Today, Indian society is facing many gender-related problems. Westernisation and globalisation had taken gender-related issues to a new realm in modern Indian society. Taking the European paradigms and parameters as the standards of social progress, Indian feminists had formulated their feminist theory to suite with the Western feminist ideology. The modern Indian women belonging to the upper and middle strata fall in line with the Western feminist idea as the only way to become progressive. At the same time, it is unfortunate that no modern feminist theory could help the women belonging to the lower strata to improve their social conditions. Their low economic and social status denies intellectual and spiritual freedom to them and they become the victims of poverty and exploitation. This new trend among the women in the name of modernisation or globalisation will certainly have its ill effects on the spiritual tradition and cultural heritage which India has been preserving down the centuries.

Going deep into the social philosophy of Swami Vivekananda in general and the idea of Indian womanhood rooted in the Ideal of Motherhood, my effort is to project the women empowerment measures preached by Swami Vivekananda. Through this study, I have also made an attempt to direct the attention of the modern Indian feminist thinkers towards formulating an Indian Theory of Feminism rooted in the spiritual tradition and cultural heritage of India. I hope such a theory of feminism could meet the social, economic, intellectual and spiritual needs and aspirations of modern Indian women belonging not only to the upper, middle but also to the lower strata of the society.

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