

Position of women in Indian milieu

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The Indian culture is an ensemble of multiple literature, society, culture, religion, race, ethnicity and philosophy, but the legacy that each Indian individual carries within themselves is what binds this fissured mass of people and helps in increasing the harmony between men and women.

If we talk about the masculine deity named Pashupati (also known as Shiva or Rudra) during the Indus Valley Civilization, we cannot ignore the presence of feminine deity Shakti who was of equal significance and power. From this we can clearly deduce that the idea of gender equality and women empowerment are not of

Western origin, but we cannot deny the fact that history is also strewn with instances of women been discriminated, dominated, subjugated and strategically shut within the walls of domestic chores. Moreover, they were also restrained from accessing education and the public economic cycle. Even today, in the era of modernization, the issues of mistreatment of women, child sexual abuse, rapes and sporadic instances of dowry deaths, honour killings make it to the news every day.

The structure of the Indian society is set on the joint shoulders of the male and female. The modern Indian woman, strong in her determination, is committed to learning and mastering the skills that have the poten-

tial to place her beside the best in the world. From the world of politics to guarding the boundaries of the nation, from being the natural care-givers to life-saving doctors, from extremely efficient engineers to space researchers and scientists, women in India are not only participating with men, but at times even outshining them.

In the media, literature and socio-political affairs, three dominant images of women have been mainstreamed: the mother, the seducer and the victim. In all the three images, portrayal of women as stereotype and dishonest have led to consider women inferior to men. In academics, theorists like Chandra Talpade Mohanty wrestled for a non-Western and unique Indian perception for women

across India. With the inclusion of women in the mass of efficient workforce, the plethora of opportunities has increased considerably in the domestic market for the players from abroad to participate in its growth.

The story of the Indian woman deserves to be mentioned with golden colours in the canvas of the 21st century. True progress of the country is possible only when women rise unfettered, unbeaten, unimpeded, to resonate in Tagore's words -- "Naari kay aapon bhaggyo joy koribaar, kyano naahi dibey awdhikaar, hey bidhaata?"

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