Status / position of women in society – pre independence and post independence

Though India is being known for respecting women and even worshiping them as Goddess but the fact is that women in India have been ill-treated and made to face inhuman condition at all level of her journey right from her birth.

The origin of status of women can be traced to Manu in 200 BC. The women were not allowed to do anything independently even at her home and she could not take any decisions by her self whether its relating to her own self or any other family matters. India being a nation which has many religions, castes, creeds and social groups and therefore women's state in one particular religion can not be generalised however, there are many other circumstances which are common i.e. they are restricted at home, with restriction on their mobility and alone in seclusion.

Hierarchical i.e. old and rotten practices are another major cause, which means women is always treated as home maker, house wife and to play the role that of a mother and wife. Though there are changes in such old practices in the rest of the world, such norms dominates in forefront in India and is successful in restricting rights and every other freedoms which are required to be given to the women. They are kept away from public forum and as a result in Indian politics the women's participation is hardly visible.

Historical background:

It can not be said that during vedic period, whether equal rights were existing between men and women or not. But it was understood from the available sources that the attitude towards women were liberal and free policies and practices were prevailing pertaining to women were followed. There were
practices whereby women were given the chance to actively participate in the religious and social work. Even the women were allowed to select their own life partner and a widow was permitted to remarry to another partner for better prospect.

From the overall view of the old writings, it was concluded that in India there existed good practices which gave women equality and humanly treatment. However, as India started growing and taking steps forward towards the civilization, growth and development, the social discrimination towards women increased in all its spheres.

During late vedic period, Jainism and Buddhism emerged as potent religious reform movements which brought with it many changes religiously. Jainism shared various prejudices caused to the women in its passages of canon and in the form of maxims. According to Buddhism, women's spiritual capacities were equivalent to that of men's. Religion of Buddhism began as to treat the women and men equal with respect to personal development by the following path of spiritualism.

The higher status enjoyed by women during early Vedic period had slowly started diminishing during the late Vedic period. The male child were given more importance because he could be legal heir and legal representative of family property. Since the state saw steep increase in the economic and social status which sons started getting, it witnessed the position of women at a very declining state.

During the age of Dharmashtras, the position of women reached an all time low. During this age wherein different codes of conduct, prescribed the various behaviour norms for women which were made and implemented. This period saw the exclusion of women from both economic and religious sphere. During the period of Dharmashastra many rituals started cropping in the Hindusim such as:
a) Child marriage was encouraged.

b) Widow marriage was looked down and they were not allowed to remarry.

c) The birth of girl child was considered as a bad luck and therefore in order to get rid of bad luck of the family, people went to the extent of killing the female child. Sati pratha came into existence and the said practice became widespread. Women thought it was better to be sati then to suffer because of that women started burning themselves with the pier of the husband.

During Medieval India, the Purdah system which was prevalent among royal families, nobles and merchant class of people prior to the Muslims empire, started to spread to other class of people also. During the medieval period, the bad practices increased and they are follows:

a) polygamy,

b) sati,

c) child marriage,

d) ill treatment of widows

The some of the bad practices which were already prevalent during the Dharmashastra age gained further momentum and the worst scenario was created. The priestly class misinterpreted the sacred texts and created an impression that all these evil practices had religious sanction.
STATUS OF WOMEN AT DIFFRENT COUNTRIES

PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, women are deprived of their basic rights and their sufferings start as soon as she comes to this world and more so even prior to her birth. Girls fetuses are aborted every year in order to avoid the baby child. They think that girl child she invites problems to the family. There are some baby girls who survive all the odds and they become the one who are unwanted children. Such baby's life is filled with subordination with the male members who dominates them right from the beginning in each and every phase of their life.

While the girl is being very young, her all the family members including father, mother, brother, grandparents starts to decide for the various matters of small concerns or to life's important and major decisions. The most women of Pakistan has no right to make any decision may it be to decide on meal or for deciding her marriage and choosing the life partners.

Before women were married they are under strict supervision of their father. Further they are always doubted in character especially when they go to school and communicates with other male students. Women are unable to make their choices about their life partner and therefore, their marriages are being decided and arranged by the family without concurrence of women.

CHINA:

Chinese women does enjoy a very admiring status in legal as well as society. Before 1949, china was a semi feudal and colonial state and therefore, there was lot of pressure of patriarchal system on the women however, the same was changed along with new foundation of China in 1949. Status of women of old china were not very admiring since they have no political rights as well they even had no society freedom. Women were
absolutely dependent on their family for their financial needs, further they had no rights of inheritance and no right in the property. Women of China were not working and therefore they had no source of independent income. So they had no status as far as society is concerned. They were lead by father at their home and after marriage, they followed husband and in their last phase of life they were been lead by the son.

Founding of New China saw various social movements and various law reforms could be seen. Herein below mentioned are the areas where China saw the reforms:

**UNITED STATES:**

The United States of America is a federation of fifty sovereign states. Therefore there were different practices being followed by all the States lacking uniformity in the laws and rules. The Constitution of United States has given limited powers to states to make laws concerning only to states. Whereas other laws such as property rights, inheritance, domestic relations concerning women lies separately with centre.

Section 1 of the United States Constitution states that Citizens are the people of United States or any states that are born in the particular state or naturalised in the that particular state. Therefore, the state should not enact or implement the laws which are against the privileges granted to the citizens. Further, citizens shall not be deprived of their rights of life and liberty without following due process of law.

This particular provision guarantees the women, the rights of citizens and prevents them from discrimination against women on the basis of sex. The supreme court had struck down many laws which had made discrimination against women in violation of this provision. The court ruled that the states can make discrimination only when such discrimination is related to governments objective.
**ARABIAN COUNTRIES**

It looks like women are, as always, being oppressed and were kept away of their rights in the supposed black hole of women's rights known as the Middle East.

Thomson Reuters Foundation conducted a survey which showed that Arab women have not seen greater freedom or expanded rights since the beginning of Arabian countries.

The survey results found that Egypt is the worst country to be a woman living in the Arab followed closely by the other countries Iraq and Saudi Arabia. There are Nineteen countries which signed the U.N. Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In the survey the questions which were put to all the nations, were based on the said convention.

**United Kingdom:**

UK was no different from other countries with regard to oppression of women's rights. Women at the ancient cultures also were subordinated to men socially and legally. Women were treated inferior right from the human came into existence. All mention in documents, scriptures and some cases do justify inferiority of women to man.

In Ancient Greece, Athenian women were not allowed to avail the education further they were married at puberty to a grown up men without her consent. Women were considered and treated as the property of their family/fathers.

Her family used to take all the decisions for them like marriage, divorce. Further also get them married to another person. In making all the decisions regarding women, women's choice are not taken into consideration at any stage.
Women were not allowed to leave the home without any company of male member. Women had no right to purchase or sell the land. In case of the offence like women being raped, her husband will decide whether he will stay with her or divorce her or in the alternative he can decide to leave the citizenship of a particular state. A women who was raped were not allowed to take part in any society / cultural ceremony or not even wear jewellery.

Canada:

Women at Canada has all the rights and protection available for the right development and protection for safeguarding their rights. Canada is a leader country which promotes and protects the women's rights and issues arising out of gender inequalities. In Canada, Central Government takes the responsibilities of making policies on all these issues. Canada is a nation which clearly understands as well as believes that equal rights to all is not only required for better human rights in the nation but also required for the sustainable development, social justice, peace, and security for all the human beings / citizens.

Sustainable development in terms of security, peace and other can be achieved, only when women are given equal right to take part in development as well as decision making i.e. in politics. Various rights are enshrined and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Canada is a member of United Nations General Assembly. Further, 1981 CEDAW was ratified by Canada. After signing the said convention, it took lot of measures to make/ amend the laws and put in place various mechanism for implementing the laws and policies.

After becoming the confirming party to CEDAW, it was governments responsibility to take the steps as per the standards set in CEDAW. Further strong mechanism is required for implementation. UN made lot of emphasis on promoting and safeguarding the women’s rights and therefore, lot of progress could be seen in gender equality. After all these steps also, the
struggle was yet to get over and go long way before achieving the ideal situation.

MODERN INDIA

With the British arrival in India, the position and status of women saw many changes. The East India Company was mainly a trading company involved in trade in India. To expand their business, they started acquiring many territories and states in India. Since they started facing lot of issues while doing their own business of trading, the question of law and order in the acquired territories, posed a great challenges before the East India Company. In order to handle the law and order situation, the company acquired the rights to make laws related to the crimes.

Britishers further in order to deal with civil matters, and efficiently to deal with matters which involved the personal laws, consulted Moulavis and Pundits who were looking after all the customs and they were all the male members. Women were not even consulted or taken their advice even in the issues which affected women's rights.

Women were not given their rights. Women were only pushed behind by illtreatment. It could easily happen since only male members were taken their advise in relation to framing of laws. Women were denied basic rights as well which included:

a) equal matrimonial rights to property,

b) rights to widows to remarriage,

c) adoption and divorce rights,
Colonial authorities criticized such a situation which were against the cultural reforms. In return, Indian cultural nationalism argued in favour of Indian tradition. Therefore, the 19th century is often termed as the century of social reform. The criticism by colonial authorities triggered anger among the people of India which had caused a serious threat to the ruling of colonial rule in India. Thereafter, it was declared by the queen that they will not be interfering in religious matters of the people of India.

Without much opposition, Princely States in order to bring the reforms smoothly and slowly in India, the legislations which transforms the family structure were introduced in the states. The state of Baroda became the first to introduce in its legislations the provisions relating to divorce. Infant Marriage Prevention Act of 1894 was enacted by the Princely state of Mysore. Others states of travancore and Madras also introduced the reforms, but the states after making the law had no control over the violations happening throughout the states.
Problems and Concerns

SATI:

One of the very serious challenge faced by all the activist and reformers was the problem of 'widow immolation' or 'Sati', where Hindu widows climbed the funeral pyres of their husbands and get burned along with their husband. It was an ancient tradition. The strong belief that if the women burns herself on, the sins of her husband and ancestors are removed. Women were literally abated to take her own life. Further it was also strongly believed that she will attend heaven on becoming sati. Due to social pressures and the circumstances which widows used to face after death of her husband where she was looked down and thought that due to her bad luck she lost her husband and she was literally not allowed live easily. This custom has its roots in the depth of Indian customs.

Sati pratha was first abolished in Calcutta in 1798; a territory that fell under the British jurisdiction. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a great reformer who fought bravely for abolition of sati and with assistance from Lord William Bentinck, a ban on sati was imposed in 1829 in the British territories in India.

WIDOW REMARRIAGE

Since the widows were treated ridiculously and their life was not better than death. The widows were not allowed to take part in any of the auspicious function and therefore widows opted for Sati. The upper caste widows were most affected by the then prevailing customs. Prohibition against remarriage of widows was strictly observed only amongst upper caste Hindus.

Attempts to make laws to facilitate remarriage of widows by the British were vehemently opposed by the conservative Hindus, who held that remarriage of widows involved guilt and disgrace on earth and exclusion from heaven.
Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Mahadev Ranade, Dayanand Saraswati all actively participated in the reform movement of widow remarriage and all their efforts resulted in the enactment of the Hindu Widows Remarriage Act XV of 1856. However, people showed less respect and regard for the Act.

**RIGHT TO PROPERTY**

There was a lot of ambiguity and hardly there were laws which could throw light on the rights of women concerning property and since these issues were not being resolved which made it difficult for a widow to remarry. Before the „Hindu Women’s Right to Property Act XVIII of 1937“ and the „Hindu Succession Act XXX of 1956“ came into effect, the Dayabhaga and Mitakshara Laws laid down that a widow could become on her husband’s death a successor to her husband’s estate in case she has no male child, or any grand son. The estate which she has succeeded to her husband can be retained by her only during her lifetime. After the women dies, her estate, again goes back or reverts back to the nearest living legal representative of her already dead husband.

**CHILD MARRIAGE**

There was another serious problem that girls/ women faced was that of child marriage. Small kids in their adolescent age and ridiculously, in some cases, even infants in the cradle were married to each other. Early marriage affected the growth and development of the children. During mid 19th century the activist started raising their voice for fixation of minimum age for marriage and thereafter due to efforts of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Keshab Chandra Sen, who argued that early marriage was detrimental to the health of women, their efforts, coupled with that of Mahatma Gandhi, resulted in the passing of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.
FEMALE INFANTICIDE

Right from the birth of a girl child, a girl is considered a burden by her parents.

Since as per the custom when the girl gets married she goes to her husband’s place, therefore the parents did not want to waste their resources on her upbringing like education, clothing, and good food. The girl child is neglected at each stage of her life and the huge dowry demands which caused lot of hardship to the parents at the time of wedding, so, in order to avoid such difficulties, the parents preferred a male child since when the male child gets married they will be able to bring lot of goods i.e. cash, jewellery and other household items as a dowry. Therefore, such a considerations led to the practice of killing the girl child after she was born.

The practice of female infanticide was common among certain castes and tribes in India, especially in the north and north-western states. The custom of infanticide was particularly prominent among communities which found it difficult to find suitable husbands for their daughters and an unmarried daughter was considered a disgrace, disrespect to the fortune of family. The difficulty was raised innumerably by the highly extravagant expenditure which parents had to fulfil at the time of a daughter's marriage or else no one will marry the daughter and may be harassed for dowry.

Since due to much hue and cry over the girl infanticide, earliest efforts to stop female infanticide were made in Kathiawar and Kutch. In 1795, infanticide was declared to be murder by Bengal Regulation XXI. British government took steps against the evil of female infanticide and propagated the same. The Native Marriage Act of 1872, was passed by the efforts of Keshab
Chandra Sen, which abolished early marriages, polygamy was made an offence, allowed the widow remarriages and inter-caste marriages.

In 1901, the Government of Baroda passed the Infant Marriage Prevention Act. This Act fixed the minimum age for marriage for girls at 12 and for boys at sixteen. In 1930 the Sarda Act was passed, to prevent the solemnization of marriages between boys under the age of 18 years and girls under the age 14 years.

Under the Indian Majority Act, the age of a girl for the purpose of marriage is fixed at 18 years and for the boy it is fixed at 21 years. However, even today, the Act remains merely on paper on account of several factors and there are many states which till today does follow the decade old customs and treat the girls child as a burden and either kill them in the womb or does not give them their right when they come in this world.

WOMEN AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

In India, every female has right to vote after we got independence. Indian women did not face much difficulty in seeking the voting right like America and British women. Our leaders such as Gandhiji and others had given stress on mass participation in freedom movement and therefore, when the large number of women came together and they could also raise their concern in the legislative assembly as well. The various movements of freedom gave strength to women's voice.

But, women still constitute a mere 10% of the legislators in the Parliament and at the lok sabha. –According to the 1955 International Parliamentary Union Survey, women hold just 11.7% of all seats in Parliament around the world. If Success at the Panchayat level based on reservations for women convinced women's organizations that it is the correct time to extend these reservations to the higher levels.
The women also face lot of issues at panchayat level women members face lot of opposition in as much as the male members of the Panchayat do not consider them as equals. Family member also create problems to women, often resulting in their resigning from their seat.

Karnataka and West Bengal are good examples where women have exceeded the reserved seats with 33% with 42% respectively. These examples show that given a chance women can excel in any field however, what is required to excel is required support and encouragement which definitely improves their development.

**Islam in India**

As per 2001 records, Muslims constitute about 13.4% of India's population. But much stronger it had their influence on the Indian society. Arab traders and travellers arrived on the southern coast of India, even before Islam was established, to set up the trade relations with the local rulers of the states. The Arabs settlers got married to the local women resulting in their progeny growing up speaking the local language as their mother tongue, even though they were practicing Islam and having their own places of worship of their god.

Most of the Indian Muslims are converts from the lower castes of the Indian society. Thereby creating / initiating the caste system among the Muslims, although there was no caste system in Islam in existence. Upper castes also of other religion were influenced by Islam and thereafter they were converted. Muslim rulers were accompanied by the descendants of the rulers. The different categories of Muslims who accompanied the Muslim rulers remained in India and after marrying local women.

There is a lack of information on muslim women since they are not allowed to become part of general public being restrained behind close doors. Purdah
was a distinct feature of Muslim women. Education of Muslim women were only restricted to religious books information and knowledge. Although Muslim girls and boys were educated in primary school after wards the girls were completely absent from higher schools and in between the education was left incomplete. Womens of the royal mughal families received private education. Humayun Namah was a book on the realities faced by women socially was written by Babur's daughter Gulbadan Begum.

GENDER ISSUES IN INDIA

Gender based differences and on the basis of gender, violence is in existence in all the countries and across the entire world. Its a very serious problem faced by the women having negative impact on them mentally as well as physically. Thousands of women are psychologically abused, raped, brutally beaten by their intimate partners every year.

The word gender is understood as sociologically, it had connotation referred in social and cultural definition assigned to man and woman. Other way to understand the man and woman and distinguish men and women is by the roles assigned to them by society.

Families and society starts the gendering process as soon as a child is born. On the birth of a son, the family celebrates the birthday however, the birth of daughter is treated as a bad luck. Boys are treated with lot of love and care and, respect is given to the boys, better food is offered to boys and the provision is made for proper health care of the entire home. The boys are encouraged to be tough so that they can take care once old enough. The Girls are made to be homebound and shy, not talkative and take care of household matters. All these differences are gender differences and they are created by the society. There are other forms of inequalities as well however, gender inequality a form of inequality which is discrete and different from other inequalities like social and economical forms of inequalities. Gender inequalities starts from and has its roots at the social norms and perceptions.
Over all development of a women is affected due to such gender inequities. The gender issues created by the society makes the women weaker in all forms. The society treats the girl as a burden and on her birth itself parents thinks as to how to get married the girl and about dowry related problems. The society has created such issues by asking for dowry when they get married their son and when girl is born, curse their birth itself because they have to give dowry. The society itself has to change their attitude towards women so their own daughters are safe and does not become victim of gender violence. Women in Indian society has witnessed such inequalities of gender disparity right from the beginning due to factors such as religious, social and economical factors. Such factors widens the gap of gender inequities between man and woman in society.

**PROBLEMS OF WORKING WOMEN**

Working women at the place of their employment does face problems for no reason but because just they are women and working there and therefore made to suffer. Social attitude is so deadly and different to the role of women which is very difficult to be thrown out by the laws enacted. The Indian constitution gives fundamental equal rights to all including women in terms of caste, creed, race, gender, education and even though inequality exists in all forms against the women. The working women faces sexual harassment in day today life and it affects her fundamental right to work guaranteed by Indian constitution. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome physical contact, showing pornography, sexually coloured remarks or creating intimidating environment for working women. Either a women who is drawing a salary or honorarium, such an environment can be disturbing and it can affect the physical and mental state of women. The Supreme court in the case of Vishaka & Ors v/s. State of Rajasthan has extensively dealt with the problem of sexual violence faced by women at work place and issued the detailed guidelines on gender inequality and sexual violence at work place till the legislations is drafted to deal with this problem.
As per the guidelines the following were required to be followed:

a) Employers Duty:

Its employer's duty or other responsible person to prevent the sexual harassment cases occurring at the employment and as well make such policies that it should have a deterrent effect.

b) Employer is required to take the preventive steps which prohibits the sexual harassment at workplace. All the employees are required to be notified for the such policies made by the employer.

c) Various rules and regulations formed for preventing the harassment by the government and public sector units should make the provisions for penalizing act sexual harassment of women who are working at such workplace.

d) Appropriate working conditions should be provided to women so that to ensure that hostile working conditions does not exists.

e) Appropriate action to be taken where the offence committed falls in the offences defined under Indian Penal Code.

f) In case of a breach of rules if the same amounts to misconduct as per the rules framed, the employer must take disciplinary action.

g) Complaint redressal mechanism to be formed and each complaint to be addressed in a time bound mechanism.

h) Employees should be freely allowed to raise the complaints in the forum.
The data shows that from 1950 to 2001 as compared to boys, the girls ratio is low. Though in the year 2001 it has increased to 85.9% from 24.8% in the year 1950-1951 which has shown the incredible increase however, compared to the boys enrolment its still poor which shows that till even in recent era there exists a gender disparity. In order to economically empower the women, the poverty eradication needs be given due attention by making various policies to bring up the women below poverty line to make them economically stronger. There is also a need to open more credit institution so that women in need can avail of these credit facilities for their own benefit. For socially empowering the women along with education, there should be proper health care mechanism which should include and tackle the nutritional needs as well their reproductive rights. The human development is also measured through infant mortality rate maternal mortality rate.

**The government needs to take all around measures to empower the women:**

1) By taking the steps to eradicate the violence against women in all forms;

2) To spread the awareness amongst women of their rights and remedies;

3) By enforcing the various laws strictly so that the women are protected;

4) Giving women equal opportunity to represent them in politics;

5) More strict laws needs to be formulated;

6) Most important is to reduce the gender gap in education which is of great importance because even though the rate of education has increased, but gender gap has not reduced significantly;

7) NGOs to be used effectively to spread awareness and bring in light the issues faced by women so that it can be resolved.
Nehru has said –when women moves forward, the family moves, the village moves, and the nation moves.‖

It is our bounden duty to respect women so that she moves forward and entire nation develops. The fifty percent of India’s population forms women however working women are effectively is very low which amounts to lower development of the nation.

**Status of women in modern India:**

God dwells there where women are respected as per the old Indian belief but how true the same stands in modern India…..!

The Universal declaration of human rights declares that motherhood and childhood requires special care and protection. Indian constitution provides equality, liberty and right to life to all and it also casts a duty on each citizen to give up the customs and inbuilt rooted practices which may be regarded as offensive and derogatory to women. Over and above this, each state has been imposed with an obligation to maintain law and order and justice to women. Despite the innumerable laws, international treaties and declarations, the fate of women is a one horrifying experience in her day today life. The problem lies in the mindset of people who treats the women as object of pleasure only and treats them like an object mercilessly and inhumanly. We remember the Delhi rape case, where a women was raped brutally and left on the roads and she at the end died in the hospital. Such incidence leaves each of us in trauma and with the feeling that we are not safe in anywhere in this cruel world. In the Vedic period, where women had lot of freedom and could move freely however, unfortunately, now women are made to live secluded and with fear. The women are scared but the law breakers are not scared with any kind of punishment and they continue to carry such heinous crime against women.
In India, such behaviour of men is routed deeply in society. India is a male dominated country and where women are always ill treated by society. Since childhood women are taught to become subordinated to male member. Women are not taught to know about their rights and equality. Practically, women are now exercising greater influence in many professions, politics, administrative departments and many other fields. We can see lot of development also in the field of awareness amongst women of their rights however, still the day is far when they will enjoy the basic right of freedom and fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution. Women who forms half of the population but they are at the bottom of all decision making in terms of social, politics even at their home as well. The existence of women in positively taking part in the various field is very low. Women's participation and role is more notable in todays society because of changing values, increase in literacy rate, participation in politics, management and economy. From 19th century, these changes were seen in the status of women in modern India.

There are various factors which led to changes in the status of women and they are mainly as follows:

1. Status of women changed in all these years due to many reasons amongst environmental and institutional factors. Technological changes due to developing science created new roles which in turn have created new demands for the women labour.

Previously only women from lower classes went out and searched for jobs and women from higher class and middle class stayed at home looking after domestic chores, however, with the higher education among women, girls from these higher class and middle class also opted for professional jobs.

2. Educational development and awareness which was made by the government has also contributed towards the development of women. The nation had adopted many policies as well as done massive programmes for
national awareness such as television advertisement, NGO creating awareness by visiting the women, free education for women. Improvement in education is one of the major factor which affected the status of women. The government raised the age bar of women for marriage, societal norms, family's behaviour towards educating the girls and making them independent also changed in the all these years. Women themselves started realising the importance of higher education and becoming independent.

3. Science with technology has also improved the medical and with that the health of women has also improved. National health programmes also improved the family planning. So the women need not worry for the large family. They can also save their time and energy for the outside work as well. These contributed and helped women in taking part in the work of their choice.

4. Attitude of women as well as men had changed due to widespread of awareness programme, television, newspaper.

5. The migration of families from rural to urban cities has also affected in the changing attitude of women. In rural areas women were confined either to home or to hard jobs, however, in urban areas women got free from such hardships and have also got better opportunities of employment and higher education, awareness of their rights.

6. After independence though, the Indian constitution was drafted and many rights and freedoms were granted but the status of women had not improved. It only during 1954 and 1956 that, our parliament drafted many laws relating to hindu marriage and divorce Act, succession Act, laws relating to Adoption, minority and guardianship Act were enacted and thereafter the women got equal rights as men and the status of women started developing.

In olden days, patriarchal system was followed and women were made to confine and look after their children and home requirements. However, now
with changing societal norms, attitude and increase awareness, higher education, the roles of women has also undergone paradigm shift and all these positive shifts have made women gain its status in the modern society.