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## Women Empowerment in Rajnandgaon District

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### **Abstract:**

*The present paper is an attempt to analyze the status of women empower in India using various indicators like women's household decision making power, financial autonomy, freedom of movement, political participation, acceptance of unequal gender role, exposure movement, political participation, acceptance of unequal gender role, exposure to media, access to education, experience of domestic violence etc based on data from different sources. The study reveals that women of India are relatively disempowered and they enjoy somewhat lower status than that of men in spite of many efforts undertaken by government. Gender gap exists regarding access to education and employment. Household decision making power and freedom of movement of women vary considerably with their age, education and employment status. It is found that acceptance of unequal gender norms by women are still prevailing in the society. More than half of the women believe wife beating to be justified for one reason or the other. Fewer women have final say on how to spend their earnings. Control over cash earnings increases with age, education and with place of residence. Women's exposure to media is also less relative to men. Rural women are more prone to domestic violence than that of urban women. A large gender gap exists in political participation too. The study concludes by an observation that access to education and employment are only the enabling factors to empowerment, achievement towards the goal, however, depends largely on the attitude of the people.*

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Women Empowerment in India

#### 1.1. Women on Earth

Women are free but everywhere they are in chain. The Universal Declaration of human Right says: all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. This is quite true in principle but very untrue in practice. The Women both in developed and developing countries find themselves more or less discriminated against gender bias is the rule rather than an exception even in the modern world. This is largely due to the patriarchal society are live in. Women are victims of male domination in the home as well as outside it.

Women have rightly found this situation unacceptable .Since the second world war ,women have moved up a bit in several fields, but there has been little and unequal change in their status. There is no important area where it can be said that women have achieved equality with men. In ten democracies among the fifteen oldest democracies, women got the right to vote only in the twentieth century. The number of women in legislatures is less than 10 percent. The same is more or less true in other walks of life.

#### 1.2. Gender Inequality

Women's demand for equality is now becoming more and more for insistent. Feminists and social reformers have succeeded in focusing the attention of the world to their problem. The constitution of India grants Women equality. It has made discriminated against women based on sex, caste, race etc. unconstitutional. It has also made traffic in women unconstitutional. It provides for equal pay for equal work for women at par with men and maternity benefits. This was an important step towards empowerment.

#### 1.3. Economic Contribution of Women

Old habits die hard. In practice the women are not treated equally. Their work in sustaining house hold economy is UN honored and unsung. The development programmers have largely focused on men. Factory laws for better conditions of work for women have resulted in employers not employing them or retrenching them to save costs.

#### 1.4. Women as a Weak Gender

Women as a separate class are subjected to criminal victimization both inside and outside their homes. Rape, dowry related violence, female infanticide, female feticide, sex determination tests etc are ugly examples of discrimination against women. The legal system is tilted against women.

To cope with this situation, we must educate the girl child because it ensures a lot of good education is the greatest empowering tool. It is necessary to reform laws and customary practices. Free legal advice and enforcement for women should be made available to them. Greater representation of women in decision making bodies should be ensured. An important yard stick of a Nations progress is the status of women.

## 2. Women's Empowerment

In a democratic system of government both men and women have equal rights for the greater benefit of the society and our nation. The glory of women is revealed by the Vedic literature with the illustrious like Gargi, Maitre and Madalsa. During the freedom struggle India witnesses the bravery of Rani Laxmibai, Ahilya Bai, Durgawati, Kasturba, Indira Gandhi, Vijaylaxmi Pundit, Sarojini Naidu, Kamla Devi Chattopadhyay Rajkumari Amrit Kaur etc. Social reformers of modern India like Raja Ram Mohan Rai Ishwarchand Vidyasagar, Keshavchandra Sen, Dayanad Saraswati, and Jyotiba Phyla etc. contributed a lot for their upliftment during the British period.

The women today in an independent India. Have emerged as a front runner in every walks of life. Their presence is felt not only in the traditional field of agriculture and industry but also in the field of engineering medical science and technology, administration policy journalism, judiciary and education. No wonder today they are demanding thirty three ministers chief minister prime minister, president act. With glory and dignity simultaneously they take performing their domestic duties as a mother and family member playing the key role to take care of their child and family in independent India. Following steps have been taken for their empowerment.

*Establishment of central social welfare board* Establishment of educational for women's welfare:

- End of polygamy, i.e. marriage by several women by a person, was declared illegal by law. No. one can marry when his wife is alive.
- Inheritance of girl child in ancestral wealth was introduced by Hindu act.
- Formation of law against the dowry death of a bride after marriage within a certain period may incur enquiry.
- Equal wage for equal work for both men and women.
- 1978 was observed as international year of women by the united Nation and also our country it was for equal right.
- The Muslim women act 1986 wishes improvement in the socio-economic and mental condition of the Muslim women.
- The act against the atrocity on the women of SC and ST of 1987 and 1995 protects them from atrocities. There is a provision of fine and five year imprisonment for the violation of this law.
- According to prohibition of deformation of women's act of 1986 depiction of women or her part of body is liable to punishment if it is against the morality Provision has been made for five years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2000
- The Indian penal code (IPC) 1860 contains some provision to safeguard women life imprisonment is awarded on their violation Section 376 deal with rape section 354 deals with molestation section 494 deals with sexual crime and section 498 for dowry related atrocity.
- The Muslim women got the right to get back the amount of Maher in cash for ancestral wealth.
- For immoral suppression of girl and women five year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 2000 has been provided.
- According to the act of 1974 a husband may be kept in jail till he makes arrangements for the maintenance of his wife.
- The Pregnant women have right of maternity leave and salary according to an act of 1961 the owner or head of the organization may be awarded and year imprisonment and Rs. 5000 as fine for its violation.

## 3. Programmers of state Government for women's Empowerment

- **Participation in agriculture**  
The attendance of women in the committee on agriculture of Zilla Parishad has been assured by the department of agriculture
- **Midwife encouragement scheme**  
In rural areas midwife is given twenty five rupees to deal with a delivery. It is given by the collector on the recommendation of chief medical officer.
- **Women's Prosperity scheme**  
Mahila samridhhi yojna has been implemented to provide employment to S.T. women Micro credit scheme has also been launched for them. Personal schemes are also started for the women and loan up to Rs. 5000 on 6 percent interest rate by the district cooperative bank has been provided.
- **Inter caste marriage incentive**  
When a man of upper caste marries with the women of SC he is awarded with a cash of five thousand rupees, gold medal citation, traveling fare etc. To support such who fight against social discrimination.
- **Encouragement to literacy of girl child**  
The girl students of SC and ST class are given two sets of uniform every year free of cost. Under Saraswati Cycle Yojna, girl students are given a bicycle

- **Admission Programme**

At the time of admission in the hostel girls are distributed books free of cost by Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission. The Government has started Kasturba Gandhi Balika Residential School for the girls of remote areas to enable them economically independent.

- **Duttakputri Yojna**

Under Duttakputri yojna adopted daughter scheme, poor girls are given Rs. 300 to 400 per year for fee books etc.

- **Marriage Programme**

Under Chhattisgarh poor girl's collective marriage scheme has been started Rs. 4000 is given to arrange the marriage of the girls of the age of above eighteen years. One thousand rupees per bride is given for the arrangement or marriage.

- **National bravery award**

National bravery award was started in 2004. The winner of national gallantry award is given Rs. 200 per month at school level and Rs. 500 at collage level.

#### 4. Women's Welfare Schemes

##### 4.1. Mahila Samridhi Yojna

State government provides loan to the self help group of the women under chhattisgarh women's funds loan scheme at a very low rate of interest.

- Rate of interest to voluntary organization is 5.5 percent.
- For self help group in 6.5 percent
- NGO provides loan to self help group at the rate of 6.5 percent.

##### 4.2. Griha Laxmi Yojna

The pors of rural areas living below poverty line are given gas stove and cylinder

##### 4.3. Nirmal Ghat Yojna

For the women of every village separate model ghat is constructed under this scheme for their exclusive use.

##### 4.4. Aayushmati Yojna

Under this scheme women living below poverty line are given Rs. 400 for treatment and Rs. 1000 if the pliant is hospitalized for more than a week. In Ambikapur and Rajnandgaon women of slums are given special supplementary diet and vaccine.

##### 4.5. Kishor Shakti Yojna

The girls are made aware of the changes between the age of 11 to 14 years by the women and child development department. Information on health, hygiene, self dependence etc. is provided to them.

##### 4.6. Mahila Jagriti Shivir

To make the women aware of their rights and legal provisions the camps are organized at gram panchyat, janpad and district level. They are informed of the programmers and schemes of the administration for their welfare. This will make them aware, active and vibrant to fight social evils.

For lonely and desolate women matri kutir Yojna (Mother's cottage scheme) and government Jhoolaghar Yojna (Creche scheme) has been started in Rajnandgaon, Bilaspur and Raipur so that may work freely. For wealer and divorcee women labour Balwadi Sanskar Kendra's and for refused women Nari Niketan (women's home) has been set up. In urban areas the widows and abandoned women are provided Rs. 1.50 per month under Sukhad yojna for their maintenance.

##### 4.7. Chhattisgarh Tonhi Atrocity Prohibitions Act. 2005

This act has been enacted to protect the women becoming the victim of the society as so called witch. It is a great social evil of our state particularly in the rural areas. This act has been enacted in 2005 to eradicate this social evil.

##### 4.8. Chhattisgarh Dowry Prohibition act 2004

To restrict the dowry system an officer has been appointed in every district with a budget of Rs. 14 lakh to propagate the message among the people against this social evil.

In Raipur and Bilshpur Children's shelter i.e. sanrakshan Grih has been set up.

#### 5. Swayamsiddh Mahila Sasaktiukaran Programme

To make the women socio-economically independent above 100 self help group of women has been formed in 117 blocks with the assistance of government of India. These groups are being trained by different training programmers and activities.

State women's commission is working to make the women aware as well as help the sufferer. The commission has published the guidelines or the way to lodge a complaint and F.I.R. by the victim. Only a lady aware of her rights may become empowered and the empowerment of women is the symbol of a developed state. The objective of the state women's commission is to make them

aware of their constitutional rights. The first step to prevent atrocity on women is to lodge FIR (first hand information report) in the police station. It includes the following.

The Victim person or women should go to the police station of the area concerned and lodge a written complain to the in charge of the police station. This is the FIR and according to section 154, if an illiterate lodges the complain orally then he so she must be narrated whatever complaint has been written on the basis of their complaint. Its summary is written in the daily diary or register or station diary and the concerned person would get a copy of it free of cost. If the victim is a rape victim, she should carry another set of dress from her home as the cloths are sealed.

As per provision her identity medical report etc. Are executed in camera. A copy of the FIR is given to the magistrate. If the station in charge delays or make excuses in lodging a complaint then magistrate or superintendent of police of the area should be approached. In case of arrest of women certain norms should be followed. For example, (i) no women should be arrested the sunset ad before the sun rise (ii) no police officer should touch a women during arrest. (iii) she should be given bail immediately if the matter is boilable and in case of non-boilable matter she should be sent under judicial custody immediately (iv) the arrested women should be kept in such lock up which is visible in the campus so that a relative may see her, (v) only a lady constable may check up the women (vi) only a registered lady doctor may check up her medical related problem.

#### *5.1. Eye Teasing*

Eye teasing, vulgar joke or telephonic chat, infringement of her personal matter or seclusion and sexual exploitation of a women or girl on some pretext is liable to severe punishment.

#### *5.2. Minimum Wage Act, 1948*

Every woman has the right to get some wages for the some work. Her working hour would be from 6 o clock in the morning to 7 o clock in the evening. She should be assigned work according to her capacity.

#### *5.3. Protection of Women from domestic Violence act 2005*

For such women who become the victim of domestic violence this act was enacted which became effective on 26 October 2006 in Chhattisgarh. This act covers a wide range of issues like physical or sexual exploitation threatening , abuse, physical assault forced sex to show obscene photograph or film or photograph, sex induced activities, having inter course by abuse threat warring related to health property , security etc. This act protects women who become the victim on the above ground.

Also the economic and social violence is under the category of domestic violence. Dowry related issue and ill treatment with mother, sister wife or widow or with the female partner who live in without marriage is also punishable One year imprisonment or Rs 20000 fine or both may be awarded who commit domestic violence.

#### *5.4. Establishment of state Women's Commission and Social Welfare Advisory Board*

In our state a women commission was set up under the provision of M.P. State women's commission act 1995, to scrutinize women's welfare programmers and their empowerment. Similarly a social welfare advisory board has been set up to the execution and monitoring of the programmers' under the grant to central social welfare advisory board. It implements several programmers for their betterment. Empowerment of women means strengthening of democracy. The registered NGO's also get grant and assistance of the government for the work of women's upliftment several trainings and workshops are urn to make them economically strong.

#### *5.5. Prohibition on liquor and drugs for women's empowerment*

Unfortunately the number of people who use wine or liquor or drugs is increasing and for women's empowerment is it very important to curb this social evil. The Indians are poor and wine consumption is a curse for poor. Illiterate and those who are suffering from mal nutrition and disease. It is also related to the growth of crime. Gandhiji was very strong crusader against this evil and it is his effort due to which madynishedh was included in the directive principles of state in our constitution in 1954 a committee was set up on this subject and its recommendations ware accepted in 1956. The House of representative accepted the resolution to include it for the development of India. All the five year plans have accepted its importance and stressed on it.

Many states have imposed total or partial ban on it. However public awareness education and social consciousness can play more effective role to prevent wine consumption. Apart from wine, smack, brown sugar and many drugs are consumed which is ruining the health of a lot of families and societies. Smugglers and anti socials are gaining too much. Organized effort is needed to curb it which makes people poor. Sick and leads to downfall of character and crime. Several camps are doing good job to de edict the people Women's are at work for the closure of wine shops of wine in the rural and urban area of our Chhattisgarh.

### **6. Review of Literature**

A number of studies have been undertaken on women empowerment at the global level and in India. Some studies dealt on methodological issues and some on empirical analysis.

Moser (1993) focused on the interrelationship between gender and development, the formulation of gender policy and the implementation of gender planning and practices.

The work of Shields (1995) provided an exploratory framework to understand and develop the concept of empowerment both from a theoretical and practical perspective with a particular focus on women's perception of the meaning of empowerment in their lives.

Anand and Sen (1995) tried to develop a measure of gender inequality.

Pillarisetti and Gillivray (1998) mainly emphasized on the methodology of construction, composition and determinant of GEM.

Bardhan and Klasen (1999) criticized GEM as an inadequate index of measuring women empowerment at the aggregate level.

Malhotra et al (2002) in their paper prepared for the World Bank highlighted methodological issues of measurement and analysis of women empowerment.

Chattopadhyay and Duflo (2001) in their paper used a policy of political reservation for women adopted in India to study the impact of women's leadership on policy decision.

They found that women were more likely to participate in policy making process if the leader of the village community was happened to be women.

Mahanta (2002) sought to explain the question of women's access to or deprivation of basic human rights as the right to health, education and work, legal rights, rights of working women's, besides issues like domestic violence, all the while keeping the peculiar socio-cultural situation of the North East in mind.

A workshop organized in 2003 by the Institute of Social Sciences and South Asia Partnership, Canada addressed the issues like "Proxy Women" who after being elected to Panchayat bodies were merely puppets in the hands of their husbands, relatives and other male Panchayat members; and emphasized on training programme for their capacity building.

Assam Human Development Report (Govt. of Assam, 2003) threw some light on inequality in the achievement between men and women of Assam in different spheres of life. The report viewed that poverty, violence and lack of political participation were the main issues of concern for South Asian Women, and Assam was no exception.

The study of Kishor and Gupta (2004) revealed that average women in India were disempowered relative to men, and there had been little change in her empowerment over time.

Parashar (2004) examined how mother's empowerment in India is linked with child nutrition and immunization and suggested women to be empowered simultaneously along several different dimensions if they and their children were to benefit across the whole spectrum of their health and survival needs.

Sridevi (2005) in her paper provided a scientific method to measure empowerment. Study of Cote de Ivoire revealed that increased female share in household income leads to increased spending on human development enhancing items (as quoted by Ranis and Stewart, 2005).

Blumberg (2005) viewed that economic empowerment of women was the key to gender equality and well being of a nation. This would not only enhance women's capacity of decision making but also lead to reduction in corruption, armed conflict and violence against females in the long run.

Karat (2005) in her works discussed the issues of violence against women, their survival, political participation and emancipation.

Panda and Agarwal (2005) focused on the factor like women's property status in the context of her risk of marital violence and opined that if development means expansion of human capabilities, then freedom from domestic violence should be an integral part of any exercise for evaluating developmental progress.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 7. Research Problem

In modern society there has been great stress on socio-economic and political equality for both genders. Equality means equal opportunity to all. Unfortunately, our society experiences these problems even today, which poses a greater challenge to the social development and national unity. To know the real status of women empowerment after implementation of different development programmers in Rajnandgaon District.

Statement of the problem "Women Empowerment In Rajnandgaon District".

Our place Rajnandgaon play a vital role for the women empowerment and betterment of the following problems frequently faced by women :-

- Women inequality.
- Plight of women.
- Social discrimination.
- Poor health of the women.
- Illiteracy of women.
- Decision making problem of women.
- Income (which cannot given in the time).

### 8. Objectives

- To achieve the above objective of the Society shall carry out the following function
- To undertake all the activities that may be necessary for the achievement of objectives referred above.
- To know that whether the development schemes for women are getting utilized or not.
- To know that proper implementation taking place or no
- To know that social economic development in the live of women
- To know that some barriers to the empowerment of women.

### 9. Hypothesis

- Government schemes for women empowerment have been properly utilized.
- The standard of life of economic poor women has been raised.
- The empowerment of women contributed development of the nation.
- Many NGO's come forward to encourage the empowerment of women.
- Government takes the important of the health and education for th women

### 10. Collection of Data

Primary Data: It is collected through

- a. Interview b. Questionnaires

### 11. Secondary Data

For the secondary data information is collected with the help of Internet, Books and Magazines.

- To know the program which is benefit for the women?
- To know the education facility given to the women.
- To know about health which is provide by the government?
- To know about government schemes and programs about.

#### 11.1. Interview

Sarpanch of the village district Rajanandgaon in Chhattisgarh.

Sarpanch-I have taken the Interview one of the villages Sarpanch. Who was the Sarpanch of village .I am surprised to saw the Sarpanch. She is women. I feel happy and glad to see her.

She has done her work with responsibility and truth. She provides all the information related to the empowerment of women. Which is going on to the village? Government provides many facilities to the women for their motivation and encourages to come forward. Government organizes many programs and yojanas for it. For example the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' to create pond, cannel, road etc.

For this yojana women get benefit to her. There are some programs organized by the Government these are:-  
Projects Sanctioned under STEP during 2009-2010:-

Sector	No of Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rupees in Lakes)	No of Beneficiaries
DAIRY	3	102.50	11200
GOATRY	3	21.89	1500
PIGGERY	1	11.03	500
RABBIT	1	15.98	600
POULTRY	2	16.82	1550
WOOLLEN SPINNING	1	34.07	1000
TOTAL	11	202.09	16350

A woman Sarpanch has also told about the health and education of the Women. Government has provided the women a monthly routine check up by the physicians.

If there is any problem to her then make it by solving it.

Government have also provide to her education for their knowledge and skill for in future. They cannot be cheating to other. And they got be self dependable to himself. To know about the awareness programs about the women which is provide by the government to her.

The most and important think for the Government is that its aim is to provide a women self dependable. So it should be stand for her and other women. And fight for discrimination for women and men or for the society view. Which is very bad for the women? The village Sarpanch should be also told about the salary problem of the women. Which is given to her late? She told me that she fight for it and give him salary through janpad panchayat. She also complains in district panchayat for it.

#### 11.2. Village Women

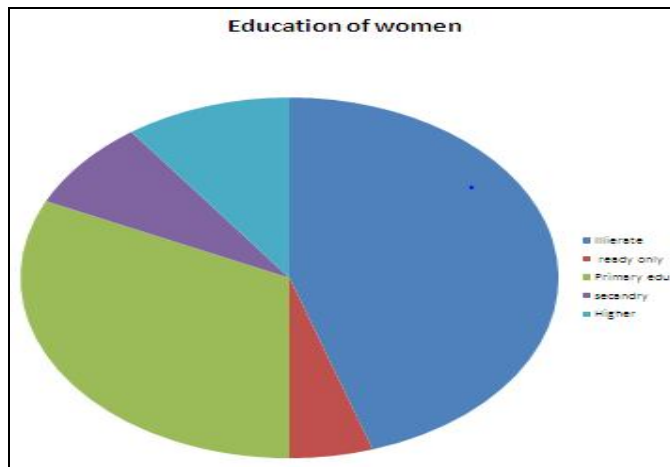
By the help of Interview. I have asked to the women of a village .About their working, family detail, salary , Education and health. Which is given by Government.

She told me that she get a facility by the Government .which is given to her .Like GOVERNMENT PROGRAM .In which education, health etc.

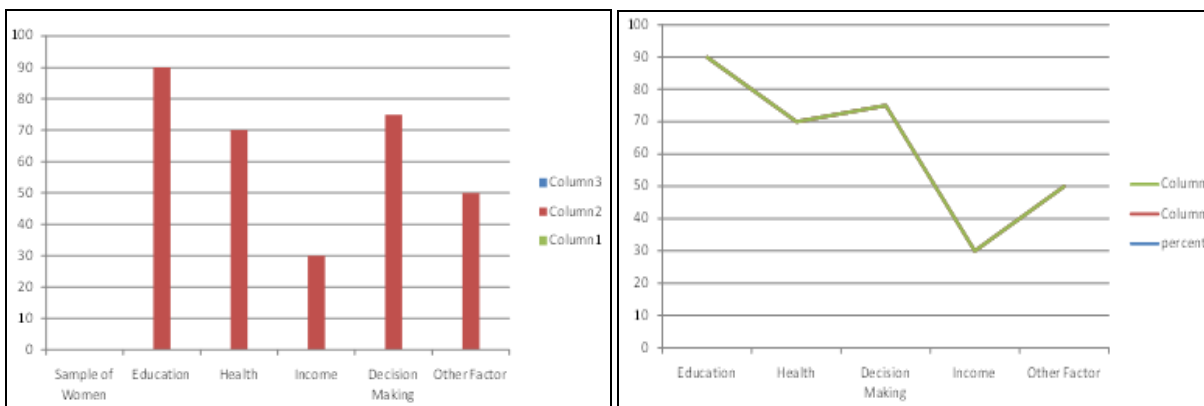
The happy thing for it is that her sarpanch is a woman and always helps her in any situation. But for it unhappy thing is that for their salary. Which comes to her late. Their salary should not be paid to her in time.

11.3. Questionaries

By the help questionnaires. I have taken the sample question to the women of the Rajnandgaon district and block khairgarh. I asked her question related to with. About their education, health, income etc.



12. Status of Women after Going to Work



13. Data Analysis

In our district Rajnandgaon department of women and child development has been set up for their welfare and for their all round development various programmes have been activated systematically. To improve their physical and mental status and their health and nutrition, to save them from mal nutrition.

Under data analysis we have known about the urban and rural areas of the rajnandgaon district. We studied about the women that many women come forward to use the schemes of government for their work. Today women do not sit inside homes. They go to work to get the income. They use income for their family and also spend it for their own selves. They take all the decision of the home.

90% of women are educated and they take decision for their family and also teach their children. 70% women have good health. Under the Aayushmat yojna this scheme provides women living below poverty line Rs 400 for treatment and rs 1000 if the patient is hospitalized for more than a week. In rajnandgaon women of slums are given special supplementary diet and vaccine. 75% women take their decision alone.50% for their other factors and the rest percentage is in loss for those women who cannot do anything for education, health, income, decision making and other factors.

To make the women aware of their rights and legal provision the camp are organized at gram panchayat, janpad and district level. They are informed of the programmes and schemes of the administration for their welfare. This will make them aware, active and vibrant to fight social evil.

14. Conclusion

Thirdly, we are having a large number of women. Who are uneducated as they themselves to get money because money is really very important for their lively hood for such women we need to ask government to provide them such training so that they can work for themselves, earn for themselves that will not lead them to choose wrong path and to choose the better one to make their a

life a better one better one if we are thinking of women empowerment in our country. We need to think of the women of each and every class. Because women empowerment is necessary in each class and section of our society, weather it is the lower class or the higher class. Only then we can improve the women of our country. So the condition of the women in our country will not be pathetic but a better one

The women will participate in the economic development and contribute to the national income which is in turned lead to a real development of our country to stop. It is still being continued. These orthodox still want that Indian women don't have any right to make level with the men. They still think that Indian women don't deserve to make their own identity and to be known by their own work and dedication .we should ashamed of such mentality.

If we are not able to protest such mentality, so there is also no reason to get worried because worried for any issue or problem will not solve issue and problem. If we are really want to resolve any issue. We should supported the right the rather then protesting against the wrong.

In this case of enhancing and improving the position of women we should do the same, we need to forget the general issue although we have reached to the 21th century but still in India, gender based discrimination is still going on.

There is no any internal reason for this pathetic condition of women in India; the problem is inside ex-mentality first of all we need to create a modern and new mentality having behind the orthodox one. By changing the mentality of the people of our country we can create a revolution in improving the condition of women. Secondary we need to educate each and every girl by giving them the education that they need, we make a strong base of growth for them the providing them education.

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