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Women Status in India

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Status of Women In India

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Introduction:

Once Jawaharlal Nehru says, “I feel there is a long way to go before women shall be able to see the light of the day.” But now this long way which he mention has come to end for the women. The light of the day is becoming the sun who gives energy of survival for existence. Previously, when we talk about the women that only for taking care of children and elder of the family and the homemaker. They have been considered a symbol of spirituality in our scriptures. Yet women were denied rights and equality in ancient Indian civilization. They were treated badly and unequally to men. Social evils like dowry, sati-system, child marriage and female killing were widely spread at an early age.

Now , the present womenbegan to emerge and break out of their shells.A greater number of women began to get the opportunity to study and get an education. Currently, India has no dearth of women in medical, technical, teaching, legal or other professions. India has seen an increase in the number of women holding higher positions in various offices and organizations.

Women pursue various professions and compete alongside men in various fields such as technology, law, administration, teaching and so on. In addition to traditional professions, we have women who excel in sports, such as P.T. Usha, Sania Mirza, PV Sindhu, Mithali Raj, Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal, Dipa Karmakar and others who have represented and inspired many budding sportswomen in India.

We also have women who have made a significant impact on the art and entertainment industry since its inception, as well as cultural icons in many art schools. Indira Gandhi, Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, Annie Besant, Mahadevi Verma, Nita Ambani, Saket Kripalani, Amrita Pritam, Sushma Swaraj, Padmaja Naidu, Kalpana Chawla, Mother Teresa, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan and others, great Indian women leaders, social reforms, status of female social workers, administrators and literary workers who have made a significant difference.

Backwardness of women:

Backwardness and subservience can be traced back to some reasons. The first reason of various form can be the sociological and psychological control to keep women in their place. The physical strength and the dominant nature of men have been controlling the

freedom of existence. And the traditional image of the protector as a men which has great impact of notion that women cannot defend themselves (#womencannotdrive). Another reason may be the economical control. Women were denied for working outside and earn the money. Money symbolised the power to speak or to ask other which signified the superior or inferior nature. Some unique reason that learn how to please the men which was the mother teaching to their daughter from generation to generation. That is the pressure between women group itself to assume the role of housewife.

Thus to resume this reasons , it may be said that the subservience of women has been cause by the physical, psychological , sociological , economical and the internal pressure reasons. And it make the ill society. To solve this problem and improve the status of women in India, a concerted effort is required from all walks of life. The government must continue to implement policies that improve women's health, education and economic empowerment. More attention should be paid to gender sensitivity and education in all sections of society. The media also plays an important role in spreading positive messages about women and combating gender stereotypes. And the empowerment of women and it is becoming the need of the society. For this each and every one should help on their platform.

Women empowerment:

What is women empowerment? We are referring about their rights such as freedom for moment, education rights, legal rights, voting right, etc. that means realizing them about their ability to make own choice and rights. The most important is self-awareness, every women should aware about the surrounding things, people and roads.

Women empowerment in India cannot be compared with that in other countries. Women were highly respected in the Vedic ages. The focus on women's education was never absent. The word 'sahadharmini' was known from the Vedic days. Sahadharmini means - equal partner. It is thus very clear that women in India in ancient days enjoyed respect, education and reverence. Women empowerment may be defined in several ways, including accepting women's viewpoints, making an effort to seek them and raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. Women's empowerment equips and allows women to make lifedetermining decisions through the different societal problems. They may have the opportunity to re-define gender roles or other such roles, which allow them more freedom to pursue desired goals.

Women's empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in development and economics. Economic empowerment allows women to control and benefit from resources, assets, and income. It also aids the ability to manage risk and improve women's well-being. Nations, businesses, communities and groups may benefit from implementing programs and policies that adopt the notion of female empowerment. Women's empowerment enhances the quality and the quantity of human resources available for development. Empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development.

Women Education:

Most females were allowed to pursue education without significant constraints in Vedic period. Women education unlike in the subsequent periods was not neglected. Female scholars were also present during this period.

In western India, Jyotiba Phule and his wife Savitribai Phule became pioneers of female education when they started a school for girls. In eastern India, apart from important contributions by eminent Indian social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy was also a pioneer in promoting women's education in 19th-century. After India attained independence in 1947, the University Education Commission was created to recommend suggestions to improve the quality of female education. The government has taken various measures to provide education to all Indian women. As a result, women literacy rate has grown over the three decade and the growth of female literacy has in fact been higher than that of male literacy rate.

Education increases a woman's (and her partner's and the family's) level of health and health awareness. Furthering women's levels of education and advanced training also tends to delay the initiation of sexual activity, first marriage, and first childbirth. Moreover, more education increases the likelihood of remaining single, having no children, or having no formal marriage while increasing levels of long-term partnerships. Women's education is important for women's health as well, increasing contraceptive use while lowering sexually transmitted infections, and increasing the level of resources available to women who divorce or are in a situation of domestic violence. Education also improves women's communication with partners and employers and their rates of civic participation.

Women Employment:

In the 21st century, the world is brisk, enthusiastically progressing and taking up the women partake in uplifting the society and economy of the world. The topic is a universally accepted phenomenon but for the women, it was a hard nut to crack for their equal rights in the society. Women, both married and unmarried, today are independent and earn for their survival. The number of working women is escalating drastically. Today, the society is very open to accepting new challenges and women have stout volition. Though there is fair involvement of women in society, some pedantic minds still consider women as home makers and born-to-cook beings.

Women's employment is any work for pay or profit in which women are engaged. Women today are playing huge roles as investors, consumers, entrepreneurs, scientist, lawyers, and doctor. They create jobs and strengthen the work economy. Today, women make up almost half of America's economy. They are entering into each and every sector (pilots, defense, driver). The briskly escalating economy demands more educated and self-potential women which makes them totally independence and earns them dignity and pay as their husband or their male counterpart and makes them a bread winner.

Legal Rights for women in India:

Women in India have been granted various legal rights over the years to promote gender equality and protect their interests. Here are some of the most important legal rights of women in India.

Right to equality

Article 14 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to equality to all citizens, regardless of their gender.

Right to education

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, makes it mandatory for all children, including girls, between the ages of 6 and 14 to receive education.

Right to work

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, ensures that men and women receive equal pay for the same work.

Right against sexual harassment

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, provides a framework for addressing complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace.

Right to property

The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, was amended in 2005 to give equal inheritance rights to daughters in Hindu families.

Right to marriage and divorce

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, gives women the right to seek divorce on various grounds, including cruelty and adultery.

Right to health

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, provides women with paid maternity leave and other benefits during pregnancy and childbirth.

Right against domestic violence

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, provides legal protection to women from physical, emotional, and verbal abuse by their spouses or relatives. Overall, while women in India have come a long way in terms of legal rights, there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure full gender equality and protection from discrimination and violence.

Indian population ratio:

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released women and men in India 2022 report.

Sex ratio:

- Sex ratio at birth increased by 3 points from 904 in 2017-19 to 907 in 2018-20.
- India's sex ratio (females per 1,000 males) is expected to increase to 952 by 2036,

a significant increase from 943 in 2011.

Labour Force Participation:

- 1) India's labour force participation rate for those aged 15 and above is increasing from 2017 to 2018. However, women lag significantly behind men.
- 2) The rate was 77.2 for men and 32.8 for women in 2021-22, a gap that has not improved over the years.
- 3) Lower participation is due to social factors, education and gender discrimination in wages and workplace opportunities.

Access to medical information and services:

- * Women and girls have more difficulty accessing information and health services than men and boys due to the lack of access to resources, decision-making rights and limited mobility.

Population growth:

- The current population growth rate has decreased from 2.2% in 1971 to 1.1% in 2021 and is projected to decrease to 0.58% in 2036.
- In absolute terms, according to the 2011 census, there are 1.2 billion people, with 48.5% of the population being women, and by 2036, the proportion of women in the population (48.8%) is expected to slightly improve to 1.5 billion. . .

Age of sexual structure:

- Age and gender composition of India. Based on this, the population under 15 is expected to decrease, while the population over 60 is expected to increase until 2036.
- Therefore, in 2036, the population pyramid will change with the base narrowing and the center expanding.
- The age and gender composition of a country's population can affect gender issues in many ways. Age structure, which affects many aspects of society, is primarily determined by trends in birth and death rates.

Birth rate:

- From 2016 to 2020, the age-specific fertility rate for the age groups of 20-24 and 25-29 years has decreased from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6, respectively.
- This is probably a function of economic independence through obtaining a proper education and securing a job.
- The same index for the age group of 35 to 39 years has increased from 32.7 in 2016 to 35.6 in 2020.
- The average age of marriage increased slightly from 22.1 years in 2017 to 22.7 years in 2020.

Objective of study:

To understand current status of women in the terms of their human rights from the

political, economic , social, health, etc.

Research methodology:

Secondary data:

The data of secondary nature is used in study to find the ratio of women and men in India. Secondary data has been collected through published reports, articles and research papers. As a preparatory part of study it was reviewed for better conceptualization of human rights and other concepts.(Chapter 3)

Primary data:

Data sample has been collected from both rural and urban areas of Amaravati district. For collecting the samples, the household survey were conducted to interview the women after the informed consent with standardized structured questionnaire. Amaravati was considered as an area of study , out of these 300 female respondents were selected in the research study. They are randomly picked respondents from the district and Convenient Random Sampling method is used for the research.

Data Analysis:

Data collected from the respondents was analysed using statistical analysis tool of percentages.

Education

From the above data, total respondents are 300 women out off 26 are up to 10th and 38 are 12th women completed their high school. Then 19 has completed their Diploma, 116 are Graduated and 91 are Post graduated. While 10 respondents are Ph.D. scholars.

Employed

Women are everywhere, they are not less any field. From above data, women are working in every field. 86 are in private sector while 43 are government servants. 38 women are doing business and 66 women are housewife too. In labourer sector 26 women are working. Remaining out off 300 women , 41 are students studying for their great future.

Family support for Employment:

Interpretation:92% of women respondent agree that their family member support in their activities, itself is an enough part to say that Indian society is in favour of women empowerment and their development

Voting rights:

Giving vote in the election is the fundamental rights of everyone above 18 years of age But still it is observed that some women still doesn't vote in the election and some doesn't even remember their voting rights.

Discussion and conclusion:

In independent India, women were in a more dignified position. Some of the problems that have plagued women's society for centuries are no longer visible. Child marriage, sati system, prohibition of widow remarriage, widow exploitation, devadasi system, hijab system

etc. such problems disappear. Due to progress in the field of science and technology, universalization of education, social-political movement, modernization and similar developments, society's attitude towards women has changed a bit. This development boosted the morale and confidence of women. As a result, Indian women now have a sense of their own uniqueness, individuality, self-esteem, talent, ability and effectiveness.

Many women who have been able to take advantage of the opportunities given to them have proven themselves more capable of fulfilling the responsibilities assigned to them than men. A country that for centuries neglected about 50% of its population is now realizing the need to give equal rights and opportunities to women.

The Constitution of India provides equal rights and opportunities for women. Do not discriminate based on gender. Indian women have also responded positively to this changing socio-political situation. This does not mean that our women are completely free from problems. Instead, the changing situation creates new challenges for them. Now they are surrounded by new stresses and strains. Some of the major issues plaguing modern women are analysed here.