



## ROLE OF WOMEN IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

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### ABSTRACT

Today women are taking a different approach towards their health than they did in previous generations. Seeking information through available resources including newspapers, magazines and the Internet, women today are more health conscious and informed. They are taking an active role in their health care by learning to demand certain tests, get second opinions and to ask their doctors all of the right questions. Women are leading in every field and society whether it be sports, commerce and industry, education, health, politics, technology, navy, army, agriculture. Due to advancement in the field of science and technology and the active involvement of women in it we have been able to overcome the evils of our society which were prevalent in our religion, caste and territory and were danger for the world's peace. Now people are making maximum utilization of available resources for their well beings and for the generations to come. We are now a developing country in which women are self-dependent, good manager and is making a balance between his family responsibilities and outside world and has become an earning member of the family and a responsible citizen of the society.

**KEYWORDS :** Women, Society, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Past and Present women.

### I. Introduction

21<sup>st</sup> Century is the century for change. The planet, earth is ready for "The Shift of the Ages". In this new age, love and compassion will rule the roost, and the woman with her natural attributes of compassion will sow the seeds of global transformation. These changes have already begun and soon they will gain an unprecedented momentum. Recent years have shown many more females enrol in graduate, law and medical programs etc., The University of Michigan was the first state medical school to fully accept women in 1870; in contrast, 42% of the students in the Stanford medical school in 1995 were women. The type of expertise gained at such schools makes it possible for women to obtain the high-salary jobs that would otherwise be out of their reach.

The development of women entrepreneurship is very low in India, particularly in small cities and in rural areas. Entrepreneurship in women is a need of recent time. 21<sup>st</sup> century women are aware of their rights and duties as well as their work situation. It has been observed that women from middle class are not eager to alter their role in fear of social dilemma. The development of women as an entrepreneur is visible among higher class than middle or lower class.

Women who were restricted to only house hold activities previously have now joined hands with men and are working in every field. She is a Doctor, Engineer, Politician, Professor, Architect and has even gone to space and created history in every field. They are entrepreneur, a good decision maker and a good manager, besides they are also a good wife and a good mother.

### II. Comparison of women in the past and present

For thousands of years, women (in cultures dominated by men) were subservient to men. The lineage in most cultures generally follows the male line of the family. No rules or religion says so, but most male and his family prefer it that way.

#### a) WOMEN IN THE PAST

The old adage of women "barefoot and pregnant" exists in most areas of the world. Women are not allowed to make major decisions in the family and are expected to submit in all things to the husband. They cannot own anything, and they are not permitted to go to school. Education is not permitted for women in the past. - Education was only for the males in the past. It was never encouraged for women. In the far distant past, women's role was to bear young and care for them. As part of that, women have traditionally been very involved in food preparation, which in many cultures expanded to include agricultural efforts to raise food as well as collecting water, gathering fuel for cooking, and making of objects needed by the family such as clothing.

Women are not dominant in business too. They are used in used in the work areas like agriculture or handcraft just to benefit from their physical power. They were no difference than slaves. -They are not allowed to use their brain in any circumstances as their thoughts won't be bothered to be listened. In the Middle East country like Egypt and Turkey, women are not allowed to voice out their opinion. -Women are excluded from public roles in religious life. Women are not expected to participate in public prayers. -Women must only live to serve men. This particular quote had been going on for ages since then. Some legal religious deciders have stated that Eve was made from Adam's rib, therefore she exists to serve Adam only. This has been transcended to all females from then.

Women are not allowed to decide life for their own. They are labelled weak and always dependable to others to live. In Thailand, women are not allowed to divorce until 90s. They have to live with their life partner even if they like it or not. -Women are not inherited with any inheritance, not even from the father or husband. Woman is always treated lower than men in order to have constant control on them.

Women in the present are anyhow different from the past. Women in 21<sup>st</sup> era are different. They have vision and mission. They stopped serving as equal to slaves but serve themselves more now.

#### b) WOMEN IN THE PRESENT

Women now are more brave. They are entitled with proper education. By having education, women don't doubt themselves and become confident. -Women are no longer swallowed by shadows of men. They voice out their point of view. Nevertheless, they are an important asset in our society. -Women like Hillary Clinton and The First Lady are important to nation. Their intelligence and willpower are not mistreated. They are needed for creating new changes massively. They could be said as the women behind a man's success. Men are like diamonds but women now are like the gold base beneath it. Without women, it

It would be inappropriate to say that their role have changed, but instead they have taken new roles along with the role they used to play earlier. Women earlier had the role of home maker alone, now they are the bread earner and home maker together. -Women now could make big changes in people's life instead of only making changes for family like how women in the past did. Like for example, Oprah Winfrey. She dedicated her life to help many children and women through out the world.

Oprah Gail Winfrey - Born on 29th Feb 1954, origin from Mississippi, Tennessee. She is a victim of rape by her father in age 9, miscarriage kid from her father as well. Now, she is a CEO of HARPO Production and Oprah Winfrey Network. She earns approximately 3.0 million dollars per month.

Diana Frances Mountbatten- Windsor - Born on July 1 1961. She is a Princess of Wales. She Gained her throne from marrying Prince Charles, next in heir to Queen Elizabeth's throne. She was an educated woman, mother of two sons, responsible for her kids instead of helping her man in throne. She quoted 'My husband made me feel inadequate in every possible ways and push me down'. She helped supporting landmine banning campaign and one of the first female that helped AIDS victims

Things have changed a great deal over the last three hundred year ever since women won the right to vote near the beginning of the twentieth century..

Women in the past and present are not too different. They have been improving themselves in order to live a better life. As time passes, women learn from their mistakes the generalizations have many more exceptions in today's world. Women in the future would be ruling the nation instead of helping men side by side. That's the vision of women in future. Now is never enough.

### III. Conclusion

Women today are more practical and rational than earlier. Indian women have never been as expressive and independent as she is today. Women today, consider themselves as the true 'ardhangini' of their husbands. She is more cognizant of his world today and she understands his work pressures. Women-from being a care-taker/nurturer to a friend in the role of a Mother. It is widely felt that earning power allows them to voice their opinions on bigger decisions. Today's women no more feel that a career would be at the cost of neglecting the family and children. The Indian woman is also spending a lot more money on her personal appearance. Civilization is a method of living and an attitude of equal respect for all people.

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