
SECRETS AND CHANGING MIND SET OF WOMEN

Dr. S JEYARANI

Abstract: The position and status of women all over the world has risen incredibly in the 20th century. For a long time women in India remained within the four walls of their household. Their dependence on men folk was total. A long struggle going back over a century has brought women the property rights, voting rights, equality in civil rights before the law in matters of marriage and employment. Women are playing bigger and bigger role in economic field: as workers, consumers, entrepreneurs, managers and investors. A new pattern is emerging in which both partners work outside the home but do not share equally in housework and child care as we see in Western families. In India, the paternalistic attitude of the male has not undergone much change. In spite of such drawbacks and hurdles that still prevail, Indian women (especially educated) are no longer hesitant or apologetic about claiming a share and visibility within the family, at work, in public places, and in the public discourse.

It is very difficult to change the mind set of women. Women are the enemy to another woman. The world suffers a lot, not because of the violence of bad people, but because of the hidden secrets of good people who are none other than the women. Last but not the least I would like to conclude by saying that united we stand, divided we fall.

Key Words: Empowerment, Employment, Mind Set, Violence

Introduction: Identity of woman is generally defined by her role within the family. She is identified as a daughter, daughter-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, wife, etc., and not as a person. She has no independent connections, friends and relatives outside her family. Her only friends, relatives and connections are those of the men folk of the family, becoming her kith and kin and friends by implication and not by voluntary choice. She has thus a subordinate status in the family. However, there are various degrees of woman's identity, depending upon caste and class background of her family.

Whenever a woman has expressed her identity as a person, she has been put to a lot of hardship. Dowry harassment and bride-burning have sprung up as violence against women. The institutions of joint family and hypergamy need a reorientation. The joint family home, for example, is a place where the daughter-in-law is treated as an 'outsider' and a 'servant' of the family. She becomes an object of scolding and ridicule for everyone in the family. Hypergamy demands the marriage of a girl within the framework of caste endogamy and clan exogamy with a boy belonging to a family of higher status. Due to hypergamy and the higher value attached to the boy among the Hindus, dowry has virtually become a price for a boy.

There is a need of an hour to change the mind set of women. Hence an attempt is made in this paper to study the nature, attitude and life style of women, their strengths and weakness, the hidden secrets of women, and solutions to change the mind set of women.

Women coming out of their shells: The position and status of women all over the world has risen

incredibly in the 20th century. We find that it has been very low in 18th and 19th centuries in India and elsewhere when they were treated like 'objects' that can be bought and sold. For a long time women in India remained within the four walls of their household. Their dependence on men folk was total. A long struggle going back over a century has brought women the property rights, voting rights and equality in civil rights before the law in matters of marriage and employment.

In India, the customs of purdha (veil system), female infanticide, child marriage, sati system (self-immolation by the women with their husbands), dowry system and the state of permanent widowhood were either totally removed or checked to an appreciable extent after independence through legislative measures. Two Acts have also been enacted to emancipate women in India. These are: Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2006. The Act is applicable on all women irrespective of caste, creed or religion. It would truly empower Indian women to exercise their rights.

Women are playing bigger and bigger role in economic field: as workers, consumers, entrepreneurs, managers and investors. Manufacturing work, traditionally a male preserve, has declined, while jobs in services have expanded, reducing the demand for manual labour and putting the sexes on equal footing. We can now see women in almost every field: architecture, lawyers, financial services, engineering, medical and IT jobs. They have also entered service occupations such as a nurse, a beautician, a sales worker, a waitress, etc. They are increasingly and gradually seen marching into

domains which were previously reserved for males (police, driver's army, pilots, chartered accountants, commandos). In spite of their increasing number in every field, women still remain perhaps the world's most underutilized resources. Many are still excluded from paid work and many do not make best use of their skills.

The rapid pace of economic development has increased the demand for educated female labour force almost in all fields. Women are earning as much as their husbands do, their employment nonetheless adds substantially to family and gives family an economic advantage over the family with only one breadwinner. This new phenomenon has also given economic power in the hands of women for which they were earlier totally dependent on males. Economically independent women feel more confident about their personal lives. Hence, they are taking more personal decisions, for instance, about their further education, marriage, etc. More and more women want freedom of work and control their own reproduction, freedom of mobility and freedom to define one's own style of life. It is contended that freedom leads to greater openness, generosity and tolerance.

Women being empowered: This new pattern of working wives and mothers has affected the status of women in many ways. Women's monetary independence leads them to the way to empowerment. Economic independence of women has also affected the gender relationships. In traditional marriages the relationships were hierarchical and authoritarian. The modern conjugal relationships are based on freedom and desire rather than convention. People's attitudes about marriage are also changing. Educated women now feel that there is more to life than marriage. They can get most of the things they want (income, status, identity) without marriage, while they find it harder to find a suitable accomplished mate. This is why their marriage is delayed. With increasing literacy among women in India, their entry into many types of work, formerly the preserve of men, women can now look upon the bearing and raising of their children not as a life's work in itself but as an episode. If women have started taking men's work, it could be said that men have taken over women's. A new pattern is emerging in which both partners work outside the home but do not share equally in housework and child care as we see in Western families. In India, the paternalistic attitude of the male has not undergone much change. In spite of such drawbacks and hurdles that still prevail, Indian women (especially educated) are no longer hesitant or apologetic about claiming a share and visibility within the family, at work, in public places, and in the public discourse.

The hidden secrets and the mind set of women:

Women at home sacrifice their life for the family, failing to care for their personal health, education and career. Women do not select their diet rather they fill their tummy by the left out in the family and often skip their meals. Working women fail in their duty both at home and working place because they are not able to balance between home and office. Women who are housewives create their own boundaries, not willing to take up career and entrepreneurial skill boldly and have a fear that they are unable to balance between family and career. They are afraid to come out to the society to develop themselves because of family commitments and thus fail to achieve their desires in the society.

Women activists have even to some extent failed their responsibility in their family life. They are either spinster not willing to take up family life or it is a hindrance for their achievements or they are divorcee and are not able to balance between family and society. The society looks women with a bad impression and questions and blames her for being late at home. But in case of the men, the same society who belongs to the women community acknowledges that the men are working hard and have sympathy for them.

Generally in a co-education institution the girls change the minds of the boys who were very free and approachable. Before marriage the parents find difficult to read the minds of the girl child and after marriage the in-laws find it difficult. Even in the working environment it is very difficult to analyze the nature of the women.

Though women play a sacrificial role in the family, they can tolerate men but not with single women. Women are the enemy to another woman due to the nature of jealousy. No women are interested in the development of other women. Women are known for gossiping and they are united only in this situation. Generally in the marriage life there is conflict between mother in law and daughter in law only and not with the men. In this case men are generous and broad minded and try to avoid the situation. Only in few cases men join with the mother and harass the women. Women envy and imitate their neighbours in all their aspects. In a very simple situation, when women are commented by men casually, they take it easily and forget it but if the same is made by other women, they take it seriously and react to it. Of course, eve teasing by men is a serious issue that bothers women to be checked and controlled.

Uneducated women or dependent women in the rural suffer because of women being under privileged and poverty. Many uneducated women in the urban areas are not exception to this issue. The reason behind is that men are not educated and unemployed mostly. Moreover, the men are not willing to take up job and

are not willing to work under the higher officials. They are spoilt by their ego. They have rather enjoyed being jobless and have the privilege of enjoying the income, jewelry and property of the women, received in the form dowry and finally ends up with bankruptcy and poverty. Because of the poverty the men are addicted to alcohol and illegal activities.

Though the government helps men in providing 100 days employment opportunity on one side, it in return gets back the same through TASMAL, government owned alcohol business on the other side. The women are the most affected in the situation and it leads to accident and no peace in the family. The women suffer and adjust the situation to the extreme and in fact the women forget it sooner and treat the men with love and care. Most of the men preferred to start big business and finance companies, resulting in loss. The women tolerate and support them financially to the extreme. One such effort is the initiation of micro finance and self help groups. The women tries to gain income for the family when men losses the property. But actually the woman suffers and spoils the men folks.

Suggestions: Women should personally care for their education; talents and carrier by bring 100 percent literacy, employment, entrepreneurs and empowerment in India. Since women are more creative they should lend their hands out for the economic development of our country irrespective of

women being a house wife or working women. Women should know to balance between home and office and care for themselves. In general both house wives and working women have to specially care for their health and diet. Apart from their daily work they should practice exercises or gym or yoga or games. This helps the women to be more active, healthy and stress free in life. In General, women should not sacrifice themselves and spoil the men folk by supporting financially during poverty rather must control men and try to extract work from them productively. Women can show the love for the family at the same time she should not be exploited. Every woman must respect the women community thereby maintaining unity. They should not be blaming the men rather they should be blamed.

Conclusions: In the future there may be more house husbands and there may be slogans arising for men saying no violence against men. **"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform."**

The world suffers a lot, not because of the violence of bad people, but because of the hidden secrets of good people who are none other than the women community. Hence, such good people must come out with a changing mind set. Last but not the least, I would like to conclude by saying that united we the women stand, divided we the women fall.

References

1. Abraham, Vino (2012) "Wages and Earnings of Marginalized Social and Religious Group in India", MPRA,
2. CSO (2010), Women and Men in India (2010), New Delhi, Government of India Central Statistical Office.
3. N.L.Gupt (2003) Women's Through Ages, Concept Publications Co, New Delhi.
4. Kamala singh [1992] women Entrepreneurs Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi.
5. KumudaRanjan's (2001) "women and Modern occupation in India". PP.21-22
6. R.K. Rao (2001) Women and Education, Kalpaz Publications, Delhi.

Dr. S Jeyarani MA, MBA, M.Phil, Ph.D
Assistant Professor in Economics,
The American College