

EMPOWERED WOMEN OF CHALUKYA DYNASTY

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1) ABSTRACT

Empowerment that needed for women to make sure that they can take responsibilities for all the substances affecting in their lives. These are 1) Cultural Empowerment, 2) Economic Empowerment, 3) Political empowerment, 4) Educational Empowerment. Political empowerment of women also results the development in the fields of education, fine arts, religion in turn to overall development of the society. In this context I would like to mention women belong to Chalukya Dynasty. They are Lokamahadevi of Badami Chalukya dynasty and Akkadevi of Kalyani Chalukya Dynasty.

2.Keywords: 1.Chalukyas of Badami 2.Chalukyas of Kalyani 3.Lokamahadevi 4.Akkadevi.5.Inscriptions.

3.INTRODUCTION :

Empowerment denotes to invest with power. Power is defined as the ability to influence the behavior of others with or without restraint. The greatness of a county depends upon the status that is enjoyed by its women. The status of women was not always constant, it varied from time to time.

Women empowerment in India is a challenging task as we need to acknowledge. In fact the gender based discrimination is a deep-rooted social malice practiced in India in many forms since thousands of years. Women

empowerment in India is long drawn battle against powerful structural forces of the sociality, which are against women's growth and development.

In this context I would like to mention women of Chalukya dynasty between sixth and tenth century. They are known for their stand against existing structural forces and withstand challenges and left their impression in the pages of Indian History.

4) LOKAMAHADEVI OF BADAMI CHALUKYA DYNASTY :

Women during the period of Chalukyas of Badami (presently situated in Bagalacot district of Karnataka State) were given due respect and some of the ladies of the royal family in particular ruled over the territory efficiently. They were known for their sagacity, intelligence, benevolence, constructing temples, issuing grants and administration. Lokamahadevi is one of the queens who excelled in these qualities.

The rule of the Chalukyas marks an important milestone in the history of South India and a golden age in the history of Karnataka. Lokamahadevi hailed from Haihayas family. She was married by Vikramaditya – II, a Chalukya king of Badami. It is recorded in the Kurtakoti undated stone slab inscription that she governed Kurulta Kumte. As such it can be presumed that she was well educated in all branches of Knowledge.

The Queens of Chalukya dynasty are noted for the religious temperament and construction of the temples. The Pattadakal Pillar inscription refers to the erection of a great stone temple by Lokamahadevi in honour of Siva named after her as Lokeswara. At present the same temple is famous as Virupaksa temple, she built this temple in commemoration of her husband Vikramaditya's Victory over the Pallavas for three times and capturing Kanchi, the capital of Pallavas.

Lokamahadevi also interested in Fine Arts, For the prosperity of singers she used to give gifts to them in the form of lands. She endowed many grants to the temples. She also took measures to see that the people of her kingdom voluntarily give gifts in the form of millets and one meter of land to the temple of Lokeswara, which bear sample testimony to her benevolent nature and capacity to attract people to her way of thinking. It is said that she exempted people from tax those who took part in the construction of Pattadakal temple.

Lokamahadevi was generous, munificent, magnanimous, religious and efficient. Thus she became one of the celebrated queens among the Chalukyas of Badami.

5) AKKADEVI OF KALYANI CHALUKYA DYNASTY:

Women enjoyed distinct positions under the Chalukyas of Kalyani as under the Badami period. Chalukyas of Kalyani played a dominant role for two centuries in the politics of the Deccan and South India. Queen Akkadevi otherwise popular as Lakmadevi who ventured to command troops and to take part in the wars and seizures and perhaps the most celebrated of all women administrators of Chalukyas of Kalyani. Dashavaraman and Bhagavati were her parents. She seemed to have married the Kadamaba Chieftain Mayuravarma.

Akkadevi first appeared in 1010 A.D. as the governor of Kisukad-70 independently and received high praise as incarnation of Lakshmi. She was said to have ruled Banavasi along with her husband Mayuravaraman Akkadevi was said to have been as courageous as Bhairavi in War. She had sufficient opportunities for acquiring proficiency in general knowledge, six four subsidising branches of knowledge, which included solving riddles of words, chanting recitations from books, completing un-finished verses, knowledge of lexicon and meters, singing and dancing and military education. She possessed the quality to endear herself to other people by a display of her devotion to religions and charity

on appropriate occasion and tenacious vigilance in keeping her rivals in their places, fierce in battle, unswearing in her promises.

Akkadevi seemed to have constructed a number of temples. She had practiced the religious observances prescribed by the rituals of Jaina, Buddha, Ananta (Vishnu) and Rudra (Siva). She in memory of her elder brother Tribhuvanamalla Vikramaditya-V, made a grant of the Berur agrahara and caused to built there a hall of the Traipurusas. She also made a grant to Jaina temple in a Village.

Akkadevi evinced great interest in promoting education, According to an inscription 1027 A.D. she made a gift of large plots of land to feed and clothe five hundred students and provided them free quarters. These facts led one to think that she might have reigned not only jointly with her husband but also independently.

CONCLUSION :

Thus women of earlier years developed their minds and intellects through their varieties of work, so that they become the prime educators, passing on their skills and cultural heritage to new generations. History never really says “good bye” History says “See you later”, Remembering the past glory of our culture and revisiting the classical past of India, let us get encouraged and make a way by ourselves for the good of the Country. I would like to remind the words of Michelle Obama-“You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world’s problems at once but don’t ever under estimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own”.

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