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Impactful Policy Research in Social Science



Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource
Development

Sponsored

One Day Interdisciplinary National Level Seminar on
**SELF HELP GROUPS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

Friday, 27th September, 2019



Organized By



Department of Economics
Shri Balaji Sansthan, Deulgaon Raja's
SHRI VYANKATESH ARTS, COMMERCE & SCIENCE COLLEGE
Deulgaon Raja, Dist. Buldhana- 443 204.
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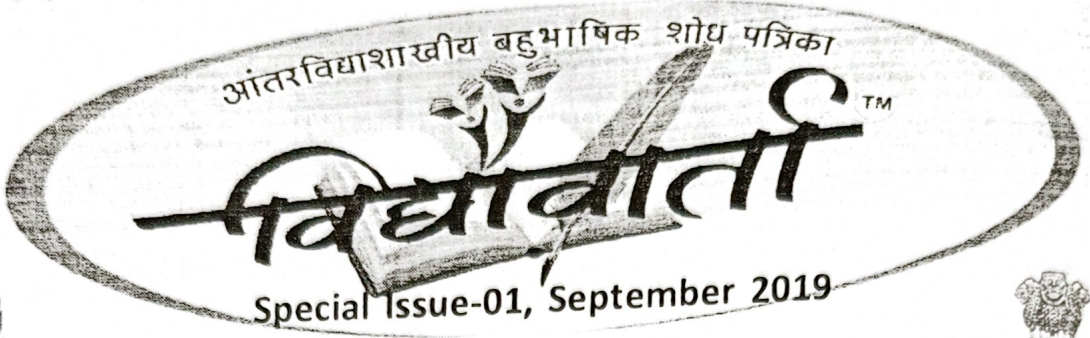
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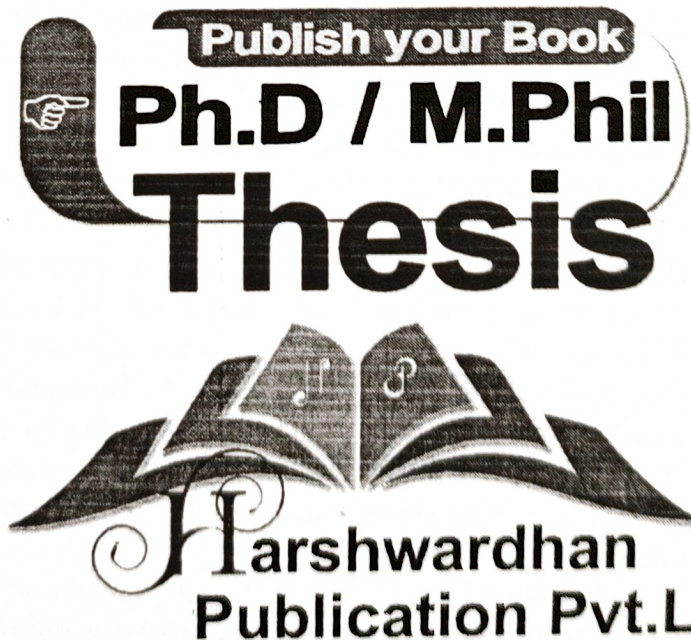
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Challenges before the Modern Women

Prof. Dr. Mamta Ingole

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Introduction:

Women have an important place in social system. She is regarded as one of the two wheels of the chariot of the society while other being men. Without her share it is impossible to bring decorum to society. Her contribution in the development of the society is immense.

Women have given a new dimension to Indian society. She has been active in society from the ancient era. Some of the male-dominated kings had attempted curb their freedom, but whenever they received a chance, they have rightly utilized it for the betterment of society. Since early days, his intention was to take society ahead. Braving the difficulties and problems, she has continued her sola struggle. Her life in medieval ages witnessed more hardship than the ancient ages. But in the modern era, she has been taking flights in all the fields of human activity. But the problems before them are not over. Women are not completely free even in the modern times. She has to arduous effort for achieving 33 percent reservation. The struggle for women's liberation is not over. It is therefore necessary to take note of challenges before them in the age of advancement. The challenges before the women are not a topic for research alone but it is a topic of contemplation.

Modern Women and The challenges:

Women organizations were founded on different social, religious, political groups to stop the continued dereliction by male dominated

sections of society towards the condition of women. Different organizations and movement emerged seeking change in the poor and destitute condition of women received from the medieval ages. But as there has been no co-ordination among them, the women could not carve out 33 percent reservation in the Parliament. Although she has achieved many pinnacles of success in different fields, she has to face atrocities, psychological and physical exploitation, divorce, female foeticide, prostitution and the deteriorating condition of poor and Muslim women.

Challenges posed at Family:

Indian society adopts family system. Though women have successful entered in socio-political life, she has not disown her family responsibility. She faces hardship to accomplish her new responsibilities; but she did not overlook her family responsibility. But to find equilibrium on family and social front is a challenge for her.

Challenges on Social front:

Women are a living constituent of the society and are not objects of gratification. But in actual world she is constantly looked down upon. There are 80 percent women today engaged in employment and services. She has to face different challenges while working in the society including sexual atrocities at working places. Female foeticide continued in the society as women has been given inferior position. The census of year 2001 points out the ratio of women population is merely 933 behind every thousand men while the percent of female children was reduced to 927 behind every thousand of male children. Further, a report on Atrocities against Women 1993, points out one rape in every 54 minutes.

Challenges on Health Front:

The health of women in comparison to men has constantly been overlooked. She is often under-nourished. Often her forced relation caused the disease AIDs to them. They are the

largest victims of the disease. The condition of women in Rural and tribal areas is more worrisome. More than 10 lakh women die due to malnutrition every year in the world. Further, the developing countries have larger number of pregnancy deaths. Every pregnant women behind 25 to 40 pregnant women die every year in the developing country while the percentage in the developed country is 1 behind every 3000 women.

Challenges on Economic Front:

Women work with men on equal terms. But she has given inferior position in the salaries. She has given low salary compared to men workers. Further she has not been given her due promotion. Despite earning her livelihood, she has not given freedom to spend her money in many of the families.

Challenges on Political Front:

Though few women have actively participating in the political activities, the male dominated society is not ready to accept her increasing role in politics. The debate on 33 percent reservation in politics is still continued. Though she has given opportunity from Gram Panchayat to State Assembly, her role in the local bodies is restricted as men usurp their power. There were only 43 women Members in the Parliament in 1999, i.e., to say only 7.2 percent women represent the 50 percent women population.

Challenges on Educational Front:

Though women have shown their merit in education, the society is not serious about women education. Women are given education only to make them literate. Very few women received the chance to receive higher education. They are also back foot in literacy as only 53.70 women were literate in the census 2001.

Challenges posed with Globalization:

The globalization has caused prostitution in large scale. Instead of her fair representation, she has been exploited through mass media including feature films, advertisement

etc. The media has been attempting to pervert the image of women. The women have to face the adverse impact of globalization, which put them as an object of amusement.

Women have achieved significant success by facing different challenges. But they have to take a long way to achieve their fullest growth. Some prominent women have achieved great success on individual front in social, literary, art, sport, political and economical fronts. But large scale women still lag behind in the progress. They should unitedly strive to achieve success in tackling different problems posed in modern times.

The Prominent Findings:

- 1) Women had rights in the ancient times. The system of matriarchy was adopted for better social life.
- 2) After the intrusion of Arya, the women were deprived of their freedom.
- 3) Social workers and religious teachers of different communities took efforts to make women free.
- 4) Social workers took relentless efforts for improving social status of women.
- 5) Women achieved success in diverse fields.
- 6) While achieving success, the challenges before women have been increasing.
- 7) Women have to prepare themselves to face the challenges.

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