Welcome

Status of Women: Past and Present

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I. Status of the Women;
II. Role of the Women;
III. Ground Reality;
IV. Crimes Against the Women;
V. Crimes By the Women;
VI. Empowerment of the Women;
VIII. Conclusions and Suggestions.
I. Status of the Women

- Women have been given a position of pride in every religion.

- In Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and other religions women are respected and due importance is given to their role and rights.

- In the Holy Quran, a complete Sura, known as “Sura-i-Nisa” has been devoted for the welfare, role, rights and duties of the women.

- Women are the foundation of a Family, Society and finally the Nation.
No student of the comparative religious philosophy can fail to observe that at the fountain of every spiritual faith and at the basic fabric of every civilized society, stands a woman whose sympathy blesses the work of infusing a new life into humanity.

Women are equal partners in the HRD and in their different capacities contribute a major share in the political and economic sector. The importance of women’s education has been realized throughout the world.

Status of Women is related to various variable factors, which are both social and biological in nature.
The Social factors among others include:

a) The upbringing of the women,
b) Personality development,
c) Education of the women,
d) Family environment,
e) Surrounding circumstances,
f) Political scenario,
g) Religious Commands and their interpretations.
The biological and social status of a woman varies along with her distinct roles, as a

a) Mother or
b) Sister or
c) Daughter
   on the one hand and
d) Wife or
e) Mother-in-law or
f) Sister-in-law or
g) Daughter-in-law
   on the other hand.
Women in almost every social set-up plays an important role in the economic welfare of the family.

Women as a mother cares, bothers, loves, showers affection and takes all the pains for the entire family and thereby plays an important role not only as a home maker, home manager but also in maintaining social ties with the relations, friends and neighbours.

Women with good health, proper education and positive leadership qualities are very important in every family and society.
A good mother provides best possible resources for the Nation.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru observed;
“In order to awaken the people, it is the women, who has to be awakened. Once she is on the move, the household moves and the country moves and thus we build the India of tomorrow.”

Pt. Nehru was of the considered view that when women move forward, the village moves, the Nation moves.

Napolean once remarked;

“Give me good mothers, I shall give you a good Nation.”
II. Role of the Women

- Role of women in the traditional societies, no doubt was confined to the household management based on the traditional values, attitudes and customs, which has now undergone a total change in the current scenario.

- The family culture, however, in the context of which early socialization takes place is very important factor which at a later stage encourages or discourages women to participate in the socio-economic activities of the family and subsequently in the organizational, social and political matters of the society.
 Women folk is the basis of human race and one of the main contributors of the Human Resource Development.

 Women are equal partners in the developmental process, but it is however, only a small number of women who have made their presence felt in various fields like administration, business, science, commerce, education, politics and various other sectors.

 Women, despite the commendable contribution almost in every sector of life and the society, their role in policy making or decision making bodies is not significant.

 Women as a mother shape the entire humanity.
III. Ground Reality

- Women no doubt play an important role in shaping humanity in the right perspective, but they have suffered and continue to suffer in the male dominated society.

- Women bestow power to the new generation and thereby empower the Society and Nation in a real sense, but they themselves continue to be helpless and powerless.

- Women no doubt in small numbers are represented in almost every sector of the society, but the number is not significant.

- Women in a vast majority of the cases continue to be illiterate, deprived and depressed.

- Women are kept at bay in every decision making process at every level including even in her own matters.
A brief profile of women in the present scenario has been drawn in the *Jakarata Declaration* in the following terminology;

“Women represent almost **fifty percent** of the population, make up **thirty percent** of the official labour force, perform **sixty percent** of all the working hours, receive **ten percent** of the world income and own even less than **one percent** the world property.”

Usha has rightly pointed out that in the present scenario, only **10.0 percent** of the parliamentary positions and **6.0 percent** of the ministerial posts are occupied by women.
Women constitute less than 5.0 percent of the world’s Heads of the States, Heads of the major Corporations and top positions in International Organizations.

Nisar Ahmad in his treatise pointed out that women are poorly represented in ranks of power, policy and decision making bodies.
The following figures are an eye opener in respect of the women’s representation in various sectors in India.

a) Women registered practitioners (1995) 20.80 Percent
b) Women Chartered Accountants (1996) 05.80 Percent
c) Women High Court Judges (1996) 03.00 Percent
d) Women in the Supreme Court (1996) 04.00 Percent
e) Women in IAS (1997) 10.30 Percent
g) Women in IPS (1999) 03.50 Percent
h) Women in Rajya Sabha (1996) 06.12 Percent
i) Women in lok Sabha (1998) 08.99 Percent

Let us hope that with Women’s Reservation Bill which got the nod from the Raja Saba is passed without any difficulty and the Women get reservation in each and every sector.
Women’s share in house hold property, even if she is earning with her father, brother or husband.

Question of inheritance

Personal Laws.

Question of matrimonial issues

Marriage
Divorce
Maintenance
IV. Crimes Against Women

- Crime is as old as mankind. It is not a new phenomena.

- The concept, nature and magnitude of crime, of course varies from time to time and place to place.

- Crime against the female starts right from the day, she is conceived and continues till she breaths last.

- Crimes against women recorded a big jump.
- The Crime graph of the 20th Century has shown upward trend and violence against women has increased to a great extent.

- 220 Million people killed in the armed conflict

- 80.0 percent civilians, majority children and women.

Forms of Crime against Women

- Justice Ventakachellia (former CJI) remarked that the 20th Century is the bloodiest century in the entire human civilization.
Crime graph (2006) shows upward trend in almost every corner of India, and with the development and industrialization, the crimes are increasing.

In India, crimes have shown a sharp increase in almost every town and the women are the main target.

The capital cities in India are presenting a dangerous and disturbing scenario. Delhi Stays Crime Capital and Uttar Pradesh tops in violence.

Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore account for almost 34.0 percent of the crimes in 35 major cities in the country. Delhi occupies the top slot among 35 mega cities with the largest number of crimes, a notoriety it has earned for five years in a row.
Delhi has become unsafe and hell for women. Members of the Parliament termed Delhi as the ‘Crime Capital of India’ which is fast becoming a hell for the women.

Among the States, Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number (1,94,711) followed by Maharashtra (1,91,788), Andhra Pradesh (1,73,909), Tamil Nadu (1,48,927) and Rajasthan (1,41,992) during 2006.

Madaya Pradesh earned the distinction of having the highest number of rapes 7.4 percent in 2002 to 8.2 percent during 2006.
Wish you all the best

Thank You all