
THE GREATNESS OF INDIAN WOMEN PERSONALITIES OF ANCIENT AND MODERN HISTORY: THE VIRTUES TO BE BUILT UP.

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Abstract: Indian Women is the one who upholds the respect of women community. Society respects her as Goddess for her great work and all the sacrifices she makes. All nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to women. Manu says, *“Where women are respected, there the Gods delight; and where they are not, there all works and efforts come to naught.”* That country and that nation which do not respect to women have never become great, nor will ever be in future. There is no hope of rise for that family or country also. The epic Ramayana itself is the proof for the society to bring awareness about how the bad attitude of Ravana and the disrespect shown towards Sita Matha by him brought devastation to Lanka, his entire province. The negative connotation, that men have, regarding physical weakness of women and the non-combating quality of woman is unjust. Our History proves that what the physical, mental and spiritual strengths a woman have! Indian epics have many names of great women who lived as example to the generations; by serving as a brave warrior, by achieving in literature, service, politics, sports, arts, etc. Being only at the foundation stage cannot make you construct the entire building. In the same way, God is providing us knowledge in all areas one by one, generation by generation, birth by birth. Our Ramana Maharishi all the while says, “Know Thyself”; so that you can easily achieve your goals and reach the destination. A mother is the first Guru of a child. *A Mother is the custodian of values, culture, knowledge and wisdom.* Today the world needs is a compassionate, motherly heart to guide and a discriminative intellect to proceed on the path of Dharma. Our mothers should never forget that, they have tremendous responsibility on their shoulders in shaping the destiny of their children and in turn the destiny of the nation. Swami Vivekananda rightly said, *‘It is only in the homes of educated and pious mothers that great men are born.’* Once again Indian women will rise to that glorious motherhood where upon the whole world will bow down to them in awe and respect. India will again be able to produce great women of wisdom and knowledge. As Swami Vivekananda said, *“There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.”* Mother’s life and teachings will certainly guide and inspire our young minds on the right path. In this article I wish to discuss about the virtues of great personalities and once again remember our society about the wonderful Shakti our Indian women possess and the ways to inculcate such virtues for those who are interested, so that the dreams of our Mahatmas will soon be true. The world is in need of such characters, who would demonstrate the combination of ancient wisdom and modern scientific outlook.

Keywords: Indian Women, Virtues, Culture & Values, Knowledge & Wisdom.

Introduction: Women need to empower themselves from below, and this calls for a change of values and behaviour and the need for economic empowerment. Empowerment of women is a major social phenomenon which requires an understanding of its multi-dimensional influence, including our family structures and units. The Government has designed several programmes which cover welfare and support services, awareness generation and gender sensitization. All the efforts are being directed to make women economically and socially empowered so that they can become equal and active partners in national development along with men. Women must be economically and socially empowered through focused efforts. But mere Government intervention is not enough. Better results can be produced by determined women citizens empowering themselves and being encouraged to do so by enlightened segments of society and public opinion. All problems centre around inequality and therefore, steps to promote equality of treatment and full integration of women in the development of the country must be promoted. Government of India’s policy on women development has undergone various shifts of emphasis since Independence.

Woman is as courageous as man. The strength of a man is like the strength of a mountain; whereas the strength of a woman is like the strength of flowing water. She is soft, tender, compassionate and loving by nature and these qualities alone have made her great. Our history reminds the greatness of Indian Women Personalities since ancient periods to modern periods-the virtues to be built up to bring about holistic empowerment of women in India. It would be apt to quote Swami Vivekananda’s statement that, *“There is no chance for the welfare of the World unless the condition of Women is improved. It’s not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing.”* Surely a change is to be brought out from within. Hence, for this, the great stories and facts of great Indian women, their virtues will be helpful to rebuild the society.

Indian women are the one who upholds the respect of women community. Society respects her as Goddess for her great work and all the sacrifices she makes. All nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to women. That country and that nation which do not respect women have never become, great, nor will ever be in future. Manu says *“Where women are respected, there the Gods delight; and where they are not, there all*

works and efforts come to naught.” Swami Vivekananda predicted a hundred years ago and wrote to Swami Sivananda, “The world was in need of such characters, who would demonstrate the combination of ancient wisdom and modern scientific outlook.” The Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi came to fulfill the purpose.

Objectives:

1. To know about the greatness and importance of our Indian Women personalities.
2. To identify the inborn and inculcated virtues possessed by our Indian women as their wealth.
3. To know about the virtues that are needed to be inculcated for the sake of our present society.

Sita Devi: An Avatara of Goddess Lakshmi-A Paragon of Virtue:

Sita is a Paragon of Virtue. She is most self-respecting, dignified, resolute, strong willed and even given to strong language. Sita is the most virtuous and pious lady the world has ever produced. She is still a model for Indian girls. She is an Avatara of Goddess Lakshmi. She is an ideal wife. She is an embodiment of endurance and austerity. In Sita, beauty is blended with purity, simplicity, devotion and sacrifice. All should shine like Sita-All should imbibe the qualities of Sita. Dignity is elevation of mind or character. It is grandeur of mien (person’s behaviour). It is impressiveness of character or manner. It is stateliness. Dignity is the state or quality calculated to inspire awe, respect or reverence. It is serenity of demeanour. Dignity of position adds to dignity of character as well as dignity of carriage. The statesman’s dignity is innate. Against lies, calumnies, etc., dignity is the only weapon. Dignity is the state or quality of being excellent, worthy or honourable, as the dignity of labour, to stand upon one’s own importance, especially if offended.

Resolution: A fixed Determination: Resolution is the fixed determination. It is steadiness. It is constancy or fixed purpose. A man who is unshakeably firm and steady, bold and unflinching is a man of resolute will. He must still be with good and fixed determination, especially in the face of dangers or difficulties. He must have active fortitude. He who is firm and resolute in will attains success in all undertakings. Failure is unknown to him. Resolution is omnipotent. A man of resolution scales all barriers which stand in his way. All difficulties vanish for him. Courage, steady perseverance, fortitude and strength are the companions of resolution. A man of resolution has the nerve which never relaxes, the eye which ever blenches, the thought which never wanders, the purpose that never wavers. He always attains victory. Resolution is our soul help in need. Be fixed and resolute. March on steadily. Gird up your loins. Persevere. You can conquer the whole world. A man of resolution pulverises the Himalayas, swallows the fire and drinks the waters of the ocean in a minute. He can accomplish anything in the three worlds in the twinkling of an eye. Even if the whole world opposes him, he marches forward with undaunted spirit. Where in there is resolution, there is the dynamic, irresistible, strong will. Resolution and strong Will, go hand in

hand. Be resolute. Stick to resolves. Strengthen your resolves. You will develop your will. A man with good resolution and Will will be as what they say, say what they are, write as they speak, speak as they think.

Sri Sarada Devi: The Holy Mother-A Wonderful Shakti of India:

Sri Sarada Devi has been born to revive that wonderful Shakti in India; and making her the nucleus, once more will Gargis and Maitreyi be born into the world. In the midst of confusion and chaos, modern minds are groping in darkness unable to discriminate between right and wrong. On the one hand there is Western glamour; on the other is utter ignorance about the glorious Indian value system. A mother is the first Guru of a child. She is the custodian of values, culture, knowledge and wisdom. Today, what the world needs is a compassionate, motherly heart to guide, and a discriminative intellect to proceed on the path of Dharma. The Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi’s advent will certainly guide and protect our modern generation from the western influence. To create an ideal mother with motherly qualities such as love, compassion, modesty, forbearance, forgiveness, dedication, sacrifice, purity, chastity, selflessness, strength, courage, contentment, humility etc., Sri Sarada Devi incarnated on this Holy land of Bharata. By following the ideal of the Holy Mother, India will again be able to produce great women of wisdom and knowledge. Mother’s life and teachings will certainly guide and inspire our young minds on the right path.

Compassion: To attain Peace: Compassion is sympathy with pain or sorrow, fellow-feeling that prompts one to relieve the pain and suffering of others. Compassion leads to the attainment of peace. It is strength. It gives strength and joy. It prepares one’s mind for the descent of divine Light. Hence, cultivate compassion. Have a tender, soft heart, know and understand the sufferings of others, and be ever ready to help them. Modesty is a shining light. It prepares the mind to receive wisdom and the heart to receive the Truth. Modesty is the colour of virtue. It is not only an ornament but also a guard to virtue. Modesty is a feminine virtue. It is humility. It is purity of thought, character, feeling or conduct and manners. It is becoming behaviour. It is chastity. It is purity. It is moderation. It is the absence of all tendencies to overestimate oneself. The speech of a modest person is inspiring and elevating. He turns away his ear from his own praise. He ever shuns making himself the subject of his conversation. Modest person is the one who make no display of their talents or attainments. He should not blow his trumpet. A person who is free or away from features of an egoistic person will be admired and acknowledged for his talents, abilities and achievements. A Pot full of water makes no sound. Empty vessels make much sound. Modesty is eloquence itself. A modest man wins the heart of all. He is respected and adored by all. Therefore be modest. Cultivate modesty to a maximum degree which automatically possesses the virtues of purity, humility,

chastity. As a plain garment gives very good beauty to a woman, so a decent behaviour or modesty is the greatest ornament of wisdom. A modest person is free from show or gaudiness. He is disinclined to bring himself into notice or limelight. He is free from vanity and pride. He is very simple. Modesty gives lustre to Truth.

Jhansi Lakshmi Bai: The bravest of all the Leaders: Rani Lakshmi Bai Jhansi was probably the bravest of all the leaders who fought for India's Independence against the mighty British. Her maiden name of Lakshmi Bai was Manikarnika or Manu was very athletic and loved to compete with boys. She is also an avid reader with a love for learning. She was educated at home and was more independent in her childhood than others of her age; her studies included archery, horsemanship and self-defence. She got married to the king of Jhansi at an early age only. She lost her son to whom she gave birth after 9 years of married life. The Maharaja was also unwell and was worried that he had no successor to the throne. The king knew that the British may not lose to take the opportunity over the kingdom of Jhansi if it were left without an heir. He quickly arranged to adopt a son in Nov, 1853. On the following day, the Maharaja died. The prince was still a minor. Lakshmi Bai decided to run the kingdom until the adopted son reached maturity. It was not easy for a woman to be the head of state at that time. Rani Lakshmi Bai faced many difficulties but she ran the kingdom well. She mastered the martial arts, and inspired Jhansi's women to join the army and take a more active role in defending the country. Lakshmi Bai's courage, strength and ability as she valiantly fought the British army's vastly superior forces, are remembered to this day. Rani Lakshmi Bai was commented as, "personable, clever and beautiful" and she was "the most dangerous of all Indian leaders." She was a symbol of women manhood as the line says in her respect, "khoob ladi mardni wo to Jhansi wali rani thi." i.e., bravely and relentlessly she fought like men.

Rani Rudramadevi: An able Fighter and Dynamic Ruler: Rani Rudramadevi was one of the most prominent rulers of the Kakatiya dynasty on the Deccan Plateau, being one of the few ruling queens in Indian history. Rudramma was formally designated as a son through the ancient putrika ceremony and given the male name of Rudra deva. When she was only fourteen years old, Rani Rudramadevi succeeded her father. Rudramadevi was married to Veerabhadra, Eastern Chalukyan Prince of Nidadavolu. Despite of initial misgivings by some of her generals who resented a female ruler, she suppressed both uprisings within Kakatiya territory and incursions by neighbouring kingdoms with the help of others, most notably Gona Ganna Reddy. Rudramaba was an able fighter and dynamic ruler. She defended the kingdom from the Cholas and the Yadavas, earning their respect. She was one of very few female rulers in South India during her time. She was one of the most outstanding queens in Indian history from the Kakatiya dynasty and people still

cherish her memories. Her gender did not come on her way in discharging duties of her exalted office. She took an active part in governing the country and strove hard to promote the best interests of the state. In spite of the wars which frequently disturbed the country; her people remained contented and happy under her rule. Marco Polo, the Venetian traveler who paid a visit to the kingdom probably a little later, speaks highly of her administrative qualities, benign rule and greatness.

Courage: Source of all success: Courage is bravery, undaunted spirit, fearlessness, intrepidity. It is the quality that enables men to meet dangers without fear. Courage enlarges your resources but cowardice diminishes them. Courage is an essential high character without which there cannot be truth. Nothing can be done in this world without courage. It is the greatest virtue of the mind. Courage is that quality of mind which enables man to encounter danger, opposition and difficulties with firmness, calmness and intrepidity or without fear or depression of spirits. A courageous man is cool and calm. At the very time of danger, he is extremely serene. Physical courage and moral courage are necessary to make a man great. Moral courage is a virtue of higher order than physical. It is very ennobling. True courage is not the brutal force of vulgar heroes, but the firm resolves of virtue and reason. The courage of a soldier in the battle is Rajaso-Tamasic, but the courage of an aspirant is Sattvic. *If you have courage and confidence, you can accomplish anything in this world.* Courage is the source of all success. Impossible things become possible if you have courage and confidence. You may have courage when everything is going right; but it is difficult to have courage in times of panic and danger. The really courageous man is one who knows no fear when danger is on his heels and helps others with a calm attitude of mind. Courage is the sterner stuff of which heroes are made. Always pluck up your courage to nerve yourself to something daring.

Indira Gandhi: First Woman Prime Minister-Regional Hegemon: Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi was the 3rd Prime Minister of India but, the First Woman Prime Minister of India. She served as the chief of staff of her father's highly centralized administration between 1947-1964 and came to wield considerable unofficial influence in Government she refused to become Prime Minister as a succession to her father and chose to become a Cabinet Minister in the Government. She finally consented to become Prime Minister in succession to Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1966. As Prime Minister, Gandhi became known for her political ruthlessness and unprecedented centralization of Power. She presided over a period where India emerged with greater power than before to become the regional hegemon of South Asia with considerable political, economic and military developments. She made lasting changes to the constitution of India. She was also named "Woman of the Millennium in a poll organized by

BBC in 1999. She was even voted as the greatest Indian Prime Minister in a poll organized by India Today in 2001. Gandhi personally had a fuzzy concept of socialism. In one of her interviews she had given as Prime Minister, she had ruminated: "I suppose you could call me a socialist, but you have understand what we mean by that term....we used the word socialism because it came closest to what we wanted to do here-which is to eradicate poverty. You can call it socialism; but if by using that word we arouse controversy, I don't see why we should use it. I don't believe in words at all. Regardless of the debate over her ideology or lack of thereof, Gandhi remains a left-wing icon. She has been described as the "arguably the greatest mass leader of the last century. Her campaign slogan, "Garibi Hatao" (English: Remove Poverty) has become the iconic motto of the Indian National Congress. To the rural and urban poor, untouchables, minorities and women in India, Gandhi was 'Indira Amma or Mother Indira.' Gandhi claimed that, "only clear vision, Iron will and the strictest discipline" can remove poverty. The day before her death Indira Gandhi visited orissa on 30th Oct 1984 where she gave her last speech:

"I am alive today; I may not be there tomorrow. I shall continue to serve till my last breath and when I die every drop of my blood will strengthen India and keep a United India alive." Rajiv Gandhi on a live TV Show said of the carnage, "When a big tree falls, the earth shakes."

Kiran Bedi: First Woman IPS Officer an Indian Social Activist: Kiran Bedi is an Indian social activist and a retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. Bedi joined the Police service in 1972 and became the first woman officer in the IPS. Kiran Bedi along with 15 other police officers set up Navjyoti India Foundation (NIF) in 1987, NIF started with a de-addiction and rehabilitation initiative for the drug addicts and now the organization has expanded to other social issues like illiteracy and women. In 1994 Bedi set up India vision Foundation which works in field of police reforms, prison reforms, women empowerment, and her organizations were awarded the "Serge Soitiroff Memorial Award" for drug abuse prevention by the United Nations. During her stint as the Inspector General of Prisons, in Tihar Jail, (Delhi 1993-95) she instituted a number of reforms in the management of the prison; and initiated a number of measures such as detoxification programs. Art of Living Foundation prison courses, Yoga, Vipassana meditation, redressing of complaints by prisoners and literacy programs. She won the Raman Magasassey Award in 1994. In May 2005, she was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Law in recognition of her 'humanitarian approach to prison reforms and policing.'

Chanda Kochhar: Awardee of Padma Bushan-The Most Powerful Woman: Chanda Kochhar is Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd., India's second-largest bank and the largest in the private sector. She is widely recognized for her role in shaping the retail banking sector in India and for her leadership

of the ICICI group, as well as for her contributions to various forums in India and globally. Ms. Kochhar was conferred the "Padma Bhushan"; one of India's highest civilian honours by the Government of India in the year 2011 for her services to the banking sector. She was named "*The Most Powerful Woman in Indian Business, 2011*" by *Fortune India*. She is a member of the Prime Minister's council on Trade and Industry, a member of the Board of Trade, High-Level committee on Financing Infrastructure, US-India CEO Forum and UK-India CEO Forum. She expressed her views that, the basic culture of the organization should remain more or less constant because that represents the core values that you run your organization with. Some of the core values we run our organization with are; we have to be an organization where people work in teams; people are sensitive to each other's needs; people will stretch to reach the next target; and there will be efficiency and energy. The culture part remains more stable, but on that culture you juxtapose the goal you want to achieve and you achieve it on the basis of the culture. The organizational structure should be flexible and should always get tuned to that goal that you are trying to achieve. She expressed that; the communication should per co late right down the organization to all levels. Further, it does not stop at being a one-time communication. She said that, gender diversity is important because, it gives you access to the entire talent pool in the country. If you believe that you will run an organization with just one gender, irrespective of which ever gender it is, you are basically closing your eyes to half the talent pool in the country. Gender diversity actually means that you are open to tapping the entire talent pool in the country. She also said that every decision that you take; every decision that you have every idea that you implement; with a gender diverse talent pool, you get 360 degree view of the same decision, discussion or idea. It is a more complete way of looking at things; because different genders do bring in different perspectives and I think that is how it just works much better. If you want to be a merit-oriented organization you should not shut out the other half of the pool. She said that not just communicating, but, the direction and path of change, basic underlying logic for the change is also to be made aware to the employees." She also expressed that, the right pursuit of happiness is to be first very clear in your mind about the choice that you want to make and after that you have to give to that option whatever that option takes. You cannot then feel unhappy about it. She also told that balancing work and house hold duties is not possible by just dividing hours but, you have to do both and you have to do both well in those 24 hours.

Contentment: Opens the Inner Eye: Contentment is Bliss. Contentment develops vairagya, discrimination and vichara. It is contentment that makes an aspirant look upon the worthless, perishable things of this world as poison, dung, straw or dust. Contentment gives immortality and infinite peace. A contented mind is the

greatest blessing a man can enjoy in this world. He who has perfect contentment brings balance of mind and perfect poise. A contented man though poor is the emperor of the whole world. A contented man is one who does not long after what he has not possessed; and enjoys what he has in right manner. He is quite satisfied with what so ever he gets. Contentment is natural wealth. Luxury is artificial poverty. A contented man derives happiness from within. Happiness consists, not in possessing much but in being content with what you possess. He who wants little always has enough. Contentment opens the inner eye of man and moves his mind towards divine contemplation.

Meerabai: Rajput Princess-A True Devotee of Lord Krishna: Meera was a Rajput Princess. At about 7 years of age, she became obsessed by a Murti (image) of Giridhar Gopal Krishna owned by a holy man and was inconsolable until she possessed it and kept it all her life. She found Krishna to be her only support and resisted the wishes of her in-laws to give up her worship. Her grief turned into a passionate spiritual devotion that inspired in her countless poems drenched with separation and longing. Meera's love for Krishna was at first a private thing but at some moment it overflowed into an ecstasy that led her to sing and dance in public with other who shared her religious Zeal. She would quietly leave chitore fort at night and join Satsangs in the town below. The behaviour did not fit the expected behaviour of a Rajput princess and widow. Her brother-in-law Vikramaditya who was reportedly acruel youth, strongly objected to Meera's devotion, her mixing with commoners and her lack of feminine modesty. He made several attempts to kill Meera and her sister-in-law, Uda bai is said to have spread defamatory gossip. There are a number of popular beliefs asserting that, he tried to harm Meera, but, because of her great extent of devotion and faith towards Lord Krishna only saved her.

A few of them are:

- a) He mixed poison in the prasadam or charna-amritam of Krishna and made her drink it. But by God's grace, Krishna changed it to Amrit.
- b) He pinned iron nails in Meera's bed, but again by God's grace, they turned into rose petals.
- c) He put a snake in a flower basket and told her that it was a gift from him to her Lord Krishna, but when she opened it she found a garland or an image of Krishna.

She considered herself to be a reborn gopika, mad with love for Krishna. In popular belief, she expressed her desire to engage in a discussion about spiritual matters with Rupa Goswami, a direct disciple of Chaitanya, who, being a renunciate celibate, refused to meet a woman. Meera replied that, the only true man in this universe is Lord Krishna.

Love: Master Key to Open the Dore of Eternal Bliss: Love is the holiest right of the soul. It is the master key to open the door of eternal bliss. It cements the broken hearts. Life is a sweet flower of which love is the honey. The great pleasure of life is love. Love is the golden link

or tie which binds heart to heart, mind to mind, soul to soul. Love is the crowning grace of humanity. This world has come out of love. It exists in love. It finally dissolves in love. Love inspires, illumines, designates and leads the way. Love never reasons but profusely gives. It looks not with the eyes, but with the heart. It looks through a telescope. Love is not getting or bargaining. It is goodness, honour and peace and pure living. Pure love is bliss, immortal, divine essence, divine frame and without selfish attachment. It is ever brilliant. It is never exhausted. It is the very essence of pure love to be willing to suffer for the good of others, to place its happiness in the happiness of others. Physical love is animalism. It is passion exalted and refined. It is gross and sensual. Love of body or skin is passion. Love of God is prema or devotion. It is pure love. It is love for love's sake. True pure love is eternal, unchanging and infinite. It takes unselfish interest in other people's welfare, interest in other lives than its own. Hatred ceases not by hatred but ceases by love. Return love for hatred.

Review of Literature:

1. 'Bob Dudley' in his interview expressed that, courage is the key. They define and establish a new set of values and behaviours and work directly with himself and the executive Team. Their values of safety, respect, excellence, courage and one team are being instilled in a number of core Human Resource and internal processes, such as performance management. Courage has perhaps differentiated them, in terms of doing the right thing and being true to what they stand for. He also focused on deepening diversity across the organization, not just through gender and ethnicity, but across geographies and communities. He told, he is proud to have female leaders in locations where fewer women have traditionally, worked in senior roles. He said that, "India is a valuable source of talent and one of our highest profile leaders originates from India and so, that itself shows our idea of the respect we have for its talent."

2. N. Chandra Sekharan in his interview expressed that; the word 'culture' cannot be verbalized or difficult to explain in many aspects. For them, it has various dimensions such as what is acceptable behaviour, commitment, values, collaboration and team work. Culture is the sum total of all that we personify. Culture is everybody's business, values are everybody's business and these cannot be departmentalized. Administration, for example, can be departmentalized.

They build diverse teams, driving diversity as part of the culture and driving across functional teams. Rather than putting a metric-a number to the resource requirements for leadership levels, he would like to drive these initiatives by driving behaviour. If you set a metric, it may get done, but if you drive behaviour, and then let that take care of the metric, I feel it has lasting and enduring impact on our leadership develop process. Though there may be a lot of Indian influence that is natural, but they want to nurture their unique cultural

characteristics in all employees, make them to be very transparent, provide space and opportunity for every employ to grow and be a platform for all to realize their potential.

3. 'Mandeep Kaur and Tine Vohra' expressed that, the participation of women in the economy is important in order to enhance and contribute towards raising the economic potential of a country. Long-standing inequalities have prevented women from participating in and benefiting from stock markets. They face discriminatory practices which prevent them from seeming entry into certain occupations, especially male-dominated ones. In the present study, the diverse literature available worldwide on the stock market participation of women has been explored and analyzed and the impediments faced by women while investing in the stock market. The article demonstrates that there are several impediments that prevent women from investing in the stock market and suggests that besides financial literacy programmes, changes in attitude and behaviour of the society as well as women are needed in order to improve their participation in the stock market.

4. 'Sajal Kumar' in his article said that, two significant developments are taking place in the global economy. One is women-owned business and the second is international trade. Women constitute half of the world's human resources. They are starting business at a rate twice than men both at traditional and in new ventures. Most of the women from Bengal i.e., Bengali house wives have come out of their traditional habits to tap this of home delivery catering services in the changed perspective. Educated Bengali housewives are quickly adapting to this profession as a source of income and as a source of pleasure to utilize their leisure time after having given adequate time for upbringing of their children and family. They are successfully running businesses with small capital from family and with a few helping hands and few delivery boys. They are the supervisors of their own businesses; the prospect of which they think is bright.

5. 'Susan Chirayath and Deepa Chirayath' presented in their article that, early and mid 1990's witnessed revolutionary changes in Kerala, the most important among them being the evolution of participatory development. Drawing strength from this innovative change and its success in the state, government of Kerala established 'kudumbashree' mission on 17th May, 1998 to eradicate poverty from the state in 10 years by empowering women through collective action. The poor women of Kerala could identify their inner strength; they could place their knowledge at the service

of people to enable them to work for their own individual and collective betterment. The program also ensured sustainable livelihood to lakhs of poor families in the state. This also enabled the poor women to develop confidence and carve a place for them in Kerala society. This program also makes them to view poverty as a multi-phased phenomenon that calls for a holistic approach to tackle its multiple manifestations. This mission has made remarkable strides within a decade and proved how well-defined goals and the right course of action can make success of a movement for social and economic empowerment of women below poverty line. This also posed a formidable challenge to the marketing systems evolved by established business groups in the state.

Conclusion: The understanding of Mahabharata, when read by a person will be limited only to his level of understanding and intelligence. In the same way when a person wishes to build his character, it depends on the virtues he inculcates which in turn lead to build a great personality. Along with the discussed great personalities of women, there are some others from whom we are supposed to learn or cultivate innumerable virtues. In one angle, history repeats itself. At the period of ancient history, to defeat Britishers, leaders like Jhansi Rani were required. But for modern society, the history should repeat with similar or almost same virtues but in a different dimension. The women of today are required to inculcate qualities like compassion, tolerance, forgiveness, forbearance, dedication, sacrifice, purity, love, contentment, etc., who can give motherly guidance, which is not possible by any man to that much extent as that of women. In this way, God is training each and every individual of the society with such qualities to be inculcated in them and finally make them attained by them. These all incidents prove that a woman is not an Abala but a Sabala.

Suggestions:

1. Mothers should always remember that, tremendous responsibility is on their shoulders to shape the destiny of their children and in turn the destiny of the nation.
2. It should become an inborn quality for a woman to bring happiness and peace at home and in society by understanding the natural, inborn and fundamental psychological differences between men and women and helping everyone to prosper on the path of Dharma.
3. Pure love that strengthens the character gives a higher pure motive and a nobler aim to every action of life and makes a nation.

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