

Socio-Economic Condition of Indian Women in Rural and Urban Areas

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INTRODUCTION

Today women is in worse condition in society socio economically. Gender discrimination is the main reason for that. In all work places in family and society women facing gender discrimination. Women also facing sexual harassment , violence .

Some of the problems facing by Indian women in urban and rural areas are Illiteracy, Poverty, Economic status and Violence . With these problems women suffering a lot physically and mentally. The main reason for this position of women is lack of education and lack of awareness. Some of the women compete with all these problems and attained good positions in their lives and became model persons to many women and gave inspiration to them.

In this paper we discuss about the Socio- Economic condition of women in rural and urban areas and the problems faced by the Indian women, Inspired women who attained best position.

WOMEN IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS:

In urban areas women suffering a lot of problems like murders, sexual harassment at work places, rapes, love failures.To meet the needs of the family urban women working for low wages in construction activities,shops, daily wage workers. Male domination in families and work places, wage differentiation in their earnings is quite common . Women in rural areas suffering from the problems like nutritional deficiencies, abortions , child marriages, child labour and illiteracy. In both urban and rural areas women position is very pity. Because of this worst position women does not meeting the needs of herself and families.Women also facing dowry system , harassment by husband in families. She does not possess the capacity to earn an adequate income. She does not having independence in taking own decisions, in solving many problems in families.Some of the problems facing by Indian women in urban and rural areas are

- a) Illiteracy b) Poverty C) Violence d) Economic status

1 .Illiteracy

Literacy rates provide evidence of gender biases. India's literacy rate is 52.2%, (44.7% in rural areas and 73.1% in urban areas).. Rural women suffer most with a literacy rate of only 30.6% compared to 64.1% for urban females. In Andhrapradesh the male literacy rate is 74.88% and female literacy rate is 59.15%. The remaining 23 states also show low rates with the exception of Kerala.

Males receive more chances to education than women Girls are groomed for marriage, so parents prefer to invest in a boy's education .. For low-income families with limited budgets, education is unaffordable for girls.. Because a girl's labour is more valuable in the home, mothers prefer to keep them at home. Women bear the highest burdens of household chores. This means they wake first, eat last, and sleep late after all chores are completed. Very little time or energy remains for an education.

Due to inadequate education and low assets, a woman suffers greatly in the fields of health, nutrition, She does not possess the capacity to earn an adequate income. She does not having independence in taking own decisions, in solving many problems in families. Because of illiteracy, women does not having proper planning for savings, family planning , development of children and future plans. Women in India thus became less valued over time.

But Literacy can uplift a woman's self-esteem, confidence and encourage her to use her own voice to demand her rights rather than dependence on intermediaries. Economic growth requires "educated, healthy and secure people". **"Women are the best, amazing, invisible workforce in India"**.

The best example for this is **A 19 year old girl named Zainab from a dusty village in uttarpradesh running a makeshift school for children. Former she was an illiterate girl and a child labour. Literacy can uplift her self-esteem, confidence and encourage her to use her own knowledge to run a school for children.**

2. Poverty :

Poverty is more in rural areas than urban areas. Because of lack of education , the women in rural areas are not getting good jobs. So they are facing the problem of poverty. Women in urban areas also facing poverty as many of the women are living in urban slums. In slum areas they are working in construction of buildings, roads and working in shops. So they are also earning low wages than men. These women are not having enough money even to eat and to cater daily needs. Because of this women facing nutritional deficiencies and many health effects when compared to men.

But empowering the poor women also increases woman's self-esteem, confidence and encourage them to stand independently ,to work effectively along with men. For this, the government has proposed the programme of "DWACRA". Women in poverty should not see the position in which they are in but see the resources available for them and use them darelly.

The best example for this is **Mary kom** was a poor women hailing from a poor family in a small village in depths of north east India. Now she is a five time winner of the world Amateur boxing championship, and she is the only women boxer to win a medal in each of the six world competitions. She made her way up to become world champion through hard work and determination. So simply we can say that "poverty is not a barrier for women empowerment. Hard work and determination makes a poor women to a famous celebrity."

3.Violence:

Most of the Indian women are facing the problem of violence in both urban and rural areas. Women in families are getting violence from husband and in laws for several things like dowry, property. Women also facing the threat of violence from men in the form of murders, rapes, acid attacks and sexual harassment at work place. Women facing these types of violence and remaining in such conditions without any happiness in their lives.

So the protection of women from these types of violence becomes necessary. Women affected from these situations should not fear about their lives. They should stand darelly and with self confidence and be a inspiring women to others. One of the example for that is **Laxmi Agarwal** is the victim of an acid attack happened in 2015 in Delhi at the age of 15 year old. This effect her both physically and emotionally. She took the support of many acid victims, filed a petition to stop acid sales in Supreme Court of India. Today Chhanv foundation – an NGO run by Laxmi- is the hope and voice of acid attack victims all over the world.

4.Economic status

Socio-economical discriminations in India increase female poverty (United Nations). The same study also found an improvement for women in urban areas who have more control of income than women in rural areas. One explanation for this difference could be because urban women have access to more resources and legal protection than rural women. Single, widowed, separated, and divorced women are discriminated in the workplace in India affecting their income level.

Economic status is not the barrier for women empowerment. Women in any position can lift up and strive for their life. One of the best example for that is **sindhutai sapkal was thrown out of her home by her husband during 9th month of her pregnancy. When even her mother refused to help her she started begging on railway flatforms. Today Sindhutai sapkal is known as the mother of orphans and has adopted nurtured 1400 orphans by running an orphanage.**

The need for women's empowerment arises from the subordinate position they have been accorded for a long time. Empowerment of women needs to begin with her participation in different spheres of life. Education is a great determinant in this regard. To achieve empowerment, women have to be educated to be aware of their rights and privileges in a modern society. It is education which can bring about awareness in them related to their social status, injustice and differentiation meted out to them. Besides, economic independence is a major factor which can contribute in empowering women.

CONCLUSION:

Historically in India, women's participation in social changes, politics and decision making remained significant. Who can undermine the role and contributions of Chandbibi, Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Durgawati, Rani Rashmoni, Kittur Rani Chennamma, Jijabai, Rani Avantibai, Rani Laxmibai, Annie Besant, Sarojini Naidu, Vijay Laxmi Pandit, Indira Gandhi, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, Mahashweta Devi, Mahadevi Verma, Arundhati Roy, Sucheta Kriplani, Pratibha Patil

Literacy can uplift a woman's self-esteem, confidence and encourage her to use her own voice to demand her rights rather than dependence on intermediaries. Economic growth requires "educated, healthy and secure people". Women in poverty should not see the position in which they are in but see the resources available for them and use them darely The contribution of women is omnipresent and all-pervasive in every sphere of life as India seeks to march steadily towards the path of growth. All these become possible only with the active participation of women who are the catalysts of qualitative growth of future generation as well.

Women got empowered and moved to participate further in all spheres of services – financial, administrative, judicial and education to name a few. Women in India are playing an important role in the country's governance. Many women have emerged as exemplary leaders at the policy level as well as the community level. The presence of women in various decision making bodies helped develop confidence among other women, opening up possibilities for future.

Socio-economic development can both empower women and raise the status of the Indian economy. Women need employment justice. Education, vocational training, and skill improvements would increase the capacity for gainful economic participation of women in India. The needs of women in poor sectors of India should be included in a national approach to workforce development.

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