
PATIENCE THY NAME IS WOMAN

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Abstract: “The home has, verily, its foundation in the wife,” The Rig Veda.

A lamp of enlightenment, an abode of peace and tranquility, an embodiment of sacrifice and an epitome of versatility; a navigator of a home, a replica of responsibility and an umbrella of family still turns out to be a prey in the domestic milieu; an adorably vivacious being, the creator’s benevolent crusader and an icon of human values, has been immobile under the vicious control of fate. Yes, the woman, who nourishes the world with her infinite love, is still groping for something to clutch in her hardships.

Keywords: Woman, Embodiment, Enlightenment, Tranquility and Epitome of Versatility

Introduction: In this paper I wish to present the devastating effects of man’s stance and status of women in modern India. My aim is to draw attention towards the unsympathetic truth of the containment, struggle, anguish, atrocities and hardships women face every day of their depressed lives and sacrifices they make for the honour of their families through the ideas and plight of an eminent woman.

Speaking about a woman and her relation to the man, Manu says “Women must always be honored and respected by the father, brother, husband and brother-in-law, who desire their own welfare; and where women are honored, there the very Gods are pleased, but where they are ill-treated, no sacred rite could yield any rewards”. (*Yatra Naryastu Pujoante, Ramante Tatra Devta*).

With their undaunted determination and coveted efforts, women have reached the pinnacles of glory. Despite being down-and-out, many women have been the beacon of hope for millions of the others in troubled times. Mother Teresa, Santosh Yadav, Kalpana Chawala, Sunita Williams, Medhapatekar, Kiran Bedi, Irom Sharmila, are among the few many Indians, who transported woman to the core of it. De facto is that woman epitomizes life and is an embodiment of virtue. But to state the condition of women in Indian society, a lot many books have been in black and white, theories originated, but the predicament remains unchanged in the universal term through the years.

The hymns fondly say: - '*Nari tu Narayani*'. But the womankind, which was worshipped once as demigods, off late turned out to be a marionette in the hands of her male counterpart, had to withstand the social taboos and indignation. Every-single-day one or the other newspapers depict how a hapless girl is assaulted by a man’s devilish acts: drenched in acid, stepped in fire, immersed in blood, twisted in pain, but still bestows the world with tranquility.

An apple of eye to the parents and the nectar to in-laws melts herself like a candle to keep others smile. She swims across the sea of difficulties, manages the house-hold, feeds the babies, sings the lullabies, flies to space, and climbs the peaks. But still she longs to

beget the male progeny, who would never experience the labor pains. On the contrary, she seems oblivious to the male blemishes and never obliterates her smile amidst the tortures.

“The strength of a woman is not measured by the impact that all her hardships in life have had on her; but by the extent of her refusal to allow those hardships to dictate her and who she becomes”, **C. Joy Bell C**

It is not easy even to assess the atrocities that the women face in the wake of their walls. In earlier times, women were forbidden from pursuing education, but today, educated women are exploited at home and at their workplaces. Physical exploitation of women has its prominence in the rural areas of the country while metropolitan women face psychological anguish that sometimes even extends to physical torment.

One needs an outlook over the status of women in the minds of various well educated thinkers. The female inferiority has been deep-rooted for centuries in the world and perpetuated by major thinkers. Saint Thomas called women “Imperfect Man” and also “an incidental being”. Aristotle is of the view that “The female is female by virtue of certain lack of qualities”. Freud echoed Aristotle when he said “female sexuality is shaped by penis envy”. And Freud also says “women’s pride is well developed by man’s penis”. Even the holy Bible says, “She is made for he but he is not made for she”. D.H. Lawrence in his poem ‘Don’t’ says, “Don’t ever love a girl; she will make you a slave”.

However women writers successfully countered this argument saying that there are biological differences and similarities between women and men but it is illogically supposed that they envy one another on that account.

But woman is not able to establish her own room of protection in reality in this present society. Since ages woman in India has been suppressed and subjugated in a male dominated society. Though woman is an epithet of love and affection, she is uninhabited even in this materialistic world. In a male dominated society, women suffered indescribable subjugation,

from which there was no flee. Even today, in modern times, we see the ruthless tyranny and exploitation of a woman. There are large numbers of reported atrocities on women that can be found recorded in various newspaper articles, journals, and government reports in India. The majority of the stories we read and hear are of bright young girls who are punished in metro Politian cities of India. Though men are civilized and highly educated, they behave like uncivilized educated literates.

The world's longest hunger striker, The **Iron Lady of Manipur** or "Mengoubi"("the fair one"), the top woman icon of India by MSN Poll in 2014 **Irom Sharmila**, who has been under the fast to repeal "Armed Forces Special Power Act" in Manipur. The draconian act might have tossed down the life of many innocent people, but nothing has been considered of the great battle that this courageous woman fought. She represents the voice of ordinary people of Manipur. Irom Sharmila is philosophical, thoughtful and determined she will not eat until AFSPA is repealed. Not a single morsel of food, or even a drop of water, has passed through her lips since November 4, 2000. Stoic, friendly, and completely committed, Sharmila is a unique rebel. Sharmila Irom one day said: "The day the Act is withdrawn I will eat rice from my mother's hands". Physically isolated, her body frail, Sharmila's spirit remains as strong as ever. Tucked away in a state geographically and culturally remote from the capital, she nonetheless poses a powerful challenge to the impunity and high-handedness of State power.

Medha Patkar has also been arrested several times for representing against the Sardar Sarovar Dam's. Increasing the height of this dam, in Gujarat, has periled the life of several landless farmers and homeless people and not much has been done so far for their rehabilitation. Arundhati Roy a renowned Indian writer, also a Booker prize winner had to face a day in prison on charges of inciting violence against Supreme Court as she was demonstrating for the much talked about Sardar Sarovar Dam.

Education of a woman is just one side of the coin which strengthens her to stand might on her legs but Education of a 'Man' is the other side of the coin which is more important to bring down the crimes against women, because a well-educated man cannot commit all these crimes against women, as education is a process which transforms a human into humane.

Swamy Vivekananda says, "The end of all education should be man making" but due to the privatization, and unhealthy competition in the field of education, the aim of education shifted from man making to marks-making (accumulation) and consequently the educational institutions are ending up in producing human beings almost like machines. There is a dire need of reforming education system in order to impart the value based education.

Patience is a rare flower which will be available in the beautiful garden of a woman's heart. Patience, Thy name is woman. Only women have the patience of a saint to continue doing something despite difficulties or to suffer without complaining or becoming annoyed. They are always even-tempered and forbearing. True to their nature, they are stoic by attitude and are ever cheerful and uncomplaining. The power of men is the patience of women. Never mistake a woman's silence for her ignorance, her calmness for her acceptance, and her kindness for her weakness.

Right education both to our men and women is essential. Social conscience must be aroused against the ill-treatment of women by propaganda and publicity. Economic independence of women must be secured. The fact of the equality of sexes is to be stressed on the people. In the modern times educated women have demonstrated beyond any shadow of doubt that they can compete with men in every activity with success and distinction. Most of them have become bread winners for their families, even to the extent of supporting parents in their old age. The myth of the boy, only being the support of the parents in the old age now stands exploded. Women have suffered at the hands of men for centuries, now the wheel of justice must move and they should get their due place and honor in society. Furthermore, a society plagued with male domination cannot hope to march in the race of progress with other societies. "Ladies! You are not a sexual object! Not a punching bag! Not a target for emotional abuse! You worth more than that! You were created by god to be a partner to men not a slave, to provide strength and support to them not to be used and manipulated by them, to submit to them not to become fools in that process. You have your dignity and self worth. You are no more the victim of male chauvinism/sexism. Never sacrifice those!"

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