

## Women of 21th century

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### Abstract

The present investigation is identified with status of woman in Indian culture from antiquated days till today. It gives significance on the situation of woman in different fields like family life, public activity and work circumstance. It features on female foeticide, low proficiency dimension of woman, woman' low dietary status, woman' job in basic leadership, their situation according to Indian convention and so forth. This paper additionally gives accentuation on number of woman in all out workforce, torment of them by men in family life, public activity and in different fields where they are members. Finally it closes on significance of woman and job of society for the liberation of woman from male overwhelmed society and their abuse and concealment.

**Keywords:** liberation, concealment, liberation, overwhelmed, women

### 1. Introduction

#### Women in the traditional times

Traditionally, woman were viewed as guardians of the home. They needed to take care of the running of the family easily, they needed to deal with the costs in the most efficient way that is available, they needed to take care of matured in-laws, support the kids and so forth. They were sensibly kept out of basic leadership matters as the essential job of woman was not that of decision the family. They were relied upon to obey requests of the spouse, the seniors of the family yet kept in confinement when it came to significant choices identified with the family. Woman were not very instructed in the past periods. They would be offered one day to their in-laws spot and henceforth would not require excessively of information was the past reasoning. Woman, who were still piece of families that suspected something, saw some break in this biased methodology. There were woman in bygone days as well, who were knowledgeable and driven ways of achievement in numerous circles of life as a result of help from their families. It is these woman who driven ways of progress and achieved a change in the manner in which individuals saw woman in the general public.

#### The modern day woman

Women have completely transformed in the modern day, the urban woman especially has changed from being a mere homemaker to the modern day multitasking woman, handling responsibilities without fear. She has taken on the world with confidence. Women of today handle their duties and chores at home, manage a career outside their homes, nurture their children and balance their family lives with their professions. This is the scene in most of the urban households today. The modern day woman is independent, takes right decisions boldly, stands up for her rights and walks a path of success. Kalpana Chawla, Indra Nooyi, Sushma Swaraj, Aishwarya Rai and many more are women achievers in their chosen fields.

This is the scene in the developing economy of today. Women are well educated, they have crossed horizons, and

their presence can be felt in many male dominated areas. Women have been sent on many space missions. We see women rise as journalists, politicians, doctors, engineers, lawyers, actors and in many other professional spheres. Women of today choose the right career paths that determine their future and thus we see them excelling in every walk of life.

This is just one side of the story. Women in downtrodden regions and rural backgrounds have still to compete a lot in terms of their urban counterparts. Not that the rural women are backward in any aspect, but the change and transformation that the urban woman sees, is definitely a little slower to the rural women. Women, be it from urban or rural backgrounds, still face harassment and humiliation in domestic as well as professional circles. However high they reach in their lives, women are still made to feel helpless when men mete out unhealthy treatments and behave badly in front of them.

We see presence of women in rackets of prostitution, as call girls, as dance bar girls etc that focuses on the other side of society. The society is coming to terms and accepts the presence of both classes of women. Women may come from socially challenging situations, they may be part of difficult situations, and they may cease to have any kind of support from their families. Reasons unknown, they may be provoked to earn a livelihood out of immoral practices which makes women vulnerable and want to join easy, but wrong routes to earning money. This is another side of the story.

We talk of women having achieved great feats and laurels, but there always exists a sad part of the story which we cannot move away from. The necessity of the day is a strong legislation and most importantly, education and empowerment of women that will take them away from being part of these dark areas of the country.

#### Women and nutrition

Generally women suffer from malnutrition. (Waldron, 1987) views that higher mortality rate in childhood may be either because of certain specific causes, which affect the fairer

sex more or due to gender discrimination in nutrition and health care. Excess female mortality is a part of family building strategy, where girls are considered as burden and boys as resources. (Das Gupta, 1987) <sup>[13]</sup> Although practice of breast feeding is universal in India, some studies have pointed out gender differences in duration of breast feeding of children (World Bank, 1991). Sometimes female infants are breastfed less frequently and for shorter durations than male infants, their weaning all start earlier and they are given low quality food. Status of immunization is also far from satisfactory. About 35% of adult women in the age group (15-49) suffer from chronic energy deficiency. About 55% of adult women suffer from iron deficiency and anaemia.

### **Women and workforce**

Due to either no earning or low earning activities of women their contributions to the society go unnoticed. The Five Year Strategic Plan of Ministry of Women and Child Development for 2011-16 notes that workforce participation rate of women in rural area is 31% where as it is 55% for men. In urban area this rate is 14% for women as compared to 54% for men. Women's share of organized sector and public sector is less than 20%. Their share in Central Government employment is less than 8%. Many women are working in domestic sector in India. About 10% of the female population over the age of 12 are employed in domestic service. It is second largest employment of women after agricultural labour. The women working as fulltime servants are harassed physically, psychologically and sometimes, sexually. Some women also serve as part time servants. After sexual harassment they are killed by supari killers. In some cases they are underpaid. When the part time domestic woman worker comes to her own house after a day's work, her dirty home with hazardous environment waits her which damage her own children's life who do not attend school. (Mallick. Annu priya, 2013) <sup>[6]</sup>. In some corporate sectors women are given less amount of wages than men labourers. In the field of politics their number is very low. Less than 11% seats of Parliament are held by women. There have been 5 women judges, of Supreme Court since Independence.

### **Woman empowerment**

Woman' day is celebrated, not to commend the magnificence and effortlessness of woman, yet to achieve mindfulness among people in general with respect to woman' security. Woman need to fortify themselves by working up their inward qualities. They should take a shot at expanding their ethical qualities and face the world without dread. Woman are instructed to be strong and active in nowadays of innovation. We ought to enable the woman in our lives to have free existences. They should take free choices with respect to their vocations, callings, decisions in issues of life accomplices, and so forth. They ought to have a state in immeasurably imperative issues of the family. They ought to be instructed to act naturally dependent and ought not rely upon anybody to meet their financial needs; they ought to be educated to deal with their very own costs.

### **Women in the field of education**

The effects of women's education on development constitute a significant area of research within international development. An increase in the amount of women "s

education in regions tends to correlate with high levels of development. Some of the effects are related to economic development. Women's education increases the income of women and leads to growth in GDP. Other effects are related to social development. Educating girls leads to a number of social benefits, including many related to women's empowerment. Recent research in human development has established a strong link between women's education and international development. In particular, researchers seek to determine what factors explain differences in rates of development. Women's education is one of the major explanatory variables behind the rates of social and economic development. According to notable economist Lawrence Summers "investment in the education of girls may well be the highest-return investment available in the developing world."

### **Women in economic and employment fields**

In both villages and cities, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of women going out of the four walls of the household and becoming workers. In the "employment market", they are giving tough competition to menfolk. In some fields the number of women employs is steadily increasing. For example, women working as teachers, doctors, nurses, advocates, bank employees, clerks, typists, telephone operators, receptionist, personal assistants and so on. Since 1991, though in a smaller number, women are getting recruited into armed force, air force and naval force also. In order to give protection to the economic interests and rights of the womenfolk the government has undertaken various socio-economic legislations, which cover areas such as right to property or inheritance, equal wages, working conditions, maternity benefits and job security.

### **Status of women in today's society**

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) recently reported facts about women in education fields

in Texas in the including the following:

- 2.2.1 Women represent three-fourths (75.6 percent) of the 493,440 public education employees.
- 2.2.2 Women represent one-fourth (25.5 percent) of public education employees.
- 2.2.3 Women represent 1.4 percent of superintendents; 9.1 percent of assistant superintendents; 6 percent of principals; and 9 percent of assistant principals.
- 2.2.4 More than half (56.5 percent) of the female teachers in public schools worked in early childhood and elementary schools.

### **Women in political field**

Every country deserves to have the best possible leader and that means that women have to be given a chance to compete. If they're never allowed to compete in the electoral process then the countries are really robbing themselves of a great deal of talent" says Madeleine K. Albright, Chairman of NDI. It is believed that equitable participation of women in politics and government is essential to build and sustain democracy. Comprising over 50 percent of the world's population, women continue to be under-represented as voters, political leaders and elected officials. Democracy cannot truly deliver for all of its citizens if half of the population remains underrepresented in the political arena. Women's participation in mainstream

political activity has important implications for the broader arena of governance in any country. Governance relates to a set of rules, institutions, and values that are involved in the management of state and society. Governance institutions and processes include political parties, parliaments, government and their interactions with society. Although governance is a generic term which could mean good government or management, the governance values, types of government, the nature of political processes, the political parties and organizations, which/whose interests are represented and protected, and the extent of power that the masses have to challenge the state or in suggesting alternatives in methods of governance etc.

### Women given equal rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, enshrines "the equal rights of men and women", and addressed both the equality and equity issues. In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for legal implementation of the Declaration of elimination of discrimination against sex. Described as an international bill of rights for women, it came into force on 3 September 1981. The Convention defines discrimination against women in the following terms, "Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." It also establishes an agenda of action for putting an end to sex-based discrimination for which states ratifying the Convention are required to enshrine gender equality into their domestic legislation, repeal all discriminatory provisions in their laws, and enact new provisions to guard against discrimination against women. They must also establish tribunals and public institutions to guarantee women effective protection against discrimination, and take steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination practiced against women by individuals, organizations, and enterprises.

### Women in the field of sports

Female participation in sports rose dramatically in the twentieth century, especially in the last quarter, reflecting changes in modern societies that emphasized gender parity. Although the level of participation and performance still varies greatly by country and by sport, women's sports have broad acceptance throughout the world, and in a few instances, such as figure skating, rival or exceed their male counterparts in popularity. The main purpose of participation of women was to bring equality between the sexes in educational institutions. Today there are more females participating in athletics than ever before. As of the 2007-2008 school year, females made up 41% of the participants in college athletics. In 1971-1972 there were 294,015 females participating in high school athletics and in 2007-2008 there were over three million females participating, meaning there has been a 940% increase in female participation in high school athletics. In 1971-1972 there were 29,972 females participating in college athletics and in 2007-2008 there were 166,728 females participating, that is a 456% increase in female participation in college

athletics. Increased participation in sports has had direct effects on other areas of women's lives. These effects can be seen in women's education and employment later on in life; a recent study found that the changes set in motion by participation of women explained about 20 percent of the increase in women's education and about 40 percent of the rise in employment for 25-to-34-year-old women. This is not to say that all women who are successful later on in life played sports but it is saying that women who did participate in athletics received benefits in their education and employment later on in life.

### Conclusion

Women have been successful in improving their status in India. Social workers and political and legal environment enabled them to prove themselves as an equal partner in promoting social economic and political development of the society. Women play many roles in their lives, that of a daughter, sister, wife, daughter-in-law, mother, friend, colleague, professional and the list is never ending. With addition of roles, comes addition of responsibilities and women have to handle everything in a very dignified manner. The modern day woman is more aware of the society around her and believes in her strengths, handles her weaknesses with grace, identifies the goodness in things and is socially responsible towards her duties. Women do many roles and handle them with grace. There is no profession that does not have women enrolment. The government has put together many schemes especially for the empowerment of women. Many seats are reserved in parliament to encourage women participation. Education of girls is made free and compulsory in government schools to encourage women to join different institutions and render their valuable services. Our armed forces have seen a rise in women enrolment and it's a matter of pride for the nation to have great daughters in the country.

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