

## **A Study on Status of Indian Women Myth and Reality- A Responsibility of The Civil Society**

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### **Abstract:**

*The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. From equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period, to the promotion of [equal rights](#) by many reformers, the history of women in [India](#) has been eventful. In modern India, women have adorned high offices in [India](#) including that of the [President](#), [Prime minister](#), [Speaker of the Lok Sabha](#) and [Leader of the Opposition](#). It's been over sixty years since our country gained independence, but Indian women are still not allowed to move independently. Though woman is worshipped here as Goddess, people can't just restrain from committing atrocities against them. Women here experience many hardships at various places right from home to working places.*

*This paper has made an attempt to analyze the myth concepts about women in India and the reality which is taking place in the society, by referring various secondary sources available. Nation are also attempting to combat violence against women in human misery through legislative, Executive and social action including. Planned Social work Intervention is required for getting problems against women out of the control, controllers and exploiters as a priority as is enabling victims to recover and reintegrate into society.*

**Key Words:** *Women, Myth, Reality and Social Work Intervention*

### **Introduction**

Some time ago that in developed countries like America, the couples do household works together, but it is not the case in India. Here, women have to do the household works alone while the husbands sit in front of the TV or read the newspaper slouching in a couch. After about eight

to twelve hours of work, a typical working woman in India has to return home and make food for the rest of the family. There are, of course, husbands who help wives, but majority of husbands fall into the other category. Another problem that many of the women in rural areas of India face is that they can't move about freely at nights.

Dowry system in India is actually illegal according to the laws. But the laws imposed have not removed the curse of the system completely. A girl's family is forced to give some amount of money or gold while she gets married. Whatever may be the lump sum amount given, the in-laws are never satisfied and once the girl enters their house, they torture both the girl and her family, insisting to give them more dowry. Although all the cited problems occur frequently, very few are reported.

The biggest of all crimes against married woman is wife-beating. It is regarded the biggest crime next to rape. Several incidents have been reported in which wives were burnt alive or killed by some other means by their in-laws and husbands. But, as said earlier, the reported cases form only a miniscule of the actual number. I am not saying that there is no one here to take action against these crimes, but I would like to point out that the jurisdiction seems to be too slow in taking actions. There are programs creating awareness among people about crimes against women, but you cannot change someone unless he wishes to do so. Changes should be done starting from the individual level. The biggest curse of our society is that it is dominated by a pack of male chauvinists, who can't just accept that women are also human beings. Unless these people try to change their minds, this society cannot prosper.

The [Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act](#) was introduced in 1994 as an effort to stop sex selective abortions. The act punishes the determination and disclosure of the sex of the fetus, with a punishment of 3 years imprisonment. However, the ban is widely circumvented. According to the 2011 census, 914 girls were born for every 1,000 boys under the age of six, compared with 927 for every 1,000 boys in the 2001 census. The government lacks a system to enforce the act, causing miscreant doctors to go unpunished. The law requires ultrasound clinics to be registered, but thousands of unregistered clinics still function, demonstrating lax enforcement. While a punitive approach might curb the problem, sex selection abortions will continue to go underground, unless there is an integrated approach towards the societal value of daughters. Society is at a tipping point, and India must make some crucial decisions to save its girls.

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act or PITA, a 1986 amendment of legislation passed in 1956 provides for the rehabilitation for the [sex workers](#) India is one of the biggest markets for prostitution in Asia with Mumbai alone accommodating 200,000 prostitutes. And as many as 35% of them enter at an age less than 18. In [India](#), the federal police say that around 1.2 million children are believed to be involved in prostitution. A CBI statement said that studies and surveys sponsored by the ministry of women and child development estimated that about 40% of all India's prostitutes are children.

The statement "Children are the future of the nation" stops making sense, then! In fact, it sounds like an ominous prophecy. a country of the size of India has over 3 million children living on the streets, Or has over 150 million children working as bonded labourers, Or one out of every six girl child does not live to see her 15th birthday? What happens when despite having a national policy for compulsory primary education, only 50% of children have access to education? According to NCRB 'Crime in India, 2010' the following crimes were committed against women in India.

## **Present Status of Crime Rate in India**

### ***Rape***

- 16,373 women were raped during the year
- 45 women were raped every day
- 1 woman was raped every 32 minutes
- An increase of 6.7% in the incidents of rape was seen between 1997-2002

### ***Sexual Harassment***

- 44,098 incidents of sexual harassment were reported.
- 121 women were sexually harassed every day
- 1 woman was sexually harassed every 12 minutes
- An increase of 20.6% was seen in incidents of sexual harassment between 1997-2002

### ***Importation of girls/Trafficking***

- 11,332 women and girls were trafficked
- 31 women and girls were trafficked every day
- 1 woman or girl was trafficked every 46 minutes

### ***Kidnapping and abduction***

- 14,630 women and minor girls were kidnapped or abducted
- 40 women and minor girls were kidnapped every day
- 1 woman or minor girl was abducted every 36 minutes

### ***Dowry Related Murders***

- 7,895 women were murdered due to dowry
- 21 women were murdered every day
- 1 woman was murdered due to dowry every 66 minutes

### ***Domestic Violence***

- 49,237 women faced domestic violence in their marital homes.
- 135 women were tortured by their husbands and in-laws every day
- 1 woman faced torture in her marital relationship every 11 minutes
- Domestic violence constitutes 33.3% of the total crimes against women
- A steep rise of 34.5% in domestic violence cases was witnessed between 1997-2002
- Over 40% of married Indian women face physical abuse by their husband
- 1 in every 2 women faces domestic violence in any of its forms\_physical, sexual, psychological and/or economic

### ***Suicide***

- 12,134 women were driven to commit suicide due to dowry
- 1, 10,424 housewives committed suicide in between the 1997-2001 and accounted for 52% of the total female suicide victims (*NCRB, 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India', between 1997-2001*).

## **Empowerment of Women in India**

Empowerment is now increasingly seen as a process by which the one's without power gain greater control over their lives. This means control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology. It involves power to, power with and power within. Some define

empowerment as a process of awareness and conscientization, of capacity building leading to greater participation, effective decision-making power and control leading to transformative action. This involves ability to get what one wants and to influence others on our concerns. With reference to women the power relation that has to be involved includes their lives at multiple levels, family, community, market and the state. Importantly it involves at the psychological level women's ability to assert them and this is constructed by the 'gender roles' assigned to her especially in a cultural which resists change like India.

The Government of India had ushered in the new millennium by declaring the year 2001 as 'Women's Empowerment Year' to focus on a vision 'where women are equal partners like men'. The most common explanation of 'women's empowerment' is the ability to exercise full control over one's actions. The last decades have witnessed some basic changes in the status and role of women in our society. There has been shift in policy approaches from the concept of 'welfare' in the seventies to 'development' in the eighties and now to 'empowerment' in the nineties.

**Civil Society Responsibility:** Civil society is one of the three important sectors of society, along with government and business. As one of the most important elements of the democratization process, its strengths and weaknesses determine both the speed and depth of the transition and it will, in time, help to sustain the democratic system itself.

Civil society acts through 'social capital'— the capacity of people to act together willingly in their common long-term interest. Social capital is strong in a homogeneous, egalitarian society.

Civil society as a whole is, therefore, unable to play its full potential role in enforcing make good society in India except when extraordinary leadership overcomes narrow loyalties, or when an issue is of common, major concern to all sections (like natural calamities). Smaller units of governance and decentralisation of governance are, therefore, indispensable in India. Individuals cannot take on the huge responsibility everyone have to play important role to protect women from various aspect entire civil society act on behalf of every citizen. Civil society, therefore, has to operate through compact, focused organisations based on strong social capital.

#### **Functional contribution of civil society towards women**

Civil society's functional contribution to could be:

- Watchdog — against violation of human rights and governing deficiencies.
- Advocate — of the weaker sections 'of women's point of view.
- Agitator — on behalf of aggrieved women citizens of the society.
- Educator — of women citizens on their rights, entitlements and responsibilities and the government about the pulse of the people.
- Service provider — to areas and people not reached by official efforts or as government's agent.
- Mobiliser — of public opinion for or against a programme or policy combat or reduce women violation and mere support for their development

#### **Conclusion**

Although efforts have been taken to improve the status of women, the constitutional dream of gender equality is miles away from becoming a reality. Even today, 'the mainstream remains very much a male-stream'. The dominant tendency has always been to confine women and women's issues in the private domain. The traditional systems of control with its notion of 'what is right and proper for women' still reigns supreme and reinforces the use of violence as a means to punish its defiant female 'offenders' and their supporters. Hence it is of no surprise when the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) predicted that the growth rate of crimes against women would be higher than the population growth rate by 2015.

Women empowerment is a tool used to improve the status of women; this can be done only when every woman has got realized about her problems and got confidence in them that they can do anything for their betterment and civil society have to play vital role in it.

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