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① It is necessary to increase representation of women in leadership positions at all lvs for better gender equality in the country? Discuss?

Intro - social reformer Jyothiba phule through her poems advocated values such as liberty & equality of women par with men & so on. But Gender Inequality still persist.

GII - ~~GII~~ Gender Gap Index 2022 ranks India at 135 out of 146 countries which was recently released by WEF.

Quite worst thing is India ranks far below than its neighbouring countries such as SL, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan.

Reasons for Gender inequality -

~~persisting social barriers~~ ① persisting stereotypes are huge barriers for women to untap their potential.

② Internet users were 67% male & 33% female which creates a huge digital divide

- ③ Total Representation of women in the parliament was is merely 10%.
- ④ providing lower wages for women doing same work as men.

Data Analysis -

- ① 57% of women are anaemic (2019-2021) from 53% as per NFHS-5.
- ② Though 88% of ^{married} women takes key decision in household, only 25% of them were paid wages for last 12 months.
- ③ As per CMIE data, women workforce ~~or~~ searching for work dipped from 15% to 9% is a huge setback for growing economy.
- ④ Women's saving account in banks has increased by 75% due to govt's step of [PMJDY], which is a great thing to appreciate.

Way Forward -

- * Bill of reservation for women

in parliament should be considered.

* Lower the income tax for women can incentivize them to work.

* Encouraging women's to become entrepreneurs will be a long term solution.

* Raising up their wages at par with men brings equality in society.

Conclusion - no country can develop without participating their women in economy. It is imperative for govt to place women at higher position in all levels, could achieve gender equality at faster rate.