

STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

DANGE A. R.
Degloor College,
Degloor

ABSTRACT:

The present paper is about the Status of Women in Indian Society. It lights on the status of women from ancient period to the present. It takes an account of the position of women, problems of women and the violence against women in Indian society. It highlights the female foeticide, women's low nutritional level, women's role in making men successful in life. It focuses on the different kinds of discriminations against women. The paper also emphasises that women are serving through various departments' along with family responsibility. Still men continue to torture, rape and kill women. Lastly it concludes on the importance of women and the role of women in Indian society. Woman is next to god in her deeds and actions. We must stop dominating her, oppressing, exploiting, harassing, kidnapping, rape and killing brutally if we want to prove that ours is a cultured and civilised society.

Key Words: Women, Status, Violence, Equality, Society, Culture etc.

India is popularly called as the cultured society. The country of many Gods, Goddesses, saints, sadhu's and the land of many social reformers. Woman is considered and compared with 'Laxmi, Durga and Kali but in fact women are treated here very badly, inhumanly. In spite of a great heritage we haven't learnt to respect woman rather they are crushed and killed. We call ourselves developed and civilised one, there is a unity in diversity, great importance is given to human values, morals and morality is preserved. It is believed that familial relationship, man-woman relationship have greater importance in our culture even the place of wife in our culture is great. She is called 'Ardhangini' husband takes an oath of her all cares at the time of marriage but the reality in Indian society is quite different. We are living in the 21st century but still there is no any change in our behaviour, patriarchal domination is there. we have been exploiting woman since the ancient period. Man thinks that woman is inferior to him and less important. This is rooted in our culture and even our religious books also discriminate women and they have been given a secondary importance.

Women are facing various problems in India due to this patriarchal domination. They are not safe in the country so called cultured and civilised one. If women are not safe and treated very inhumanly how can be that country is called cultured and developed one? Women are living under threat, they are oppressed, deprived from their rights like to get education, to take their own decisions, to choose their life partners, to live life in their own way, they are exploited, dominated, tortured, harassed, abused, kidnapped, raped and killed brutally. Women are neither safe at home nor outside. Women are becoming the victims of domestic violence and this is not new, it's happening since the ancient period and even today in the period of Covid 19 it is rather increased. The prime reason behind such type of ill treatment to women is that still the society is uncivilised one. The present educational system is unable to give shape to the personality of individual. This textual and technical education is proving



insufficient to mould the character of individual. Wisdom, social sense, common sense, good sense and nobility are the things to be developed and merely technical and scientific text will not fulfil these lacunas.

We have forgotten “*Par Stree Mate saman*” we have given up respecting women, we never think her as equal to us, though the present woman has made a remarkable entry almost every field. On the other side we don’t like to be her economically independent. We always think that she should not step ahead than man. Any nation can be called developed only when people’s thoughts are developed. Indian men are very short minded and have a negative mindset about women. Development and progress of the nation is depending of the development of women’ status but we do not allow women to come forth; we do not support and inspire them. Instead of it people discourage women, criticise and remark if she tries to stand on her own. It indicates the patriarchal domination in our society. Violence against women are a common thing in India. Women are becoming the victims of Physical, Psychological and mental tortures. Every third woman is a victim of violence in India. News related to woman in News Papers is a common thing every day we see that women are tortured, killed, divorced, burnt, and such many news we read every day. There is a question before other foreign people that How Indians are? Why do Indian’s rape women? Why Women do are burnt? Why do Indian women commit suicide? And why do men behave inhumanly with women when they believe that marriages are made in heaven and why do they call themselves cultured?

This discrimination starts from parents especially from mother, from common man to an educated person everybody gives preference to male child and the female child is unwelcomed. She suffers as a mother, wife, and daughter and even as a sister. Women are not respected rather they are used. People go on talking on the “*Stree Samman*” “*Stree Mukti*” means respect to women and liberation of women but the real picture is very different. In reality all taking from administrators, leaders, saints, sadhus, and such many exploit woman. Women’s are the victims everywhere they suffer in some or other way. Now in this period of science and technology cyber crimes against women also are increasing a lot. Women rarely get justice culprit rapes a woman instead of punishing him society blames the victim and this is the tragedy of Indian society. Women’s issues not at all taken seriously rather she is harassed everywhere. Even the women those who are on high position, have good jobs they too are the victims of patriarchal domination. They suffer on both the counts in office by the officials or boss and at home by husband and the family members. In India young to old, common to repudiated person uses sexual and amorous words about women. People always think of using a woman for fulfilling sexual desires so we see many unbelievable examples or rape and killing of women. Many teen aged girls to young women are raped and killed everyday nobody is serious about it. There are many unknown girls and women are the victim of violence against women they silently suffer and die one day.

Many feminist activists, writers are trying to raise voice against male domination but who listens to them in this society. The picture is very horrible in most of the states of the country stall they kill female child. So Honourable Prime Minister gave the slogan “*Beti Bachav and Beti Padhav*” but only this will not change the system strict laws should be made to stop crimes against women.

We are much fascinated towards western culture, life, style, food and dresses. We imitate their things but in spite of this there are many good things that need to learn from the western countries. That is respecting women; giving them equal status but we have been doing injustice with women, still we discriminate women on various levels. As woman work long and tedious hours facing and adjusting all difficulties, situations but suffer from food discrimination. Men eat first and given more nutritious food to them. Women eat after men in our society, they eat whatever is left to them. This shows that men are more important because they are bread earners. This type of discrimination is seen in almost every field like education, sex discrimination- means sex selective abortion, every mother wants male child and girls are always unwelcomed. So discrimination starts from mother herself. This is also because people believe that male continues that family chain. We see discrimination as far as arranging marriages is also concerned. Boys have more choices but girls are not even asked. The things have changed in the present time, the table is turning round because girls are making their currier and going a step ahead than boys but even though girls have to accept the decision taken by the family members. This again shows injustice with women. Women suffer because every husband thinks that wife must be one step behind.

Women have made a great change in the modern period. She is not only a house wife but serving through various departments. She has created her own image and identity and becoming economically independent. She has become very serious about her currier. The growing status of women also hurt men, they feel inferior if wife is earning and becoming independent. In result he tries to dominate and tortures her. As it is mentioned earlier woman no matter whether she is working or house wife she has to suffer in this male dominated society because we haven't accepted still that woman is equal to man.

Woman as a mother, sister, daughter and wife and even a friend makes tremendous efforts to make a son, a brother, a father, a husband and a friend successful and happy in life. Her good impressions, suggestions, guidance and support make a man to win. Woman is everything for man; man is nothing without woman though men ill-treat women. She is next to god in her actions and deeds; she should be respected and saluted all the times for her goodness. If we really want to prove that we are good human beings then we must stop all kinds of violence against woman, we should give an equal status to woman, we must respect woman then only we can call ourselves civilised and cultured one.

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