

WOMEN: A SAGA FROM VICTIM TO VICTORIOUS.

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Abstract: Had this topic been discussed a century back, the research paper surely had to strive extreme hard to address any information on Women in Various Fields. However, as the time rolls down on its winged chariot, remarkable development has been recorded by history. Today with the wind of 21st century the discrimination, orthodox mindset and traditional approach have given space to innumerable fields to get open for women to dig out. Furthermore, it also gives scopes for women to break the prevailing belief that Men are superior to Women i.e. “breaking the gender barrier”. Current status, involvements, contributions, advantages, limitations and challenges from the long ignominious past to glorious present of women into innumerable working fields i.e. A SAGA FROM VICTIM TO VICTORIOUS have been gloriously attempted to be brought forth in this paper.

Keywords: Breaking the gender barrier, discrimination, winged chariot, Saga.

I. INTRODUCTION

The importance of studying Women’s role” in the present day’s society is more pertinent than ever because of the changing attitude in/of the society towards the same. “In spite of comprising 50 percent of the population on the globe, women were not given equal status with men. A major part of this sentiment can be attributed to gender role of socialization that opens in every society.” (Chakrapani & Vijayakumar 1) However, history has something else in its record which stands exact opposite.

The glorious journey of Women from the situation of their being dormant to equality and even surpassing to men in some cases has been a continuous process of ups and down throughout history. The roots lie from ancient times as in the cases where according to Christianity, God, The Almighty, created Adam first and Eve at a later stage which is a very clear reference of gender discrimination where the male was given prime importance to that of female. Thereafter, women have passed through innumerable ordeals and have tried, to not only survive their existence but also fought for their rights. Today the status of women in India and at a cosmos level at a large has changed. Modern India has also accepted women wholeheartedly in all the legislative offices including the office of President and Prime minister of India.

II. HISTORICAL JOURNEY OF WOMEN FROM VICTIM TO VICTORIOUS

During the ancient period women were considered merely productive plants whose duty was to produce viz. Child, work, cooking, home affairs etc. The condition was so deteriorative that their day used to begin by a long distant walk to gather water for homely affairs. The water collection work was not the end but was merely the beginning which used

to be followed by many other breathtaking exercises. However, the studies of great grammarian Patanjali and Katyayana contradict the above said assumption that women were not given importance and suggest that women were not only given equal status but sometimes even surpassing to men in all aspects of life. The Indian scriptures give enough reference of women who enjoyed all the dignified pleasures like Gargi, Lopamudra and many more.

The studies of great Patanjali and Katyayana explicit that the journey of women started gorgeously with a bang but in the medieval period, it started getting down. The position became worse during the Moghul rule. Women were subjected to several rules such as Purdah system, the custom of being Sati. Such fate of women remained active throughout the reign of British.

Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali and many other female leaders started bringing transition into the condition of women. It was Gandhiji who rooted the crops for women development. At later stage even the Indian administration started eradicating the differences of men and women. The highest level rule of India i.e. the judiciary system considers both equal. Gradually Women Libration moments, Girl Education, Girl Protection movements and their proper execution brought a sort of revolution to the status of women in general.

“The government of India has made Empowerment of Women as one of the principal objectives of the Ninth Five Year plan (1997-2002) and also declared year 2001 as the year of Women’s Empowerment.” (Pandya 236) There has been a gradual increase in gender equality, especially in the last hundred years. Along with this has come a great increase in the status of women. The idea that women and men are equal is much more (though not universally) accepted than it ever has been in the past.

III. STATUS OF WOMEN IN VARIOUS FIELDS AT PRESENT:

With the amend in time India and the world have seen revolutionary changes concerned to women’s getting involved into almost all the fields which were earlier open for only male fraternity. The below portrayed data clearly sing splendid entry of Women in each field.

A. Nobel Prize:

The first lady to claim Nobel Prize was Marie Curie. She claimed it in 1903 and shared it with Antoine Henri Becquerel and Pierre Curie. Thereafter, till 2014, 46 women have been awarded with Nobel Prizes. The data clearly states that in no manner women’s situation is pathetic but is of equal level and if the same continuous the history will remark the surpassing data of women surpassing to men and it is not exaggeration.

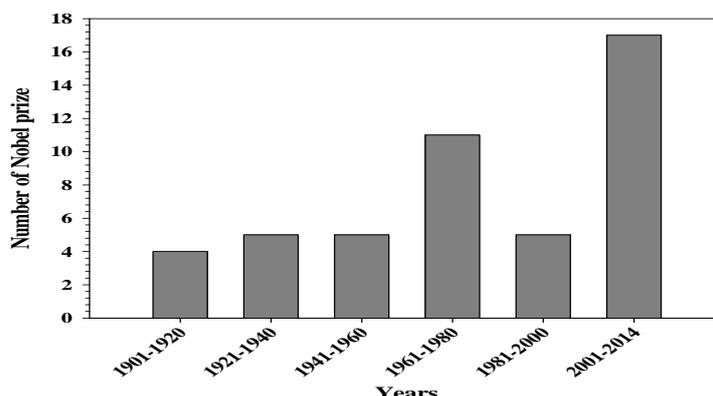


Figure 1: Number of Nobel Prize won by women.

2. Sports:

The field of sports observes impressive participation from females in the world event Olympics. Among the total 22 Olympic Games ever happened starting from 1924 to 2014 the data shows constant, not steady but extreme rapid improvements of female participation.

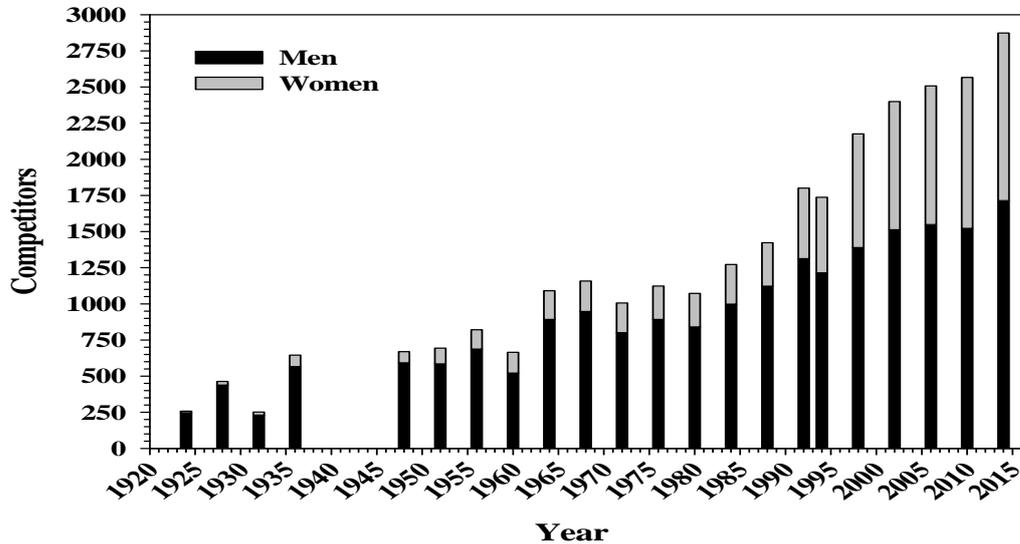


Figure 2: Ratio of progressive participation of females into Winter Olympics.

3. Army: Women in the military have a history that extends over 3,000 years into the past. India in particular has glorious past of women in army starting from Jhansi ki Rani who fought for her rights to Commander Pooja Thakur who gave guard of honour to American President to his visit to India on Jan. 26, 2015. Their contributions cannot be underestimated and today more and more number of women is coming forth to join Indian armed force. Accurate statistical data suggests that women officers in armed force are 5.4 % excluding medical and paramedical staff.

Source: http://164.100.47.132/Annexture_New/lsq16/4/au881.htm

4. Politics: “Many women today are coming forward to join the decision making process by joining The Indian Administrative Services, the Indian Police Services, Judiciary, Political parties, local self government bodies.” (Singh 3) From the local to the global level women’s leadership and political participation are flourished. Women are rendering their sincere services in the field of politics since ages however, the first elected lady prime minister was Sirivamo Bandaranaike from Sri Lanka. At present total 62 Women Prime Ministers render their services at the highest level.

CONCLUSION

- The history remarks standard changes in the situation of women in general not only at India but at a world level at large.
- The demand of time gives equal openings and opportunities to brave and courageous females to walk with the men having hand in the hand.
- There has been a considerable increase in the ratio of female education.
- Each field of work is sensing a very strong involvement of female participation. In some of the fields, the reign of female is clearly seen which is a clear indication, that in the time to come Men will have to remain prepared for a throat cut competition.

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