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THE CONCEPT OF GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MICRO-LEVEL: SOCIO-LEGAL EXAMINATION

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ABSTRACT

The preparation of the future is exactly in the actions of present steps, which must be initiated by individuals to meet the portion of desirable ends. Society exhibits the cultural trend of oppressing the vulnerable attributes of society without any notion of humanity and idealism. The conceptual ideology has the preparation of giving superstitious and unrealistic dogma to the massacre of individuals.

The call for this exhibition is to point out the view, that the more the vulnerability of minorities is increased, there would be drastic effort in societal sustainability, today women and children are specifically identified as the most vulnerable portion, which is the biggest asset of the entire human species. The world has changed into a world with unjustified gender stereotypes which devalue cultural values and indicate the toxic part of male identity as supreme, many illiterate women are being brutally assaulted by the overly emphasized toxic masculinity of their family men and women. Deeper in family issues, we can conclude that all individual freedom and liberty of women are prisoned after marriage, most specifically in the religious rural region. There is a massive war and struggle that the silence of rural women goes through on daily basis. A few of the problems can be specifically mentioned as sanitary problems, unhygienic sanitary facilities, daily struggle for water resource facilities, the menstruation hygiene struggle, and false unethical stereotypes women face every month which stops them from empowering themselves in rural

conditions. unavailability of a Proper menstruation kit. Restrictive circles and boundaries for women, pressurized marriage at a very young age with naivety tons of family responsibility, and loads of household chores. Unbelievable religious practices and norms women are prone to follow. The maternity stress, no proper nutrition for the mother during pregnancy, and female feticide. The traumatic and undesirable family pressure during pregnancy and no proper food intake led to malnutrition of the child. This circle of livelihood of rural and tribal women just portrays the inefficiency of societal development.

KEYWORDS: GENDER EQUALITY, GENDER IDENTITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCE ALLOCATION, FAMILY PLANNING

I. INTRODUCTION

"Gender equality is the goal that will help abolish poverty that will create more equal economies, fairer societies, and happier men, women, and children."-

Graça Machel⁴⁹

Gender equality is a scandalized concept in today's world we are at peak of scientific development and understanding a different number of unique species all across the land and overseas. Stepping on the moon and understanding space and structure., from micro to macro. Even though internal problems

⁴⁹ World Economic Forum from Coligny, Switzerland / CC BY-SA

remain unsolved., every human species is ought to get the same equality, freedom, liberty, opportunity, and dignity as the other fellow partner or individuals. Religious leaders are erupting the freedom and peace of society by creating restrictive boundaries for women. Still, there are places in the world where, women are felt not safe after seven in the streets, clothes of women are scaled and measured and associated with their character. Women are prone to abuse, harassment, and bullying by their societal boundaries and workplaces⁵⁰. Married women are more vulnerable to such torture of the demand of dowry, her desire to work outside the house, having ambition, and giving birth to a female child. Women are treated just as reproductive and household slavery machines with no personal choice, veracity, prestige, or will.

The other gender identity other than female and male, do not even have reorganization, dignity, and respect in many parts of society. Those who recognize themselves and their identity are brutally separated or removed from their family, left alone in street, begging, doing undignified drudging, and other humiliating survival options to meet daily expenses in the hardcore scenario. The hardship and struggle cannot be enlisted in normal wordy expressions. The dignity and identity struggle exploit the efficiency of humans as resources, worldwide there are many examples of professionalized humans who are transgender themselves with significant contributions in all professional activities and service sectors. The valuable contributions are overshadowed by unethical, superstitious, illogical gender stereotypes.

Women have suffered injustice over centuries in India, even though the morals have been justifiably entrusted that it is essential to give privileges to women they must get equal importance and the shakti of devi and Durga is emphasized in the same land where she is exploited.

Societal development requires equal dignity and status quo for every individual identity and the proceedings must effectively be initiated. With the proper portrayal of realistic stories that describe the empowering women in every field and aspect who stands on their own feet with no societal support.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

the basic examination of various cooperative works to understand the current evolution of the concept of gender equality in the micro-level socio-legal examination, in families and societies, a structural study from various literature was reviewed.

1. Johnsson-Latham, G., (2007). The study demonstrates how a gender perspective can facilitate more sustainable economic growth and well-being, with a focus on combating female time poverty rather than material consumption - which primarily benefits rich men - while also creating more job opportunities in the service sector, which can help increase overall human well-being.
2. Calasanti, T.M. and Bailey, C.A., (1991). the author presents a socialist-feminist framework for investigating the continuation of gender inequality in the distribution of family labor in this research. The contradictory results produced by the relative resources, gender-role ideology, and time-availability hypotheses highlight the need of investigating the structural grounds for gender-based power interactions.
3. MacKinnon, C.A., 2006. The author describes how women of disadvantaged religious minorities are given equal rights under the Indian Constitution and international law through family law. The legal concept of equality based on sameness and diversity, which is

⁵⁰ Stop Bullying.gov Stop Bullying.gov <https://www.stopbullying.gov>

prevalent throughout the world, is questioned.

4. Warth, L. and Koparanova, M.S., 2012. The author explains Promoting gender equality has two motivations. To begin, equality between men and women—equal rights, opportunities, and responsibilities—is an issue of human rights and social justice. Second, increased gender equality is a requirement for (and an effective indicator of) long-term people-centered growth.
5. Mehrabi, S., Etemadi, A., Borjali, A. and Sadipoor, E., 2016. The author explains The effect of puberty education on the knowledge, attitude, and function of girls' students. And how the mensuration affects their livelihood.
6. Ismail, S., Shajahan, A., Rao, T.S. and Wylie, K., 2015. The author explains the Indian scenario of education concerning sex, the psychology of young children, and various taboos in relation to teaching or imparting education concerning Adolescent sex education in India: Current perspectives.

A. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

the research study fundamentally adopted the methodology of doctrinal research, the study is conducted by using the mechanism of a proper literature review from different sources of law thesis, journals, and precedents of case judgments both national and foreign judgments. The studies used various website, books, and documentaries for conducting effective statement in relation to the gender equality and the proper mechanism for attainment of social welfare in the society.

III. FAMILY ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT WITH EQUAL GENDER ATTRIBUTES FOR SOCIETAL WELFARE

An ideal family consists of very supportive partners or individuals that equally take responsibility and idealize each other with respect and dignity. Their special associative functioning may lead to better care and cooperation among each other, which may lead to a happy and healthy family that has a better understanding among them. This cooperation would maximize benefits among the partners and proper house management. Individuals make family, families bring out culture or community, and communities idealize the perfect societal structure⁵¹.

Women basically for centuries have unknowingly mastered the art of house management and assistance which is never being significantly portrayed and well respected due to gender stereotypes and toxic displays of masculinity. Oppression of such distinguished working style is not respected, treated equally, never titled, and recognized as a job even not paid⁵².

The control, use, possession, rents, revenue, and profits of real estate held in joint tenancy by the complete parties shall belong equally to the husband and wife. Without the other spouse's express consent, neither spouse may bargain, sell, lease, mortgage, transfer, transmit, or in any other way encumber any property so held.⁵³

⁵¹ Johnsson-Latham, G., 2007. A study on gender equality as a prerequisite for sustainable development. *Report to the Environment Advisory Council*, 2.

⁵² Calasanti, T.M. and Bailey, C.A., 1991. Gender inequality and the division of household labor in the United States and Sweden: A socialist-feminist approach. *Social Problems*, 38(1), pp.34-53.

⁵³ *Burgin v. Owen*, 640 S.E.2d 427, 429 (N.C. App. 2007); see also *In re Ulmer*, 211 B.R. 523, 525 (Bankr. E.D.N.C. 1997)

A. CHOICE OF UNDERTAKING OF HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBLY IRRESPECTIVE OF GENDER STEREOTYPES

Fair treatment and positive discrimination are milestones for sustainable societal development. Household chores must not be associated with women's work alone male members of the family have the equal right or duty to work and help with household chores, in the same way, women must have a job and workaholic life. For effective functioning of energy and resources in the house, it is necessary both women and men to have the same and equal attributes and function in household chores. When our society realizes such significance, the world will grow sustainably with happiness and prosperity. Both men and women irrespective of gender must have an opportunity based on personal will and circumstances to choose the household responsibility, this has been practically proven that this reliable responsibility will sufficiently be a better standardized sustained societal structure where there will be less burden and more cooperation between family, for example, women got high paid job, and her husband with the circumstantial condition, made his choice of being house husband, trashing down the unrealistic norms that set boundaries for both men and women. In the U.S. supreme court, it was contended that "Stereotypes about women's domestic roles are reinforced by stereotypes about men's lack of domestic responsibilities. Employers frequently denied men similar accommodations or discouraged them from taking leave because they continued to regard the family as a woman's domain. These mutually reinforcing stereotypes created a self-fulfilling cycle of discrimination that forced women to continue to assume the role of a primary family carer while also encouraging employers' stereotypical views of women's commitment to work and value as employees."⁵⁴

The patriarchal structure has no reliable usage in the modern advanced era, it must be realized that the personal choice of individuals creates cooperation and better planning and responsibility among each other article 14 of the Indian constitution guarantees such equality and freedom of choice⁵⁵.

The Supreme Court of Wisconsin in the case of Hartung v Hartung believes in gender equality and the right of women to exercise their abilities in whatever line of work they choose, this is essentially a recognition of the right to make a choice: and if the circumstances dictate to a woman that the appropriate choice for her is to stay at home to care for small children, that choice, like a career choice, will be respected by this court.⁵⁶

B. SOCIETAL GENDER-BASED DOGMA IN FAMILY RELATION

The proper family planning and distribution of resources are the pedestals for nations' overall societal and economic growth. There is a huge need for literacy among Indians and other national citizens about proper family management and association. If given to women, individual rights will be well equipped, and learned about proper family management. And could raise their voices and demand their rights and individuality and question their family about their unrealistic expectations of giving birth to a male child would bring safety to their pride. Culturally women's independence and liberty must be strongly portrayed in society. It must be stigmatized that both men and women are the pillars of the family and that society cannot function on dominance but cooperation and respect. The idealization of women being inferior physically or mentally is a false buzz to degrade the truth. Women are not inferior to any other, the inferiority is just in the mindset of individuals who talks so low without proper evidence and facts.

⁵⁵ MacKinnon, C.A., 2006. Sex equality under the constitution of India: Problems, prospects, and "personal laws". *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 4(2), pp.181-202.

⁵⁶ Hartung v. Hartung, 102 Wis.2d 58, 66

⁵⁴ NEVADA DEPT OF HUMAN RESOURCES v. HIBBS, 53B U.S. at 726,

In England and Wales Court of Appeal (Civil Division), It was argued that “married mothers bear a disproportionate share of the consequences of gender-based violence; however, applications for revocation of parental responsibility are not restricted to cases of gender-based violence.”⁵⁷

Family cooperation is the first step towards gender equality, without dignified cooperation or respect for one another’s passion, the relationship is not reliable to each other. The emotional and physical space of each member must be properly equipped and understood. Housekeeping and management have important roles to enrich the love and safety of our mother earth.

C. FAMILY PLANNING, AND THE ESSENCE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Families can contribute the society by upgrading themselves and their houses, it is necessary for a house to understand the problem of overpopulation. For example, due to illiteracy, it is often believed that having a son is a more desirable asset, so they often depend upon female feticides or they keep on giving birth to a female child until they finally end up having a male offspring, which could keep the pride and name of the family as an asset or in some cases such illiterate families feel more the offspring are the more income generation, which would lead to degrading conditions of a family forced child labor at a young age. Unskilled, uneducated, poorly nourished, and disrupted family conditions. Poor people often end up having lots of children with no proper health treatment, and education facilitates. This is a humiliating consequence of disordered family planning. Thus, family planning is the only asset to save the downfall of a family into poverty and even overall up-gradation of economical up-gradation of family the more the quantity of offspring will be, the quality of care for offspring will not be available, family planning has importance to the economic planning of the family, it must be emphasized

that overpopulation is an equally most responsible factor of environmental degradation, men and women must idealize the importance of family planning, the same way the government assists different fruitful contribution and scheme.

Rural families with higher illiteracy often are prone to the unhealthy habit of giving birth to children more children with no proper resources in hand to manage them sufficiently, lack of rural jobs leads to a very low-income level of individuals. Hereby chances of malnutrition increase at an early stage in newborns. The understanding of this scarcity of hygienic food for newborns schemes like POSHAN Abhiyaan was initiated with the goal that is to lower the rate of undernutrition and improving the nutritional status of children in the nation. India's flagship program, Poshan Abhiyaan, aims to improve the nutritional results for children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.⁵⁸

National health mission recognizes the need to cope with a series of health problems for women due to insufficient and improper family planning made by them. India established a national program for family planning in 1952, making it the first nation to do so worldwide. Regarding policy and program execution, the program has developed throughout the years, and it is currently being repositioned to not only accomplish population stabilization goals but also to improve reproductive health and lower mother, newborn, and child mortality and morbidity rates⁵⁹. The goal of Mission Parivar Vikas, which was initially intended for 146 high-priority districts in the seven high focus states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand), is to ensure that contraceptive products are accessible to clients at all levels of the health system⁶⁰.

⁵⁸ "Women Related Legislation | Ministry of Women & Child Development." <https://wcd.nic.in/act/2314>.

⁵⁹ "Family Planning :: National Health Mission."

<https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=2&sublinkid=821&lid=222>.

⁶⁰ "Mission Parivar Vikas Family Planning Scheme - PRADHAN MANTRI YOJANA." 27 Feb. 2023, <https://www.pradhanmantriyojana.co.in/mission-parivar-vikas-family-planning-scheme/>.

⁵⁷ *Burnip v Birmingham City Council and Others* [2012] EWCA Civ 629

D. COOPERATIVE DECISION-MAKING,

Women must have an equal share in decision-making in the family, the olden norms of patriarchy must be removed from the root of the traditional family, and the father and mother both must have equal share and cooperation among them while making any financial and societal decisions. Systematic cooperative decision-making must be put into force between family matters and related issues must be dealt with in disclosure and understanding of everyone's perspectives. Women, if get more freedom, can take an associative address of everyone's problem. Women of a family may have many problems which must be displayed and addressed, they must have proper money in hand for their hygiene and health. The women must have equal rights taking benefits of the governmental scheme, the women must get voter's identity and right to vote. She must be benefited from all corresponding benefits of government, just as men of the family.

Even in the olden days in India during festivals women come together and socialize with each other to have open negotiations and discussions to properly deal with the family chores and responsibilities. This basically was the essence of the creation of the self-help group

F. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN HOUSEHOLD GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For sustainable societal development, it is significant to understand the empowering role of women that stands for equality of opportunity, women have started attributing their stand towards sustainable growth and safety of the environment.

The education institution has always understood to emphasize and teach the environmental conservation domain to students, so they can perform a minute act in their household and be little heroes who save the world by attributing their role in their family

Many sources and effective voices for environmental restoration where been introduced by women lately for afforestation, a solar power plant in household work, bioenergy production with household waste, preparation of manure for gardening, and household wastewater management system. The accompanying waste out of the best contributory task which women can manage at home, a sustainable home practice for a better and suitable sustainable tomorrow.

The family plays an important role in resource management, the specialization of kitchen skills also includes proper disposal of kitchen wastes which can be classified further as wet waste and dry waste. Both such distributions can be further classified for various useful characterized materialistic ways to reutilization of such valuable products. Understanding the housewives in building the entire societal structure must be respected. A mother not just only gives an individual soul existence with lots of pain and surgery but also plays a significant role in environmental upgradation.

IV. RELATION BETWEEN GENDER IDEOLOGIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Gender dimensions of sustainable development can be characterized by the allocation of resources between women and men, on the one hand, and, on the other, by how these resources are spread over time and generations. This section addresses both aspects: intra-generational justice – how resources are distributed among women and men; and inter-generational justice – whether resources are equitably distributed between present and future generations from a gender perspective. One objective of sustainable development is to satisfy the needs of the present. It calls for a more equitable distribution of resources among those living today where resources are unequally distributed. At the same time, sustainable development requires a

strategic perspective to account for what women and men are leaving for the next generation⁶¹. This section, therefore, looks at these two dimensions of sustainable development through a gender lens.

Unequal distribution of resource allocation between men and women, the olden beliefs and norms have typically characterized women-related association with appropriate role demonstrating and process of characteristic, traits that function in accordance with the job associated with men and women are simultaneously distributed and categorized. There is a hardcore need to emphasize the opportunity for women from every sphere. Income is unequally distributed between women and men; women are always devalued at work by giving less payment for the same work.

According to an Ocean Conservancy socioeconomic study of Pune, 90% of street recycling pickers are women, 25% are widowed, 30% come from women-headed households, and 8% are sole earners. They were all from non-dominant castes and had not chosen the job on their own. Women find these jobs to be secure and less difficult than jobs in other labor sectors though these sectors fall under the informal sectors of society⁶².

Because sustainable development cannot be achieved without a more equitable distribution of resources today and tomorrow: prevailing inequalities are deeply gendered. Understanding this and acting upon it is a key condition to achieving sustainable development⁶³. Taking women's needs, concerns, knowledge, and skills into account will ensure a better understanding of the dynamics in society that create and perpetuate gender

inequality and enable policymakers and other agents of change, including employers and civil society organizations, to develop appropriate policy⁶⁴

responses and actions. Equal participation in decision-making and balanced involvement of both men and women at all levels of implementation will ensure that women and men take equal responsibility for today and future generations.

A. CREATION OF A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN

The well-functioning growth of human resources is enabling them to upgrade their skills, this can be effectively acquired by eliminating the hindrances and barriers to equivalent contributions and rewards for women. Generating an empowering atmosphere comprehends action at all levels: relevant legal reforms and policy measures at the government and municipality levels, as well as initiatives and support by the private sector, civil society, and family.

A safe and healthy environment for women, the most basic and significant premise for women's empowerment is peace and the absence of violence, including domestic violence. Best-suited infrastructural development for proper transportation and sanitary hygiene of women everything must be kept in mind while uplifting the involvement of women in the various aspects of industrial workstyle. Technological advancement needs equal ideas of female engineers, scientists, and doctors to build green energy and advanced attributes into innovative functioning women must become innovators and not the victim of dominance and power.

Women must get equal benefits of life security, the life expectancy of women is more than men, they tend to live their old age in poverty and ignorance, they caregivers to the entire family preparing food do the entire chores kind-

⁶¹ Warth, L. and Koparanova, M.S., 2012. *Empowering women for sustainable development* (pp. 1-26). Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

⁶² "The Role of Gender in Waste Management - Ocean Conservancy." <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/take-deep-dive/role-gender-waste-management/>.

⁶³ The Edge by powerhouse global mag > Issuuissuuhttps://issuu.com > powerhouse global mag > docsissuuhttps://issuu.com > powerhouse global mag > docs Jul 26, 2020

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https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publications_and_papers/UNECE_Discussion_Paper_2012.1.pdf

heartedly, and the end, they have no support or recognition and old age they die poorly in unreliability. They are more prone to old age poverty than a man because they never had an independent source of income. National care systems must be gradually built to include maternity and parental leave for parents with young children; cash benefits that allow informally self-employed workers to take time off; and cash benefits and leave provisions for those caring for elderly family members or those living with a disability.

GENDER-BASED EDUCATION ABOUT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The significance of human resources and their contribution is massive, the sustainable growth of the population is acquired by addressing the equality of men and women and their cooperation which could altogether bring an effective contribution. It is important to remove obstacles for women and give them freedom from old unethical norms and strains of life. The proper contribution must be made in association with the parameters of actual responsible. Women must get a perfect opportunity to join in the functioning of diplomacy and the green economy. Humans must understand that development and happiness can be maximized by cooperation, not by the dominance or oppression of one gender over the other. Villages today for better women empowerment had understood the need for self-help groups and proper functioning. Different handicrafts are taught to rural women of India and other countries for their upliftment and independence by the welfare association all over the world.

A. MEASURES AND AWARENESS TO PREVENT FEMALE FOETICIDES

Families from rural regions, often isolated from modern society, may lack knowledge concerning the unethical practices of determining the sex of newborns and killing

them if they are found to be female. This horrendous practice is known as female foeticide and is a serious issue in many parts of the world. It is necessary to introduce these families to the importance of valuing and protecting the lives of all children, regardless of their gender, and to educate them about the damaging effects of gender-based discrimination. By working to spread awareness and education, we can help to end this cruel and inhumane practice.

B. EDUCATION CONCERNING THE MENSTRUAL CYCLE AND PUBERTY FOR YOUNG

Many girl children due to the lack of knowledge concerning mensuration and mechanisms to deal with it and schooling, stop going to school and discontinue their education. Puberty must not stop a girl from her willingness and urge to succeed in her life. The education system must impart knowledge concerning sanitary napkins and their usage to effectively manage their work and every month's mensural cycle. Menstruation can be perceived as more than just a physiological process by society, and it can be viewed positively or adversely. Menstruation is seen positively as a symbol of femininity, fertility, youth, or physical cleansing. Negative impressions, on the other side, include sensitivity to various diseases or emotions of revulsion and embarrassment in females. In certain communities, unfavorable opinions constitute the foundation for certain customs, such as limits on menstruation women's religious, social, and home activities⁶⁵.

C. SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPARTING PREVENTIVE SEX-EDUCATION

Sexuality education is regarded as a basic human right that falls under the umbrella term "reproductive rights," as emphasized by reputable non-governmental organizations such as the Family Planning Association of India, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the World

⁶⁵ Mehrabi, S., Etemadi, A., Borjali, A. and Sadipoor, E., 2016. The effect of puberty education on knowledge, attitude and function of girl's students. *Journal of Patient Safety & Quality Improvement*, 4(3), pp.405-409.

Association for Sexual Health (WAS)⁶⁶. The discourse of sexual subjects is largely regarded as taboo in Indian society, posing a challenge to providing comprehensive and effective sex education to Indian teenagers. Sex education in schools has elicited tremendous opposition and fear from all sectors of society, including parents, teachers, and politicians, with its implementation prohibited in six states: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka. Lawmakers argue that it corrupts youngsters and violates "Indian principles," resulting in promiscuity, experimentation, and reckless sexual activity. Some critics claim that sex education has no place in a country like India, which has a rich cultural heritage and culture.⁶⁷

IV CONCLUSION

We cannot achieve sustainable development without a more equitable distribution of resources for the context of today and tomorrow. This paper has demonstrated how prevailing inequalities are deeply gendered. Understanding this and making public policy decisions toward reducing these inequalities is therefore vital. Efforts to reduce prevailing inequalities require more equitable distribution of resources today and in the future. For gender gaps to be identified, acknowledged inequalities to be monitored and acknowledged, it is necessary to collect more systematic data on both sex-disaggregated economic and social indicators as well as gender-sensitive environmental indicators. Special attention needs to be paid to identifying gender gaps, commending progress, and highlighting shortcomings. As part of empowering women, we need to ensure that they experience a safe, discrimination-free environment that allows them to succeed in their careers, and we need to strengthen their

abilities to control their lives and contribute fully to society at large.

Equal participation in decision-making and balanced involvement of both men and women in all policy areas and at all levels of implementation will ensure that women and men take equal responsibility for the equitable distribution of resources, throughout people's lives and between present and future generations.

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⁶⁶ Kumar VB, Kumar P. Right to sexuality education as a human right. *J Fam Welf.* 2011;57:23-9.

⁶⁷ Ismail, S., Shajahan, A., Rao, T.S. and Wylie, K., 2015. Adolescent sex education in India: Current perspectives. *Indian journal of psychiatry*, 57(4), p.333.

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