

ENTRY OF WOMEN INTO DIFFERENT SECTORS

Mrs.V. Sheeja, M. A., M. Phil.,
Ph.D. Research Scholar,
Dept. of History & Research Centre,
Nesamony Memorial Christian College,
Marthandam. Kanyakumari District.

Everywhere, the women have started to raise their voices in more emphatic way than ever. Historical thinking on entry of women in different sectors and their development are getting momentum. Women who were confined to kitchen and retained, so far, within the four walls have come to the street raising their voices and enjoying their rights in the right perspective. They have started realizing their roles in the developing country. They have broken down the old and oppressing traditions, laws and customs and they have started thinking for themselves. They demanded equal rights and opportunities in the family and in all walks of life and they took challenges in different sectors.

Traditionally, female employment was continued to domestic work and house held responsibility. But as years pass, attitudes towards women and women's education changed the society. According to world scenario, 60% of the working hour in the state goes to women's share and 50% share of the world economy is contributed by women. Attaining education and participating in gainful economy pursuits the financial freedom that comes with her employment opportunity cannot be denied. Once she is able to achieve this, it automatically provides her an important position in society and she is made to feel equal. In fact it was the contribution of both the government, which laid a frame work for providing an equal status to both men and women by granting them equal political, economic and social rights household duties and then the job without discrimination. Working women perform a dual role namely household duties and outside job.¹

Women face many problems physically and mentally. So women in old age felt uneasy to go for job where both men and women work. Highly educated women hold degrees in specific fields where they are usually employed. a number of females have become chief executive officers in a number of enterprises.

Women Education and employment of women were denied to women because economic independence and property of women by her efforts would lead to divorce and disintegration in family life. Due to economic independence there is change for broken family life. Women formed 6% of the total workers in India in 1971-2.7% in industry and 3.3% in tertiary sector. Women's employment in these sectors has increased from 1.37 million in 1962 to 2.14 million in 1973-56.2% increase i.e. more than the increase in total employment of 49.6%.

In the public sector, the number of women employees in the categories of professional, technical and related workers and primary and middle school teachers, has been continuously rising since 1960, their proportion to total employees has more or less remained constant with only minor fluctuations. In 6th five year plan only women's development was considered. Entrepreneurship Awareness program was arranged by Tamil Nadu corporation for the development of women. In 1951, women are considered that they were fit for the household work. Later women changed the view and they proved that they were fit for every field. 40.6% of the rural female were working. The heavier concentration of women professionals in teaching and medicine reflects both opportunities as well as preferences.²

In the mid 1980's the term empowerment became popular in the field of development especially with reference to women. The share of women in industrial employment in developing countries rose from 21 per cent in 1960 to 26.5 per cent in 1980.³ The total number of professional and technical institutions in the state was 9,366 during 1961-62, 9,366 women were enrolled during 1961-62. The total number of institutions was 447 in 1962-63 the total expenditure during 1962-63 was 3,07,17,282. The strength of the professional and Technical institutions was 4,588. During 1965-66, in the professional and Technical institutions, 96,465 women were enrolled. In 1965-66 the total number of colleges for professions Education was 1,179. The strength of the women in these colleges was 5,485. The Expenditure on Educational for females was 16,596,033. Out of 9.18 lakh of women work seekers registered with the employment exchanges at the end of 1973, as many as 69,355 were seeking clerical and related jobs. During 1962-73, the increase in private sector was 26.9%. The document confers equal right on all its citizens. It promised not to ignore its women and never to allow any discrimination on grounds of caste, creed, religion and sex.

Ever since 1970s the number of police women has grown rapidly but even today their strength is far from adequate. However, the situation has undergone a change and college educated unmarried girls from lower income groups are showing eagerness to join. Till 1968, only married women were admitted in the police but after the police commission's report women began to be admitted even before marriage. This since 1969 the women constables, Asst. Sub Inspectors and sub-inspectors have continued to join the police services.

In 1972 the portals of Indian police service were thrown open to the women and Mrs. Kiran Bedi was the first I.P.S Officer to be selected and allotted to Delhi. In 1973, a novel experiment was made in Calicut, Kerala, where for first time a police station was opened which was the first of its kind in the world. It is named as "All women Police Station" consisting of one SI, two head constable and 10 police constables. This method was followed by many other Indian states, including Tamil Nadu.⁴

In 1976 two women I.P.S. officers Ms. Latika Saran and Ms. Thilakavati Kumaran were allotted to Tamil Nadu. Ms. Latika Saran was born on March 31, 1952 at Idukki district in Kerala. She belongs to 1976 batch of Indian Police service. She worked as ADGP, training and project Director, Tamil Nadu Police Academy, Inspector-general of Police, Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-corruption. She is the second female DGP of a state in India and first women DGP for Tamil Nadu. Ms. Thilakavati was born in Dharmapuri District. She is alumna of Auxilium college, Katpadi and Stella Maris college, Chennai. In 1976, along with Lathika Saran, Thilakavathi is also the first women from Tamil Nadu to become an Indian Police Officer. She was posted as Director of Vigilance and Inspector General of Police Headquarters. She is not only a police officer but also a good writer too. Subsequently in 1980 third women I.P.S. officer Ms. Archana Ramasundaram was allotted to Tamilnadu. In 1986, fourth women I.P.S. Officer Ms. C. Sri Lakshmi Rao was allotted to Tamil Nadu.

In ancient society women played a key role directly or indirectly in shaping the ideas of men. During the freedom struggle many women from Tamil Nadu identified themselves with various social, economic and political issues with which the society was affected. Some of them like Ambujammal, Ammu Swaminathan, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Rukmani Lakshmi pathi and others struggled to awaken the

political consciousness among women. These women freedom fighters played a vital role by participating in picketing, various satyagrahas and finally in the Quit India Movement.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy was a famous women leader for social reformation in Tamilnadu. She was born on 30 July, 1886 in Pudukottai. She was the first women in India to get degree in medicine. She started Cancer Relief Hospital in 1949 after her sister died of cancer in 1923. The cancer institute at Adyar was started due to her effort. In the great cultured heritage of Tamil there are some black spots. One such a black spot was 'Devadasi' system. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy is one of the important leader who fought against this system. She dedicated herself to remove Devadasi. She was president of Indian women Association from 1933 to 1947.⁵

Ms. Thomas, secretary of the women's India Association, Tirunelveli branch was nominated as a number of the Municipal Council. In the Municipal elections in the cities of Madras and Bombay held in 1928, a few women had been returned. Amma Kutti Ammal, head mistress of the Kanchipuram girls' school had been nominated to the Kanchipuram Municipal Council.

In 1931, Mahalakshmi was elected as a Councillor of the Salem Municipality Ms. Devamani Manuel, secretary of the Tuticorin Municipality and Ms. K. Rama Subbama Kod Reddi was elected as a counselor of the Cuddappah Municipality. There is steady improvement in the enrollment of women in schools, colleges and even in professional institutes.

According to an ILO study, made in 1970, only 17 per cent of the professional and technical workers were women of which three-fourths were teachers. The national classification of occupation adopted by the Census of India, 1971 indicates that the number of women teachers was 6 lakh. Physicians and surgeons 2 lakhs, nursing and other medical and health technicians 2,500, lawyers 1700 and architects, engineers and surveyors 700, accountants, etc., 2,700.

Ninety one teachers from all over the country received National Awards from president Dr. Radhakrishnan at a ceremony held recently at New Delhi. They included 47 teachers of primary and 44 of higher secondary schools. Their salaries were low and they did not enjoy the dignity and status in the

society to which they were entitled. Within teaching, primary school teaching account for about 71 per cent of the women teachers followed by secondary schools which accounts for 21 per cent.

T.T.I. which was started during 1966-67 at Tambaram, is now functioning at pallavaram with junior and senior section with a strength of 40 in each sections for give training for 2 years diploma in Teacher's Training. The women in the age group of 18 to 30 years who have passed X standard through department are being admitted in this institute. During the training period of 2 years the trainees are being paid a stipend of Rs. 50 pm per head.

Medical Education is very important because it is most valuable, respectable and responsible profession for both men and women. They have started to utilize the chances given to them in this particular field and achieved their goals and aims as equal to men. So the development of women in the medical profession have occupied an important place in the medical world. This improved their status in all means.

The number of medical colleges was 5 out of this 1 for women and the number of women scholars was 632 during the year 1950-51. The college also conducted the Sanitary Inspector's Course which had a strength of 2 women. The government college of Indigenous Medicine, Kilpauk, Madras had a strength of 89 women. The strength of the Lady Hope Nursing School attached to the Government General Hospital, Madras was 50 and 45 was women. The Government Agricultural Colleges at Coimbatore had a strength of 4 women. For Arts and crafts there were 23 schools for women and the strength was 999 women.⁶

Dr. Visalakshmi Nedunchezian was the Assistant Director of Health Service and Family Planning of Tamil Nadu in 1975. She was an acclaimed specialist in her own field of maternity and child care with a master degree in Public Health. She acquired the degree in John Hopkins University, U.S.A.⁷

Dr. Kamala Selvaraj is a daughter of famous actor Gemini Ganesan. She is very much dedicated to her profession. She is working as a Chief Doctor of G.G. Hospital, Nungambakkam, Chennai which is her own hospital. Dr Kamala Selvaraj is nothing less than an angel for hundreds of childless couples.

There were 8 colleges of Engineering including the Departments directly under the Universities, the Alagappa College of Engineering and Technology, Karaikudi was newly opened during the year. The

Mechanical Engineering branch was started in the year 1952-53 in the Government college of Technology, Coimbatore. The strength of women in the institutions was 6. There were 41 Industrial Schools of which one was run by the Central Government one by the State Government, three by district boards and the rest by private management. Three new schools were opened during the year. The total number of scholars in them was 72 women.

The number of Engineering Colleges in the State including the Engineering faculty in the Annamalai University was 7 and with a total number of students was 4 women. The number of Engineering colleges and polytechnics in the state and the number of students on rolls as on 31st December 1961 was 33 and 21 and 4,042 and 7,491 respectively.⁸ A fundamental research station to undertake research problems has also started in the college of Engineering, Guindy. Three Junior Technical Schools were started as attached to institutions to the Government Polytechnic, Coimbatore, the Seshasayee Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli and Nachimuthu Polytechnic Pollachi. A sandwich course in Mechanical Engineering was started in the Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore, from the academic year 1961-62.

C. S. Lakshmi who is writing under the pen name of '*Ambai*' severely condemns the male-chauvinism and asserts that men and women have not been discriminated by birth except with some Physical differences women can play all the role of men even with greater dignity. Sivasankari, who claims to be a feminist writer, recognizes the natural role of women and feels that women cannot help being the weaker sex physically and emotionally. Thilagavathy, the first women IPS officer in Tamil Nadu who is writing stories especially for the cause of women.

The Madras Law College affiliated to the Madras University was the only Institution in Tamilnadu providing for the Law course. The strength of the college was 33 women during 1961.⁹ The number of Commercial schools and Industrial Schools at the end of the year was 408 and 58 respectively and the strength of women students in them was 6,994 and 362 respectively. There were 17 schools for Arts and Crafts with a strength of 665 girls. The number of schools for other fine arts was 3. The number of scholars in them was 8 girls.

There were two institutions in the state viz..the Madras Law college and the University College of Law Masulipatnam, with a total strength of 38 women. The Madras Law College affiliated to the Madras University was the only institution at the end of the year. The strength of the women in Madras Law College was 24 women. In the second year 32 women were enrolled as students in the Law college.

Though women have been entering into different sectors of the society since 1947, they are confined to the four walls of the home and bounded to household chores. They are subjected to many hardship in such a discriminatory society. They are aware of the discrimination against them in their private life, family life, social life and political life. Historians suggest that women themselves should identify the social evils and rise up to eradicate them.¹⁰ They demand equal rights as men and due representation in departments and professions. It assumes that Tamil Nadu grows at an average annual rate of 30 per cent over a 50 – year period. Within this framework, the study proposes that Tamil Nadu increases its annual total of public and private investment for women development.

Endnotes

1. Personal Interview with Nancil C. Natrajan, aged 69, Socialist, Chennai, dated 14th March 2018.
2. *The Week*, Independence Day Special, Kottayam, 15th August, 2010, pp.36 -38.
3. *Tamil Arasu*, Tamil Nadu Government, Chennai, 1980, p. 23.
4. *The Hindu*, English Daily, 12th December, 1996, p. 7.
5. Meenakshi Malhotra, *Dimensions of Women Exploitation*, Delhi, 1990, p. 78.
6. Madras Information 1950, Government of TamilNadu, 1951, p. 100.
7. Arumugam, *Some Illustrious Women of India with special Reference to Tamil Nadu*, 1990, p. 93.
8. G.O., Ms.No. 2490, Education, 19 – 12 – 1963.
9. Tamil Nadu State Administration Report 1961 – '62, Government of Tamil Nadu, Madras, 1963, p. 220.
10. Personal Interview with Prof. V. T. Chellam, aged 90, Historian, Nagercoil, dated 12th March 2018.