

# In the Era of Women Liberation role of Women Education and Women Empowerment and Consequently Women Decision Making Ability towards Achievement Oriented Charismatic Women

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**ABSTRACT:** *In ancient Vedic ages Indian women were given due respect and honor by Vedic sages. Ability, recognition and social status that women used to enjoy during Vedic ages were in accordance with their capability, education and other qualities. Situation started worsening causing loss of recognition to women during medieval ages - the age being under the Muslim rule, Colonial rule and also thereafter. Women were deprived of enjoying almost all rights which are required to be exercised for living a life including along with other rights being social, moral and economical rights and also rights which an individual expects being free of all evil bondages, exploitation and humiliation. For Indian women, Sati Pratha, Purdah Pratha, women beating, polygamy of men, early marriage of women, being deprived of rights of education and scope of earning money and employment etc. were very common. Situations started changing under the influence of great social reformers and also protests from women in form of women liberation movements. These all developments created a situation which caused alterations and changes in social systems. The different barriers to which women were subjected were gradually eliminated. The situation of women empowerment had come up and started getting benefits of education etc. Women out of their education etc. had the feelings of liberation and freedom from other men dominating practices being exercised upon them under the changed context of empowerment. All these changed situations under the dynamics of women empowerment had given up a thrust and consequently they were marking up as power group. These developments had initiated women to come up as individual or a body in different decision making activities. The women were progressing forward with men in all areas of society even in areas of social and different decision making practice as is expected of charismatic women.*

**Key Words:** *liberation, women empowerment, decision making, charismatic women.*

## Introduction

In the context of global changing situation, the concept of human value change is getting a new dimension. Irrespective of sex on the global perspective, the human beings are valued with respect to their recognition with in different aspects of society or overall on different social systems with equal status. Every individual mostly around the globe are treated as to have equal value irrespective of their sex, economic status or social status.

In India during the Vedic ages women were treated as equal with men in respect of their dignity or importance in all different aspects. Even in education, warfare, statesmanship, and other different aspects are worth mentioning. Contributions of Vedic women or women of other periods of society are aspects of illustration or worth mentioning. Women like Gargi, Maitreyi in academics, Karvoki, Nandini in warfare, Mirabai in philanthropy, Jhansi Queen Laxmibai, Sultana Regia etc. in statesmanship are personalities to be ever remembered.

However, the role and ability of women were to some extent narrowed down in the medieval period even in even up to period prior to independence or during colonial rule.

Since independence much effort has been made by different sections of society and ability and strength of women were again brought to limelight. Different rules and regulations has been introduced in India and different acts also has been enacted.

With this process the phase in society has come up in the society which makes the Indian women liberated from bondage of different social evils like discouraging women education, early marriage of women, polygamy system among men, system of Sati etc.

Women are treated as being liberated from shackles of family and social bondages and restrictions; women are being treated as free individuals to enjoy all rights and benefits which men enjoy. These situations lead women to enjoy the authority of equal power and status with men. Women are empowered and recognized

as citizen with equal power as men to enjoy the privileges and benefits of society, its resources and opportunities.

Consequently being equipped with this authority and benefit, women are pushing themselves in different platforms wherefrom they can be party to operate with authority to decision making- decision making in different areas where once in the earlier age they were empowered – in education and academics, in corporate system, in ware fares, statesmanship etc.; all where once they had once been and which they had lost subsequently.

The existing work make an effort in this respect to undertake an analytical study to explicate the situation elaborately and justify the situation suitably to establish the real situation that is in existence in real life as on in present day.

### **Women Liberation - Initiation and Growth**

The initiation and development of women liberation efforts in India by different individuals, organizations, societies etc. was because of status of women had been the concern of all conscious sections of society prior to and post independence period. The status of women had been the continued concern of many reform movements before and after independence. Representatives as well as members of Brahma Samaj were very seriously concerned with issues like Sati, remarriage, divorce, female education, Purdah system, polygamy and dowry.

In fact, initiation of women liberation movement had been originated out of a unique and sharply polarized political conjuncture. This political conjuncture was conceptualized and shaped uniform movement to claim for women liberation between the years 1968 and 1975. This phenomena non , in fact, had a radicalizing effect throughout the world. Even women being involved in social and political struggles during that period had taken pioneering role in autonomous women's liberation movements. In India, socio-economic and cultural differences among the privileged and unprivileged groups were so profound that instead of this movement being taken as strange or something prejudicial, it had been taken as a desired movement in support of women liberation from the injustice and atrocities extended to them in form of different rituals and so called societal systems organized and carefully mentored by a section of the society. It was so well supported , so deeply penetrated and so inherently entertained that it echoed the same slogan of protest by the larger section of population in India for doing away with these evils of society.

Considerations may be made over the opinions and activities of some great persons of India to make a catalytic effect towards the spread of the movement.

Justice Ranade criticized women child marriage, polygamy, restrictions on remarriage of widows and non-access to education. Persons like Raja Ram Mohan Roy was instrumental in getting Sati system abolished. Pt. Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and Maharsi Karve pleaded for remarriage of widows. Gandhiji took interest in collective mobilization of women to fight for political freedom as well as for their social and political rights.

Over the last two decades women organizations have concentrated on a number of demands, many of which are even alien to even women in West. The problem of women in slums and socio-economic oppression of working class and peasant women have always been to forefront of the causes for which the liberation movement had taken its growth. This is hardly surprising as the overwhelming majority of women in India live in conditions of extreme poverty and deprivation. At the same time rape, wife-beating, economically motivated killing, deprivation from right and scope of education, forcibly keeping them away from the world and environment of creating condition of self-supporting, earning livelihood or independence from dependence upon men show no sign of declination.

### **Women Empowerment in India**

Women empowerment, as discussed in the preceding section, has got its different features and characteristics which all require necessary considerations to analyses the conditions as in existence in India. The different elements of women empowerment need to be taken for study.

#### **What is Women Empowerment?**

Women empowerment may be mentioned to be the situation of enjoying the power by women to decide what they have got to do in their own life and also inculcating such ability in them so that that they be in a position to find out their right place in the society. According to United Nations women empowerment is for emphasizing the following feelings in general:

- i) Generating women sense of self worth.
- ii) Women right to have and to determine their choices
- iii) Women right to have access to equal opportunities and all kinds of resources.

iv) Women right to have the power to regulate and control their own lives within and outside their home.

v) Women ability to contribute in creating a more just social and economic order.

Accordingly women empowerment may state to be nothing but recognition of women basic human rights and creating an environment where they are treated as equal to men.

### **Women Empowerment and Education is Required to Achieve Charismatic Women to Give the Society New Dimension**

“You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of women” – Jawaharlal Nehru.

Need for women empowerment have come up because of long period of domination and discrimination done by men over women all over World and India is not different.

India is a complex country. Through centuries there is development in India of different types of customs, traditions and practices. Irrespective of nature, whether bad or good, these customs and traditions have become a part of society’s collective consciousness. Indians worship goddesses, they have high regards and importance to their mothers and female members of family, daughters, sisters, wives, female members and friends in society. Also along with this, Indians are very well known for their adverse behavior to women inside their home and outside.

In Indian society, there exist people from different religious beliefs and faiths where abundant respect and consideration is given to women and their causes and also it is ensured that women honor and dignity is held high. But in real life social situation their lie various ill practices and also types of various oppressions both physical and mental against women since ages. The events of Sati system, practices of dowry, purdah practices, female infanticide, wife beating and burning, sexual violence and harassment at work, domestic violence and other various types of discrimination like depriving women from scope of education and self help practices to their scope of independence to men and more towards being self supported by availing scope of employment or entrepreneurship etc. are in existence in Indian society to justify discriminatory activity towards women in Indian society.

The reasons for such indiscriminate behavior to women in Indian society are several, but most important among these are the male superiority complex and patriarchal system of society. Though there exists various constitutional and legal safeguards against such practices, still these social ills survive and in reality there is lot to be done.

In these perspectives, concept of women empowerment not only focus on giving women strengths and skill to come over the miserable situations but at the same time it requires that women should be educated properly so that they get the ability to justify what they should do and move accordingly.

### **Status of Women Empowerment in India**

From ancient to modern period in India, condition of women in different areas like social, political and economical has been subjected to changes along with change of time.

In ancient India as mentioned earlier, women were recognized with status being equal with men. In Vedic ages women were seen to be in high position in society contributing to different areas along with men with very much high level of education and capabilities. References are available with women sages like such as Maitreyi, Gargi, Lilabati etc. but with the coming of famous treatise of Manu i.e. Manusanhita, the status of women were relegated to a subordinated position to men.

Different types of discriminatory practices started to take up subsequently. Socio-political rights of women were curtailed and women were made fully dependent upon the male members of the family. Women were deprived of their right of education, right to work and employment along with several others, their rights to decide for themselves were taken off by society.

During medieval period condition of women got worsened with the advent of Muslim rulers in India as also during British periods.

However, few enlightened Indians such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy influenced by the modern concept of freedom, liberty, equality and justice started to question the prevailing discriminatory practices against women. Along with him several other social reformers like Pt. Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Acharya Vinoba Bhave etc. also worked for up liftmen of women in India.

Indian National Congress supported the first women’s delegation which met the representatives of British Government to demand political right of women during as early as 1917. Also during freedom movement, almost all the leaders were of the view that women should be given equal status in free India and all types of discriminatory practices must be done away with. Also leaders had claimed for provision of constitutional

protection in India which would eliminate exploitation practices and traditions towards women and uphold practices of empowerment of women in social system and along with economic and social system.

### **Empowerment and Education and Role of Women upon Decision Making Activities**

Education has always proved itself to be a tool and also an agent of social changes promoting new values, new knowledge and new ways of improving human condition. Through education one is expected to be a dutiful and responsible citizen of the society. A person can be shaped in thinking, behavior and interaction in line with the expectation with the society through undergoing process of education. Before the consciousness of the process of women empowerment, women were considered to be treated as being with lower social status, which had further worsened their opportunity and consideration for education. Development of nation in true sense cannot be achieved if the vast sections of women in India with their potentiality are not allowed for opportunity of education and consequently they are deprived of their contribution towards development of country. Women in India because of their empowerment and out of this their scope of right of education promotes the women in India in aspect i) growth of self recognition, positive self image and positive self actualization, ii) stimulating critical thinking, iii) widening understanding of self society and needs of society iv) enabling access to resources specially to an expanding frame work of information and knowledge, v) developing ability to analyse the options available and to facilitate the possibilities of making informed choices, iv) reinforcing the agency of women to challenge the gendered structures of power and take control of their lives. These all enhance the capability of women towards independent analytical abilities and correspondingly decision making skill with right of education and thereby being suitably educated, equal participation of women with men n social function process and free expression of their views and participation in the community life help them getting recognized in society and out of these women in society are free and able to participate in decision making process. The power of expression and ability to solve problems through their views and ideas, make women capable of getting attention from society and in this process they participate in decision making process in society. Also because of education out of their empowerment the women enjoy financial independence along with employment opportunity makes a woman capable of asserting her voice in community as well as in family and this equip women with abilities and authorities of decision making.

These all ensures the role of women empowerment and thereby education towards decision making ability of women.

### **Literature Review and Studying Research Gap**

A study of work done by different scholars and authors in area of women liberation towards women empowerment and education and correspondingly and women ability towards women decision making ability bring forward much work in this area. Different scholarly works are available showing details of contributions of different research scholars about situations and circumstances leading to women liberation and consequences thereof. Also the concept and progress of women empowerment in India has been discussed in different works of different authors.

The study of different works like “A Field of one’s Own: Gender and Land Rights” by Agarwal(2011), Gore, M.S. “Education for women’s Quality” (2012), emphasizes analysis of circumstances leading to disharmony effort for women leading to creation of situation towards women liberation and empowerment. Also work of Kumar, Prahlad, Paul and Tinken titled “Information and Need for Gender Sensitivity Statistics” (2004), complies information and activities leading to women empowerment and women abilities towards women education.

Work of Malhotra, Anju and Mark Mather (1914), “Do Schooling and Work Empower Women in Developing countries?” critically analyse role of empowered women in country decision making.

Also work of Mason and Karen (2014) “Wives Economic Decision Making Power in the Family” is an analysis of women decision making ability because of women empowerment.

However, though different scholarly works as above has been undertaken in different research studies, very rarely work is available highlighting the total situation of women liberation, women empowerment and education and consequently the effect upon women decision making ability.

### **Objective of the Study**

The existing study is undertaken to identify the situation of progress and development in process of women liberation and subsequently the effect of this to women empowerment and thereby under the new situation of women education because of women empowerment, the attainment of objectives:

- To study the impact of education on decision making ability of women towards as is expected of women with charisma.

- To study the charismatic abilities of women under the situation of women education and empowerment.

### Research Methodology

It requires establishing the role of women empowerment and specially women education upon decision making ability of women.

The research work is desired to be undertaken on the basis of primary data.

Some essential predictors of charismatic women under the influence of empowerment including education which are considered to influence women decision making ability is decided to be identified. Such predictors of charismatic women may be assumed to be dimensions of study involving women empowerment which are to influence the decision making ability of women also.

Education, financial ability, social position and status because of education and prospects to earn social recognition etc. may be considered to be features or criteria which promote decision making ability of women may be identified as predictors or dimensions to have role in decision making ability of women.

Upon each of the dimensions (likely to be around 10/12) few questions are desired to be framed making the total number of questions in the questionnaire around 50 to 60. The questionnaire thus framed is will be given to respondents for their feedback. The validity of the questions in the questionnaire will be tested by using different statistical validity testing methods.

Finally the feedback of the respondents of the questionnaire will be taken for statistical analysis using different statistical testing procedures.

From such tests and analyses the output of the research work - ability of decision making of women because of wo0men empowerment and education will be established.

### Conclusion

The work is original in nature. In this work it will be established how the empowerment of women is necessary for women education and decision making ability towards development of achievement oriented charismatic women. In fact, women empowerment provides opportunity of education for the women and along with these women are equipped with different rights and abilities which enhance analytical ability of women.

This work will justify how depriving women from different rights enjoyed by male members in society are detrimental for country. How far making women dependent upon men is harmful, instead of how far making women empowered with different scopes and facilities which men enjoy will be beneficial for country. The women such developed will be in position to contribute towards development of country as charismatic counter part of men. How the women population can be suitably used to country development by use of ability of women to take decision on all relevant direction of society.

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