

CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN FROM TRADITION TO MODERNITY

Syndicate No 2:

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*I measure the progress of a community
by the degree of progress which women
have achieved” - **B. R. Ambedkar***

Vedic period

- Gender equality (can be seen from the fact that birth of girl child was seen as auspicious)
- Education of vedas at par with boys
- Renowned poets
- Freedom and equality
- Participated in every walk of life
- Evolution of culture and tradition

- Participated in intellectual and philosophical discussions
- medicine, teaching, administration, business and military.
- Freedom to choose partners and marriage with their consent.
- Right of inheritance
- Widow remarriage

Post vedic period

- Denial of education
- Curtailment of religious rights and privileges
- Right of inheritance was not well established
- Denial of participation in sacrificial ceremonies and public meetings
- No to widow remarriage and yes to sati and polygamy

Takeaways from Ancient Indian History

VEDIC PERIOD

- Major role in all walks of life
- Gender equality and an elevated status and role to that of a man

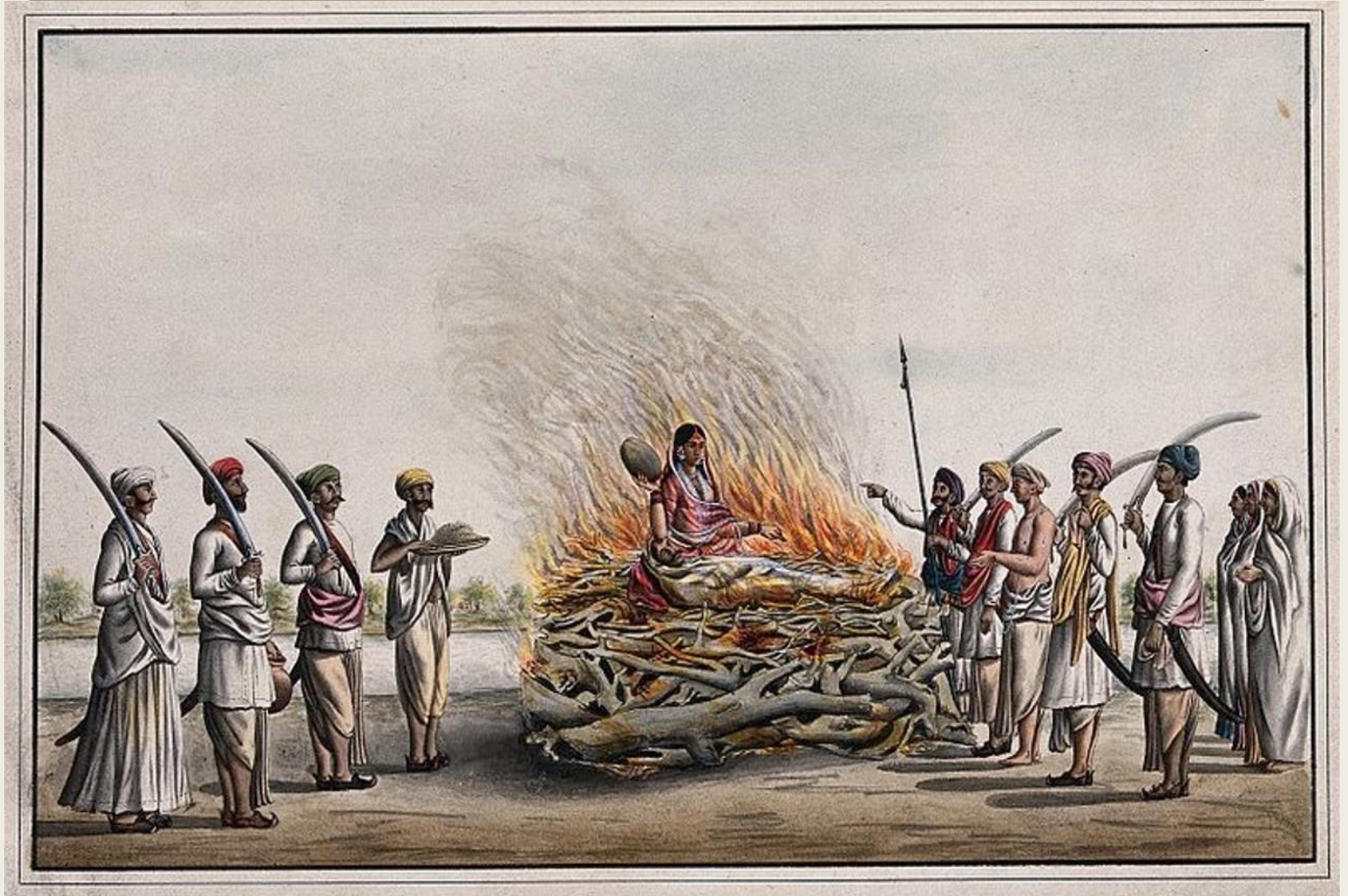
POST VEDIC PERIOD

- Objectified
- Denial of any significant and prominent role in the society

Medieval period

- Dark age for women
- Considered as property of men
- Not allowed to move freely and that led to further deterioration
- Women considered as burden
- Child marriage
- Women were not given education
- Many evils exist in society

Sati



Jauhar



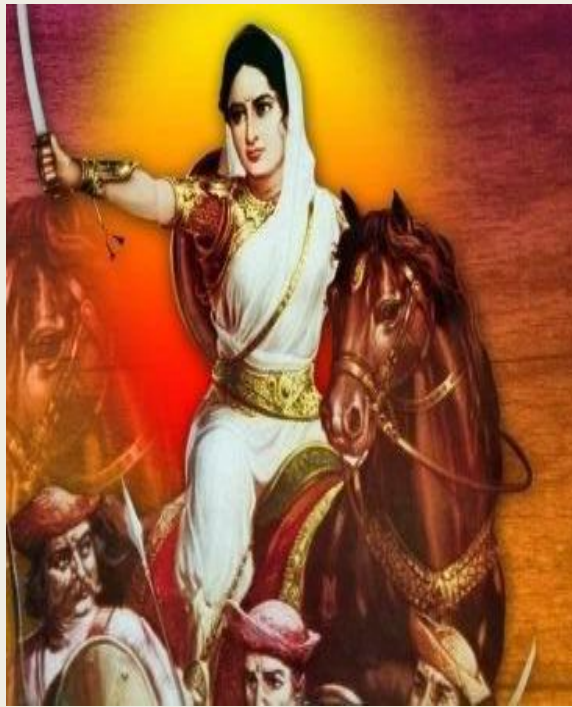
- Despite all these challenges women have played their role in political, social and religious fields
- Razia sultan



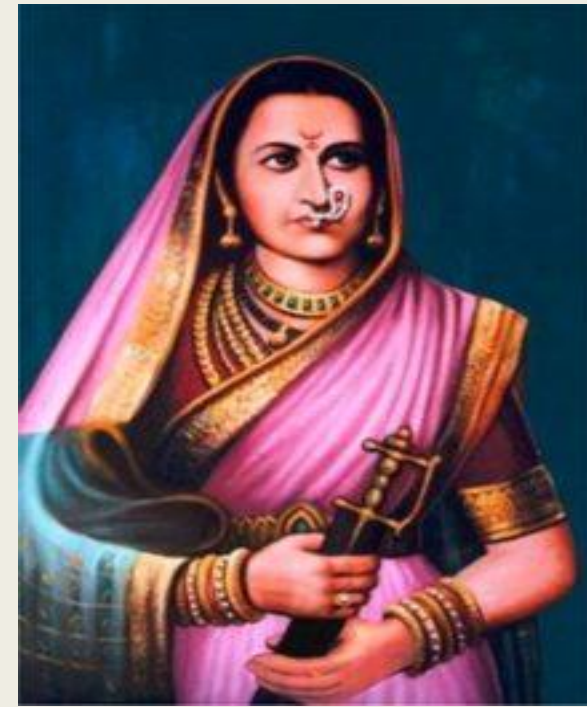
■ Chand Bibi



Tara Bai



Jija Bai



- Bhakti movement- led by Mira bai
- Display of outstanding poetry by women



Modern India

- Practices like sati, devdasi system etc. abolished
- Girls education encouraged
- Substantial progress was achieved in eliminating inequalities between men and women.
- Women participation in politics and freedom struggle increased

Freedom Fighters and Social Reformers



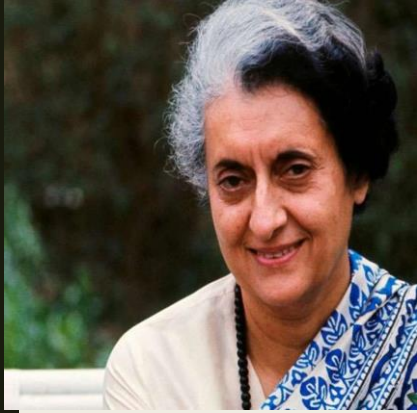
- Women associations started to form
- Economic engagement improved
- The women have left the secured domain of their home and are now in the battle field of life, fully armoured with their talent
- There is no arena which remained unconquered by Indian women

- After independence there is revolutionary change in role of women as there was fundamental change in rights of women
- The Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women
 - I. equality (Article 14),
 - II. no discrimination by the State (Article 15(1))
 - III. equality of opportunity (Article 16)
 - IV. equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d))

Progressive landmark legislations like-

- Hindu marriage act, 1954 and Hindu succession act, 1955
- Dowry prohibition act, 1961
- The maternity benefits act, 1961
- The equal remuneration act, 1976
- Women reservations in panchayti raj

Politics



Corporate and Banking



Writers



Singers





Sports



Challenges

- Patriarchy still exist(son meta preference)
- Cases of domestic violence, sexual harassment
- Gender stereotyping
- Don't have freedom to take decision about their own health, lifestyle
- Big decisions taken by men
- Political representation low

- Labour force participation rate still low and unequal pay
- Her household work (care economy) undervalued and unaccounted
- Low enrolment in higher education
- Safety issues
- Poor health status- reproductive health issues, anaemia , undernourishment

Steps that can be taken

- Women reservation in legislatures as done in panchayati raj
- Gender sensitization
- Ensuring safety at work place and other benefits to be ensured like maternity benefits, equal pay.
- Easy availability of credit and encouraging women entrepreneurship
- Enforcement of women centric laws in letter and spirit

Thank you