



CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN IN THE MAKING OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

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ABSTRACT

The Indian Constitution is a comprehensive and dynamic document that serves as the supreme law of the land in India. It outlines the fundamental principles, rights, and duties of citizens, as well as the structure and functioning of the government. The contribution of women in the making of the Indian Constitution is significant, although their representation in the Constituent Assembly was relatively limited. The Constituent Assembly, responsible for drafting the Constitution of India, had only 15 women members out of a total of 389. Despite their numerical minority, these women played a crucial role in shaping the Constitution and advocating for women's rights. The present paper discusses about the contribution of women in the making of the Indian Constitution.

Keywords: *Constitution, Dynamic, Duties, Constituent Assembly, Minority, Women Rights.*

INTRODUCTION:

The Constitution of India is one of the largest written constitutions in the world. It is a long event. Indian Constitution is comprehensive, extensive and an important document in the administration of the country. Constituent Assembly was constituted on 9th December 1946 to create this constitution. Many eminent leaders and social workers of the country contributed to the constitution making process in the Constituent Assembly.

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The Indian Constitution is a written document that draws inspiration from various sources, including the Constitution of other countries, historical documents, and philosophical ideals. It embodies the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, which are enshrined in the Preamble. The Constitution is flexible and adaptable, allowing for amendments to accommodate changing needs and circumstances.

The scope of the Indian Constitution is extensive, covering various aspects of governance and individual rights. It defines the framework of the political system, with provisions for the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. It establishes the fundamental rights of citizens, such as the right to equality, freedom of speech, and protection against discrimination. The Constitution also outlines the directive principles of state policy, which guide the government in promoting social justice, economic welfare, and the overall well-being of the people.

There were 15 members who actively participated in the Constituent Assembly debates, advocating for gender equality, social justice, and women's rights. They become instrumental in the inclusion of the fundamental rights of women in the Constitution and actively participated in discussions related to education and women's empowerment. The Constitution lays the foundation for a democratic system of government, ensuring that power is vested in the hands of the people. It establishes the principles of free and fair elections, representative governance, and the rule of law in all these sphere women's contribution is valuable.

Some notable women who made significant contributions during the constitutional-making process include:

There were 299 members in the Constituent Assembly at the time of framing of the Constitution. Among them only fifteen women members were involved. In these 15 women members Some women were princesses and some had studied abroad. Some were teachers and some were lawyers. The women in the Constituent Assembly were leading the women of that time. The contribution of some of these women in the constitution making will be studied through the present research essay.

1. Princess Amrit Kaur

She was born on February 2, 1887 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was an Indian National Congress activist and politician. She was Mahatma Gandhi's secretary for sixteen years. Therefore, he was involved in the Indian freedom movement for a long time. She was one of the fifteen women in the Constituent Assembly that drafted the Constitution of India. She was a member of the Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights, Sub-Committee on Minorities, Committee on Finance and Personnel, Advisory Committee and Provincial Constitution Committee in the Constituent Assembly.



Kaur became the first Health Minister of independent India. He held the charge of Health Minister for ten years. She was the deputy leader of the Indian delegation to UNESCO in 1945-46. In 1950, the first woman became the first Asian president of the World Health Assembly. Kaur in 1956 AIIMS To raise the standard of medical education in India by introducing a Bill of AIIMS established, as well as that AIIMS became the first president of Education and health were the main focus of his work. So he established many nursing training centers. Kaur headed the Indian Etiquette Board several times during 1948-53. She was also the president of Indian Leprosy and Tuberculosis Association.

Kaur wrote extensively on women and their related issues. He wrote books like 'Women in India', 'Two Women' and 'Challenge to Women'.

2. Ammu Swaminathan

She was born on 22 April 1894 in Malabar, Madras. Ammu Swaminathan was an activist in the Indian independence movement. She was a member of the Indian National Congress and a politician. She was one of the fifteen women in the Constituent Assembly that drafted the Constitution of India. Her command of the English language and outspoken personality made her a popular politician. 1952 Swaminathan became a member of the Rajya Sabha.

3. Annie Mascarine

Annie Mascarine was an Indian politician and lawyer. She was a member of the Constituent Assembly. He served on the Selected Committee on the Hindu Code Bill of the Legislative Assembly. Mascarine was a leader of the independence and unification movement of the Indian state. 1938 After the formation of Travancore State Congress in she was imprisoned several times between 1939-1947 due to his activities in this party. 1947 It became a parliament in 1948 He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 2011 and held the post of Energy In-charge and Health Minister.

4. Kamla Chowdhary:

She was born on 22 February 1908 in Lucknow. Kamala Chaudhary was a member of the Indian National Congress and a politician. She was also a Hindi short story writer. She joined the Congress during the civil disobedience movement of the 1930s and was imprisoned several times during the Indian independence movement. She served as Senior Vice President in the 54th session of the Congress. Kamala Chaudhary was elected in the Constituent Assembly. She was a provincial member of India till 1952. In 1962, she contested elections from Hapur and became a member of the third Lok Sabha.

5. Dakshayani Velayudhana



Dakshayani Velayudhan was an Indian National Congress activist and Dalit leader. She is a teacher by profession and belonged to the first generation educated from the Pulyar community. She was India's first Scheduled Caste graduate and science graduate.

Velayudhan was the only Scheduled Caste woman among the 15 women members of the Constituent Assembly of India. She served as a member of the Provisional Parliament of India. In Parliament, she took the initiative especially in the matter of education of Scheduled Castes.

6. Durgabai Deshmukh

She was born on 15 July 1909 at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. Durgabai Deshmukh was an Indian freedom fighter and social worker. She is a teacher and later advocated in the Khuna case, she was the first woman lawyer to argue.

She worked as a follower of Gandhiji in India's freedom struggle. She actively participated in the Salt Satyagraha. She played a major role in organizing women. As a result, she was arrested three times between 1930-33. In 1946-47, she became a member of the Constituent Assembly and was a member of the Planning Commission of India. She established schools and hostels for the blind and a school of light engineering.

7. Purnima Banerjee

Purnima Banerjee was a Congress secretary and politician from Allahabad. She worked for Kisan Sabhas, trade unions and greater rural participation in the independence movement. She participated in the Dandi Yatra and the Quit India movement. In the meantime, he had to face imprisonment many times. She later became a member of the Constituent Assembly of India. She was elected to the Legislative Assembly and participated in the debates on motions and eligibility of Rajya Sabha members in the Legislative Assembly.

8. Begum Aijaz Rasool

She was born on 2 April 1909 in Lahore, Punjab. Begum Aijaz Rasool was a Muslim League activist and politician. In 1937, she was elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on a non-reserved seat. She was a member of the Legislative Assembly till 1952. She became the President of the Council in 1937-40 and held the office of Leader of the Opposition in 1950-54, becoming the first Muslim woman in India and the world to hold this position. In 1946, she was elected to the Constituent Assembly of India. She was one of the 28 Muslim League members who eventually joined. She was the only Muslim woman member of the Constituent Assembly and Legislative Assembly of India. Later, after the dissolution of the Muslim League, she joined the Congress.

9. Malti Chowdhary

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She was born on 26 July 1904 in Bihar. Malati Chaudhary was an Indian National Congress activist and politician. She was a Gandhian and participated in the Indian independence movement from the Salt Satyagraha. She used the principles of education and communication to create an environment conducive to satyagraha. In 1933 Chaudhary founded the Utkal Congress Samajwadi Karma Sangh. In 1934, he participated in Padayatra in Orissa with Gandhiji. She was jailed many times during the independence movement. After India's independence, she became a member of the Constituent Assembly. She emphasized education and adult education in rural reconstruction. Later he decided to enter politics because Gandhiji advised that all Congress workers need not enter politics, so he continued to work with the goal of public service.

10. Renuka Ray

Renuka Ray was an Indian social activist and politician. She studied at the London School of Economics. After coming to India, she joined the Akhil Bharatiya Mahila Parishad. In 1932, she became the president of the All-India Mahila Parishad. She tried to get women's inheritance rights in parental property. In 1943 she joined the Legislative Assembly as a woman representative and in 1946-47 she became a member of the Constituent Assembly of India.

Renuka Ray became the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal in 1952-57. She was a member of the Lok Sabha during 1957-67. In 1959, She headed the Committee for Social Welfare of Backward Classes and continued his work for women and backward classes.

11. Leela Roy-

Leela Roy was an Indian social activist and progressive politician. She was the first woman to be admitted to Dhaka University. She established a girls' school in Dhaka emphasizing the education of girls. She started teaching women martial arts for professional education and self-defense. In 1921, she came in contact with Subhash Chandra Bose during the Bengal flood relief work. Later she became a close associate of Bose. She played an important role in the establishment of Dhaka 'Women's Committee'.

In 1931, she started publishing 'Jayashree'. It was the first magazine edited entirely by women. In 1923, he established the 'Dipali Association' and started combat training there. She participated in the civil disobedience movement. He was imprisoned for six years. Roy was nominated to the National Congress Planning Committee. After Netaji resigned from the Congress, Roy joined the 'Forward Bloc'.

During the communal riots of 1941 in Dhaka, Roy founded the 'Ekta Mandal' and the 'Rashtriya Seva Brigade' along with Subhash Chandra Bose. He was arrested during the Quit

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India Movement of 1942 and his magazine was closed. After her release in 1946, she was elected to the Indian Constituent Assembly. During the partition, he set up relief centers and freed 400 women by traveling 90 miles in six days. During the riots of 1946-47, he set up seventeen relief camps. In 1947, she founded the 'National Women's Association'.

12. Hansa Mehta

Hansa Mehta born on 3rd July 1897 in Baroda. She was an Indian National Congress activist. She was a teacher and a feminist writer. She participated in many freedom movements on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi. In 1926, she was elected to the Bombay School Committee. In 1945-46, she became the president of the All India Mahila Parishad. She held many important posts between 1945 and 1960. She became a member of the Constituent Assembly in 1946-47. She served as a member of the Consultative Committee and the Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights in the Constituent Assembly. She raised his voice for the equality of women in India. In 1946, she led India in the Nuclear Subcommittee on the Status of Women.

Representing India in the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1947-48, he changed the language of the Declaration of Human Rights from "by all men" to emphasize the need for gender equality. In 1950, she became the vice-chairman of the UN Commission on Human Rights. She was a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

The Indian Constitution is the bedrock of India's democratic system, protecting individual rights, promoting social justice, and guiding the functioning of the government. Its scope and importance extend to all aspects of governance and citizen welfare, making it a crucial document in upholding the ideals of justice, equality, and liberty in the nation.

Based on the above information in concluding remarks we may say that contribution of women in the constitution making of India since the Indian independence movement is very important. The participation of women in the Constituent Assembly helped to achieve equality in the constitution, and the participation of these 15 women in the future brought equality of opportunity and political position to women, the injustices against women were reduced, because of this, women worked shoulder to shoulder with men and led the country on the path of progress.

These women, along with other female members of the Constituent Assembly, played a vital role in shaping the provisions of the Indian Constitution related to women's rights, equality, and social justice. They championed the cause of gender equality, fought for the rights of women, and ensured that the Constitution reflected the principles of justice and inclusivity for all citizens.



It is important to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of these women, as their efforts laid the foundation for the advancement of women's rights in India and continue to inspire generations to strive for gender equality and social justice.

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