



A critical analysis on the role of Indian women in the development world taking into account traditional values and system existing in the Indian society

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Abstract

Across the world women have been ill-treated and have experienced exploitation in some or the other form .Over the years we have see a change in the way people look at women today , women are empowered , they have established themselves in every sector and are provided with ample opportunities .However in India the situation is different , even today women are treated as inhuman and have remained victims of sexual harassment , rape , domestic violence , We can still conclude that in urban India there has been transaction and people are accepting Proximity but in the rural area it complete restriction on the freedom and opportunity for women , in urban area we can describe the change as freedom and restriction being dominated by a male authority .The Social stain in our Indian society has left behind from developing in many sectors , Today India requires more employees where as we see a decline in the rate of women leaving the jobs due to safety issues .India day by day is becoming an unsafe place for women , but whom do we blame the government or the mindset of the people or the old orthodox beliefs of the society . We need to adopt liberal and progressive attitude in the society and put an end to social blot existing to make India empower itself in the true sense of the time and bring back the old glory where women were respected and worshipped .

Keywords : India , Women , exploitation , opportunity ,mindset , society , social stain , restriction , authority

Introduction

Its 21st century and we see a change in how the world looks at women today. All over the world women are entering the mainstream society with empowerment . Today women are educated , there are even separate schools and universities for women . Women are part of the workforce , employed in big industries ,some are running their own business , starts up . Women have today entered all sectors of business starting from health to sports , education to science , we have business women today , we have women's are cricketers , kick boxer , body builders , heroine , basketball players , football , wrestlers . We have seen women being part of politics in the recent times . The new Zealand Prime Minister is Female , In India we have Indira Gandhi the first female as the Prime Minister of India , we have female Chief Ministers , Presidents , Women have gone to space , we women as doctors , teachers , professors , police officers , IAS , IPS , Pilots , many are part of military , navy forces . We see a transaction taking place in the world , were women's are being accepted as part of society and are provided with the opportunity to develop themselves and fulfil their dreams .Women's are no more just home takers and meant to do household work , they have entered the economic sector and they have a right to work , they are playing a significantly role in the decision making process of a society and the most outstanding development that has taken place in the world today is that they are being educated .We have seen a reduction in the morality rate , especially when it comes to girl child , women are given special treatment and health services, in fact many countries have approved abortion , and women have menstruation leave granted in many countries . However beautiful the picture looks like the world has changed women across the countries now drive car , there are bike and car races , changing the mindset of the society proving that women can be equal to men in all sectors , bringing a change in how the world looks at the women and also bringing a change in the culture of people and promoting acceptance as part of today's world. This is one of part of the story where women have shifted from where they were .This attitude has been accepted by most Western societies , when it comes to South Asia , countries like India , China , Middle East , Pakistan , Bangladesh has an history of women being dominated and commanded by men throughout their life , treated as inferior to men and keep inside the four walls of the house and they have to depend on men for their economic and other necessity for their entire life , However the women exploitation can be traced back to the time of Ottaman Empire , and even during the ancient Egypt time women were exploited in other ways .

Research Methodology

For the purpose of this exploration , I have used a amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application –as they are authentic and brilliant method to assemble statistics from multiple appellants in a methodical and convenient way . Question were asked to the common youth , , public policy Analyst , rural people ,survey , interviews –consisting of several interrogation which were dispersed among representative of each contender group .

Objective of the Research Paper

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporates

- 1.Understanding the status of Women in the Indian Society
2. An in depth analysis on women value in the Indian Society .
- 3.Reasons behind the inhuman treatment provided to women .
- 4.What can we do to bring about a change in the mindset of people .

Literature Review

The women place in the society has changed from one age to the other .Coming to India , During the Vedic age women had access to education , they were respected and worshipped , by the medieval age the scenario changed and women were considered just a piece of reproduction which had continued for a long period of time and till today in many Indian Society especially in the rural villages the story remains the same , its been a few years that we are seeing a decline in child marriage .Earlier we had the system of Sati where women had to sacrifice their lives at the death of their husband , followed by prohibition on the widow remarriage and in most cases the women was blamed for the death of her husband and have been victims of sexual harassment .Women have been surrounded and limited by certain social stigma , religious beliefs which has kept women within the four walls of their home and have been product of serious health issues , where using a sanitary pad is a social stigma in India for 90% of the population . Purdah system and the ridiculous customs of many Indian society and the domination of male have kept the women behind of all source of growth and have remained a puppet in the hands of their husbands and fathers till a long period of time .Even in China , it was compulsory for girls to wear a bound feet Lotus shoes so that their feet doesn't grow more than the optimum level of China's rule , now the rules have changed . In India it during the Renaissance period in the 19th century where a few social reformers came out to work towards the uplift of women value in the Indian society by abolition the Sati system , abolition child marriage and allowing widow remarriage , this was done under the British rule in India the main leaders of this were Raja Rammohan Roy , Vivekananda , Shankaracharya , Swami Dayanand , Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar . During the freedom struggle for Independence , we have more than 108 women freedom fighters who gave up there and fought for India starting from Rani Lakshmi Bai , Sarijoni Naidu ,Begum Hazrat Mahal ,Kamala Nehru, Umabai Kundapur , Savitribai Phule who was the first lady to start a school for girls in India , there were many women activist who promoted for the education of girl child and women to participate in the movements and work together for the freedom struggle . Women in India have played a very significant role in the freedom struggle , women without any discrimination on the basis of caste , creed and religion had participated then why today women in the Indian Society are still considered secondary to men and when they have equally contributed to the freedom struggle , this was a weapon to bring women from all sectors to the forefront , however we failed in doing so .

Findings

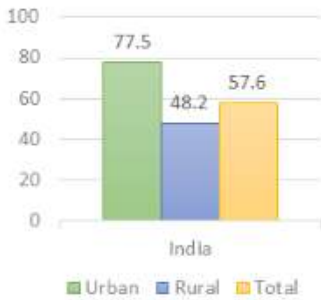
In India 662 million of the people are women from 1.3 billion population .In Indian society women are considered secondary to men which very common because of the existing social stigma in the society .Indian society is backed by caste system and gender based discrimination which have acted as a main hurdle in the development of the society and India has been left behind in many sectors . Despite so many schools for girls education and college for women education in every state , we don't see much rise in women empowerment . The government over the years have launched many schemes which ever government was in power and have introduced policies and laws for the protection and empowerment of women in the India , However those facilitates have been reached to the urban women only and not the rural sector , in this 21st century , there is a huge difference between the treatment provided to the women living in the urban and rural sectors .Urban women are today educated , there are working and are economically depended this has helped them to a certain limit to protect themselves from domestic violence and the inhuman treatment they receive from their husbands and in laws , but they are even restricted to a time limit , they have a time under which they can work and which requires the permission from their husband or father to work or continue with their higher education , this is not complete freedom or right of a women but can be described as a women getting minimum freedom and rights under the domination for their families , where as the situation

in rural area is worst .Women have freedom but what kind of freedom is this where you need permission all the time from a male member . This is rights existing with restrictions which restrict women to complete develop and bloom themselves . India is a country where every 2nd or 3rd women is a victim of rape , domestic violence , sexual harassment applicable for both urban and rural India . In rural India , women are living in the worst status where they are considered as inhuman , they are mentality tortured for dowry and for the birth of a male child , in any villages if a women gives birth to a girl she is thrown out of the house or most of the time the women and her child is killed , during the process of pregnancy in rural areas , the women are not provided the minimum health care services which is required for the growth of a health child , women being secondary to men are also not provided food at times , the necessary three day meal , which affects their health and also the health of their child , which has a long lasting effect on the child once he or she is born , the child suffers from malnutrition , under nourishment problems. Though today women have entered the work force we see a discrimination at the office where women are kept away from all the major decision when they have to take for the betterment of the society , women are sexual harassed at the work place , in spite of the laws and acts made for the protection of women against sexual harassment in the force , there is unequal distribution of wages at the work place , there is no pregnant leave accepted in many work place in India and these women have to either leave their jobs or work in that condition. Safe and security has emerged as a major issue for women leaving the job sector , with lack of public transport safety for the women , be it in the local trains or buses and we have serious incident from our past history of cases of gang rape happening in buses and local trains causing insecurity among the women to work it late night and in most of the family it is restricted to work till late night for women . Indian industries requires more employers for the growth of their economic and GDP growth .

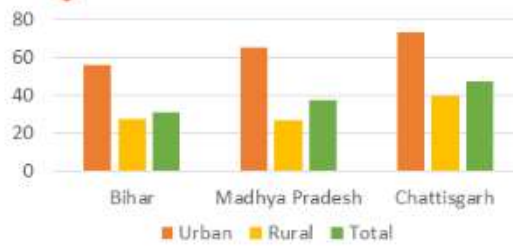
Coming to the health of women , in India only 36 % of the women use sanitary pad , in the rural area only 2 or 3 % of the women use a sanitary pad , using a sanitary pad is considered a social stigma in most of the country and it is a shame to have periods ,that is why pad is purchased in a very hidden manner so that no one gets to know that she is on her periods because of this reason it is estimated that around 120 million adolescents in India experience menstrual dysfunction which effects their daily routine and life cycle , 60,000 death cases of cervical cancer have been reported every year , out of which two-third are because of poor menstrual hygiene which also resulted in other infections in the reproductive tracts , anaemia and psychological disorder .

Access to Disposable Sanitary Napkin has increased!

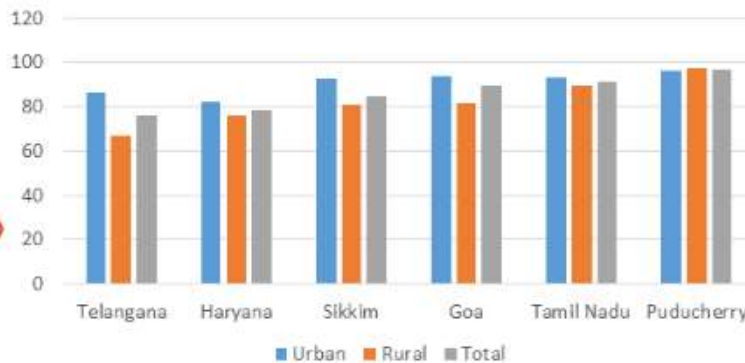
Almost **58%** of women in India use either locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins or tampons



Even in low access states, usage is more than **55%** in urban areas



States where usage is more than **80%** in urban areas and **65%** in rural



Source: NFHS 2015-16

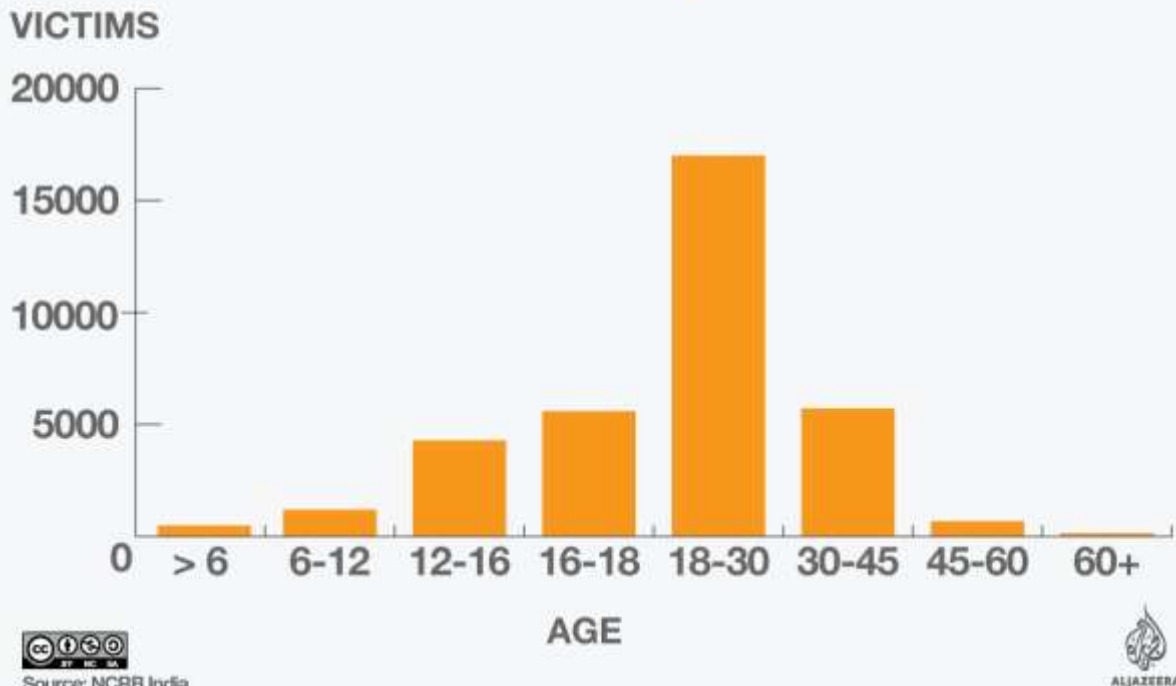
An improvement in the use of sanitary pads over the years

India is also known as a rape country with around average 87 rape cases reported daily, these are reported what about the rural sector where you don't have that provision to report as rape is fine in India, if it a martial rape, rural women been uneducated have no information related to the laws that protect them from rape, domestic violence, dowry cases. In many rural villages if women do not provide the necessary dowry she is burnt alive or killed, they are not given food for days and ultimate they die and it is not of the time the social stigma that keeps the women mouth shut. However when it comes to urban areas, where we have so many cases reports, but we don't see a decline in the number of cases, is it because of the corrupted political system or government which supports or the orthodox mentality of the society which doesn't stand for the Justice of women. In India a women is unsafe where as we see people with a outlook mentality they live India and shift to foreign countries for their own safety and security.

India: Female victims of rape

Graph shows total cases of reported rape in 2015, divided along age groups.

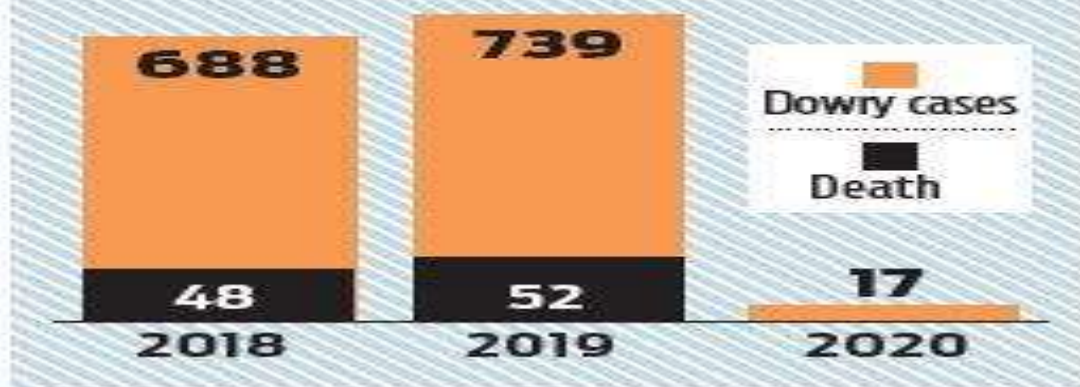
Total cases of reported rape **34,651**



Source: NCRB India



SHAME FOR SOCIETY



In fact due to menstrual and pregnancy many women are not accepted at workplaces especially when it comes to the rural India , women however have entered the agriculture sector which is because of Industrial revolution where men have left their homes in search of better job opportunities and lifestyle , left the fields in the hands of women , however women don't have a share in the agriculture land , when we talk about farmers , we should remember that 42% of the farmers comprise of women .In fact in the Beed district of Maharashtra , the women have become wombless , this is because women have menstruate and this can

affect the work , most of the villages migrant and do cane cutting work . Women in Vanjarwadi , where women have done through Hysterectomies , after giving birth to two or three children they have to remove their uterus and most of them are cane cutter as they have to work even at night with no rest , this is how Indian Rural women are treated , they don't have their own rights , in order to earn there are just rules which goes against human right violation , where as abortion is considered an evil activity in the Indian society then what about killing the female child when they are born as it the birth of a girl child is also considered an act of evil .

It is an irony of fate where you worship female Goddess and on the other side you are rape the small gender and consider them inhuman , how controversial is the Indian Society in itself , where the society is backed by religious and rituals but won't let the freedom gender growth. Ultimate the God whom you worship is also female .

Way Forward

From the past to the present time there has been positive changes also especially when it comes to education today 41% of the women are educated in India to sum extend. Education is the one way by which we can eliminate gender based discrimination and bring about an optimum level of change in the society , we need to adopt a liberal and progressive approach in our education system along with put a stop to the social stigma and bring women to the mainstream by providing them maximum opportunities in every sector of life with proper safety and security , Women should be given an equal position to men , and India should promote menstrual leave for women , who have serve health issues . Sanitary pad should be made available in each and every corner of the city , state , district and village and everyone should be provided , at a reasonable price and for the extreme poor women it should be made free . The attitude of a male domination society should be brought to end with removing all the social stigma .

The society should be based on humanity principles where Justice and equality should be same for each and every citizens and special health care facilities should be introduced for pregnant women and her child at the rural area and rural women education should be made compulsory , both girl child and adult women followed by awareness on the various law that protects women and their how cruel is these activities , We need to change the mentality of the society before we introduce so many schemes as the even if the government provides opportunity , it is the family mindset that prohibit the young minds .

Conclusion

Women throughout the world are progressing where as India is still at the same position in certain cases , however things have varied from state to state and village to village and family mindset , there are villages that have send their girls to school and educated them and didn't promote child marriage or forced marriage , where women are respected and provided with nutrition food for their development . Cities like Chandigarh where women safety and security is given utmost importance , Punjab is a state where learning driving is mandatory for women , a positive step and a change in the mindset of people , late night women safety needs to be strengthen so that women who are working can received maximum security and this steps should also be taken by the business sector . The government in collaboration with the citizens of India should together work and make India a better and safe place for women to grow and live her life with freedom and safety .

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