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## **Position of Women in Vedic and Present Society**

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### **Abstract:**

*Women play a great role in the social and family system. Gender inequality can be observed even in the present society from the Vedic age. The basic tenets of women's rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution are equality, dignity, freedom from discrimination. In addition, many rules apply to women's rights. Respect and tolerance towards each other is one of the great human values. It is said that "love creates love". I also believe that "respect creates respect". And when everyone tries to respect one another and when men and women are equally respected in a society, then the social and family system will become stronger and healthier.*

**Keywords: Women, inequality, Gender, vedic.**

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Women constitute almost half of the world population and are one of the main stakeholders of a society. Women play a great role in the social and family system. Sometimes, a woman appears as a mother, sometimes as a wife and sometimes as a daughter. All these roles are respected and dignified. But in Indian society we see women being oppressed in various ways in different places. There is a tendency to look down on women from men. Gender inequality can be observed even in the present society from the Vedic age.

Gender inequality exists not only in Indian society but in all social systems in the world. This disparity is evident in Indian literature as well as in other world literatures. Especially in the poetic literature of Bengal poets, we can learn about the suffering of women. After many tortures, the writings of the poets showed-

“Samyer gan gai

Amar chokshe Purush-Ramoni kono bhedabhed nai”<sup>1</sup>

It is generally said that in the Vedic age the place of women was very high. Rigveda is the first book of Vedic literature. There is no direct statement about the place of women here. But the place of women can be understood from various descriptions. The composition of the Rigveda has several layers. In the first level of mantras, women are relatively independent. Goddess Usha is the bride of the sun in some mantras, mother in some, and daughter in some.<sup>2</sup> It is in this period that we know that women themselves choose their life partners, “Swayangsa Mitrang Banute Jane Chit”.<sup>3</sup> Some women used to stay unmarried for life and spend their lives

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<sup>1</sup> Islam Najrul, Sanchita, Samyabadi, D.M. Library, Kolkata, 1926

<sup>2</sup> Rigveda, 1:46:4

<sup>3</sup> Rigved, 10:27:12

learning and practicing the scriptures. Premarital love and illicit love were also prevalent in this period. In some cases widows were remarried. Usually a widow married her son-in-law. Ghosh, Apala, Bishwabara Women like composed Vedic verses. So it is said in reference to educated women, “Skriyah satih ta u je pungsah ahuh..”.<sup>4</sup> That is, they are men even though they are women. In the age of Upanishads Gargi, philosophers like appeared. He participated in debates with scholars like Yajnavalkya. High caste women used to take part in Yajna with their husbands. They also owned property and could remarry if they wished after the death of their husbands. But in the Vedic age, especially in the later Vedic age, the condition of women was not all that good. Gradually the condition of Shudras and women in the society was getting worse day by day. The woman was called 'Varsha'; that is bharaniya or whom to support. There was no such thing as his freedom. In childhood she is subject to the father, in youth to the husband and in old age or widowhood to the son. Many marriages were common among men but not among women. The wife had to be loyal to her husband. The Atharva Veda, however, mentions polygamy among women. In the Vedic age, marriage was not compulsory for women, but it happened later. Satidah was not practiced at this time. In the age of Atharva Veda, Sahamaran or Satidah is known. It is also known about virginity in marriage. At the beginning of the Vedic age, women were not confined to the house; Even women named Mudgalini, Bishopala, Shashiyasi, etc., took part in the war.

But later the place of women gradually became in the inner city. Her main job was to give birth to a son. Her husband had the right to abandon a woman who was childless or just gave birth to a daughter. In that case the husband could remarry. There was no forgiveness for the sexual crimes of women. But in the case of men, it was indulged. There was something about the woman's mind, it was not thought, even her husband had the right to beat her. In a word, the notion that there was 'femininity' in ancient times is largely misunderstood.

Last few millennia The Indian women situation of has changed a lot in the. From antiquity to the middle ages, the history of the deterioration of their condition and the re-emergence of equal rights through the efforts of a few social reformers is quite eventful. In modern India, women have held many important positions including President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition, Union Minister, Chief Minister, Governor.

In India, women are now fully involved in education, sports, politics, media, industry and culture, service sector, science and technology, etc.

The basic tenets of women's rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution are equality, dignity, freedom from discrimination. In addition, many rules apply to women's rights.

Sorry to say that, in India of the 21st century, women are helpless today. Almost every day starting from lower level to higher working women are being sexually abused in various ways.

Not only at home, but also outside the workplace, women have no security. Most surprisingly, in some families, women are still killed when they give birth to children or are abandoned in an abandoned place. Women are also being raped while driving a vehicle.

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<sup>4</sup> Taittiriya Aranyaka, 1:11:4  
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In present India, various problems of women are gradually increasing. In almost every family, women have to accept mental and physical abuse. Women are oppressed at the hands of different members of the family starting from the husband. Unable to bear the torture, many women chose the path of suicide

Also, honor-killing practices are prevalent in different parts of the world, even in India. Honor-killing is the killing of a loved one at the hands of a loved one for the sake of honoring the family. In this case, most of the victims are women. At present, women are being deprived of inheritance in many families. Sometimes being disposed of with a small amount of property and sometimes being completely deprived. It can be said that the education system which is devoid of morality and has co-education is making the problem of women worse day by day. It goes without saying that there is no proper initiative to build a women-friendly society. Legislation has been formulated but its proper use has not been observed even today. The hard truth is, Women's Day is being celebrated today. But, only on this day women are shown respect, and for the remaining 364 days women are subjected to oppression, injustice and torture. Now the last question is, how long will this oppression of women continue? When will this developed society give respect and dignity to women in the right way? And when will the eyes, conscience, knowledge, intellect of this society are awakened???

Respect and tolerance towards each other is one of the great human values. It is said that "love creates love". I also believe that "respect creates respect". And when everyone tries to respect one another and when men and women are equally respected in a society, then the social and family system will become stronger and healthier.

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