

BEING A WOMEN IS NOT A WEAKNESS; AN OVERVIEW IN CONTEXT OF CONTEMPORARY ERA

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ABSTRACT

Women are the epitome of strength, love sacrifice and courage. The role of women has changed tremendously in contemporary era. They are now self-sufficient, well aware and financially independent. Many years ago, women's contribution to society was limited and controlled by men. Women are playing a major role in many important areas such as Politics, Professional Training Jobs, Medicine, Business and Law. Formerly they were not part of any Political Matter, but now they have advanced in many aspects. They are marching side by side with men, every walk of life. This paper attempts to analyze the changing status of women in modern era and is based on purely secondary data. The analysis shows that although women in modern era have made a considerable progress in every sphere of life, they still have to struggle against deep-rooted patriarchal mentality of society.

INTRODUCTION

God has created a beautiful thing on the earth that is women, we know men are stronger but women are mentally stronger than men. She can tolerate anything happened in life. Men are physically strong to protect women. Women are stronger mentally to guide men. Women can guide men in a right way, and men can protect her carefully. Nature knew that nobody will live alone without each other so both are dependent at some part of life. Life is balanced when both can understand their own importance for each other.

The role of women in today's world has changed significantly and for better. Women are the ones who - by virtue of the design of their genitals - carry and give birth to babies. During this time, and for a while after birth, women are vulnerable to external threats. Also, because the babies grow inside their mother's wombs, female bodies are calibrated to produce the right kind of milk for their child, so they have large breasts for a couple of years after birth.

Let's compare this to men, who only have to orgasm while inside a woman to fulfil their half of reproduction. This means that they're not encumbered for several years at a time like women are when they're carrying infants, and aren't immediately responsible for their offspring's upbringing. As such, men have evolved to be the hunters, protectors, and providers. Because they only need to have sex to help produce the next generation, they can afford to put themselves at risk a lot more than women can. Men developed stronger frames and more powerful muscles because - of the two sexes - they need to be the go-getters. Men are the hunters, crafters, warriors, lumberjacks, miners, sailors, and so on, because they can afford to be put at risk.

Basically, by virtue of their role in reproduction, men are expendable after they've had sex with a woman. Women are much more valuable, but they don't need to be so strong because they're only biologically required to raise children and perform safe domestic duties. Muscles

are expensive to maintain (in terms of energy), so there was no need to give women stronger muscles. Only men need them.

STATUS OF WOMEN DURING ANCIENT INDIA

Women in the Vedic Period were treated with respect and dignity. They played an important role in politics, administration and education. Gargi, Ghosa, Lopamudra and Maitreyi were some of the noted women of Vedic era. Remarrying was also socially acceptable for widows. Later during Vedic period, the prevalence of Devdasi practice emerged in which women were sexually devoted to the gods. During Buddhism and Jainism and period, women's economic and social position deteriorated. They were also prohibited from political participation. Later during Manusmriti number of problems started with the introduction of various restrictions on women's ability to obtain education. Child marriage occupied a prominent place in society where husbands were given status of god during this period. The act of remarrying of widows was strictly declared illegitimate and the act of Sati system rapidly increased in society.

STATUS OF WOMEN DURING MEDIEVAL PERIOD

With the Muslim invasion in the country, the position of women declined further. During this period Purdah system and Polygamy were practiced. During this period women were restrained because of purdah system. Thus the purdah system affected their education. The practice of child marriage resulted in expeditious increase in the number of child widows. The practice of Sati system was encouraged and the widows who did not perform 'Sati' were looked down upon by the society.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

Several Social activists worked to uplift the condition of women. Raja Rammohan Roy's attempt led to the abolition of the Sati practice and brought a new aspiration and hopes to empower women in a positive manner. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's struggle for the improvement in condition of widows led to the Widow Re-marriage Act. Women earlier were under the shadow of a husband, father or son, but now they have established their own identity and are independent.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDEPENDENT INDIA

In an Independent India though a number of constitutional amendments were made for women's social, economic and political benefits, yet they were ineffective to bring a revolutionary change in the situation. Women had to play role of a 'good wife' and if a woman ventured out to work, she was seen as a bad woman, going against societal norms. Women were expected to cook food and eat only after the men, with whatever little amount of food was left. This led the way to rampant malnutrition among women, and an extremely poor health status. Women in India gradually started recognizing her true potential and have started questioning the rules and regulations laid down for her by the society. As a result, she started breaking rules and gained a respectable position in the contemporary world. Indian women today have outstanding and excelled in each and every sphere of life from social work to travelling space station.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN INDIA

After independence revolutionary changes has taken place in the status of Indian women. Cultural and Structural changes reduce exploitation of women to a great extent and provided equal opportunities to women in various fields. Now, there is almost no arena left by women which is unconquered. The role of women has changed drastically and they have been able to construct a positive impression in the society. From housewives to CEOs of Multi National

Company, the transition can be seen at an accelerating rate. Modernization, Education and the advent of the latest technology have widened hope, aspirations and opportunities for them. They have demonstrated themselves socially, politically and economically in almost every walk of life. Before women were no longer considered fit and strong for military or for other defense forces. Recently, Avani Chaturvedi has set an example and has created a milestone by becoming India's first women fighter pilot, redefining the role of Women in Indian Society.

Today Indian woman is so self-sufficient and self-reliant that she can be easily called a superwoman, struggling manifold fronts single-handedly with dignity. Women have now become fiercely ambitious and are proving their talent not only on the home front, but also in their respective professions. Women in Indian are coming up in all walks of life. They are joining the educational institutions in large numbers. They are entering into all kinds of professions like engineering, medicine, architect, politics, teaching, Designer, Scientist, Business person etc. In the modern days women status was changing from the effect of the education, women participation in all fields and women welfare programs in five major factors which contribute to the socio- economic changes. Social Legal changes, Educational improvement, Women employment and economic role, National awareness and Participation in political field. So Women's position changed as the social structure, family and lifestyle where they are becoming dual earner in present society. This changing status of women also helps her to become independent in their life by economically, socially due to opportunities of education.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS EDUCATORS

The contribution of women in the transformation society from pre-literate to literate is undeniable and irrefutable. Education is the key to nation's sustainable development. Research has shown that education can improve agricultural productivity, enhance the status of women, reduce population growth rates, enhance environmental protection, and widely raise the standard of living.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

Today, an average women's share in the global labor force is 46 percent. Women's formal and informal labor can transform a community from a relatively autonomous society to a participant in the national economy. Despite significant barriers and obstacles, women's small businesses in rural communities not only can be an extended family's lifeline, but can also be a pillar for new economic foundation for future generations. The role of women in the recent years in the urban area and rural workforce has augmented exponentially. The theme for International Women's Day 2019 "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change," was chosen to identify innovative ways to bring about gender equality and the empowerment of women, for building momentum for an effective execution of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

The term 'political participation' of women has a very extensive meaning. Political participation not only is connected to 'Right to Vote', but simultaneously relates to participation of women in the decision-making process, political activism, political consciousness, etc. Women in India participate in voting, actively seek and campaign for position in government position, public offices and political parties more than men. To fight against gender inequality in politics, the Indian Government has initiated reservations for women in local governments. Women's equal participation and leadership in political and

public life are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. There is established and growing evidence that women's leadership in political decision-making processes are improving. Women in India have demonstrate political leadership even in the most politically contentious environments and by championing various issues of gender equality, such as the elimination of gender-based violence, maternity leave and childcare leave, pensions and electoral reform. Women historically have faced greater barriers than men and held the positions of president, prime minister, as well as chief ministers of various states.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SPORTS

Women for the last few years have been making are evolution in India in the field of sports. Indian sport has witnessed a massive rise in the number of women athletes at the Global level at the turn of the millennium. Karnam Malleswari of India for the first time won a bronze at the 2000 Sydney Olympics in weight lifting. Since then, Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Sakshi Malik and most recently, Mirabai Chanu, PV Sindhu and Lovlina Borgohain in Tokyo have brought Olympic laurels to the country. India's performance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics was the seven med also won by India, women bagged three medals in a performance which can now be the spring board towards even greater success for Indian women athletes on the global stage. The grit and determination shown by the women athletes will create a strong foundation for more women from the country to participate and excel in sports.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The increased participation of women in science and technology has escalated the talent pool in India. It has been proven multiple times that women are no less than men in the field of science and technology. There are myriads of examples that highlight the contribution of women in the irrespective fields. Some of the women who have excelled in the field of Science and technology are Janaki Ammal, a cytogeneticist and botanist by profession who did research on thousands of plant species. Anna Mani, an Indian physicist and Meteorologist made a significant contributions in research on solar radiation, wind energy, and ozone brought her global acclamation. Tessy Thomas, Director General of Aeronautical Systems in DRDO became the Project Director for the development of Agni IV and V missiles. Kalpana Chawla, the first women of Indian origin to go to space. Shakuntala Devi, was an Indian Human calculator popularly known as 'Human Computer' had extraordinary power of doing complex mathematical operations within a few seconds.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Women entrepreneurs have been making a significant impact across several industries in the Indian economy. During the Shakti National Conference 2023 the Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane stated that, "women entrepreneurs in India play a significant role in advancing the economic growth of the country and women owned business are now growing significantly." In India some of the women entrepreneurs are Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, founder and chairperson of Biocon India, the first Indian company to produce and export enzymes to the United States and Europe. Falguni Nayar, founder and CEO of Nykaa and lifestyle and retail company is the most popular business woman in India. Aditi Gupta, an alumna of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad was concerned and intrigued about the stigma around menstruation. Shaikh Razia, a microbiologist started Bastar foods, abusing essence which engaged local tribal. Chayaa Nanjappa, founder and managing partner of Nectar Fresh, a social enterprises engaged in sourcing and processing natural honey,

she is the vision, strength and spirit behind the success of the brand. SaireeChahal, founder and CEO of SHEROES an online ecosystem exclusively for all women from college fresher to stay at home moms to find support with regard to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and community support and interactive platforms. PabibenRabari, founder of one of India's first Women Artisan Enterprises, she is known for her Artisan brand Pabiben.com.

CONCLUSION

Women have crossed many mile stones in the journey of liberation and have indeed come along way. Over the last few decades she have struggled very hard and faced many challenges, but still she is unable to be successfully and establish her own identity. Today's women are embellished with patience and perseverance, which has helped them to achieve the pinnacle of success. She has now become an instrumental in bringing about social change in India. Earlier, women's role was limited to household course; she was seen only as housewives who were confined to cooking, cleaning and taking care of their family. Today along with managing tough clients at office, they successfully multitask at home too. Women are more determined and have a unique decision making approach and analyze the pros and cons even at senior leadership level and at times are in a better position than men. Empowering women is a fund a mental right of women and is the most effective tool for development of society. Women are definitely redesigning the future of the world. We must use respectable words when we define women. Women are not weak. It is us who make them weak by not giving them rights. It is unfair to call someone weak by snatching their powers.

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