

Present Position of Women in India: A Critical Analysis

Dr. Prabhakar Jha

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, R.B. Jalan College, Bela, Darbhanga, Bihar, India

ABSTRACT: The status of women in complex society like India isn't uniform. As of late, the conventional roles of Women have experienced a few changes because of financial needs and a few endeavours were made to convey perceivability and standard women's commitment to the general development and improvement of society. The present examination is identified with status of women in Indian society from antiquated days till today. It gives significance on the situation of women in different fields like family life, social life and work circumstance. It features on female foeticide, low education level of women, women's low nourishing status, women's role in basic leadership, their situation according to Indian convention and so on. In conclusion it finishes up on significance of women and role of society for the liberation of women from male commanded society and their persecution and concealment.

KEYWORDS : Women, Work, Social, Development and Financial.

I. INTRODUCTION

The general development of a nation relies on the-maximum usage of people, the two men and women. The last two hundred years have seen a considerable, verifiably uncommon, expansion of women's rights, both economic and political. In India women contain almost 50% of the aggregate populace. With the advancement of time, the truth has now been perceived that without guaranteeing women development, the national development can't be accomplished. In every single industrialised nation, women went from being the property of their spouses or potentially their fathers, with not very many legitimate rights, to having the same political rights and the majority of an indistinguishable economic rights from men. The general advancement of a nation relies on the maximum usage of her kin, the two men and women. Women's equivalent interest in political life plays a pivotal role in the general procedure of the headway of women. It is not just an interest for basic equity or majority rules system however can likewise be viewed as a vital condition for women's interests to be taken into account. The term status incorporates individual and proprietary rights as well as incorporates obligations, liabilities and handicaps. Concerning the status of women in Indian society everywhere, no country has held their women in higher regard than the status of women in India has been liable to numerous extraordinary changes in the course of the last couple of centuries. From square with status with men in antiquated circumstances through the low purposes of the medieval period, to the advancement of equivalent rights by numerous reformers, the historical backdrop of women in India has been momentous. In current India, women have decorated high offices in India including that of the President, Prime clergyman, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition, and so forth. The past President of India was a lady. This examination is an endeavour by me to evaluate whether women in India are having same status and rights as we guaranteeing in various zones like: equality, political empowerment, instructive fulfilment, employment, marriage and family life, Race and gender, Religion and culture & wellbeing and well-being and investigates the requirements connected to each. The economic empowerment of women is an imperative element of solid economic development in any nation. Enabling women upgrades their capacity to impact changes and to make a superior society. Other than instructive and economic empowerment, changes in women's portability and social collaboration and changes in between family basic leadership are essential. They equivalent to men in all perspectives. Women are more sticklers in the ability to make, support and change.

Some Bright Spots India has world's biggest number of professionally qualified women. India has biggest populace of working women on the planet. India has more number of specialists, researchers, teachers than the United States Women Achiever. With the assistance of these social reformers women of India gradually began perceiving her actual potential. She began scrutinizing the tenets set down for her by the general public. Accordingly, began breaking obstructions and earned a respectable position on the planet. Today Indian women have exceeded expectations in every single field from social work to going to space station. There is no field, which stayed unconquered by Indian women. Today her little girl in law Mrs Sonia Gandhi is following her strides and driving the Indian National Congress. Other women who have made their name in governmental issues of India are Sheila Dixit, Uma Bharti, Jayalalitha, Vasundhara Raje, Mamata Banerjee and Mayawati.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of related literature makes the investigator fully aware with the previous work that has been done. It also provides an opportunity of gaining insight into the method, measures, subject and approaches employed by the other researchers. A careful review of research, journals, books, dissertations, thesis and other sources of information about the problem to be investigated is one of the important steps in the planning of any research studied.

Vikash Nandal et.,al. (2013) The status of women is one of vital angles to think about in each time. In Ancient Indian society status of women is some degree attractive. Lately the part of women has experienced some intense changes because of globalization and corporate greed. This paper examine whether the status of women in present day Indian society with respect to Equality, Education, Health, Employment, Marriage and Family life, Race and Gender, Religion and Culture is kept up or crumbled. It likewise investigates that as the society is produced in 21st century the position and regard of women is weakened after such a significant number of established arrangements what are the elements behind it.

Chandrakala Halli et.,al.(2016) Most of the social reformers attempted to inspire and reestablish the women's radiance through lecturing ,press and stage. Among them a couple of prominent reformists are Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswarachandra Vidya Sagar, Swami Dayanad, Duragabai Deshmukh, Jyotiba Phule and Ramaswami. Raja Ram Mohan Roy prevailing with regards to influencing emissary to ruler wiliam bentick, to pronounce the sati framework illegal .In the man centric family and society of our nation for a considerable length of time, the law of Manu in regard to the part and conduct of women have been inflexibly followed.

UM Gopal Krishna et.,al.(2017) In the previous decade, women were compelled to participate in any social exercises and not considered piece of any basic leadership process in the family. The states of women in provincial and remote zones were still more terrible. In any case, with the evolving times, women are engaged with wage producing exercises.

S.K Asha Begum (2018) In spite of the fact that women constitute half of the aggregate populace of the world, their social, monetary and political status is lower than that of men and they are subjected to the oppression and abuse of a specific request for a considerable length of time and accepted even today. It was normal that nations ought to expect parallel rights to men and women, since forswearing of such rights to half of the mankind over the world would add up to foul play and furthermore it would be incongruent with human poise, political strength and social homogeneity.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The article is descriptive and analytical in character. An attempt has been made to analyse the conditions for Indian context. According to the need of the article the data utilised are secondary in nature, which are collected from books, journals, magazines, research articles as well as Govt. documents.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Violence against women in India:

Violence against women in India refer to physical or sexual violence committed against Indian women, typically by a man. Common forms of violence against women in India include acts such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, and murder. In order to be considered violence against women, the act must be committed solely because the victim is female. Most typically, these acts are committed by men as a result of the long-standing gender inequalities present in the country.

Violence against women in India is actually more present than it may appear at first glance, as many expressions of violence are not considered crimes, or may otherwise go unreported or undocumented due to certain Indian cultural values and beliefs. These reasons all contribute to India's Gender Inequality Index rating of 0.524 in 2017, putting it in the bottom 20% of ranked countries for that year.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau of India, reported incidents of crime against women increased 6.4% during 2012, and a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2011, there were greater than 228,650 reported incidents of crime against women, while in 2015, there were over 300,000 reported incidents, a 44% increase. Of the women living in India, 7.5% live in West Bengal where 12.7% of the total reported crime against women occurs. Andhra Pradesh is home to 7.3% of India's female population and accounts for 11.5% of the total reported crimes against women. 65% of Indian men believe women should tolerate violence in order to keep the family together, and women sometimes deserve to be beaten. In

January 2011, the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) Questionnaire reported that 24% of Indian men had committed sexual violence at some point during their lives.

A dowry death is the murder or suicide of a married woman caused by a dispute over her dowry. In some cases, husbands and in-laws will attempt to extort a greater dowry through continuous harassment and torture which sometimes results in the wife committing suicide, or the exchange of gifts, money, or property upon marriage of a family's daughter.

The majority of these suicides are done through hanging, poisoning or self-immolation. When a dowry death is done by setting the woman on fire, it is called bride burning. Bride burning murder is often set up to appear to be a suicide or accident, sometimes by setting the woman on fire in such a way that it appears she ignited while cooking at a kerosene stove. Dowry is illegal in India, but it is still common practice to give expensive gifts to the groom and his relatives at weddings which are hosted by the family of the bride. In Uttar Pradesh, 2,244 cases were reported, accounting for 27.3% of the dowry deaths nationwide. In Bihar, 1,275 cases were reported, accounting for 15.5% of cases nationwide.

Honor killings:

An honor killing is a murder of a family member who has been considered to have brought dishonour and shame upon the family. Examples of reasons for honor killings include the refusal to enter an arranged marriage, committing adultery, choosing a partner that the family disapproves of, and becoming a victim of rape. Village caste councils or Khap Panchayats in certain regions of India regularly pass death sentences for persons who do not follow their diktats on caste or Gotra. The volunteer group known as Love Commandos from Delhi, runs a helpline dedicated to rescuing couples who are afraid of violence for marrying outside of caste lines.

The most prominent areas where honor killings occur in India are northern regions. Honor killings are especially seen in Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. Honor killings have notably increased in some Indian states which has led to the Supreme Court of India, in June 2010, issuing notices to both the Indian central government and six states to take preventative measures against honor killings. Honor killings can be very violent. For example, in June 2012, a father decapitated his 20-year-old daughter with a sword upon hearing that she was dating a man who he did not approve of. Honor killings can also be openly supported by both local villagers and neighbouring villagers. This was the case in September 2013, when a young couple who married after having a love affair were brutally murdered.

Female infanticide and sex-selective abortion:

Female infanticide is the elected killing of a newborn female child or the termination of a female fetus through sex-selective abortion. In India, there is incentive to have a son, because they offer security to the family in old age and are able to conduct rituals for deceased parents and ancestors. In contrast, daughters are considered to be a social and economic burden. An example of this is dowry. The fear of not being able to pay an acceptable dowry and becoming socially ostracised can lead to female infanticide in poorer families.

The Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act of 1994 (PCPNDT Act 1994) was modified in 2003 in order to target medical professionals. The Act has proven ineffective due to the lack of implementation. Sex-selective abortions have totaled approximately 4.2-12.1 million from 1980-2010. There was a greater increase in the number of sex-selective abortions in the 1990s than the 2000s. Poorer families are responsible for a higher proportion of abortions than wealthier families. Significantly more abortions occur in rural areas versus urban areas when the first child is female.

India is considered to be the world's most dangerous country for sexual violence against women. Rape is one of the most common crimes in India. Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 defines rape as penile and non-penile penetration in bodily orifices of a woman by a man, without the consent of the woman. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, one woman is raped every 20 minutes in India. Incidents of reported rape increased 3% from 2011 to 2012. Incidents of reported incest rape increased 46.8% from 268 cases in 2011 to 392 cases in 2012. Despite its prevalence, rape accounted for 10.9% of reported cases of violence against women in 2016. Victims of rape are increasingly reporting their rapes and confronting the perpetrators. Women are becoming more independent and educated, which is increasing their likelihood to report their rape.

Marital rape:

In India, marital rape is not a criminal offense. India is one of fifty countries that have not yet outlawed marital rape. 20% of Indian men admit to forcing their wives or partners to have sex. Marital rape can be classified into one of three types:

- Battering rape: This includes both physical and sexual violence. The majority of marital rape victims experience battering rape.

- Force-only rape: Husbands use the minimum amount of force necessary to coerce his wife.
- Compulsive or obsessive rape: Torture and/or "perverse" sexual acts occur and are often physically violent.

Modesty-related violence against women includes assaults on women with intent to outrage her modesty and insults to the modesty of women. From 2011 to 2012, there was a 5.5% increase in reported assaults on women with intent to outrage her modesty. Madhya Pradesh had 6,655 cases, accounting for 14.7% of the national incidents. From 2011 to 2012, there was a 7.0% increase in reported insults to the modesty of women. Andhra Pradesh had 3,714 cases, accounting for 40.5% of the national accounts, and Maharashtra had 3,714 cases, accounting for 14.1% of the national accounts.

Human trafficking and forced prostitution:

From 2011 to 2012, there was a 26.3% decrease in girls imported to India from another country. Karnataka had 32 cases, and West Bengal had 12 cases, together accounting for 93.2% of the total cases nationwide.

From 2011 to 2012, there was a 5.3% increase in violations of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act of 1956. Tamil Nadu had 500 incidents, accounting for 19.5% of the total nationwide, and Andhra Pradesh had 472 incidents, accounting for 18.4% of the total nationwide.

Domestic violence:

Domestic violence is abuse by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as dating, marriage, cohabitation or a familial relationship. Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse and intimate partner violence (IPV). Domestic violence can be physical, emotional, verbal, economic and sexual abuse. Domestic violence can be subtle, coercive or violent. In India, 70% of women are victims of domestic violence. 38% of Indian men admit they have physically abused their partners. The Indian government has taken measures to try to reduce domestic violence through legislation such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005. Every 9 minutes, a case of cruelty is committed by either of husband or a relative of the husband. Cruelty by a husband or his relatives is the greatest occurring crime against women. From 2011 to 2012, there was a 7.5% increase in cruelty by husbands and relatives.

Forced and child marriage:

Girls are vulnerable to being forced into marriage at young ages, suffering from a double vulnerability: both for being a child and for being female. Child brides often do not understand the meaning and responsibilities of marriage. Causes of such marriages include the view that girls are a burden for their parents, and the fear of girls losing their chastity before marriage.

Acid throwing:

Also called an acid attack, a vitriol attack or vitriolage, is a form of violent assault used against women in India. Acid throwing is the act of throwing acid or an alternative corrosive substance onto a person's body "with the intention to disfigure, maim, torture, or kill." Acid attacks are usually directed at a victim's face which burns the skin causing damage and often exposing or dissolving bone. Acid attacks can lead to permanent scarring, blindness, as well as social, psychological and economic difficulties. The Indian legislature has regulated the sale of acid. Compared to women throughout the world, women in India are at a higher risk of being victims of acid attacks. At least 72% of reported acid attacks in India have involved women. India has been experiencing an increasing trend of acid attacks over the past decade.

In 2010, there was a high of 27 reported cases of chemical assaults. Scholars believe that acid attacks in India are being under-reported. 34% of acid attacks in India have been determined to be related to rejection of marriage or refusal by a women of sexual advances. 20% of acid attacks have been determined to be related to land, property, and/or business disputes. Acid attacks related to marriage are often spurred by dowry disagreements.

Perpetuation:

Perpetuation of violence against women in India continues as a result of many systems of sexism and Patriarchy in place within Indian culture. Beginning in early childhood, young girls are given less access to education than their male counterparts. 80% of boys will go to primary school, where as just over half of girls will have that same opportunity. Gender based inequality is present even before that however, as it is reported that female children are often fed less and are given less hearty diets that contain little to no butter, milk, or other more hearty foods. Even when girls are taught about the inequity they will face in life, boys are uneducated on this and are therefore unprepared to treat women and girls as equals.

Later in life, the social climate continues to reinforce inequality, and consequently, violence against women. Married women in India tend to see violence as a routine part of being married. Women who are put in a situation where they are being subjected to gender-based violence are often victim shamed, being told that their safety is their own responsibility and that whatever may happen to them is their own fault. In addition to this, women are very heavily pressured into complicity because of social and cultural beliefs, such as family honor.

Even when a woman who is a victim of gender-based violence or crime does decide to report the incident, it is not always likely that she will have access to the support she would need to handle the situation properly. Law enforcement officers and doctors will often choose not to report a case, due to fear that it might in some way damage their own honor, or otherwise bring shame to them. In the case that she gets help from a doctor, there is no standard procedure for determining whether a woman is a victim of Sexual assault and doctors often resort to highly invasive and primitive methods such as the infamous "two-finger test" which can worsen the problem and are can be psychologically damaging for the victim.

Policy for Women Welfare:

As Indian Government is a gathering to the Declaration of 1967, it has additionally dedicated to the perfect of destruction of sexual orientation segregation in every one of its structures including political separation. Indian Government instituted a few dynamic laws, for example, Hindu Marriage, and Succession Act 1956, Right to legacy Act, Hindu Women's Right to property Act 1973, Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971, Dowry preclusion Act, Family Court Act 1984 and so on went for achieving critical changes in the status and benefits prompting legitimate empowerment of women. The death of Muslim women's security of Rights and Divorce Act 1986 was a stage toward enhancing the status of Muslim Women too. The year 1975 was embraced as the worldwide women's year. In the meantime the First World meeting on women was held in Mexico City, which underscored fairness; development and peace. The decade 1976 – 1985 was seen as the United Nations decade for women development and the whole part countries were required to make essential strides for advancing the status of women. In the year 1979, the United Nations embraced the tradition for end of all types of Discrimination against women (CEDAW).

The Government of India set up the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) in 1953, amid the First Five year design, as its piece of sacred commitment and arrangement needs to advance welfare of women and to secure the social and economic interests of the women living in antagonistic conditions. Establishment of this board means that expectation of the government for a group development and social welfare way to deal with women's issues. The need of sorting out and joining women laborers prompted the arrangement of women gatherings or Mahila Mandals all through India for advancing the welfare and accomplishing development of rustic and under special women. With a specific end goal to accomplish a similar goal at the state level, The State Social Welfare Advisory Boards (SSWAB) was setup in 1954-55 in different states. It helped in elevating useful coordination and to fortify linkages with the Central Social Board at the pinnacle level and women associations and intentional organizations at the grass root level. Alternate advances taken by the government incorporate fortifying of women specialists associations and underscoring approach pay for measure up to work, maternity advantage and giving crèches to kids; the state government concentrated on advancing women's training as a noteworthy welfare procedure, and wellbeing programs identified with sustenance, family arranging and kid welfare and advancing education among women. The Government of India had selected the Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI) which deduced in its report that, women as a gathering have been antagonistically influenced by the procedure of economic change. There was additionally a level headed discussion in Parliament. As per the recommendations of the council, the National Plan of Action was worked out in 1976, which gave rules to development systems in view of United Nations world arrangement of activity for women.

The arrangement distinguished vital zones like wellbeing, family arranging, sustenance, instruction, employment, enactment, social welfare and so on for the defining activity programmes for women. In the meantime the Women Welfare and Development Bureau was set up under the Ministry of Social Welfare to facilitate strategies and projects for the development of women group. The Government of India designated a Working Group on Employment of Women. The gathering examined in subtle elements the effect of development of women and underlined development of women instead of welfare of women. The Seventh Five Year Plan (1985 – 90) focused on the requirement for balance and empowerment of women and for coordinating them into the standard of national development. There was additionally an accentuation on mindfulness about their rights and benefits, preparing for undertaking economic exercises and giving employment chances to women. With a specific end goal to quicken the pace of development of women, the Government of India, made a different department in 1985 named "Department of Women and Child Welfare". The department capacities as a national nodal office and is accountable for arranging and executing different projects for women and furthermore screens different projects identified with women in different departments and Ministries, both at the national and state levels.

Likewise Women Development Corporations were set up in different states amid 1986-87, as plan needs. These partnerships are responsible for planning and observing women particular plans and projects particularly those for the development of economically in reverse women". They were setup in various states to take up different issues identified with women, for example, endowment, separate, outrages on women and so on. The Government of India therefore made Institutional system under arrangement needs for the development of women and furthermore acquainted unique plans for women with be implemented all through the nation. In 1987 "Support to Training and Employment Program (STEP) was propelled for upgradation of aptitude, preparing and giving resulting chances to the economically in reverse women, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) was made in 1993 to meet out the destitute of little advances and credit of poor, Rural Water Supply Program (RWSP) and Minimum Needs Program (MNP) which had unique significance for women in rustic territories having issues of drinking water. Different offices, for example, 'Board for Advancement of individuals' Action and Rural Teaching (CAPART) are working for giving guide through institutional arrangements. The National Prospective arrangement for women (1988-2000) prompted the setting up of State Women Development Corporations in different conditions of India. The Eighth Plan guaranteed to guarantee that advantage of development from various parts don't sidestep women. "The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh" (RMK) was set up in 1993 to meet the credit needs of poor and asset less women.

V. CONCLUSION

Women are as yet treated , in a few regards, in a similar old manner , yet the observation that Women are second to men has not been eradicated, Mushroom development of wrongdoings against Women have been seen , and furthermore Women's own particular recognition is in charge of changing however not deferential status of Women in India still loads of new policies , and mindfulness is required. Numerous new courts and open foundations are to be build up to ensure women powerful insurance against segregation. Hence there is significant change in status of women after the 11th five year plan .

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