

## **Education: The Way to Social Awareness**

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### **Abstract**

This paper recommends that Education is the only way to be socially aware. A 'Mother' is always a female, i.e. feminine gender. Masculine gender, i.e. a boy, brother, father, uncle, grandfather feel themselves as superior because, the feminine gender let them think that they are superior. None of the religion, i.e. Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, etc. says that Female is inferior and Male is superior. A female gender has to respect them first, they will have to maintain their self-respect in every situation then only they can prosper. They have to achieve better education and move at par with the other gender, because this gender, i.e. Feminine gender, i.e. a Mother is the cause/root of the other gender. Females have to participate in every field. They have to be objective and inquisitive.

**Key Words:** Feminism, Education

### **Introduction:**

Nowhere in the history of humanity were men and women treated alike and assigned statuses alike. Women have not been able to lead a life exactly on par with men in spite of their urge for equality. But women in ancient India, particularly during the Vedic period, enjoyed a position which was on the whole much more satisfactory than in the later periods. Women underwent almost a kind of servitude during the medieval period and their position went on improving during the British period and after independence. Today, Indian women are almost assigned an equal status with men.

### **Educated Women and their achievements**

Gone are the days when women were confined to doing only household talks within the four walls, Indian women are now much more progressed and advanced. They have plenty of platforms to demonstrate their talents, which in turn help them excel in their chosen fields as well. For instance,

### 1. Nirupama Menon Rao

Nirupama Menon Rao was the **Indian Ambassador to the United States**. Before this assignment, she served as Indian Foreign Secretary, the second woman to hold the position of Indian Foreign Secretary. During her career, she occupied several positions including, high commissioner to Sri Lanka and Deputy Chief of Mission in Moscow, to name a few. Apart from all these services, she has a writing career as well. She has written a **poem named 'Rain Rising'**, which was translated into Malayalam, Chinese and Russian languages. After completing her tenure as Indian Ambassador to United States, Brown University declared that she would be the Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow in residence at the University during 2014.

### 2. Sonia Gandhi

Sonia Gandhi, who has served the Indian National Congress party since 1998, is an Italy-born Indian Politician. She is the wife of late Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India. In 1998, she joined Political Party and was elected as the President of Congress. Since 2004 she has been holding the **Chairperson post of the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in Lok Sabha**. In 2010, she was again selected as the president for the fourth time and became the **longest serving president in the history of Indian National Congress**. This Political magnet featured in the prestigious Times' list of World's 100 Most Influential People and ranked third in Forbes list of Most Powerful Women.

### 3. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who was born into South Indian family, is now the leading contemporary actor in the Bollywood Industry. She was the first runner-up of Miss Indiapageant and crowned as the **Miss World pageant in the year 1994**. After the crowning, she had a good future in the modeling and latter dominated the Bollywood Industry with her flawless looks and sophisticated appearance. She holds the credit of acting in few Hollywood Movies too. Being recognized as the 'most beautiful woman in the world,' Aishwarya is the **first Indian woman whose wax statue is exhibited on the world-famous Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London**. She is the brand ambassador for several charitable trust and campaigns such as, Goodwill Ambassador for the Joint United Nations Program on AIDS. In **2012 she received a Padma Shri** award from Indian Government and *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* from the Government of France.

### 4. Sania Mirza

The beautiful Indian **Lawn Tennis player**, Sania Mirza, known for her powerful forehand ground strokes, is renowned for her powerful forehand groundstroke. Sania is the highest ranked female tennis player from India in singles as well as in doubles. She holds the record for being the highest ranked Indian player for over a decade in between 2003–2013. Sania is the first Indian female player to surpass US\$1m in career earnings; first Indian to win a WTA Tour title of any kind; and, by winning the 2009 Australian Open – Mixed Doubles Event, became the third Indian, male or female, to win a Grand Slam title after Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes.

### 5. IndraNooyi

IndraNooyi, an Indian American, has made it to the 'most powerful women in the world' list compiled by Forbes. The present **Chairperson and CEO of branded PepsiCo Company**, is the world's second largest food and beverage industry by the net revenue, Nooyi is one among the most influential people in the world. Nooyi has directed the PepsiCo's global strategy for more than a decade; and took the lead in the acquisition of Tropicana in 1998 and merger with Quaker Oats Company. She became the fifth CEO in PepsiCo's 44-year history in 2006.

### 6. Arundhati Roy

Arundhati Roy is a social activist and novelist, whose debut novel '**God of Small Things**' won the Booker Prize for literature in 1997. In 2004, Arundhati received 'Sydney Peace Prize' for her work in social campaigns and advocacy of non-violence. In 2005, she participated in World Tribunal on Iraq. She also received SahityaAkademi Award for her collection of essays, '**The Algebra of Infinite Justice**'. Arundhati also involved in speaking and writing on political topics such as India's nuclear weapons programs, the war in Iraq and the Narmada Dam. She also has done script writing for the movies 'In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones' and 'Electric Moon' and both the movies were directed by her husband PradipKrishen.

### 7. M.S.Subbulaxmi

M.S.Subbulaxmi is a world famous singer and first Indian musician to receive **BharatRatnaAward**. She played a good role in spreading **Indian Carnatic** music to the western world and received much ovation from world around. She is gifted with a divine tone and most of her music has devotional touch.

### 8. KiranBedi

KiranBedi is an Indian social activist and retired **IPS officer** of India. She is the first Indian woman to become Indian Police Service Officer. She started her career in the year 1970 as a college lecturer in Khalsa Women's College. After two years she joined as Indian Police Officer. All the way through her career, she has taken up lots of challenging assignments.

### Views of famous personalities

Kajol, a Film actress, says if a woman wants to succeed in life, she will have to learn the art of Time-Management.

Chief Managing Director of BhartiyaMahila Bank Limited, Ms. UshaAnantSubrahmanyam says, 'Girls are set as trend now'.

Noted Actor and Director, FarhanAkhtar, son of acclaimed and well known lyricist JavedAkhtar says, in this patriarchal society if we want women to be successful, then we will have to think of their security first, we will have to develop the thinking of social security. He puts forward this point that I admire very much. We have to educate and instruct our children to respect every woman of the world. His organization MARD (Men Against Rape and Discrimination) is dedicated to the upliftment and progress of women only.

We can very well observe and feel the progress and achievement of women, especially in banking sector. In India, the percentage of female employees in this sector is better than any other sector. For instance, Ms. ChandaKochhar, Chief Executive Officer, ICICI Bank; Ms. Shikha Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, AXIS Bank; Ms. NainaLalKidwai, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Bank, Ms. VijaylaxmiAiyar, Managing Director, Bank of India; Ms. SubbalakshmiPanse, Managing Director, Allahabad Bank; Ms. ArchnaBhargava, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, United Bank of India, etc.

In the history of STATE BANK OF INDIA, the largest Bank in India in terms of branches and employees, it has happened first time that a woman is its chief, Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya. Her competence is incredible.

If we compare the banking sector of India and United States of America, we will find that banking sector of India is more women friendly. These women have achieved their goal because of Education only.

### **Conclusion:**

Women cannot be empowered in a supernatural manner. It is not an automatic or spontaneous process but requires thoughtful and consistent efforts. It is through the combined and coordinated efforts of the government, people and the women the task can be fulfilled. Various socio-economic and political factors facilitate the empowerment of women. Some of them are:

- ✓ Acknowledging women's rights
- ✓ Freedom to take decisions and make choices
- ✓ Access to education and employment
- ✓ Opportunities for political participation

I truly agree with the viewpoints of both the under mentioned personalities:

### **Napolean said,**

“Give me one hundred educated women and I will give you a good and a strong nation”

### **JosteinGaarder said,**

“A state that does not educate and train women is like a man who only trains his right arm”

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