

Socio Economic Status of Woman in Gujarat

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Abstract

India is the second largest country in the world in term of population followed by China. We are more than one hundred and twenty five crore of which the woman population is more than 45 % of its total population i.e. in 2001 there was 49.70 crore woman in India. India is a country of Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Kasturba, Sunita Williams, Kalpana Chawla, and many more woman personality. Even though in India and in the world women are known as weaker sex while men are known as stronger sex, and stronger sex always have tried to put a weaker sex under their shadow. India is social democratic country where social bondage is stronger than it is in any other country in the world. Woman is generally treated as means of entertainment for a men since long and due to this she legs behind socially, economically, politically and socially in India. She was not allowed to own property, did not have share in property of their parents, and no freedom to choose their job and so on. In early Vedic Era woman enjoyed equal status with men. Rigveda and Upnishad mentioned several names of women sages and seers notably Gargi, Maitri etc. However during the period of Moguls and British rule situation of women worsened. After independence the constitution of India gave equality and certain rights to women e.g No discrimination of gender, equality of opportunity and gave big chances to women to progress in free India. Now we have come across from such darkness we need strong movement to fight for the right of woman and to ensure that they get all right which men have or in other award for woman empowerment.

Today we have noticed different Acts and Schemes of the central government as well as state government to empower the women of India. But in India women are discriminated and marginalized at every level of the society whether it is social participation, political participation, economic participation, access to education, and also reproductive healthcare. Women are found to be economically very poor all over the India. This paper is focuses on Socio Economic Status of Woman in Gujarat.

Key Word :

1. Economic Status of Woman - financially Sound
2. Social Status of Woman - Place of woman in Society
3. Empowerment - independent in her on decision self strong

Introduction :

Indian society is men oriented society so socio economic status of women has remained low in Gujarat. Recently education, modernization, freedom, value of equality, constitutional rights, professional opportunity, awareness, and government efforts have uplifted woman status .Higher education, profession, economic partnership in family and woman reservation have made women work out of house.

An economic status of women is derived form their rights, role and partnership of women in society. The more liberty she has in all walks of life, the more she is economically uplifted. In other words, equalities and freedom enjoyed by getting partnership in various economic activities in country's economy by women is called economic status of women.

In ancient period woman was a useful member of society by enjoying as equal right as men in society but it was a medieval period which had confined her to household work, by controlling her economic work and partnership in her own household. She was now dependent on her male members in economic work and thrashed her to gender discrimination view by male members itself in society. Such dependence in financial work led her to exploitation, and her lower role in society.

Economic Status of Women :

In traditional Indian society woman's work, out of house was prohibited without the permission of male members of her own house, and was not allowed to work independently as that of male. Her work was noted as household work which was not evaluated as economic activities.

An utter enthusiastic and hard work of social reformer in India during British period to improve the woman's condition by making them entering into education and especially medical education and the same way Gandhiji's hard work to join them into house and small industries brought social and economic acceptance in society. Indian constitution have added values by giving reservation, economic profession and equalities, to woman in society.

Indian constitution made economically and socially strong by giving an opportunities by propagate in education, implementing women empowering programmes , giving professional training, creating self employment, providing legal protection, releasing privileges and benefits of woman, working in united and ununited fields of earning. Such attempt raised their status unsatisfactorily but still lower than that of men in society. Economic earning brought 20.66 to 27.78% increase during 1981 to 2001 in Gujarat, which shoed 47.91 % of total woman population earning in Gujarat. Women in urban as well as in rural area have secure more percentage in earning field during 1961 to 2001 indicate that men's attitude towards women have changed due to modernity and higher education in women. As per the result of Population Census 2001, in 1981 - 16.14% total female worker belongs to the age group 20 - 24 years whereas, in 1991 and 2001, 16.91 % & 20.71 % of female

workers belongs to the age group 40 - 49 years respectively. As per Employment Market Information Scheme in organized sector, in 2011, 22.19 % females employed in Public sector as against 10.02 % of females in Private Sector.

Agriculture is known as traditional economic system as majority of people are engaged in agriculture and allied sectors in India. People were given their caste according to the professions they were doing to earn. A small industries home industries, and in a other work labours's were paid with gender discrimination on a daily wages to labours. Such a allied work was traditional i.e black smiths, carpenters, etc and family's own work continuing from generation to generation in the same family. Due to such family profession members of all family including female work jointly to share their earning in their family in which women's share was almost half of the earning that she could do it in a leisure time after her housewife duty is over. Woman's share in economic earning is still lower in the world with 33 % compared to that of male earning in India.

A field which has no recruitment and paid daily wages is usually systems of unorganized field. There are allied work like gardening, cattling, work in a forest, and land labour work in agriculture field while on daily wage based work, like bricks industries, Bidi weaving, construction work, cotton industries, and rice industries and other hut industries which give workers daily wages and other income while weaving, and food industries are self employed work which earn them profit. 93% of women work in unorganized field to earn while 80% female work in agriculture and allied sectors.

Women's participation in organized field was meager before independence. After independence women were given constitutional rights and were given free hand to educate herself, to work in government sectors like doctor layer army, education field, electric and electronic fields have made them stand on their foot by bringing equal share of earning at home. In a government sector gender equality is seen in all the sections.

221 million labour were working to maintain their life in 1981 among them 45 million women compared to 176 male in agriculture and allied sectors, while ratio of labour went up in 1997 with 63 million compare to 216 million male in India. The figure indicates only 22% share of women compare to 51 % of male in India, is seem quite low in economic partnership of women. statistic of skilled work like business, service, and other sectors women participation is worth pity in India. It is only 7 million compares to 50 million male in 1991.

The whole world agree that women's participation in economic sector is to so are life standard of her family as well as national growth of their nation, Indian women are still confined to teacher, clerk, telephone operator nurse and typist only while higher profession like lawyer, doctor, ips ias, judges, and police department are very meager.

Many reason like illiteracy, gender discrimination, wastage interest, less skilled knowledge, less opportunity in job, exploitation, and low wage rate uncomfortable situation, less right of self saving of their on saving, marriage at younger age, and absence of encouragement from family, have reduced the opportunities of participation in economic earning of women in India. However modernization, industrialization, and human right have made women opportunity easier to get skilled and unskilled job out side their home to share their earning in nation's economic growth as well as their family. Such a financial independence made women's social status prestigious though it is still less partnership in nation economic contribution compare to that of male in India.

Social Status of Women :

Social status of women in society is cognitive concept varied from caste to caste in India which can be judge by family, marriage, women's share in property, economic life, education, of women, and political awareness of their family. Their social status can be judge by social custom regarding women, her respect in family, control of her own income, financial security, male attitude toward her job, and their education, in India.

Women's duty is generally confined to house wife, which is under four wall of her own house, where her decision is impressed by husband, father, or her own son in family. British period brought the some unknown impression on women's life which was totally effective of western culture. Education, self awareness and job work of women were become effective with modernization, and industrialization, in independent India. Women participation in freedom struggle, made their way easy to cross the thresh hold and stand by the male due to Gandhiji's untired effort during freedom movement in India.

In a beginning women play dual role of house wife ,bringing up her child, serving her husband, father in law ,children, and family and doing job, contribution in economic participation, vital role in decision making in family and getting education.

Women's duty in her own household and importance of her view in family decision can evaluate her role in family . Her house hold work was under her four wall of her own house, while in decision and view regarding family issue was vague which was generally impressed by husband, father, son or father in law only. A woman has to accept all decision taken by her own closer male. Bringing up of child, labour work in house hold work, put her whole energy in vain. She keeps herself in limit as a child to help her mother, while after marriage serve as wife to her husband. During British period western culture emerged as boon for her social status start improving in her own house. Women education pattern starts improving, social law made by English, industrialization, modernization, urbanization, geared her upliftment by education, health related factors, and in profession. Constitutional rights, human right, certain social reforming law and Freedom struggle and social reformer play vital role to improve gradually her level in her own role as housewife, child care, economic responsibility, socialization and creative work in India.

Women's image is created by male's behaviour, and restriction put on women in her own family. interdependent, gender discrimination, inequality, inferiority, have made women as slave in her own house and was unable to entertain the freedom which her husband was enjoying .western culture and British rule have given equality and freedom thinking to women, in India.

Marriage system was the main factor in understanding women status. Marriage at younger age and dowry system put an effect upon us that women was understood a huge burden on her father and society .in situation of Divorce or widow at early age confined her to many restriction and put her under four wall by performing white cloth on body, and many more things. She has all rights to obtain share from her father's property but in divorce and situation of widow share from her husband

become doubtful. Constitutional right can not be enjoyed once marriage system is performed. To understand her social status marriage system and women's status in marriage is to be understood.

Women's economic status indicates her social status in society. She is financially dependent to her family but to certain orthodox bondage and it is hard to get it changed. During 19th century Indian social reformers felt financially lagging behind was the sole reason behind women's backwardness in family and society and tried their best to establish certain institution to make them stand on their feet. A work of reformers and British age's westernization help women become financially sound and come out of house, though their partnership is still meager in India.

Conclusion :

Women play various role in her life from her birth to death in society. Now there are significant changes found in her life, though her traditional role in house regarding as daughter and a wife has continue to perform. Her social and economic status has increase though society has not put her equal to male in many things. There are certain problems i.e. dowry marriage at younger age, widow remarriage are hurdle in their path, on other hand right in property, partnership has given her enough strength. Women got education, start earning, politics, family, marriage, have raised her status in urban area whereas in rural area many thing to be done yet.

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