



Unpaid services given by the women in the family

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Abstract

In the present paper; the researcher tells that the importance of women in the family as well as in the society. She further explains that woman is man's helpmate, partner and comrade. She sacrifices her personal pleasure and ambitions, sets standard of morality, relieves stress and strain, tension of husband, and maintains peace and order in the household. Thereby she creates necessary environment for her male partner to think more about the economic upliftment of family. She is the source of inspiration to man for high endeavor and worth achievements in life. She stands by him in all the crises as well as she shares with him all successes and attainments. She is the person to whom he turns for love, sympathy, understanding, comfort and recognition. She is the symbol of purity, faithfulness and submission and devotion to her husband. We know that all the above mentioned statements for women are true and fact but there is a question arise in the minds of the readers. It is simply whether we are given proper respect to the women whose service are unpaid but admirable. Sometimes; people do not talk to them in proper language. They need nothing but only sympathy and words of affection and love. The researcher also tries to draw the attention of the readers towards the unpaid services given by the women in the family. The role of a woman is very admirable. At first; they act as daughter, then wife, then mother and after all they act as a great well-wisher of the family as well as of the society but what they get in return back. Women's rights is the fight for the idea that women should have equal rights with men.

Keywords: women in the family, upliftment of family, love, sympathy, understanding, comfort, Recognition, purity, faithfulness and submission

Introduction

A well-ordered disciplined household is essential to normal family life. The woman in the family assumes this function. She is the chief executive of an enterprise. She assigns duties among family members according to their interest and abilities and provides resources in-term of equipment and materials to accomplish the job.

She plays a key role in the preparation and serving of meals, selection and care of clothing, laundering, furnishing and maintenance of the house. As an administrator, she organizes various social functions in the family for social development. She also acts as a director of recreation. She plans various recreational activities to meet the needs of young and old members of the family.

Woman acts as the humble manager of the family income. It is her responsibility to secure maximum return from every spent. She always prefers to prepare a surplus budget instead of a deficit budget. She is very calculating loss and gain while spending money. She distributes judiciously the income on different heads such as necessities, comforts and luxuries. The woman in the family also contributes to the family income through her own earning within or outside the home. She has positive contribution to the family income by the work. She herself performs in the home and uses waste products for productive purposes.

The whole burden of child bearing and greater part of child rearing task are carried out by the woman in the family. She is

primarily responsible for the child's habit of self-control, orderliness, industriousness, theft or honesty. Her contacts with the child during the most formative period of his development sets up his behaviour pattern. She is thus responsible for the maintenance of utmost discipline in the family.

She is the first teacher of the child. She transmits social heritage to the child. It is from mother that the child learns the laws of the race, the manner of men, moral code and ideals. The mother, because of her intimate and sustained contact with the child, she is able to discover and nurture child's special traits aptitudes and attitudes which subsequently play a key role in the shaping of his personality.

As a mother she is the family health officer. She is very much concerned about the physical wellbeing of every member of the family, the helpless infant, the sickly child, the adolescent youth, and senescent parent. She organizes the home and its activities in such a way so that each member of the family has proper food, adequate sleep and sufficient recreation. She made the home a place of quite comfortable and appropriate setting for the children through her talent. Besides, she cultivates taste in interior design and arrangement, so that the home becomes an inviting, restful and cheerful place.

The mother is the central personality of the home and the family circle. All the members turn to her for sympathy, understanding and recognition. Woman devotes her time, labour and thought for the welfare of the members of the

family. For the unity of interacting personalities, man provides the temple woman provides the ceremonies and the atmosphere.

The woman performs the role of wife, partner, organizer, administrator, director, re-creator, disbursing, economist, mother, disciplinarian, teacher, health officer, artist and queen in the family at the same time. Apart from it, woman plays a key role in the socio-economic development of the society.

Modern education and modern economic life use to compel woman more and more to leave the narrow sphere of the family circle and work side by side for the enrichment of the society. She can be member of any women's organization and can launch various programmes like literacy programme such as adult education, education for disadvantaged girls etc.

The purpose of introducing such literacy programme is to raise the society as education enables women to respond to opportunities, to challenge their traditional roles and to change their life circumstances. Education is the most important instrument for human resource development.

Women are the key to sustainable development and quality of life. So; they should be members of community centre or club to disseminate knowledge about handicraft, cottage industries, food preservation and low cost nutritious diet to people belonging low socio economic status for their economic upliftment. They should act as leaders of the society to raise voice against women violence, exploitation in household as well as in work place, dowry prohibition superstition and other social atrocities.

Feminism is a belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power and chances as men and be treated in the same way or the set of activities intended to achieve this state. This is the definition one can notice in the oxford dictionary. The expression is as old as the English Language. For centuries women were merely portrayed as the souls of dependence and this dependence can be effectively identified with a couplet from Manu, the ancient codifier of Hindu law, who has rightly summed up the dependence of a female in our society in these lines:

Duteous girl obeys her father,
Husband sways the duteous wife,
Son controls the widowed mother,
Never free is a women's life. (23)

Men and women are complementary to each other. Neither of them can claim any superiority over the other. But in human civilization, women are often allocated a secondary role. However, they possess the power of endurance, affinity, love and foresight which contribute to the happiness of others.

Beginning from the inception of the Universe, there has been a fascinating myth associated with the creation of woman by the Supreme Creator, Lord Brahma. And indeed, beginning from Brahma Himself, the idea of feminism in Indian literature, both oral and written, had begun to be established, though perhaps not as blatant as it is today. It is said that Brahma had first created man and in his generosity, had desired to give man a companion. But by then, he had depleted all the materials in the creation of man and hence he had borrowed umpteen components from the handsome creation of

nature and had thus made woman out of them. Lord Brahma had introduced woman to his earlier creation man stating, "She will serve you lifelong and if you cannot live with her, neither can you live without her".

Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the present paper is given as under:

The objective and purpose of this paper is to show the importance and power of women in our day –to –day life as well as because they are equal to men and they always help and care us to lead a happy and peaceful life. The present attempt is a pleasant gift to the readers and the readers of the world who think that women are not inferior to men and their contributions are also very important for all-round development of the nation. Over history, this has taken the form of gaining property rights, the women's suffrage, or the right of women to vote, reproductive rights, and the right to work for equal pay.

Role of women in the family

Women are the pioneers of nation. Indian culture attaches great importance to women, comprising half of world's population. According to a report of secretary general of United Nations, women constitute 50% of human resources, the greatest human resource next only to man having great potentiality. Women are the key to sustainable development and quality of life in the family. The varieties of role the women assume in the family are those of wife, leader, administrator, manager of family income and last but not the least important the mother.

Women Rights

- Right to equality, education, live with dignity, liberty, politics, property, equal opportunity for employment, free choice of profession, livelihood, work in equitable condition, get equal wages for equal work, protection from gender discrimination, social protection in the eventuality of retirement, old age and sickness, protection from inhuman treatment
- Right to protection of health
- Right to privacy in terms of personal life, family, residence, correspondence etc. and
- Right to protection from society, state and family system.
- Right to freedom of Speech
- Special Reservation in jobs and politics, particularly in defenses

Dowry deaths: In India the unusual dowry deaths of the women at their matrimonial home has been increasing at a startling rate. Dowry disputes are quite a serious problem. The National Crime Records Bureau in India in its report had disclosed that in 2012 around 8233 newly wedded brides were killed for dowry. "The role of husband's reaction to dowry brought at the time of marriage on subsequent experience of marital violence. The substantially reduced risk of experiencing physical and sexual violence among women whose husbands were satisfied with the dowry reflects the strong influence of dowry in determining women's position within the household"

Domestic Violence: In India; the 'Dowry Prohibition Act' and the 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act' and cruelty under Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code in 1983⁴ declares brutality to a woman in her conjugal house a punishable and non-bailable offence that can lead to a sentence of up to three years and fine.

Sati: Even though Sati, an action whereupon the exercise of setting widows on the funeral pyres of their spouse, was barred in the pre-colonial India by social reformer Raja Rammohan Roy, but this practice continued to prevail in post-colonial India.

Child Marriage: In India; although there exist a law barring the marriages of children at primitive age, but it is still being practiced in different parts of India. Child marriage takes away from a girl child the innocence of her formative years of life necessary for physical, emotional and psychological development. Spousal violence especially sexual violence perpetrated by husbands has severe effect on the innocent mind and body of the child. Even today in India a number of children are married off on the auspicious day of Akas Teej in Rajasthan.

Preference for a son: The preference for a son is a phenomenon which is historically rooted in the patriarchal system of the Indian society. The strong preference for having a son emerged with the transition of the Indian society from primitive stage which used to be primarily a matrilineal to feudal stage where agriculture emerged as the primary established occupation of the people to be controlled by the male.

Female foeticide: The low status of women goes on with the practice of infanticide, foeticide, sex-selective abortion which has become common due to the amniocentesis technology, and mal-nourishment among girl children. In India; it is estimated that around "10 million female fetuses" have been aborted in the last 20 years.

Education: Education is one of the most critical areas of empowerment for women. Although; the right to education under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution have made it compulsory for the government to provide free education to everybody, the high rate of women's education is still a distant dream. In spite of the fact that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to an extent has been successful in bringing the girl child back to the schools, yet their retention rate in the school is lower as compared to their male counterpart.

Rape: In India; there has been a significant increase in the numbers of rape cases in the last 10 years. According to National Crime Records Bureau, in 2012, 25000 rape cases were reported. In India in the rural areas, particularly in Northern India, the upper caste people use mass rapes as a strategy to have power over the members of the lower caste groups. The brutal gang rape case in Delhi had led to the passage of a stricter Law i.e. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 to deal with the rape cases in India.

Protection of Women's Human Rights by the Constitution of India

The constitution of India confers special rights upon women. The constitution makers were well aware of the subordinate and backward position of women in the society. They made some efforts for uplift of women in our society. The state is directed to provide for maternity relief to female workers under Article 42 of the Constitution, whereas Article 51-A declares it as a fundamental duty of every Indian citizen to renounce practices to respect the dignity of women.

Strategies of women empowerment in India

The women's organizations must try to empower women by changing the attitudes of the society towards the harmful traditional practices. One of the most vital tasks of the various women organizations and NGOs is to help women in rebuilding their lives and confidence. These goals can be achieved only if the women are adequately educated about their legal rights and are economically independent enough to take independent decisions of their own life. Such programmes if done within shelter homes can provide both counselling and a connection among the women's who were victimized.

Violence against women can be curtailed only when cultural norms and attitudes towards the women can be changed for which change should be made in the school curriculum.

Summing Up

Most of the women writers have tried to highlight the role and problems of women in all their novels. The present paper discusses the role of women played in the family. Each and every human being is a member of family, which is the smallest cell of society. It provides some degree of mutual caring and sharing that transmits knowledge, values and material benefits from generation to generation. As infants and small children we learn from our families the patterns of behavior that affects all our later relationships both with other members of the family and with the society as a whole. Families continue to be societies most basic and pervasive organization. Shashi Deshpande portrays modern, educated and career-oriented middle class women, who are quite sensitive to the eternal changing time and situations. Her women are aware of the cultural and social shortcomings to which they are subjected in this male-dominated society. They rebel against their men in search for freedom and identity, but ultimately find themselves up against well-entrenched social inertia. Quite aware of the predicament of a woman in this male-chauvinist society, especially when she is not economically independent, the author presents her women's longing to become economically and ideologically independent. She finds her women caught up in a conflict between their family and professional roles, between individual aspiration and social demands. Her women stand at the cross roads of traditions. They seek change but within the cultural norms, seek not to reinterpret them, but merely make them alive with dignity and self-respect. Her women seek anchorage in marriage. They look at it as an alternative to the bondage imposed by the parental family and opt for it. They

strongly believe in conformity and compromise for the sake of the retention of domestic harmony rather than revolt, which might result in the disruption of family relationships.

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