

**SPECIAL ISSUE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**



# **IGNITING MINDS**

*Wall Magazine*



**WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Berunanpukuria, Mallikapur, Barasat  
North 24 Parganas, Kolkata ~ 700126

*Chief Patron:*

**Professor Basab Chaudhuri**  
Honourable Vice-Chancellor  
West Bengal State University  
Barasat, Kolkata



*Board of Advisors:*

Professor Abhijit Kumar Pal  
Dr. Ajit Mondal  
Dr. Shnaoli Chakraborty Acharya

*Magazine Editor:*

Rinki Khatun  
Student, Department of Education, Semester I

Year of Publication : December, 2019



Title with Author	Page No.
<b>WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b> ————— <b>Aditi Shankari</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b> ————— <b>Nirupom Ghosh</b>	<b>3-4</b>
নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন ————— দেবকান্ত পাল	<b>5-6</b>
নারী ————— শ্বেতা সাধুখাঁ	<b>7</b>
<b>WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b> ————— - <b>Noorjahan Khatun</b>	<b>8</b>
নারী উন্নয়ন ————— রূকশানা পারভিন	<b>9</b>
<b>WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b> ————— - <b>Noorjahan Khatun</b>	<b>10</b>
বেগম রোকেয়া ————— সমাট চৌধুরী	<b>11</b>
<b>WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b> ————— - <b>Najma Parveen</b>	<b>12</b>
নারী ————— সাবিনা ইয়াসমিন	<b>13</b>
অভিনব রূপে নারী ————— পুজা মণ্ডল	<b>14</b>
নারীর উন্নয়ন ও অগ্রগতিতে শিক্ষার প্রভাব ————— রূকশানা পারভিন	<b>15</b>
<b>EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b> ————— - <b>Rinki Khatun</b>	<b>16-18</b>

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Aditi Shankari

### If one man can destroy everything, why can't one girl Change it?



We all know the story of Malala, a young girl who defied fear and reason to stand up for her right to education. Often affectionately referred to by her first name, **Malala Yousafzai** became a prominent contemporary feminist at the age of 15, when she was shot by a Taliban gunman for her activism surrounding women's education in Pakistan. Since recovering from the shooting, which left her in critical condition, Malala has continued her **fight for girl's education globally**, receiving the **2014 Nobel Peace Prize** for her efforts and becoming an icon for women empowerment.

Malala has consistently and willingly put herself at risk in order to defend equal access to education, gender equality and overall world peace. Though many people remember her as the girl who was targeted by the Taliban, she had a long history of activism before the attack – when she was as young as 12. In fact, her series of BBC diaries, which she wrote under a pseudonym to protect herself, detailed her life under Taliban rule in Swat, Pakistan in 2009. According to the New Yorker, Malala hand-wrote the blog posts, which described her academic successes as well as concurrent Taliban actions that her family and community were enduring.

Her passion for educational equity began with her father, who gave her lessons in the night once the Taliban had banned girls going to school and destroyed many of the schools in Swat. She refused to let the Taliban's patriarchal rule, which even refused women the right to go shopping, impact her ability to receive the education she deserved. Malala now lives safely in Birmingham, where she completed her education after recovering from her injuries, and was recently admitted to Oxford University to study philosophy, politics and economics, according to BBC reports. Though she has not stopped facing near constant pushback, including the banning of her autobiography in all private schools in Pakistan in 2013 and a heated global debate over whether she should have received the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2014**.

Regardless of those who criticize her, Malala is an unstoppable force when it comes to her activism and unrivaled fearlessness in the face of terrorism and violence. She will undoubtedly continue to use her voice and education to advocate for women and girls around the world — a philosophy of selflessness that all women with prominent voices should adopt.

(ONLY A FEW OF THE REASONS)

## WHY Malala Yousafzai IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL



“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”

— Malala Yousafzai, *I Am Malala*

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

*Nirupom Ghosh*

Women Empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. Women empowerment means emancipation of women from the vicious grips of social, economical, political, caste and gender-based discrimination. It means granting women the freedom to make life choices. A woman is a being with senses, imagination and thoughts; she should be able to express them freely. Individual empowerment means to have the self-confidence to articulate and assert them and decide.

## What Does Women Empowerment Mean?

Women Empowerment is the process that creates power in women to live a happy and respectable life in a society. Women are empowered when they are able to access opportunities in a variety of fields much as in education, profession, freestyle, etc., without any limitations and restrictions. It includes raising their status through education, awareness, literacy and training. It also includes the authority to take decisions. When a woman makes crucial decision, she feels empowered. According to Menon and Probhu (2001), there a strong plea for investing in women's equality on the ground that this made economic sense and spoke of "the social rate of return on investment in women" being greater than the corresponding rate for men. According to Paten (2002), women's development can be attained by improving her status and bargaining power in the economy.



## Empowerment of Women

There are several ways to enable rights to women in India. The people and government need to come collectively to make it happen. Schooling for girls must be delivered mandatory so that women can grow literate to build a life for themselves. Women must be provided equal opportunities in every area, irrespective of gender. Besides, they must also be awarded equal compensation for their work. The following are some aspects of women's empowerment –

- ❖ On 8 March 2010, one day after international women's day, Rajya Sabha passed the women's reservation bill requiring that 33% of seats in India's parliament and state legislative bodies be reserved for women.
- ❖ Act, 2013 is a legislative act in India that seeks to protect women from sexual harassment at their place of work.
- ❖ Women empowerment is all about making women both socially and financially independent.
- ❖ It is a process in which women make their own independent decisions.
- ❖ When women are entitled to decide, it gives them a sense of empowerment and more worth.

- ❖ Providing proper education to a girl child is the main agenda of women empowerment.
- ❖ It also includes educating working women and engaging them in menial jobs.
- ❖ There shouldn't be gender discrimination and equal for them in the workplace.
- ❖ Women empowerment refers to raising the social status of women through education.
- ❖ Women's economic empowerment aims to make them economically independent and self-sufficient.
- ❖ The Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality (Article 14), no discrimination by the State (Article 15(1)), equality of opportunity (Article 16), equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)) and Article 42.
- ❖ Empowered women can contribute to nation-building by joining sectors like army, politics, social service, education, corporate sector, etc.

### **NPE 1986 and Women Empowerment**

NPE gave stress on the re- organization of education. The National Policy on Education was to play positive interventionist role empowerment of women. It was to foster the development values through redesigned curriculum, books and training and orientation of teachers. Education was considered as a factor of fundamental change in the status of women. Textbooks were redesigned on the basis of suggestions given by NPE 1986. A series of handbook was published to foster gender equality. Priority was to be the retention of women in elementary and professional education at different level. The sex stereotyping in vocational & professional course was to be eliminated. The analysis of the text books after NPE shows the improvement was not up to date.

### **Advantages of Women Empowerment**

Additionally, domestic violence has become a crucial problem in India. The husbands abuse their wives mentally and sometimes physically considering them as their own property. It happens commonly because women are scared to speak up. In a similar way, the women who work genuinely get paid fewer than their male equals. It is entirely unfair and sexist to pay someone more insufficient for the same work just because of the different gender. Consequently, we see how women's empowerment is the demand of the time. We require empowering these women to talk for themselves and never be a sufferer of injustice. **Swami Vivekananda**, one of the greatest sons of India, quoted that, "**There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.**"



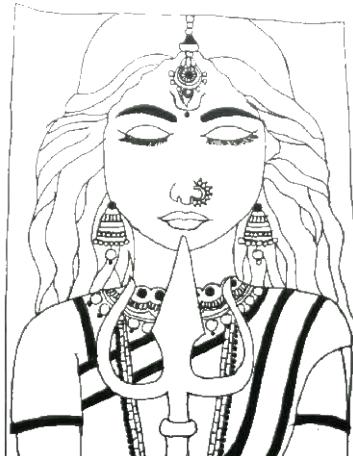
## নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন

দেবকান্ত পাল

বিশ্বে যা কিছু মহান সৃষ্টি চিরকল্যাণকর  
অর্ধেক তার করিয়াছে নারী অর্ধেক তার নর।

- কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম

আদিম সমাজব্যবস্থা থেকে বর্তমান আধুনিক সমাজব্যবস্থার এই সাফল্যের পিছনে নারী ও পুরুষের সমান অবদান অনন্বীক্ষ্য। নারীকে বাদ দিয়ে শুধুমাত্র পুরুষের অংশগ্রহণের মাধ্যমে সমাজের উন্নয়নের কথা কল্পনাই করা যায় না। কিন্তু যুগ যুগ ধরে নারীরা অবহেলিত ও শোষিত হয়ে আসছে। পুরুষশাসিত সমাজ ব্যবস্থায় সামাজিক কু-সংস্কার, ধর্মীয় গোঁড়ামি, নিপীড়ন ও বৈষম্যের বেড়াজালে নারীরা তাদের অধিকার বিসর্জন দিয়ে আসছে। নারীরা তাদের প্রতিভার বিকাশ ও আত্মপ্রকাশের সুযোগ থেকে ক্রমে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছে। নারীকে পূর্ণ মর্যাদা প্রদান, তার মেধা ও শ্রমকে শক্তিতে রূপান্তর করে এবং তার স্ব-নির্ভরশীলতাকে বাস্তবায়ন করার মাধ্যমে সমাজ, রাষ্ট্র নির্বিশেষে সারা বিশ্বে নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন নিশ্চিত করা সম্ভব।



নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন বলতে একজন নারীর স্বকীয়তা, নিজস্বতা সর্বোপরি তার স্বয়ং সম্পূর্ণতার বিকাশকে বোঝায়। নারী ও পুরুষের মধ্যে অসাম্য ও বৈষম্য দূর করে নারীকে পুরুষের সমকক্ষে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করাই হল নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন। নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন করতে হলে নারীকে ক্ষমতা বিকাশের সুযোগ দিতে হবে। পারিবারিক, সামাজিক ও রাষ্ট্রীয় সকল ক্ষেত্রে নারী পুরুষের সমতা প্রতিষ্ঠা এবং নারীদেরকে শিক্ষিত ও দক্ষ মানবসম্পদে পরিণত করতে হবে। সমাজে ও অর্থনৈতিকে নারীর অবদান যথাযথ মূল্যায়ন করতে হবে এবং তাদের উপর নির্যাতন করা প্রতিরোধ করতে হবে, তবেই নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন সম্ভব হবে।

পশ্চিম বিশ্বের দেশগুলিতে নারীর ক্ষমতায়নের বিষয়টি শুরু হয়। আর এই ক্ষমতায়ন সফল করতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা নেয় জাতিসংঘ। জাতিসংঘ নারীর রাষ্ট্রীয়, সামাজিক, রাজনৈতিক ও অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়ন ও ক্ষমতায়নের লক্ষ্যে ১৯৭৫ সালকে 'বিশ্ব নারী বর্ষ', ১৯৭৫-১৯৮৫ সালকে নারী দশক হিসেবে ঘোষণা করে। ১৯৭৫ সালে মেস্কিনোতে। ১৯৮০ সালে কোপেনহেগেনে, ১৯৮৫ সালে নাইরোবিতে এবং ১৯৯৫ সালে বেইজিংয়ে যথাক্রমে প্রথম, দ্বিতীয়, তৃতীয় এবং চতুর্থ বিশ্ব নারী সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। আমেরিকা, ব্রিটেন, কানাডা, জাপান প্রভৃতি উন্নত দেশের নারীরা সকল ক্ষেত্রেই পারদর্শী। এই সমস্ত উন্নত দেশের নারীরা পুরুষের চেয়ে কোন অংশে কম নয়। তারাও বিজ্ঞান প্রযুক্তি, মহাকাশে গবেষণার মত বিভিন্ন বড় বড় অভিবনীয় কর্মক্ষেত্রে প্রতিনিয়ত অবদান রেখে যাচ্ছে।

কিন্তু বর্তমান সময়েও এমন তৃতীয় বিশ্বের দেশ আছে যেখানে নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন সন্তোষজনক নয়। এই সমস্ত দেশের আর্থ-সামাজিক অবস্থা এতটাই দুর্বল যে তারা তাদের নারী সমাজের উন্নয়নে পরিপূর্ণ সুযোগ সুবিধার ব্যবস্থা করতে পারে না। এছাড়াও কু-সংস্কার, শিক্ষাক্ষেত্রে অসহযোগিতা, অপর্যাপ্ত নিরাপত্তা ও আইনী পদক্ষেপ, সংকীর্ণ চিন্তা-চেতনা ও মনোভাব এসব কিছুই এই তৃতীয় বিশ্বের দেশে নারীর ক্ষমতায়নে বাধা সৃষ্টি করে।

তাই এই নারীর ক্ষমতায়নে নারীকেই সবার প্রথম এগিয়ে আসতে হবে। নারীরা সচেতন না হলে, নারীর উন্নয়নের কথা নারী না ভাবলে ক্ষমতায়ন অসম্ভব। তাই নারীদের

যাবতীয় অধিকার আদায়ে তাদের নিজেদেরই সচেষ্ট হতে হবে, হতে হবে তাদের উপযুক্ত শিক্ষায় শিক্ষিত, তবেই হবে নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন। আর তাইতো বেগম রোকেয়া বলেছিলেন — ‘আমি চাই সেই শিক্ষা যাহা তাহাদিগকে নাগরিক অধিকার লাভে সক্ষম করিবে’।

“কোন কালে একা হয়নিকো জয়ী পুরুষের তরবারি  
প্রেরণা দিয়েছে সাহস দিয়েছে বিজয়লক্ষ্মী নারী”।

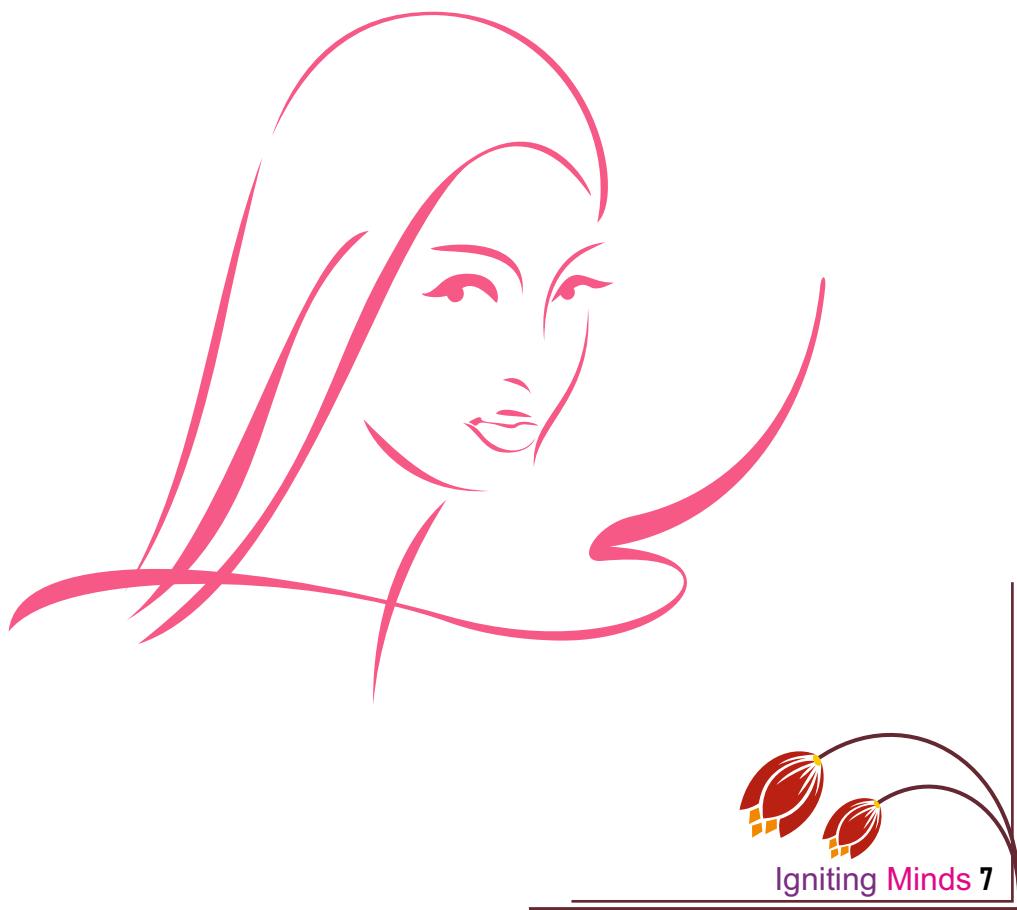
বিশ্ব সংসারে নারীকে বিভিন্ন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকায় অবতীর্ণ হতে হয়। নিজের সন্তানকে গর্ভে ধারণ চেয়ে তাকে পৃথিবীর আলো দেখিয়ে একজন মা নারী হিসাবে তার জীবনের সার্থকতা লাভ করে। একজন শিশুর জন্মের সাথে সাথে জন্ম হয় একজন মায়ের। শুধুমাত্র মাইনয় স্ত্রী, বোন, কন্যা সহ মর্যাদাপূর্ণ সব সম্পর্কের বাঁধনে নারীরা সমাজের সাথে আবদ্ধ। পুরুষ কোন সমাজের অর্ধেক অংশ জুড়ে রয়েছে তেমনই নারীরাও সমাজের অর্ধেক অংশ। তাই নারীদের প্রতিভা ও স্বয়ং সম্পূর্ণতা বিকাশের সুযোগ নিশ্চিত করা দেশের তথা সারা বিশ্বের অবশ্য পালনীয় দায়িত্ব ও কর্তব্য। যার মধ্য দিয়েই নারীর ক্ষমতায়ন সার্থকতা লাভ করবে।



## নারী

শ্বেতা সাধুখাঁ

শিশু তুমি জন্ম নিলে মেয়ে রূপে,  
বালিকা থেকে হয়ে উঠছো পরিপূর্ণ নারী ।।  
সময়ের সাথে পান্টে যাচ্ছে তোমার ভূমিকা  
আজ তুমি হাতে তুলে নিয়েছো কলম থেকে পিস্তল ।।  
সদা অবচিল রয়েছে তুমি তোমার সদা বাঁধা  
বিঘ্ন পারছে না তোমাকে আটকে রাখতে ।  
ক্রমশ তুমি এগিয়ে চলেছো তোমার পথে  
অন্যায় দেখলে তুমি হাতে তুলে নিচ্ছা অস্ত্র  
তুমি দুর্গা, তুমি কালী, তুমি হলে নারী  
নারী তুমি করতে পারো প্রাণের সৃষ্টি  
তোমার দক্ষতার নেইকো কোনো তুলনা  
তুমি হলে অনন্যা, অদ্বিতীয় নারী ।



## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- *Noorjahan Khatun*

Women empowerment is empowering the women to take their own decisions for their personal development as well as social development. Empowerment of women would mean encouraging women to be self-reliant, independent, have positive self esteem, generate confidence to face any difficult situation and incite active participation in various socio-political development endeavors. In the ancient times, women were treated very badly by family and society. They were not given education and were only restricted to doing household tasks. They were kept completely oblivious of their rights and development. Women make up half of the country so in order to make the country entirely powerful country, women empowerment is very necessary. There are various ways in how one can empower women. The individuals and government must both come together to make it happen. Education for girls must be made compulsory so that women can become literate to make a life for themselves.

Women must be given equal opportunities in every field, irrespective of gender. Moreover, they must also be given equal pay. We can also empower the women by eliminating child marriages in India, which is much common in village areas.

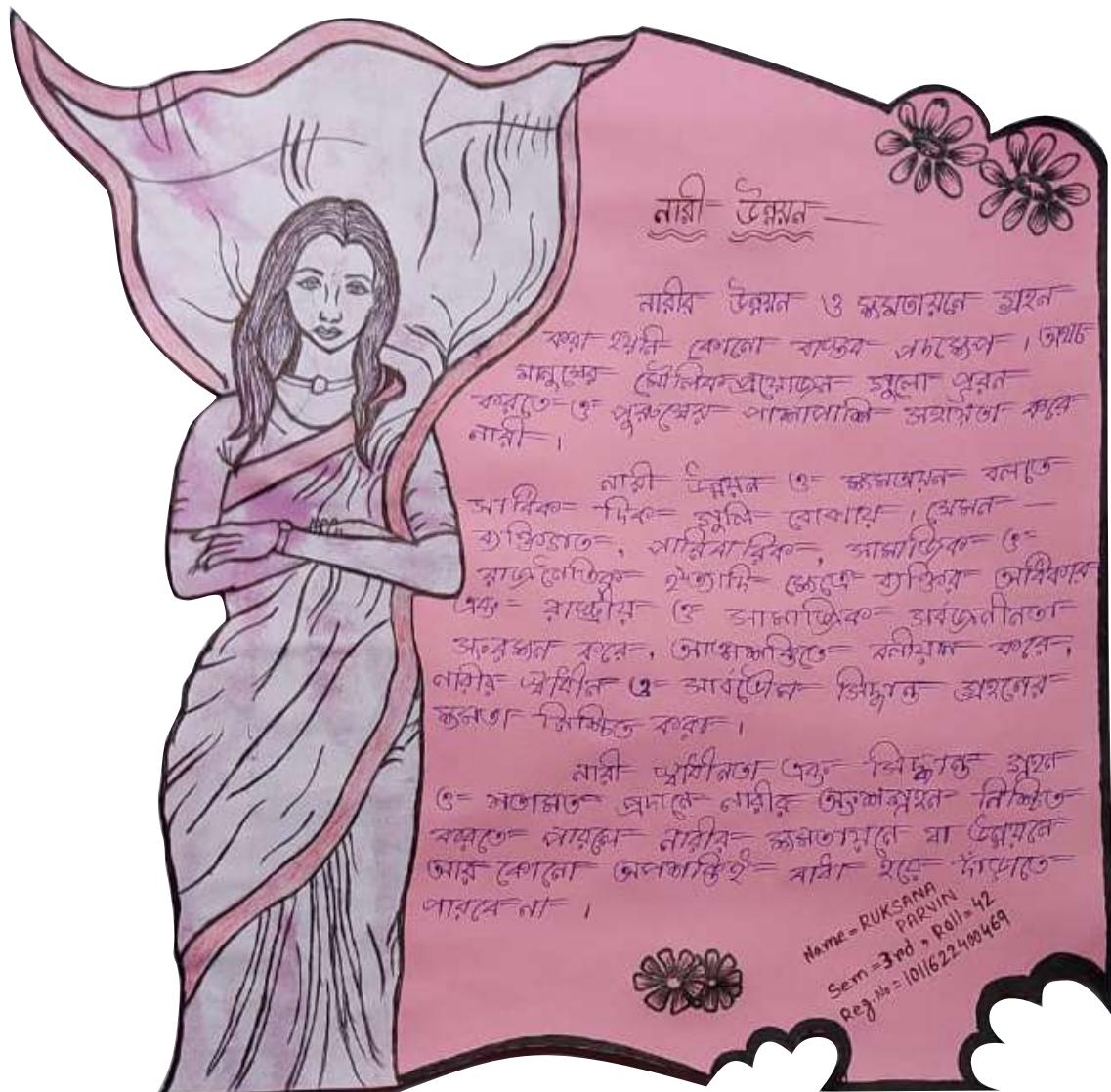
Various programs must be conducted where they can be given the ability to defend themselves in case they face financial crises. Most importantly, the shame of divorce and abuse must be thrown out of the window. Many women stay in abusive relationships because of the fear of society. Parents must teach their daughters that it is better to return home in a coffin rather than getting divorced.

Women empowerment in the truest sense, will be achieved only when there is attitudinal change in society with regard to women folk, treating them with proper respect, dignity, fairness and equality.



## ନାରୀ ଉନ୍ନୟନ

ରୂପଶାନ ପାରଭିନ





## **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

*- Noorjahan Khatun*

Empowerment of women means achieving equality between men and women in the society. In other words, one has the right to make one's own decisions. The right to control oneself and to increase one's professional skills, especially in politics, economics and education.

Nowadays, women have come a long way in the workplace, just as they are more likely to be victims of violence, which has taken a drastic turn, especially among working women. They are not safe on the road, in the office even on the bus nowadays. As a result, women are becoming unemployed.

We see that even in the present age, the attitude of most men is still the oldest. They do not consider women as allies and dominate them. Although girls are getting more higher education than before but the walk in employment is much less than that.

In order to develop a developing country like ours, women must be educated and employed. With the empowerment, women will be able to play an equal role in all fields, be aware of their rights, resist injustice and become confident.



## বেগম রোকেয়া

সমাট চৌধুরী



নারী শিক্ষার আধার তুমি, তুমি বেগম রোকেয়া।  
তুমি শিখিয়েছিলে শিক্ষার হাতেখড়ি, বাঙালি মুসলিম নারীর।  
তুমি দেখিয়েছিলে, নারীকে আলোর পথ ...  
আজ নারী সেই পথেই চড়ছে স্বর্গরথ।  
তুমি দেখিয়েছিলে, নারীকে মুক্তির স্পন্দন ...  
আজ নারী হয়েছে স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণ।  
তুমি বলেছিলে, নারীর মস্তিষ্ক চূণ হয়েছে পুরুষ ও শাস্ত্রের বচন-রূপ অন্তর্বাতে  
আজ নারী মাথা তুলেছে - ভয় পায়না কোনো আঘাত।  
তুমি বলেছিলে, নারী জাগরণের কথা  
আজ নারী দিব্য শক্তিময়ী, ভূলে সব ব্যথা।  
তুমি করেছিলে, নারীর জন্য পৃথক স্কুল স্থাপন  
আজ নারী শিক্ষার শীর্ষে করেছে নিজ অধিকার রোপন।  
তুমি করেছিলে, সাহিত্য কর্ম 'সুলতানার স্পন্দন'  
আজ নারী তোমার কর্মে ধন্য।  
নারী মুক্তি, নারী শিক্ষার লক্ষ্যে তোমার সংগ্রাম  
মনে রাখবে চিরদিন নারী জাতি তোমার অবদান।

---

---

---

---

---

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

*- Najma Parveen*

International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> March every year. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights.

Women empowerment is the process and the outcome of the process by which women challenge gender based discrimination in every institution and structures of the society. Women empowerment means freedom of women from the vicious grips of social, economical, political, cast and gender based discrimination. It means granting women the freedom to make life choices.

Education is a milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to challenge, to comfort their traditional role and change their life. Education is one of the essential ways to spread the message of women empowerment. Education helps a women to understand her rights to equal treatment like a man in the society of the nation. Education not only educates a person but also helps her realize that she is a vital part of the society.



# নারী

সাবিনা ইয়াসমিন

Article 13, Article 14 and Article 15, which guarantee these values for all Indian women irrespective of gender, of caste, class, ethnicity or religion. However, the journey towards gender equality has never been easy in this country. Reform in the law pertaining to marriage and family has been a complex and contentious subject in our religious and patriarchal society.

Parliament has framed different laws over the decades in an effort to bring about equality for women. Today, women enjoy most of the same rights as men, at least legally. But in spite of these legal protections, Muslim women grants the right to religious minorities. Traditionally, this law pertaining to family matters such as divorce, child custody and property would be based on religious law, where complications arise.

Historically, women have been passed off as inferior by male religious leaders. This is not true for all faiths. In Hinduism, triple talaq, triple divorce practices has been prohibited by religion. It is not true for all religious minorities of our country. The marginalization of women in the independence movement, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu were keen to ensure equality in marriage, which anticipated the demands of the Indian Constitution.

It has been a long time since the Supreme Court has taken a stand in favor of human rights abuses. It has been 10 years since 2011, when the 14 states which have not yet impleading on the earlier judgment of the court could not demonstrate adequate compliance. On September 24, the Supreme Court has now ordered that every police station in each state and Union Territory be fitted with CCTV cameras with night vision and audio capacity. To emphasize accountability, the court listed the positions at which the cameras should be fixed in each police station, and insisted that the storage of recorded materials should not be for less than one year, although the ideal would be 18 months. Government is to release funds to make this possible immediately, form oversight committees according to the court's instructions, all submit in six weeks affidavits to the Supreme Court and submit within a fixed time frame. In each police station, the station house officer will be responsible for the functioning and maintenance of the devices. The court also directed that those who fail to implement the order will be held responsible.

Supreme Court has directed the government to

one or the other ways to bring about a change in the name of tradition. They unsuccessfully tried to bring about a secular law in the form of the uniform civil code. This move was opposed vehemently by *sadhus* and by some political leaders as they felt that this was an attack on our culture and civilizational values.

highlighted that there is a need for such instant unilateral divorce. In 2011, women joined the movement demanding a divorce based on Quranic values as well as constitutional principles. They openly challenged the misogynist interpretations by the self-appointed guardians of religion who had perpetuated this practice for ages. The women not only organized a movement and the Supreme Court has ruled that the entire community should be allowed to practice the conservative law of talaq, but the women were also conditioned to do so.

Historically, Muslim women have been passed off as inferior by male religious leaders. This is not true for all faiths. In Hinduism, triple talaq, triple divorce practices has been prohibited by religion. It is not true for all religious minorities of our country. The marginalization of women in the independence movement, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu were keen to ensure equality in marriage, which anticipated the demands of the Indian Constitution.

Historically, women have been passed off as inferior by male religious leaders. This is not true for all faiths. In Hinduism, triple talaq, triple divorce practices has been prohibited by religion. It is not true for all religious minorities of our country. The marginalization of women in the independence movement, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu were keen to ensure equality in marriage, which anticipated the demands of the Indian Constitution.

It has been a long time since the Supreme Court has taken a stand in favor of human rights abuses. It has been 10 years since 2011, when the 14 states which have not yet impleading on the earlier judgment of the court could not demonstrate adequate compliance. On September 24, the Supreme Court has now ordered that every police station in each state and Union Territory be fitted with CCTV cameras with night vision and audio capacity. To emphasize accountability, the court listed the positions at which the cameras should be fixed in each police station, and insisted that the storage of recorded materials should not be for less than one year, although the ideal would be 18 months. Government is to release funds to make this possible immediately, form oversight committees according to the court's instructions, all submit in six weeks affidavits to the Supreme Court and submit within a fixed time frame. In each police station, the station house officer will be responsible for the functioning and maintenance of the devices. The court also directed that those who fail to implement the order will be held responsible.

Supreme Court has directed the government to

highlight that there is a need for such instant unilateral divorce. In 2011, women joined the movement demanding a divorce based on Quranic values as well as constitutional principles. They openly challenged the misogynist interpretations by the self-appointed guardians of religion who had perpetuated this practice for ages. The women not only organized a movement and the Supreme Court has ruled that the entire community should be allowed to practice the conservative law of talaq, but the women were also conditioned to do so.

Historically, Muslim women have been passed off as inferior by male religious leaders. This is not true for all faiths. In Hinduism, triple talaq, triple divorce practices has been prohibited by religion. It is not true for all religious minorities of our country. The marginalization of women in the independence movement, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu were keen to ensure equality in marriage, which anticipated the demands of the Indian Constitution.

Historically, women have been passed off as inferior by male religious leaders. This is not true for all faiths. In Hinduism, triple talaq, triple divorce practices has been prohibited by religion. It is not true for all religious minorities of our country. The marginalization of women in the independence movement, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu were keen to ensure equality in marriage, which anticipated the demands of the Indian Constitution.

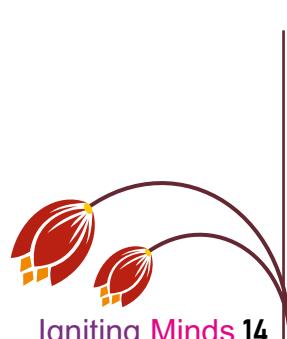
সাবিনা ইয়াসমিন



## অভিনব রূপে নারী

পূজা মণ্ডল

রেহায় দাওনি নারীকে পুরুষ ক্ষমতার বলে  
এবার কি প্রতিবাদ না করলে চলে ?  
কী দোষ ছিল ওই নিষ্পাপ শিশুর ?  
কিই বা জানে ও, তোমরা যে নররূপী অসুর।  
আইন সেতো অন্ধ দেখেনা চোখে  
তাইতো এতদিন ধরে শাস্তি ফেলে রাখে।  
একদিকে নারীশক্তি - দুর্গার করছো আড়ম্বরে পূজা  
আবার সেই নারীকেই একলা গোয়ে দিচ্ছো নরকতুল্য ধর্যণের সাজা।  
নারীর পোষাকের উপর কর জারি,  
নারীর ভূষণ আজ কি শুধুই শাড়ি ?  
বদলেছ কি কখনো নিজের দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি  
মনেরেখো নারীই তোমার সাফল্যের সঙ্গী  
নারীকে নিয়ে চলছে কালোবাজারী সন্তায়  
কবে তারা চলতে পারবে একা নিভীক ভাবে রাস্তায়  
আর না, গর্জে ওঠো, হোক প্রতিবাদ  
মুছে ফেলো নিজের উপর থেকে মিথ্যে অপবাদ  
তাই এবার নারী প্রতিবাদের আগুন জুলবে,  
নররূপী অসুর আজ জীবন্ত পুড়বে।





## নারীর উন্নয়ন ও অগ্রগতিতে শিক্ষার প্রভাব

রূকসানা পারভিন

নারী পুরুষের মিলিত প্রচেষ্টায় দেশ যেমন এগিয়ে যাবে, তেমনি দেশের উন্নয়নে রাষ্ট্রের বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রেও নারীর অবদান দৃষ্টিগোচর হবে। কাজেই নারীর উন্নয়ন ও অগ্রগতিতে শিক্ষার কোন বিকল্প নেই। একটি প্রবাদ রয়েছে, একজন পুরুষকে শিক্ষা দেয়া মানে একজন ব্যক্তিকে শিক্ষিত হিসাবে গড়ে তোলা। আর একজন নারীকে শিক্ষা দেওয়া মানে গোটা পরিবারকে শিক্ষিত করে তোলা।

নারী জাগরণের ও উন্নয়নের ক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষা বড়ো ভূমিকা পালন করে। তাই বর্তমান নারী সমাজ শিক্ষা গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে নিজের ভাগ্য নিয়ন্ত্রা হিসাবে নিজেকে গড়ে তুলছে। আজ নারীসমাজ অঙ্গ অনুকরণ থেকে মুক্ত। সব ধরনের জড়তা, কুসংস্কার থেকে মুক্ত হয়ে স্বাধীনসত্তা ও একজন পরিপূর্ণ মানুষ হিসাবে নিজেকে সমাজে প্রতিষ্ঠার নিরস্তন সংগ্রাম করে যাচ্ছে। এ সংগ্রামে তারা অনেকটাই জয়ী। শিক্ষাটি তাদের পৌঁছে দিচ্ছে সাফল্যের সুউচ্চ শিখরে। আজ নারী বিভিন্ন কর্মক্ষেত্রে আপন মহিমায় ভাস্বর। শিক্ষাটি নারীদের অস্তর বাহিরকে জাগরিত করছে। তাই একথা আজ বলতে দ্বিধা নেই যে, শিক্ষা ছাড়া নারী সমাজের পরিবর্তন সম্ভবপর ছিলনা।

উপযুক্ত শিক্ষা ও অনুকূল পরিবেশের বিস্তৃতি ঘটলে নিজের মেধা ও মননে নারী নিজেদের মেলে ধরতে সক্ষম, বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে নারী অগ্রগতী তা প্রমাণ করে।



## EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

*- Rinki Khatun*

- What is Women Empowerment?

Women empowerment means emancipation of women from vicious grips of social, economical, political, caste and gender based discrimination. It means granting women the freedom to make life choices. Women empowerment itself elaborates that Social Rights, Political Rights, Economical stability, Judicial strength and all other rights should also be equal to women. There should be no discrimination between men and women. Empowerment is an aid to help women to achieve equality with men or at least gender gap considerably (P.K.B. Nayar).

Women empowerment is the process that creates power in women to live a happy and respectable life in a society. Women are empowered when they are able to access opportunities in a variety of fields such as in education, profession, life-style etc. without any limitations and restrictions. It includes raising their status through education, awareness, literacy and training. It also includes the authority to take decisions. When a women makes a crucial decision, she feels empowered.

- Why do we need women empowerment:

Women empowerment is especially needed because women are deprived in various fields such as:

- Decision making
- Freedom to move
- Access to Education
- Access to Employment
- Exposure to Media

- Status of Women Empowerment in present days:

- Modern Indian woman today occupy high ranking positions like I.A.S., I.P.S., Defense Services, participate in various sports.
- Woman of recent times like Mother Teressa, Vijay Laxmi Pandit, M.S. Subhalaxmi, Lata Mangeskar our ex-president Smt. Pratibha Patil etc. have achieved international fame.
- Women have also achieved high fame in the areas of literature, music and acting. Moreover women are joining the field of science and technology also.

- Indicators to Empower Women:

1. Legal Empowerment:

- Enforcement of legislation related to the protection of human rights
- Number of cases related to women's right heard in local courts and their results
- Number of cases related to the legal rights of divorced and widowed women heard in local courts and the results
- Increase/decrease in violence against women

2. Political Empowerment:

- % of seats held by women in local council/decision



making bodies

- % of women in decision making position in local government
- % of women in the local civil service

3. Economic Empowerment:

- Changes in employment/unemployment rates of women and men
- Salary/wage differentials between women and men
- Average household expenditure of female/male headed households on education/health

4. Social Empowerment:

- Control of women over fertility decisions (e.g. number of children)
- Mobility of women within and outside their Society

- Legislative acts in India for Empowerment of Women:

Constitution of India, 1950:

- Article 14 – Equality
- Article 15 – Prohibits discrimination of sex
- Article 16 – Equality of opportunity for Employment
- The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendments to the constitution of India provided for reservation of seats

- Role of Education in Empowering Women:

“If you Educate a man, you educate an individual, if educate a woman, you educate a family” – Mahatma Gandhi

Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges to confront this traditional role and change their life. Now just some year away, this can become reality only when the women of this nation became empowerment. Education enables a women to become strong physically by giving her knowledge about good physical health, which would ultimately benefit her mental health (Agarwal and Satve:2013).

Women's power is crucial to economic, educational, family, spiritual moral and aesthetic growth. Education and literacy empowers women. The only way a society or aspire to economic growth and development is to just through education but especially among the women's citizen. Education is considered as a basic requirement and fundamental right for the citizens of nation. It is a powerful tool for reducing inequality as discrimination in any spheres, have particular needs of this. Education is regarded as an important milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to face the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. Education of women is the most important tool to change their position in the society.

Education plays a very significant role in every one's life. It is a human right and an essential tool for achieving equality. One of the major recommendation of National Policy on Education in 1986 is to promote Empowerment of Women through education. Empowerment is self-governance, self sufficiency and self-maintenance. The concept of women Empowerment was introduced at the International Women's Conference at Nairobi in 1980.

International Convention in all forms of Discrimination Against Women (ICDAW) in 1993 mentioned the education is one of the most important means of empowering women with



knowledge, skills and self-confidence, necessary to participate fully development process.

- How to promote Women Education:
  - Through giving parental motivational campaigns.
  - Residential schools for girls.
  - Parental associations should be formed to encourage and to take care of girls education.
  - Various schemes and programmes by state and Central government should be implemented to promote girls education.
  - Arrange community awareness programmes
  - Imparting basic amenities including building and toilet facilities will promote women education.
  - Promote gender sensitively in curriculum.
  - Give Natural Learning Experiences (NLE)
  - Promote Activity Based Learning.
  - Provide apt counseling in apt time.
  - Appoint counselor in schools.
  - Organize co-curriculum activities.
- Constraints in Women Empowerment:
  - Lack of education
  - Traditional view limit participation
  - Financial constraints
  - Family responsibilities
  - Low mobility
  - Low ability to bear risk.
  - Low social status
  - Conflict among women groups
  - Isolation of women from each other
  - Negative and sensational coverage of India
- Conclusion:
 

According to the Country Report of the Government of India. “Empowerment means moving from a weak position to execute a power”. Education of women in the education of women is the most powerful tool to change of position in society. Education reduces the inequality and increase the status of women in her family and also country where she works. Education motivate, guide and train in all level for improving and enhancing her qualities. Education makes the women not only knowledgeable but also very strong and powerful.



