

Participation of women in the Indian independence movement

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Abstract

The main objective of the presented research paper is to study the participation of women in the Indian independence movement. The important role of women was reflected in the Indian independence movement. With the rise of feminism in India, the participation of women in the freedom movement was ensured. Increasing education among women during that time also played an important role in creating nationalist consciousness among them. Many women's organizations were formed in different regions of India which took up many issues related to women; Gandhian politics also played an important role in ensuring the participation of women in the national movement.

Key words: Indian independence movement, social upliftment, non-cooperation movement participation.

Introduction

References to women's participation in the Indian independence movement can be found only from the earlier Swadeshi movement. In the early decades of the 20th century, women's education, formation of women's organizations and increasing participation of women in Indian politics completely changed the lives of women. The story of women's participation in India's freedom struggle is a story of making a firm choice. Women coming out of the four walls of the house and coming on the streets, their going to jail and their entry into the legislature, all these together empowered them in every sphere of life. The non-violent movement that brought freedom to India not only took women along but also taught them to be self-reliant for the success of their active participation. At that time communist and other leftist revolutionary organizations were also active in the anti-imperialist movement. Although the rapidly emerging revolutionary movements in the 1930s and 1940s showed little possibility of women's participation, many women were attracted to socialist and communist ideas.

Women in freedom movement

The history of the Indian National Freedom Movement is an important story of the struggle of Indians for freedom. All sections of the society contributed significantly in the freedom movement. Instead of considering the freedom movement as just a political movement, a special kind of sacrifice and sacrifice was accepted. This movement was a religious process and a cultural war. In the freedom movement of India, the women of the country performed their duty shoulder to shoulder with the men against the British. The contribution of Indian women is also important in this because it was not too long since their social upliftment. The courage, tolerance and bravery with which women played their role in the freedom movement, whether in the field of home or politics, is a heritage of history.

During the revolt of 1857 revolution, the women of the royal houses united with the men to fulfill the dream of free India. Prominent among them were Rani of Jhansi and Queen Ahilya Bai Holkar of Indore. Looking at the bravery of the Rani of Jhansi, Sir Hurose had said that "Maharani Lakshmi Bai was the bravest and best among the leaders of the military rebellion."

The establishment of the Indian National Congress in 1885 provided a political platform to women. Since the establishment of the Congress, Indian women started coming to participate as representatives in the annual sessions. Mrs. Ganguly was the first woman to deliver her first speech from the platform of the National Congress. This was the beginning of the entry of Indian women into the national movement. After this, the number of women participating in political activities for the sake of motherland continued to increase. Women provided full cooperation and support to Gandhiji in the country's freedom movement and participated in various revolutionary programs.

At the time of the partition of Bengal in 1905, the learned and enthusiastic women of India had launched agitations against the British government and took an oath to establish unity in Bengal by organizing their various programmes. He presented an example of Hindu-Muslim unity by organizing the Rakshabandhan ceremony and demonstrated his unity through Prabhat feris. In which the English government was forced to withdraw the order of partition of Bengal in 1911 AD.

Gandhi's life gave women a new self-confidence, self-respect and a new self-image in public life. She was lying like a passive thing in the society, Gandhiji gave her the form of an active citizen and reformer. In fact, by using traditional symbols in a positive way, Gandhiji inspired women to join the freedom movement, as a result of which people's thinking about women started changing at the national level.

In the beginning of the 20th century, women's organizations were formed in many cities and towns. Unlike the girls' schools mentioned above, these organizations were started by the women themselves. At that time it seemed as if there was something in the air itself in which we could work together to conduct our activities and expand our physical knowledge. Many women's organizations were established on the lines of the Swadeshi movement. Particularly notable among these are the Mahila Shilp Samiti and the Lakshmi Bhandar Samiti, which were founded by Hiraunmoi Devi and Sarala Devi, nieces of Rabindranath Tagore. In 1907, a women's group named Hitashini Sabha organized an exhibition of indigenous goods. At the time when the freedom movement was going on in India, many independent women's organizations started taking birth.

Organizations like Desh Sevika Sangh, Nari Satyagraha Samiti, Mahila Rashtriya Sangh, Ladies Picketing Board, Stree Swaraj Sangh and Swayamsevak Sangh were established. In 1926 the All India Women's Conference was established. Its objective was to provide education and vocational training to women. The institution gained immense popularity in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1928, the Women's National Association was established in Calcutta. Its purpose was to improve the independence of the country and the kindness of women like the National Women's Assembly. In 1929, the Women's Satyagraha Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Urmila Devi. In this sequence, Mahatma Gandhi encouraged and organized women by running the non-cooperation movement in 1920. In the 1920s, women started discussing equal rights. Women worked with full enthusiasm in the Civil Disobedience Movement, Satyagraha and Swadeshi propaganda. Thousands of women came out of their homes in the Quit India Movement (1942). He cooperated wholeheartedly in the movement. In

the movement of 1942, Usha Mehta guided the agitators by operating a secret radio. Women also played a big role in the revolutionary movement of India.

Organizedly devoted to duty, bearing many tortures, took over the reins of political activities at a time when most of the national level leaders like Sarojini Naidu, Aruna Asaf Ali, Smt. History will never forget the contribution of many women. Aruna Asaf Ali in 1942. Played an important role in Quit India Movement and went underground for four years to avoid her arrest.

From the non-cooperation movement under the leadership of Gandhiji to the independence of India, the contribution of women in the national movement reflects their awareness and changes in the Indian environment. Women who participated in the freedom movement included Sarojini Naidu, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay and Mridula Sarabhai, Anne Mascarene, A.V. Kutty Maluamma, Durga Bai Deshmukh, Rameshwari Nehru, B. Amman, Satyavati Devi, Subhadra Joshi, Hansa Mehta and Usha Mehta etc. were prominent. When the country became independent, significant contribution was also made by women in the construction of new India. Sucheta Kriplani became the first woman Chief Minister. Sarojini Naidu became the first woman governor. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit led the United Nations. Indira Gandhi who became the first woman Prime Minister, who is known as Iron Lady.

Conclusion

Historically in the Indian society, there have been changes from time to time in the social condition of women, we can see the incidents of change in their condition from the Vedic period to the modern period. In the context of every time and situation, the status of women's participation can be seen differently. The participation of women in the freedom movement is an important example of this. At present, women are working shoulder to shoulder with men in every field. Crossing all kinds of obstacles in social, political, religious and economic fields, they are continuously moving forward towards progress. Looking at Indian history, it is known that women like Rani Lakshmi Bai, Aruna Asaf Ali, Begum Hazrat Mahal, etc. played an important role in the Indian independence movement. Apart from this, there are hundreds of women who played an important role directly and indirectly in the freedom movement.

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