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GENDER EQUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Women Movement in India: An Overview

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Introduction:

If I've killed one man, I've killed two.
The vampire who said he was you
And drank my blood for a year,
Seven years, if you want to know.
Daddy, you can lie back now.
There's a stake in your fat black heart
And the villagers never liked you.
They are dancing and stamping on you.
They always knew it was you.
Daddy, daddy, you bastard, I'm through.¹¹

The above stanzas are taken from the poem of Silvia Path entitled as "Daddy" in which she called her father as a vampire who had drunken her blood for more than seven years. She called him bastard; she called him as the black hearted man, this all because of giving her the worst treatment than animal. This was the scenario due to which European women started to fight against male dominating society through feminist movement (<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Analysis-of-Poem-Daddy-by-Sylvia-Plath>)

In India women work hard day and night to support their family in both areas i.e. Rural and Urban but they don't have the right umbrella over their head. Their lives have been hard. They do it for their children who are struggling to get a good education. They don't want that their children should do the domestic workers, garbage collectors and women construction workers are fighting for survival with many such problems. They are going to exercise their voting right to strengthen their faith in democracy, even if they have no idea what they will get out of the election. Even so, owning one is still beyond the reach of the average person. Also, women are victims of a great deal of social inequality, oppression, economic dependence and other social implications. From time immemorial, these restrictions on women have hampered their personal and professional development. Women empowerment propensity will lead to self-esteem, inner strength and constructive development for women at different levels of society. These programs show that women are now overcoming all the challenges and taking the lead in terms of their skills, confidence and usefulness. Appear-



to represent peace and positive social change in your family, p
women, and in society.

Indian Feminist Voice: Indian society has remained patriarchal. Of course, Nair in Kerala, Shetty in Maharashtra, Panchayat in Bihar, etc. show feminism. But, as society and some nomadic tribes show feminism. But, as Prakash feels that women have a secondary place in India. Theoretically, many norms, traditions of many religions lead to injustice, exploitation, social segregation of women. Women denied participation in public life. Against this, build groups and organizations based on the role of women, their contributions and rights emerged in India.

Indian Women Movement: The women's movement in India can be divided into three phases - the first phase (1830-1915); The second phase (1915-1947); The third phase (from 1947 onwards).

The First Phase of Indian Feminism (1830-1915): Indian society was defined in a very wrong system which allowed a woman to die with her husband. She was burned in the funeral of her husband, entitled as 'Sati,' the first of women movement raised a voice against this inhuman ritual of India 'Sati.' The first phase sees significant changes occur mainly due to the initiative of some progressive leaders. They took objections for following inhuman activities:

- a. The ban on sati (1829)
- b. Legal recognition of widow remarriage (1856)
- c. Prohibition of female feticide (1870)
- d. Recognition of inter-caste marriage (1872)
- e. Increase in consent age (1891).

In this regard, the work of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Veereshlingam Pantulu, Pandita Ramabai, Raja Rammohan Roy, Dhondo Keshav Karve, Subbalakshmi, Jyotiba Savitribai Phule is important.

The Second Phase of Indian Feminism: In the second phase, there were changes in the province about women rights. Bharat Mahila Parishad, Bharat Sri Mahamandal, Women's Indian Association (WIA), National Council of Women for India, All India Women's Conference (AIWC), etc. emerged etc. were organizations who fights for women rights. This organized movement brought about significant changes in the provinces such as;

- a. The right of women to vote (1921)
- b. The Prevention of Child Marriage Act (1929)
- c. The limited right of women to property (1937)

The Third Phase of Indian Feminism: The women's movement post-independence period can be repeated in three phases. From PRINCIPAL Nutan Mahavidyalaya SELU, Dist. Parbhani



was built on the principles of equality of man and woman in the Constitution and the guiding principles of the state. It gave justice to the rights and entitlements of women. How did India fail to implement these provisions in the beginning of the independence of the country? The failure of the feminist movement in the post-independence period can be analyzed. This phase focused on unequal wages, discrimination of women as unskilled workers, unpaid labor, and male dominance in society. There was no significant shift in institutions towards religious freedom and gender equality. The 21st century phase of the post-independent movement has shifted its focus beyond gender equality and shed light on issues related to women's empowerment and self-determination.

An overview of the feminist movement in India: An overview of the feminist movement in India is evident from the above. Even though India is a pluralistic society, many serious women's issues are facing Indian society. The following are some of the customs and traditions, religious laws governing private life in various religions (Dharmastra, Sharia, etc.) as:

- a) It opposed to gender ratio (933; 1000)
- b) lack of uniform civil law,
- c) A voice against the domestic violence, dowry, rape cases, issues of working women.

Problems still plague women. It is necessary to study the assessment of these problems and the solutions to them. There are other dimensions to women's issues in Indian society. The nature of women's issues is different in different classes, castes, tribes and regions. The problems of urban women, the problems of rural and agricultural women, the problems of nomadic and tribal women are different.

Farmer Women In India: Agriculture is the main source of Indian economy. Women farmers are always working hard and they are suffering from many chronic diseases. They have no right to land, or are not involved in the decision-making process. This gender discrimination should be changed at the policy level. Large number of women work in agriculture. The country is undergoing major changes in agriculture and a large number of rural men are moving to big cities for work. Because of this, there are women, children and senior citizens who take care of agriculture and land. This puts an extra burden on women and leaves them with the responsibility of working outside the home.

According to the survey, 75 per cent of women are compared to 33 per cent of men. In India and in many parts of the world, women work in agriculture, working in the fields to increase their income.²

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earns wages on another's land, neither he nor she has the right to contract the farm land in which he works. 63% of women in India work in agriculture, which is dependent on the agriculture of others. In fact, 90% of women who work on their own farms, they work on farms owned by the men of their household.

In rural areas, women's labor is of no value. From sowing, to harvesting, involved in important agricultural work. Apart from this, except if there is a supplementary industry like poultry or milk business, only men are working there. The following graph shows that women are more involved in this work than men. Women work 14-16 hours a day, and even then they have to work at home. They work as hard as they do at home. Even so, owning one is still beyond the reach of the average person. But even though the contribution of men is less, they get paid more.

Working Women in Cities: This is the scenario of women labour in Indian villages while the working women in the cities. The working women in cities are expected to work at work places and even do all the household tasks also as the daughter-in-law of the family. Apart from this, they suffer from harassment by male dominating society such as:

- a. Sexual harassment
- b. Mental harassment
- c. Promotion issues.
- d. Family care issues.
- e. Discrimination based on gender,
- f. Workplace discrimination and prejudices, safety and security issues etc

Conclusion: Thus, the women either she is from India or abroad, either she from village or cities, she is either educated or uneducated she has to suffer from male dominating society. She is the victim of suffering. There are many cases of in India of dowry death, rape, gang rape, child accuse and so on. Male thinks he is the only superior soul on the earth while a woman is having the power of giving birth to human. She is stronger than man. She is emotionally strong, physically strong. Men take benefit of her motherly approach. It is better to conclude this writing with the statement of Simon-de Beauvoir who defined a woman with her opinion as- She says "when a women tries to define herself, she does it by saying 'I'm a woman, no man would do so'".

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