



The Pragmatic Role and Heights of Women in Nation Building

Aadil Ahmad Shairgojri*

**Department of Political science and Public Administration, Research Scholar of Annamalai University Tamil Nadu, India*

*Corresponding Email: *aadilhassan1995@gmail.com*

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Abstract: *Women's have proven themselves dynamic, vibrant, sincere, and perfect in a variety of fields all over the world. Women have demonstrated that they are not inferior to men in any way through their contributions to shaping the development of a nation. To prove their genius in a male-dominated society, they are efficient and perseverant enough to overcome all odds, challenges, and obstacles with their wits. In post-conflict countries, women can play a greater role in nation-building, which can lead to economic and political stability. Creating a more just, peaceful, and prosperous society requires the active involvement of women in post-conflict nation-building. The aim of study is to highlight the role of women in nation building.*

Keywords: *Nation Building, Women, Freedom Struggle, Success, Voting Etc*

1. INTRODUCTION

The process of establishing a national identity is referred to as nation building. These three critical terms, process, construction, and fashioning, are critical components of nation building. Examining these words closely reveals that nation building is a lengthy process. This is not a sudden or drastic change. Construction and fashioning are critical components of nation building because they involve the construction and fashioning of tangible and intangible objects. Women's traditional roles play a critical role in their nation-building efforts. Additionally, contributions to political developments and other facets of a nation's identity should be included. Every society, in this context, must actively promote the role of women. They must be empowered for nation building in order to accomplish this. Without discussing empowerment, women cannot contribute to nation building. The World Bank (2011) defines empowerment as the capacity of an individual or group to make choices and to translate those choices into actions and outcomes. According to Wikipedia, individuals and communities can develop spiritual, political, social, educational, gender, and economic strength (2012). Thus, women empowerment is a clandestine positioning of women in service of nation building. Empowerment in the spiritual realm is one type of empowerment.



Additionally, for a nation to maintain lasting peace, women must have an equal voice in decision-making processes. Women must be mobilised to combat poverty, human trafficking, violent conflict, corruption, and other social vices. They must be persuaded to abandon their established positions. They must demonstrate a greater commitment to nation-building activities such as voting, education, and economics, among others.

To date, Indian women have played a significant role in nation-building, empowerment in various sectors, advancing the country's development index, and leading the drive for cleanliness. Women have risen to prominence and almost flawlessly performed their roles. What happens to women affects everyone, including men. During the 1857 revolt, prominent women like Jhansi Rani Lakshmi Bai and Begum Hazrat Mahal participated. During the freedom struggle, women began to play a larger role in national life. It's amazing how women entered the public sphere, especially politics. Beginning with the Swadeshi movement, women's participation in mass movements grew with the Non-Cooperation Movement. Women arrived in droves to join the National Movement, picketing liquor and clothing stores, tending to injured freedom fighters, and going to jail alongside men, earning what they earned in the 1950 constitution, which was the Right to Vote.

During this period, women were given prominent positions by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. From the freedom struggle to the post-1947 era, Indira Gandhi was the first female prime minister, something that Western countries could only dream of. Women's participation in Indian politics has not increased in proportion to their role in the national movement. Annie Besant, an Irishwoman, was elected president in 1917, and Sarojini Naidu in 1925. As a result, women worked extremely hard and contributed greatly. The number of elected representatives at the national and state levels is currently lacking. We have lakhs of women in Panchayats and Municipalities. For example, political parties are reluctant to allocate seats to women at the national and state levels. The increasing violence and criminalization of politics has kept women away from politics. We have grass-roots leaders ready to ascend.

Women's Reservation Bill is now required. Women's increased voting interest shows their political interest. Between 2014 and 2019, women outvoted men in many state assembly elections. Women voted 65.64 percent in India's 2014 parliamentary general elections, compared to men who voted 67.08 percent. In 16 of India's 29 states, more women voted than men. 261.4 million Women voted in total. About 14% of those elected to India's parliament in the most recent national election (held on April 11, 2019) were women (**Jensenius and Verniers 2019**). However, the percentage of female candidates was shockingly low at just 9%! As a result, women have a slightly better chance of winning than men if they decide to compete

This shows women are ready, interested, and aware of the political process. Women's political representation is vital because it ensures that major issues and policies are adequately addressed. Policies are permanently altered when women hold significant leadership positions. The Right to Food campaign has reaped rewards in many countries, thanks to women's leadership roles.

Women are not discriminated against in academia or the pure sciences. Many women work in new fields like banking and finance, where young professionals predominate. The pay gap is most pronounced in rural areas, where women are paid less than men. Agribusiness, construction, and other jobs pay less than men's. Bollywood heroines frequently outperform



their male counterparts financially. A recent debate about women's nutritional status erupted due to India's high number of Olympic medallists. Indian women are not as nutritionally strong as their counterparts from the West or other continents. Despite their nutritional disadvantage, Indian women excelled at the Olympics.

When a woman is presented with an opportunity, she knows it will be her downfall. In the Clean India campaign, Vidya Balan portrays women rejecting marriage proposals because their families lack toilets. We have seen women given family responsibilities for cleanliness and hygiene. The government is observing Swachh ShaktiSapta to recognise women's leadership in the Swachh Bharat Mission and to honour women sanitation champions.

Research Objectives

- ✓ To analyse and explain the role and heights of women in nation building.

2. METHODOLOGY

When it comes to supporting its claims, the article is both descriptive and analytical in nature. It makes extensive use of secondary sources to do so, including newspaper articles, magazine articles, and investigation reports, among other things.

3. DISCUSSION

Our women are vital to our country's progress because their mental and physical contact with life is far more extensive than men's. The cradle-rocking hand rules the world. A revolutionary energy that can create a paradise on earth is hidden in women. Benevolence, adju'stability, integrity, and tolerance are among its many attributes. She can think like a man. She embodies love and affection in every way possible. In order to gauge a society's level of civilization, one must look at the role of women in it. In Rabindranath Tagore's view, women are the architects of a nation's future. A woman's heart is far more powerful and courageous than a man's. He holds her in the highest regard as the ultimate role model. The position of Indian women has shifted dramatically over time, from ancient times to the present.

During India's struggle for independence, women's status rose significantly. This issue of female emancipation was of particular importance to Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, and Dr. Prasad. If women were not elevated and given equal status, India would not be able to progress in any field, from politics and economics to domestic and educational. Advocating for the participation of women in the struggle for freedom, Gandhiji encouraged them. Sarojini Naidu and Aruna Asaf Ali were two of India's most prominent female freedom fighters. Some female professionals today have achieved a high degree of self-esteem and recognition. If they want, they can participate in any service.

Women have been doctors, engineers, judges, scientists, diplomats, legislators, and even prime ministers in post-independence India. Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was revered globally. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit became the first female President of the UN General Assembly. Women have come into their own in the last two decades. Women play an important role in modern society.

Women dismantled the myth that advanced fields were exclusively for men. Women have consistently demonstrated to be more vivacious, empathetic, and sincere, and they are capable of excelling at any task they undertake. Women are leaders in a variety of fields



today, including sports, politics, the arts, law enforcement, administration, and medicine. Sushma Swaraj, Dr. Padamvati, Mrs. Padamvati, Medha Patkar, and Pramilla Kalhan have all established themselves as household names in their respective fields of endeavour. Sonali Banerjee, a Calcutta native, was the first Indian woman marine engineer; crossing the English Channel twice and conquering Mt. Everest twice.

Women are naturally less selfish, more duty-bound, and more powerful than men. We must free Indian women of many social taboos in order to maximise their power. But legislation alone cannot emancipate our women; a radical shift in our mentality and social structure is required. We must cultivate a spirit of social emancipation in our daily lives. Liberalism must take the place of conservatism. We can confidently say that the future of women in India is bright and that our prosperity is secure in the hands of others. As Napoleon stated, to educate and uplift the entire nation is to educate and educate the women.

The government has implemented major programmes like Mahila Smardhi Yojna and Women Development Cooperation to increase their participation in the country's economic growth. Female literacy is rising. Menstruation is the most common cause of infertility. She enhances every aspect of life. "Women in India are now more aware of their rights for higher position at work while being a perfect housewife at home," said former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen. This is where women are now. Only elevating women to the top can help bring some order to the current situation. Woman is a constant source of inspiration for men in their life odyssey. "Woman is holy and pure" according to Manu. So she is worshipped. "God resides in the home where women are honoured," he says. "Independence was meaningless without emancipation of women," Gandhi said. He thinks woman is a higher sex. She must not feel helpless, weak, or dependent. He considered women to be the cultural backbone of society. She is the embodiment of Ahimsa—"infinite love, which also means infinite suffering."

"Education can empower women to assert their rights," he says. His advice to the educated woman was to save Indian culture. He wanted them in the country's governance.

Indira Gandhi did indeed succeed in elevating women's status in India. She tried to educate them on their rights. Thanks to Gandhiji's efforts, women's status has improved and they are gradually becoming a force in our country's social, cultural, and political fields. Insight efficiency and responsible women's talent contribute to the country's progress. Men see, women understand. With their mental strength and extraordinary talent, women are pushing the boundaries of progress for the country. Women now hold a pivotal position and excel in various fields. This is a female era.

Latest success stories of Indian Women

Success stories of women always inspire and empower others. The past year was full of inspiring women breaking barriers in sports, business, activism, and defence

1. Avani Lekhara

Avani was 11 years old when she was paralysed in a car accident. In the midst of adversity, Avani chose to reinvent herself. This 19-year-old Jaipur girl became the first female Paralympian. In the R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle category, she set a new record. Her first major international medal after training since 2015.



2. Falguni Nayar

Falguni Nayar became one of the year's most successful women after quitting her 20-year career in investment banking to start a beauty company from scratch. Founder of Nykaa, she became India's first self-made female billionaire after the company's stock rose 89 per cent in Q4 2021. She owns a \$6.5 billion company. With Nykaa, she offers Indians a unique mix of affordable, rare, and luxury brands, as well as cruelty-free products.

3. Harnaaz Sandhu

Harnaaz Sandhu not only brought the Miss Universe crown to India after a 21-year hiatus, but also overcame years of body shaming due to her thinness. Harnaaz, from Chandigarh, supports normalising mental health issues. When she was 17, she entered a national pageant representing her city. In 2019, she competed in Femina Miss India and was crowned Femina Miss India Punjab

4. Mirabai Chanu

Mirabai Chanu, winner of the Women's 49 kg weightlifting silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, is India's powerhouse. A gold medalist at the World Weightlifting Championships, she became the second Indian to do so in 22 years, after Karnam Malleswari. Mirabai won her first competitive gold medal at the age of 11. Her strength was recognised by her family when she was forced to collect firewood from a nearby hill.

5. PV Sindhu

PV Sindhu's name has become synonymous with badminton in India since her 2013 Malaysian Open Grand Prix win. In 2019, she became the first Indian to win a World Championship gold medal. Sindhu is the first Indian athlete to win two consecutive Olympic medals in Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo. In the women's singles, this 26-year-old from Hyderabad is currently ranked No.7

6. Neena Gupta

This year's DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for young mathematicians from developing countries was awarded to Neena Gupta, a professor at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata. Affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra brought her this recognition. She received her Masters and PhD in mathematics from the Indian Statistical Institute. Her unwavering dedication to the subject is an inspiration to all.

7. Krithi Karanth

Innovator 2021 Krithi Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at the Centre for Wildlife Studies, is the first Indian and Asian winner. The award comes from Wild Elements, a non-profit organisation dedicated to global sustainability and conservation. Krithi is a leading conservation scientist in India. WINGS World Quest, an organisation that supports and recognises women scientists for their extraordinary work in their fields, awarded this Mangaluru native the 2019 Women of Discovery Award.

8. Shaili Singh

Shaili Singh, who began her career without a proper shoe, won the Under-18 Youth Long Jump World Championship in 2021. A single mother gave birth to her in Jhansi. The long-



jump pit was a paradise for this girl who had overcome many obstacles. - Anju Bobby George Sports Foundation, Bengaluru Shaili is now one of the top 20 U-18 long jumpers in the world

9. Leena Nair

Leena Nair, the new global CEO of Chanel, was also Unilever's first female and youngest CHRO. This Maharashtra native began her management career when only 2% of her company's employees were women. One of Fortune India's Most Powerful Women of 2021. The Walchand College of Engineering educated her in electronics engineering.

10. Gita Gopinath

Gita Gopinath, the IMF's first deputy managing director, will succeed Geoffrey Okamoto. Gita is a technocrat and author from Mysore. This 50-year-old Princeton PhD was the IMF's first female chief economist. Her promotion is followed by her outstanding pandemic work.

4. Conclusion

Despite all the contributions made by women, the reality tends to differ. Across all sectors, there is a large pay gap between the sexes. Even today, a few women have been able to reach the top positions. Because the Females always take second place to males counterparts. After independence, political leaders realised the role of women's emancipation in the country. They realised that a country's progress is not until women's rights are equalised. Sadly, but not achieved. The men still can't give giving women credit. It is past time for social change. Its treatment of women. Our society must evolve. Women must be treated equally with men. Their contributions in their fields must be applauded professionally; they equal opportunity as their male counterparts. A woman must also understand her hidden potential. She must overcome her obstacles. She should be a role model instead of seeking one. A role model only she can reveal her hidden potential. She must believe that the hand cradle, rules the world the government must enact strict laws to combat rising female sex crime It must ensure that Women's rights laws are strictly enforced. Utterly rooted the state should aim to eradicate mass illiteracy Education can help. A vital role in women's empowerment a savvy a woman is a country's greatest asset edifice Swami Vivekananda quoted "No chance for the world's welfare unless women's rights are improved. A bird cannot fly with only one wing ".

Conflict of interest and Funding

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