

Social Position of Women in Indian family System

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Abstract—The position of women in relation to gender and social media has become a critical subject of scholarly inquiry. Social media platforms function as both sites of empowerment and arenas of inequality, where women negotiate identity, visibility, and agency. Academic research highlights how digital spaces challenge traditional gender norms, yet simultaneously reproduce patriarchal structures through harassment, stereotyping, and exclusion. This duality underscores the need for rigorous analysis of online cultures, examining how women's participation reshapes discourse and how gendered power relations persist in digital environments. Such research contributes to broader debates on media, gender, and social justice.

Women's engagement with social media reveals both opportunities for empowerment and risks of marginalization. While platforms enable visibility, activism, and participation in public life, they also expose women to gender-based violence, harassment, and systemic exclusion. Policymakers must recognize this dual position: social media can advance gender equality only if regulatory frameworks address online abuse, promote inclusivity, and ensure equitable access. This study emphasizes the importance of gender-sensitive digital policies that safeguard women's rights while fostering environments where diverse voices can thrive.

Social media has transformed the position of women by providing a powerful tool for grassroots activism and collective mobilization. Women use digital platforms to challenge gender stereotypes, amplify marginalized voices, and organize movements that transcend geographical boundaries. Campaigns such as MeToo illustrate how online spaces can disrupt silence and catalyze social change. Yet, these same platforms also reflect entrenched inequalities, where women face harassment and silencing. The interplay of empowerment and vulnerability highlights the urgent need to strengthen digital solidarity and build inclusive online communities that advance gender justice.

Index Terms—position, platforms, negotiates empowerment, harassment, vulnerability and mobilization

I. Introduction

History indeed a witness in India from the ancient times; a woman is considered as respectable and dignified person. She is also known as a goddess Lakshmi, Saraswati for all great men, scholars, rulers who have had worked for welfare of the society from time immemorial. Although everybody says in context to gender equality, social status and rights of the women yet take a turn as and when the reality appears. If we go to countryside still many of the women are being treated in a wicked way which cannot be tolerated by a decent person. The women are forced to lead their life within four walls of the houses or bounden to go to field for helping the man in the field. Many women are burnt alive if they refuse to perform against the wishes of their in laws or husbands. It is vicious act which is highly condemnable indeed but very few take initiative to say few words against this wickedness.

It has been observed since independence many awareness programs are being launched by Indian government to change the mind set of male dominating society who continuously exploit women in many of the field. But the fact is that the result is not up to the mark. There is no doubt that much efforts have had been made from centuries but still male is dominating and is not digesting the progress of the women. Raja Ram Mohan Roy,

Swami Vivekananda, Sarojini Naidu, Mother Teresa, Rani Lakshmi Bai, and Indra Gandhi who made lot of efforts for upliftment of women from wretched predicament. They have proved it that women are equally important as compared to men. Their role is unique sometimes she becomes goddess Saraswati, Lakshmi, great mother and inspiration for all men. She is also known for her virtues like kindness, tenderness, and compassion.

It is unfortunate for the last few years the position of women have had been deteriorated. Whatever her position is seen out worldly, is not acceptable in the real world of society. The harsh reality is that the Indian society has had not recognized women as it is bonafide member. They are dominated not only by the men they have married but also by their in laws.

The position of the women can be uplifted in the traditional India by using the following

Measures:

Proper Educational facilities: Although significant gains have been made in female literacy since independence yet we need many efforts. According to the statistics released by the latest census of 2011 in India female literacy rate is 65.46% as compared to 1991 census it was 39%, the position of women literacy at present, is much better. It has been observed by us from the ancient times that the most of the women are been exploited and deprived of proper education. Some of the parents think that their male child should be taught in a modern public school so far as the female child is concerned, they are reluctant to send them to modern public schools rather they are interested to send them to the government schools. There is urgent need to exterminate this thinking from their mind and educate them to change their mind set. They should take it as granted that the female child are not less capable, they are as good as male child. A great many women of Indian society have had proved their capability by sound education as Rani Lakshmi Bai, Razia Sultan, Sarjoni Naidu, Mother Teresa and Indira Gandhi. There is no doubt, that even at present women are being befooled by some of the males as they still have wicked and cruel thinking towards women. I can say, "A variety of socio economic factors are responsible for women's lower educational attainment, including direct cause, the need for female labour, the low expected returns, and social restrictions"¹. I think women's educational level and her health status are linked to each other.

Change attitude towards women: All who have developed vicious thinking towards women, it is a warning to them that they should change their mind set and developed positivity towards them. It has been reflected in India for a long time that many males are dominating the women and also have sick mentality to them. They involve themselves in rape, exploitation and eve teasing which is scornful for a decent society. But it is also noticed in the society that men are having mean attitude towards women. It has been noticed by us in the society "from beginning in childhood most rural women fulfill multiple productive functions in addition to bearing children and performing household labour"². She is merely a puppet of the entire family. She starts her work from the early morning to till late night without taking rest. How long this practice will keep going on. We must try to remove this practice from the mind of many families who considers female only productive workers. In some of the families, the girls are under pressure to being earning at very young age. As labour class, being poor is forced to send their young girls for labour rather than providing proper education and care. It is the need of the hour to change their mind set by giving them proper guidance related to their female child education.

Ensure proper knowledge and services for family planning: The Family Welfare Program was started by the govt of India but could not get as much success as it should be. The program has come up under criticism for narrow scope of services. I have observed "during the late 1960s and early 1970s, feminism emerged in both Britain and the United States from the slumbers of the four preceding decades"³. Both the countries had one point agendas to inculcate spirit among the people "to bring women into full and equitable participation in every domain of society"⁴. But in India some of the people try their best efforts to impart proper education to the women and negative people cannot digest women's progress, knowledge and freedom. The Indian women perform very well in all fields.

Prepare girls for better working and motherhood:- Today, there is urgent need to prepare each girl to have ethics, values and morality so that she may be able to save her motherhood qualities in future. Proper campaign or programs to be launched by the government so that she may not forget her duties towards her family. It has been found, “women appear to be particularly vulnerable to labeling by professionals when the welfare of their family is at risk”⁵. We all know that at present the women are playing a different role in all the fields. They play a role as teacher, leader, clerk, typist, nurse, domestic servant, farm labourer, industrial worker, journalist, architect, engineer, doctor, soldier, air hostess, and even police officer. Infact, the women are active in all walk of life. But inspite of all these achievements, the women is neglected and abandoned soul. In our strange social system, the women is exploited, humiliated, insulted and molested by man at work places. Although many programs have been launched to “provide services to women and for her safe motherhood”⁶ yet much efforts and facilitation programs to be required for the upliftment of the present women. It has been seen by us, “despite the growing participation of women in extra domestic work throughout the economy, the study of the relationship between conditions at the work place and the health of workers has not been broadly developed with respect to the women worker”⁷. It is an urgency to take hard steps to prepare girls for better delivery at work places and a great inspiration is to be required to prepare them a better mother in future.

Modern communication and social media can be great force for women Emancipation:- It is undeniable fact that our civilization, customs, and laws have all been made by men and he was taken good initiative to keep himself in superior position to treat women his own property and could exploit her for his petty interests. under this continuous pressure woman has been unable to grow and develop her capacities freely. Even man has blamed her for her backwardness. According to Jawaharlal Nehru, “the women of India had to free themselves, from the tyranny of manmade customs and laws. They will have to carry on this second struggle for freedom by themselves, for man is not likely to help them”⁸. A separate section of social scientists and researchers are engaged in studies related to women in Mass-Media. These studies cover all continents and show how Media have been biased against women. The International Association for Mass communication has a separate work which deals with women related problems. It is pertinent that ongoing communication Revolution has opened up new possibilities of accelerating development specially for the upliftment of women. If this Revolution is not properly controlled, this Revolution will have adverse effects on the development of women. It is necessary to focus on modern communication and development. This is because when we reflect on the human conditions in general, we miss the aspects affecting specially women. If we also focus on Media of developed as well as developing countries from their earliest history to the present time, we can hardly avoid the obvious male dominated. The media must project the working women in the unorganized sector as worker and not merely as performing the duties of wife and daughter. They being major earners, they must be projected as producers and not merely consumers. And we must reflect issues related to women empowerment. The educated women should be encouraged to join media as reporters so that the women issues can be discussed widely. Media can create equal view among people who are living under men dominated culture.

Protect Social, Economic and Cultural rights of women :- It does not require much logic and evidence to prove that women have had been continuously victimized of poverty and under developed on the one hand and socio-economic in justice and exploitations on the other. But they are also the victims of development itself specially of inequities patterns of economic growth and social change. It is found that in an unequal, class-divided and male dominated society, institutional and technological choices for promoting development tend to favour the dominant groups and the dominant gender. These customary obligations, nevertheless, acted as mechanism sources of economic and social security for women. It has been noticed that the most of the class cases of the women related single parents are in work where a family depend upon a woman worker's employment survival, women are less likely to leave or challenge abusive working conditions. This damaging attitude towards women workers will definitely disempowering. Women workers, then the exploitation of moment will continue in the society. It is the pervasive exploitation of women workers that shame all of us. Swami Vivekananda says, “There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of the women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one”⁹. There is no doubt that most of the organizations are making efforts for women emancipation, providing social, economic and cultural freedom to women.

Curb Exploitation:-

It has been found in “recent research by the TUC that more than half of women workers surveyed had experienced some form of sexual harassment, and more than one in ten had experienced unwanted sexual contact. Women in the hospitality sector were significantly more likely to have experienced sexual harassment, with 67% of women surveyed reporting some form of sexual harassment from colleagues, managers, customers and hotel guests”¹⁰. Promoting gender equality was identified by the government of India as priority strategic goal for the UN System in India under UN Development Assistance Framework. We should not forget that Gender Equality is not just a women’s issue but it is an issue for the nation.

Recommendations:-

Although many efforts have been made by the government of India for women’s liberation, empowerment and emancipation, yet various issues are untouched need to be taken seriously. It is pertinent to mention here that feminism in India had a definite purpose to provide equal, political, economic and social rights and also equal opportunities to Indian women. Like their feminist counterparts all over the world, feminists in India seek Gender Equality, the right to work for equal wages, the right to equal access to Health, Education and equal Political rights.

Feminist movement in India divided into three different stages:

Mid 18th century when Male from European colonists spoke out against the social evils of Sati.

In 1915 when Gandhi ji added women’s movement into the Quit India Movement.

Post-Independence, which has focused on fair treatment of women at home after marriage.

Although Indian movements made lot of progress yet women is living in modern India face many issues of discrimination and injustice in access of education and related abundant issues of her future.

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