

# **Role of women in indian society**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> semester/paper-303**

**BY:-Mrs.RINKI KUMARI**  
**DEPTT.OF EDUCATION**  
**MMHA&PU, PATNA**

# Role of women in Indian society



**MOTHER**



**WIFE**



**SISTER**



**FIRST TEACHER**



**FRIEND**



**DAUGHTER**

## *Women's Role in society in late 1800s to 1920s*

- Most widowed or unmarried women worked as Domestic servants
- Stereotypical Role :If married, they stayed at home to look after the children while their husband worked and brought in a weekly wage. If single, they did work which usually involved some form of service such as working as a waitress, cooking etc.

- No rights: No voting, working, couldn't own property, etc
- Women were simply considered a 'helpmate' for man
- Rarely married for pure love, money, status and the sake of marriage were the main reasons.
- Divorced women were shunned from society
- 1891: women were told that they could not be forced to live with a man if they did not want to - but because nearly all women were reliant on their husbands for a source of money, many women did live in miserable marriages.



# Women's Rights

- During the whole of the nineteenth century, women had no political rights though there had been some movement in other areas to advance the rights of women.
- In 1839, a law was passed which stated that if a marriage broke down and the parents separated, children under seven years of age should stay with their mother.
- In 1857, women could divorce husbands who were cruel to them or husbands who had left them.

- In 1870, women were allowed to keep money they had earned.
- In 1891, women could not be forced to live with husbands unless they wished to.
- These were very important laws which advanced the rights of women. However, they were good laws on paper. If a woman left her husband for whatever reason, it would have been very difficult for her to keep herself and children simply because the attitude of Victorian Britain was that women should stay at home and look after their husbands. The culture of the time meant that very few women were skilled in any obvious profession and, therefore, there were few jobs that paid well for women during the nineteenth century.

# Women in 1900

- At the start of the Twentieth Century, women had a very stereotypical role in British society. If married, they stayed at home to look after the children while their husband worked and brought in a weekly wage. If single, they did work which usually involved some form of service such as working as a waitress, cooking etc. Many young women were simply expected to get married and have children. The term "spinster", though not a term of outright abuse, was still seen as having some form of stigma attached to it.....that you were not good enough to get a husband etc.



# Marriage in the 19th Century

- In the 19th century Britain women were expected to marry and have children. however, there was in fact a shortage of available men. Census figures for the period reveal there were far more women than men. There were three main reasons why women outnumbered men. The mortality rate for boys was far higher than for girls; a large number of males served in the armed forces abroad and men were more likely to emigrate than women. By 1861 there were 10,380,285 women living in England and Wales but only 9,825,246 men.



- The laws in Britain were based on the idea that women would get married and that their husbands would take care of them. Before the passing of the 1882 Married Property Act, when a woman got married her wealth was passed to her husband. If a woman worked after marriage, her earnings also belonged to her husband.

- The idea was that upper and middle class women had to stay dependent on a man: first as a daughter and later as a wife. Once married, it was extremely difficult for a woman to obtain a divorce. The Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857 gave men the right to divorce their wives on the grounds of adultery. However, married women were not able to obtain a divorce if they discovered that their husbands had been unfaithful. Once divorced, the children became the man's property and the mother could be prevented from seeing her children.

# Women's Role in Today's Society

- The role of today's modern woman varies significantly from that of her grandmother or great grandmother. The most significant difference is that a modern woman is expected to work and earn a living most of her adult life, whereas, once her predecessors were married it was expected that they would stay at home, look after the family and run the household. The problem that arises with today's woman is that she is still expected to raise the family, clean the house and fill many other roles as well as bring in a weekly contribution to the family's income. There are also many women in today's society who are single parents which compounds the responsibilities of her role. Today's modern woman fills many different roles
- Partner
- Mother
- Daughter
- Sister
- Money earner
- Financial planner
- Housekeeper
- Dietitian
- Nurse
- Psychologist
- Taxi
- Teacher



# **The role of women education As an instrument of social change and social development**

- Educated future generations.
- Decrease infant mortality.
- Decrease maternal mortality.
- Decrease child marriage.

# Cont.....

- Decrease population explosion.
- Increase involvement in political process.
- Decrease domestic and sexual violence.
- Decrease support for militancy.
- Improve socio-economic growth.