

The Contribution of Indian Women in the Quit India Movement

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Abstract: Any history of the Indian struggle would be devoid of the contributions made by women. The focus will be on the sacrifices made by Indian women. They heroically and honorably fought against various sorts of torture, exploitation, and cruelty in order to obtain our freedom. Throughout history, a great number of brave and learned women have stood shoulder to shoulder with men from their own times. Once most of the male freedom fighters were put behind bars, the women took the lead in the resistance movement. For this reason, it is astounding and admirable that women took part in the struggle for national awakening and independence. Women often battle these issues and sacrifice their lives in the process.

Keywords: Women's Participation, Freedom Fighters

I. INTRODUCTION

In 1817, women began to participate in the Indian independence struggle. Hazratmahal of Awadh fought against the British East India Company in the 19th century, thirty years before the first fight of freedom in 1557. Among the many ladies who bravely battled with Bhima Bai Holkar to vanquish him in the Gurrilla war was Kittur's Rani Crannama. Women played an admirable part in the 1857 independence movement, earning the esteem of even the rebel leaders. An amazing example of pure patriotism was established by the courage with which the Ranis of Ramgarh, Indian Kaur, Tace Bai, Chauhan Rani, and Tapasuini Maharani led their warriors.

Over the course of the country's struggle for independence, women did not fall behind. Women were actively engaged in the Indian independence movement and played a major part in the struggle for freedom. The ladies in the unit were certain that they received the same amount of preparation since it was also given to the guys. They were dressed almost exactly the same as the male warriors, even yet. These are some incredible women whose names will live on in memory for their steadfast commitment to leading the Indian freedom cause.

II. WOMEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF INDIA

Rani Lakshmi Bai

Rani of Jhansi Rani Lakshmi Bai's courage and outstanding leadership established a very high standard. For all the future generations of female freedom fighters. As queen, she oversaw the Maratha-ruled kingdom of Jhansi. She was the first well-known female freedom fighter and participated in the first-ever rebellion led by a woman in 1857. In Indian history, disguised as a man, Rani Lakshmi Bai valiantly led her army in battle against the British.

Sarojini Naidu

Sarojini Naidu, often known as the nightingale of India. She joined politics and aided in the freedom effort when Bengal was split up in 1905. She was a fantastic leader and activist during the era of civil disobedience, and she was imprisoned while holding the position of president of the Indian National Congress. She spoke on women's liberation and nationalist themes while touring India. 1917 and 1919 were Sarojini's busiest years in the industry. During this period, she spearheaded efforts for the severe Rowlet Act, the Satyagrah, the Montagu Chelmsford, and the Khilafat issue. In 1917, she even contributed to the formation of the Women's Indian Association.

Annie Besent

Irishwoman Annie Besent, the pioneer of theosophical organizations, joined the Indian National Congress and gave it new meaning. She established a solid basis for the Indian women's movement and was the first female president of the Congress. She also became involved in Indian nationalism in 1916 when she started the Indian Home Rule League,

which she went on to lead. After starting the newspaper "New India," which criticized British rule, she was sent in jail for seditious behavior. She started a number of universities and institutions and was involved in politics and education. Her founding of the Central Hindu College in Banaras in 1913 was the most important of them.

Madam Camma

Born as Bhikaji Rustomcama into a Parsi family in Bombay, now Mumbai, on September 24, 1861, she became a well-known figure in the Indian nationalism struggle. She stressed the need of gender equality. In 1907, she traveled to Germany as an Indian ambassador and hoisted the national flag of India there.

Begum Hazrat Mahal

She was also known as the Begum of Awadh. She played a significant role in India's first war of independence (1857–1858). She worked with Tantia Tope and Nana Saheb on the Revolt. In 1984, the Indian government issued a stamp honoring Begum Hazrat Mahal.

Aruna Asaf Ali

Aruna was an active member of the Congress Party. She had participated in the open marches for the salt satyagrah. She was editor of "in-qilab," the monthly journal of the Indian National Congress. She was also called Aruna and the "grand old lady" during the Leave India movement. Raising the Indian National Congress flag, she was seen in Bombay.

Bhima Bai Holkar

When British colonel Nalcoin was defeated by Bhima Bai Holkar in guerilla warfare in 1817, it was the first time that women had participated in the freedom struggle. The British East India Company was quickly extending its dominance inside India at a critical juncture for our country. Early on, Bhima Bai Holkar faced some success in his battles against the powerful British army.

Vijay Lakshmi Pandit

Vijay Lakshmi Pandit's father is Motilal Nehru, the president of Congress and Jawaharlal Nehru's brother. To challenge British rule, she joined the non-cooperation movement. Attending several public lectures, she questioned the British-dominated delegate's legitimacy to represent India there. She was a skilled fighter and took part in many freedom movements. Following her arrest in 1932, she was sentenced to a severe year in prison. On the way out of India between 1940 and 1942, she was arrested twice.

Kamala Kaul Nehru

Kamala Kaul Nehru is a renowned character in the history of the women who fought for our country's freedom. During the 1921 non-cooperation movement, she founded women's organizations in Allahabad and picketed shops selling foreign goods and alcohol. She read it aloud in place of her husband, who was imprisoned for making a "seditious" remark in public. The British saw at once how dangerous Kamala Nehru had become. As a result, she was arrested twice for her role in the independence struggle, along with Nehru's mother Sarojini Naidu and other women who fought for Indian freedom.

Usha Mehta

Usha Mehta, who participated in the "Simon go back" campaign in her youth, was unaware that her true calling was in congress radio during the leave India movement. For the radio show, Gandhi and other prominent Indian leaders recorded speeches. To keep the authorities informed, the organizers moved the station virtually continuously. However, in the end, on November 12, 1942, they were found by the police, who detained Usha Mehta and the other organizers. Ultimately, everyone of them was sent in prison.

The first battle for independence (1857–1858) was the first mass rebellion against the rule of the British East India Company. The Doctrine of Lapse, which included supplying Indian forces with ammunition greased with pig and cow fat at Meerut, ignited the fire. The adoption of the British educational system and some social modifications also infuriated a significant section of the Indian population, which swiftly resulted in widespread upheaval and a challenge to British power.

Rani Lakshmi Bai was an exceptional leader during the first Indian independence struggle. She was a model of courage, self-respect, and patriotism. She ruled a little realm, but her title was empress of an immensely great empire.

Non cooperation movement (1920).

Gandhiji left South Africa in 1915 and went back to India, where he started to promote the non-cooperation movement and self-rule. Women who participated in the nonviolent campaign included Devi Sarla Nethu, Aruna Asat Alit,

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Rajkumari, Amritkaur, Susheetakriplani, Lakshmi Reddy, and Susheela Nair. The national movement included Kasturba Gandhi, Ujjaya Lakshmi Pandit, Kamala Nehru, and the spouses of Swarup Rani and Mahatma Gandhi. Lado Rani Zusti, together with her daughters Nanmonnini, Shyrani, and Janak, spearheaded the campaign in Lahore.

Civil Disobedience and the Dandi Salt March (1930).

One important aspect of the civil disobedience movement was the broad participation of women. Thousands of women came out of their homes to hear Gandhi speak during the salt march. Women protested by making salt, picketing foreign apparel and booze businesses, and holding marches. Many of them were imprisoned. Despite coming from affluent rural peasant families, high caste ladies that participated were from metropolitan locations. Many of them were moved by Gandhi's call for women to see serving their nation as a sacred duty. They thus eagerly took part in response. But for a very long time, Congress was reluctant to allow women to have any type of leadership position inside the party.

The quit India movement (1942)

In August 1942, the effort to depart India got underway. During the course of the freedom struggle, Gandhi led a series of agitations, the most well-known and successful of which was the Revolt of 1942, often referred to as the August Revolution of 1942. The 1942 Abandon India campaign included women in a variety of ways that made it remarkable. Mahatma Gandhi's "do or die" ultimatum gave all Indian women a fresh lease on life.

Throughout the campaign, women participated in demonstrations, carried out protests, made and carried explosives, gave public lectures, and took to the streets as a "leaderless movement with the majority of the men behind bars." The struggle for Indian independence exposes Indian women to a fresh wave of liberation groups. That the women's participation in the 1942 leave India campaign would go down in history as the most noteworthy contribution to the establishment of swaraj is a narrative of love, sacrifice, and patriotism. The resolution against the British in silent India particularly stated that women were "disciplined soldiers of Indian freedom required to sustain the flame of war."

Usha Mehta, a devoted nationalist, put up a radio transmitter, nicknamed the "voice of freedom" to disseminate the catchphrase of the liberation fight. Public awareness was raised about the acts of young nationalists, rallies, arrests, and Gandhi's famous "Do or die message for the quit India movement." Usha Mehta and her brother kept up their broad casting till the day of their arrest on November 12, 1942. Usha Mehta was sentenced to four years in jail.

Aruna Asaf Ali was one of the movement's main figures in 1942. She became well-known as the head of the underground organization in 1942 and had to remain hidden from the public until 1946. Throughout her three and a half years of hiding, Aruna never ceased urging people to liberate their homeland from foreign rule. Aruna participated in the independence movement, authored bulletins, and relocated in search of work. She was a well-known leader of an underground movement.

Poorna Swaraj's declaration by the Congress in the 1929 Meerut conspiracy case.

Mahatma Gandhi later advocated for poornaswaraj to be implemented nonviolently. Women accepted his offer to join the Satyagrah movement and took part in every one of his projects. Smt. Urmila Devi, the widowed sister of the Congress politician, and Dr. Sarojini Naidu were two prominent women who actively engaged in the Swadeshi movement. CR Das, his husband; Bismma, the mother of Muhammad Ali and Shokat Ali; Durgabai Deshmukh; Smt. S. Ambujmmal; Smt. Basanti Devi; Krisnnabal Ram of Madras; and so on are among the people in issue.

Kasturba Gandhi

As a political activist, Kasturba Gandhi participated to the movement for Indian independence and civil rights. She accompanied her husband to all demonstrations and rallies, and she even stood in for him when he wasn't there. She assumed the task of teaching the Indians the principles of reading, writing, discipline, health, and cleanliness since no one had gotten a quality education. Behind the scenes, she played a big part in the independence campaign.

Sucheta Kripalani

During the Indian riots that followed the partition, she actively supported Mahatma Gandhi in her fight for liberty. She also significantly impacted politics by joining the Indian National Congress. She was selected to work on the Indian constitution's writing committee in the Constituent Assembly. Another was attached to her hat when he performed "VandeMataram" during the constituent assembly.

Revolutionary Activities

Women participated in revolutions in significant numbers as well. Madam Bhikaji Cama, the mother of the Indian revolution, worked alongside Sardarsingh Rana and Shyamji Krishna Varma, two Frenchmen. She disseminated propaganda against the wrongdoings of the Indian colonial authority across central Europe. In addition to sharing her revolutionary ideals, Madam Cama urged India's youth to defend their nation.

Suniti Chauduri, Bina Das, Kalpana Dutta, Razia Khatun, Pritilata Waddedar, and Nanibala Devi were among the other women engaged in revolutionary activities. Pritilata, Bina, and Kalpana were troopers in the Indian Republic army under Surya Sen. They also participated in the 1930 Armoury Raid on Chittagong. After this attack, revolutionary activity spread rapidly across Bengal, and district magistrate Stevens of Comilla was slain by two schoolgirls, Shanti and Suniti. Between 1931 and 1932, Rani Gaidinliu led the Naga movement, which was supported by.

III. WOMEN ORGANIZATION

One of the three primary women's groups in India is the National Council for Women (NCWI).

The All India Women's Confederence (AIWC) and the Women's Indian Association (WIA) were major voices on women's issues. The Women's Indian Association represented women of all races, cultures, and religions. Their primary objective was to educate, and the branches were encouraged to launch programs for adult first aid, sewing, and reading. The national council for women in India 1925, the national branch of the World Council of Women, was entrusted with collecting information about women, composing memoranda, and sending them to the relevant authorities. Petition politics was of importance to them because it supported their attempts to improve the position of women. The council made an effort to stay in touch with the British and stay out of the independence movement. The women in this group were Dowager Begum Saheb of Bhopal, Herabai Tata, and Tarabai Premchand.

Women's education was the main objective of the All India Women's Consternation (1927). Its nufure, led by women like Margaret Cousins and Maharani Chimnibai of Gaekwad, included concerns about women's and children's progress, societal improvements, and a united India.

The Hindi and English periodical Roshni was issued by it. Prior to independence, it was the main vehicle for expressing women's issues, and via its many branches, the progressive feminist narrative was disseminated across the country. In a joint statement, the three women's organizations reiterated their call for adult suffrage and denounced proposals for seat reservations and segregated electorates beyond 1932.

IV. CONCLUSION

India became an independent nation on August 15, 1947, thanks to the Sathyagrahas, sacrifices, a century of revolutions, suffering, and the deaths of liberation fighters. An important part of the Indian independence struggle was performed by women. Fearless women rebel fighters stepped behind the bars and faced the police baton. Thousands upon thousands of Indian women sacrificed their lives to ensure their nation's freedom.

The moral force of a people armed solely with peace, values, and valor had challenged and vanquished the might of a great empire on which the sun never set—possibly for the first and only time in history.

In the end, it can be said that over the course of the past 50 years, the women's movement has grown and reinforced its ties to other progressive movements that fight injustice, oppression, and degradation in all of its forms, like environmental organizations and the trade union movement.

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