

Brief Summary on Women's Rights & Duties



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Abstract:

Human society and social behaviour has undergone many changes over the centuries. The structure and function of societies as well as roles and duties of their members changed according to the situation. In India, the position of women has always been a rather ambivalent one in our culture. On the one side, she has been raised to the status of divinity and on the other side; she has been exploited by men in every walk of life. All through the ages, women have contributed immensely to the enrichment of culture and progress of civilisation without getting due recognition for their contribution. The importance role played by women in globalisation i.e. electronics, information technology, food processing, agro-industry and textiles has been crucial to the development of these sectors. In view of the critical role of women in the agriculture fields. The programmes for training women in soil conservation, social forestry, dairy development and other occupational allied to agriculture like horticulture, livestock including small animal husbandry, poultry and fisheries. In view the another importance role by women in decision making. Women's equality is power sharing and active participation in decision making, including decision making in political process at all levels with be ensured for the achievement of the goals of empowerment.

Keywords: *Agriculture, Duties, Rights & Women*

Rights and Duties are two wheels on which the chariot of life moves forward smoothly. Life can become smooth if rights and Duties go hand in hand and became complementary to each other. Rights are what we want others to do for us whereas the duties are those acts which we should perform for others. The term 'Rights' means? Rights are rules of interaction between people. They place constraints and obligations upon the actions of the state and individuals or groups. For example, if one has a right to life, this means that others do not have the liberty to kill him or her. Rights are defined as claims of an individual that are essential for the development of his or her own self and that are recognised by society or state. But the rights have real meaning only if individuals perform duties. A duty is something that someone is expected or required to do. Parents for example have a

duty to take care of their child: you have duties towards your parents. A teacher has a duty to educate students.

Relationship between Rights and Duties:

Rights and Duties are two phrases as co-exist with each other. In other words the rights and duties are two sides of the same coin, to regulate the values and behavioural patterns of an individual. On one side, rights are important in developing the human personality and behaviour. The duties on the other hand, direct the individuals' importance of their contribution for the promotion of social good. In a way duty targets at the realization of rights guaranteed by various law and regulations both nationally and internationally (*Sastry, N.S.T, 2011*).



Women Rights and Human Rights:

Human rights are those minimum rights which are compulsorily obtainable by every individual as he/she is a member of human family. The constitution of India also guarantees the equality of rights of men and women. However, in the sphere of women's human rights in India, there exists a wide gulf between theory and practice. Indian society is a male dominated society where men are always assumed to be superior to society. The women in India very often have to face discrimination, injustice and dishonour. Though women in India have been given more rights as compared to men, even then the condition of women in India is miserable. The constitution not only grants equality to women but also adopt measures of positive power of women human rights in India. Like Rights to equality, Rights to education, Rights to live with dignity, Rights to liberty, Rights to politics, Rights to property, Rights to equal opportunity for employment, Rights to livelihood, Rights to get equal wages for equal work, Rights to protection from gender discrimination, Rights to protection from inhuman treatment, Rights to protection of health, Rights to social protection in the eventuality of retirement, old age and sickness, Rights to free choice of profession and Rights to privacy in terms of personal life, family, residence, correspondence.

Women's safeguard:

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental rights and Fundamental duties. The Constitution not only grants equality to women but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for safeguard, like Article 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(c), 39(d) and Article 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in this regard (*CEDAW, 1993*).

Women's share in society:

Women are poorly represented in the ranks of power, policy, land ownership and decision making. Women are not just behind in the political and managerial equality. This is in spite of the fact that women are found in large numbers in low-level positions of public administration, political parties and trade unions. Once the men reach adulthood, their roles do not change much except through seniority, but women's role changes from decade to decade in shifting patterns of production and reproduction. Female roles are seen as reproductive and domestic in supports of the male breadwinners of the family and this practice has conditioned women to accept a subservient role.

Women and Agriculture:

In view of the critical role of women in the agriculture and allied sectors, as producers, concentrated efforts will be made to ensure that benefits of training, extension and various programmes will reach them in proportion to their numbers. The programmes for training women in soil conservation, social forestry, dairy development and other occupations allied to agriculture like horticulture, livestock including small animal husbandry, poultry and fisheries will be expanded to benefit women workers in the agriculture sector (*Ojha, N.N, 2008*). Women are the backbone of agricultural workforce in the country. All the world women are the engine of agricultural workforce; but worldwide her hard work has mostly been remained unpaid (*DARE/ICAR Annual Report, 2003-4*). Women play a vital role in advancing agricultural development and food security (*FAO, 2011*). They participate in many aspects of rural life – in paid employment, trade and marketing, as well as many unpaid activities, such as tending animals, collecting water and wood for fuel, and caring for family members. Women also manage household consumption and food preparation (*Doss, Cheryl, Caren Grown, & Carmen Diana Deere, 2008*) Agriculture is the back



bone of many developing countries. Women account for more than half of the work force by participating in different activities, either directly or indirectly. The gender division of labour varies from one society and culture to another, and within each culture external circumstances influence the level of activity (Nigist, 2004). Agriculture is an engine of economic growth and provides the basis for most livelihoods in developing countries (World Bank, 2007). Women are the unavoidable part of any development programmes whether it is for developed or developing country (Raksha, J. C, 2016). Women play a central role in the agriculture economy (Raksha, J. C, 2016). Women constitute half of the agricultural labour force in low-income countries (FAO, 2011). Women's role is of multi-dimensional in nature agricultural fields need sowing, transplanting, weeding, irrigation, fertilizer application, plant protection, harvesting, winnowing, storing etc. In domestic field; her responsibility encompasses Cooks, Child rearing, water collection, fuel wood gathering, household maintenance etc and last allied activity fields- cattle management, fodder collection, milking.

Women's Health:

Special attention will be given to the needs of women in the provision of safe drinking water, toilet facilities and sanitation. A holistic approach women's health which includes both nutrition and health service will be adopted and special attention will be given to the needs of women. The reduction of infant mortality and maternal mortality, which are sensitive indicators of human development, is a priority concern. Women should have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care. Women's health problem as highly visible in rural area by endemic, infectious, and communicable diseases such as Malaria, TB, Jaundice, Chickenpox, snake bite and water borne diseases as well as hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. In view of the high risk of malnutrition and disease that women face at all the critical stage such as infancy,

childhood, adolescent and reproductive phases. We focussed attention would be paid to meeting the nutritional needs of women at all stage of the life cycle (Ojha.N.N, 2008).

Women and Economy:

Women's contribution in any economy is inevitable. Their roles vary region to region, work to work, country to country and within region also. The important role played by women in economy, electronics, information technology, food processing, agro-industry and textiles has been crucial to the development of these sectors. Women's perspectives will be included in designing and implementing micro-economic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such processes. Their contribution to socio-economic development as producers and workers will be recognised in the formal and informal sector.

Women Entrepreneurship in India:

With the changing socio-cultural environment and increasing educational opportunities, women became aware of their potential to develop entrepreneurial skills. In rural areas, female participation in employment outside the home is in fact viewed as slightly inappropriate, subtly wrong and definitely dangerous to chastity and womanly virtue (Dube & Palriwala, 1990). Indian society has witnessed some highly successful women entrepreneurs, such as Shehnaz Hussain (a world-renowned Indian herbal beautician who owns a chain of beauty parlors), Ekta Kapoor (a celebrated Indian film and television productions) and Kiran Mazumdar (a leading Indian businesswoman and founder of the biotechnology firm Biocon). However, the majority of female entrepreneurs, especially in the middle and lower middle classes as well as in rural areas, still find it difficult to simultaneously meet their entrepreneurial and familial demands so as to attain a proper work-life balance (Mathew & Panchanatham, 2009a). According to Nelasco (2008), even though the leadership



potential of women is very high, this potential is hidden by social, economic and political constraints. Today we find Indian women engaged in different types of traditional (e.g., garment-making, beauty care, fashion design) as well as non-traditional (e.g., founding financial institutions, educational institutions, entertainment companies) entrepreneurial activities. In other addition to their challenging entrepreneurial work, many of these women must also perform several roles in their families (see figure below). These roles include being a spouse, caretaker and parent; managing daily household chores; and providing services to the community and society. Women also must take care of their own health and other personal activities, which are often neglected because of role overload as well as time limitations.

Although motherhood is a social construct whose meaning changes over time, in most contemporary societies motherhood is conceptualized as a gendered division of labor that assigns women primary responsibility for child rearing (Glenn, 1994; Finkler, 1994). A woman's mission in life is to engage fully in domesticity to sustain the family (Tiano & Ladino, 1999; Vaughn, 1979). Women's identity is often defined in reference to their spouses, children, and family, forsaking their personal selves. A patriarchal ideology that frowns upon working outside the familial sphere reinforces female subordination to men and dedication to domestic affairs (Segura, 1991). Gender roles are in transition in Mexico. As a recent family planning survey (CONAPO, 1998) indicates, while over a third of men and women believe that personal plans for women should put household and family first, only a small proportion believe that household tasks and childrearing are exclusively female duties. Women's primary duties must be those of the home and the family, those of wife and mother; but that the full performance of these duties may be helped and not hindered if she also possesses a sense of duty to the public and the power and desire to perform this

duty. In those western states it is a real pleasure to meet women, thoroughly womanly women, who do every duty that any women can do and who also are not only in fact but in theory on a level of full equality with men. There should be equality of rights and duties but not identity of function; and with the men, as with the women, the primary duties are those related to the home and the family. The first duty of the average citizen is to be a good father or mother, husband or wife.

Conclusion:

Secularism, in philosophy, is the belief that one's own live can be best lived, and the universe best understood, with little or no reference to a god or gods or other supernatural concepts. Now-a-days, terms like 'right to education', 'right to information' and 'right to protest peacefully' are being used quite frequently. According to *Smt. Indira Gandhi* former prime minister of India "people tend to forget their duties but remember their Rights". Many a time, you also feel that you have certain rights. Rights and duties go together, my right is others duty, and my rights is my duty also. Right should be used for social good duty toward the state. Right without duties are mere power. Duty is an obligation to do or not to do something for the sake of other. Simultaneously, you may have been told by someone, may be your teacher, that you have certain duties towards other individuals, society, nation or the humanity. But do you think that every human being enjoys the rights or everyone performs the duties. But everyone will agree that there are certain rights that must be enjoyed by individuals. Particularly, in a democratic country like ours country, there are rights that must be guaranteed to every citizen. Similarly there are certain duties that must be performed by democratic citizens. Which is why, the Constitution of India guarantees some rights to its citizens. They are known as Fundamental Rights. Besides, the Indian Constitution also enlists certain core duties that every citizen is expected to perform.



These are known as Fundamental Duties. So, give respect to your mother, establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality and promote education, training and professional development for women.

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