

WOMEN, STATUS DILEMMA

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Abstract

Women are called weaker sex, inferior sex and fairer. Even subordinate word is used to refer to women. From childhood, considering this status of women the toys, dresses and overall the behavior patterns are predetermined. The position a woman holds decides her status-role patterns. A woman starts having status dilemma. She is expected to behave the way she is referred to, for example inferior. Being a weaker, does not undermine her work culture. She is made to do all sorts of work at home and outside. Sometimes, a thought does arise in the mind of the society whether women is a machine. She does not need rest or renovation. Women work without complaint. Contrarily, women are referred weaker, but works day night non-stop. Dilemma means a confusion state, is a natural phenomenon to arise. Women should be given status according to the full time work she is putting up. Men dominate women as he is bread-earner. Women have become bread-earner too. Then automatically, there should be change in their so called inferior status. But tragically and ironically the status-role of women does not coincide. So this is the reason, the dilemma prevails in the lives of women.

Keywords-women, status, dilemma, position, inferior, weaker. Women Status Dilemma

A woman as a human being has been struggling a lot. She has continuously put sheer hard work to prove her worth to the society. Women had to step out of home in order to show her caliber in the men dominating arena. The position which she has acquired today is appreciable undoubtedly. In Indian society, a woman has seen three phases of changing statuses in gone centuries altogether. It is indeed a time, to visualize the different phases of statuses. In earlier period, women enjoyed a high status. There was nothing like dilemma regarding women status-role. Women were respected to such a level that they were called 'pandits'. They held a position of high prestige in the primitive society. To be educated, is again too much one can ask for, but to be highly educated is a feather on one's cap.

A woman had held a great position in Indian society for a long time. She was worshipped just like goddess in Hindu religion. Gradually and slowly, women lost the high position. She had really worked hard undoubtedly. A Woman was and is perceived as a weaker section in the world. They always were house keepers and men were bread earners. Men started dominating her as his status was a little more as he was physically stronger, plus bread earner. Women position was presumed to be inferior as her house work could

be replaced by anyone else. Moreover the men's work of earning is difficult to replace. Women was working whole day in the house without being paid for it. Hence her status was considered low though she was working day and night. What an irony? The situation of women has been deteriorating day by day. Pathetically, she could not understand the reason behind her low status. Her progress was confined to the four walls of the house. Women have realized that without working outside/paid work, she cannot empower her gender.

They have risen to this position after a long arduous struggle. The strenuous labor they were putting at home was not given due importance in comparison to men working outside. This was hurting directly to the sentiments of women. After a lot of friction at home, women were allowed to work outside only at stringent conditions. They were made to complete their house work first, the outside work though paid, was considered secondary. Women was never given due importance as a human being with self dignity. She practically had no fundamental rights. Right to life was difficult for women, what to say of for example right to freedom, right to profession. Women were unable to take any decision regarding her welfare. In a family, the decisions

were on the shoulders of male members related to all affairs. When we refer to a family it may be joint or nuclear. The joint family has two or three generation members. The status of women in joint family is low as compared to women in nuclear family. In nuclear family women do get opportunities to rise up. As in nuclear family, that is husband there is one male member to tackle. In a small family there is less pressure on a woman. It is a known fact. An enemy of women is a woman. The mother in law can be a horrifying factor for a daughter in law. The status dilemma severely starts after marriage. A woman becomes a bundle of responsibilities without rights most of the time.

Three Phases of Changing Status of Women

The phase of high status in the early period was enjoyed. She had high prestige in the primitive society. The phase of low status in the middle period started. She had low esteem in the medieval society. The third phase of again high status in the modern period began. She had acquired high reputation in the modern society.

After analyzing the three phases of high, low, high statuses, women have had faced the different positions. She had suffered a lot. Now she has realized, her sufferings, struggles were by not paying attention and maintaining her status. Status consciousness had come in the minds of women in comparison to men gradually. Women were not able to understand why she had to struggle for her basic rights. Women were compassionate towards her status confusion. Otherwise, the changes which have been brought about would not be plausible. In Indian society there are several aspects which are to be considered to have a crystal clear picture of women.

The status of women differs among employed/unemployed or housewives. Men think

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a housewife is not earning, so he considers himself economically more powerful. Women who are working are at par with men. Empowerment is directly correlated to employment of a person. Similarly the employed women get opportunity to take decisions in her family matters. The housewives on the other hand are not able to do what their counterparts can do. She has always striven for her identity. Her work of bearing and rearing children is very overburdening. Little time is left for her personal development. How and why society could be so cruel to a person who is responsible for reproduction of society. Rather, on the contrary she should be worshipped like a goddess.

Women had has wasted her precious time in proving her worth to the society. She has been working day and night only to show everyone that she is capable in all trades what so ever. Oppositely, men never has tried to prove or over worked or worked at home. Man is comfortable in his pair of shoes. The status he is holding is satisfactory to him. It is natural tendency that a person works harder only when he/she is dissatisfied with his/her position. Same is the case with women. She is not content with the status/position she is bestowed with. Logically, women have seen her status confusion as the trend was high, low, high. She has to put double labor to acquire the previous high place. In return of extra labor, she has invited many diseases. In a way, she does not get peaceful atmosphere to live and grow. Rearing and bearing children is a tedious labor. It is twenty four hours exertion. Cooking food is another tiresome job. Women are overburdened with work. She works round the clock to make the family run properly.