



STATUS OF WOMEN IN RURAL SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Women has played an important role in society, Indian women are facing many problems regarding their status in family, but Indian constitution ,Law and government has made proper guideline and direction to improve condition of women. Gender equality is the basic priority of government. Reservation in education, job and election are the major action of various governments has proven good results for women empowerment. Now women are self dependent and they are equally capable to take their own decision, rural economy is dependent on agriculture and agriculture is indirectly connected with women due to cattle farming activity. So we can say that women are part of our society and we cannot ignore their role in society.

INTRODUCTION

In the middle era huge discrimination was noticed between men and women, and the level of women in social life were not so high, gender discrimination reached at its peak level which was eye catching factor of middle era. Except RUGVED era the level of women keep declining.

Women has played a key role In development of every country, women of India are facing lots of problems in social life and in different fields. while taking decisions in the family ,women's opinion are always ignored. Today women are becoming victim of several torture . Women should be studied in the same way as an organ of society, from the context of social view.

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Law :

To improve the status of a woman, the British government denies female male inequalities based on birth, gender, caste, and other laws related to family, marriage, property inheritance and child marriage. Year 1829 – Sharda act, 1865 – remarriage of widow approval, Ban on satipratha, Ban on more than one wife, special marriage act – 1872 etc. are the factors of social revolution at that time and now we can observe the change in the position and role of women in our society. After independence constitutional arrangement, social law and planned economical programmes has played an important role to improve women empowerment. Indian constitution aimed to give equality to men and women, and with respect to this Indian government has made lots of laws to improve the level of women.

Women have given right to participate in political field by reservation act, (24 April-1993) 73rd Amendment of constitution panchayatiraj – 33% and in in some state With 50 % reservation also sarpanch and presedent posts are reserved for women. By the Revolutionary decision of reservation, importance of women increased in political field. Due to that Women are now given honor, status and respect . and it has been proven by different studies regarding the same topic. Today more than 46 % women are present in panchayatiraj across the India.in Gujarat there are approx 2000 women are working as a sarpanch, 250 mahila samras grampanchayat are working successfully across the state. And they all women will do at their best in future, today women are playing an important role in state assembly, loksabha and rajyasabha. Political parties can not ignore the women as a key factor of leadership.

Education :

Indian constitution has accepted equality of men and women, and by this aim government has made suitable environment for education of women. due to serious efforts and encouragement of government, women education rate has been increased from 8 % (1951) to 65 % today. Girl education campaign has played an important role in women education, Drop out ratio has been declined due high importance of girl education. Nowadays government is taking sufficient action and making various schemes to increase girl education and that is appreciable.

Profession :

In the view of globalization rural women are working equally to the men in different fields. Educated rural women has accepted latest profession in the place of traditional job, and they has proven themselves. They got national and international fame, today women are working independently in agriculture, cattle care, and business. After independence commodity



production per hector has been increased. And women has played key role in this. Almost 60 % women are working in agriculture field, and white revolution is totally dedicated to the women. villages are empowered by dairy business. Women are getting strong financially support from the income of milk to manage house expenses. Shri Jagadambadevi, Sitadevi and Baoa devi (Bihar)has got Padmashree award, women are playing an important role in inhouse businesses. For this, women economic development corporation has been founded. To connect women in national flow, government has given an importance to women in rural development programme. Government has secured workplaces where women are working and provided safety and facilities.

Women are working in agriculture, cattle farming, service and businesses and they are self dependent. Today 70% women are involve in family decision, women are free to spend their own earned money, rural women has empowered rural economy with the earning from cattle farming business, government is helping to the women cattle farmer. White revolution has attracted women to join the trend. Now small and micro villages women are also eager to participate in the white revolution. Approx 73 % women of Gujarat are involved in white revolution. 14 % women members are added in Milk production cooperative mandalis. Women are getting chance to lead the local cooperative institution. Some of those women has made record in milk production through cattle farming and they got KRUSHI RATNA and women entrepreneur awards for that outstanding performance. Women are capable to spend this money for their child education, house expenses and health.

Micro finance programme is playing an important role in developing country, this efforts encourages self help women groups for economic activity. As a part of women empowerment it helps women to come up from poverty line. Government has arranged entrepreneurship training , skill development programme and small finance facility for women to empower them. Rural women are getting good opportunities to improve their income. In today's era self help groups are very popular to prove themselves. They are very helpful for socio – economic change. Rural development programmes are working as a key factor in public partnership and women empowerment.

CONCLUSION :

During 19 and 20th century socio – religious movement, independence movement, constitutional formation, social law, latest education system and rural development programmes has upgraded women's status and role. United nation has arranged seminars regarding the same, year 1975 was celebrated as a international women year and 1975 to 85 decade celebrated as a women decade. Every 8th march is declared as a international women



day. And women are more aware due this decision. Also it is true that women empowerment action are found slow.

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