

Gloomy Actuality of the Feeble Fragment of Indian Society

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Abstract: *Studying about women movement, feminist theories, contribution of women in Indian National Movement and a number of scholarly publications about the condition of women in 19th and 20th century is just the fulfilment of the formal educational agenda. These things have largely been theoretical as the objectives are never practically realised. In the prevailing time of insecurity and male dominance, apart from financial or any kind of autonomy, self-defense has also become an inexplicable parameter of women empowerment. Since harm for women is possible to become the outcome of any kind of male grudge, intention or superiority, every women - literate or illiterate working or home maker, students as well should learn the art of protection. It is extremely significant for the maintenance of female dignity and social status. Nature has given equal opportunities to the female to utilise its resources like men. Anyways, the preceding incidents or occurrences against the women with the target of their victimisation have made it a compulsion for them to develop a harsh and challenging attitude against the opposite sex for a secure and tension free existence.*

Keywords: Abstract, Introduction, Principal Holdbacks, Survey Sample, Steps for the improvement of women's consideration, evaluation, conclusion

I. INTRODUCTION

In a country like India women are considered as an infirm segment of the society. A limit has been set for the middle class Indian women against their ambitions and contemplation. Sexual Harrasment, Acid Attack, Body Shamming, Domestic Violence, Corporate Violence, Objectification of women physique and several such anti-women activities have become a 'global epidemic' against women empowerment. These resistances are thorns in a lady's track for fame. Restitution of these evils have faded off as an idle dream at different points of time. The need of the hour is to break silence on these issues and bring the feminine menace in the front line.

The Principal Holdbacks

Womwn in India are a vulnerable and defenseless segment subjected to various odds. They are the victims of the so called superior folk, the males. Though it would be inaccurate to generalise the intention of every men as detrimental, yet females continue to remain the 'target group' of many graceless and inelegant individuals. We can categorise the evils against women in the following ways –

- Vitriolage – Since the stereotypes believe that women's beauty and physique is priority and essential for existence, they try to plunder and disfigure it by throwing acid or any reactive chemical on the women if they have grudge against her or for satisfying any other intention.
- Eve teasing - It is the worst form of torture and sexual assault against women in public. It prevents women from securely going out of their residence after the dusk.
- Domestic Violence - Women do not even find it secure to stay at their home due to abuse and maladjustment by their male counterparts. They face ill treatment and are subdued in every aspect by the dominant family members.
- Corporate Violence - Women undergo harassments, injustice and mistreatment in their workplace for various factors like salary hike, promotion, work hours as men capture higher respect in the working structure.

- Psychological torture – Women face psychological impediments as they are always demotivated. They are forced to believe that their progress is limited by several kinds of constraint and they can never transcend that
- Social Judgement – In Indian society, people are always judgemental and keen on inspecting over the activities of any woman. They always criticise the dress code, companionship and most activities of women which men can do freely.
- Traditional biasness – Conservative families never allow girls to go for higher education or move out of their residence to chase their fantasies.
- They mostly believe in giving their girl child the required education and marrying them off as soon as possible.
- Marriage dogma – In Indian Society, most girls are married off by their parents around the age of 25. This prevents them from pursuing higher studies and selecting a suitable job for themselves.
- Dependency issue – Majority of the families still believe that it is not essential for the girls to become financially independent. Their life can become best if they are engaged with their rich counterparts. It is not mandatory for the women to earn.
- Identity Crisis – Till date, women are not identified in terms of their profession or skill. They are given the tags of someone's daughter, sister or wife. Most of the time prefix like 'Mrs' or 'Miss' is added which shows their marital status unlike men.
- Freedom against choice – The basic element of self autonomy is Freedom of Choice which is denied to the women. They are deprived of fulfilling their discretion in terms of dress code, occupation, marriage, family planning etc. Women do not possess any decision making power.
- Character Assassination – In any case of female accuse like harassment, molestation, divorce or violence, a female's character is first pointed to instead of pointing out the males.

Plight and extremities of women since 2020

2020 and its after years have proved to be most challenging due to upsurge of Covid 19. Although economic shattering have come to the fore, the social obstacles against women have never been unveiled. The social media was overburdened with almost all the societal issues except the plight of women. Visuals of women escaping with their children, walking the railway tracks and uneven roads, standing amongst the crowd with their belongings and many such pictures were extremely panic stricken. Many women have been deprived of their livelihood during these tough times. Domestic help in urban areas were discontinued from their work. Ladies who worked as clerks and cleaners in school, college, universities, office buildings etc. were terminated from their service. Most women bargained for work but were compelled to work without pay which became quite treacherous for them. As most of the migrant women came back home, they were confined with even greater hardship there. These women were treated as maids in their own residence and had to do numerous chores. They were subjected to domestic violence almost everyday without any reason. Due to the loss of work and earning during the lockdown period, many women spent their days starving or with a single meal for the sake of their children and husbands. They did not even get an opportunity to convey their grievances to the redressal committees. All these led to such immense sufferings of the women which are never brought to the limelight.

Survey Samples

Given below is the glimpse of a survey conducted in a village of West Bengal named Joypur, Amta Block - II in Howrah District. It was conducted on 24th December 2021.

Following are the details —

1. No. of families taken under the Survey — 30
2. No. of Women (total) — 52 (above the age of 18)

Women consist of both working and non - working segment. Most women are illiterate and unemployed. Those who are employed can be further categorised into two sectors -

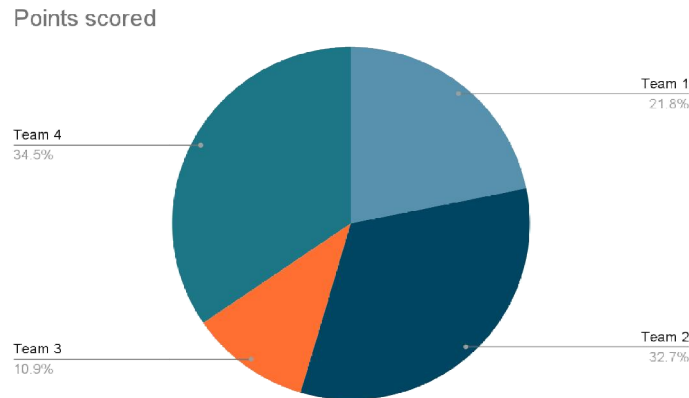
	1. Formal Sector - Health workers, school teacher or ICDS employee.	
	2. Informal Sector - Agriculture and cottage industry.	
	Working Women Non - working (formal and informal sector) Women	
Type of work	Farming and Cottage Industry as well as household chores.	Confined to household chores.
Economic Dependency	Less economic independence	Completely dependent on male members as most of them are disguised labour. Those employed in formal sector enjoy some autonomy
Health	Least aware	Least aware and no Awareness and 10% of proper medication formally employed women are aware
Education	40% have Passed their Intermediate Examination	Mostly illiterate

One Step Forward in Rural & Semi - Rural areas.

1. Organisation of awareness programmes – Weekly or monthly programme should be organised so that women themselves get to know their rights and freedom.
2. Propaganda System — Announcement must be done through vehicles all around to spread awareness.
3. Workshop for earning — Workshops must be organised in rural as well as semi - rural areas. Women must be taught the means to earn a proper livelihood and skills to do so.
4. Health Check Up — Monthly health check up units should be set up in the rural areas under the Panchayats. Different health issues as well as medication of women should be addressed here.
5. Counselling — One of the most important challenges in rural areas is to bring out the women from the mental trauma to which they are forced due to male domination. Proper counselling can help in this factor.
6. Training for self defence — Since women are subjected to multiple insecurities they must be given the training for self defence. They should be made aware about how to protect themselves physically and react instantly.
7. Awareness among the males — One of the most dominant members of the rural society are males. If they are taught that female have equal right and capabilities like them things will improve a lot.
8. Redressal Committees — Women grievance cells must be constituted in rural areas. They can act as a backbone for the women in case of trouble. The members should also be active.
9. Mass media — Mass media like magazines, journals, local newspaper and television channels should play an important role in spreading ideas of women empowerment.
10. Creation of informal women groups — Informal women groups with a leader should be formed so that the female population become strong. This would give women a social space an an opportunity for financial independence.

Evaluation

Overall, the condition of women in this village is vulnerable. Males enjoy a good hold in family as well as society. There is a narrow line of difference between literate and illiterate women in terms of rights. Illiterates are the worst affected followed by women working in informal sector. They do not even get proper remuneration for their work. Literates are in a somewhat good position if compared with other women.



Team 1 - Women working in informal sector
 Team 2 - Non - working female
 Team 3 - Women working in formal sector
 Team 4 - Male population

II. CONCLUSION

Women have continued to be the target of the dominant section of the society since long. Objectification of women as a personal property should be stopped. Women should also be given certain incentives to perform better, whether it is workplace or residence. Their position in the society should be upheld with dignity and integrity. Gender difference should not be the reason for violation of women rights. The writings in text books and scholarly articles about the women should become a reality. Corrupted minds should also be improved in order to make the society a better place to live in for the women.

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