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# **Indian Constitution And Women's Empowerment**

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#### **Abstract**

As DR. BR. Ambedakr says, a society's status is measured based on the development of women. India is the country of largest democracy of the world. The Kuda Volai Murai was in practice in the Indian State of Tamilnadu. Despite it, there were no women participation in the governing council. Now India has the largest written constitution in the world. The supreme court of India is protector of the Preamble of Constitution. It empower all its citizens irrespective of their background. In this article I would like to discuss about the role of the Indian Constitution and Empowering Women. I chose this topic because it is need of time. It is only through the constitution women became powerful and privileged to enjoy their basic rights. It brought a lot of changes in their lives. They become independent of financial needs because they started to earn for living. It brought a great status among society. As Virginia Woolf says, women must start earning. So they can stand themselves in the lives. So I would discuss about the constitution and some laws related to women and children. Besides, I further discuss about women should know the basic rights the Constitution provides to them.

#### Introduction

Indian Constitution and Women's Empowerment is a crucial topic is chosen. It is the vital topic that I would like discuss in this article. There is always an idea that is ringing in my heart why women became second category members of family and social culture was only imposed on women. Social discrimination practiced against women in India. So I chose this apt title how the women began seeing the fruit of life. Then how it led them to become financially independent from submissive position. India is well known for the richest country in language, culture, religion and civilization. After all, why there was a stagnant of women's development. The mind wants to explore and implore the history of India. The following passage would shed light on shattered philosophy that men imposed against women community.

## Rational of the Study

Indian Constitution and empowering women is important because large number of women were not aware of the rights the constitution gives to them. The constitution gives them many option to save themselves from social oppressions related child marriage, dowry, education, marriage, divorce and property rights. This title is vital one to be discussed. This type article would create awareness among educated and uneducated women. Large number of women are working class women. They work in the manufacturing units without basic needs. It is the responsibilities of the concerned bodies to conduct meetings and tell them their rights as employ of the company.

# **Objectives**

There is no doubt that it is my responsibility to talk about issues that affected women in now and then. They should be educated about laws. So they would come forward to defend themselves from husband, company and office. This is my sole objective that women must go forward. There should not be anything that hinders their progressive. The world is fine in the solar panel. The planets rotate in the specified direction. There is no chance for collision. Likewise the family and society run smoothly because of women. They are an embodiments of psychological balance in their lives. It is naturally hidden in their minds. In the beginning of the civilization, people lived in the forests, caves and mountains. They learnt to cultivate soil for agriculture. Women were the core backbone to their husbands. Men had done many works with great help of women. They have been giving their best to the development of agriculture and other kinds of works.

#### **Prohibition of Education**

There is no doubt that in the middle period of India, women faced a lot of discriminations in domestic level as well as social level. Women were given little privilege in the middle period of India specially Tamilnadu. So there were many women who were well versed in education. They shone in the field of writing poems and occupied a vital place in the King's Administration. Unfortunately these privileges had been declined due to the taboos. They were restricted in the domestic within domestic walls as if child, young girl and wife. It was believed that they were unfit to go to educational institutions. Education was totally prevented

them. They were brought under the supervision of men. In the course of days dream of education was restricted to the women. They were merged with the agricultural works. The society received a lot of benefits from women community but they refused to accept their contribution to the society. They were many social discriminations established against women community in India. Nobody helped these dump species.

Women were suppressed due to some social evils. The social evils are inferior, less strength, unfit to manage the society, unfit for education, only for taking care of children at home. The list would extend further related to women's suppression including menstrual taboos, female feticide, domestic violence, dowry and lack of education. Rights of vote was not given to them. Men of property were privileged to use the power of votes. India was ruled by different rulers in different periods but they failed to recognize the women as other part of life. There were many changes in India but no change had brought to the women.

#### Dawn of Women's Revolutions in India after 1947

Some men began to realize that it is important to treat women fairly and properly. On the other hand India got freedom on 15August 1947. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was Father of the Indian Constitution. The Indian Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949. In the constitution he introduced many laws for the betterment of women community. He believed that a society can be measured its progress if women community is educated. Many Tamil poets also highlighted the importance of giving education women. They actively participated many agitation against discrimination imposed against them.

So many laws were introduced related women benefits. These laws have brought many changes in the day today life of women community. Whatever position they hold, the constitution protects their fundamental rights. It prevents some social evils from affecting women. They are suppressed and ill-treated in different names like family, culture, religion and social. In spite of law protects them, they still face many issues in their lives. The following habits are major cause which causes of women suffering.

# **Primary Habitat**

Family is a basic unit of society. A woman begins her life in her family as child. She encounters many obstacles in her family as a woman. She probably is not treated properly as a member of the family. Even though she worked for the welfare of her family. She is unfairly treated in the family circle. First of all, freedom is not given to her. She is not treated as equal as boys in the within family. Boys may be allowed to go out at any time and return at any time. But this privilege is not given to women community because they think that there would be some problems. They know how to save and protect themselves from any imposed restriction.

#### **Cultural Domain**

Cultural is very important in the lives of people in the world. This type of culture is used against dump women community. Menstruation is the nature of women. But there is a taboo which society associated it with women as if impure. They would not be allowed to enter inside home. They believed that their entrance

would impure the home or deity. Even temple entry is also not possible for them. After all, the culture is main source which put against women. Religion is another important domain that's philosophy put against women. They are not allowed to touch deities. She brings everything to conduct puja to the deities but she is not allowed to touch deities. Their fundamental rights were not given to them. It indicates that they were not respected in the society.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence is biggest issue that all women face irrespective of their standard and status in the society. It was practiced against women. Especially domestic violence is rather a major issue in a big country like India. The country may be different but violence against women is common all over the world. In India, many parents are not able give or don't like to give dowry to groom. Due to this cause, they have been facing untold stories of obstacle in their family circle. Even if they wanted to come over this injustice, they are being put down with help of her own family members.

# The Privilege of Indian Constit<mark>ution</mark>

Constitution was adopted on 26-11-1949 as the Constitution of India. There were many heated arguments related to the rights of the women. In the introduction of constitution, there is a preamble which tells that India became a sovereign, socialist, democratic, republic and secular country. India is not associated with any religion of the world. There are four words which sustained the freedom, dignity, freedom and expression of women. These are Justice, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity. The Father of the Constitution was very keen in describing and holding the rights of citizen above social evils.

The Indian Constitution ensures that all citizens should be given justice for social, economic and political. Justice stands for fair and prosperity for its citizens particularly women. Women were benefitted in the three domains social, political and economic. Nobody can stop them from going to school and college. Once they were not given education. They were many restrictions against women.

But the constitution ensures that according to the article 51A, either parent or guardian made assurance that they have to provide an opportunity for their child for the education. An education became a part of child. It particularly empowered women community. It brought to them many benefits in terms of finance and status. They became very powerful women in the world. In the vibrant tapestry of India, several incredible women are leading the way and making a big impact in the country. The constitution changed their life style and made most powerful women in India and world. They are like guiding stars who are shining bright in different sectors. Their leadership, vision, power, and influence are attractive and empower women in India. The most powerful and socially comfortable women. Indian women became notable young talents in the world views. They came to recruit them for higher positions in the multinational companies.

# **Violation against Fundamental Rights**

The whole society was turned against women. They have escaped with the knowledge of minds. They are agitated against their own fallacy ideas of inferiority. They resolved to register their talents. Then the society understood and wanted to recognise them by giving some position. Men stated that they are proud to concessions to women in some social positions. Hillary Clinton said that women worked in the in the day time. After return, they work at home without rest. She does not get salary for that work. In the factories in the metropolitan cities, women worked for ten hours. In spite of it, they would not rest for hard work in the office. Their basic rights are not respected in the working places. Moreover working place is much worse in the atmosphere. The basic needs are met in the administration level. The following personality women slightly escaped from these social evils. So they could their talents.

#### **Few Talented Minds in India**

The following personality could to the highest position because of the constitution which gave an opportunity to come to the position. They are Nirmala Sitharaman, Rohsini Nadar Malhotra, Soma Mondal, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Nita Ambani, Draupadi Murmu, Gita Gopinath, Madhabi Puri Buch, BV Nagarathna, Falguni Nayer and Susma Swaraj. Draupadi Murmu is current the president of India. She came from the tribal community. It is obvious that it was not easy to come to the highest post from the tribal community. It is only the Indian Constitution that provides an opportunity for the women to come to the high position. Nagaratna was the first jurist. She was well-known for fair verdict. She came from a jurist background. Falki Nayar became popular when she brought Nykaa beauty and lifestyle Retail Company to India. Madhabi Puri Buch is an Indian bureaucrat and financial expert who served as the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). She is the first female chairperson in SEBI's history. Listed names of some women achievers were born and brought up in the Indian soil. It was possible for them because the Indian constitution ensures them justice politically, economically and socially.

#### **Empowerment of Women in Politics**

Every person of the family became a part of politics or inevitably participated in politics. India follows multi party systems. So there have been many political parties. Women also eagerly participated and contributed to the betterment of the society. The politicians also realised that they cannot skip the participation of women in governing council. Since 1947, there were a large number of women who involved, determined and contributed to the development of India. It is because of the help of the constitution. There is no doubt that women's politics started at home because they became opposite member against the attitude of their husbands. Naturally they are socially balanced because they learn the skills to manage any situations at any time. They utilised these skills in governing the world.

There are a few Indian women politician who did their best for welfare of the people. Many political parties tried to include a large number of women. They were also given highest portfolios in the Indian government. It is because of the inborn talents of women. The Indian Constitution which provides guarantee to the women. For example, Amrit Kaur became a part of Jawaharlal Nehru's first Cabinet; she was the first

woman to hold Cabinet rank served for ten years. Indira Gandhi also served as first woman prime minister of India. It was possible for a woman to become Prime Minister. She was first woman prime Minister ruled for twelve years. Nobody can stop them to become prime minister. It is because of the Indian constitution was drafted and empowered them. Nowadays it is possible for those who want to shine in the society in any fields.

Men had once dominated the legal system. This fort was dismantled in 1989. Fatima Beevi was first Muslim woman to be appointed the chief justice of India. It is a symptom of changing India from old tradition to modern. Even an ordinary woman can also become anything. All these are possible nowadays because of the Indian Constitution. There is no place without women's presence. They prove their hard work, determination and dedication in all fields even though they faced a lot of family restrictions. The world will became civilised land only when it treats its half species properly.

#### The role of Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution has any welfare departments. One of them is Ministry of Family and Child Development which makes necessary arrangements for goodness of women and child developments. They are given rice and nutrition. During the delivery time they are given pre and post-delivery leave with salary package. Even private agency cannot deny this opportunity. If it is prohibited, they can approach any court in India. Moreover if there is any violation their fundamental rights, they can move any court. This is the rights that the Constitution protects them. Both centre and state governments tries to remove disparities in many ways. In Indian Constitution, article 14 says that Equality before Law that means that all are equal before law irrespective country and culture. After all, government has established many laws to protect women.

#### Constitution is safe tool of women

Even if they are in high position, they still face many issues. These issues totally affect their life styles. As result of it, the family shattered in the society. The constitution is foundation of the country. Likewise woman is the foundation of family. When she is not treated fairly, then society would not progress well. There is no doubt in it. There are many laws which are established since 1947. They faced general problems in India. Even the educated women also face in their lives. As a result of these problems, many young physician, engineers and entrepreneurship commit suicide or killed themselves.

Common problems are dowry, imbalance remuneration, working condition, medical termination of pregnancy, maternity benefit, domestic violence and special marriage act. Women were not properly treated in the above mentioned issues. Particularly dowry became the social problem. It is woman who has to bring dowry. Otherwise she will not be treated with dignity. Legislators of central and state governments brought many laudable amendments for safety of women in home, office and society.

### Laws empowers Women in India

The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels. The eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been administering various special laws relating to women such as 'The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005', 'The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961', 'The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986', 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at workplace. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. The Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Protection and) Act, 2013.

# **Working Women related Acts in Indian Constitution**

Article 14 says that everyone is equal to law. It means that there would not be any partiality based on gender. Equal treatment is provided to all irrespective of social status and background. There are other laws which protect women from misuse and discrimination in the society. Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 – This law forbids the exchange of dowry before or after a marriage. Courts can take action based on their own knowledge. Right against Dowry: Lots of women are not able to get married because of unnecessary dowry demands from the other side. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (ERA) provides for a gender non-discriminatory and equality based legislation that mandates that men and women. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. This Act was established to ensure that men and women both get equal pay and wages for the work done. The Factories Act, 1948 · Women must have separate toilets and washrooms with doors. • If a factory has more than 30 women workers the employer must provide safe atmosphere. If women are not empowered, they deprived from enjoying security and protection in life. It also provides them a secure working environment.

#### **Health related Act**

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. This Act was enacted to prohibit the practice of illegal abortions. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. In India, termination of pregnancy is regulated under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP Act). The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 1971. It was enacted by the Indian Parliament in the year 1971 with the intention of reducing death. The Medical termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

The Maternity (Amendment) Bill 2017, an amendment to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, was passed in Rajya Sabha on 11 August 2016, in Lok Sabha on 9 March 2017, and received an assent from President of India on 27 March 2017. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. It is difficult for working mothers to work during childbirth and in pre-child birth stage. Hence, the maternity benefit is a payment to a woman worker at the rate of average daily wages for the period of her actual absence immediately preceding and after delivery. At last the world is trying to show that it is civilized world.

#### **Conclusion**

All are part of this world. If one does not recognize the rights or dignity of opposite sex, there is some psychosocial problems in his life. We collective come together to treat all equally with dignity. Women is world in family, society and world. Let's move forward together. Value education should be imparted to children in the primary school. Family should treat its children equally. Then these differences would fade away. At last the world become great without any malicious due to gender inequality, caste, cultural and social difference.

#### Recommendation

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# **Key words**

1. Women, subjugation, Constitution, Law, factory, Empowerment, suffering, oppressed.