

## PATERNALISM: ORIGIN, FORM AND ABOLITION

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### ABSTRACT

*Inequality is a major problem of human society. When inequality becomes a part of the social structure coupled with gender differences, it is called patriarchy. Due to paternalism, the female half of the society was deprived of even enjoying common civil liberties. Patriarchy has been an important part of the Indian social structure, but due to the participation of women in education and employment, the effectiveness of patriarchy has decreased. Violence against women represents an extreme form of patriarchy. The role of physical strength of a man is important in this violence. It can be said that paternity is activated on the basis of the physical strength of the man. For the abolition of patriarchy, it is necessary that along with strengthening women from economic, political and social point of view, their safety should also be given adequate priority.*

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**Keywords:** Sexuality, Objectification, Marginalisation, Paternalism, Patriarchy.

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### Introduction

If we take a look at the entire global society, it is known that even though we are all human homosapiens, we are differentiated on the basis of birth, colour, gender, physical appearance. When this discrimination turns into social inequality, then a specific colour, gender and physical structure is considered superior and is given a high position and treatment in the society, whether it is capable or not, while the rest are inferior. place is given.

Patriarchy specifically expresses gender-based social equality. It also has a close relationship with age and generational seniority. In paternalism, a senior male controls all the members of the primary group in the form of a family. Although under this system young men also have to accept subordination. But women had to face more serious consequences of this. Just as the Dalits had to suffer because of the caste system, in the same way women suffered because of their patriarchy. Therefore, paternalism can be called an inequality established on a pure gender basis.

Paternalism is called Patriarchy in English language, which is made up of two words Pater and arch in Latin language, Pater means father and arch means power. Thus Patriarchy expresses the rule of the father. More traditionally, it refers to the rule of the senior male member, based on the basic principle that a female human being of a specific sex conformation is inferior or inferior to a male human being of a different sex conformation. Socio-culturally they are defined as female and male respectively. Garda Lerner wrote that it is a cultural phenomenon and not a biological one (1986).

If we analyse various social inequalities, we find that in a particular period of world history, such natural and social conditions arose, in which some people established dominance over other people. As human beings have a tendency, they want to continue their dominance, so such myths and stories are created which give legitimacy and antiquity to their dominance. Gradually, it is given a social and cultural form by associating it with religion, tradition and customs. Parenthood was also established in a similar way. As soon as the agricultural stage was entered, there was stability in life and large groups and communities started coming into existence. Since broad collectivism also has its own problems. Therefore, different types of conflicts also came into existence in human groups. New rules and

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institutions were created for the resolution of these conflicts and for the continuity of collectivism and social life. As a result, institutions like marriage and family started taking shape. Since private property had come into existence, it was human nature to refuse to share it with women who were members of the outgroup. Not only this, there is another concept associated with property, power, which was limited to those people who were the owners of the property. In this way women were deprived of both wealth and power. It was easier for men to capture and maintain power and wealth because they were born in the same family and the number of members of the paternal line was also more. To prevent the division of property, men neither made their daughters nor daughter-in-laws as co-sharers, and even sons only got it when the father died.

On the other hand, there was also the problem with women that most of the time they went through pregnancy and childbirth, which was annoying. So they used to depend on senior women and men for help. Under the circumstances thus created, the women took up paternity.

Accepted the physical strength of the man also played a positive role in giving continuity to this system.

Thus, it is clear that taking advantage of the situational weakness, women were marginalised (Manginalisation) in the socio-economic power structure while creating social rules.

As a result of all kinds of deprivations, commodification of women took place. Sexuality and fertility of women started to be controlled and consumed by men.

Female sexuality is an important component associated with parenthood. To control which the public activities of women were restricted and their public participation was reduced by limiting them to daily household chores. As a result, being engrossed in the daily household work, they were never aware of their subordinate status. In Marx's language this can be called alienation.

Patriarchy has been present in almost all societies. This system has been more effective in rich societies. Indian society has traditionally been a caste-based society. Here some castes have had extensive control over resources and administration. Such upper castes have been resourceful, while the rest of the castes who were deprived were considered low. Paternalism has been supported more by these upper and affluent castes. In the lower castes, both men and women have to earn for their daily living, so it has been difficult for them to follow the oppressive rules of patriarchy. Thus the women of the Dalit castes of the Indian society enjoyed more freedom than the upper caste women. Thus it is clear that paternalism has an economic side.

With class structures becoming more important than caste structures in the current Indian social system, patriarchy is also expressed to varying degrees with different classes. Kamla Bhasin has written that women have been turned into commodities in the capitalist system (1993).

The effect of paternalism is less visible in both upper class and lower class. Where the upper classes do not have any problem in sharing with women to avoid legal complications and due to the availability of resources, whereas in the lower classes, both men and women collect resources together, so women, whatever resources they have, have access to them. cannot be denied. The middle class is the most victim of paternalism and it gives continuity to it.

Due to the limitation of property in the middle class, keeping it confined to sons and male members and due to social pressures, paternalism remains influential.

If tribal societies are observed, it is clear that the effect of paternalism is hardly visible there. Women stay around their maternal relatives as marriage relations in tribes are only between close relatives. Due to which the woman does not feel weak. At the same time, due to the subsistence economy, women are equal partners in production and paternalism is not effective.

Gilligan, Carroll, and Snyder explain psychologically, writing that "Paternalism causes psychological harm not only to women but also to men. Men have to repeatedly demonstrate that they have no need to relate to women." whereas women have to demonstrate that they themselves are nothing, that is, they do not care about themselves (2019).

### **Expressions of Paternalism**

Well paternalism is an important part of our social life. The way of life of men and women, participation in activities of public life, dress, language, style of conversation are all manifestations of patriarchy. But female infanticide and satti practice express the extreme form of paternalism. These are such phenomena in which the very existence of women is denied by the patriarchal society. Behind both the practices, the male members of the family have a fear of loss of so-called reputation and wealth in the future.

Not only this, all the concepts of Devadasi system, dowry system, abandonment of women, assault, violence and harassment etc. cannot be analyzed without understanding paternalism. Thomson

The Reuters Foundation has listed India as the fourth most dangerous country for sexual human trafficking, health and economic crimes against women.

Incidents such as giving daughters to other families for the marriage of their sons and obtaining daughters-in-law from them i.e. exchange of girls, forcing women to have forced relationships reveal the objectification of women. On the other hand, violence against women in public places expresses them as public property. The above incidents are the practical form of male mentality influenced by paternalism.

Today most of the world's wealth is owned by men, if some wealth has been earned by women, then it is the kindness and mercy of men.

According to Laura Bierema, patriarchy prevented women from advancing in all spheres of social life. If they reached higher positions, they had to adapt to the conditions and requirements of men (2003).

### **Abolition of Paternity**

During the colonial period, efforts were made to improve the status of women by introducing Sati prevention law, child marriage prevention law, marriage and property related laws, but no major change was possible. The biggest challenge to patriarchy in Indian society came when women entered educational institutions and got reservation in jobs. As a result of which women not only became economically independent, but were also freed to some extent from the control of the traditional power which kept the woman imprisoned in the domestic premises. Due to this economic independence, dependence on men started ending. As a result, phenomena like love marriage, live in relation, remaining unmarried, marrying in other religion and caste etc. have started emerging as realities of Indian society. The above incidents are the manifestations of the diminishing effects of paternalism.

The influence of paternalism is widespread in Muslim society as well. Marriage with one man at a time for women while marriage with four women at a time for men is allowed to reveal the existence of a gender based unequal social system called patriarchy. Not only this, "triple talaq" breaks the marriage agreement

The condition of women becomes extremely pathetic due to the excessive preference of men in the form of a system.

Some time ago, the "Triple Talaq Law" made by the government will help to a large extent in ending the low and unequal position of women in marriage agreements. Establishment of separate women's police stations, courts, effectiveness of women's commission and women's movements and gender budgeting. Due to efforts, paternalism seems to be slowly being eradicated.

Robert Jensen is of the opinion that established male dominance can be ended and female sexuality can be freed from male control only through radical feminist movements. (2017)

But there are still many areas where collective efforts are needed. Equality for women in parliament and legislative assemblies, along with provision of equal pay for men in the unorganised private sector, is a major issue of women's safety, without which complete eradication of patriarchy is not possible.

The issue of women's safety is very sensitive, because crimes against women make them dependent on men for their safety. This type of dependence hinders the suppression of paternalism.

Therefore, it is clear that without providing economic, social and political freedom and security to women, it is not possible to free them from the clutches of patriarchy.

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