

Women's status in Ancient Indian Society 200B.C. - 200A.D.

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In today's humanitarian era it is hoped that all citizens, women and men have the rights to freedom, equality, fraternity and justice. It is also well known that in a country and society the importance of women has been central but in terms of respect, self-respect and human values, women are still present at the world level and especially in India at a secondary level.

Ancient texts were studied to find out the reasons for the status of women in India. In which several important facts emerged. In ancient Indian society, women were free. She was involved in social activities without any restrictions. The freedom experienced by woman in the Vedic age does not appear in any other era of the later period. (1)

From the later Vedic era, the behavior of Hindu society towards women became harder by the day. Gradually, the feeling of mistrust towards women increased in men. Now, women began to be considered deficient. In the Mahabharata (2) it is said that it is not possible to count the faults of a woman even if she keeps counting the faults of a woman with her tongue throughout the life of 100 years. It has also been said that if a woman does not want a man and she is afraid of her family then only she lives in dignity.

The conditions of women were not good even in Buddhism. Mahatma Buddha did not initially allow women to enter the association. In the later years, after much debate and argument by *Ananda*, the beloved disciple of Buddha, Mahatma Buddha allowed the entry of women in the association. Finally, he said that now the religion cannot remain sustainable with the entry of women in the association. These words uttered by the Buddha reflect their mistrust of women. (3)

According to Puranas (4) that women can never live in dignity, they cannot get only opportunity and place, nor a man to pray, otherwise they cannot be a *sadhvi*. According to Manusmriti, the woman does not wait for her form, nor does she take care of puberty whether a man is beautiful or ugly she associates with him. (5)

This idea of women by the scriptures shows the qualities of women. But this cannot be considered completely true. Women had a high place in the ancient Indian society. In the

Vedic age also women had a high place in the family and society. They used their rights as men in education, knowledge and marital rights. This decline in the condition of women started appearing from the later Vedic period, which kept on progressing. The ancient scriptures, also express faulty views towards women. The idea given by scriptures towards women shows the low social status of women in the then society. This idea given by him still reflects mistrust of women in society. Determination of the qualities and now the qualities of women by scriptures is still valid today.

This is the reason that today India is included in the category of an independent and progressive country. In independent India, efforts are being made to give democratic rights to women and to empower them. But still, they have not met the desired target. Even after so many years of independence, women in India see many obstacles in the path of freedom, respect and justice.

REFERENCE LIST

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- 2 Mahabharata 12.76.0
- 3 Jaishankar Mishra, Page 436
- 4 Padma Purana, 49.9
- 5 Manusmriti / 9.14