



CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN INDIAN SOCIETY

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Abstract

A women's role has changed tremendously and is making its greatest impact in our society today. Many years ago, women's contribution to society was limited and controlled by men. Women are playing a major role in many important areas. Women's role has changed at an accelerating rate and has part in areas such as Politics, Professional Training Jobs, Medicine, Business and Law. Formerly they were not part of any political matter, but they have advanced in many aspects. Women in India face lots of social issues and problems all through the life which are big struggle for them right from their beginning of life. Female infanticide is the most common practice of killing girl child in mother's womb in the Indian society. Women in India are considered as burden for their parents and husbands as they think that women are here only to consume money whole life without earning a little bit. Another common problem for women is sex discrimination which they face from their birth and continues till their death. Illiteracy, lack of proper education, responsible for household works, rape, sexual harassment at workplace, etc are some big issues for the women in India.

This paper attempts to analyze the changing status of women in modern India and is based purely on secondary data. The analysis shows that although women in modern India have made a considerable progress in every sphere of life, they still have to struggle against deep-rooted patriarchal mentality of society. The Indian constitution grants women equal rights as that of men but they were never been effective to bring a remarkable change in the status of modern women. Equal footing with men is still an illusion for females because male dominance still prevails in the society.

Keywords--- Society, Role, Participation, initiatives



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Introduction

Without women nothing is possible for men. A woman is the basic unit of society. She make a family, family make a home, home a society and ultimately society make a country. A country cannot progress until and unless its women take initiatives for development works.

The role of women in India is a very hot issue that is passionately debated every day, as ever more women become conscious of the inequalities and bias they suffer from. All around the world, women are an untapped "resource" to fight poverty and violence, and even though their potential has been very clearly revealed time and again in difficult circumstances men have too often lost sight of it in times of stability. Taking birth as a woman in the Indian society can be said as curse for the women.

Historically women in India were revered and the birth of a girl was widely believed to mark the arrival of Lakshmi – the Goddess of wealth and riches. Women have been considered ‘janani’, i.e., the progenitor and ‘ardhanigini’ i.e., half of the body. Women are also considered to be an embodiment of Goddess Durga. Earlier to this women were facing a lot of problems because of male dominated, patriarchal society system, practice of old traditional believes, etc. Women were only responsible to the traditional roles like child bearing and child rearing. In the modern world, where women status has been improved a little while, still they are facing problems. They have to perform both family and professional responsibilities together without the help of their husbands. In some cases, the condition of women becomes more embarrassed when they get tortured by their family members instead of getting help. Sexual harassment is more common at homes as well as in the offices by the family members, relatives, neighbors, friends, boss, etc. They have to suffer a lot in their daily life to nourish their career as well as saving their family relationships.

When we think of social modernisation and economic modernisation, the big thing that leaps out is the role of women. A society that does not respect women is under-utilising half its labour force. We would expect to see a causal impact of greater equality of women upon growth. We in India are sometimes complacent about the role of women in India. India is famous for having women in leadership roles. Andre Beteille said: The role of women in India today, it's better than even Japan, which is otherwise a very advanced country. The daughters of the elite in India have no glass ceiling, which is better than what we see in most places challenging

Role of Women in India

When thrown in a situation where she has to take important decisions affecting the well-being of her family, she is thus extremely vulnerable to exploitative people. Besides this aspect, in terms of the prospect to take up employment somewhere to earn for the family in dire situations, her lack of adequate skill set throws her into the clutches of the informal sector which further fuels poverty in India. The informal sector being largely unregulated, her quality of life and level of income varies according to the whims and fancies of her employer. There have been instances where women have been lured by promises of work to the lairs of traffickers and sold off. Instances of sexual abuse and cruel work conditions are also as much a reality for women trapped in the poverty chains. To fight sexual violence and human trafficking, the government must do everything it can to promote women entrepreneurship in India and help them join the formal sector so as to enjoy the legal protection that comes with

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real employment contracts. Though a number of constitutional amendments were made for women's social, economic and political benefits, yet they were never effective to bring a radical change in the situation. Women had only the role of a 'good wife' to play, 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 meager amount of food is left. This led to rampant malnutrition among women, and an extremely poor health status. Around 500 women were reported to die every day due to pregnancy related problems due to malnutrition, and getting married before 18. It was only by the 1960s, that a few educated women began to see themselves increasingly change from a mere guardian of home to a legitimate participant in the discourse of life. The country saw the first undercurrent of female discontent with the system.

Though care giving services can empower women if they are trained adequately, the scope of choices for career is often constrained by societal notions of what is "suitable" for a woman and what is not. This is what defines the role of women in India, and how limited their contribution to society will be. The boy on the other hand has no such fetters tying down his choices.

Women in India slowly started recognising her true potential. She has started questioning the rules laid down for her by the society. As a result, she has started breaking barriers and earned a respectable position in the world. Today Indian women have excelled in each and every field from social work to visiting space station. There is no arena, which remains unconquered by Indian women. Whether it is politics, sports, entertainment, literature, technology everywhere, its women power all along.

The changing role of women in India

Revolutionary changes has taken place in the status of Indian women after independence. Cultural and Structural changes reduce exploitation of women to a great extent and provide equality of opportunities to women in various fields. The women have left the secured domain of their home and are now in the battle field of life, fully armored with their talent. Now, there is no arena which remained unconquered by Indian women. Female activists also united over issues as female infanticide, gender bias, women's health, women's safety and women's literacy. The role of women has changed tremendously and they have been able to create a positive impression in the society. From housewives to CEOs, the transition can be seen at an accelerating rate. Modernization and the advent of the latest technology have widened hope and opportunities for them. They have

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established themselves socially, politically and economically in almost every field. Women are no longer considered unfit or weak for military or for other defense forces. Recently, Avani Chaturvedi has set a perfect example and has created a milestone by becoming India's first female fighter pilot.

Improving the Role of Women in Society

The modern woman is so deft and self-sufficient that she can be easily called a superwoman, juggling many fronts single-handedly. Women are now fiercely ambitious and are proving their metal not only on the home front, but also in their respective professions. Women in Indian are coming up in all spheres of life. They are joining the universities and colleges in large numbers. They are entering into all kinds of professions like engineering, medicine, politics, teaching, etc. A nation's progress and prosperity can be judged by the way it treats its women folk. There is a slow and steady awareness regarding giving the women their dues, and not mistreating them, seeing them as objects of possession. Despite progress, the very fact that women, along with being achievers, also are expected to fulfil their roles as wives or mothers, prioritising home against anything else.

The Role of Women as Caretakers

Women are the primary caretakers of children and elders in every country of the world. International studies demonstrate that when the economy and political organization of a society change, women take the lead in helping the family adjust to new realities and challenges. They are likely to be the prime initiator of outside assistance, and play an important role in facilitating (or hindering) changes in family life.

The Role of Women as Educators

The contribution of women to a society's transition from pre-literate to literate likewise is undeniable. Basic education is key to a nation's ability to develop and achieve sustainability targets. Research has shown that education can improve agricultural productivity, enhance the status of girls and women, reduce population growth rates, enhance environmental protection, and widely raise the standard of living. It is the mother in the family who most often urges children of both genders to attend – and stay – in school.

The Role of Women in the Workforce

Today, the median female share of the global workforce is 45.4 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 obstacles, women's small businesses in rural developing communities not only can be an extended family's lifeline, but can form a

networked economic foundation for future generations. The role of women in the urban and rural workforce has expanded exponentially in recent decades.

The theme for International Women's Day 2019 "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change," was chosen to identify innovative ways to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, accelerating the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Of course, women's opportunities still lag behind those of men worldwide. But, the historic and current role of women is indisputable.

The Role of Women as Global Volunteers

Global Volunteers' community development work in host countries worldwide strengthens women's and children's capacity and supports their sustained health and development. Under the direction of local leaders, our volunteers help ensure academic accessibility, foster parental involvement, offer psycho-social support, provide nutrition and health education, fund girls' scholarships, construct schools with girls' bathrooms, tutor literacy, and numeracy, and so much more. Contact us using the form below to learn how you can contribute to this critical agenda.

Conclusion

The modern woman has started caring for her social, emotional, cultural, religious and economic needs. She has now become tool for social change in India. It can be said that women have more freedom than earlier however not true in many respects because prejudice still remains in the society. Though the status of today's modern women in India is high, the over all picture of women's position in India is not satisfactory. Last but not the least, we should not forget that progress of a nation cannot be achieved until and unless there is active participation of its mothers, wives, sister and daughters, So each and every man Should thoughtfully decides to bring a revolutionary transformation in his attitude towards women and accept the women to be the equal participants in the country's progress.

Personally, I can't imagine my life without the image and the support of my mother. I believe that a mother is the 80 % of the care you ever will need. I am and I will be the person I am because of my mother. I am sure that the only thing I may miss if some day I loose my family could be my mother and now is the time when I realize and convince myself that she is the most important person for me. I am sure my comment could be accepted by most of the people living in a similar society.

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