

FEMINIST ANARCHISM AND ACTIVISM

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ABSTRACT: *Since time immemorial a woman has been playing many different kind of important roles such as a mother, a wife, a daughter but she never assert herself the way a man shows while playing his role as a father, a husband, and a son. He imposes his power to oppress and marginalize women as subordinate to him and to remain under his purposeful control. And as expected, the woman too, on the other hand, consents to stay the pure, the devoted, the all suffering, the all sacrificing and the all forgiving and who knows no bitterness. This generosity & endurance of women became considered as 'frailty thy name is woman.' This resulted bride burning, eve teasing, acid throwing and continuous harassment. The torture, molestation & rape cases are again very common & becoming everyday news now-a-days. These crimes target women and are mostly often committed by males. Thus, awareness has becoming a necessary remedying for the women in our country to be treated upon so that they can discover and create their own unique place in society.*

Key Words: *Patriarchal, Women, Injustice, Suffering, Realize, Capable, Awareness, Education.*

India always witnesses the injustice done to women time to time. The great epics like Mahabharata & Ramayana also depict the helplessness condition of women through Sita & Draupadi. Even though they were powerful ladies, they had to suffer a lot. On the ground of prejudiced doubt, Sita had to prove her purity & still then was withdrawn from the kingdom. Crime was committed against Sita, not Sita committed crime, but she was stated impure. This is also the present mentality of people in India. If a woman is victimized, she is stated impure, misconduct instead of sympathy. A woman always fears to object the injustice done to her. Besides, if we consider Sita on the ground of frailty or robustness, then it can be said that Ravan was already defeated by Sita before what Rama did. Still then, after being a very powerful lady, she accepted her husband's order & left for forest in the state of pregnancy. This generosity & endurance of women gradually considered as 'frailty thy name is woman.'¹ Even in this modern age, "The height of a woman's ambition is to be like Sita, the pure, the devoted, the all suffering. But Sita knows no bitterness."²

Socially, women are never given equal rights and liberty like those of men. Sometimes their condition is observed so pathetic that if a woman gives birth to a girl child she is treated in a humiliated manner. In the past 'women were not only abstained from being educated but also were not permitted to step out of the house. They were asked to eat after their husbands have eaten and in fact were given to eat the leftovers of their husband's meal.'³ Now also having being educated and self-sufficient independent they are expected to follow the same customary tradition.

However powerful might be, in India women are always expected to obey their husbands & never assert themselves. Like this, Draupadi, who was considered to be an angry & heroic lady was also attempted to be nude that to, in the presence of her five so-called heroic husbands. The all five hero husbands felt helpless; and allowed themselves to witness the most distasted incident instead of defending it.

Though the women are always suffering in the male dominating society, they are always blamed as the reason of all miseries. A popular saying that, 'Most violent wars are fought for one reason – woman'⁴ as "Sita caused Ramayana & Draupadi, Mahabharata." But, nobody perceives that if they were responsible for the wars, then they should only have the credits to end the evil that were prevailed in the name of Ravan and Kauravs. But contrary to this, the ladies only are impugned in case they are being assaulted. So, because of the fear of earning a bad reputation most of the women dare not to lodge a complaint with the police even if they are victims of assaults or harassment. They are not given sympathy rather treated badly & not in an appropriate manner.

In India, practices like Sati pratha, dowry system & child marriages are very common. But, these might be introduced to secure womanhood (though, the way is considered wrong). In medieval history the women were tortured by kings or invaders for which the Rajput women preferred Jauhar (voluntary immolation) than to live disrespectful after their husbands' lives.

The dowry may be given to a daughter to secure her life in case; her husband faces a premature death. But these practices becoming very common & demanding. A woman is considered weak & of no value & as a burden to society & can be entitled equal to a man's requirement only if she brings the demanded dowry. This unexpected

happening continues in so-called developed, modern, educated Indian society till today. Brides are tortured by their in-laws brutally for not bringing sufficient dowry. They are either forced to pressurize their parents to fulfill all the unending desire of their in-laws or led to commit suicide or being murdered. The dowry system in India is the reason for female infanticide in India. Parents pray better for a boy child instead of a girl. A girl child is murdered before its birth. 'In 2012, the documentary *It's a girl: The three deadliest words in the world* was released, and in one interview, an Indian women claimed she had killed eight of her daughters.'⁵ If they are born they are not given due care in comparison to a boy in a family. Even being herself a woman, the mother sees that her son would get a lion share whereas the daughter may get the left over.

Outside family, bride burning, eve teasing, acid throwing are burning examples of continuous harassment. The torture, molestation & rape cases are very common & becoming everyday news now-a-days. According to a survey "a total of 675 case of rape of the minors have been registered under the section 376 of Indian Penal code (IPC) till December 18, 2016 against 505 cases registered in last year. Besides, 1105 minor girls were kidnapped as compared to 898 in the previous year. Outraging modesty has also increased, incidences of suicide by major women have also increased."⁶ Some urban, educated parents who only have sons, relieved that they do not have daughters.

Every time there is a case of violence against woman. They fear to walk alone after dark. And in most cases do not use lifts. Survey says maximum female students miss their evening classes. Even in day time they are afraid of boys passing lewd comments at them. But no satisfactorily steps are taken nor are any strict rules imposed. Instead colleges have reportedly clamped down on women's freedom, imposing stricter dress codes & discouraging their participation in inter-college events. If all they want is to prevent rapes they can just as well confine men instead of women. 'We cannot punish our daughters, we must educate our sons.' Making a place safe for women is also about making space for their happiness & pleasure. Just few years ago, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) sent home two female students for demanding equal rights.⁷

Simone de Beauvoir notes, Since patriarchal times women have, in general, been forced to occupy a secondary place in the world in relation to men... in spite of the fact that women constitute numerically at least half of the human race", and that "this secondary standing is not imposed of necessity by natural feminine characteristics but rather by strong environmental forces of education and social traditions under the purposeful control of men."⁸

Our civilization is basically patriarchal i.e.; male centered & controlled & is organized & conducted in such a way as to subordinate women to men in all culture domains. Women, themselves are taught, in the process of being socialized, to internalize the reigning patriarchal ideology i.e. the conscious or unconscious presuppositions about male superiority & so are conditioned to derogate their own sex & to cooperate in their own subordination. By this cultural process, the masculine is identified as active, dominating, adventurous and creative; the feminine, by systematic opposition to such traits, identified as passive, acquiescent, timid, emotional & conventional although they have proved themselves in every aspect of life.

In modern era we feel proud for not a single field is left untrodden by women. They have adorned high offices including that of President & Prime Minister. Mrs. Indira Gandhi has proved herself the strongest Prime Minister of India. Mother Teresa (emblem of love & sacrifice), Kalpana Chawla (astronaut), Bachendri Pal (1st Indian Mt. Everest climber), Priya Jhingan (1st lady cadet), Harita Kaur Deol (pilot in IFS), Kiran Bedi (1st lady IPS), Meera Kumar (speaker of Lok Sabha) are some of the notable famous figures. The names of the sports persons Sania Mirza, Sania Nehwal, P. T. Usha Gita Fogat and Babita Fogat are also not unknown to anyone else. So women are just as valuable as men and therefore should be treated just as equally.

Previously women were not getting chances & were confined to their four walls. Men were only granted with rights. Because "it was much easier for woman in those days to accept, not to struggle, because they believed, they knew there was nothing else for them. And they called that Fate."⁹ But now they are emerging from unawareness to awareness; from past tradition to new era of freedom & rights.

But women have not been able to contribute as much as they could have to our development. In most cases they are not being allowed to do what they want to do.

Despite contributing half of the population they are still restricted to breath freely & are treated as domestic labours & are continued to play marginal role.

Again we have the highly recent controversial issue triple talaq. Though it is repeatedly submitted by AIMPLB to Supreme Court as "rather sinful, irregular, patriarchal, bad in theology and undesirable" still then it is appealed that "the court should not examine it."¹⁰

According to the senior counsel Kapil Sibal who appears for the AIMPLB stated "We had a meeting yesterday. It will be a part of Nikahnama. We will sent an advisory to all qazis stating that they should avoid instant triple

talaq.” 11 Opposing to which a petitioner on triple talaq case, questioned “how they could be allowed to sit in judgments on the lives of these women” 12

But the problem is that, since past till present, concerning all matters regarding women, the men are only the decision makers. Whatever the case may be, no women qazis ever judge and control the destiny and life styles of men. Then who gave the power and authority to man to decide the life of woman?

Swami Vivekananda said “Women must be put in position to solve their own problems in their own way. No one can or ought to do this for them. And our Indian women are as capable of doing it as any in the world.”¹³

He added “Educate your women first and leave them to themselves; then they will tell you what reforms are necessary for them. In matters concerning them, who are you?” 14

Manju Kapur describes through her protagonist (Astha), “A woman should be aware of self-controlled, strong willed, self-reliant and rational, having faith in the inner strength of womanhood. A meaningful change can be brought only from within by being free in the deeper psychic sense.” 15

Like Manju Kapur majority of the contemporary Indian women writers too, like Anita Desai, Kamla Markandaya, Bharati Mukharjee, Arundhati Roy, Nayantara Sahgal, Sobha De, Geetha Hariharan, Kiran Desai, Manju Kapur, and Shashi Deshpande and many more, contributed much by focusing on the psychological sufferings, oppressions of the frustrated women and help to articulate their voice of dissatisfaction and to demand rights.

Unfortunately most of the feminine movements today are demanding rights. Some lines in ‘Women Are Born Managers And Leaders’ state ‘do not wait to be given power. Just assume it. You have equal rights. Just own it! You simply have to assert your rights! You don’t have to go and ask somebody,...’¹⁶

Conclusion:

But it becomes necessary that women must themselves should realize & feel conscious about their freedom & rights of their birth otherwise they would not get the liberty of living equally with men. The possible source only can be the education. Female education can play the utmost & vital role & thus must be imparted to improve their status. They must be put in a position to solve their own problems in their own way. We all should join hand to hand to spread awareness to have them more rights, more privileges than before in comparison to those of men.

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