

WOMEN IN ANCIENT INDIA: EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

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ABSTRACT

In ancient Indian society, women were obtained the same position as to men, and there was no discrimination on the bases of physical appearance, education and gender, instead of that women were honored by society. The women were considered as Janani which means mother, even in Hindu scripts women are considered as Devi. They used to experience their basic rights where they were free to receive education, at that point the other hand the wives of the rishis should inclined to participate in religious rituals with their husbands, they had been additionally called the Ardhangini (better half) too. During that period, women were given to stay same existence similar to men used to. They had religious rights, economic rights and politics rights as well as mens. Women in Indian history have gone through two things in their life one is subjection and deliverance. With the passage of time, their positions might have changed but in the Vedic era, they were a complete symbol of protector and caretaker of mortality and ideals. In ancient India, women enjoyed equal status with men. They were educated. Women were trained as a Warriors we also found many references where women hold the position of bodyguards of the king and queen. In Rigved We found many references about a warrior queen Vishpala, who is trained in the art of warfare. She loses a leg in battle; an iron leg revives her spirit and she resumes her battlefield exploits.

Keywords: Women, Empowerment, Essential, Heritage.

Introduction

In ancient period women had a right to educate. she always participated in education submit or seminar Apala, Lopa, Gargi and maitres were the examples of educated women's These things show the wide vision of society in ancient period in India. India, known for its rich cultural heritage, has a history of emphasizing the importance of education and empowering women from ancient times. In ancient India, women were given equal importance to men in terms of education and their role in society. Women were encouraged to pursue higher education, and many of them became scholars, poets, and philosophers. This article aims to explore the educational and empowerment opportunities that were available to women in ancient India.

Women Education in Vedic Period

Education was considered an essential part of a person's life in ancient India. Women, too, were given equal importance in terms of education. In fact, the Rigveda, the oldest text in Hinduism, mentions women's education. The text states that women should be educated and should participate in religious ceremonies. Women were also encouraged to study the Vedas, the holy texts of Hinduism.

The most famous woman scholar in ancient India was Gargi, who lived in the 7th century BCE. She was a philosopher and a scholar of the Vedas. She participated in philosophical debates and challenged the views of the male scholars of her time. Gargi additionally participated in debate with Yajnavalka on philosophical issues. Lilabati became a remarkable mathematician of historic India. Thus we discover that historic society became now no longer conservative to offer training to ladies and that a lot of them attained to terrific proficiencies in learning. The historic girls had identical rights with guys in

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recognize of school In addition to Gargi, there were other women scholars in ancient India who made significant contributions to education and scholarship. For example, Lopamudra, who lived in the 3rd millennium BCE, was a Vedic poet and philosopher. She composed hymns that are still recited in Hindu ceremonies. Another example is Maitreyi, who lived in the 6th century BCE. She was a scholar of the Vedas and participated in philosophical debates.

Apart from these eminent women scholars, there were also other women who received education in various fields. For example, women were trained in music, dance, and other performing arts. Women were also trained in medicine, and there were female physicians who treated women's health issues. Women were also trained in warfare, and there were female warrior

Women Education in Buddhist Period

On the Recommendation of his aunt Maha Prajapati Gautami and his discipline Anand Mahatma Buddha permitted womens' entry into the Sangha for the purpose of education. A bhikshuk or monk was assigned the task of imparting education to the bhikshunis. Bhikshunis had to stay in Sangha and vihars a two-year apprenticeship before they could receive 'Diksha' (religious custom). Initially, Buddhist education was limited to only bhikshus' and 'bhikshuni's, much later it was Opened to commoners in order to propagate Buddhism. Notably 13 eminent Buddhist nuns Were sent to several countries. Asoka's daughter, Sanghamitra was inducted into Buddhist fold and sent for propagation of Buddhism. Jain sources mentions Kosambi princess, Jayanti remained unmarried to study religion and philosophy Radhamma, 20220). Lines from Lalita Vistara indicates female at the time of Buddha were taught to read and write and be accomplished in several ways (Majumdar, 1916).

The Upanayana (Vedic initiation) of women have to were as not unusual place as that of boys. In the Vedic duration the ladies now no longer handiest loved privileged function however additionally possessed excessive popular of morality. They had contributed undoubtedly to the academic system. The quantity of girls who used to acquire standard literary and cultural training should were pretty large. Women Empowerment in Ancient India.

Mourya Period

Women in ancient India enjoyed a high status in society. They had the right to own property and inherit from their fathers. Women were also allowed to participate in religious ceremonies and perform rituals. In fact, there were many female priests who officiated at religious ceremonies. Women also played an important role in politics in ancient India. There were queens and princesses who ruled kingdoms. For example, the queen of Magadha, Nandini, ruled the kingdom after her husband's death. The princess of Ayodhya, Shanta, was a renowned scholar and philosopher.

In addition to political power, women also enjoyed economic power in ancient India. Women were involved in trade and commerce and were known for their business acumen. For example, the city of Pataliputra, which was the capital of the Mauryan empire, was known for its women traders.

Women also had a say in social and cultural matters in ancient India. Women were involved in decision-making processes and had a say in the affairs of the family and the community. Women were also involved in the arts and literature and were known for their creativity and artistic talent.

Religious and Economic Rights of Women

The condition of any society and nation can be judged by looking at the condition of the women there. The credit for building a glorious society in ancient times is given to women. It is clear from the study of Vedic texts that women had freedom and equality in various fields like education, sacrifice, knowledge etc. She freely participated in scholastic and philosophical debates with men. They had equal opportunities as men and participated in every field. From household chores to agriculture, administration and yajya rituals to spiritual practice, no field was left untouched by the imprint of his distinctive personality, talent and skill. That's why women also had an important role in the economy. Keeping in view the economic status of women, their property rights have been accepted in the society, but here those special circumstances have also been analyzed, due to which they used to get their share in the property. In the Vedic period, a minor girl did not have the right to property.

It is mentioned in the Rigveda that after the death of the father, the son of Auras did not give a share of the paternal property to the minor sister. In other verses of the Rigveda it is mentioned that an unmarried girl is praying to her aged father for her inheritance. In the family, she was considered superior to the adopted son. In sonless families, after the death of the father, his daughter/ girls used to have full rights over the property. Therefore, in the Vedic era, the girl didn't get property rights after having a son. Women rights were very much limited in inheriting property. A married daughter had no share in her

father's property but each spinster was entitled to one-fourth share of patrimony received by her brothers. Women had control over gifts and property etc. received by a woman at the time of marriage but the bulk of the family property was under the control and management of the patriarch.

As a wife, a woman had no direct share in her husband's property. However, a forsaken wife was entitled to 1/3rd of her husband's wealth. A widow was expected to lead an ascetic life and had no share in her husband's property. Thus it could be generalized that the social situation was not in favour of women possessing property and yet protection was given to them as daughters and wives.

In the religious field, wife enjoyed full rights and regularly participated in religious ceremonies with her husband. Religious ceremonies and sacrifices were performed jointly by the husband and the wife. Women even participated actively in religious discourses. There was no bar for women to read or study any of our sacred literature.

Conclusion

Women in ancient India enjoyed a high status in society and were given equal importance to men in terms of education and empowerment. Women were encouraged to pursue higher education, and many of them became scholars, poets, and philosophers. Women also played an important role in politics and economics and had a say in social and cultural matters. The contributions of women scholars such as Gargi, Lopamudra, and Maitreyi are still remembered and celebrated in India today. It is important to learn from the ancient Indian civilization's emphasis on education and women's empowerment and continue to work towards gender.

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