

## STATUS OF CONTEMPORARY WOMEN IN INDIA: A BRIEF ANALYSIS

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### ABSTRACT

*Women play an important role in Indian society. Ancient Indian women had a high social status. Some women worked as teachers. Some spun and wove at home to make clothes. Women also helped in agriculture, Religion, education, culture, marriage and family life Contemporary and Indian societies retained their ancient and medieval status. But in contemporary times women are somehow losing their rights and positions. In this article, the contemporary women's situation in India is discussed.*

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**Keywords:** Contemporary, Women, Education, Status of Women.

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### Introduction

*One isn't born, but rather become a woman*". This is a famous quote given by Simon De Beauvoir on Women. The status of women depicts the social, economic and mental condition in a nation. Woman' – a Word that carries the existence of a distinct personality. Women are an integral and inseparable part in a society women have been held in high esteem and dignity for centuries since the beginning of civilization. Especially in a country like India, women have a special place. There are many examples of women like Maitreya, Gayatri, Rani Lakshmbai, etc. We cross the threshold of the fortieth century and enter the 21<sup>st</sup>. Our country has completed forty-three years of independence. Therefore, it is a shame that the Women of 'Bright India' have to take up the pen against all forms of discrimination. India is one of the Countries that have participated and signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) organized by the United Nations as a project managed by the International organization UNIFEM. Therefore, the position and commitment of the Basra Government Against all forms of discrimination against women in our country is undeniable. But in reality what do we see? The women of the country are economically exploited and distorted on the basis of caste, group, religion and community. In the past, a few laws were passed to protect women's rights under pressure from the women's movement, but they are no longer implemented in practice. The social dignity and security of women is still not guaranteed.

### Factors Influencing Contemporary Women 's Issues

Our Constitution gives equal rights to both men and women in every field. Today, women enjoy voting rights, right to inheritance and property. In fact, the Constitution lay down that the government should promote with special care the interests of the weaker sections of the people. Several laws have been passed since independence to promote the interests of women. These laws relate to marriage, inheritance of property, divorce, dowry, etc. In 1976, the Equal Remuneration Act was passed to provide for equal remuneration to men and women for similar work. Recently, the government has started a scheme for the protection of girl child. Despite of these provisions, we find a lot of discrimination against women.

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When women are to get engaged in various tasks and activities, then their participation is influenced by various factors and these have been stated as follows:

- **Socio- Cultural Side:** Women face a lot of problems in socio-cultural side, some of them are:
  - **Son's Preference:** Every family in the society tends to give priority to son's. The son to his parents in old age therefore, it is important to understand that only son's can inherit property or perform funerals after death.
  - **Discrimination Against Women in Food Distribution:** This is a real facts in different families of society. Women are ready to meet the food needs of the men of the household but aren't aware of or have the opportunity to be aware of their own food.
  - **Burden of Household Work an Women and Young Girls:** In every family, the head of the household, the mother or daughter-in-law, bears the responsibility of household chores. Young women in the house help their mothers or others with household chores. It is very rare that boys help their mothers or other women in the family with kitchen chores or household chores.
  - **Wife Battering:** In many families, husbands physically abuse their wives. Some people beat their wives even after drinking alcohol or other drugs. Very few women protest against the 'Patiparneswar' concept prevalent in the society. Otherwise, he died enduring this torture.
  - **Dowry System:** The whole system of dowry basically is suppressing women and reducing them to nothing. This system then allows for a lot of domestic violence and this goes unreported throughout the nation.
- **Educational Side:** The picture of women's education in our country is very sad. According to a 2001 survey, the literacy rate in our country is 64.8 per cent. The literacy rate of women is only 53.7 per cent and the literacy rate of men is 75.3 per cent. Two-thirds of the young students aged 6-14 years in our country are girls. Apart from financial weakness, a girl has to stay outside the school for several other reasons. In addition, a student is deprived of secondary and higher secondary education due to lack of transportation and hostel. In addition, incidents such as sexual harassment have become an obstacle to women's education in the present era. Education is the key to development. In today's world of science, technology and competition, general education is essential to keep pace with the times. A woman is deprived of education for several reasons. A Haryana woman was convicted and expelled from Malasa. In addition, emphasis should be placed on education and a culture that helps women to determine their place in order to stop evil practices such as child marriage for the participation of 7-8 year old girls in cultural programmes.

There are various issues and problems which women generally face in the education in India. Some of the problems are mentioned and described below:

- **Financial Difficulties:** Women have to face a lot of problems in the economic aspect. Poor families do not support women to go to school and college but they support men. They want women to do household work.
- **Problem of Transport:** Transportation is also another aspect of women's education. In rural areas schools are located at great distances, so parents are not interested in sending them to schools or colleges.
- **Disparity in Education:** There are still 122 million girls and 128 million boys out of school worldwide. Nearly two-thirds of all adults who cannot yet read are women.
- **Lack of Social Consciousness among Women:** In some areas people are not aware about women's education. She believes that women are born to perform family functions and not to perform social or political activities.
- **Lack of Lady Teachers:** There is a huge shortage of female teachers. India has 2,05,339 more male teachers than females, according to the Higher Education report 2017-18. Of the total 12,84,755 teachers across India, 57.99 per cent are males. The gender gap becomes wider as we move higher up the hierarchy, according to the data from the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- **Political Side:** The democratic role of women is very important in the political picture of India. Women contribute as much as men to a healthy society. Therefore, for the formulation of various

Plans and policies in the country and for the demand of equal rights in a democratic country like India, the 'Women Reservation Act' has been proposed, which will reserve 33 per cent seats in The Indian Parliament for women. In a backward male-dominated society, the political Consciousness of women is very weak. Therefore, the high number of women in Parliament will Not only address women's issues, but also strengthen the foundations of democratic society Through equal rights.

The year 1975 is in the world to improve the social status of women and instill in them a sense of self-liberation it was decided to call it 'International Women's Year'. Despite this provision, women are not free from political discrimination. They face many problems in political participation and securing their rights. Some of them are mentioned below:

- **Political System and Institutions:** Everything from Goan panchayat to MP there is male dominate programme. Wheather in India or elsewhere in the world, the number of Women in political parties or organisation is handful to be able to count. Although some Women have achieved special position in poltics, they have achieved them with the cooperation of some personal and powerful men. They act within the policies and Preoccupations developed by these individuals. These include Indira Gandhi, Benazir Bhutto and Draupadi Murmu. South Asia has the highest number of Women serving as heads of state in the world, but even recently, women's participation in Parliament has not exceeded 10 percent.
- **Property Right of Women:** Recently, women's property rights laws have been introduced in various places like India. However, it is not known how successful this law has been in practice. However, it is seen that women do not pay much attention to father's property. Especially after marriage, a woman is completely attached to her husband's household and does not covet or claim her father's property. Similarly, women who become widows after the death of their husbands may return to their parents' homes or spend the rest of their lives in their husbands' homes. Many times she has to leave her husband's property.
- **Lack of Freedom of Movement:** Girls are prevented from going outside the home to play or chat with friends. The children of the household can go out whenever they want, play with their peers and come home whenever they want. But society made a rule for the girls that the girls must always enter the house before dark.
- **Economical Side:** Women have to face many problems from the economic side, some of them are:
  - **Women's Productive or Labour Power:** Men control women in any paid work, whether outside or inside the home. A woman serves her children, husband or other members of her family without remuneration throughout her life in her domestic life. Feminist writer Sylvia Walbyhas called it a patriarchal mode of production
  - **Property and other Economic Resources:** In all societies, men dominate property and other Productive resources. Men control it and it is passed from one man to another, usually from Father to child.
  - **The Economic System and Economic Institutions:** The patriarchal economic system shows male control over economic institutions, acquisition of property, supervision of economic activities and pricing of various productive activities. Women participate in productive activities but receive neither proper recognition nor proper wages for their contributions. They create Surplus value but are not able to get its due respect. Maria Mie's calls this contribution of Women 'shadow work'; as this contribution is never counted. Furthermore, labor is not Considered as a rearer of children as a producer or as an economic contributor at all.

### **Role of Women Employment in Contemporary Times**

According to the 2011 census, out of a total working population of 48,17,13,311 in India, 14,98,77,381 are Women employed in various occupations. Of these, 121.8 million are working women in rural areas and 28 million in urban areas. Employment of a woman has played an important role in changing the status of women in modern society But women face various problems in their workplace or outside the workplace. Until a few decades ago, men had a strong position in the male-dominated society while women had zero or very weak position. It's not easy for women to come out of such an early stage and become equal to men in all fields. However, The increasing number of women in all fields is a good sign for the development of the country. Yet, many some major Government policies and programme of women.

Women living in different states of India still have a sudden dark cloud over their heads. Every year if we analyze the data of the Indian Crime Branch, we see that women are often physically and mentally abused. In India, 10.24 lakh cases of crimes against women were registered in 2014-16. Of these, 1,10,277 cases are against rape, 14,390 cases are against attempted rape, 18,126 cases are against kidnapping and 23,712 cases are against dowry murder. In addition, there are a significant number of cases registered against attempts to destroy women's indecency and against mental abuse of women.

Following are the specific objectives of national policy specially of rural folk development of women in India.

- Building and strengthening partnership with civil society specially women's organisation.
- Abolition of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child.
- Equal excess to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation.
- Changing societal behaviour and attitude community practices by active participation and involvement both men and women.

#### **Schemes for Women Development**

- Swadhar
- Sewa-shakti
- Swayam siddha
- Support to training and employment programme
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme
- Working Women Hostel
- Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra
- Women Helpline Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra
- Ujjawala scheme
- Mahila Police Volunteers
- DRDO Scholarship Scheme for Girls
- Scheme for Adolescent girls.

#### **Conclusion**

*"If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a entire family."*

From the research findings, the general objective of the study was to establish the factors affecting women's participation in community development. It can be concluded from the study that social factors, cultural factors, economic factors, educational factors, and in political factors Female participation is very low. The Prophet's society has gradually pushed itself into the world of pleasure and women are now 'commodities' in the market. The cycle of competition where knowledge, wisdom, etc. are considered secondary. People can be materialistic, though it's hard to be objective. Abuse and exploitation continue in this system but there is no one to stop it. In such critical times, we must move forward unitedly on the same path to solve women's problems

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