

Place of Women in Society Today

Or

The Eve on the March

Or

Women's Liberation

Or

Careers open to Women Today

Or

Emancipation of Women

The position and status of women in society has been changing from time to time. In Vedic India, woman was considered to be a goddess. No religious or social function was considered to be auspicious where woman was not present. She was called the "Ardhangini" (the better half) of man. She had a fairly high status in society. That is why in the nomenclature of couples, the name of the woman was always put before the name of man, for example, Sita-Ram, Radhey-Sham, etc. When Sita was in exile, Lord Rama had to get a golden statue of Sita built for the Yajan he performed. All this shows the high esteem in which women were held in ancient India.

With the advent of Muslims in India, the position of women received a set-back. They had to go behind the veil. The British rulers, too, did not take any concrete steps to improve the status of women. It was only with the dawn of freedom that the position and status of women took a turn for the better. Our national leaders started working for the emancipation of women. They were given their rightful place in all spheres of life. Discrimination on the basis of sex became a matter of the past.

As a result of all this, the woman broke out of the four walls of her house and started marching ahead in life. She joined the worldwide phenomenon of women. Today, the eve is certainly on the march. In fact, she

has left man far behind in many fields. We have women legislators, women ministers, ambassadors, doctors, lawyers, teachers and officers. With the encouragement of co-education, modern girls have thrown off old complexes and they are marching shoulder to shoulder with boys in every field of life.

A modern girl is conscious of her position and importance in the society. She is no longer a dumb cow of the society. She competes with boys and every sphere of life. She is full of self-confidence. She is as ambitious as the boys and wants to become a problem for the poor parents. A girl born to poor parents does not cut down her needs. She, too, wants to enjoy life like her rich friends.

A woman in olden days had to depend upon her parents, her husband or her sons for the whole of her life. But the modern even is as free as a bird. She no longer depends on others. Education has raised her status. She is keen on becoming self-supporting. She likes to enter some profession. It does not mean that she wants to remain alone or unmarried. She longs to have respectable status. She does not like to be dumb driven cattle.

Freedom is good but too much of freedom is bad. The modern girl should not employ westernize "herself. She should copy only the best of the West without losing the best of the East. She should not forget the glorious traditions of the Indian women. Nobody, would like to keep her confined freedom wrongly.