

## WOMEN IN INDIAN HISTORY

**Khyati J. Patel**

*Asst. professor, Department of ASH, S.N.P.I.T&RC, Umrakh, Gujarat, India.*

**Abstract:** *In this paper we will try to explain that the women in India have been subject to many huge changes over the minority millennia. starting the same provision by means of men in ancient era from first to last the small points of the medieval period, British rule, independent India and in modern India to the promotion of equal privileges by many reformers, the history of women in India has been exciting. In modern India, women have said towering offices in India including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Leader of the opponent. However, women in India persevere to face atrocities such as rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, and the forced prostitution of young girls.*

**Keywords:** Ancient India, British rule, Independent India, Medieval period, modern India.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The history of women in India has been subject to various great changes over the past small number of millennia. Starting the same provision by means of men in ancient era from first to last the small points of the medieval stage, to the endorsement of the same human rights with numerous reformers, the record of women in India have been hectic. In modern India, women include supposed elevated offices in India counting with the intention of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Leader of the Opposition. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha were women. However, women in India continue to look violence such as rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, and the put on prostitution of juvenile girls.

### II. HISTORY

#### A. Ancient India

According to scholars, in ancient India women enjoyed equal status and right with men in all aspects of life. In the Vedic time, women were educated. They were married at a mature age and they were free to choose their own husbands. According to scriptures such like the Rig Veda and Upanishads, there were several women sages and seers, notably Gargi & Maitreyi. A number of kingdoms in ancient India had ethnicity such as *nagarvadhu* and women competed to get the trendy title of *nagarvadhu*. But with Islamic invasion of Babur and the Mughal Empire and Christianity, women's independence and right worsened. With this great women in India faced detention also limitations.

## ***B. Medieval period***

Indian women situation in the public supplementary deteriorated at some stage in the medieval period as child marriages and prohibition on various communities in India. The Muslim rule in the Indian subcontinent brought about the custom of purdah to Indian society. In several parts of India, a few of *devdasis* were sexually oppressed. Polygamy was practised between Hindu Kshatriya rulers in support of various supporting reasons. In many Muslim families, women were controlled to *zanana* area of the quarters. At some stage in unkindness of these conditions, women often became well-known and noticeable in the field of politics, journalism teaching as well as religion. Even as a queen they ruled over and their kingdom in absence of the king. Rani Durgavati, Chandbibi of Ahmednagar, Nur Jehan the imperial power behind the Mughal throne, and Jijabai are the best examples. Some religious movements tried to restore woman's position.

## ***C. British rule***

During the British rule, many reformers fought for the betterment of women. Such as free school for girls, closure of satipratha, widow remarriage, boycott of child marriages etc Rani Laxmibai, Begum Hazrat Mahal, the Begum of Bhopal are considered notable female rulers during this period, who led the India Rebellion of 1857. and refused deals with the Britishers. Women played on essential division in India's liberty fight.

## ***D. Independent India***

In the independent India's constitution, women were garneted impartially, no prejudice, equality of chance equal pay for equal work, special provisions in favour of women and children etc. Indira Gandhi served as prime minister. But still there were much maltreatment to females being practised like rape, killing of child, gender bias etc. There were issues of women's safety, health, literacy, dignity and right over which female activists and many women groups united and led campaigns. Some women related issues, led to country wide protests which forced the government to alter some acts in 1979 – 1980. In 1990, donation from donor agencies enabled the configuration of latest women oriented NGOs self assist groups and NGOs such as self employed women's association have played a most important part in the improvement of women's right in India. Many women have emerged as selected of limited activities; for examples, Medha Patkar of the Narmada Bachao Andolan. Thus, there has been steady change in the position of women in India.

## ***E. Modern India***

In Modern India yet they are still facing violence such as rape, acid throwing, dowry killings and the forced prostitution of young girls. With increasing education and awareness in the Indian society these evils are reducing. Media, education and good governance by good leaders together brought about many good changes.

## **III. CONCLUSION**

- In India the history of women have been subject to many large changes more than the times of the minority millennia to the back-up of the same privileges by several reformers. In ancient India, women enjoyed the same category in the company of men in

all aspects of years. In the medieval period, Indian women's situation in culture deteriorated at some point, at what time child marriages and a ban on remarriage by widows became an element of communal violence in some communities in India. Despite of unfair surroundings, women repeatedly became outstanding in the fields of government, journalism, teaching and faith. During the British Raj, many reformers fought for the betterment of women. Such as free school for girls, end of Sati, Widow Remarriage etc.

- In modern India, women take part totally in areas such as teaching, games, government, media, skill as well as traditions; examine sectors, knowledge and machinery, etc. Women have detained elevated offices in India together with so as that of the leader, main priest, or operator of the Lok Sabha.

## REFERENCES

- [01] "Child marriages targeted in India". BBC News. 24 October 2001.
- [02] "National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2001)". Retrieved 24 December 2006.
- [03] Jyotsana Kamat (2006-1). "Status of Women in Medieval Karnataka". Retrieved 24 December 2006.
- [04] Mahapatro, Meerambika; Gupta, R N; Gupta, Vinay K (August 26, 2014). "Control and Support Models of Help-Seeking Behavior in Women Experiencing Domestic Violence in India". *Violence and Victims* **29** (3): 464–475.
- [05] Sudha G Tilak. "Crimes against women increase in India - Features". Al Jazeera English.
- [06] Victoria A. Velkoff (October 1998). "Women of the World: Women's Education in India" (PDF). U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved 25 December 2006.
- [07] [wikipedia.org/wiki/Women\\_in\\_India](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_India).