

Women as Paragons of Virtue and Social Perfectionists

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Abstract:

The article "Women as Paragons of Virtue and Social Perfectionists" examines women's vital roles in shaping moral and social values, from nurturing family bonds to influencing society through empathy and resilience. While often limited by traditional expectations, women's influence as cultural and ethical pillars is celebrated, citing figures like Sita and numerous historical examples that showcase women's enduring strengths. It advocates for equal opportunities, highlighting how women's unique qualities enhance family and professional environments alike. Ultimately, the article urges the rethinking of gender roles, underscoring women's contributions as essential to societal progress and harmony.

Key Words; Gender roles, Gender equity, Empowerment.

Introduction: Women as We Know

The problem of women starts with the birth of a girl-child, who is hardly welcome in majority of the families. Right from the time of a woman's conception to the embryonic stage Of a girl-child, her growth and development wholly depend on the would-be-mother. Once the full growth is completed in the mother's womb, the delivered baby-child has to be nourished solely by the mother's milk. The rearing stage succeeding the bearing period is not so simple and easy as one thinks. Once the girl attains maturity, she helps the family, particularly the mother in various works in kitchen and outside. This happens even if the girl is engaged in studies. Her becoming a major makes responsible, her following her marriage to a strangeman, whose family name is adopted. She has to be obedient and respectful to her parents-in-law, including their daughters. Any minor problem in the family may lead to bad consequences, including her negligence by one and all ultimately leading to divorce. Under the circumstances, she has to undergo a repetition of her mother's experienced before as mother. The reader may be surprised at this account on women. But this is only a prologue to womanhood suggesting that its complex and complicated nature when one describes their role in society.

Women play a leading role in shaping the overall development and personality of their children until they stand on their own legs, and assume mundane responsibilities of their families. In one word, it has to be stated that women stay connected with their children until the end of either side of their life. Here one has to acknowledge the fact of men/husbands playing far in significant role in the matter of various issues concerning their children unlike the commitment of women. Therefore women are worshipped as Devathas or Sakthi/ Swarupinis in the entire

episode of human life and after. In the absence of women, families and households look nearly like no places to live in. This is how women become Kingpins of family!

Today women are found to be occupying dignified positions in almost all professional and non professional fields of society ranging from education, civil services, defence forces (military, airforce and navy business, politics, spirituality and divinity and so on and so forth, Women's reservation bill in India yet to see the day of light.

Even in household management, including the child-rearing, upbringing and educating the children, the male participation or commitment as stated earlier is appallingly low inspite of social Concern. Women as such take up each and every aspect of the issue of household management with all sincerity of purpose. Thus she does not wait for the male involvement in this matter. This makes to difficult to bring about change in male-attitude unless it happens automatically.

How did Our Forefathers-Rishis View Woman

Swami Vivekananda expressed that women and people are the main problems of society. He acknowledges that, women are a neglected lot from time immemorial due to the creation of sex and class. It may not be an exaggeration to view the women as the "aadisakthi" and "lokamatha". She is treated her as a slave and a machine for production of children. It is only by respecting women that the country and society can progress and go forward.

The ideal personalities of the country are **Sita** and **Rama**, whose marriage not only reveals their ideal nature but also civilization. The name **Sita** stands for chastity, purity and holiness. When she went to forest along with Rama, the patience and sacrifice shown by her are highly commendable and remarkable. Such traits can hardly be found in any woman of the world history. This speaks of the greatness of our country and society. It is not an exaggeration to speak that men like Rama can be found in world history but not women of the quality and level of Sita – "Nabhutho nabhavishyathi". Sita is not only the pride of our country but also of our society. Such traits as those of Sita can also be observed in the present generation of women. We are the proud children of such holy and ideal mother Sita. This is the place of women in Indian society. Influenced by Western culture, we have ill-treated and under-rated our women. We worship her as the "Sakthi", which is customary in Indian Society.

According to **Manu**, where women are respected there are all riches. If we look at the present state of affairs, it becomes clear how badly women are treated and neglected all along. If a woman sheds tears, the kind of riches of Indra are bound to liquidate – "Sakrasyapi Sriyam Harath". God is called the Great Mother. We have to question ourselves whether such **Sakthi Swarupinis** are unfit for job, service to nation as rulers and so

on. Does it mean that they are fit to be confined to kitchen. If they are given equal opportunities as the men have, they can excel the latter. Because of our selfishness, we have decided to call them weaklings incapable of carrying out manly jobs and therefore dump them into the kitchen. It is only by respecting and worshipping women, we shall be pleasing the angels – "**yatranaryasthu pujyanthe, ramanthe thathra Devathah**". In the words of **Manu**, "The Gods are pleased where the woman are held in esteem". It is well known how **Gargi** of ancestral times argued on **Brahmatathvam** with **Mahamuni Yagnavalkya** in the presence **Janaka**. **Maithreyi** taught the essence of Vedas to the Sapta Rishis. Belonging to this category are women of the level of Sulabha, Vadava, Pradhitheyi and others who attained the level of Maithreyi.

Swami Vivekananda's assertion is "what has happened once, can certainly happen again. History repeats itself". This holds good in the case of Smt Indira Gandhi as the Prime Minister of the greatest democracy of India. In the words of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, "They (Women) are the living images of Sakthi. The great mother

disintegrated will be seen in so many crores of Forms as women on earth”. Upanishaths speak high of women thus: “She, when pleased becomes propitious and the cause of the Freedom of man. Without propitiating the mother by worship and obeisance not even Brahma, or Vishnu have the power to elude her grasp and attain to Freedom”. Rishis Patanjali, Panini among others praised the qualities of womanhood.

What Do Scholars Say

According to HW Beecher, the God-Almighty has taught us to learn the holiness and greatness of the woman. He further asserts that God’s creation holds the woman’s heart in high esteem. The motherhood in woman bestows wholehearted love even on such humans as those hated and rejected by society, the handicapped or any other categories. She sees great beauty or handsomeness in us and bear anger or ugliness with equanimity. She sacrifices her food or sleep for our sake. She stands as an ever-burning jyothi by sacrificing her heart and soul. RP Downes observed that those who don’t see sweetness and wholeness in the words of mother, sister, daughter and wife are devils. With out them or in their absence, the world can be branded as burial ground, city or other categories of entities. The good qualities we

derived and possessed form an endowment to women. Charles Lemeslee laments that our bad qualities or behaviour cause agony and burden to women.

F. Hargrave appreciates women thus: “ Women are the poetry of the world in the same sense as stars are the poetry of heaven; clear, light-giving; harmonious, they are the terrestrial planets that rule the destinies of mankind.” They are the earthly angels, who rule by controlling and balancing the male power. All western poets ranging from Scotts, Dickens, William Makepeace, Thakare, Block More, Stevenson, Shakespere, Harde and a host of others in their contributions gave higher importance to female roles than males. Beauty, holiness and purity are the hallmarks of their female roles and are considered as ideal. The great Kavi Kalidas said of women as “Shree Namaji Madhuram” .

What is Great in Women

All the Greek literature asserts the greatness of women . Some women characters such as Hector Yeda Andramashi’s; devotion to her husband, how Sathvi Penilo patiently waited for Ulyssis, and the way great woman like Alcestis, Aantigoon and Ifiginia sacrificed their lives for their husbands speak volumes about these greawomen. The role of Nowsika in the story of Odessye is a direct proof of women’s greatness. The Italian poet Dante contributed to women’s beauty and character making both earth and heaven beautifl.

The English poet’s work **A Legend of Good Women** is an outstanding contribution. On the other hands the poet did not write on **A Legend of Good Men**, which shows the unique place given to women rather than men. Spencer’s **Lunaa** is another wonderful contribution. While criticizing John Ruskin and Shakespere, Spencer asserted that their works contained ‘Luuna’ as a wonderful creation, and said that this contribution centred around female leaders rather than men. Gotha in his ‘Fair Saint’ dealt with woman’s role as a jewel in the world literature. Browning Provided extraordinary roles for Pompilia and Pippa in his works. Melherebe expressed the role for women thus: “As the light house to the sailors in the troubled seas, so the women a beacon light for the troubled Humanity”. The great poet Tennyson’s creation of the roles of Meenid, Illen and Princess speak very high of women. He did this when he managed to create a valuable sentence from the mouth of princess as follows: “ Better not be at all than not

to be noble.” All great poets never painted women as play toys or even as persons of entertainment. Montague asserted that a

woman leads the youth, a committed devotee for husband, soul for society and leader to heaven.

Robertson beautifully described woman's greatness thus: “Let man revere her and she will justify his reverence. Let him treat nobly, she will requite his nobleness a hundred-fold. Give her a speck of love, she will lay her all in magnificent self-surrender at his feet, only grieving that it is not more.” It is the mother who enables us to receive the first breath of love and milk. It is she who taught us the first alphabet of speech. It is the mother's hands which alone wipe our first tears as also the last ones. Jean Paul Rieher considers man and woman as notes of music for one another, though dissimilar. According to him, man and woman are though different in nature, they unite as a single entity of music like its mingling notes. Macey opines that “man is not complete in himself or woman in herself. They are as it were, two halves of Humanity.” This author asserts that man or woman individually hardly stand for fullness. Woman is only a softer man.” One poet went on viewing a man with soft, delicate qualities as a woman. Woman in her motherhood acquires certain emotional qualities which naturally make her rear the newborn child. Thakare opined as follows: “Man is woman's fullness and strength, woman is his quicker insight and his more winsome grace.” While main strength is his energy, boldness, hard work and soul power, woman's qualities include her delicacy, softness, faith, love, sacrifice, and decisions. Black More says “Man is the prose of Humanity, woman the poetry:

5. Qualities of Women:

Theodore Parker opined that “woman (she) is created first of all for God, next for herself and lastly for her husband and children”. He said God created woman first to fulfil his mission of creation. John Ruskin said that the discussion is unnecessary on the issue of who is greater among the woman and man. He viewed “each has what the other has not, and is completed by the other.” The woman-man relationship and bond lie in their giving what one has and acquire what one has not got. Woman's important quality lies in her nobility and large-heartedness which make her stand on a higher pedestal than man, which speaks of her personification.

Women are intelligent but they are not often creative inspite of their being scholarly. In the world of arts women do not stand up to the mark. All are men in these, the outstanding among them being Haandel, Beethoven, Raaphil Michael-Aanjilo. They did not shine in the field of literature too except women like Georgesyand, Madam Destayil, George Illiot, Sofo Browning and others. The men who reached great heights in this field include Bell Jock, Victor Haago, Scott, Thakare, Dickens, Shakespeare, Dante, Plato, Russel, Homer, Shelly, Wonderworth, Valmiki, Vyasa, Kalidas, Bhavabhuthi, Bharavi, Maaghudu and a host of others. In philosophy, it is not possible to compare Harriott Martiniv with Berkeley. So also in mathematical sciences, it is hardly possible to compare Mary Somer will with Newton and William Thompson.

6. Can Women Lead Men:

Since ancient times women have remained a neglected lot due to superstition, partiality, carelessness and a host of other factors which led to unequal opportunities. Therefore they did not progress much. Certain quarters think that women have small brains. But if we take quality it has to be admitted that their brain is greater and sharper. Tacitus described that the German women due to the possession of godliness and soul superiority, their brain is rated as higher than that of males. Where men fail to achieve the target inspite of their hard work and struggle, woman can solve it within no time. A French writer in his exposition said that the man may be able to climb the ladder, whereas the woman can be seen by man at a higher step of the ladder. Scientists comment that it is the natural quality of women. It is because of this unique quality that woman can save her children from the onslaught of enemies. It is usually commented that the woman who deliberates is lost and the man who does not is lost. These aspects clearly speak of the role of women, starting from the beginning of creation, in leading the men in all spheres of life besides fulfilling their life-agenda. All such holy women range from Eve, Mary, Jone of Arc, Fur Pethina, Saint Theresa, Roland, Mother Aagnis, Sita, Savitri, Anasuya, Ahalya, Atri, Gargi, Maithraji and so on worth worshipping irrespective their racial affiliation and country of origin. All those who know golden truth and reality certainly put the arrangement of the superiority or inferiority of these women.

7. Historical Truth:

World history witnessed countless number of crimes committed by men unlike women. Women are generally good-natured. But, they have been influenced by the company of men, according to Nickelson. Patience, perseverance and peace-loving nature are woman's jewels. Generally they do not become emotional unlike men who within seconds become emotional. Mrs. Browning in her "Aroru Ligh" pleads that if an erred woman happened to be a man's mother, there is none who can dare to punish her.

History shows that Egyptians and granians have given equal status, respect and opportunity to womenfolk unlike those of other nations, where women have been treated as slaves and toys of entertainment by men. In these nations, men using their muscle power ill-treated women in various ways. Polygynous marriages have been encouraged. The Muslim traditionlists have heavily suppressed and ill-treated their women-folk. In Zoroastrian religion, women used to be highly respected, particularly mother and daughter. The women in this religion were not only respected but they were given equal hereditary rights to their properties. In the Avesta, it is stated that the birth of a female in the family is a sign of happiness which is acceptable. The members of this religion assert that the women who leave the natal home after marriage make the husband's home as heaven which alone speaks high of them and their qualities. This is an ideal situation. In our country too, women have been ill-treated since ancient times. But this gave room for strength and valour making them independently excelling man in every dimension of life. This is the ultimate result of laudability.

A glance at the Greek and Roman literature reveals that the women were very ill-treated. Uripides was known to have too much hatred to women. Aristophenes was known to have depicted women very badly in his dramas. These persons treated women as slaves and man's personal property. Further while dying, they donated their wives to persons of their liking. Aristotle is known to have given some respect to females. But he said that women have to confine themselves to households, serving husbands and looking after children. Roman kings considered women as instruments in increasing population. Augustus asserted that illegitimacy is legal. Senika insulted women, while Metrilus felt

that women should not be given independence. It is said that the Roman husband has every right to kill his wife and children. Action of this kind led to the destruction of Rome.

The emergence and spread of Christianity contributed to respect and equality to women. The theory that came into force runs as follows: “If man owes much to Christ, Woman owes still more. Further all are equal within the church gate.” The woman who has been treated as mean slave, and devil has been looked upon and worshipped as Mary Maatha. Thus motherhood received great holiness and considered as the real successor. This led to women joining Christianity in big numbers. Thousands of women sacrificed their life too. Saint Augustine, Saint Gisostam, Saint Baasil, Saint Grigarinajiyam Jev., Deodoret and a host of others were considered as holy. Following the development of Christianity, respect for women also received name and fame. In the matter of education too, both men and women received similar treatment.

8. Why Strive For Equal Rights:?

In the Western countries too, women strove a lot for equal rights. This led to some progress in women's development. Earlier “She was an echo and not a voice” and now “she is the voice and not an echo.” It is only when equal rights and opportunities are given that one can witness an overall development of women. As superstitious beliefs and meaningless traditions started declining women came forward boldly to face societal issues leading to their acceptance by men. Hence Mahatma Gandhi alerted the Indian society that “she (women) is creator and guardian of society” Hence the thesis that “the equality of seeks is a foolish cry and an attempt to force woman into an unhealthy rivalry with man.” This is a meaningless thesis because of the fact that two men are equal because of the variation in their responsibilities and qualities except that they have to live loving each other.

In her book “The Ascent of Man”, Mrs Deverex stated that man and woman should live with complete liberty and independence when they can contribute to development of their country. She further said that “they are strong like the threads entwined into one” when they are champions of development. RP Downes opined thus: “From the earliest childhood it has been an instinct with us to Nestle for shelter – Near a Woman's heart and that instinct has never died with men.”

Tennyson in his work “Princess” described in detail the services rendered to Florian by Siki which are highly remarkable and speak of women's kindness, feelings, hearty treatment as their jewels and beyond one's imagination. Our childhood, love, our ever-remembering experiences in youth; and love, kindness etc., received in old age are all gifts of the Almighty in the form of women. Ward Bleacher said “All women are great in emergencies.” There is hardly any need to speak of the truthfulness in today's context: History reveals the large-heartedness of women besides their peaceful and excusable nature. Ian Maclaren questions thus: “Is there any man living who has ever fathomed that love, who has ever lived so as to deserve it, who shall ever be able to repay it?” Sumati loved her husband beyond imagination inspite of his being hated by the world. Gandhari covered her eyes with cloth following her husband. So also Chandramathi lived in the footsteps of her husband in the matter of comfort and death. Why did Sathi Savitri married Satyavanthudu inspite knowing his death occurring within a year. Belzac opined about women thus: “How beautiful and winsome nay how divine, is the quality of fedility in woman. To feel, to love, to suffer, to devote herself, will always be the text of life of woman.” The man has to bend his head in shame by seeing the woman's greatness where she lives by sacrificing her selfishness. In all vital issues, the value of the tears shed by her while leaving her parental home after marriage, her sacrifice of her selfishness when she goes with a strange man as husband, her difficulties and travails she undergoes while beginning a new life into the world and her love for her child even if he is handicapped, or leper are all great and matchless qualities attributable to a woman.

9. Bravery of Women:

There are many instances of bravery among women and not necessarily among men. In Scotland, James II could not find a way to escape from his palace. Then Catherine Douglas stretched her hand facilitating the king to come down from palace. . In the process, her hand broke leading to her death. Belonging to this category were Dibora, Bowdiciya, Kamilla, Jone of Arc, Marthaglaz and others who are all outstanding women. There are many such great women in India too whose adventurous stories are ever remembered. They include Jhansi, Ahalya Bai, Panna, Nagamamba, Rudramamba, Maachaala, Padmini, Audh, Maharani and others. A young woman by name Stella gave away her lifebelt to another soldier, sent message and saved her country. It is a naked truth that women's kindness and

anger are beyond one's estimation. According to Meater Link, every woman possesses a great sublime quality which may be found in a thousand men put together. In his own words, "women are essentially religious. She must trust. She must worship. Woman is superior to man in the strength of her religious emotions." What is the reason for this? Her natural motherhood enabled her to reach nearer to God. Theodore Parker said: "The pure in the heart see God." Women are more holier than men, who by their movements in the outer world commit numerous sins causing unholiness in them. On the contrary, the nature of women is different. There is no chance for them to become unholy just like that.

According to New Testament, women believed in Christ more, moved in His footsteps and surrendered to him. Akenside opined "Woman is the last at the cross and first at the sepulchre." All good qualities can be seen in a woman. Isocrates opined thus: "Woman has often been called the civiliser, the softener and the purifier of life and it is love and greatness which make her so" He asserted that woman controlled man's ferocious nature, balanced him and gave credence to civilization and holiness. There is not a single country where men made women pure and holy. France's revolutionary woman Jone of Arc, Switzerland heroine Marthaglaze, the 18 year-old Madame Cell Servan hanged for revealing the truth of her father, Monica as mother responsible for transforming Saint Augustine, Jijiya, Razia, Jhansi, Panna, Sumathi, Ahalyabai, Padmini, Nagamamba, Maanchaala, Rudramamba, and so on are known for their valour, heroism and idealism. Poet Byron's sister Augusta, poet Lamb's sister Mary, Goethe's sisters, Sidney's sister Mary, Wordsworth's sister Dorothy and many other women in their role as daughters, sisters, wives and mothers remarkably changed man to purity and holiness. But we do not come across any such examples in any country's history where men brought about transformation and holiness in women.

Motherhood in Women:

According to professor Huxley, "All women are either actually or potentially mothers, this preordered adaptation to the functions of woman, maturity is the basis of their physical constitution." Christina Rossetti, a famous poet, sang that women in their form as mothers develop their bodily and other forms of the system. They believe in the maxim of "love is God, God is love," Women are endowed with love, which is a powerful mission of life and is life's mission. "It (love) is the heart's nourishment, the soul's divinest blessing." "The progression and development of heart materialises through love. It is expressed as mother's love, love on husband, love on brothers and sisters, sufferers, unfortunate lot and so on. It also occurs as devotion to God, kindness on all earthly creatures and so on. Professor Mahaphi described love as above worldly matters and divine. The above author describes it thus: "Love is not appetite but a sentiment. True love is a bond of intellect to intellect, of heart to heart, of soul to soul, of life to life."

If we look at the history of any country, we find women occupying a respectable place. It is another matter if they have been ill-treated by some uncivilised societies. In our tradition, they are honoured by a respectable place: “Na Gayathryah Paromanthraha, Namathulu Paradaivatham” “Janani Janmabhumischa Swargaadapi gariyasi”, which stand testimony to the reality Sweden Borg describes that “A home without a woman is a well-decorated prison. Not walls or furniture or windows or curtains, but that nameless and ineffable charm which glorifies the loveliest.” A woman can transform a hut into heaven. In their roles as mothers, wives and sisters, women’s exemplary service to men and sacrifice are a standing testimony and proof in world history. Speaking about the spotlessness in women, Burke says thus: “Every care vanishes the moment I enter my own roof.” Luther comments, “I would not be charge of my property with her for all the riches of crores without her.” Robert Browning says thus: “How I look to you, For the pure and true, And the becoming and the right.” A holy woman boldly expressed that she is not afraid of even if leprosy affects her but she prays the God that her heart should be blemishless. A Swiss beauty by name Aemi married a blind man by name Francis Hyaber inspite of knowing the reality. She did so without even listening to her parents and friends not to marry him saying that “he needs my help all the time and hence I marry him.” In India too, there were many ideal woman who committed and submitted to live with their husbands all through their lives

– Sita Damayanti, Chandramathi, Sumati, Gandhari, Mandodari and so on. There were many great men like Clopstock, Stuvart Mill, Kabet, Heen, Gimmerman, great sculptor Flaksman, Henrry Lawrens, Makin Toss and so on who expressed indebtedness to their wires. The truth to be learnt from the history of women can thus be put; “Let man treat her nobly and she will transcend his nobleness, let him love devotedly and she will outmatch his love.”

The mother swings the child in the cradle and put it to sleep by saying thus: “You are Indrudu, Chandrudu.” Thus “The cradle is the altar of the family.” The greatnes of mothers lies in their treatment of children even when they grow up as Manmadha, Sri Rama and so on, and even if they are handicapped or extremely bad in character. The property of any country constitutes the disciplined citizens and not the richness of any kind all of which materialises through hands of woman. The woman plays the role of an ideal teacher to her children right from the day she conceives them until they become young and responsible. The science of psychology enlightens us on the following lines.

“The formation of character is the solemn and mighty trust which God has placed in the hands of women. During the period of infancy, the mind is as wax to receive and as marble to retain. Things taught upto the age of eleven, grow as it were into the very tissue fibre of the soul. They become a part of the mental and moral life and though they may afterwards be questioned or ever despised they can never be educated.” This shows the great responsibility and duty lying in the hands of mother. Any country and people neglecting this truth never go forward and flourish. On the other hand, if this is well utilized there can be tremendous progress in any country. Any man, even if he is aged, when he faces difficulties and miseries, remembers his mother. Adi Sankaracharya while remembering Jaganmatha said that a hungry and thirsty person remembers his mother. (“Kshudha thushartham Jananeem Smamaranthi”) The child’s mind is all-pervading, and deep. It has many hidden powers and is like a small seed responsible for a big tree small rivulet hiding a great river, **sarigamalu** contributing to music. The mother not only gives shape to them, but also develops in the child “Fathers make money but mothers matke character” according to Ettrick Shepherd. “The coming of a new being in this world is enough to show how much we owe to women.”

Qualities of Women

Peace, patience, forbearance, kindness and love towards sufferers, destitute, diseased, embracing the weaklings, etc., can be rated as simple qualities of women as seen in history. J.P. Bigg believed that God-Almighty has taken the form of women to take care of us in all respects. Maajini advised his followers to “consider woman as the partner and companion not merely of your joys and sorrows, but of your thoughts, your aspirations, your studies and your endeavours.” He further said thus: “consider her, your equal in your civil and political life. Be the two human wings that lift the soul toward the ideal we are destined to attain.” Patmore opined that “men are influenced entirely by women, through women they are lifted to heaven or driven to hell.” If the woman are well-educated, they can render yeomens service to the nation and people. Thomas Moore felt that “She shall tame the lion of lawless power, rebuke the tiger or vengeful hate, and tread upon the viper of degrading bust, call forth the highest in her and you are free and happy as the flower to the light, as the lark into the blue she will fulfil it with all gentleness and with all fidelity.” This is true in the life of Indira Gandhi whose roles as daughter, wife and ruler are illustrious. This fact is realised by the whole world beyond doubt with no room for any kind of criticism. It is woman, woman rules us still” was the praise received from Moore and Thakare. “She who rocks the cradle rules the world” is proved beyond doubt. Johnson argued that women have already become powerful and hence they need not have any voting right. Jerimi Bentham said that “she is already governing the world with the whole power of a despot.”

The famous poet Milton expressed that God created man first followed by woman. In this endeavour He exhibited all expertise and therefore women were created more beautifully than men. Pascal’s opinion on women is praiseworthy: “By common consent we regard woman as the most perfect earthly type of beauty. If man is the tree, woman is both tree and flower. She is the nature’s last work; embodiment of the beauty of the world who has stolen the loneliness of all which went before. If the Nose of Cleopatra had only been a little shorter, the whole face of the world would have been changed.” Zimmerman felt that diamonds and pearls if not worn by woman would become bangle pieces. Therefore gold and diamond objects were looked to have been specially created by the Creator for the sake of women. He opines that “The Empire of woman is the Empire of sweetness, love and sacrifice.”

There was a time when a Persian King Darius questioned: “Which is the most powerful thing in the world.” At once Jore Bachel, a scholar, got up and said that it is “woman” which made him won a prize from the king. Tennyson’s opinion on women is as follows: “The woman makes us most. She is the beacon light of our ambitions, our energies and aspirations; are all drawn forth by the holy influence of her love, our well being social and domestic is derived from her fostering care, from the cradle to the grave whether we realise it or not. She is our master moulding us for good or evil. If we desire to gauge the moral and political condition of a state or country, we must ask what rank women hold in it and how they have been educated and trained.” The great poet Goethe in his work Foust said about women thus: “The ever-womanly leadeth us, upward and onward.”

12. Are women the Front – Runners ?

John Ruskin felt that women are the front runners in shaping nations and their welfare. They possess matchless energy and power, which if and when utilised properly and efficiently will help in taking forward any nation. In his own words – “What you would have them be they shall be. They are the true educators of master-builders of the nation. Bid them be brave, they will be brave; bid them be cowards, they will be cowards: bid them be wise and they will be wise such and so absolute is your rule over them.” The great poet Dante expressed as follows: “We are fashioned after her likeness in the proportion in which we love and admire her.” E.V.Wilson described woman’s power as follows: “While yet unborn, it will be affected not only by what the mother eats, and

drinks but also by what she thinks and feels.” Puls Ford says that “In the plaint period of childhood, mothers give the motive power that impels and guides the life. They bend the sapling toward the South and toward the North. They direct the Streamlet toward the reeking marsh or toward the fresh and rejoining Sea.”

Those who are well-versed with the history of woman, and her birth background would not resort to use mean words such as woman is weak, entertainment toy, machine of producing children, man’s slave and so on. We have illustrious woman in this country such as Miss GA Ram, who rose to the level of Major General and Dr.Barbara Ghosh appointed as commander, both in 1976. This means that the country will progress and flourish only when we respect women and provide equal opportunities. Then alone we can call ourselves civilized people.

Women in management

In today’s dynamic work environment, women in management are increasingly seen as exemplars of virtue, integrity, and social responsibility. Women often bring unique qualities like empathy, collaboration, and adaptability, which can significantly enrich workplace culture. As paragons of virtue, they serve as role models, showing the importance of ethical behavior, fairness, and resilience, thereby setting high standards for themselves and their teams. This commitment to principled action helps foster trust and respect within organizations, which is essential for sustainable growth and success.

Women in management are also known for their tendency to prioritize social harmony and the well-being of their teams, often acting as social perfectionists. This perfectionism isn’t merely about meticulousness or an insistence on detail but involves a drive to create inclusive, collaborative, and balanced work environments. By doing so, women leaders can address the emotional and professional needs of employees, leading to higher morale, greater productivity, and lower turnover. This focus on social perfection can also promote diversity and inclusion, as women are often more attuned to the value of varied perspectives.

Furthermore, women leaders tend to adopt transformational leadership styles that encourage open communication, mutual respect, and shared goals, which can significantly improve team dynamics and organizational effectiveness. The unique combination of moral integrity and a commitment to social betterment allows women in management to set a gold standard for workplace ethics and relational harmony. As they rise to leadership positions, they help shape corporate cultures that value not only financial performance but also ethical accountability and social responsibility. This multifaceted impact demonstrates why women in management are not only catalysts for operational success but also pillars of a more equitable and just workplace, inspiring a progressive shift toward more inclusive and compassionate organizational practices.

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