

# Women in India



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**GENDER**

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**Social Identification of Sex**

# **Matriarchy**




**Mother Right Families**

# Matriliny



⌘ - Female Line of Descent



## ⌘ Matrilocal - Residence



⌘ Patriarchy

⌘ Patriliney


⌘ Patrilocal



⌘ Manu-

⌘ Ancient Law Giver of India

⌘ Manusmruthi – The Code of Law in  
Ancient India

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- ⌘ Dowry( Stridhanan) – Value of Son
  - ⌘ Bride Price – Value of Daughter





⌘ Kanyadan –

⌘ Giving girl in Marriage As a “Dhan” ( offer)  
to the parents of the bride groom

⌘

# FEMINISM



- ⌘ An ideology which helps to enhance feminine status in a society
- ⌘ 1.Liberal Feminism
- ⌘ 2.Radical Feminism(Marxist Leninist)

# **Liberal Feminism( Feminist liberalism)**



- ⌘ Started in US ( 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> Centuries)
- ⌘ Women Equality
- ⌘ Women's Access to Public Relm

# Feminist Essentialism



- ⌘ Rejects the Liberal's claim that women and men possess the same epistemological resource, the transcendent mind
- ⌘ Locates aspects which make them essentially different from males – Biological, Psychological and Social.
- ⌘

# **Feminist Socialists ( Marxists Feminists )**



- ⌘ Sexuality and Gender in Marxian Class Analysis
- ⌘ Women as an Object of Exploitation
- ⌘ Liberation Through Class Consciousness
- ⌘ Feminist Empiricism

# Women in Ancient India



⌘ Earliest Days -

⌘

- Women as equal to Men

# Manu



⌘ “ Where the female relations live in grief, the family soon wholly perishes, but where they are not unhappy, the family ever prospers”

# Mahabharatha



- ⌘ Women as the Centre of Domestic Life
- ⌘ There is nothing that is more sinful than women. Women is thr root of all evils



# Ramayana




⌘ “ The faces of women are like flowers, their words are like the drops of honey but their hearts are like sharp razor, the interior of them no one can know”.

# Vedic Period(4000-1000BC)



- ⌘ Freedom to Mate Selection
- ⌘ No Purdah
- ⌘ Education
- ⌘ Remarriage
- ⌘ No Divorce
- ⌘ Freedom in the household – Ardhangnis ( Better Halves)
- ⌘ Social field- No Complete Disability

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- ⌘ Economic Freedom- No Wage Earning, Domestic Production, Teaching
  - ⌘ Property Rights- Limited, No Share in Father's Property, Mother's Property Equally Shared among Son's and Unmarried Daughters, No Direct Share to Husband's Property
  - ⌘ Widowhood- Ascetic Life
  - ⌘ Political- No entry in the Sabhas (Assemblies)



⌘ Religion- Full Rights, Ceremonies were  
Invalid Without Wife

# Puranic Period



- ⌘ Pre-puberty Marriage
- ⌘ Prohibition to Widow Remarriage
- ⌘ Sathi
- ⌘ Purdha(Veil)
- ⌘ Polygyny(One Husband Many Wives)
- ⌘ Non Ownership of Property

# Buddhist Period



- ⌘ Gradual Improvements
- ⌘ Religious Freedom
- ⌘ Women's Sangh (Groups) Called Bhilkshuni Sangh

# Medieval Period



- ⌘ Eighth Century- Muslim Invasion
- ⌘ Sankaracharya- Reemphasis to the Supremacy of Vedas
- ⌘ Second Muslim Invasion- Eleventh Century
- ⌘ Muhammad Gazni
- ⌘ 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Century- British Rule



⌘ Bhakthi Movement- Ramanucharya,  
Chaithanya, Guru Nanak, Kabir, Ramdas,  
Tulsi, Tukaram



# British Period



- ⌘ Spread of Education- Christian Missionaries
- ⌘ Social Rights
- ⌘ Equality
- ⌘ Weakening of Caste
- ⌘ Social Movements
- ⌘ Women's Organizations
- ⌘ Industrialization- Weakening of Jajmani System

# **Social Legislations**



- ⌘ Child Marriage Act- 1929
- ⌘ Hindu Marriage Act- 1955
- ⌘ Special Marriage Act- 1954
- ⌘ Hindu Women's Right to Property Act- 1939
- ⌘ Hindu Succession Act- 1956
- ⌘ Factory Act- 1948

# Women's Organisations



- ⌘ Ladies Theosophic Society
- ⌘ Women's Indian Association(1917, Annie Besant)
- ⌘ National Council of Women in India- 1925
- ⌘ All India Women's Conference- 1927

# Post Independence Period



⌘ Patriliney

⌘ Female Leadership, Education, Domestic Involvement, Remarriage, Decision Making, Economic Freedom, Working Women.

# Realities



- ⌘ Drop out of Girls(1 to 5<sup>th</sup> Standard)- 46.69%,  
Boys- 46.74%
- ⌘ Between 1 to 8<sup>th</sup> Std.- 68.31%(Girls), 59.38%  
(Boys)
- ⌘ 20% of the Women Prostitutes in the Country  
are Girl Children.
- ⌘ Around 0.53 million Girl Children are Forced to  
Prostitution before the Age of 15.
- ⌘ 22.69% of Child Labours in India are Girls  
(Government of India Statistics)

# Acts and Legal Provisions



- ⌘ Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Prevention of Misuse Act 1994
- ⌘ Tamil Nadu Government Girl Baby Protection Scheme, 1992
- ⌘ National Girl Baby Protection Scheme-1992.
- ⌘ The National Plan of Action for Children-1992
- ⌘ National Plan of Action for Girl Children (1991-2000 AD)

