

Marginalising Women- And the need for a change

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Abstract

The entire society discriminates a woman's work at home and at office. A woman's status is underrated if she is a 'home maker' and she is termed as a 'dependent' at her house and at the society. If she tries to be independent and works in the same job as man the pressure she receives is great. A woman had to maintain both her personal and official life and balance it perfectly. Though she had to go through a lot physically and mentally but most importantly a very stressful life she had to go through. It had to be admitted that women were not allowed to go alone or to stay indoors late evening shows that world have made a lot of changes but definitely it had to be admitted that women had lost all her freedom and importance in the face of the modern world. Safety for women became the important criteria where women had to sacrifice her freedom and were forced to be dependent. The freedom for India failed to give freedom for women. There were days where women were compared to deities but now women were treated inferior to men.

Keywords : Marginalisation, position, women, problems, work

It is true indeed that women have many facets of problems over the millennia of years. During the ancient days women played a very important role in building a healthy family contributing to the welfare of the society. Women held higher positions in society. They were infact considered superior to men. There are substantial proofs that women were very brave and powerful and had even thwarted great kingdoms and had conquered Kingdoms. Thus women had most important qualittiles which fetched them great name and regard and thus they had a respectable position in

the world during the Vedic period and were associated with deities and goddesses. Most of the deities in India like Laksmi, Durga and Kali who are embodiment of power strength and divinity are women. Seclusions were not evident in the vedic period. . It had to be acknowledged that women were associated with the tern ‘JANANI’ (the mother) and ‘SAKTHI’ who claim to be Lord Siva’s better half. This ultimately shows that women were honoured and were believed that God resides in them. Women were protected and were allowed to participate in social and domestic affairs though they were dependent on their husbands. In the Vedic period though Women had freedom of choice their prevailance is depended on their husbands. Though sati was prominent in the early Aryan period it was absent in the Vedic time. Child marriages were not there. Women’s intellectual and spiritual standards were given a chance to be improved. During those periods there were many women rishis who dedicated their lives to the work for God Women were adored to be a goddess of creation and she was considered to be the savior of the world. She was considered as an asset in every family. Hence women were equally educated as men and they even held powerful positions in the Kingdom and in the family. This highlighted that early Vedic period gave freedom to women to study, to work and even they even chose their partners ‘Swayamwaram’. The evidences of the swayamwaram can be seen in Ramayana and Mahabarata. A Woman must be honored and adorned by their fathers, brothers, husbands, and brothers-in-law, who desire their own welfare. Where women are honored, there the Gods are pleased; but where they are not honored, no sacred rite yields rewards. Where the female relations live in grief, the family soon wholly perishes; but that family where they are not unhappy ever prospers. The houses, on which female relations, not being duly honored, pronounce a curse, perish completely, as if destroyed by magic. Hence men who seek their own welfare, should always honor women on holidays and festivals with gifts of ornaments, clothes

and dainty food (Manu Smriti III) This scenario continued till the later Vedic period. They were rather shunned in the later Vedic period and in the fore coming Buddhist age (Prosar Dhar 267).

The status of women declined greatly in India due to the outer influences of the Western World and their invasions. Women was started being discriminated against since the Later-Vedic period in education and other rights and facilities (Nandal and Rajnish, 2014). The Muslim invasion saw the status of women deteriorating. Polygamy was much in practice though monogamy was much in practice. Women are deprived of their rights and were mainly considered to be subordinate of men. Women were viewed less divine and as a mere object that can be a possessed and ruled. Huge difference in the status of women in the Vedic and post Vedic period. Women were confined inside the house and were rejected from education. Tremendous efforts had been put forth by eminent leaders to improve the rise of the status of women.

Until the middle of the nineteenth century, women had been neglected and denied the patriarchal, civilian and political rights. According to Swami Vivekanta it is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women was improved ⁴ and also added that the status of women - social, economic, political and general- in India today is much higher than in ancient and medieval periods. Though the status of women had been raised in the eyes of law, but they are still much far from equality with males.⁵ Women of the first world countries had seen a steady growth in all facets of life but the women in India is tied by familial responsibilities and women are bound to the household duties apart from taking time for her own self. The society thrashes women if she doesn't take care of the household tasks or her husband or her children.

Although women in our country had gained significant legal rights yet the society did not believe they were equal to men. There were several phases of ages in history where radical changes have helped in the development of women in the society. During the British rule in India there had been a substantial growth in the development of women. It were the days when women were treated as slaves and child marriages child marriage, Sati Pratha, Devdasi system, Pardah Pratha, prohibition of widow remarriage and sati had been in practice. All the social evils were eradicated during the British rule by great reformers of our country. It was then during the post British rule that Women's freedom had been questioned widely. Women feel they are in the real battlefield as more problems had been shot towards Women. Women are thwarted and withered by the effects of the terrible social evils that had come up with more intensity than the ancient times. The modern India had problems like female infanticide, gender bias, women's health, women's safety and women's literacy. These problems were the ones which determine the social status of women. The social status of women determines the social development of the society. Though certain social evils had been under control in urban India but in rural India child marriages, women literacy and female infanticide had been widely practiced till date.

The population of India is rapidly growing up but the economic growth of India is declining. Women share the same geographical space like that of men but women were allowed to explore the areas as that of men. They both live in different worlds and hence women do not share the same dignity as that of men. The government of India right after the Independence had taken many efforts to improve the status of Women. The most important problem is that even if the government is working hard on the empowerment of women it is that the dominant male society had been curbing women in its private space. The family decides what is good or what is bad for the female members of the family. The family restricts women to get exposure as it has

to be admitted that the crime rates against women is higher than the birth population of women. However it is important to mention that, the data presented here is only a partial reflection of the extent of crimes against women as most incidents of violence go unreported. Female workforce has come down in recent years because of many reasons that women have to undergo in her workplace (Fletcher 1). From an female worker individual perspective it had to be accepted that the average age for women to get married was postponed and there was a decline in the childbirth of the modern women. Whatever may be the work that a woman does her saying at the home is heard and she held a position where her decision-making power is increased regardless of their education power. It is indeed good to appreciate *that women's economic empowerment* had been the central issue in our country.

There can be no physiological and psychological differences between men and women. Women putting all their effort in carrying out their job. It has to be accepted that women are now flying aircrafts thereby showing they are equivalent to men and they are now exploring the world same as that of man. They put their full effort in whatever job they take. From being a peon, clerk and to become the Central Secretariat they have been proving they are far more better than that of men. High efficiency is seen in their administrative work and their integrity of character is not corrupted as men. Bribery and corruption is not much prevalent and they are less susceptible in showing favouritism to their known members. Women are honest and they are punctual though they had burdened tasks at home.

Women as teachers are the main occupation where they are doing well. They have a source of light illuminating the darker world by educating the uneducated. Efficient teachers are needed at this hour as their love, affection and commitment towards their children had to be appreciated. Children are the future leaders of the world. Their role as primary school teachers

provided a good base of education as they are capable of understanding the psychology of student better. Hence kindergarten school teachers are women.

The total number of women in the labour force is considerably inferior to the number of men, across all areas of opportunities. The prevalent leitmotif is their overpowering population in areas which entail process-orientation rather than engineering exertion. The labour force contribution level is substantially lopsided towards rural women, as the urban, well-qualified, and those woman who work is more of a label than a reality. Most educated, women in urbanized cease from joining in the labour force since in regard with patriarchal taboos. The workplace also recorded gender biased incidents against women which were multidimensional – it generated tussle against women's advancement in their career through stereotypical roles, inequitable wages, structural constrictions to progression and leadership. The root cause of discrimination against women evolves from the labour market being largely overshadowed by male dominated society and having fostering a masculine characteristic in its DNA. We destruct this root cause as a framework of Privilege, Practices, Peers and Pathways women are moving in a positive way .Survey findings shows that there is substantial divergence between the expectations of the worker and organizational policies that were related to gender equality. Organizations are observed by workers to be achieve acquiescence obligations more than actually in effect addressing inequality.

Despite the powerful voices in defense of globalization, a stark duality in its consequences is being witnessed. Globalization has offered new challenges for the realization of the goal of women's equality, the gender impact of which has not been fully systematically assessed. Benefits of the globalized economy have been unevenly distributed, leading to

increased gender inequality through often deteriorating working conditions and unsafe working environment especially in the informal economy and rural areas.

A horde of descriptions have been put forward for the decline in the number of women in the workforce and their concentration in the agrarian sector. The major factor which has affected women adversely is the growing dominance of the unorganized labor sector. In this sector, women have no other option than to work under insecure conditions and without the guarantee of minimum wages. Women who work at home or in family holdings are considered either as non-workers or supplementary workers at the most.

In the organized labor sector, due to social legislation and welfare measures, many employers feel hesitant to employ women. As the Planning Commission once commented, —The labor market is not as neutral as between men and women, which means that for given levels of skill and ability, the labor market is still weighted in favor of male workers. Of course, women have successfully made substantial gains in certain sections of the service industries. However, their success in these fields has brought to light problems associated with housing, transportation, sexual harassment and a conservative mindset.

The Social Evils that woman had faced and facing till today is child marriage. The social evils against women should be discussed as it would be giving a further detail insight in this discussion of study. The ancient Hindu law had given a general frame work of how a woman ‘should be’ in this society. A woman was married soon after puberty. She was expected to be an obedient daughter, a dutiful wife and loving daughter –in-law. A woman’s life at an early age in her childhood is expected to be ‘pativarta’ and if her husband dies she was enforced to perform ‘sati’. Sati had been a cruel act and the death of a husband ended the life of a woman. She was

neglected by her own people and were barred from participating in happy occasions. To a great extent when women were widowed at a young age she was not encouraged to get remarried rather she was considered an 'ill-omen' woman. A 'choice' is neglected in the life of a woman. She was not given a choice to get married to a person whom she loves or interested in marrying a man whom she liked. It is made a customary that a woman should abide by the rules of the society and of the family. Apart from choice and freedom, Women were neglected property rights and given a secondary position in the family in terms of schooling, higher education and in field of work. This ultimately made a woman feel she was inferior to men and it can be realized through the words of Karkar : "Indian daughter is not served from the company of her mother and the other women in the household, although like her brothers, she continues to be cared for by her mother, albeit more casually than before, as she gradually learns to be like her mother by taking care of herself as well as the other younger children in the family. Late childhood also marks the beginning of an Indian girl's deliberate training for how to be a good women, and hence the conscious inculcation of culturally designated feminine roles. She learns that the virtues of womanhood, which will take her through life, are submission and docility as well as skill and grace in various household tasks".

The traditional society treats women as under privileged and the patriarchal system expects women are to be dominated by men and this hierarchical struggle between man and woman will not be changed in any way. It has to be understood in this century that patriarchal society is man- made and can be changed considering the welfare of woman. It also has to be remembered that woman is considered weaker biologically and hence she is considered a weaker sex to work and make money. Hence it has become the role of women is to cook and stay at home to look after her husband and children by rejecting her passions and career. Woman who is

weaker in body has been considered inferior and man is superior considering his physical strength. It can be considered truth through the words of Aristotle “the courage of man is shown in commanding of a woman in obeying” . According to Lerner “patriarchy was not one event but a process developing over a period of almost 2500 years and a number of factors and forces that were responsible for the establishment of male supremacy as we see it today”. Patriarchy is the major impediment to women’s progression and development. In spite of disparities in stages of governing the wide-ranging beliefs remain the same, i.e. women are under the control of men though the kind of this control may hold opposing views. So it is essential to appreciate the system, which allows women to control or to be controlled, and to untie its operational activities in order to help in the development of women in effective manner. In today’s contemporary world women move forward that solely depends on their merit but patriarchy forms a hindrance for women to shine in their respective fields. Women’s respectable position in the society is determined by the patriarchal institutions of our country. Though developed or developing countries Women holds a unique positions but she had to face a lot of hurdles and several social impediments (Barathi 36).

Our Indian constitution had provided equal status to woman on the basis of equity belief. To attain equality principle the woman in India had to struggle for centuries. Ancient India had witnessed inequality for women which can be seen in the ancient epic Mahabaratha where draupadi was used by the Panadavas on account of gambling and was treated badly by Gauravas. . Woman were used for the entertaining by dancing before the kings and other male royal members of the family. Voices in public was not allowed to be raised for woman. There were times after the vedic period where women did not freely participate in social and political activities.

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