

INDIAN WOMEN IN GLOBAL ERA

By Neelam Dadhibal Jaiswar

Abstract

India has been male-dominated country. But, in the modern era woman play a vital role in their family as well as in their society. They now know their rights and duties and with the spreading awareness amongst the women they know their position in the society. They are walking with men at the same pace in each and every field. Following this latest trend, women are no less and backward any more. Many women have established their own economy. The hidden potentials of women have gradually been changing with the growing sensitivity to the role and economic status in the society. Skill, knowledge and adaptability in every sector are the main reasons for women to emerge. India is brimming with the success stories of women. They stand tall from the rest of the crowd and are admire for their achievements in their respective Field. This paper focuses on that woman which make landmark in history of India. Any understanding of woman in global scene and especially in India, also the paper talks about the status of woman and the challenges faced by them when they set up and managed their own identity in the keen competitive in the global era.

Keywords

Women empowerment, Growth, Success field, Challenges.

Introduction

There have been innumerable debates about gender in India over the years. Much of it includes women's positing in society, their education, health, economic position, gender equality etc. On other hand, the country has seen an increased percentage of literacy among women, and women are allowed to enter into professional fields, while on the other hand the practices of female infanticide, poor health conditions and lack of education still persisting still continue. Even the patriarchal ideology of the home being women's real domain and marriage being her ultimate destiny hasn't changed much. If one looks at the status of women then and now, one has to look at two sides of the coin; one side which is promising, and one side which is bleak.

"It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing." — Swami Vivekananda.

Women are not born, but made. What better than India to exemplify this statement by Simone de Beauvoir. With the whole world celebrating International Women's Day with great pomp and show, it would be only apt to analyze the position and space Indian women occupy today, and comparing it to the times 60 years ago when the country had just gained independence. With the women participating in nationalist movements to being pushed into the domestic household space, to their resurgence as the super-women today, women in our country have seen it all.

When our country got its independence, the participation of women nationalists was widely acknowledged. When the Indian Constitution was formulated, it granted equal rights to women, considering them legal citizens of the country and as an equal to men in terms of freedom and opportunity. The sex ratio of women at this time was slightly better than what it is today, standing at 945 females per 1000 males. Yet the conditions of women screamed a different reality.

Girl dropout rates have fallen by 16.5% between the year 2000 and 2005. Programs like 'SarvaShikshaAbhiyan' and 'Saakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy' has helped increase

the literacy rates from less than 10 percent to more than 50% today. The result of this is that India has world's largest number of professionally qualified women. In fact India has the largest population of working women in the world, and has more number of doctors, surgeons, scientists, professors than the United States.

❖ **World famous Indian women personalities**

At every period India has been producing women who brought her fame at the world level. Indian women proved their caliber in various walks of life at the world level and became inspirational to the women folk of India.

World famous political personalities

- Sarojini Naidu-the Nightingale of India

She is the first Indian woman to become the President of the Indian National Congress. She is a great patriot, an efficient politician, a good orator and a wonderful administrator. She is one of the top world famous personalities of the 20th century. She played an important role in re-establishing self-esteem in Indian women.

- Indira Gandhi - the Woman of the Millennium

She entered politics at a very young age and become the first women Prime Minister of India. She is the second longest serving Prime Minister of India who served the country for a long period. She was the strongest Prime Minister of India with great administrative power and political foresight.

- Sonia Gandhi

She is the highly influential person of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and was the Chairperson of the UPA government in India. She became the longest serving President of the Congress Party.

Indian sports personalities at international level

- Sprint Queen P.T.Usha

Payyoli Tevaraparampil Usha popularly known as P.T.Usha was one of the best women athletes of India. She remained as the queen of track events for nearly two decades which include 13 gold medals in the Asian Games. She is the recipient of the prestigious Arjuna Award in the year 1984 which is given by the Govt of India.

- Ashwini Nachappa

She is yet another famous sportsperson who brought international fame to India. She represented the country in the South Asian Federation Games held in 1984, 1986 and 1988 in which she received 2 silver in Nepal, 2 silver medals in Bangladesh and 3 gold medals in Pakistan respectively.

- SaniaMirza- the glamour girl of Indian sports

She is a professional tennis player from India who brought much name and fame to the country through her powerful forehand ground strokes. Presently she is ranked as No.1 tennis player in singles as well as doubles. Her greatest achievement in her tennis career was winning the mixed doubles crown in the 2009 Australian Open tennis tournament. She made India proud by her wonderful achievement in the field of her choice.

- Saina Nehawal

She is the country's greatest women badminton player who created a history by being ranked No.2 in the world level in 2010. Currently, she is ranked world's No.1 badminton player by Badminton World Federation. She made the country proud by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the Badminton at Olympics when she received the bronze medal at London Olympics in 2012.

World famous personalities in performing arts

- M.S.Subbulaxmi

She is a versatile singer and is the first musician to receive Bharat Ratna - the highest Civilian award of India. She has a divine tone in her voice most of her musical works include devotional recitals only.

- Dr.SonalMansingh

She has the credit of giving dance performances in nearly 87 countries and thus spread the classical dance forms of India to the foreign countries. She is the recipient of prestigious Padma Vibhushan award besides many other awards to her credit.

- Miss World of 1994 - AishwaryaRai

She showed the West that Indian women are no less in their modernity and she proved herself by being crowned the Miss World in 1994 and thus became a world popular woman personality from India. She is one of the few Indians whose wax statue stands in the Madame Tassaud's Wax Museum in London.

❖ 15 Women Whose Achievements Have Made India Proud

From Jhansi Ki Rani to IromSharmila, Indian women have always stood up for their rights and fought their battles despite restrictions and limitations. They are the shining beacons of hope and have displayed exemplary dedication in their respective fields. Here are 15 Indian women who clearly deserve a standing ovation:

- **IromChanuSharmila**

Also called the Iron Lady of Manipur, she holds the record for the longest hunger strike. The activist has been sitting on a strike for over a decade, demanding the repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

- **ChhaviRajawat**

Rajawat is the first woman sarpanch in India with an MBA degree. She ditched a well-paying corporate job with one of India's biggest telecom firms to become the sarpanch of Soda, a village 60 kms from Jaipur. She has tirelessly been working for the people of the village and has successfully implemented many projects including rain water harvesting, toilets facilities etc.

- **Amrita Devi**

Way back in 1730, when Indian women had little say even in matters at home, this brave woman fought against the felling of tress by the Maharaja of Jodhpur in Marwar, Rajasthan, by sacrificing her life, along with those of her three daughters.

- **Phoolan Devi**

Phoolan Devi was a bandit who later went on to become a politician. She was popularly known as the Bandit Queen and became the moll of a gang leader of a group of bandits at a young age.

- **SitaSahu**

Sprinter SitaSahu won 2 bronze medals at the 2011 Special Olympics in Athens at the young age of 15. Unfortunately, due to the ignorance and lack of concern from authorities, the girl now sells golgappe in DhobiyaTanke in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

- **ChandaKochhar**

Kochhar, ICICI Bank CEO, recently made it to the Fortune list of 25 most powerful women in the Asia-Pacific region, and stands first among other Indian women. She has been featured in this list consistently since 2005. She has also been honoured with the Padma Bhushan Award in 2010, the third highest civilian honour by the Indian government, for her services to the banking sector.

- **Sapper Shanti Tigga**

35-year-old Tigga became the first Indian woman, who is a mother of two, to become a jawan in the Indian Army. Standing at par with her male counterparts, she joined the 969 RailwayEngineer Regiment of Territorial Army in 2011. However, her life ended too soon as she was abducted and later found dead.

- **Asha Roy**

The daughter of a vegetable seller is currently the fastest Indian on the track, setting a record at the National Open Athletics Championship in Kolkata in 2011.

- **KalpanaChawla**

Chawla was the first Indian woman to go to space. She passed away in the infamous Columbia disaster in 2003 when the space shuttle disintegrated over Texas while re-entering the earth's atmosphere hours before it was scheduled to conclude its 28th mission.

- **ReenaKaushalDharmshaktu**

Skiing through the deserted and coldest regions in the world, mountaineer and Delhi-based outdoor instructor Reena, along with seven other women, became the first woman to reach the southernmost tip of the world, the South Pole, all in 38 days.

- **Durga Shakti Nagpal**

An IAS officer in the UP cadre, Nagpal is posted as the joint magistrate of Kanpur. She came into public view when she launched an aggressive anti-corruption campaign in GautamBudh Nagar.

- **Kunjarani Devi**

The bespectacled 46-year-old is perhaps the most celebrated Indian woman in weightlifting. She was also the first woman to win the Arjuna award in 1990. She also shared the Rajiv Gandhi KhelRatna award with Leander Paes in 1996-1997.

- **IndraNooyi**

Indra Krishnamurthy Nooyi is the chairperson and CEO of the second largest food and beverage business in the world, Pepsi Co. Nooyi has been a regular in the world's most powerful women's lists. She was also named as the third most powerful women in business by Fortune in 2014.

- **Every Indian mother**

While there are several women who go on to perform well in their chosen fields outside their homes, there are many who sit at home and still own the world. The last, but definitely not the least, every Indian mother is an achiever we just cannot leave out.

Challenges for women in global era

- Balance between family and career.
- Socio-cultural barriers.
- Male dominated society.
- Illiteracy or low level of Education.
- Dearth of financial assistance.
- Lack of Self-Confidence.

- Mobility Constraints.

At the end conclude that today modern woman is so deft and self-sufficient that she can be easily called a superwoman, juggling many fronts single handedly. Women are now fiercely ambitious and are proving their metal not only on the home front, but also in their respective professions. Women in Indian are coming up in all spheres of life. They are joining the universities and colleges in large numbers. They are entering into all kinds of professions like engineering, medicine, politics, teaching, etc. A nation's progress and prosperity can be judged by the way it treats its women folk. There is a slow and steady awareness regarding giving the women their dues, and not mistreating them, seeing them as objects of possession. Despite progress, the very fact that women, along with being achievers, also are expected to fulfill their roles as wives or mothers, prioritizing home against anything else.

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