

# Status of Women in India

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## **Abstract**

In India, women's freedom means not only the freedom permitted by the Indian Constitution, but also the freedom to live a safe life, the freedom to have fair opportunities with protection of girls. Women are being harassed at work and in the home environment. To ensure that government plays a very important role. Government has planned many schemes and programs, Laws and rights on various equal rights have been enacted to be heard. Though violence is still being heard today in the form of torture rates and sources for women. Article 15 says something about the equality of his people, but how true it really is.

Indian culture was shaped by a patriarchal ideology. Not only in the social context, but also in the economic, political and educational context. Even the Constitution retained the personal rights of various religious communities against gender equality. But does it really work? Various social and economic indicators show women's inequality and

vulnerability in all areas such as economy, socio-demographics and nutrition. But is it seen in today's society, or is the status of women deteriorating for a long time?

Women in India belong to social classes or groups that are at a disadvantage due to multiple social barriers and obstacles to sessions, but why? Women are respected as all citizens, have the right to be treated equally and must not violate their dignity. She has the same rights to live as she wants. She should live a life peacefully and happily. It plays various roles throughout life, such as daughters, mothers, sisters, and wives. They must play their part freely with dignity and respect. We were in the midst of a major revolution in which women's voices were heard in parliamentary courts and on the streets, even though we had to fight for basic rights such as the right to education and the right to work. But after focusing on history, it is found that women had very different experiences at different times. Indian past societies had women as warriors, powerful priestesses and political leaders. An investigation into the status of women at different time periods in history shows how the status of Indian women has grown and changed continuously .

### **Status of Women in Ancient India**

Women in ancient India had a high degree of self-esteem, and the status of women in the Vedas was that of a mother (Mata) or a goddess (Devi). Rigvedic women in India enjoyed a high position in society. Her condition was good.

Women were offered the opportunity to achieve high intellectual and spiritual standards. During this period, there were many women Rishi.

Women in the Hindu Manusmriti are considered valuable beings that must be protected by their fathers, brothers and husbands, and finally their sons. Since the late Vedic period, women have been discriminated against in terms of education and other rights and facilities. Marriage of children, burning of widow, purdah and polygamy further exacerbated the status of women. Gosha, Lopandra, Slava Meitry and Gargi were the famous women of this era.

### **Status of women in the Medieval India**

The Medieval age proved to be disappointing for the Indian girls. Medieval India changed into no longer girls' age; it is meant to be the 'darkish age' for them. When overseas conquerors like Muslims invaded India, they added with them their very own culture. For them girls changed into the only assets of her father, brother or husband and she now no longer has any will of her own. This sort of wondering additionally crept into the minds of Indian human beings and in addition they commenced to deal with their very own girls like this. One greater purpose for the decline in girl's reputation and freedom changed into that authentic Indians desired to defend their girls from the barbarous Muslim invaders. As polygamy changed into a norm for those invaders, they picked up any girls they desired and saved her in their "harems". In order to protect them Indian girls began out using 'Purdah', (a

veil) which covers body. Due to this purpose their freedom also has become affected. They have been now no longer allowed to transport freely and this cause the in-addition deterioration in their reputation. These issues associated with girls ended in modified mindset of human beings. Now they commenced to keep in mind a female as distress and a burden, which needs to be protected from the eyes of intruders and desires more care. Whereas a boy infant will now no longer want such more care and rather might be useful as an incomes hand. Thus, a vicious circle began outwhereingirls changed intoon the receiving end. All this gave upward push to a few new evils consisting of Child Marriage, Sati, Jauhar and restrict on female education. The principal obligation of the girl paintings toward the family duties and that they have been now no longer allowed to take partwithinside the implementation of different responsibilities and sportsnow no longer what they allowed to specific their thoughts and consider point. Though girls of India aren't at par together along with her counterpart in Western global however she is suffering difficult to make her mark in men global. There had been social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Vivekanand, Swami Dayananda Sarasvati who've helped girls benefit their preceding reputation in society.

Though the condition of women was not so good but after the efforts taken by social reformers the status of women has been changed. Women were decided to fight against this

inequality and took part in the struggle of freedom against British rule.

## **Women who fought for independence**

### **1.Savitribai Phule**

Savitribai Phule labored selflessly to empower women in India, time and again urging them to teach themselves, mainly folks that got here from the so-known as backward castes. She stated schooling will be the weapon so as to unfastened women from social discrimination. She is referred to as India's first lady teacher. With her husband, Jyoti Rao Phule (Jyotiba), she began out coaching women in Pune and fought off folks that adversarial woman schooling at that time.

### **2.Mahadevi Verma**

Mahadevi Verma was a Hindi poet, freedom fighter and educationist. She followed Gandhian beliefs and herself gave up talking in English and labored in general khadi.

### **3.Capt Laxmi Sehgal**

Born in 1914, Capt Laxmi Sehgal studied on the Madras Medical College and did her MBBS in 1938. She helped to construct the primary all-girls regiment of Netaji's Indian National Army and additionally commanded it. She additionally helped in treating the prisoners of battle and squaddies who were given wounded throughout combat.

### **4.Rani Laxmibai**

The queen of the Maratha princely country of Jhansi in North India, Rani Laxmibai have become an image of

resistance for girls throughout India throughout the liberty motion. She became born in 1828 in Kashi as "Manikarnika". She became married to the King of Jhansi, Gangadhar Rao. After her husband's death, the obligation of the country's management fell on Rani Laxmibai. She made clean to the British she can be able to now no longer give up to their rule. She defended her Jhansi with her courage and a small military for seven days. She fought the British fiercely and died withinside thewarclose to Gwalior in 1858.

### **5. Basanti Devi**

BasantiDevi was a freedom fighter during the British rule in India. She took active part in various movements like civil disobedience movement, khilafat movement and also the Nagpur session of Indian National Congress in 1920 and continued with social work post-independence.

### **6. Sarojini Naidu**

Sarojini Naidu become a political activist whose poetry earned her the nickname of The Nightingale of India. A follower of Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu become the primary lady president of the Indian National Congress.

### **7. Uda Devi**

Uda Devi fought towards the British in 1857. Uda Devi and her different Dalit contributors are remembered as "Dalit Veeranganas" of the 1857 Indian Rebellion.

### **Status of Women After Independence**

After India Got Independence the constitution maker and the national leaders recognise the unequal social position of women and tried to provide equal rights to women with men. The concept of equality has been enshrined in the constitution and has been the greatest source to honour to women who were the most neglected section of society. With the spread of women's education in India, the Indian women rose against the cruelties of the males. They opposed polygamy sought right to divorce, claim equality in marital right and demand restrictions on dowry.

The Indian women are free to choose their education and professional training so they can enable for a career. Article 39 D of Indian Constitution stated that there should not make any discrimination on the ground of sex. The dowry prohibition act was formed to control dowry in 1961. To make this act stronger, it was amended in 1986 assessment of dowry death and evil of bride burning and efficacy of protective provision come under the criminal law amendment act 1983 and 1986. In the economic sphere, women have come to be a part with their male counterparts. In the field of public services like law, medicine, teaching, sports, film industry etc, a number of women have been employed. Also, In the political field women have equal status. Indian women have been participated in active politics and become MP, MLA, governor chief Minister or Prime Minister also.

It was assumed earlier that women can not be fitted in army or in war but the women proved it wrong. Today women are also playing an important role in army services. Like

**Priya Jhingan-** she is an Indian army officer and lady cadet number 1 and silver medallist from first batch of 25 lady officers who were commissioned in the Indian army in 1993.

**Prem Mathur-** she is the first Indian woman commercial pilot and started flying for Deccan Airways. She obtained her commercial license in 1947.

**Shanti Toga-** she was the first female Jawan in Indian Army fitness and skill surpassed that of her male colleagues following which she was awarded the title of best friend meaning in the recruitment training camp. She was found dead under suspicious circumstances on 13 May 2013.

**Dr Punita Arora-** she was the first woman in Indian armed force to be promoted to A 3 Star rank. Held the rank of Lieutenant General in the Indian Army her surgeon vice Admiral in Indian Navy.

Many more women like Sarla Thakral, PV Sindhu, Haritha KaurDeol, Rukmani Rao, Chetna Singh, Kiran Bedi, Pratibha Patil, Kalpana Chawla, Aishwarya Rai, Sania Mirza, Geeta Phogat Babita Phogat etc are the inspiration for Indian women who cross their boundaries and have proven their potential related field. Today, 8 march is celebrated as international women day each year to celebrate the uplift status of women. Government has also passed series of laws for the upliftment of women like the Hindu Marriage Act 1955



which provide equal right to women to obtain a divorce and also maintenance in certain cases. The Hindu adoption and maintenance act that allowed the women to adopt a boy or a girl child as her son or daughter

The dowry prohibition Act 1961 demanding dowry is an offense punishable imprisonment or fine. The equal remuneration act of 1976 - this act does not permit wages discrimination between male and female worker

Many changes have been taken place with respect of life of Indian women but the harsh reality is that is still women are ill-treated in every sphere of life it is the irony that in our country where the women are worshiped at Shakti, many atrocities are taking place against her in every walk of life. Women should be given education will broaden their Outlook and make them aware of their rights duties and responsibilities in the society. Women should be encouraged to participate in politics so that they can have a voice in nation building and can help the cause of women in general

Women should work as equal partners with men in all is fair of life, they should have the building of the progressive and develop the society and they should be given a special role in Planning and mobilization of local scale and resources

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