

Status of Girls in Indian Society: The Indian and Global Perspectives (International Conference Paper)

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Abstract: "Anenatmana Jibenanuprabishya Namrupe Byakar bani" - Chandogya Upanishad 6/3/2. "Tatsristwa Tadebanuprabishat" – Taittiriya Upanishad, Brahmananda Balli, Anubak-6. The above Vedic concepts reveal that the physical structure of a girl child is not the frame of mere chemical entities, but a holy & precious built up body having beautiful significance in this world. She holds every possibility of future creation nurtures the creation & becomes the main shelter of the world with love & respect, utmost perseverance & tolerance. Hence, the existence of the world without a girl is untrue & can never be imagined. An adolescent girl, prior to becoming a mother, acquires the ability in herself to frame the soul in her womb, transforms all types of her powers to the growing up baby through biochemical & psychological means of her body & nurtures till the baby becomes fit to see the light of eternal world. The whole process is governed by the power of Supreme Soul & the complete system in the girl's body is arranged by HIM to carry forward the process of his eternal creation. The holy term "MA" what the mother makes her child to utter as her unique identity has also various significances too e.g. M – Stands for a) Ishwar (She is the holder of true knowledge & infinite power), b) Aditya (Immortal), c) Pragnya (Holder of Wisdom). A Stands for a) Virat (She is creator of significant creations), b) Agni (She is adorable & can be known by true knowledge), c) Vishwa (All creations are within her & she is present among all). As regards a girl, her place in this world is self-proven & she exclusively deserves for high esteemed regards & adoration in the society all over the world. There are many instances like Madam Curie, Florence Nightingale, Sunita Williams, Mother Teresa, Rani Laxmibai, Donna Strickland (Noble prize winner in physics, 2018) who had done glorious achievements in the world. Hence the rights of girls for survival of glorious life should rest on top, whether it may be in Education in this Nuclear era, Safety & Security, Love & Respect or availing due Advantages in any other field. But it is painful that every now & then, girls are being left out & being the sufferer of social abuses like female foeticide, gang-rape, abduction/trafficking, War/ Communal rape-victim, terror attack, defamation/ degradation on narrow religious grounds, physical/ mental torture, sexual threats in & outside the family & at working places etc. As remedial measures, there is a need to educate the members at all levels of the society & make them aware about the sacred position of girls. At the same time, policy to protect the women rights & empowerment is to be reviewed & established according to the growing situation. This paper emphasizes that the ability of girls is undisputed. The heinous treatments of evil society towards girls are unfortunate. It should be remembered that a man who is boastful of his powers, once got it from a woman who created him.

Keywords: Girl, Girl's Rights, Social Abuses

1. Introduction

Yathemam Bacham Kalyanimabadani Jamebhyaha
Brahmarajanyabhyam Shudraya Charyaya cha Swaya
Charanayacha. – Yajurveda 26/2

Basa Shukram.....Malah.

Nityam Snatwa ShuchihiTabhiragnimandri Taha –
Manusmriti – 5/135, 2/176, 2/186

The directives of above Vedic concepts preserve for the girls of any section, of any region(whether it may hilly terrain or thick forest areas) of the world, equal rights in their lives as that of men in every field (Education, Culture, Social activities, Research & Teaching, Religious activities, Politics & holding of important responsible Posts). It have also extended liberalization in executing religious activities like Worship of God, conducting Agnihotras etc. in their very sensitive days of " Menstruation" after attaining freshness with water. But in the present era, the above directives are badly manipulated, misinterpreted & violated, thereby causing gross apathy of girl's rights in the country. Though a few steps like reservation in education & job vacancies, financial aid(scholarships & fellowship), separate institutions for girls, enactment of women protection revised rules etc. have been arranged by the government to safeguard the rights of the girls of all sections, however

making of more policies in the interest of safeguarding the rights of girls are still needed.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of subject topic are as follows ;

- To study the actual conception of Girl;s as per Vedic Literature is to be disseminated widely among all sections of the society.
- To find out the necessary steps are to be taken to ensure general awareness for the same.
- To study the society should be made aware about the educative value as well as importance of Girls in families / societies.
- To study how women have been capable of reaching to the improved position through education & care, while a large percentage are yet to improve. This information is to be highlighted before the society.
- To analyze the Girls deserve for love and respect. So, heinous attitudes of men towards them must be avoided.
- To study the Policies & laws are to be made to protect them and provide all opportunities at par with men.

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3. Brief History of Women in India & Abroad: Earlier & Present

3.1 Conceptual Literature

Biological difference only exists in the frame of Woman & Man but as far as the ability is concerned, the woman is having more capability in various aspects to that of man. This is very much obvious that the perseverance & tolerance as shown to carry forward the eternal creational tradition by a girl is indescribable near which the ability of man is nothing. Apart from being in the said process, she performs all the family activities actively is also marvellous. The girls have proven their excellence on every ground like education, scientific research, teaching, national & international capabilities in leadership, sports & games, diplomacy etc. So the mean psychology of men behind the ability of women in the world is worthless and baseless.

3.2 Contextual Literature

Indian Perspective: In Vedic eras, the women were given highest degree of honour & respectful opportunities in the fields of education, research, teaching, designing war-strategies, politics, ruling of country, sports & games, economic & social excellence towards maintaining unity & integrity of the country & they had proved themselves exclusively deserving in all disciplines. Approx. 124 Aryan Rulers had ruled the country for a duration of 4175 years, 9 months & 14 days from just Yudhisthir to Yashpal. Queen Padmavati, wife of King Govindchandra ruled for about 1 year. Kunti, the wife of King Pandu, was from present Iran & she had the greatest place among Kouravas. She is one of the 7 glorious women in India (Gargi, Maitry, Arundhati, Kunti, Draupadi, Shabtri & Sita) of morning remembrance. During the period, many rulers involved themselves in internal clashes with their mean & envious attitudes & made the country much weaker. Taking this advantage, in 1294 AD, sultan Shahbuddin Ghorī of Ghajni (Afghanistan) invaded India & made the last Aryan King Yashpal captive & imprisoned in Prayag Fort & started ruling in Indraprastha (Delhi). Serial invasions were carried out upon our country by the foreign rulers, valuable properties were looted, sabotage activities were carried out in religious places, women were brutally treated which involves rape, religion conversion, imposition of restrictions on personal / religious lives of Indian culture, forceful marriage to them, forcefully lifting them to their own countries for sexual entertainment & change of Hindu heredity. In the later age, they had also the threats from own higher class people on education, economic, social (Satidaha, Child-marriage etc.) & religion (restriction on studying Vedic Literature of intensified & prosperous Knowledge of Science & Spirituality, restriction on entering into the religious places during Menstruation etc. though it had no sanction from Vedic Literature) aspects.

As the days passed on, the distinguished persons realized the serious outcome of the existing system & launched various measures to bring out the disastrous women community in the light of social liberty. Many policies relating to safeguard the right of women & opportunity to share man's activities were made. As a result, commendable

performances of women came into notice which proved their ability & excellence.

1) Education: a) Savitribai Phule, She was India's first female teacher. In a country where women are still not seen at par with men, Savitribai's role as a teacher at a village school in Pune just a year after the Independence was remarkable. It is said that when Savitribai would go to the school, people used to throw cow dung, stones and rotten vegetables and eggs at her. Still, fighting against all odds, her husband and she went on to open five more such schools. b) Actress Priyanka Chopra, appointed as UNICEF's newest global Goodwill Ambassador, urged people from across nations to become the 'collective voice' of oppressed children in the world and join forces to leave a better future for the coming generations.

2) Politics: Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi, Smt. Sarajini Naidu, Smt. Indira Gandhi (1st woman Prime Minister of India), Smt. Sushma Swaraj (present foreign Minister), Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman (Defense Minister) etc.

3) Freedom Fighter: Matangini Hazra, Pritilata Waddadar, Rani Rashmani, Rani Durgabati etc.

4) Science & Technology: Kalpana Chawla (Late Astronaut), Sunita Williams (Astronaut), Mangala Narlikar & (Indian mathematician), Aditi Pant (oceanographer, and the first Indian woman to travel to Antarctica), Indira Hinduja (Indian gynaecologist), Paramjit Khurana (Plant Biotechnology), Nandini Harinath (A rocket scientist at the Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO), Rohini Godbole (Indian physicist and a professor at the Centre for High Energy Physics), Asima Chatterjee (23 September 1917 – 22 November 2006) Indian organic chemist etc.

5) Songs & Music: Lata Mangeskar, Asha Bhosle, Sandhya Mukhopadhyay Anuradha Padwal etc.

6) Artists: Smt. Suchitra Sen (Actor), Smt. Supriya Devi (Actor), Smt. Aiswariya Rai Bacchan (Actor & 1st Miss World from India), Miss. Susmita Sen (Actor & 1st Miss Universe from India), Smt. Shridevi (Late Bollywood actor), Smt. Madhuri Dixit (Actor & Dancer) etc.

7) Social Worker / Spiritual Personality: Mother Teresa, Sister Nivedita, Ma Sarada etc.

8) Literature: Ashapurna Devi, Arundhati Roy is one of the most celebrated authors of India, best known for her novel 'The God of Small Things', Anita Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Kiran Desai, Shashi Deshpande, etc.

9) Sports & Games: P.T. Usha (athlete), Smt. Bula Choudhary (Swimmer), Jhulan Goswami (Cricketer), Mary Com (Boxer), Dipa Karmakar (Pradunova vault), Sania Mirza (Tennis) etc.

10) Civil Aviation: Sarla Thakral (1914 – 15 March 2008) first Indian woman to fly an aircraft, Durba Banerjee, the first pilot of Indian Airlines in 1956 and the first Indian woman commercial pilot.

11) Defense: Avani Chaturvedi, First Indian Woman Pilot To Fly Fighter Jet MiG-21. (IAF), Shubhangi Swaroop becomes Indian Navy's first woman Pilot. Punita Arora is the first woman in India to don the second highest rank i.e. Lieutenant General of Indian Armed Forces.

12) Missile Technology: Tessy Thomas is an Indian scientist and Director General of Aeronautical Systems and the former Project Director for Agni-IV missile in Defence Research and Development Organisation. She is the first woman scientist to head a missile project in India. She is known as the 'Missile Woman' of India.

13) Business & Economy: a) Indu Jain, belongs to the Sahu Jain family and is the current chairperson of India's largest media group, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., which owns the Times of India and other large newspapers. b) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, the founder Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Biocon Limited. c) Indra Nooyi, The most well-known face amongst Indian women entrepreneurs -Indra Nooyi is the CFO and President of PepsiCo. d) Indian- American professor Gita Gopinath has been appointed Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

4. Global Perspective

Ancient

- 1) The rulers of ancient **Egypt**, the pharaohs, were almost all men. But a handful of women also held sway over Egypt, including Cleopatra VII and Nefertiti, who are still remembered today. Other females ruled as well, although the historical record for some of them is scant at best—especially for the first dynasties that ruled Egypt.
- 2) Women in the ancient **Greek** world had few rights in comparison to male citizens. Unable to vote, own land, or inherit, a woman's place was in the home and her purpose in life was the rearing of children. Born in Miletus in Asia Minor, Aspasia (470-410 BCE) was an important figure in Classical Athens.
- 3) Throughout the history of ancient **Rome**, women were considered second to men. They had little official role in public life. Despite this, women played an important part in the culture and history of Ancient Rome. Livia Drusilla - Livia was the wife of the first Roman Emperor Augustus. Julia Agrippina - Julia Agrippina was the great-granddaughter of the Emperor Augustus. Fulvia - Fulvia was married to three of the most powerful men in Rome. Octavia - Octavia was viewed by many as the role model for Roman women.

5. Modern

1) Political Leadership: Sheikh Hasina (PM of Bangladesh), Margaret Thatcher (PM of U.K from 1979 to 1990), Angela Merkel (German chancellor since 2005), Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović (president of Croatia) etc.

2) Atomic Research: Madam Curie (Noble prize in Physics & Chemistry), Irène Joliot-Curie (Noble Laureate), etc.

3) Space Research: Dr. Keiko Nakamura-Messenger, NASA's Scientist.

4) Science & Technology: a) Dr. Dorothy Hodgkin (Protein crystallography), b) Maria Mayer (German-born American physicist who received Nobel Prize for suggesting the nuclear shell model of the atomic nucleus.), c) Rosalind Franklin (British biophysicist best known for her work on the molecular structures of coal and graphite, and X-ray diffraction.), d) Barbara McClintock (American scientist and cytogeneticist who received Nobel Prize in 1983 for the discovery of genetic transposition.), e) Rita Levi-Montalcini (Italian neurologist who received Nobel Prize in 1986 for the discovery of Nerve growth factor (NGF).), f) Gertrude Elion (American biochemist and pharmacologist who received the 1988 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.), g) Elizabeth Blackwell (American physician who was the first woman to become a medical doctor in the United States.), h) Christiane Nusslein-Volhard (German biologist who received the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research in 1991.), i) Frances Arnold in Chemistry (2018).

5) Education: a) Michelle Bachelet (President of Chile, during her second non-consecutive term, President Bachelet in 2014 ushered through a far-reaching education reform program that raised the government's investment in public education.), b) Malala Yousafzai, Activist (By daring to go to school as a young teen, Malala defied Pakistani extremists and their violent attacks and became a global icon for the importance of educating girls. Because of Malala's heroic and eloquent statements for girls' education, she was awarded at age 17 the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2014.), c) Julia Gillard (former Prime Minister of Australia and Chair of the Board of the Global Partnership for Education. She is one of the leading global advocates for strengthening education systems around the world, especially for girls.), d) Graça Machel, activist and philanthropist (Through her philanthropy and advocacy at the Graça Machel Trust, Ms. Machel has been a lifelong champion of girls' education and children's rights, and raised awareness about the scourge of early child marriage, female genital mutilation and other practices that keep girls from reaching their full potential.), e) Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States ; Mrs. Obama has frequently championed the value of educating girls worldwide and, in 2015, unveiled "Let Girls Learn," a new U.S. initiative to support community-focused girls' education across the globe. The project will draw on 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers to support hundreds of new community projects that help girls go to school and stay in school. f) Hillary Rodham Clinton, former U.S. Secretary of State

In 2014, Mrs. Clinton launched in 2014 the Collaborative for Harnessing Ambition and Resources for Girls Education (or Girls CHARGE) alongside Julia Gillard, Board Chair of the Global Partnership for Education. The five-year initiative committing \$600 million to enable 14 million girls around the globe to go to school. Also, as Secretary of State, Mrs. Clinton established the State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues, whose mandate included increasing out-of-school girls' access to primary education. g) Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway

In 2014, Prime Minister Solberg led Norway's funding of a new UN initiative to promote greater access to and quality of education for girls in Malawi. This program includes school

meals, health services, measures combating gender-based violence, sexuality and human rights education, and further professional training for teachers. **h)** Emma Watson, Actress, Ms. Watson is a Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women, the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. In that role, she has launched the HeForShe campaign, which seeks to engage men and boys in removing the social and cultural barriers that prevent women and girls' full participation in society.

6) Arts & Literature: **a)** Marie Ellenrieder and Marie-Denise Villers worked in the field of portraiture in the beginning of the century, **b)** Rosa Bonheur in realist painting and sculpture. **c)** Elizabeth Jane Gardner was an American academic painter who was the first American woman to exhibit at the Paris Salon. **d)** **Emily Brontë** (30 July 1818 – 19 December 1848) was an **English** novelist and poet who is best known for her only novel, *Wuthering Heights*, now considered a classic of **English literature**. **e)** Angelina Joli, an American actress, filmmaker, and humanitarian. She has received an Academy Award, two Screen Actors Guild Awards, and three Golden Globe Awards, and has been cited as Hollywood's highest-paid actress. **f)** Madonna Louise Ciccone (born August 16, 1958) is an American singer, songwriter, actress, and businesswoman. Referred to as the "Queen of Pop" since the 1980s, Madonna is known for pushing the boundaries of songwriting in mainstream popular music, as well as imagery in music videos and on stage.

6) Business & Economy: **a)** Sheryl Sandberg, After four years as Facebook COO--and shepherding the company through its much anticipated (and criticized) \$100 billion IPO in May--Sandberg was named to the social network's board of directors in June), **b)** Indra Nooyi, this superstar CEO and chair of PepsiCo has earned a top-20 spot on the list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women since 2006. Last year she returned \$5.6 billion to shareholders and net revenue grew 14% to \$66 billion. **c)** Virginia Rometty, in October of 2011, 30-year IBM veteran "Ginni" Rometty was tapped as CEO, becoming the first woman ever to lead the century-old tech giant with more than \$100 billion in revenues.

7) World Peace & Security: **a)** Bertha von Suttner (Honorary President of Permanent International Peace Bureau, Bern, Switzerland; Author of "Lay Down Your Arms", Noble prize in 1905), **b)** Mother Teresa (Leader of Missionaries of Charity, Calcutta, Noble prize in 1979), **c)** Aung San Suu Kyi (for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights, Noble Prize in 1991). **d)** Nadia Murad for Peace (2018).

6. Methodology

This paper emphasizes that from early ages the girls had tremendous threats both from internal & external aspects in their development in various streams. Now, Wise men of all the countries have realized to certain extent that without the development & empowerment of girls, & their active participation in all fields of work, there is no development of the country. At the same time, the girls too have felt the

necessity of education, socio-economic independence & raising their voice against gross injustice made by the society, administration & the existing inadequate policy to protect their deserving rights. Though at present, a few women have been able to establish themselves on prestigious, responsible places & many other are making tiring efforts to do so, however, the maltreatment of the society towards girls have not yet abolished.

7. Analysis

The extensive & intensive studies over the concept of Girls are very much essential at the current stage of modern world. Though the various steps have been taken to empower the girls through proper education, however with the race of modern science, girls (mainly adolescent) are making themselves involved in several unlawful antisocial activities like terrorism, abduction / trafficking, smuggling (drugs / narcotics, pearls, organs etc.) & cybercrime. They are voluntarily falling into the trap of evil elements, thereby being the victim of unusual incidents. So, there is a need for thorough analysis of the present situation. Lack of education & poverty are creating child labourer in the developing countries & slackness on the part of parenting is also one of the main reasons of it. So, the child labourers are very often entering into the underworld. So, all the factors relating to violation of girl's right should be rectified for very good reasons.

8. Result & Discussion

If we want to form a broad & peaceful nation, we ought to be more cautious in dealing with the girls, take proper care with love & respect, give importance over their lives, arrange all facilities, they deserve for, find their safety & security and make them happy in honorable manner. Because a prosperous & peaceful nation can never be expected without the development of its women.

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