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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT : TODAY & TOMORROW

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ABSTRACT

Education for women - yesterday, today and tomorrow means integration of past, present and future and contribution of women in it. In ancient times, women had a proud place in history, but the condition of women deteriorated due to various invasions and mutual enmity. In modern times, the modernism, use of technology and movement of new ideas have made development of women possible. Obedience to the father, duties to the husband and loyalty to the child along with contribution to the child development and also help in financial accrual are the key areas of women duty since long back. Even though women have established her dominance in any part of the world, she is also conscious of her home and family. Now, not only on Women's Day, but 365 days, programs are made for the upliftment of women. Change in the position of women through female education towards economic self-reliance, improvement in health, development of female personality, acceptance in the social sphere, awareness of one's own rights can get a clear idea of all these. Weak thoughts should be removed and one's personality should be strengthened for a bright future instead of the past. Women should take developmental steps for a brighter future by organizing the present from the past experiences.

KEY WORDS: Empowerment, Women, Development, Education, Self-dependency

INTRODUCTION

या देवी सर्वभूतेषु शक्तिरूपेण संस्थिता ।

नमस्तस्यै नमस्तस्यै नमस्तस्यै नमो नमः॥

Woman is the form of Shakti and the source of Shakti. Power is required to do any work. A woman has an inexhaustible storage of energy and if you add the medium of education to it, it seems like sugar has been mixed in milk. According to Aristotle, the advancement or degradation of a nation is determined by the advancement or degradation of women. My topic today is women yesterday, today and tomorrow i.e. the combination of past, present and future and the discussion of how women's contribution was, is, and will be. In ancient times, “Vidushis” (Scholars) like Lopamudra, Gargi and Maitreyi received education and achieved a proud place in history. In those times, women who were considered as Ardhangini (half bodily) were called “Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatar Devata (means where women is being worshiped, the god resides there)”. Every woman who was considered as a source of power was looked upon with respect. For women used as goddesses, arrangements were made for education at home. At the same time, she was adept in performing her duties and responsibilities as a sister, mother, and wife, and the legacy is still intact. But in course of time, due to various invasions and mutual enmity, the women suffered greatly, so their domain was confined within the four walls. Hence, the custom of drinking milk for female child, sati practice, binding of widows, dowry system, child marriage, polygamy were also included. The strong women who tried to fight against such a male dominated cowardness became truly weak in the society economically, socially, mentally, physically. Education is the only means that keeps the girls happy & wealthy. Many families give education to girls now-a-days, but even though their future is still based on their luck. Though many women like Rani Lakshmibai, Ahlyabai Holkar bravely faced and made their name in history, but for women who were unable to get their rights, their future became bleak and many Laws were made binding on women in the society.

In childhood, life ended in the bond of one's father, in youth, in the bond of husband and in old age, in the bond of children. In order not to become equal to men and to maintain the supremacy of men, many laws were enacted. Gaurivrata, Kadwachoth vow and fasting etc., which lead to a good husband, the seven vows of Saptapadi in marriage, and the rules to be observed in the menstrual cycle etc. made the psychology of women, feel inferior to that of men. Apart from that, there were also biological differences and religious bonds along with

physical and mental bonds. In the conspiracies raised on the basis of religion, it was said that both women and animals deserve to be beaten. Women were crushed between such misconceptions and disbeliefs. But, no Vedas or Upanishads have ever mention of any such delusional ideas or wrong beliefs. Change is a law of nature. The impact of Western culture, the use of science and technology, the Nine Thoughts Movement, etc., has resulted today that the women have taken the first step towards development. Talking about education, Raja Ram Mohan Roy tried to remove the old vices and Mahatma Gandhi talked about providing free education for girls in basic education. Change in the position of women through female education, movement towards economic self-reliance, improvement of health, development of female personality, acceptance in the social sphere, awareness of one's own rights can get a clear idea of all these. If we look at the condition of women today, there is a trend towards positive development. Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams' journey to the moon through today's education is a developmental aspect.

Based on the new concept of women empowerment, women have become eligible to join men. There is a longing to conquer the whole world by breaking the old traditional ideas, breaking the bonds and breathing freedom. They are getting a decent job first and along with development, they are also helping family in economic development. In today's environment, there have been drastic changes in the living standards of women and because of this, the living conditions of the family. Behind a successful man is a woman's hand. By saying 'Nari Tu Na Hari' it can be concluded that there is no field in which women are not lagging behind in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. Obedience to the father, duties to the husband and loyalty to the children along with contribution to the child development also helps in financial accrual. She faithfully fulfills the tasks assigned to her. Through her positive efforts, apart from developing herself, she is willing to develop her family, society and the entire country. Even though women have made her name in every corner of the world, she is conscious of her family and family issues. Be it Pratibha Patil or Sania Mirza, we are aware of such countless names, but every woman tries to fulfill the responsibilities given to them in an excellent way.

“ગૃહિણી ગૃહમ ઉચ્યતે” It means that house is built only by the housewife. Even though she has established her dominance in any part of the world, she is also conscious of her home and family. Woman is a superpower, she has many qualities. If it flourishes, it will go towards welfare. Curiosity, emotion, emotionality, meticulousness, accumulation, self-motivation, childlikeness etc. qualities can be developed through the medium of education in

such a way that their development becomes upward. **“The hand which rocks the cradle rules on the world”**. If we study the last ten years, we realize that the rate of girl education has increased and compared to other states, the rate of girl education in Gujarat is very high. The education level of girls is low in villages and so the villages there are still living in traditional traditions and beliefs. The practices like dowry, sati practices are still there to some extent. The development of technology, the influence of modernity, under the influence of western culture, women have gradually developed. At the same time, being a man's equivalent, she not only handles the responsibility of the family but also the job skillfully. This has happened in the urban area. But, the Government of India has become determined to give education to girls in rural areas, develop their inner qualities along with establishing a combination of intelligence and skills. Under schemes like literacy campaign and girl education, female education has received a new form. Home industries have also been developed for the purpose of economic generation. The government is trying on not only the women's day, but 365 days for the upliftment of women.

Many programs are organized under the concept of women empowerment. According to Ms. Taya Zinkin “The process of women's emancipation in India has spread to the village.” Women's education, social legislation and livelihood opportunities have played an important role in changing the position of women through women's empowerment. Apart from obtaining graduation or post graduation degree in general stream, commerce stream and science stream, they can develop in the fields of home science interior decoration, jewellery designing, hotel management, fashion designing etc. She has also contributed in the fields of acting, literature, music, art, dance, politics. She is always ready to support her husband or make a future for the child. At the same time, if you get support from your husband and other family members, there is no problem in saying, “A man is behind the success of a successful woman.” Prof. R. M. Das has said in his book “Women in Manu and his Seven Commentators” that “Wife is the goddess of wealth. Even if happiness is flying in a house without a wife, it is in vain.” Many women have walked the path of development. As there are two sides to a coin, some women who have not come out of the vortex of old stereotypes are still puppets of men, so, if tomorrow is to be improved, then women have to take the right decision and it can be achieved only through education.

India is a religious country and women are the minister of Culture is the country. To develop oneself under the cover of religion and culture, women should remove the weak ideas that it is not possible and strengthen their personality for a bright future instead of the dark past, and if we want to walk with religion and culture, we have to learn to distinguish

between the religiousness of other countries and the good nature of culture. That is, summing up the virtues and subtracting the vices and weaving them into one's life becomes possible only through education. For tomorrow, we should forget the mistakes of the past, adjust the present, predict the future and develop in that way. For that, one has to get proper guidance; one has to take proper decisions. Virtues should be developed instead of selfishness and arrogance. “अलसस्य कुतो विद्या” means Where do lazy people get education? That is, if there is laziness, one should get rid of it and join the world step by step. Those things which are hindering the development should be removed. Even the Himalayas do not move a strong minded person. It should be assumed. Women's education is essential for building the future society of India. From the demographic point of view, before thinking about what kind of future society we want to build, it is necessary to get information about the situation of women in the fields of family, religion, state, marriage, education, health etc.

Equality for a woman means that her voice in the society is given the same priority as the voice of a man and the expression of her thoughts and speech is possible. Women have to fight not only for their future but for the future of the society they are a part of. Keeping in mind that women have to participate in the process of political, social, economic, educational, cultural etc., to study how much a developed woman can contribute to the development of national prosperity by taking her personality higher. If we predict the future, the speed with which women are developing positively will increase further because this development is an active process like evolution and it is a chain of development. Contribution of women in every field is increasing; thousands of women are learning lessons under a talented woman. Today in the 21st century, migration has become extremely easy due to computers, mobiles, satellites, internet. Thus the development process seems to be possible in the blink of an eye. The initiative of Women's Day had given the names of 100 talented women and their fields in the newspapers, but in the future this number will increase and the time will come when the distinction between men and women will be erased.

CONCLUSION

It can be understood from this that women should live the present in order from the past experiences, take developmental steps for a brighter future and leave an impression of their influential personality along with the development of the society, the country, and the world along with the development of the self in the continuous education process.

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