

Written Out of History: Gender Bias and its effects and limitations on women.

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Abstract:

Gender bias has hindered many social and cultural developments as well as created obstacles for women and has caused a systematic erasure of their contributions throughout history leading to a role of bias in historical writing against women. This study makes use of significant examples of biases through literature review and studies the historical limitations and restrictions that are still affecting them. The key findings of this study include, the causes of such bias and its effects and contemporary problems, like underrepresentation of women in STEM, and gender pay gap. Apart from discussing the causes and effects, this paper also aims to find ways to include women's efforts more and not be stuck in gender wars that create more harm than good.

Keywords: Women's contribution, Gender bias, Role of bias in historical writing, Patriarchy, Misogyny, Education, Gender Pay Gap, Gender Wars, Underrepresentation of Women.

Introduction:

Whenever I read something related to history, or the past world. I often end up thinking of this one question, "Why is there scarcely anything written about women and their achievements, and why do I never read more about women and their sacrifices, work, and contribution more?", and that is because in historical literature and educational history, including the background of scientific inventions, revolutions, wars, sports, and more, women's contributions have often been overlooked or rarely talked about. This led to little to no representation of women in history and caused unawareness about their work and contributions to society.

This, in a way, caused more harm to women as a whole, for instance, if we were to ask a high school student to name 5 scientists, they'd likely recall male scientists and their contributions, or, when asked to name 5 women footballers or athletes, many people would not be able to answer, as they are unaware. This in no way minimizes the contributions of men, as they too have contributed a lot to society; instead, we should look at this as a sign to make ourselves more aware of the contributions of women as well.

This unawareness and ignorance played a huge role in oppressing women and creating limitations and restrictions for them. This paper aims to identify the problems and causes that led to the exclusion of women from history and the effects it has on society, even in this day and age, and also to justify why knowing women's contributions is important.

Women's contributions in academic spheres were often erased or ignored, many argue that women's contribution were never deliberately erased but were simply not well documented and got lost or buried under due to changing times and many people were not aware of their contributions due to archival

limitations and socio-economic barriers and lack of support or resources, while others argue that women's efforts were deliberately ignored as the society did not support women empowerment and their work due to social causes such as patriarchy, traditional gender roles, and so on.

Literature Review:

Before we learn about the causes and effects of the role of bias in historical writing, let's understand what bias is and how it plays an important role in historical writings.

According to the dictionary of Oxford University Press¹ (Oxford.University.Press, n.d.), the word "bias" means a strong, impenetrable feeling of favor and support towards or opposed to someone or a group of people, or against something based on often unfair assumptions, facts, or judgments.

Bias comes in various ways, such as gender bias, political bias, religious bias, cultural bias and so on, it plays a crucial role in historical writing. It shapes how facts are presented, interpreted, and taught to the world. These various types of bias found in historical writings influence people, for instance, starting a movement, forming a political party, and so on.

Let's take a look at two of the examples of bias in historical writing:

Biases: Understanding their forms:

I : Political and Racial bias:

"**The Poisonous Mushroom**"² (Hiemer, 1938) or otherwise known as "**Der Giftpilz**", is a German kids book, written by **Ernst Hiemer** and published in **1938** by Stürmervverlag, in Nuremberg. This book contained heavy anti-Semitic themes, which was supposed to "educate" German kids that Jewish people were a "poison" to society and could not co-exist with Germans. This book also, in a way linked Jewish people to poisonous mushrooms that is blended itself so well that it seems like all the other mushrooms, but is harmful to those who come close to it.

In the book, a mother is seen teaching her son how to pick mushrooms and identify the poisonous mushrooms, where it is implied that the Jews are the poisonous/bad mushrooms and what makes them so poisonous is they look just as ordinary and normal as the Germans and that they need to be careful of the Jews.

The book highlighted many Jewish, anti-Semitic stereotypes, like their "admiration" and "pride" towards money; it also discussed their appearance, ideology, religious beliefs, and so on, and was supposed to "teach" young German kids how to spot or find Jewish people.

It also underlined a few "characteristics or features" of Jewish people, such as, how they often have a big and curved nose, exploit farmers, are disloyal and barbaric, control the world and make corrupted leaders, go to church to seduce women, and how the solution to all these flawed characteristics of Jews would be the Nazis.

Despite it being a children's book, it talks strongly against one group of people, and hence tries to shape the kids' thinking and cause harm to one community of people by creating prejudiced views in the children's minds and was distributed at German schools.

¹ (Oxford.University.Press, n.d.)

² (Hiemer, 1938)

This creates bias against Jewish people and their community in the minds of the young children reading, as it is heavily stereotypical and frames Jews as a “threat” to the German community, and is also based on assumptions and generalizations such as calling Jewish people “devil in human form”, personal judgments, and inaccurate facts about them.

Had the Nazi’s and Germans at that time not believed these lies and accusations against Jews, they could have avoided the Shoah or Holocaust, which was state sponsored and systematic erasure and genocide of 6 million Jewish people between 1933 and 1945.

II : Mythological & Gender bias:

“**Pandora’s Box**” or “**Pandora’s Jar**”³ (Britannica.Editors, Pandora, 2026) is one of the most well-known Greek myths, where many people hold the view that it is one of the most heavily interpreted as a misogynistic tale.

In Greek Mythology, Pandora is the first human woman created by Zeus. According to Hesiod in “Works and Days”, and, “Theogony”, the tale talks about how the Greek god Prometheus, a trickster, who had stolen fire from heaven and endowed it to humans on earth, this angered Zeus and he decided to outweigh this, to teach humans and Prometheus a lesson and punish them, and so Zeus commissioned Hephaestus (The Greek God of Fire and Patron of Craftsmen) to create a woman who would act as a “punishment to humanity”, and upon whom the gods will endow their “gifts”, and so Pandora was created.

Pandora was given a jar filled with misfortune, misery, and evil. She was told not to open the jar, and yet her curiosity got the best of her, and she opened the jar, letting all the evil out in the mortal world. Although it wasn’t Pandora’s fault, she was still blamed for opening the box, yet Zeus was not blamed for being the one who came up with the idea of making this in the first place.

Despite the fact that many people do argue that the story of Pandora isn’t necessarily misogynistic or sexist, targeting one gender alone, she was a victim, a scapegoat of the conflict between Zeus and Prometheus. At the same time, a lot of people do argue that it is very misogynistic, as many interpreted this not as a tale of a mere “curiosity kills the cat” story or “punishment on the humans,” but rather blame women for unleashing evil upon the mortal world, and it was used to elevate already existing patriarchal views and beliefs in the society.

These examples discussed above are one of the many reasons why the study of history is very crucial in today’s world.

History doesn’t just teach us about how people lived in the past, their lifestyle, culture, or system they followed, but also teaches us the importance of having non-biased views and not targeting just one group of people or community.

Learning about bias in historical bias helps us understand different ideologies, the beliefs of people from one specific time period, and how it shaped the world into what it is today.

Hence, it is necessary to understand the bias behind historical writings and identify the kind of impact it had on and how it enabled the subjugation of a group of people, in this case, the subjugation of women in particular.

III : Gender Role Bias:

³ (Britannica.Editors, Pandora, 2026)

In the book, “**Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference**” written by **Cordelia Fine**⁴ (Cordelia.Fine, 2010), talks about society’s perception and assumption about how women’s and men’s brains are different (neurosexism) and it is this difference that gave birth and justifies the traditional and stereotypical gender roles.

It also helps readers realize that most of the traditional roles and stereotypes are based on cultural and religious norms and not biological ones and while biological differences do not change, religious and cultural norms do, for instance, earlier the colour pink was associated with boys but in the modern world it is associated with girls, just like that many things that are targeted towards women was once made or used by men.

The book also talks how all these specific “roles” made for each gender can be seen as nothing more but mere “rules” created by the society which can be changed over time as the society and world continues to develop and we should not be bound to these ridiculous debates about who is much better as well as ignore the bad science “theories” and “discoveries” and stay unbiased and try to change the society for the best.

Another example of gender role bias would be, “**Women and Power: A Manifesto**” by **Mary Beard**⁵ (Mary.Beard, 2017), is a book that speaks about the gender discrimination women holding leadership position face due to stereotypes around them, that women should follow the traditional roles assigned to them and be “nurturing” and “kind” like the society expects them to be. It also sheds light on how people holding leadership positions are supposed to have “masculine and dominating” energy and women do not have these features but if a women is seen being decisive and firm, they are labeled as being too “bossy” or “controlling”, and while this might be an unconscious bias for most it is still harmful.

Yet another example of a case of gender role bias is discussed in the book “**Anonymous Is a Woman: A Global Chronicle of Gender Inequality**”⁶ (Nina.Ansary, 2020) by **Nina Ansary**, which informs us about the 50 women and their inventions which were forgotten or erased in history and how women, for the most part of history have been denied of exercising their basic rights and gaining opportunities or recognition for their work in the society.

It also provides us with a more global perception rather than just a western one.

These examples help us understand what bias is and its types better and how these biases affect the society. It is important for people to have a more unbiased and open thinking rather than a narrow and backward mindset.

• **Methodology and Methods:**

In order to find answers to the questions about the research paper, many resources were used and pieced together to get an accurate finding. The methodology used in the paper was Qualitative Research Method and Secondary Research; the research methods consist of thematic analysis, literature review and content analysis.

The resources used in this paper, strictly spoke about women and the erasure of their work in the earlier days and the effects of that erasure, which is still observed today. Most of the resources were books, analysis of myths, other research papers, and blogs, such as the book “ The Poisonous Mushroom” or

⁴ (Cordelia.Fine, 2010)

⁵ (Mary.Beard, 2017)

⁶ (Nina.Ansary, 2020)

otherwise known as “Der Giftpliz” by Ernst Hiemer, which was about promoting discrimination and hatred against Jews in Germany during the Nazi regime, which served as an political and racial example of bias, as well as the myth or the story about “Pandora’s Box”, a well – known Greek myth, which served as an mythological and gender discrimination example of bias.

That being said, the main difficulty was trying to find very specific resources that helped with analyzing and studying about the research paper in more depth and not generalized ones, as there weren’t as many as resources available and accessible.

- **The Causes and Effects of Bias in Historical Writings Against Women:**

What exactly caused the exclusion of women from history?

In order to answer this question, we need to go back in the past to understand the root causes and how they affected women as a whole. A lot of thinkers argue that women’s achievements were never “erased” or “ignored” they were simply lost due to changing times and evolution of society as a whole as well as due to traditional gender roles, many women simply got busy with managing their house chores, kids and family that they could not achieve anything significant due to their busy schedules. Along with this reasoning there are a few more reasons/causes that created unawareness about women’s achievements.

Bias against women’s contributions was seen not only in Asia including India but also other parts of the world, such as Europe and Africa , where women faced discrimination and many restrictions were imposed on them, we shall learn about it in the below mentioned causes.

The reasons/causes are as follows:

1. Patriarchal Structure & Colonialism: There are multiple reasons that led to the exclusion of women and created a role of bias against them in historical writings, but Patriarchal Structure and Colonialism acted as catalysts for it.

In order to understand how exactly they played an important role in this, we need to understand the definition of patriarchy.

The definition of patriarchy, according to the Online Etymology Dictionary⁷ (Harper.D.(n.d.), 2026), the root of the word “Patriarchy” originates from the Greek word “Patriarkhēs”, which translates to the “father” or “the head of the family”. It also implies that men(fathers) govern or rule over society.

The patriarchal structure gave rise to domestic violence, forced child marriage, financial abuse, silencing women, and undermining their struggles.⁸ (Sakshi.Sharma.et.al, 2025). It also believed that men were superior to women, which led to less inclusion of women in different sectors.

The colonial period had a huge impact on women’s everyday lives, as they viewed and believed that men were superior to women, but in the pre-colonial era, both women and men had different roles, but were still considered valuable⁹ (FemNorthNet., 2016), and often seen as equals to the society, instead of one being superior or inferior to the other. The British rule brought many changes to their colonies and said those changes were for the “upliftment” of the colony, but it caused more harm than good.

⁷ (Harper.D.(n.d.), 2026)

⁸ (Sakshi.Sharma.et.al, 2025)

⁹ (FemNorthNet., 2016)

It changed the educational structure, limited women from certain sectors, especially in academic research, and contributed to the rise of misogyny, which is still very prevalent, even in today's world.

Due to colonialism, the black women of Africa were stripped off their rights, such as , being prohibited from owning property, they were also restricted from having professional jobs, they were also denied custody of their children, and high ranking leadership positions. Colonialism not only erased women's contributions but also gave them less importance, many women couldn't even access basic health care and necessities due to this.

The erasure, mistreatment, and misrepresentation from the colonial period has left a permanent and long-lasting effect on women and their everyday life, even today.

2. Education: Before the rise of colonialism, in many other parts of the world, women had access to education, for instance, women in Ancient India didn't only have a high social rank but also had access to education and did not limit themselves to housework or parenting, but also focused more on decision-making, development of resources, contributing to science, medical, arts and so on.

During the Early Vedic Period, historical research and studies prove that women had a high status in the society back then, even with a patriarchal system being a part of the society, women also had access to Vedic education back then, Vedas and Vedangas were taught to women as well, but was later restricted to songs and poems related to rituals

But during the Later Vedic Period, when the system became more rigid and started placing restrictions on women and people of different castes and genders, many rights were lost, and women were given education in private, which was only accessible to women of higher castes, but for most of the part, education became very inaccessible to other women, and they could not enjoy their right to education.

These limitations on women's education hindered the contribution of women in academic spheres, erasing possible advancements from history.¹⁰ (MSBTPCR, 2020)

During the colonial period, the Britishers came out with various policies, and measures to improve the facilities provided for women's education, although initially they were not concerned with educational development as their primary focus was on trade and profits.

Until 1813 there were no major reforms in education by the British East India Company or the Crown, it was the Charter Act of 1813, that the Britishers recognized the need for strategic development of education. The Act allocated ₹1 Lakh for education, followed by Maculay's arrival in India and creation of Macaulay's Minute 1835, which prioritized western education, closure of oriental colleges and mandated that educational funds were to be used strictly for promoting English education, and his infamous downward filtration theory, which said that only a small group of elite Indians would be educated in English, and they were to expect to filter down their knowledge to the general masses.

After Macaulay's Minute 1835, Sir Charles Wood addressed a letter, later known as Wood's Dispatch 1854, to Lord Dalhousie, the then Governor-General of India, expressing a blueprint for the educational development in India and motivated women to pursue education and teacher-training institutes in every province. Later, Hunter Education Commission in 1882, which was commissioned by Lord Ripon to review the implementation issues of Wood's Dispatch, which too promoted women's education.

All these commissions introduced during the colonial rule did infact promote education for women but also were ultimately implemented to gain Indian participation in their governance, and limited women's

¹⁰ (MSBTPCR, 2020)

scope to being a teacher or a staff for the British government and due to various restrictions, both traditional and Victorian, women could not fully and freely exercise many of their rights, including their right to education.

3. Marriage: Marriage is often considered as a union of two families, yet it played a huge role in overpowering women. Across various countries and historical times, marriage has played a huge role in limiting and restricting women's rights, and controlling not just them, but also controlling their property and inheritance, as well as treating them as someone lower than them and not seeing them as equal partners in the relationship.¹¹ (TheDivorceLawFirm, 2025)

During the Victorian period, women had little to no freedom once married.

According to Sir William Blackstone's¹² (Mallett, 2026), Commentary on the Laws of England, he explained that the term "by marriage", means that the husband and wife are one single entity in legal terms, that is, the woman's very existence or legal identity is either put on hold during her marriage or, at the very least, merged or unified with that of her husband, under whose shelter, and protection, she carries out all her actions.

This limited women from performing and participating in not just academics but also in business, invention, art, music, and so on.

4. Misinterpretations of Religious Texts: While many religious traditions and cultures have historical texts & teachings which support women and empower them, and many religious texts and traditions advocate for gender equality.

Yet it has also caused harm to women, as many religions enforce patriarchal norms, which have led to limiting women's participation in not only religious rituals but also restricting them from participating in society and downplaying their contributions.

5. Matilda Effect: The Matilda Effect¹³ (Campbell.&.Josephine, 2023), refers to the lack of acknowledgement or the complete denial of women's accomplishments.

This phenomenon is particularly noticeable in various scientific fields, where male researchers have claimed or taken credit for the work, inventions, or discoveries made by women.

The term "Matilda Effect" was introduced by historian Margaret Rossiter, who studied women in science at Cornell University, New York.

She named it after the suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage, whose efforts in advocating for women's rights have been overlooked by many historians.

In numerous instances, women who performed scientific research were excluded from scientific spheres and were also barred from enrolling in science programs, causing historians to frequently miss information about them or were biased and disregarded their contributions, which led to the erasure of the work by women and caused unawareness and bias towards the contributions of women, as men would usually take credit for women's work.

Marie Curie stands out as an exception among women in science, as her work gained recognition, she was also awarded two Nobel prizes for her notable contributions. Yet, male researchers downplayed her contributions, viewing her as merely an assistant to her husband.

¹¹ (TheDivorceLawFirm, 2025)

¹² (Mallett, 2026)

¹³ (Campbell.&.Josephine, 2023)

It is also important to note that recognition of women's efforts differed in various fields, for instance, the recognition in literature and science. As literature usually relies on individual efforts and recognition, and in the 20th century literature¹⁴ (Dr.G.Sathiyadevi, 2025), went through a significant transformation as more women began writing and using their own names or pen names instead of writing under their husbands names or fake male names, this movement now transformed the field of literature more to a “women-dominated” field.

Notably, the fields in which women started getting more involved transformed into a more women-dominated fields, and less inclusion of men was seen, for instance, many nurses and teachers are usually women and very few are men, as society started avoiding and giving less importance to fields where the majority were women.

While in scientific fields, the recognition difference of both the genders are well documented. It is evident that women used to publish and patent less than men due to many factors such as traditional gender roles, less productive due to not-so welcoming work environment, gender bias and undervaluation of their work.¹⁵ (Ross, 2022)

By looking at these causes, we can understand that patriarchal structure and gender bias plays a huge role in the erasure and downplaying of the work by women from academic history.

In the next section, we will be finding out the effects these causes have on women, especially in this day and age.

Effect of exclusion of women from history:

From the above mentioned causes, we can understand how and why women have little to no representation in academic history and no proper acknowledgments for their work.

But what are the effects and how did they affect women as a whole?

These effects are long lasting, as they are still being observed in this day and age, for instance, women face multiple difficulties in academic and other spheres, as they are considered “male-dominated” fields. This lead women to be written and erased out of history, as well as created a male-centric view in history, as it focused more on the contributions by men.

Some of the commonly noticed effects are as follows:

1. Systematic Erasure and Professional Exclusion: As seen in the Matilda Effect, as male researchers either take credit for a woman researcher's work or downplay it, women's contributions have been significantly erased, hidden, or not acknowledged, and are not given them credits for their work.

This caused academic experts to not consider women's achievements and contributions as seriously as men's, as well as the undervaluation of women's work.

2. Rise in Gender Inequality: When historical narratives and public memorials mostly feature and include men, it reinforces the belief that women have played insignificant roles in society and politics. This lack of representation not only erases women's contributions but also continues their exclusion from leadership roles in society.

¹⁴ (Dr.G.Sathiyadevi, 2025)

¹⁵ (Ross, 2022)

As a result, women often feel discouraged from pursuing positions holding powers, as the society still holds the belief that men are good at leadership, exercising power, and taking the initiative, which has been proven false countless times, but we cannot reverse the damage created by the patriarchal structure.

3. Weakened the scope of Historical Understanding: The systematic erasure of women's contribution from history overlooks the significant roles they held in various fields, and they have contributed largely in scientific fields, many movements, and even in wars, and have also come up with many good strategies. This exclusion leads to a distorted understanding of the past, where historical stories and events are crafted around the experience of men and narrated by men as well.

We all should collectively come together as a society, and acknowledge the contributions not just by women or men but by all individuals, and open our minds to wider and newer interpretations of history and historical events.

4. Loss of Voice: The denial of women's perspectives in historical events led us to prioritize men's experience over women's. When we ignore or turn a blind eye towards the work done by women in history, we end up with a very narrow, shallow perspective that solely focuses on one aspect, which is the contributions and experience of men, and denies us access to diverse interpretations that would help us enhance and have a wider understanding of many historical events.

5. Underrepresentation of Women in STEM: Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) have been historically underrepresented, and had unequal access often due to the gender bias and the stereotype of men being more capable in STEM compared to women as well as socio-economic disparities. This underrepresentation is evident if taken a look at any institutes and notice a significant gap between men and women in the faculty positions and students. But it is important to note that in the recent times, women have been making notable presence in the field and in order to encourage women participation in STEM, it is crucial to introduce more gender-affirmative policies and reforms like reservation, funding, representation in different committees, more leadership roles and legal protection against violence and harassment.¹⁶ (Amirtham.S.and.Kumar, 2023)

6. Pay Gap: While the pay or salary for any work is based on the kind of work, efforts and responsibilities of the individual and the hour spent working, we can see a clear gap between the pay between a man and woman working the same job and having the same position, this is often due various reasons, such as gender bias, gender stereotypes and discrimination, traditional gender roles.

Often workplaces employ less number of women compared to men as they think that women are subject to taking more leaves and absences compared to men due to their housework, menstruation cycle, pregnancy, and their inability to work late night shifts (often due to safety reasons). This is especially noticed in cases of married women, as companies are afraid of hiring more women as they feel that women would take leaves more often due to their duties as a mother, but this same perspective is not observed for men who are fathers.

While it is widely known that women have been ignored from historical writings, many people are divided into groups, where one group believes that women's efforts have been deliberately ignored due to gender discrimination. The other group believes that women were not purposely ignored nor erased but their contributions were simply not well documented and many were unaware of their efforts.

¹⁶ (Amirtham.S.and.Kumar, 2023)

The inclusion of women's contribution is crucial for a better and more accurate understanding of our history, and by including them, we recognize their valuable work and help us pave the way for better gender equality and more representation of women in modern society.

It wasn't just India alone facing this problem, many other countries too were going through the same thing, let's take a brief look at the comparative study below to better understand the causes and effects in other regions too.

● Comparative Study:

As we've seen so far in India that the main causes behind the gender discrimination and bias was due to colonialism and patriarchal society, as well as "traditional gender roles", that was on rise during colonization due to them believing that India is a country that needs western development rather than following the local and traditional one, lets now take a look at how this worked for European and African countries.¹⁷ (Charlotte.Gill)

In Europe, despite it being "advanced" compared to Asian and African countries, the historical contributions of women in various fields such as literature, science, art, and so on have been strategically and systematically erased and ignored or have been credited to men, for the longest time women were denied from leadership roles because of people thinking women were too "emotional" and not capable of "leading rationally", back then women in Europe were not allowed to own lands, their inheritance rights were so that they were not in direct control of it, especially if they were unmarried, while the married women's inheritance, property and finances were handled by their husbands, again making it difficult for women to hold direct hold over it, many streets are also named after men in Europe, for instance the Honoré de Balzac streets in France.

The modern gender roles problems in Europe consist of struggles in the implementation of policies, gender inequality, pay gap and academic and professional fields such as STEM still being very "men-dominated", as well as gender stereotypes still existing.

While in many African countries, too, traditional gender roles and stereotypes were seen being practiced in the daily lives of women, which led to many difficulties, such as discrimination and gender inequality in family law, custody of children, and divorce.¹⁸

Back then, in pre-colonial Africa, land were community or clan-owned, and while women did not have direct ownership over it, they could still access it through the family or community as the "wife" or "daughter", and while traditional customs are often rigid, it still protected women's "rights", though all of it went through major changes during colonial period, as many reforms were introduced, in which women slowly and gradually lost their right over the lands as it was to be registered under the "head" of the households name, which was usually a man.

The common factor for Asian, European and African countries were the patriarchal culture and norms, traditional systems, no proper or direct leadership roles, and gender discrimination, as well as discrimination in education, property and inheritance, the old legal restrictions imposed by the colonisers, as well as the views and perceptions of the society, which caused hindrance for the upliftment and development of women.

¹⁷ (Charlotte.Gill)

¹⁸ (EqualityNow, 2024)

The modern problems/issues are growing with changing times, such as online misogyny, incels, and rise of “trad-wife” content, otherwise known as “traditional wife”, “trophy-wife” and “stay-at-home girlfriends” and more such online trends, which negatively promotes and glamorizes young women not working and being dependent on men, it also fuels the discrimination against women’s contribution as most of the youth misinterprets the message.

Apart from this, many rural places are still very patriarchal and against women's education and still practice old traditions and customs such as “child marriage”, while many fathers and husbands still don’t believe in their daughters and wives having equal rights in property and inheritance, and often cancel them out from such things.

As well as many work places still under-paying women for their work, or firing and not hiring married women as they are at a “risk” of being pregnant and if the married women have kids, they still are rejected due to reasons such as them needing to look after their family and kids, whereas married men with children are never rejected for these reasons.

These are a few reasons/causes that we as a society need to come together and work for, so we can establish social peace and equality, as well as recognize the contributions of each section of the society and not ignore or erase anyone’s achievements.

The only exceptions to these were the matriarchal societies in various regions of Asia (including India), Europe and Africa, where women were considered as the head of the family and owned land and inheritance rights directly.

● **Notable Women Achievers :**

As this research paper focuses on women’s contributions throughout history, I would like to take this movement and remind us of various notable contributions by women, where these achievements by women managed to make a dent and shatter barriers across various fields and introduced many reforms and encouraged many women to aim higher.

Some of these notable women achievers are as follows:

1. **Marry Anning (1799 – 1847):** She collected fossils, which she referred to as “seashells”. The Natural History Museum in London declared her as the ‘Greatest Fossil Hunter’.¹⁹ (HistoryExtra, 2021)
2. **Hedy Lamarr (1914-2000):** She was an Austrian-American actress and inventor who invented the technology that forms the basis for today’s Wi-Fi, GPS, and Bluetooth communication systems.²⁰ (ColleenCheslak, 2018)
3. **Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958):** She played an important role in the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA.²¹ (Nature)
4. **Ada Lovelace (1815-1852):** She was a Mathematician and Writer. Ada Lovelace is also considered as the world’s first computer programmer.²² (Britannica.Editors, Ada Lovelace, 2026)
5. **Dr. Tessy Thomas(1963):** She is known as the “Missile Woman of India”. Tessy Thomas worked at the Defence Research and Development Laboratory in Hyderabad, there, she worked on missile

¹⁹ (HistoryExtra, 2021)

²⁰ (ColleenCheslak, 2018)

²¹ (Nature)

²² (Britannica.Editors, Ada Lovelace, 2026)

development, where she designed the guidance systems. She also specialized in solid propellants, which were used in Agni Missiles.²³ (GK.Today, 2025)

6. **Sarojini Naidu(1879-1949):** She was a poet and a political activist. She was also the first woman who became the President of Indian National Congress in 1925 and was also titled as the “Nightingale of India”. Apart from playing a pivotal role and making major contributions towards the freedom and independence of India, she also co-founded the Women’s India Association (WIA) and advocated for female education and equal rights. She also actively fought for the widows and their treatment in society.²⁴ (Invisible.Girl.Project, 2023)
7. **Savitribai Phule(1831-1897):** She was a teacher, social reformer, and poet, who was famously titled as the “first woman teacher in India.” Savitribai, alongside her husband, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, worked to encourage equal rights and access to education at a time where women had very minimal or no access to formal education.²⁵ (Invisible.Girl.Project, 2023)
8. **Arundhati Roy(1961):** She is one of the famous Indian authors and activists who is known for speaking up on environmental destruction and human rights abuse.²⁶ (Mackenzie, n.d.)
9. **Irom Sharmila(1972):** Irom Sharmila is a civil rights activist from Manipur, widely known for her human strike of 16 years as a form of protest against the Armed Forces Act, which provides special powers to the military in conflict zones.²⁷ (Mackenzie, n.d.)
10. **Shakuntala Devi (1929-2013):** She is famously titled as the “Human Computer”, and was an Indian mathematician, who was known for her remarkable and phenomenal ability to solve convoluted mathematical problems quickly.²⁸ (Mackenzie, n.d.)

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Conclusion:

The aim of this research paper was to highlight not only the contributions by women in history and how they helped shape the world into what it is today, but also to understand why there is gender bias in historical writing and how it has more negative effects than positive effects.

It also helps us understand the importance of how gender bias in historical writing leads to inaccurate representation of a group and may have long-lasting side or after effects and teaches us that historical sources need to be unbiased and neutral, and how gender bias in historical sources, such as texts, scriptures, and more, has led to significant changes in historical narratives.

²³ (GK.Today, 2025)

²⁴ (Invisible.Girl.Project, 2023)

²⁵ (Invisible.Girl.Project, 2023)

²⁶ (Mackenzie, n.d.)

²⁷ (Mackenzie, n.d.)

²⁸ (Mackenzie, n.d.)

The research helped me find answers to the questions that I had regarding it, as well as helped me study in depth about our history and learn new things. It also highlights how we need to appreciate and acknowledge every individual's contribution to society and not just limit it to a particular gender. It also helped me adopt a more critical thinking approach, which helped me combat misleading narratives and ensured that I maintain accuracy.

The study also recognizes the pressing need to acknowledge contributions of every individual, regardless of their gender, so that society can make more progress and evolve better and hopes that in the future women get appropriate credit due to them and are included more into every field in order to minimize the gender discrimination against them.

Recommendation:

In order to increase the inclusion of women in history, I would recommend a few things, such as researching and studying old letters, journals, and more, in order to understand and learn new perspectives, as well as reading feminist literature, such as "Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men" by Caroline Criado-Perez,

"Everyday Sexism: The Project that Inspired a Worldwide Movement" and "Men who hate Women" by Laura Bates, as well as "Men Explain Things To Me" by Rebecca Solnit, which all talks about the perception of society on women and how it tends to favor men more than women, it also talks about the problems faced by women of various different parts around the world due to such gender bias and discrimination and how it also shapes the minds of the youth.

Reading these books and essays help us gain more insight and understand women and struggles more, which in turn also helps in reducing the prejudice, bias and discrimination against them.

Additionally, exploring oral histories and interviews with women who work in various fields and learning from their experience so we can help tackle problems in the future, as well as collaborating with various historians and archivists.

We also need to include women and their contributions in school textbooks and such study materials, so students know about such notable contributions early on and are open to diverse perspectives, and organizing workshops focused on women's contributions, as well as encouraging research on this topic and promoting more lesser-known historical figures, this could be possible through policies led by government agencies, where they work to advocate for the inclusion of women's contribution in curricula and providing funding for women's history archives.

By making these efforts, we can include more discoveries in various fields and also celebrate the significant contributions of women throughout time.

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