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Some Women of Inspiration: A Glance on Women Empowerment & Development in India

By Dipankar Naskar
Bidhan Chandra College, India

Abstract- This paper makes an attempt to understand women's position under the society and the way it has affected our globalised society. The present paper is an attempt to study the status of women empowerment and development in India using various indicators like women's inspiration in household decision making power, financial autonomy, political participation, freedom of movement, acceptance of unequal gender role, exposure to media, access to education, experience of domestic violence etc. In recent years, the emphasis has included empowerment, which increases women's decision-making capability and well-being. It analyses the strategies that Women Education and Inspiration has used to mobilize and empower self-employed. Inspiration and Education is the most powerful tool of change of position in our globalized society. The focal point of this paper may be treated as one directly related with development studies. The social understanding of the empowerment and development of women in India must be treated as an unfinished and continuing process.

Keywords: progressive drift, education, emancipation, empowerment, development.

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Some Women of Inspiration: A Glance on Women Empowerment & Development in India

Dipankar Naskar

Abstract- This paper makes an attempt to understand women's position under the society and the way it has affected our globalised society. The present paper is an attempt to study the status of women empowerment and development in India using various indicators like women's inspiration in household decision making power, financial autonomy, political participation, freedom of movement, acceptance of unequal gender role, exposure to media, access to education, experience of domestic violence etc. In recent years, the emphasis has included empowerment, which increases women's decision-making capability and well-being. It analyses the strategies that Women Education and Inspiration has used to mobilize and empower self-employed. Inspiration and Education is the most powerful tool of change of position in our globalized society. The focal point of this paper may be treated as one directly related with development studies. The social understanding of the empowerment and development of women in India must be treated as an unfinished and continuing process.

Keywords: progressive drift, education, emancipation, empowerment, development.

I. Introduction

From the colonial to the present era, the social emancipation of Indian Women has passed through different ups and downs, where education in modern sense of the term played a crucial role. During this period, various socio- religious movements led by eminent persons like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar emphasized on women's education in India. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Periyar and Baba Saheb Ambedkar were leaders of the lower castes in India who took various initiatives to make education available to the women of India. However women's education got a fillip after the country got independence in 1947 and the government has taken various measures to provide education to all Indian women. Obviously, the fruit of modern education is being mostly tasted by the women belonging to the economically privileged sections, and it has been used by them as a significant tool for empowerment. In spite of great discrimination among different sections of Indian women, there have been a successful lot who always stand as pathfinders and role models for those who have been lagging far behind and their empowerment or Development serves as a source of inspiration to the present generation.

Author : Assistant Professor, Department Of History, Bidhan Chandra College Burdwan University,W est Bengal, India
e-mails: naskar.dipankar8@gmail, codipankar_naskar@yahoo.

II. Methodology

The methodology used in this paper is based on random sampling of data. Across India, among different cultural and linguistic identities of various groups of women belonging to different economic positions, a great variety of female figures may be found who have been actively involved in placing forth the name of women. In this paper I have chosen a handful of such women who have quite successfully made our country proud. The random sampling of the data, is then analysed keeping in view three different factors, namely - the historical span of time in which the noted female figures have been born and active, the areas of their activity and finally the reasons for which their respective names are to be remembered in connection with women empowerment. In social sciences exact scientific result cannot be achieved, but that can be no excuse for approaching the subject methodically and scientifically. In course of the present paper at times helps are being sought from print and internet resources.

III. Way of Progress

Early Vedic period, it is supposed that the condition of woman society was satisfied. Then the men society was dominated on the women society even till today. According to Indian outmoded the men society was continued their socio economic power on women. Only the patriarchy society De-trace the women form their gradually uprising way. They tried to make them edification less. The women only depend on the men at that time. Today the women cannot cross the line of their house rules and even they are controlled by the men.

At the time of colonial period in India there were established the new economic and law system. In this time Indian women societies come were advancing to western democracy impression. Social western modern scientific education systems were established. Generally in this circumstance there were aroused a national formation and democracy reawakening in colonial India. In this condition there was started the women movement against the mediaeval periodic corruption, venality, exploitation and tyranny that time.

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In the colonial chapter there was established a new demandable system in India. As a result various types of state of affairs are formed. In this time a new social infirmity was created in Existence. In this period to develop the women societies' progress there was started various social movements. Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Bentinck abolished the system of sati in 1829 and on the attempt of Vidyasagar the act was started to remarriage the widow in 1856 and the child marriage restraint Act, 1929 was established. (Suguna, Education and Women Empowerment in India, International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Vol.1, page no 2, 2011.)

The women society was preoccupied to get the opportunity of education at pre-colonial period in India. During the British rule in India liberalism conception was grow and expand. Dominated regulation in paternal society was gradually disappeared. Women society progressively involved in education system and conservative system was loosened. During this period focused role of women education was detained by various religious society (Aryan samaj, Brahma samaj, Ramakrishna Mission) and missionary society. (Gupta, Itihase Nari: Siksha, Paschimbanga, 2009.)

In the early second decade of 20th century women societies were share out to part in political system. Women society applied their limited franchises in this time. They attached with Gandhi's national mass movement. They emotionally involved summit-rally, campaign against wine shop, face to corruption of police and even they could not fear to live in jail. This were proved that the women society that time were responsible and determined about this matter. For example Vijay Lakshmi Pundit, Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Devi Chattyapadhya, Saroj-Nalini Datta etc.

The first decade of 20th century in progressive women society there was created a conception of all India women organisation/squad. The aims of this squad were to ensure their social reputation and to protest against the any problem of women society in all over India. 'Bharatstri Mondal'(1910) was established by Sarala Devi Choudhurani in Bengal, 'Women's Indian Association'(1917) was established by Anne Besant in Madras, ' National Council of Women in India'(1925) was established by Lady Tata and Lady Abarden, 'All India Women Conference ' was established in 1926.Excepts sub-continental way 'Banga Mahila Samaj' Theosophical Society of Women were eminent in this matter. For preserving and expanding various programmes were accepted by the national and local women squad. The significance and Importance of women society are outstanding about future generation and future India.(Mishra,"Role and Status of Woman in the era of Globalisation", 2011.)

It does not demand that after getting freedom in Indian social structure there is not abolished the for ever poor situation of women community. Even there is changed the social condition and atmosphere. Impact on this situation was seen in the life style of woman community.(Ghosh, Samatar Dike AndolaneNari : pratham Parba, 1999.)

IV. Value of Education

"If you educate a man you educate an individual, however, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Women empowered means mother India empowered". JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

Women education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of half of the human resources, but in improving the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children. Moreover educated women can also help in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of the population. The role of women has evolved with the evolution of the society and a change of thought process. The result being that today it is no big deal if a woman is a Doctor, an engineer, a politician, a photojournalist, a sportsman, a administrator or an Army Major which were all male-dominated professions at one point of time.

Here is an abridged list of women who either broke erstwhile largely male bastions or created a dent in their chosen fields.

V. Woman Role of Various Fields

a) First Female Graduates

Kadambini Ganguly (18 July 1861 – 3 October 1923) and Chandramukhi Basu (1860–1944) were first female graduates from British Empire in 1883. Chandramukhi Basu completed Bachelor's degree in Arts from the University of Calcutta, in 1883. Kadambini Ganguly was one of South Asia's first female physicians who took training in European medicine from the Calcutta Medical College. In 1886, she became one of the Indian women doctors, with Anandi Gopal Joshi, who qualified to practice western medicine with GBMC (Graduate of Bengal Medical College) degree. In 1886 Chandramukhi Basu began her career as a lecturer in Bethune College and became the principal, and the first female head of an undergraduate academic establishment in South Asia. (Bhattacharya, A tribute article. Doctor Ganguly, Anandabazar Patrika, 2012.)

Kadambini Ganguly (1861- 1923) and Bidhumuki Bose were the first lady medical students (1884) of the Medical College, Bengal. This was the era (second half of the 19th century flowing into the 20th) of India's intellectual renaissance. It was the beginning of modern India. It was this renaissance that enabled Western science to take root in India and flourish. Three Indian celebrities, Rabindranath Tagore (1861- 1941), Archarya Prafulla Chandra Roy (1861- 1944) and the first

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Indian lady doctor Kadambini, were born in the same year. (Das,First Female Doctor in India, Bartaman Patrika, 2013.)

The first women doctors in rational medicine (Hippocratic) were Elizabeth Blackwell (1821- 1910) in the USA, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836 - 1917), UK and Sophia Jex-Blake (1840 - 1913) also UK. (Majumdar, Kadambini Ganguly: First Indian Lady Doctor.A tribute on her 150th anniversary. Dec, 2011.)

b) First Female Honours Graduate

Kamini Roy (Born: 12 October 1864 – Died: 27 September 1933) was a leading Bengali poet, social worker and feminist from India and also the first woman to have honors graduate from India. Some of her significant literary contributions were Mahasweta, Pouraniki, Jibon Pathey, Pundorik, Dwip O Dhup, Nirmalya, Malya O Nirmalya, and Ashok Sangeet and Gunjan for children. She also wrote an essay book Balika Sikkhar Adarsha.

c) The first woman in the world to read law at Oxford

Cornelia Sorabji (Born: 15 November 1866 – Died: 6 July 1954) a social reformer as well as a writer, was the first female barrister from India, the first female graduate from Bombay University, and also the first woman in the world to read law at Oxford. She was associated with, the Federation of University Women, the Bengal branch of the National Council for Women in India and also the Bengal League of Social Service for Women. In 1909, she was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind gold medal for her significant services to the Indian nation.

d) First female Doctorate of Science

Asima Chatterjee (23 September 1917 – 22 November 2006) became the first female Doctorate of Science from India in 1944. She was widely known for her significant work in the fields of phytomedicine and organic chemistry as well as the development of anti-epileptic and anti-malarial drugs.

In 1940, she joined the Lady Brabourne College as the founding head of the department of chemistry. In 1954, she joined the University College of Science of the University of Calcutta, as reader in pure chemistry and in 1962; she was selected for the prestigious Khaira professorship of Chemistry at the University of Calcutta. She was honoured on several occasions for her contribution: From 1962 to 1982, she was given one of the most prestigious chairs of the University of Calcutta, the Khaira Professor of Chemistry; in 1960, she was chosen as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy; in 1961, the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in chemical science and many more

e) Anandi Gopal Joshi

Anandibai (March 31, 1865 - February 26, 1887) was born as Yamuna in Pune (Maharashtra) in an orthodox wealthy Brahmin family. Her husband Gopalrao encouraged his wife to study medicine. In 1880, he sent a letter to Royal Wilder, a well-known American missionary, stating Anandibai's interest in studying medicine in the United States, and inquiring about a suitable post in the U.S. for himself. Anandibai began her medical education at age 19. In America, her declining health worsened because of the cold weather and unfamiliar diet. She contracted tuberculosis. Nevertheless, she graduated with an M.D. on March 11, 1886, the topic of her thesis having been "Obstetrics among the Aryan Hindu's". On her graduation, Queen Victoria sent her a congratulatory message. She was one of the two first Indian women to obtain a medical degree through training in Westernmedicine. She was also the first Hindu woman to do so.

f) Indian National Congress PresidentAnnie Besant

Annie Besant (1847–1933) was a prominent British socialist, theosophist, women's rights activist, writer and orator and supporter of Irish and Indian self-rule.

She was married at 20 to Frank Besant but separated from him over religious differences. She then became a prominent speaker for the National Secular Society (NSS) and writer and a close friend of Charles Brad laugh. In 1877 they were prosecuted for publishing a book by birth control campaigner Charles Knowlton. The scandal made them famous and Brad laugh was elected M.P. for Northampton in 1880.

In 1890 Besant met Madame Blavatsky and over the next few years her interest in theosophy grew while her interest in secular matters waned. She became a member of the Theosophical Society and a prominent lecturer on the subject. As part of her theosophy-related work, she travelled to India where in 1898 she helped establish the Central Hindu College and, in 1902, she established the first overseas Lodge of the International Order of Co-Freemasonry, Le Droit Hu main in England. Over the next few years she established lodges in many parts of the British Empire. In 1907 she became president of the Theosophical Society, whose international headquarters were in Adair, Madras (Chennai).

She also became involved in politics in India, joining the Indian National Congress. When World War I broke out in 1914 she helped launch the Home Rule League to campaign for democracy in India and dominion status within the Empire. This led to her election as president of the India National Congress in late 1917. After the war she continued to campaign for Indian independence.

g) First female Governor

Sarojini Naidu (13 February 1879 – 2 March 1949), who is widely known as The Nightingale of India, was an Indian independence activist as well as a poet. She was the first Indian woman who held the position of the President of the Indian National Congress and the Governor of Uttar Pradesh state. She was equally

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brilliant in Telugu, Urdu, English, Bengali, and Persian. Some of her notable works are "The golden threshold in 1905, "The bird of time in 1912, and "The broken wing in 1912 grabbed the attention of huge audience from Indian and abroad.(Chowdhury Ahinsha Andolane Nibedita Nari, first ed, 2001.)

h) First Women President Vijay Lakshmi Pandit

She was not only the first Indian but also the first woman president of the United Nations General Assembly in 1953. Besides, Pandit had served as envoy to the USSR before her appointment to this coveted post. Vijay Lakshmi was the younger sister of ex-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.(Chowdhury Ahinsha Andolane Nibedita Nari, first ed, 2001.)

i) First Women Chief Minister Sucheta Kriplani

First woman Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in independent India in 1963, Sucheta was a freedom fighter as also one of the few women who were elected to the Constituent Assembly and was part of the subcommittee that drafted the Constitution of free India.

j) Saraladevi Chudhurirani

Saraladevi Chudhurirani was born on 9th sept.In1872 at jorasanko thakurbari in Kolkata. Her father was Janakinath Ghoshal who was one of the founders of National Congress. She passed BA English (honours) in1890 and rewarded 'padmabati gold medel'. She was engaged in non-violence movement but economically helped behind extremist. She communicated with Sister Nivedita and BarinGhosh and engaged with Swadeshi movement. She was died on18th August in1945.(Chowdhur, Ahinsha Andolan eNibeditaNari, first ed, 2001.)

k) BegamRokeyaSakhwatHossain

Begam Rokeya Sakhwat Hossain (1880-1932) the first decade of 20th century women freedom movement in Bengal BegamRokeya was one of the greatest persons. She was born in 1880 at pairaband in Rangpur. From childhood she learnt Bengali and English. At 18th years old she was married with Sakhwat Hossain. After death of her husband she came to Kolkata and joined with education movement. She had established Sakhwat memorial girl's high school in1911. She fights against superstation and illiteracy. She inspired to develop the women society. She wrote 'matichur', 'Padmarag', 'sultanarswapna' etc. (Hossain, BegamRokeya :Nari Jagaraner Agradut, 2006.)

l) Basanti Devi

Basanti Devi was born at 23rd march in 1880 in Kolkata. She was married with Chittaranjan Das in1897. Her husband was a renowned Barrister. She entered into political world with her husband 1917. She joined with Non co-operation movement. She was arrested on 7th December, 1921 in Barabazar. That day she went to announced hartal and non-aligned movement with Urmila Devi, younger sister of her husband. Her whole family members sacrificed for freedom movement. Her favourite personalities ware Subas Chandra bose and Dr.Bidhan Chandra Roy. (ChowdhuryAhinshaA ndolane Nib editaNari, first ed, 2001.)

m) Prava Nalini Bhandary

Prava Nalini Bhandary was born in1909 at 24 parganas. She was child marriage with Charuchandra Bhandary. She was passed M.A in psychology from C.U. She also studied in foreign and received Doctor Degree. She was inspired by her husband in freedom movement. She was arrested in 1930 against salt satyagrah movement. She was confined in jail during three months-engaged in non-legislative movement. She joined with Quit India movement in 1942. She was died on 1st January in 1976.(ChowdhuryAh inshaAndol aneNibeditaNari, first ed, 2001.)

n) Doulatunnesa Khatun

Doulatunnesa Khatun was born in 1918 at Bagura district in-divided Bengal. She was child marriage with Dr. Hafijur Rahaman. She passed B.A examed. She was a freedom fighter even also good writer. She tried to educate her custom women communities. The Muslim community berried her progressive work. She established (Gaibanda women society) in 1932, that time she joined with non-alignment movement. She was sent to china after independence. After independence she did not get any tribute in India. (Hossain,Swadhinata Sangrame Banglar Muslim Nari 1873-1947, 2006.)

o) First female centred films Durga Khote

Indian cinema entered a new phase with the entry of this fiery young actress in 1931 when she made her debut in a silent film. The first woman from a 'good' family who entered films, Durga Khote broke the notion that movies were a taboo profession for Indian women. A leading Indian magazine, rated her among 100 people Who Shaped India, as it noted that "Durga Khote marks the pioneering phase for woman in Indian cinema". (Gokulsing, Indian popular cinema: a narrative of cultural change, 2004.)

p) First woman photojournalist

Homai Vyarawalla (Born: 9 December 1913 – Died: 15 January 2012) was the first woman photojournalist from India. She was widely known by her pseudonym "Dalda 13." In 1930s, she started her career and went to Mumbai and soon her work made her a known face across India. Later, she moved to Delhi and spent the next thirty years photographing with several political and national personalities such as Gandhi, Nehru, Indira Gandhi and many more. After retirement in the early 1970s, she lived an anonymous life and in 2011, she was awarded with the second highest civilian award of the Republic of India, Padma Vibhushan.

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q) First Female IPS Officer

KiranBedi(Born 9 June 1949) is a social activist and the first female IPS officer from India in 1972. She took voluntarily retirement from the Indian Police Service in December 2007 from the post of Director General at the Bureau of Police Research and Development. She was the judge of the popular TV series named "Aap Ki Kachehri", where she would solve the real-life disputes. She received several awards including President's Gallantry Award from the President of India in 1979, Women of the Year Award from National Solidarity Weekly, India in 1981, Mother Teresa Memorial National Award from Indian Development Foundation (IDF) in 2005 and many more.(Sarkar, Sports News, The Telegraph, Kolkata, 2003.)

r) The first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest

Bachendri Pal is the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest in 1984. The same year, she was awarded with Padma Shree. In 1985, she made a group of women for an Indo-Nepalese Everest Expedition, which successfully created seven world records and set an example for Indian mountaineering. In 1994, she led an all women team of rafters, which coursed through the waters of the river Ganges and covered 2,500 km from Haridwar to Kolkata.(Sarkar, Sports News, The Telegraph, Kolkata, 2010.)

s) First female in space

Kalpana Chawla (Born: July 1, 1961 – Died: February 1, 2003) On November 19, 1997 became the first Indian-American astronaut flying into space. She was one of seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia on mission STS-107 when it disintegrated during re-entry into the atmosphere of earth. In March 1995, she joined the NASA 'Astronaut Corps' and in 1996 she was selected for her first flight. She travelled 10.4 million km, which is equal to have covered approximately 252 times around the Earth.She was awarded posthumously including Congressional Space Medal of Honour, NASA Space Flight Medal and NASA Distinguished Service Medal. (Sarkar, Sports News, The Telegraph, Kolkata, 2010.)

t) First female IAS I B Joshi

The first woman IAS officer of independent India, Isha Basant Joshi was posted as Magistrate and then as Assistant Commissioner in Delhi, followed by her appointment as Commissioner-cum-State Editor of District Gazette. She retired in 1966. The sad part of her life is that at the ripe age of 96, the lady is spending her last days in the dingy servant quarter of her already sold out ancestral house.

u) First Indian Miss World Reita Faria

The first Indian woman to win the Miss World title in 1966, she serves as a role model for women who aspire for glamour. ReitaFaria gave up modelling after her tenure as Miss World ended. She took up medical studies after that and became a doctor.

v) Maharani Gayatri Devi

The Rajmata of Jaipur was born as Princess Gayatri Devi of Cooch Behar. She was the third Maharani of Jaipur from 1939 to 1970 through her marriage to Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II. Following India's independence, she became an extremely successful politician and was a 15-time MP. Known for her beauty, she championed the cause of women's education and uplift. She was also the first to step out of Purdah in her state, paving the way for other women's freedom.

w) Sushmita Sen

In 1994, for the first time, an Indian beauty won the Miss Universe crown. The answer to the question of the final round made her immensely popular among people. When asked "What was the essence of being a woman?", the charming 18-year-old replied, "The origin of a child was a woman…. a woman teaches a man what …..Caring….is all about…" This won her the much sought after crown.

x) Fathima Beevi

The first woman judge of the Supreme Court, Fathima Beevi was also the first one to be appointed as a judge of the apex court in the whole of Asia. It is an achievement for an Indian woman and a feat indeed for a Muslim woman during 1989. Her accomplishment lay in the fact that she facilitated the entry of other women in the apex court.

y) Priya Jhingan

Erstwhile male bastion the Indian Army was broken by Priya Jhingan-Army's first woman. In fact she even wrote to the then Chief of Army Staff, General Sunith Francis Rodrigues requesting him to open doors of the Army to the Indian woman. And in the year 1992, the bright young law graduate joined the 'hard' profession. Before she retired she said, "It's a dream I have lived every day for the last 10 years".

z) Padmavathy Bandopadhyay

With a list of accomplishments to her credit, Padma Bandopadhyay- an IAF officer who rose to be India's first woman Air Vice Marshal in 2002, Bandopadhyay also served as the first woman Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Society of India and the first Indian woman to have conducted scientific research at the North Pole as also the first woman officer to have completed the Defence Service Staff College course - in 1978 - and to command the IAF's Central Medical Establishment (CME).

aa) First woman Prime MinisterIndira Gandhi

First woman Prime Minister of independent India in 1966, Indira was the daughter of the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. She was PM for

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three consecutive terms from 1966 to 1977 and for a fourth term from 1980 until her assassination in 1984. With the Green Revolution that made India a food exporter to the White Revolution that aimed at combating malnutrition, Indira's tenure was also tainted by her clamping of Emergency due to which her career suffered a serious setback.

bb) Pratibha Patil

Pratibha Devisingh Patil (born 19 December 1934) is an Indian politician who served as the 12th President of India from 2007 to 2012; she was the first woman to hold the office. Patil is a member of the Indian National Congress (INC) and was nominated for the presidency by the governing United Progressive Alliance and Indian Left. She was also the first woman governor of Rajasthan from 2004-2007. What is noteworthy is that she has never lost an election that she has contested. Pratibha Devisingh Patil is the daughter of Narayan Rao Patil. She was born on 19 December 1934 in the village of Nadgaon, in the Jalgaon districtof Maharashtra, India. She was educated initially at RR Vidyalaya, Jalgaon and subsequently was awarded a Master's degree in Political Science and Economics by Mooljee Jetha College, Jalgaon, and then a Bachelor of Law degree by Government Law College, Mumbai. Patil then began to practice law at the Jalgaon District Court, while also taking interest in social issues such as improving the conditions faced by Indian women.(Available from: http://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/ patil-prativa [Accessed 14th June, 2013].)

cc) Meira Kumar

In 2009, Meira Kumar became the country's first woman and also the first Dalit Speaker of the Lok Sabha and was elected unopposed. An IFS officer by profession, Meira was a Cabinet Minister in the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment in 2004-2009. Meira is a five-time Lok Sabha MP. (Available from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/kumar-mira [Accessed 22nd August, 2013])

dd) Sonia Gandhi

The widow of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi inherited the political legacy. However she has risen to be India's most powerful woman on account of her own calibre. She is the one who virtually runs the country. Sonia, an Italian-born, internalized Indian culture and tradition when she got married to Rajiv Gandhi. She has faced much criticism on account of her being a foreigner but has also received appreciation for her political astuteness.

ee) The first women Railway Minister of IndiaMamata Banerjee

Mamata Banerjee (born 5 January 1955) is the 8th and current Chief Minister of West Bengal. She is the first woman to hold the office. Banerjee founded the party All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC or TMC) in 1997 and became its chairperson, after separating from the Indian National Congress. She is usually called "Didi" (meaning elder sister in Bengali). In 2011 Banerjee pulled off a landslide victory for the TMC Congress alliance in West Bengal by defeating the world's longest-serving democratically-elected communist government, the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Front government, bringing to an end 34 years of Left Front rule in the state. Banerjee previously served as a Minister of Railways twice and is also the first women Railway Minister of India, Minister of Coal, and Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and Women and Child Development in the cabinet of the Indian government. She opposed forceful land acquisition for industrialisation by the then communist government in West Bengal for Special Economic Zones at the cost of agriculturalists and farmers. In 2012, the Time magazine named her one of the "100 Most influential People in the World".In September 2012 Bloomberg Markets magazine listed her among the 50 most influential people in the world of finance.(Available from: http://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/ban nerjee-mamata.[Accessed 22nd August,2013].)

ff) Naina Lal Kidwai

The first Indian woman to graduate from the Harvard Business School, Naina Lal Kidwai was appointed as the country head of HSBC (India) this year. Kidwai was bestowed with the Padma Shri in 2007and was also in WSJ's list of world's top 50 businesswomen. Not only this, the woman was listed as one of the 15 global influential of 2002 by Time magazine.

gg) First female Chess Grandmaster

Koneru Humpy (Born: March 31, 1987) is an Indian chess Grandmaster. In 2007 surpassing the rating of 2577, she became the second-highest ranked female player in history and the second female player ever to surpass the 2600 Elo mark. She received some prestigious awards, in 2003, she received Arjuna award, In 2007 Padma Shri award, and in 2008 Raja-Lakshmi Award.(Sarkar, Sports News, The Telegraph, Kolkata, 2008.)

hh) First Women Boxer Mary Kom

Our-time world champion M C Mary Kom is the first woman boxer to be honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi KhelRatna award; she is also the first boxer alongwithVijender Singh to be awarded the same. The Manipuri girl also won the Arjuna award in 2004 before being conferred with the Padma Shri a couple of years later in 2006. She is also the International Boxing Association's Ambassador for women's boxing. (Sarkar, Sports News, The Telegraph, Kolkata, 2005.)

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ii) Sania Mirza

Sania Mirza (born 15 November 1986, in Bombay) is a professional Indian tennis player, well known for her powerful forehand ground strokes. She holds the record for being the highest ranked player from India for over a decade. In her career, Mirza has notable wins over Svetlana Kuznetsova, Vera Zvonareva, Marion Bartoli; and former World No. 1s Martina Hingis, Dinara Safina, and Victoria Azarenka. Mirza is the highest ranked female tennis player ever from India, with a career high ranking of 27 in singles and 7 in doubles. She is the first Indian female player to surpass US$1m in career earnings; first Indian to win a WTA Tour title of any kind; and, by winning the 2009 Australian Open – Mixed Doubles Event, became the third Indian, male or female, to win a Grand Slam title (the first two being Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes). Mirza has also won the 2012 French Open – Mixed Doubles Event (her second Grand Slam title). Mirza was named one of the '50 heroes of Asia' by Time in October 2005 In March 2010, The Economic Times named Mirza in the list of the "33 women who made India proud."(Available from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/mirza-sania [Accessed 21st August, 2013].)

VI. Empowerment and Development

The word women empowerment essentially means that the women have the power or capacity to regulate their day to day lives in the social, economic and political terms-a power which enables them to more form the periphery to the centre stage. The constitution of India guarantees to all citizens the fundamental rights and the political equality through adult franchise. It therefore provides political rights to the Indian women and also to participate in the decision making for the Nation at all levels without discrimination. (Datta, From Development to Empowerment: the Self-Employed Women Association in India, 2003.)

At present the political empowerment of women is one of the most important aspects in the overall empowerment of women for its gives women the capacity to influence the decision making process as a civil society where they stay. In this regard introduction of 73rd and 74th Amendment acts, (1993) is a milestone in empowering women as grass root level of Democratic Administration.

Besides it, the self-help groups are working as tools of women empowerment. In this modern day society the NGOs are playing a vital role in effecting social change and at the same time the Mass Media brings revolutionary changes in social thinking and ideological out look of women. It plays a crucial role in public awakening and education.

Let us put spot-light on status. Women's self-identity, personality, ability, talent, behaviour can explain her position in the society. It is Statius.

A womanplays multifarious and multidimensional role in the society as a mother, wifenurse, homemaker, caretaker, and many more. In spite of her self-less contribution, male members exploit them physically and mentally as well. There by women loss their hidden talents. Social restrictions degrade her dignity duty, freedom, equality and her property and personality. Gender differences act is hardly in the progress of women. If freedom is allowed for women, they can be able to make impossible to possible. If women to control child birth, they can do so .They can make family planning well. Even they can control the population explosion of the country, provided male members should not treat them always as child bearing machines, women should have free choice for choosing their life partners from within our caste and from outside intercaste marriage. At present intercaste marriage results in 'HONOUR KILLING.'(Mishra, "Role and Status of Woman in the era of Globalisation", March 2011.)

A Literate woman can give better education to her children .Moral education carries human values. Mother is the first teacher of children. They can provide moral education to their children. They can control the waywardness of the children from the very beginning. Also health education is very important for every woman for a healthy and hygienic society. Infant death rate can be reduced along with mother death, if Gov. Takes interest in health programme sincerely. (Mukhopadhyay, AdhikarTheke Ksham atay an,2008.)

Women form almost half of the population in India. Yet their status in economic, political or in social life leaves much to be desired. Despite concentrated efforts through our constitutions, legislation various development pars, visible and invisible inequalities continue.

As a whole, women who can shoulder the responsibility in the society should be encouraged for higher education first and then to participate in politics and independently join politics so that she can have a voice in nation building otherwise she can help the Couse of women in general formulating plans, politics, programmes and projects of the nations. The educated women participants in politics are the only source to root out the corruption and criminalisation in politics as they have self-confidence on their capability and general; they have their morality and ethics in place to much greater extent. They display higher degree of sincerity and commitment to their work. But with the effect of globalisation, a middle class has emerged in India which is the most progressive section of our society. The women belonging to this stratum are normally well-educated and career oriented and they occupy higher employment and position. When our society in hope for the better political representation of educated women, very few middle class elites are ahead to an extra step for the representation in the political field both at state and national levels. In order to get rid of corruption in

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politics more and more educated women participants are desired as they lag behind men in occupation and cheating and enlightened powers exercise their rights more effectively.(Basu, All India Women's Conference.)

VII. Inspirational Impact

In India all religion, castes, sub castes and tribes of women power has used both freedom movement, various mass movement and reforms movement during colonial period. We did not approve the proper honour about the contribution and sacrifice of women lives in those movements. In legislative democracy it was not seen in women's social equal opportunity and impartiality and not built socio-economic and cultural structure for them. As a result form colonial period to last decades of 20th century women's socio-economic, political and cultural empowerment have discontinued. According to S. C. Dube in his book 'Indian Society' "The social and political system appears geared to continue gender inequality. It seems that the march to equality will be long and tortures."

The early period of 21st century today in India mostly democratic state all over world women social circumstance has underprivileged. In 2001 Indian government has announced this year is women empowerment. Generally empowerment means proceeds of decisions power or form where it is possible to participate in it .This empowerment will be attach to family, socio-economic, political and cultural fields.

I have tried to show that in various difficulties Women superlative has tried to establish their socio-economic, political and cultural aspects during the colonial period to last century. This contribution is not sufficient rather it is the matter of inspiration to next feminine generation. This inspiration is continue significant on social mobility, progressive and reformation. The inspiration of above mention renowned women could not affect equally all over Indian society. Because their contribution is not communicated below level society. It is significant matter that there is so many remote villages where is no communication system, electric, media, paper rather there is poverty, famine, corruption, oppression and the superstations.

Standing on 21st century we ought to expand the influence and inspiration of progressive females in our society. In this field my notion is the role model females of short biography, skills, and their advice enlist in primary level education. Their activities will represent in the cultural function of low level society. We ought to aware in society about the significance of female education and apply in them. It will be highlighted that Females active role on family and society depends to civil progress. Not religious affairs but logic is foremost. Proper education make enlightened the women society. It is needed to lower level female society; they can think that they are equal with male. Over all form childhood awareness of health is needed.

Their feelings of inability will be reduced completely. Support less and deaf condition of women will be must abolished. The women societies have to leave the assessment of traditional Indian society and grant modern value of existence and believable affairs. Renowned sociologist Ram Ahuja in his book 'Society in India' says, "Unless women give as much importance to her 'worker's role in the labour market' as to her 'expressive female role', discrimination against women will not be easy to end."

Ram Ahuja opined about self-right, consciousness, awareness of female society that "The main barriers in the awareness of rights are: illiteracy, excessive involvement in domestic chores, household constraints (that is, attitudes of husband and in –laws), and economic dependence on males."

The condition of social progress in every state in all over world depend the position of women society, the opportunity of their self-development and their cultural and spiritual enlargement concerns. In present society the position of women condition is in evitable components like socio, economic, cultural, religious and political aspect. It is indicated that in every steps of life in what situations female face various complications and how they evaluate with society. The progress of civilization depend the dynamic role of family and society which is upheld by female. (Deshpande, Role and Position of Women Empowerment in Indian Society, June 2010.)

Problems encountered by Indian women over the ages are more. Those are patriarchy and social pressures, caste based discrimination and social restriction, inadequate access to productive resources, poverty, powerlessness etc. These basic problems have plagued the lives of Indian women with little respite. Prospects of higher and quality education have become feasible for those women who can afford them, economically and socially. With changing attitude towards women, especially in the urban areas, women enjoy more egalitarian set gender relationship .Augmentation of women's movements through exposures at the international level will help bring about major changes in the economic, social and political lives of women.

VIII. Conclusion

The Inspiration for women empowerment is influenced by those females stalwart. Women in India now participate in all activities such as education, politics, media, art and culture, service sectors, science and technology, etc. The number of Female gradually increasing with potential of all sections within our Globalised society.

At the juncture of the 20th and the 21st century one question obviously comes in mind. Is the Indian

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nation has been successful in looking at women impersonally and without bias in the fields of education as well as the various sectors of job? The present globalised society, with the advancement of modern technology has successfully transformed working culture everywhere. (Bondyapadhyaya, Rajneeti O Nareeshakti "A book on the empowerment of women in Indian politics" 2000.) This has enabled the women to work more freely and fearlessly without having any difficulty. As example, the seventh decades of 20th century established SEWA (Self-Employed Women Association) is mostly significant that the role of females self-right works especially in contemporary India. Also, there is no doubt about the fact that the role- model females on present globalised society in India have inspired many women to find various sophisticated working fields. Though it is possible to move the lower level female community parallely,it is true that any initiative to make this possibility a reality would help in dawning a new era of empowerment of Indian women. Certainly the dreams of all capable Indian women would be successful one day. But both the nation and her female citizenwould have to strive jointly for their basic rights which can only make the future of women in India secured.

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