

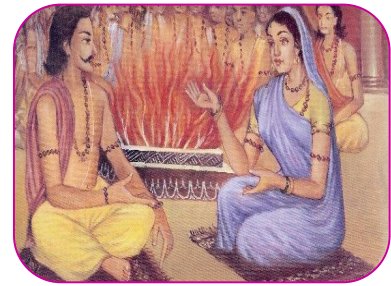


BRIEF SKETCH ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN RIG-VEDIC PERIOD

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Women got good respect and high position in rig Vedic period around 3000 years ago. She got equal position to men. The Vedic period this comes in Bronze Age. The literature enriched by many scholars. The literature prepared on the base of Brahmanical theology. The Vedic period included the detailed about the social life of the common people. The rig Veda it is one of the ancient Veda of four Vedas. It is a very ancient Veda in the world.



Every human society is invariable characterized by social differentiations. Gender based differentiation is one. Men had the role of earning and women had the role of reproduction of heirs and home making. A historical understands of status of women in early Indian society shows a declining trend into the position of women. The historical analysis of the position of women in ancient India shows that women did not share an equal position with men. Women were recognized only as wives and mothers. Their position was as subordinate to men.

The Indian society included with the social, political and economic life of the people of the country. The Hindu society did not encourage the women. They enjoy the lower status in the society.

According to one view women during the Vedic period occupied and exalted position and they enjoyed a fair amount of personal freedom and equal rights with men. But another view holds that birth of a girl was not a welcome event. However she did not suffer due to that reason she was given all the privileges entitled to a son. No discrimination was made on the basis of education. At least 20 women have composed rig Vedic hymns for example Gargi and Maitreyi were the leading philosophers of the time.

Women in the Vedic period so excelled in the sphere of education that ever the deity of learning was conceived of as a female popularly known as saraswati. Girls were allowed to enter into the Gurukulas along with boys. There are also instances of female rishis, such as Ghosa , Apala, Kakahivati, Surya Savitri, Indrani, Shradha Kamayani, Yuami Shachi, Poulomi, Urvashi etc. marriage in the Vedic period was considered a social and religious duty and united the couple on an equal footing.

The couple prayed that their love and friendship should not break down. The Vedic literature also contained that the kshatriya girls were allowed to settle marriages in accordance with their own wishes. This was done through the custom of swayavara or self choice. This is an indicator of their dignified status in the Vedic society.

The rig Vedic period was good for women. It gave respect to the women in the society. Many women they included in cultural activities of the family with her husband. They respected in all field. The home which was the place of production here spinning and weaving of clothiers was done at their homes. The women they had helped to their husbands in agricultures activities in the field. Women also performed the dance and it is a amusement of women also.

The status of women in ancient India it has been changing in the society. The women status and position has been changing with the past time of ancient period. However the status of women in rig Vedic period is quite good when we compare with the later Vedic period.

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