



Status of Indian Women: An Analysis of Historical, Medieval and Contemporary Contexts

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Abstract : God has created both men and women since the dawn of civilization. Both women are advancing civilization. But in reality the status and position of women has changed during the indifferent period of history. In the ancient Vedic period, women were treated as equals, but in the Vedic period, women behaved like men and women. 50% of the total population around the world is made up of women. But in India the ratio is decreasing. India is a patriarchal society. Here are physically strong, more capable of hard work. control access to power; property and wealth. and women are often expected to leave their natural homes and join their in-laws. From ancient times to modern age girls have not got their due rights. The position of women in India at different times is discussed.

Keywords: Civilization, patriarchy, physically, wealth, contribution

Introduction : God created both male and female. Since the dawn of civilization both men and women have moved the society forward but in fact the reality which has been found since ancient times is that throughout history women have been deprived of their rights. Sometimes they were treated as little more than animals. world population The proportion of women in our country is decreasing on the basis of sex selection abortions and this is the main reason for the unequal sex ratio of women to men. A citizen of any country in India

The country is worshiped as Mother India. Rbanindranath Tagore depicted 'Bharatmata' as a four-armed Hindu goddess dressed in saffron-coloured robes, holding manuscripts, shaven friezes, a garland and white cloth. For their rights and due dignity.

Purpose:

- (1) A study of the status of women at different times in India.
- (2) The purpose of this research paper is to gain knowledge about famous women of different times and their contribution.
- (3) Problems of women in modern India.

Position of Women in Hinduism:

One of the most profound virtues of Hinduism is the recognition and worship of the feminine of God. Dhammashakti is worshiped in Hinduism. Goddess is believed to be the center of all energies. Festivals like Navratri, Dussehra, Vasant Panchami are completely dedicated to the Goddess. There are four traditions like Ganapatya, Vaishnava, Shiva and Shakta. of Shakti or divine mother. The goddess is responsible for the well-being of the universe and is considered the epitome of incredible strength.

The Mahabharata and Ramayana idealize women through the portrayal of Draupadi, the wife of the five Pandavas in the Mahabharata, and Sita, the princess' consort, in the Ramayana. There are also many Puranic texts that only explain the stories and symbols of the feminine.

Position of Women in Vedic Period:

During the Vedic period (1500-1000 BCE) women were generally held in high esteem and held a respected status in society. During this period women enjoyed equal status with men and their status was also equal. Women received an education, participated in schools and debates. Women were allowed to participate in religious rituals

Composed hymns that enriched Vedic literature. Women of this period enjoyed complete economic freedom. Even in those days women used to choose their husbands through 'swayambar' system.

Women were given high status It said that adult girls used to attend numerous festivals and public gatherings to meet prospective husbands and also their mothers with doso.

There were some famous women who were popular for their wisdom.

1. :Gargi Vacchanavishauradsagarian natural philosopher and famous Vedic commentator. and known as Brahmabadini; A person with knowledge of Brahma Vidya. From an early age he had a keen interest in Vedic scriptures and became highly skilled in philosophy.

2. Maitreyi: Maitreyi Another famous woman of the Vedic period. The Brihadaranyaka Upanishad mentions Sisha as one of the two flexible sages. She is known as Brahmabadini in ancient Sanskrit literature. She is considered a symbol of Indian intellectual women. About ten hymns in the Rigveda are attributed to Maitreyi. He gave the Hindu concept of dialogue of soul (atma) in the Brihadaranyakupanishad. This dialogue appears in several Hindu texts.

3. Coins: Lopamudrasana is otherwise known for her contributions to the famous female Vedic period and she Rigveda. Many of the hymns of Lopamudra are attributes of the Rigveda. Also known as Kaushitaki and varprada. Famous women like Apala, Usha, Vishwavara, Gautami, Hemlekha who are educated and famous for their contribution.

Soytshostatin Vedic period women's status was high and they allowed education.

Position of Women in Later Vedic Period:

The position of women in the Vedic period, as society became more patriarchal. Women were not allowed to read Vedic literature. Women were confined to their homes and were not allowed to participate in public gatherings. During this era girls were married off at a young age and child marriage was common. Widow marriage was prohibited. The condition of pregnant women was so bad that they were not even allowed to vote.

Status of Women in Medieval India:

The medieval period begins with the entry of Muslims into India. Which of these periods lasted from 500 to 1500 AD? This period was very discouraging for Indian women as there continued to be occupation during this period. In Indian history this middle age is considered as 'dark' for women. During this time many foreign rulers invaded and as a result the status of women decreased. Whenever foreign warriors like Muslims invaded India, they brought their own culture and their own way of life. They believed that women were their own property and had no free will. The birth of a female child was not appreciated. Female feticide was practiced in some communities and the practice of killing female children in the mother's womb before birth. The practice of female infanticide is killing female children after birth. During this period restrictions on various forms of justice and education were introduced, including child marriage, sati-dah, jewelry.

a) Child Marriage:- Child marriage is where girls and boys are married when they are below 18 years of age. The medieval period was introduced. Many issues have been addressed, including high birth rates, poor health for women, and high death rates for both men and children.

b) **Pardah System:-**Another issue was the purdah system. Women were encouraged to be on screen. They were supposed to cover their faces. They were not allowed to move freely due to the prevalence of Parada system. Purdah systems imply the seclusion of women by public observation through high-walled, screened rooms.

c) **Hours:-** Satidah was the practice of burning widows alive on their husbands' pyres. This practice indicates the signs of being a dutiful wife.

The event was believed to help and support women after the death of their husbands. Sati was a major problem and one of the barriers to women's progress.

d) **Stay away from:-**Jaharvasal and Hindu practice.Rajput social hierarchies.Jawharmistically practiced.Undertristation Women immolated themselves with their children and committed suicide. This practice is observed in the north-western region of India. When the people of the Rajput community were sure that they were going to die because of their enemy, all the Rajput women would start a big bonfire and immolate themselves while their husbands participated in the final decisive battle.

and)**Restrictions on Education:-**Girls were not allowed to go to school and acquire education, the reason behind this was that if they were allowed to go to school, they would not be able to re-acquire in terms of training to carry out various family responsibilities.

Some famous women through this ban were:-

1) **Rani Lakshmi Bai:-**

Rani Lakshmi Bai Newalkar of Jhansi is popularly known as Rani Lakshmi Bai. Maharani consort of Shevasta, the royal state of the Maratha Empire at Jhansi from 1843 to 1853. Among the leading figures of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 was Shewasan, who symbolized and became famous for the British rule of 1857.

2) **Razia Sultana:-**

Razia Sultana was a famous woman of medieval times. She was the first female Muslim ruler of the Indian subcontinent and the only female Muslim ruler of Delhi.

3) **Jijabai:**

A famous woman of the medieval era was Jijabai. He was known for his virtue, bravery and foresight. He was a skilled horseman and swordsman. She was also known as Rajmata Jijabai. Conducted Jaigirinpuna of husband as a Ranishetri. He played a major role in uniting Shivajiasking and Durgedharma of the Marathas.

4) **Nurjahan:**

Mughal Emperor Jahangir's wife Nursahanwasrifamous womenthisperiod. She was a very powerful consort and politician. The ships he owned were involved in the indigo trade.

Status of Women in Modern India:

Status of women in India has changed a lot with time, modern day women are involved in decision making at home as well as at work.

Economic Empowerment:

Now women have very clearly realized that if they want to have the same status as men, they have to be economically independent. Now women are starting their own businesses. They work in all social spheres.

Women's Politics:

The Constitution of India establishes a parliamentary system of government and gives citizens the right to be elected

Now women participate in politics because they can speak for their rights. The Parliament of India introduced the Women's Reservation Bill (108th Amendment) through which 33% of the seats in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly were reserved for women. The bill is yet to be passed by the Lok Sabha and signed into law. Hence the participation of women in politics has gradually increased. After the

establishment of women's reservations, women's political participation went from 4-5% to 25-40% and many women became leaders in local government. Women represented 13.9% of Rajya Sabha seats and 15.2% of Lok Sabha seats in India as of September 2022. In India, starting with former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and current President Draupadim Gandhi, Mamata Murthy, Gandhi has surpassed several women leaders in the race to hold and control the highest government posts. Irani, Sushma Swaraj is also a great example of women participation in Indian politics.

Challenges of Women in India:

Women have traditionally fought for their rights and status in society. They have repeatedly promoted equality so that they can live their own lives. Women still face many problems in modern India

1. **Gender Discrimination:** Women have faced unequal treatment in education, health care and all social causes since ancient times.
2. **Duality:** Sometimes political parties are hostile to women candidates
3. **Workplace Issues:** Women in India face issues like gender bias, opaque pay, sexual harassment etc.
4. **Education:** The percentage of female education is low in interior areas because parents in villages do not want to educate their daughters thinking it is a waste of money.
5. **Family Problems:** Sometimes family does not support women in their independent activities. Problems faced by women like child marriage, low status, mental harassment etc.
5. **Sexual Harassment:** It is a form of sexual exploitation by family members, friends or relatives in women's room, public place, transport, office etc.
6. **Gender Discrimination:** Even today, parents prefer boys over girls. Since their so-called 'mentality'. Boys will carry the incident against the law with their generation, they continue to try to determine the gender of a child. If the parents find a male, they will carry the pregnancy to term, but if they find a girl, they will abort.

Laws for Protection of Women in India:

1. **Rights against dowry:** the dowry prohibition act 1961 prohibits the practice of dowry, i.e. both giving and receiving dowry.
2. **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005:** This Act protects women victims of domestic violence.
3. **Sexual Harassment of Women at Work (Prevention, Prohibition and Remedies) Act 2013:** Sexual Harassment

Harassment of women at work. It provides a legal framework that will help prevent such harassment and create a safe environment for women.

4. **Equal Remuneration Act 1976:** This Act enacts gender non-discrimination and equality based legislation which mandates that both men and women be paid equally for the same work.
5. **The maternity Benefit act(1961):** It is very difficult to continue working during pregnancy. The Act mandates a minimum of 12 weeks of maternity leave for mothers In the 2017 amendment this was increased to a maximum of 26 weeks.
6. **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994:** This Act passed by the Parliament of India was enacted to stop the declining sex ratio in India.

Conclusion:

Status and position of women in India is different. Sociable women have enough respect and they have proved their worth. But women could remain behind the scenes and had no right to establish their own views. Women are always oppressed by men in patriarchal society. But nowadays the condition of women in India has improved. Women in modern India have proved that they are equal to men in education, sports, politics, science, technology and other fields. But the truth is that boys never have to fight for their own rights. Where boys and girls are two sexes and nature is created alike. This situation arises because of the

four patriarchal societies. From birthing baby girl gate cookware, dollar playthings where abbey boy gate batter ball

.Parents create this discrimination from childhood This thinking should stop Equality will be established only if this disparity is removed

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