



Gender Discrimination and Equal Rights of Women

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KEYWORDS

ABSTRACT:

I support this statement with few illustrations that men and women should have equal rights. Even since brought about the fall of Adam from the Garden of Eve, women have been an object of perennial interest for the chauvinist males. Even the bard of Avon could not help expressing his wonder at the mystery of women's eyes in these immortal lines.

"From women's eyes this doctrine I drive, They sparkle still the right prometheamfire, They are the books, the arts, the academies, The show contains and nourish all the world.

Thus man-women syndrome has been a topic perennial discourse among poets, philosophers and sociologies all from different angles. In course of time the society got male-dominated and woman's lot was marked by a status of inferiority and degradation specially during the middle ages.

The reality was forgotten that man and women are the two wheels of the chariot of life and the success of life's Journey was dependent on the staminate and steadfastness of both the wheels. The Hindu mythology says Srashta (creator of the world) created Shiva and Shakti as source of life, complimentary to each other. In ancient days women enjoyed respect and status equal to those of men. They realized that, man is born out of women. A woman is therefore more than man because of her wonderful nature's gift of creation of the world. This simple fact is enough to assert her self equal to man, if not more.

Achievements of women from ancient times Gargi and Maitry to that modern times of madam curie or Indira Gandhi are no doubt commendable but the real down of women's role in building of healthy society begin from proper understanding of women first by herself. Hence Gandhiji wrote in young India in 1921, Women must cease to consider herself the object of man's lust. The remedy is more in her hands than man's she must refuse to adorn herself for man, including her husband, if she will be an equal partner with men.

In Manusmiriti it is rightly said that, "Prajnanardhan maha Bhagah Pujarha Griha Dipthayah Stiryah Sriyacha, Geheshu Ne Viseshosthi, Kaschana". It means that woman is divine. Kindles every house and the wealth and prosperity.

Political thinkers through the ages have been perplexed by the relationship between men and women it may be pertinent to mention here the ideas of some political thinkers. According to Manu. " A Man become perfect man only when he consists of his wife himself and his children. Thus it is clear that men and women are the equal parts of the whole (C.M.Agarwal).

The Greek philosopher Plato regards women as equal to men and pleads for their emancipation. A French philosopher Rousseau and Voltaire also plead for women's equality. According to Rousseau, "Women alone are the good companions of

men".

Basaweshawara Philosopher do 12th century did not consider woman a slave and chattel. He looked upon women as the very Goddess. Basava accorded women. Socio-economic and religions equality and placed her on par with man in society.

In Indian mythology also women is divine, holy and pure. Even the Rigveda places women on a high pedestal of sublimity, "Yatra Nariyastu Poojayanate Ramanante Tatr Devah". Means where women are respected there dwell God.

The project must speak for itself when we say that nation's greatness depends on how its women enjoy respect and status in the country. Since the launching of the International women's year in 1975. And subsequent announcement of the international women decade by the U.N.O. people around the world have come together consciously to discuss and understand the equal rights of women. In the words of Nehruji, "When you educate a man you educate an individual, when you educate a women you educate the whole family" . Is equal to man in every sphere of life. She enjoys equal status with men in law. Until recently no property right, she had no right to remarry. But when Indian constitution is framed, it guarantees certain fundamental rights to women in the same manner as men. Article 14 ensures equality before the law article 16 guarantees Equality of opportunity of all citizens is matters relating to employment or appointment of any officer under the state.

Constitutional provisions and policy

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the constitution of India (in the preamble and fundamental rights) where by the constitution upholds and grants the equality to women. The national commission for women, which was set up in 1990 through an Act of parliament to safeguard the right and legal entitlements of women, is considered to be the apex body to ensure right and work towards the women empowerment. In terms of five-year plan the fifth five-year plan (1974-78) is considered to be very crucial from the point of view of women development with 1975 being declared as International Year of Women.

The 73rd and 74th amendment of constitution of India in 1993 are landmarks to ensure political empowerment of women. The ninth plan also recommends the adoption of national policy for the empowerment of Women along with a well-defined gender Development index for the monitoring and evaluation of women's rights and empowerment. The ratification by the Government of India of various International Conventions like convention on Elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993, speaks of the political will. The endorsement by the Government or various declarations the administrative willingness. The description of such provisions the perception of absolute women empowerment.

These provisions surely ensure of legal protection of women's

rights, but socioeconomic right of freedom and decision-making is still not realized to the extent of social empowerment. One of the reasons is the rigid patriarchal structure of the Indian society. The rate of illiteracy among women hampers the awareness and the claims of such provision. The distinct socialization of girls from the beginning also contributes to the easy acceptance of suppression by women. The changing trends of education and employment among women have relatively transformed the situation towards the positive direction. However the nature of problem has also changed its direction in the sense that crime against women in the working places are at steep rise. The workable and pragmatic commitments of the government of India at various forums and national policy for the empowerment of women can prove to be milestone in ensuring women's right and facilitate of women empowerment.

Apart from this there are some articles that have been described by commentators on the constitution as women specific those are article 16 (2) which forbids discrimination in respect to any employment of office under the state on the grounds only of religion race, caste, sex, descent places of birth etc.

Article 39(1) which promises the right to an, adequate means of livelihood to men and women equally article 39 (d) equal pay for work both men and women.

All these constitutional provisions are backed by various legislation. Many of them are;

Hindu marriage act, 1955, Hindu succession Act,1956 suppression of immoral Traffic Act,1956.

Dowry prohibition Act, 1961, All these are the major steps towards the liberation of women.

The movement towards a uniform civil code, which is still on 30% reservation for women etc, are the provision of equality for women.

India moved on to an altogether new plane. Contributions of women through ages in different fields of human endeavor belie Shakespeare's Dictum frailty they name is women, it was only a Joan of Arc who could allow herself to be brunt alive on the stakes in cold blood what is not worthy, is the fact women have always been greater in suffering than in normal situation.

Sarojini Naidu had said "The time has come when women can no longer seek immunity behind the shelter of their sex, but must , share equally with their men comrades all the perils and scarifies for the liberation of their country.

No doubt sex distinction is made by nature only for perpetuation of the human race. For any other purpose and distinction made between the boy and girl. Woman power is unfathomable. The achievements of such women as vijalaxmi pandit, Mrs Indira Gandhi, Srimaro Bhandarnaik, Mrs Acquino and mother Teresa and luminaries in several fields of human endeavor.

Conclusion:

The project has recognized the potentialities of women and pleaded to create an environment conducive to gender quality. It is in context I Say that men and women should have equal rights. In the words of R. Tagore, "Women is the best creation of god".

Women demolished the myth that some fields were only meant for men. They pored to be pilots in IAF like sowneet, Barbara cart land, Shoba De and sports women like Monika Seles, P.T Usha and Sania Mirza.

Thus I would end by stating that, God made Women for man and man for women therefore they should have equal right.

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