the population were in the age group of 15-20 years. 13.2% in the Age group of 20-25years. 8:5% belong to the age group of 25 and above years.

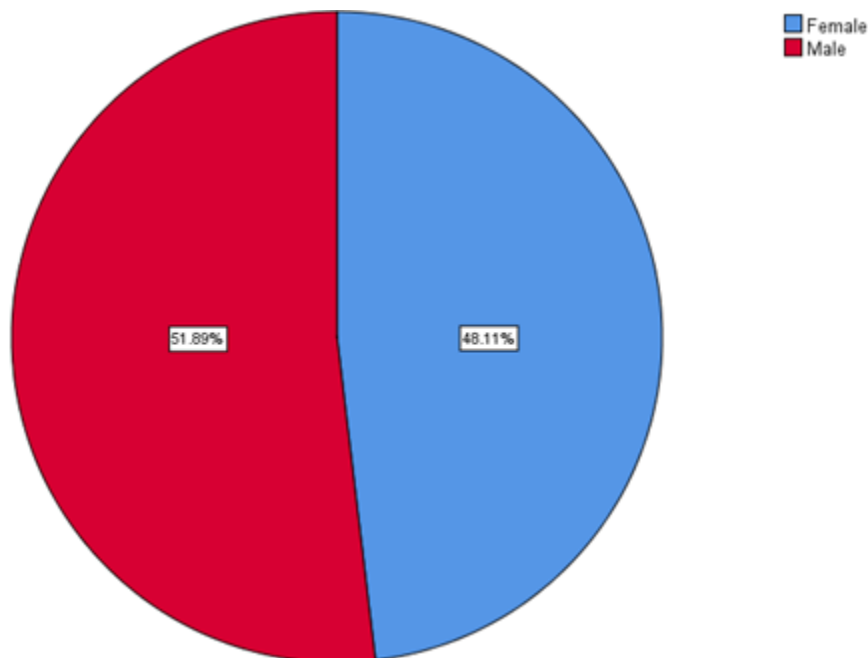


Figure 2-Pie chart showing the percentage distribution of responses on genders of participants, 51.9% (red) of the Population were male where 48.1% (blue) are females.

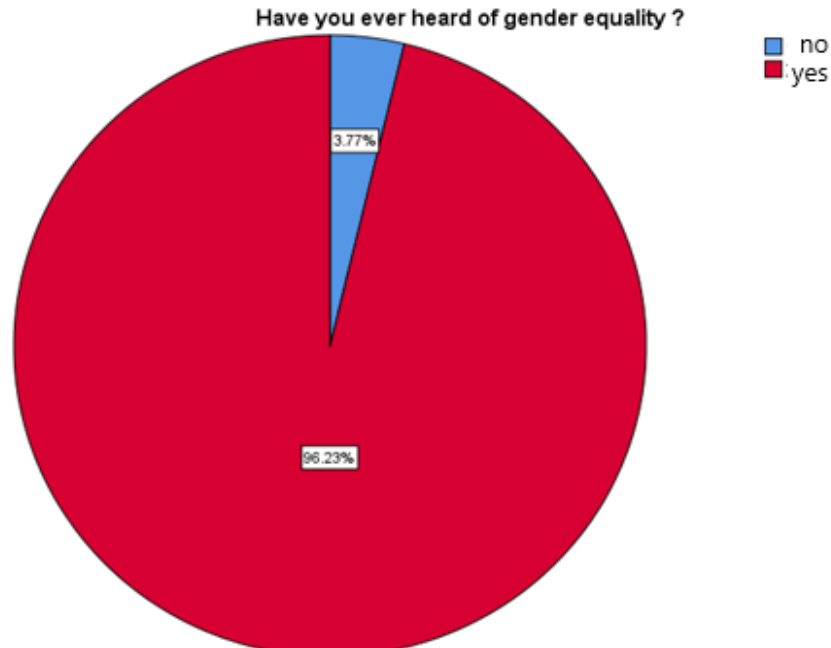


Figure 3- Pie chart showing percentage of distribution of responses about participants knowledge on gender equality. 96-2%(red) of the population said that they have heard about gender equality while 38% (blue) of people didn't hear about it. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes

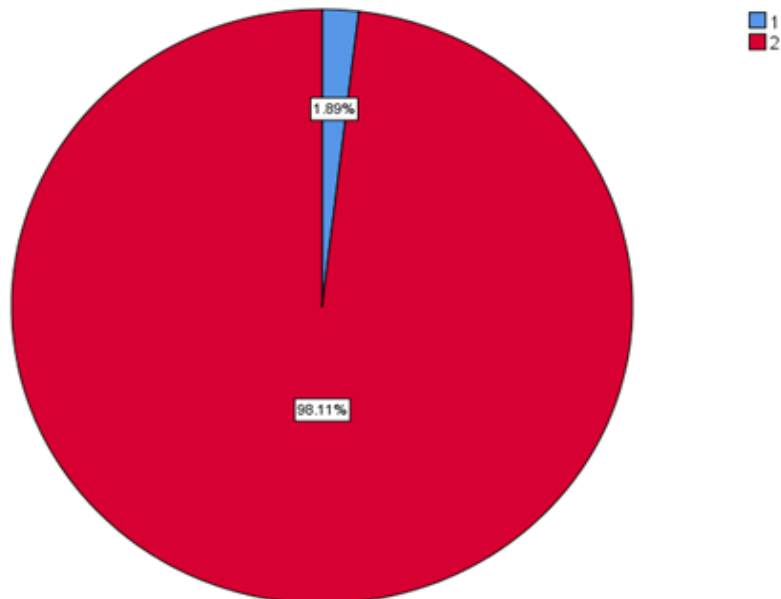


Figure 4- Pie chart showing percentage distribution of responses about knowledge on whether they know what gender equality means or not. 98.1%(red) of the population said they know what it means while 1.9%(blue) didn't know about it . (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes

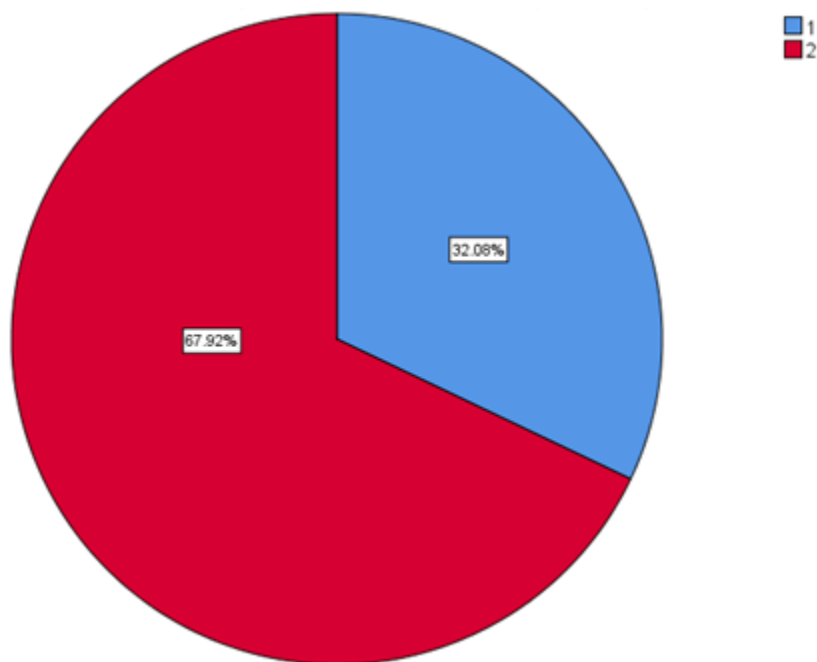


Figure 5:- Pie chart showing percentage distribution of responses about awareness on equality in India 67.9%(red) of people feel that we live in an equal society in India , while 32.1%(blue) said no to it. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes.

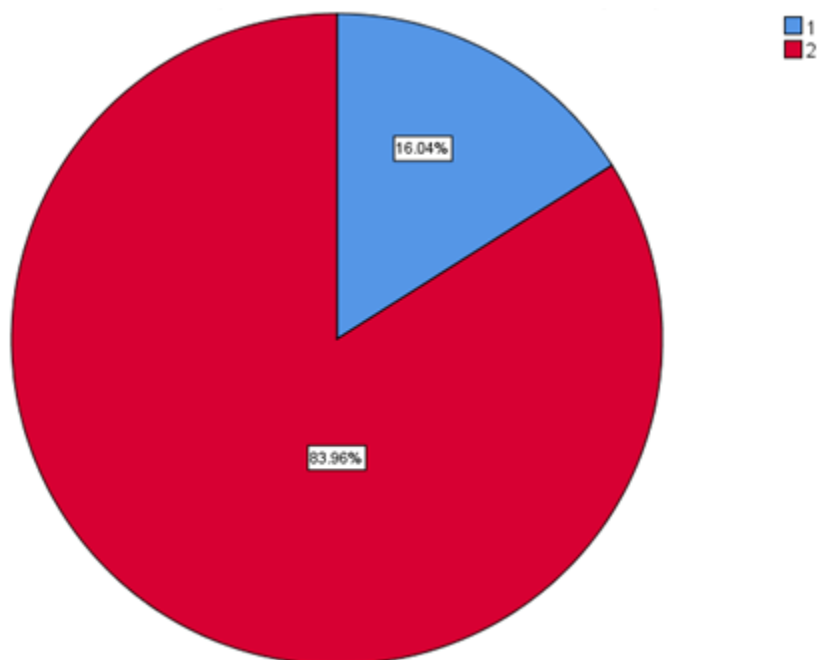




Figure 6 :- Pie chart showing percentage distribution of responses about opinion on feminism,. 84%(red) of the people think that feminism strikes for the equality of sexes, while 16%(blue) said no. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes.

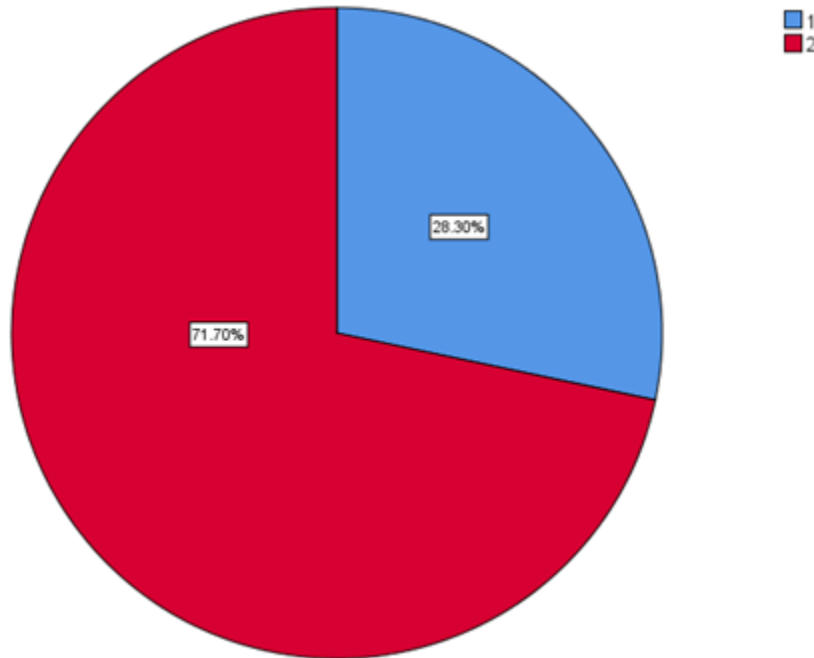


Figure 7 :- pie chart showing percentage distribution of responses about awareness on identification of a feminist. 71.7%(red) of the population Identifies themselves as Feminist's . while , 28.3%(blue) said no. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes.

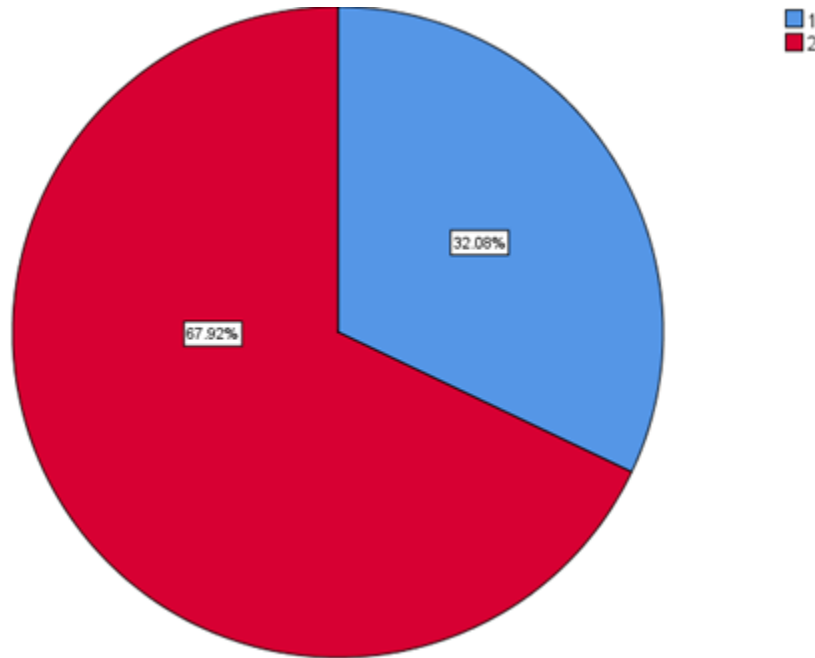


Figure 8 :- Pie chart showing percentage distribution of responses about awareness on impact of feminism on gender equality. 67.9%(red) of the population said that Feminism is the movement for equality while 32.1%(blue) said no. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes.

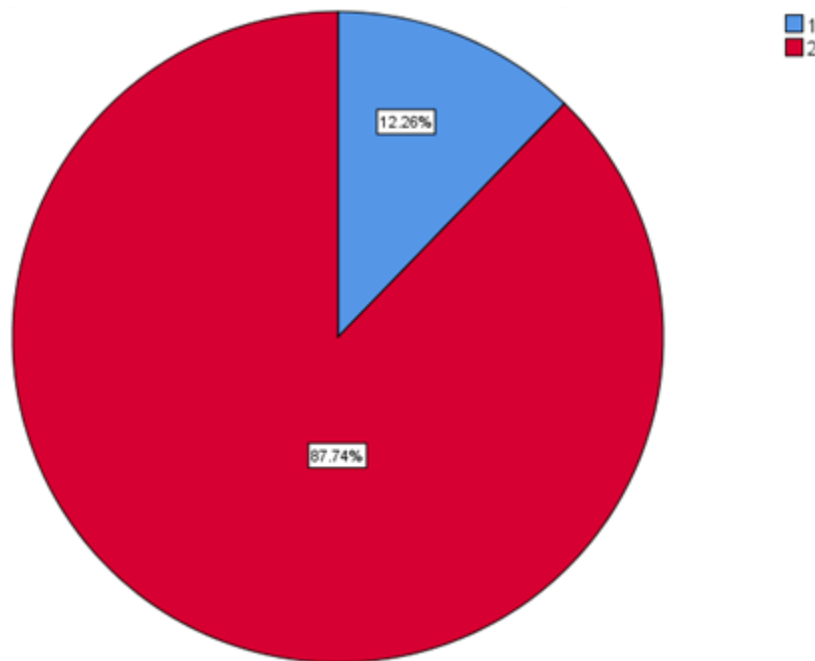


Figure 9:- Pie chart showing percentage distribution of responses about awareness on International Men's Day as well as International Women's Day . 87.7%(red) of the population said that there



should be international Men's day as well as International women's day, while 12.3%(no),Said they don't think so. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes.

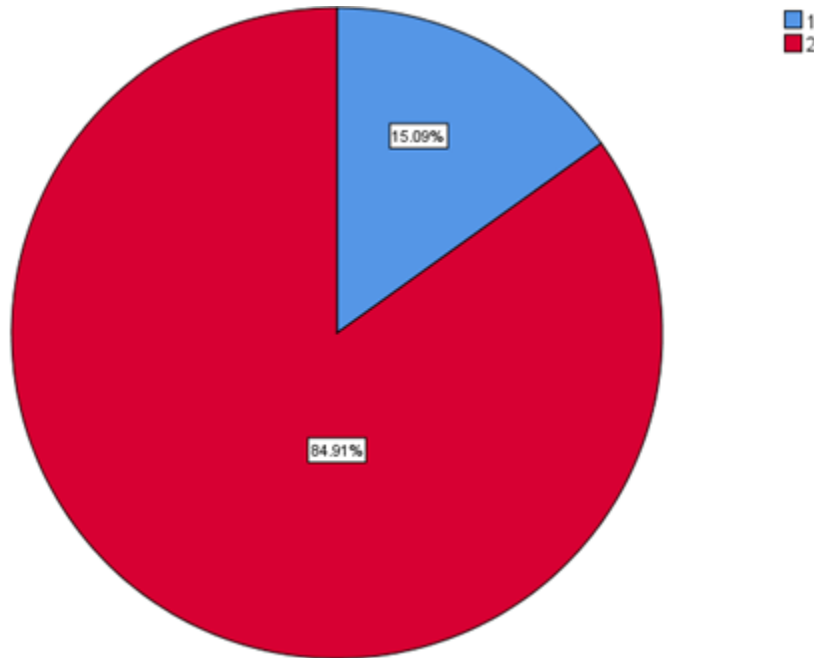


Figure 10:- Pie chart showing the percentage distribution of responses about awareness on male dominance in the society. 84.9%(red) of the people think that India is a maledominated society while 15.01%(blue) people said no. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes

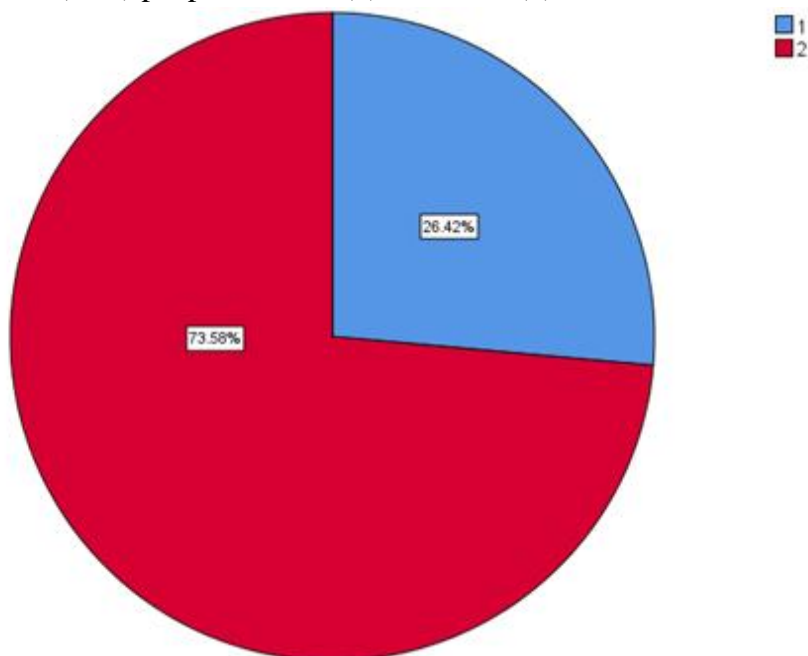




Figure 11 :- Pie chart showing the percentage distribution of responses about awareness on equal opportunities for women and men in job placements. 73.6%(red) of the people think that women have equal chances as men in Job placements while 26.1%(blue) of people Say no. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes.

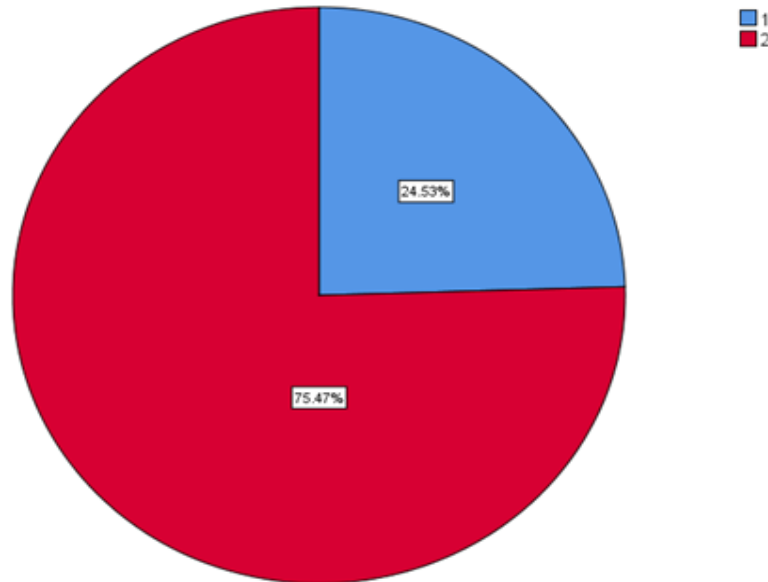


Figure 12 :-pie chart showing the percentage distribution of participant`s opinion on the question ”Do you think the education system in India is favoured to a particular set of people ?”. 75.5%(red) of the people think that EducationSystem in India is favored by a particular group of people , while 14.5%(blue) said no to it. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes

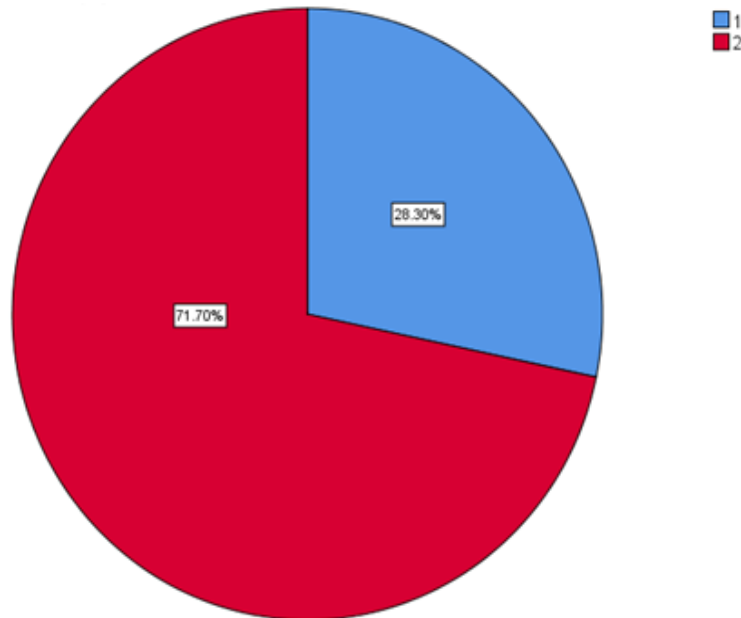


Figure 13 :-pie chart showing the percentage distribution of participant`s opinion on the question “Do you feel any general discrimination in public`s attitude towards female interests in job placements?”. 57.17 %(red)of the people feel that they feel that general discrimination in public's attitude towards Female interests in job placements, while 28.3%(blue)Said no. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes

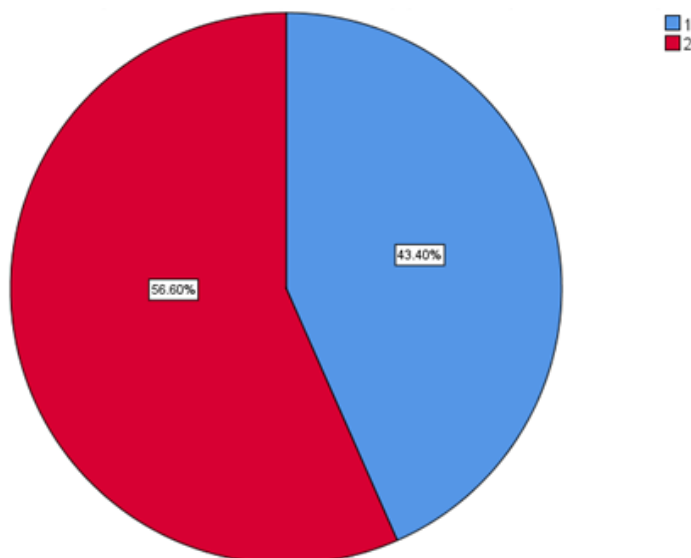


Figure 14:-pie chart showing the percentage distribution of participant`s opinion on the question “Have you ever missed any Scholarship/promotion / Job because of your gender?”. 56.6%(red)of



people missed a Scholarship/promotion / Job because of their gender , while 43.04 %(red) of people Said no. (1)-Blue-No, (2)-Red-Yes

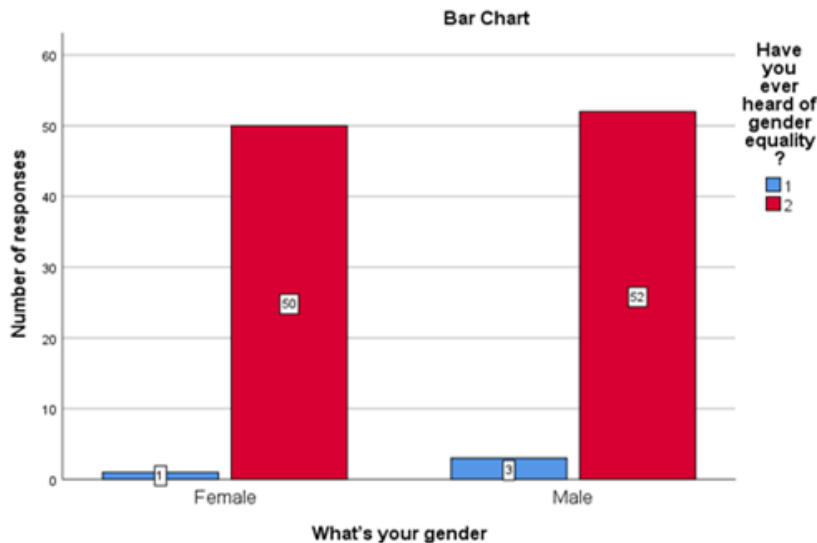


Figure 15:-The bar graph showing chi square analysis of association of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about gender equality. Red colour denotes Yes and Blue colour denotes No. X axis showing the genders and y axis showing the number of participants. Males have more awareness(52) than females but it is statistically not significant. Chi square test, $p=0.346$, ($p>0.05$ indicating statistically insignificant).

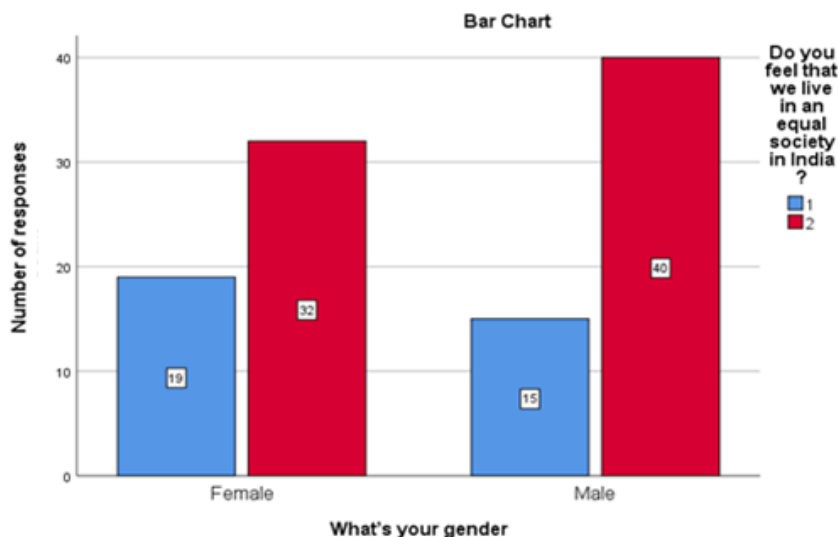


Figure 16:-The bar graph showing chi square analysis of association of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about the perspective of society in India on gender . Red colour denotes Yes and Blue colour denotes No. X axis showing the genders and y axis showing



the number of participants. Males have more awareness(40) than females but it is statistically not significant. Chi square test, $p=0.957$, ($p>0.05$ indicating statistically insignificant).

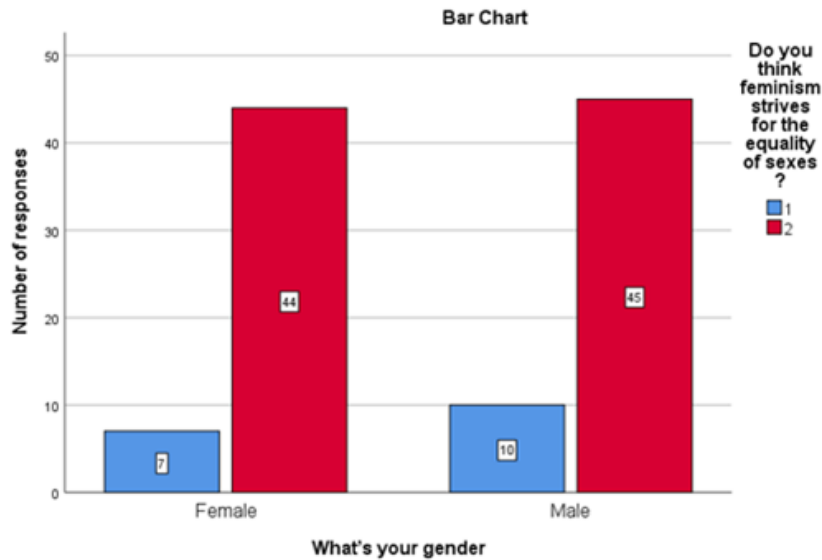


Figure 17:-The bar graph showing chi square analysis of association of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about feminism striving for equality of sexes . Red colour denotes Yes and Blue colour denotes No. X axis showing the genders and y axis showing the number of participants. Males have more awareness(45) than females but it is statistically not significant. Chi square test, $p=0.271$, ($p>0.05$ indicating statistically insignificant).

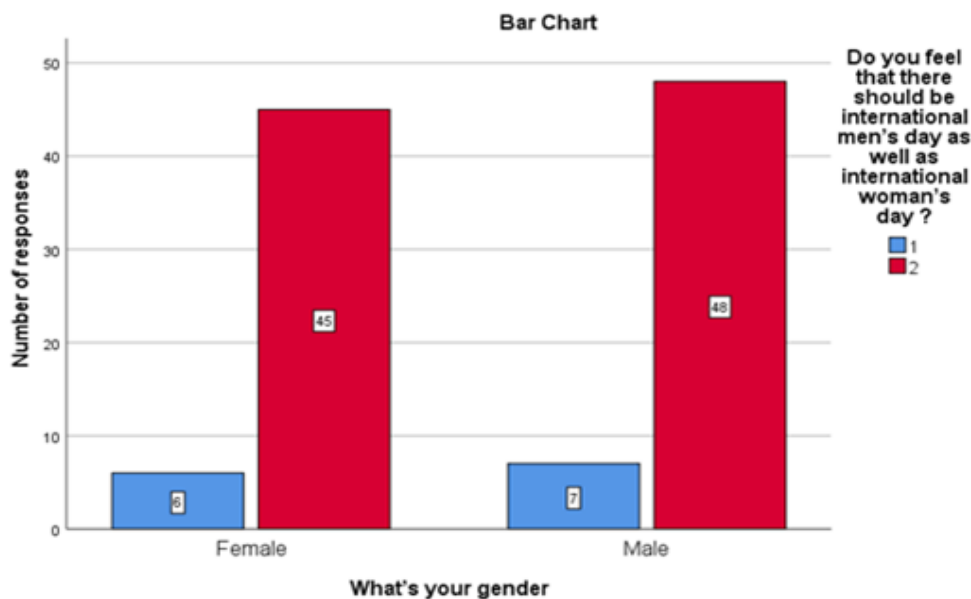




Figure 18:-The bar graph showing chi square analysis of association of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about celebrating International Men's Day. Red colour denotes Yes and Blue colour denotes No. X axis showing the genders and y axis showing the number of participants. Males have more awareness (48) than females but it is statistically not significant. Chi square test, $p=0.346$, ($p>0.05$ indicating statistically insignificant).

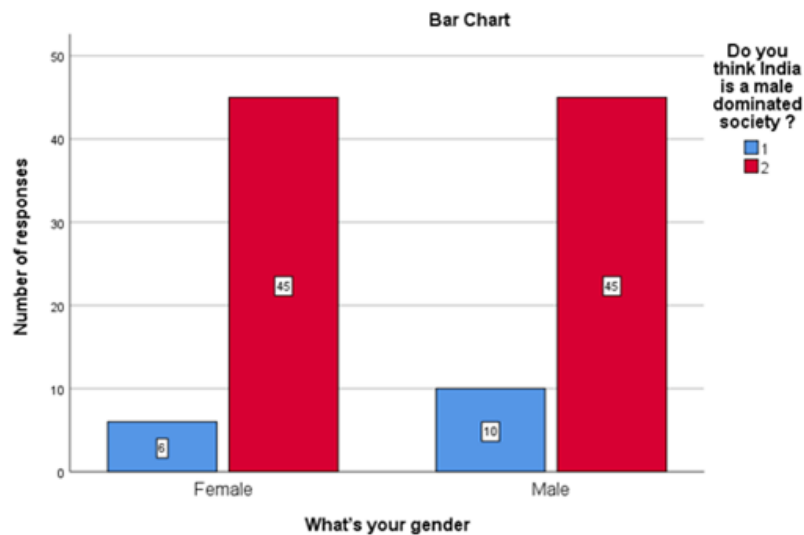


Figure 19:-The bar graph showing chi square analysis of association of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about male dominance in the society. Red colour denotes Yes and Blue colour denotes No. X axis showing the genders and y axis showing the number of participants. Males and Females have the same awareness (45) but it is statistically not significant. Chi square test, $p=0.880$, ($p>0.05$ indicating statistically insignificant).

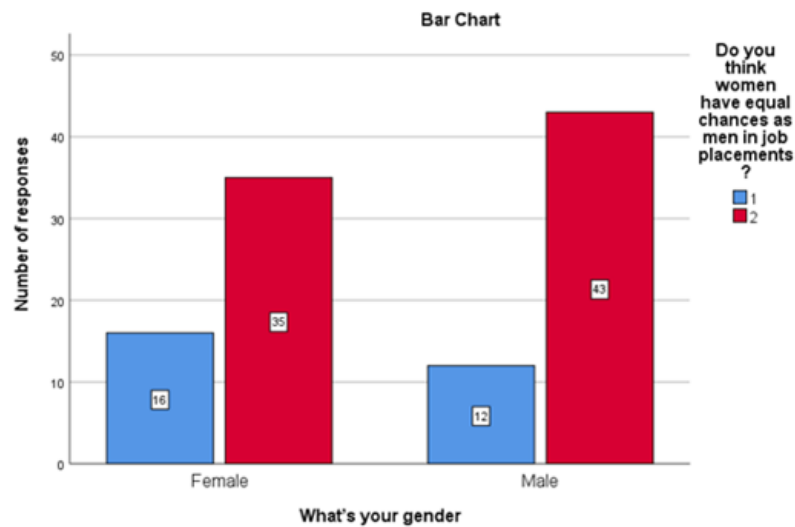


Figure 20:-The bar graph showing chi square analysis of association of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about equal chances for women in job placements. Red colour denotes Yes and Blue colour denotes No. X axis showing the genders and y axis showing the number of participants. Males have more awareness (52) than females but it is statistically not significant. Chi square test, $p=0.356$, ($p>0.05$ indicating statistically insignificant).

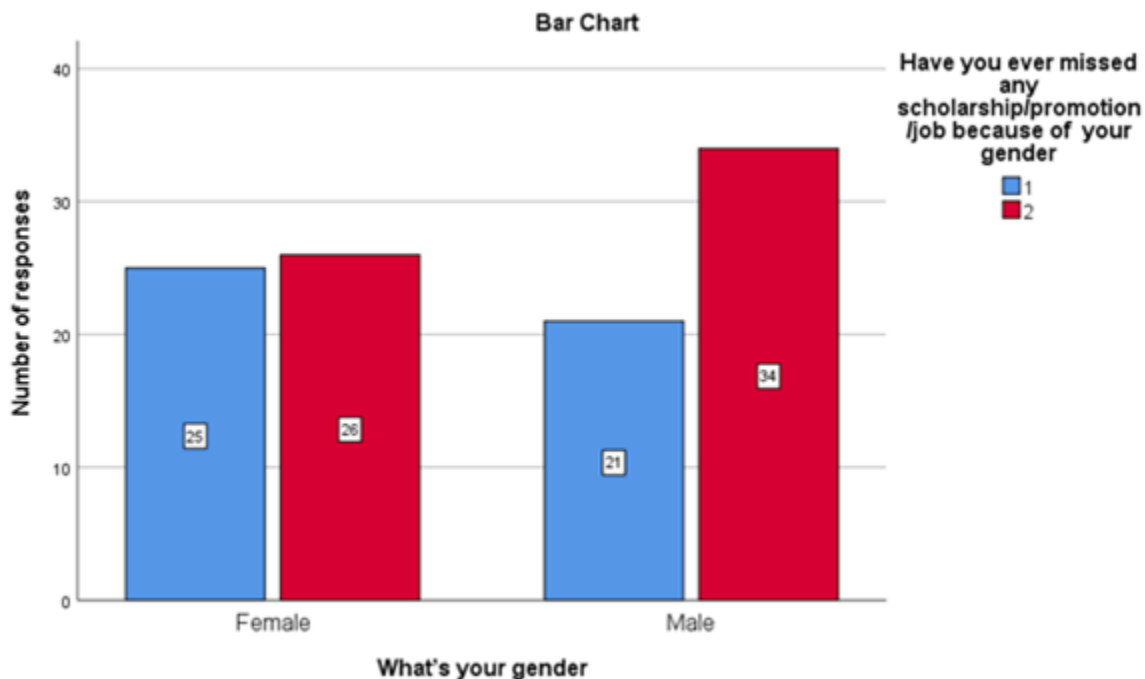


Figure 21:-The bar graph showing chi square analysis of association of students belonging to different Genders on their knowledge about job placements and promotions of women. Red colour denotes Yes and Blue colour denotes No. X axis showing the genders and y axis showing the number of participants. Males have more awareness (34) than females but it is statistically not significant. Chi square test, $p=0.261$, ($p>0.05$ indicating statistically insignificant).

CONCLUSION

Dental students have very good knowledge and awareness regarding Gender equality of Empowerment. Everyone feels that women should have equal rights as men. Participants were interested in the ideology of feminism.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: No conflict of interest declared

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

A.Sai Sanjith: Literature search, data collection, analysis

Karthik Ganesh Mohanraj: Data verification, manuscript drafting, final correction and approval

V. Vishnu Priya: Data verification, manuscript drafting

R. Gayathri: Data verification, manuscript drafting

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