

Psycho-social Flights of Women in the Era of Modern India

Reyaz Ahmad Dar,
Lecturer, Department of Sociology,
Govt. Degree College Boys Pulwama.
Email Id: wreyaz9@gmail.com

Abstract: Shakespeare has the reputation of creating generalizations. He once asserted that “frailty thy name is women”. He was Elizabethan par excellence and reined the literally world in 16th century. It is quite akin to fact that women would have been really frail, the fair sex. She (Women) would have been relegated to the backseat of affairs by confining her to the four walled prison (home) only. However, now a day the paradigm seems to have changed with the passage of time. 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 in progress as females have nowadays dominance and still prevails in the society

Keywords: Generalizations, Elizabethan, Modern, Constitution, Dominance, Society.

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. Swami Vivekananda has also said, “ it is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved.” The status of women in India has been subjected to great changes over the past years. The status of women social, economic, political and general- in India today is much higher than in ancient and medieval periods. Though the status of women has been raised in the eyes of law, but they are still much far from equality with males. Theoretically the condition of modern women was high however practically it was low. Women’s are still exploited and humiliated in modern Indian society but they have the courage to curb the powers and make their dominance

possible. Historically, the period after 1750AD is known as the modern period. Status of women in this period changes radically. Man, the soul bread earner usually holds the family fort and undertakes and determines important matters at home. He has the interaction with the outside world. It is normally believed that man possesses a superior mind to that of women. Let us recall the incident in Holy Quran which has also been incorporated in the Bible though with digressions here and there. Adam, the first man on Earth was vehemently instructed by the Creator not touch certain fruit in the Heaven (the forbidden fruit). Complying the decree he set out not to touch the fruit. The Satan despite his machinations could not convince him to eat the fruit. Finding that Adam was a hard nut to crack he coaxed, cajoled and lured eve to persuade Adam to eat the forbidden fruit. Here it was not to be a Herculean job and eve succeeded in compelling Adam to eat the fruit. Subsequently, both of them were condemned by the divine verdict and thrown out of the heaven on the earth, hence the fall of man. This incident vouches for the infirmity of woman with respect to their working of mind. However it seems though that times have changed and woman is no longer synonymous with frailty but vigor, virility and wit.

Revolutionary changes have 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. Women are now regularly performing duties that are traditionally assigned to males. The income of one man is no longer enough in the modern expensive culture, so fluctuations in the economy have made it necessary for a woman to obtain a career, in order to provide the essential funds to support and maintain the family.

Thus, a number of efforts have been made for women's social, economic and political benefits, yet they were never been effective, to bring a remarkable change in the situation. Yet one can't deny that the situation has improved since the earlier times. As compared with past, women in modern times have become powerful in various fields and have achieved a lot but in reality they have to still travel a long way. One of the signaling sign

of approaching doom is that the reign of affairs shall go into the hands of woman. Indeed, the case seems so. Hundreds of households are such where the woman is exchequer and man like money minting machine. Man earns by the sweat of his brow by indulging in back breaking labor and woman making him accountable for the rendition of accounts (the money earned by man himself). The situation turns comic epic when man opens mouth to voice his opinion on some important domestic matter and is rebuked, rebuffed, hushed and silenced by woman as if he has no brain in his head, no thinking faculty. Then woman folk put heads together, decide the matter clandestinely and give it a finishing touch by chastising man to remain mum and not to utter a word about the decision taken by them. I am of the firm opinion that the serials telecast on satellite have the replica of real life situation. These serials delineate man to be infirm, weak, incapable and unworthy and woman to be omnipotent, omniscient, and virile, having decision making powers.

Let us draw some pen portrait of another seemingly harmless aspect of woman. Woman earnestly wishes to see herself at the helm of affairs at home. Any slight attempt to divest them off the authority can make them violent, aggressive and revengeful. In common situations the head women have their “says” in domestic affairs. However, the situation really starts to become obnoxious and ill fated when the daughter-in-law arrives at her home with splendid trousseau, winsome groom and precious jewelry. All seems to change in a jiffy when mother in law feels sidelined, abandoned and deserted by her own son which in reality is not the case. Then she slowly begins to develop cold feet and sets out at warpath though subtly (cold war). It slowly and gradually becomes “Clash of Titans” as the war ensues betwixt the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law. This leads the crushing of “son” crushed between two egos. Really he may buzz,

Na khuda hi mila na wisalae sanam

Na idhar ke rahe na udhar ke rahe hum

I could find neither the path towards God nor beloved

Could go neither this way nor that way

Let me have one word of the advice to the minds of times. One's identity is one's essence of personality. The moment man loses this identity he becomes a trackless waste, an entity in nullity. One should really assert oneself and take every care so that his identity is not disfigured or distorted. Woman does really enjoy their rights and privileges but there is a definite limit for her privileges. Unbridled liberty and liberty to indulge into

the affairs of man unduly makes her believe that man is humble meek and low. Once the fear comes out of the confines of these limits she becomes the symbol of courage and behaves like Sherni (lioness) and man the Shikar(victim). Otherwise, there is color in the world by her existence.

Wajoode zan se he tasweere qaynaat me rang

I see ke saaz se hi zindagi ka sooze darooun

There is color by the existence of woman in universe

Due to her melody there is music within the universe.

The picture that this world presents from woman gets its tints and scents:
She is the lyre that can impart pathos and warmth to human heart.

Conclusion

To sum up the argument, it is clear that the so called marginal existence of women folk has resonated the present world with their mind and spirit; and earned an indispensable status in socio political structure of the present world. Gandhi ji once said, ‘‘Women is the noblest of God’s creation, supreme in her own sphere of activity. These words are blossoming now. Increased awareness and education has inspired women to come out of the walls of home. 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.

Works Cited:

1. Acharya Dada DharmadhiKari, Beyond Gender Games, Bombay: Popular Prakashan, 2003.
2. Chowdhary, Renuka (26 October 2006). ‘‘ India tackles domestic violence.’’ BBC.

3. Kitchlu T.N., Women rights, legislative Measures in Yojana, Nov. 15, 1991, Vol. 35, No 20, Publication Division, Government of India, New Delhi, p. 16.
4. Kumar Radha (1993). The History of Doing; An Account of women's Rights and Feminism in India. Zubaan.p.128.
5. Neera Desai, 'Changing status of Women, Policies and Programmes' in Amit Kumar Gupta (ed.) Women and Society, Development Perspective, Quiterion Publishers, New Delhi 1986, p.l.
6. Rosenberg, Marvin (1992). *The Masks of Hamlet*. London: Associated University Presses.

