

## Indian Culture- Women and Society

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Since immemorial times, women have put up efforts to bring change in their existing status. Women in India, have always tried to overcome barriers in her path. In a male dominated society, it's impossible to surpass, the so called, social cultural restrictions. She has to face discriminations in almost all spheres such as eating, dress, schooling, tuitions so on and so forth. It is a pity, that women are her worst enemies of women itself. When a woman is married, she is tortured by her mother-in-law/sister-in-law. First and foremost, a girl child is not allowed to be born. She is killed in the womb itself. Till recently, female infanticide was in vogue. Women earlier had to face lots of issues such as Parda paratha, Sati paratha, no taking decision related to her life. In Indian patriarchy, women had a lower position. She was dependent on her parents, before marriage. After her marriage, she had to listen to her husband and later on to her sons. Indian history is rich in having women who were famous for education, beauty, intelligence and bravery. Why women were not allowed to develop herself to reach heights in life.

**Keywords;** women, employed women, housewife, culture, status, position, patriarchal/patriarchy.

Mostly women were housewives, as there was no place for women to bring change in her existing position. She had the wholesome work of looking after the housework all the time. Strangely, where women are worshipped as goddess. Practically, in North India women did not hold proper position due to male dominancy, He could not allow women to think of her improvement in the society.

Marriage was considered the only goal for a girl and follow the orders of her husband throughout her life. Indian culture is the culture that is combined of all communities. Actually, culture is what, we learn and taught to us in our lives. A child is brought up by socialization process, which continues till death. Culture differs from society to society. Rather every society develops culture of its own. That is why, we say culture of every society is different. Women roles do differ due to social status. But, these social roles/obligations differ because of culture of a particular society. When we live in a place, in order to handle the arising situations, we use culture to face it.

The values, norms, traditions, religion, eating, dress styles, way of life, everything needed for living a life is called culture. These are learnt

and imbibed. A girl child is not welcome or it's not a moment of rejoicing. Women hold inferior position to men. Women are dominated by men in different works of home and outside. In India, women are supposed to carry out orders of husband and later on of sons.

Women as daughters in families are supposed to carry out household chores. India is having villages and towns. Women in village are strong and are used to physical labor. They lead a rough and tough life. Usually, they had to visit fields, as their husbands work as agricultural farmers. Cooking is also started when a girl grows a little. slowly by slowly, she is tended to washing utensils, then she is made to do almost all works. Even looking after her younger siblings is also her job at home. All works were in the arena of the daughter. Then, comes sister, she also had to do all cooking washing utensils, clothes etc. By doing all house work, the girl status remained the same.

Women in India held a high position in ancient period. Then came medieval period, where women were asked to stay in the four walls of their houses. To save them from Muslim people. Women even sacrificed marriage to get

education. They were called pandits. Due to the British culture contact, women status got improved. In their culture women are given respect more than our culture. In a way, we can say cultural contact is also important. When we see others are so caring, we tend to change our thinking process.

In the modern period women are fighting for equal respect. Women status has undergone drastic changes from ancient to modern period. It is indeed a long history, where one can read the struggles, hard work, self-restricted norms, society's traditional outlook etc. Women as housewife and employed women have had suffered in both. If a woman is housewife, she is under restrictions, so called family rules. She cannot move out of home easily. She has to either take or inform her family members. An employed women gets some relaxations such as buying capacity. As she earns, so she has freedom to buy. But more or less, both are sailing on the same boat. Employed women at least can ignore husband affirmation/ negation.

**Objectives:**

In ancient period, women were highly educated They held high position in early times

Women had the freedom, to not to marry for the sake of education.

In medieval period women suffered a setback in their position. They could not get educated or freedom which earlier they had.

Due to Muslim rule, they were bounded to the four walls of the home. So, the status came down.

During British rule or the cultural contact, they again started getting due respect.

In modern period, women are trying very hard to gain equal rights as men.

She as housewife has less liberty than employed women.

Employed women tries to get educated in order to get employment.

Therefore, women need exposure of the outside world, so that she gets high position in society.

Today, she is at par with men and in some areas she has excelled.

### **Method of Study**

This study Is based on secondary data. This data is available in books, mass media. No survey was done. On the basis of previous

studies, we would conduct our analysis on other research results. If studies are available to support my objectives, then the assumed aims are correct otherwise false. So let us consider some studies in the review of literature.

### **Review of Literature**

Anagha Tambe, Women –only! Economic \$Political Weekly, Vol.57,Issue No.22,28 May 2022.

Dhar Asha. Indian women and the international year. Soc Welf. 22,3,1975 june;12-3. quoted that woman in India suffer from the disabilities from social and economic. They do not get equal pay for equal work.

Malik Harji. Defied but Vic timed. Eve's weekly. ,34,42,1980, oct 25;35. He said Indian women are second class citizens after independence. Women are given equal rights in the constitution. But it is not relevant to the situation of millions of women. He further says to bring change in the status of women, there should be total historical attitudes.

Rajneesh Shree. Future belongs to women. Eve's weekly,25,12,1981 March 21,21. In his study, he praises women are also human beings. Women are having less muscular power than men.

Sultan Ayesha. Status of women in India. Ind Work. 21,1; , oct 2,23,33; 1972.He describes the present, past and modern status of women. In modern time, women are facing lots of problems.

Ahuja Ram. Female education in India. Soc Welf,20,9,1973 dec;1-3,19. For women, it is important to get educated to make use of all rights. He said that education of women in India, has changed her roles as mother, wife.

Frey Doris, Job frustration and women. Woman Era. 7, 1471980 jan1,32-4.

Double Burden, Eve's weekly 25,14;1981 April 4;46-7. Women in doing both housework and employment become super-exhausted zombie.

Nair Lalitha. Women's two roles. Soc Welf,27,9;1970 Dec 24,3.

Women in India are progressing by getting employment. She is trying to break all barriers in her path.

Narula Uma, Indian women in changing society; their career cultural and social pattern. Soc Welf.14,4; 1967 July 8-9 cover

3. The author analysis the problem of how the career women faces changing values, joint family, status in society and lack of opportunities.

#### Conclusion

Indian culture curtails women's freedom in various ways. Society predefines the roles a woman would play in different statuses. A single woman keeps on changing roles in a day. She seriously is struggling to make her career and raise her status in the society. It is

really burdensome on the shoulders of the women to play dual roles at a time. If a woman is a housewife and employed also, she tries to be perfect in housework as well as in her job. In Indian society she has to use more energy as the road of success is not smooth.

The objectives are correct as shown in different studies. All the studies favor that woman in the world has to struggle. In India there are patriarchal type of families. This is the main reason, why women suffer more.

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