A Quick Review of Facts on the Status of Women in India

Gender inequality holds back the growth of individuals, the development of nations and the evolution of societies to the disadvantage of both men and women. This is not simply talking about women's issues. Understanding gender means understanding opportunities, constraints and the impact of change as they affect both men and women.

A Quick Review of Facts on the Status of Women in India

The status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. From equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. The Government of India declared 2001 as the Year of Women's Empowerment (Sensshakti). The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women was also passed in the same year.

A decade later...

- On March 9th 2010, one day after International Women's Day, Rajya sabha passed the Women's Reservation Bill, ensuring 33% reservation to women in Parliament and state legislative bodies.
- The Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality (Article 14), no discrimination by the State (Article 15(1)), equality of opportunity (Article 16), and equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51A (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51A (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51A (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51A (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51A (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51A (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51A (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and equal work (Article 39(d)).
- The Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality (Article 14), no discrimination by the State (Article 15(1)), equality of opportunity (Article 16), and equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51A (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief. (Article 42)

Child Sex Ratio (0 -6 years)

The child sex ratio has dropped from 945 females per 1000 males in 1991 to 927 females per 1000 males in 2001. The United Nations Children's Fund, estimated that up to 50 million girls and women are ‘missing’ from India’s population because of termination of the female foetus or high mortality of the girl child due to lack of proper care.

Women as Workers

Female share of non-agricultural wage employment is only 17%. Participation of women in the workforce is only 13.9% in the urban sector and 29.9% in the rural sector. Women’s wage rates are, on average only 75% of men’s wage rates and constitute only 25% of the family income. In no Indian State do women and men earn equal wages in agriculture.

Women occupy only 9% of parliamentary seats, less than 4% seats in High Courts and Supreme Court and less than 3% administrators and managers are women.

Women and Education

Close to 245 million Indian women lack the basic capability to read and write. Adult literacy rates for ages 15 and above for the year 2000 were—female 46.4% and male 69%

Women and Health

The average nutritional intake of women in India is 1400 calories daily. The necessary requirement is approximately 2200 calories.

38% of all HIV positive people in India are women yet only 25% of beds in AIDS care centres in India are occupied by them. 92% of women in India suffer from gynaecological problems. 300 women die every day due to child birth and pregnancy related causes. The maternal mortality ratio stands at 212 per 100,000 live births in 2007-09.

UBS & CAF – Building Non Profit Leadership focused on Women Leaders in the Industry

To build and nurture the capacity of the non-profit sector is intrinsic to CAF India’s mandate of being an organization for donors and NGOs that stimulates giving, social investment and the effective utilization of funds.

UBS is one of the world’s leading financial services firms with a business presence in over 50 countries. As an organization, it combines financial strength with a culture that embraces change.

In 2008-2009, CAF India and UBS initiated a leadership initiative focused on building the capacity of the NGO leaders and to provide a platform for dialogue, discussion, sharing and learning for them. Hosted by UBS SC, Hyderabad, the initiative brought together select non-profit leaders in two residential workshops:

CLE I in September 2008 and CLE 2 in February 2009. Faculty was drawn from the charity sector, thought and change management leaders and senior UBS leaders and mentors. A total of 41 non-professional leaders working across sectors participated in the two workshops.

Highlighted Partners

Mahler

“Mahler” in Marathi, an Indian language, means ‘Mother’s Home’,

Feedback from Participants

I must admit that I was a bit hesitant at the start in committing to participate as I have worked in the development field for almost three decades and developed organisations that ranged from children to genetics as well as attended a number of related training programs and conferences. But I am really happy that I attended this programme. This programme had faculty drawn from reputed organizations like IIMA, IRMA, Duke CE, NFI, and CAF India.


Sources

http://www.breakthrough.in/watch_detail.asp?TeachId=1&Kid=5
http://hdr.undp.org/statistics/data/city_f_IND.html
http://www.ubswomensleadership.com
http://www.ubswomensleadership.com/
http://www.ubswomensleadership.com
http://www.ubswomensleadership.com

"Leadership is not something that you learn once and for all. It is an ever-evolving pattern of skills, talents, and ideas that grow and change as you do."

— Sheila Murray Bethel
A haven of hope, belonging and understanding, where women not only feel love and comfort but are assured of security. Maher works with women in a number of ways, including rehabilitation, reconciliation, vocational training etc.

Maher currently serves 85 rural communities around Pune and provides assistance to several hundred women and children. There are 12 Balwadis or kindergartens, 2 tuition classes, 25 Bal Sadasans, 1 creche and close to 295 self help groups. Over 1641 women and children have been through the Maher experience and have come out brimming with self-confidence and happiness after interventions here.

"I am skilled and confident that I am able to earn a good livelihood for my family. Initially it seemed a difficult task for me but it went on smoothly. Hope similar opportunities will follow other girls like me"… Shakira

"You must learn to be still in the midst of activity and be vibrantly alive in repose." – Indira Gandhi

Making a difference………
"I wish that every girl should have the opportunity like me to be self-employed. Thanks be to God for people like you who work with our community"……… Says Shakira.

Shakira is 19 years old, residing at Natraj Nagar along with her widower mother and sister. She has completed her education up to 10 standard with great difficulty. Her mother worked as matchstick-maker with limited earnings. During a community meeting at the slum, CAF India partner ‘Mahita’ team members identified and interacted with her. Regarding her education and future planning, she noted that she wanted to become a successful entrepreneur to help her family.

The project team members advised her to join the Vocational Training center run by Mahita. She joined Tailoring, Embroidery and Zardosi work at the center, and enrolled in Maulana Azad National Urdu Open University along with the other girls of the center in a B.A. Course. Over a period of six months, she completed her vocational courses and with the support of a micro-loan from a Nationalized Bank she has purchased sewing machines and started her own tailoring unit in her home. She designs and stitches clothes of her neighbours and supplements income of her family. Along with this, she is also preparing for her examinations.

From the CEO’s Desk

"The year was about 1971 or 1972. From the market, a dealer named Gabbaji came to the Mahajan’s office. He was sent to me. When I went to the market I saw many of the women, carrying load on their heads, taking the stock from the wholesaler to the retailer. And they used to get 20paisa for one trip. At the end of the day the total money collected amounted to Rs.2. When a survey was conducted it was found out that there were other questions as well.” – Ela Bhatt, SEWA.

"You must learn to be still in the midst of activity and be vibrantly alive in repose." – Indira Gandhi

A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform.

Diane Manchind

You must learn to be still in the midst of activity and be vibrantly alive in repose.

Indira Gandhi

Woman must not accept; she must challenge. She must not be awed by that which has been built up around her; she must reverence that woman in her which struggles for expression.

Margaret Sanger

"If given an opportunity, grassroot women’s organizations will grow and succeed and develop a more sophisticated approach to empowerment."