



A study on the educational and social contribution of savitribai phule and their relevance in contemporary society

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Abstract:-

This study discusses the activities and education of Savitribai Phule. Her first contribution to society was women's education. Her fight for the education of the marginalized groups of society is also described. How her philosophy of education has affected the society of that time and the present society is explained. Savitri Bai's philosophy of education and values revolutionized the society of that time which helped break the traditional concept of education. She wanted a kind of education system and social system where everyone would get equal rights and respect. The study mainly historical research. Both primary and secondary data are presented here. Primary data includes Savitribai phule's own poems and books. And secondary data includes various journals, media etc.

Key words:-

savitribai phule, educational and social contributions, contemporary society.

Introduction:-

Savitribai Phule was born on January 3, 1831, in Naigaon-Satara, Maharashtra. She was born to parents from the Mali community, which is now included in the OBC (Other Backward Classes) category. After marrying Jyotirao Phule at the age of nine, she received her education from him and later used that education to fight against the prevalent discrimination, patriarchal hierarchy, and social oppression in Maharashtra, particularly in Pune. At that time, Pune was heavily influenced by patriarchy and the caste system. Jyotirao Phule's revolutionary ideas, which aimed to educate the so-called lower castes and make them aware of their marginalization, instilled a strong resolve in Savitribai Phule. Savitribai Phule was one of the most important figures who added glory to the campaign for a modern Indian social context. Savitribai Phule was an Indian social reformer, educationist, and anti-untouchability activist. She was India's first female teacher. During the British rule, she and her husband, Jyotirao Phule, played a significant role in promoting women's equality and education.

Savitribai Phule's educational and social contributions were revolutionary, including establishing India's first girls' school, advocating for women's education and rights, and fighting against caste discrimination. Along with her husband, she established several schools for women and lower castes, opened shelters for marginalized women, and supported social reforms such as widow remarriage and opposition to child marriage. She was also

a pioneer in Marathi literature, making her a multifaceted social reformer and a crucial figure in India's 19th-century social reform movement.

Statement of the problem:-

A study on the educational and social contributions of savitribai phule and their relevance in contemporary society

Objectives of the study:-

- 1.To know the contribution of savitribai phule in the field of girls education.
- 2.To know the Social contribution of savitribai phule.
- 3.To understand it's relevance in today's society.

Methodology:- This study mainly a historical research. Both primary and secondary data are presented here. Primary data includes savitribai phule's own poems and secondary data includes various journal, media, internet etc.

Objectives Wise Analysis:-

1.To know the contribution of savitribai phule in the field of girls education.

Savitri Bai Phule's contribution to girls' education or women's education is a groundbreaking step. Savitri Bai Phule's greatest contribution is creating opportunities for women's education, which was often lacking in the society of that time. Savitri Bai Phule established a total of 18 schools with her husband Jyoti Rao Phule by her side. Students of all communities, irrespective of caste, religion, caste, got the opportunity to get admission in these schools. Savitri Bai Phule established the first girls' school in Pune in 1848 AD. Where the number of female students was 18 and there she was the headmistress. In the late part of 1851 AD, Savitri Bai Phule and her husband Jyoti Rao Phule operated three separate girls' schools in Pune, which had about 150 female students. The curriculum here was different from the curriculum of government schools. According to many, the curriculum established by Savitri Bai Phule and her husband was much better than the curriculum of government schools. We also see that in 1850, Savitribai and her husband jointly established two educational trusts in Pune. The purpose of these two trusts was to provide education to the people of the tribal classes like Mahar and Mang. Later, several schools were established under these two trusts.

2.To know the social contribution of savitribai phule:-

Savitribai phule not only worked as an educational reformer but also worked as an educational reformer. The Dalit community or lower class people were very neglected and oppressed in society at that time. Because he opposed this, the so called upper class people in society would throw mud and dung on him when she walked on the streets. But she was not discouraged by this at all. She firmly believed that if women could be properly educated, it would be possible to eliminate many of the prejudices, misconception and blind beliefs in society. She spoke strongly against the backward, narrow – minded thinking of the social leaders of the time.

Social work-

- 1.Opened first women school-1848
- 2.Native Female school-1850
- 3.Mahila Seva Mandal-1852
- 4.Started Night school-1855
- 5.Satya Shodhak Samaj-1873

PUBLICATION:-

- 1.kavyaphule-collection of poems, 1854
- 2.Jotirao's speeches , Edited by Savitribai phule,
25December 1856

3. Speeches of Matoshree Savitribai Phule, 1892

4. Bavankashi subodh Ratnakar, 1892

1. **Infanticide Prevention Home:** In 1853, Savitribai Phule opened a Care Center for pregnant widows to provide safe delivery and to stop the practice of infanticide due to social prejudices.

2. **Night School:** In 1855, Savitribai Phule established a night school for farmers and workers. Here, women workers could also study. So that they could work during the day and study at night, this arrangement was made.

3. **Establishment of Satyashodhak Samaj:** With the combined efforts of Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule, Satyashodhak Samaj was established in Pune, Maharashtra in 1873. The meaning of this Satyashodhak Samaj is Truth Seeker's Society. This organization advocated for educational opportunities as well as increasing social and political rights for the underprivileged groups of Maharashtra. It did various works against communalism. The main work of this organization was for the upliftment of women, minorities and Dalits. Savitribai became the leader of the women's wing of Satyashodhak Samaj.

3. To understand the educational impact of savitribai phule in present society:-

Savitribai Phule was India's first female teacher and social reformer. She established the first school for girls in Pune, Maharashtra, and played a crucial role in promoting women's education. In the present context, Savitribai Phule's philosophy of women's education and social justice remains equally important today.

1. His philosophy still proves that education is not merely literacy but a tool for dignity, empowerment, and social change, which remains relevant even in today's digital age.
2. His struggle against child marriage and the practice of Sati, and his stance in favor of widow remarriage, still form the foundation of the women's rights movement, remaining relevant in the fight for gender equality in contemporary society.
3. The naming of Pune University after her and the observance of her birthday as Girls' Day are testaments to her lasting impact, which has immortalized her work.

Significance of the study :-his study is very important in the context of the current education system and societal changes. We have chosen this study because Savitribai Phule's thoughts and values have a significant impact on the present education system. She attempted to break down the conventional education system and advocated for universal education. Through this study, we can see that she placed great emphasis on girls' education. Another important aspect of this research is to inform all about philosophy and feminist ideology of savitribai phule. It is quite remarkable that she applied her ideas to the contemporary situation. Even today, it would be very difficult for a woman to conceive of all these things. She brought marginalized people back into the mainstream of society. She demonstrated immense courage in her time.

conclusion:-Savitribai Phule's work in education and social reform was revolutionary. She was not only India's first female teacher but also an unforgettable symbol of women's empowerment, social justice, and inclusive education. Her groundbreaking work, along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, included establishing the first girls' school, campaigning against infanticide and for widow remarriage, and establishing social equality through the Satyashodhak Samaj, all of which laid the foundation for modern India. She fought for women's education, confronting the patriarchal society head-on, and her struggle continues to inspire millions of people even today. Therefore, it can be said that Savitribai Phule's message of education, equality, and justice remains equally relevant in the 21st century.

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