

SITUATION OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT INDIA.

Abstract

This paper review about that how women were struggling in ancient time. Primary sources of this data 15 research paper. We will get to know how they were forced to do household chores and had no right to education. How society creates inferiority among men and women. We will also get to know about some ancient sculptures too that proves that at that time in some areas women were allowed to study. We also get to know that whenever there is war women has to suffer a lot. We will get know some warrior women and well educated women too. This study indicate all the key features about women in ancient India.

Key Words: Sati Pratha, Jauhar, Gargi, Shasan sundari, Swamywar, Niyoga.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Women are nowadays emerging in every field in every country but not all of them. Many of them are not able to get education because they believe today also that women are inferior to men. They have no right to have education. In ancient time also women were not allowed to study. “Why a women needs education? She has to do only the household chores and take care of children” – It was a common thinking of people in ancient India but also today in many families. What if this was thinking for men? It looks like awkward when I say this and in the same way women feels. In ancient India everyone’s thinking was that only women should do household chores, take care of children, have veil in front of husband and stay in house, because only men can earn.

- 1. Situation of Women in Ancient India:** In ancient India, women did not had a good condition. Women were told to stay in home. Men work for earning, they were warrior mostly. A women was not allowed to become a warrior because their ancestors are telling them one thing only that they had to take care of her husband’s house. They had made the mindset of women in that way that women don’t raise their voice also. According to the society in ancient India women’s god is her husband . She has to serve her husband whole life.

In case her husband dies, she was burned alive and if she denies she was forced to burn alive. This was called ‘**Sati Pratha**’ in which a women has to burn in her husband’s funeral. If her husband dies it was her moral duty according to society and people. In some cases, she is not burned in her husband’s funeral her life was made worse. She was given taunts by the society it’s her mistake that her husband has died. She was not allowed to cook or enter in kitchen, can’t wear colorful clothes, can’t wear accessories. A widow has **only restrictions and restrictions**.

- 2. Women’s Education in Ancient India:** Women were not allowed to have education in ancient India. According to the society in ancient time only men have right to education, women can’t have education. People thought if a girls child will get education it will get out of hands. Some of the sculptures in Karnataka, in Jalsangvi temple, denotes that women had right to education there. In those sculpture there is a woman writing on something. That means women were allowed to have education in that part of India. The sculpture is known as **Shasan sundari** which is of 11th Century.

- 3. How were Women’s Treated After War in India:** Women were badly treated if their husband’s lost the war. They were ill- treated but not by hindus mostly muslim and mughal rulers. Mughals after victory takes all the queens from the king’s palace and ill treat them and fulfill their lust. They did not only does this with hindu’s but even with muslims. They used women to only fulfil their lust. Akbar one of the most famous mughal ruler killed Anarkali because she and Salim his son loved each other.

There is a story that Mumtaz and Shan Jahan were true lovers but after Mumtaz died Shah Jahan married her sister and just fulfilled lust. Whereas in that prespective Hindu kings pray women as goddess. Hindu kings respected women after war also. Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Maharaj are examples of that.

4. **Indian Women of 300B.C.E:** Indian women of 300BCE law were far ahead of their time, even before many other ancient civilizations. Women were protected from all kinds of offences. They were established philosophers, artists, writers, and warriors equally alongside men in society. It is inspiring to see those ancient Indian women who broke free from constraints of their time and achieved the greatness that have been denied to generations of women before and after to them. We can see that women at that time did not have any social and economic inequalities.
5. **Gargi a Philosopher of Vedic Time:** There is a mythology about women since ancient time about 'Gargi' Gargi was the daughter of sage Vachaknu in the lineage of sage Garga. She was a prominent female philosopher of the vedic age. She was a great scholar of Gargi had Great knowledge. She was a knowledgeable person.
6. **What is Jauhar:** In today's world, if we try to understand what Jauhar is we get to know that it is just a mass suicide, but in the medieval period, this was a rajput custom, where the Rajput women sacrificed their lives for their husbands when they were about to lost a battle.
7. **Freedom of Women in Ancient Time :** Women were treated on par with men. There was no discrimination at home, Women were allowed to be a part of public activities. They were given authority in familial matters. Widow remarriage was not a taboo. The practice of '**Niyoga**' was very common under this a brother or any close relative of the deceased husband could marry the widow so as to continue the legacy of the family. A women could inherit the property of her parents. According to the Rig Veda, even a spinster was allowed to do so. In ancient time women had much freedom than today's world. In Mahabharata the story of Draupdi's marriage to 5 men is a case in point. This pointed the fact that polygamy was matched with polyandary during the vedic era. Women could select their husband in an assembly called **Swayamwar**. In this practice, the father of the women could invite all the men and the women could select one of them and marry him while the court watched.
8. **Ancient Women as Warriors:** Women can also be seen as warriors in ancient time. They get into war fearlessly, many because their husband died in war.
 - Rudramadevi
 - Rani Durgavati
 - Velu Dachiyar
 - Rani Tarabai
 - Rani Abbakka Chowta
 - Kittur Chennama
 - Rani Laxmi Bai
 - Razia Sultan

9. Some unknown facts about women in ancient India: Indian culture has always been accused of having a conservative approach towards women, But there were some privileges too that they enjoyed:-

- There are many Hymns of Rigveda written by women. It's only in the Indian culture where the women have written the holy scriptures.
- During the British Era there was a survey by a scholar named Dharmapala who concluded that men and women had equal education at all levels.
- There were many instances of Indian women going into the war which proves that woman could do everything appropriate based on their female anatomy. This is the vedic culture where women had always the highest respect but we lost our identity during the Turkish Invasion.

II. CONCLUSION

Here we see that ancient India had right to education, freedom in many parts but not everywhere. Many families did not allow a girl's child to have education and freedom. Many great kings of the ancient time respect women, whereas the Mughal rulers only fulfilled their lust. Women were seen scholars also 'Gargi' and many warriors also like Rudramadevi and we also see that in the era of 300.B.C.E they enjoyed equal rights. In today's time only society has made social and economic inequalities between men and women.

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