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The Problems Faced By Women Journalists In India

By

Neeta Mahajani
The Problems Faced by Women Journalists in India

The history of Indian Journalism finds its roots way back in the 16th century. In the Moghul period journalism did exist in the form of News Journalism the modern journalism started in India after the British rule in the early 19th century. When we look for women's contribution in it, we don't need to go before the 20th century.

During the British rule, the great leaders of my country like Mahatma Gandhi, G.G Agarkar, Lokmanys Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Jotiba Phule, Nyayamusti M.G. Ranade, Dr. Babalaheb Ambedkas and many, others preached the gospel of education for women. Before that the women were debarred from any kind of written education. They had to work all the time only for home, even they never enjoyed the freedom to take decisions in home affairs.

The above leaders as well as many others initiated the cause of education. Moreover, our constitution conferred the similes Rights on woman as a man. These thing also brought a big change. After Independence in 1947, the life of a woman observed a total change. The social conditions made the service of a woman necessary to run a house in a satisfactory way. After 1970's one can observe a total change of Indian society to behave with a woman.

At the same time, one thing is sure that though the Constitution offered equality to women, it is not a common phenomena. The educated ladies, who work as journalist has to face some problems. The catagory of paper e.g. Nation of Region and rural also contribute to a great extent. The women journalist in the national papers like Times of India, Indian express, the state ran Hindustan Times can enjoy the rights as her colleague do on the contrasy, the journalist in the rural paper has to face many problems.

The social eliments do not allow the woman journalist to be successful in her carrier. Because now-a-days too, our society is man dominating society. No doubt, the ladies are working as very important dignatories. But they can be treated as the options to the rules. Man dominence is the general rule in India.

Second important thing is that the atmosphere is free for to women journalist is only in metropolitan cities like Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, and Madras. But the social conditions influence much for the working journalist. They have to face communication problems, travelling problems. The insecurity in these cities is main obstacle due to which women cannot work as Night Editor. Today, there is not a single example of woman journalist working as the Night Editor.
In rural papers the number of women journalist is very small. The majority women tend to work in office-time. They prefer to work at home for the rest of the time. The job of journalist cannot fixed according to time. That is why the problem arise.

The life in rural area is comparatively safe. Eventhen the women journalists are not allowed to work in shifts. All women expected to work up to evening. They look after the regional news-items, the items come from various reporters by poster telegrams. While working in this fixed channel their career finds its own limits. Here also the social element plays an important role.

Apart from these factors, one has to accept that India has varied culture. The woman from Jammu and Kashmir is totally different in the attitudes and aptitudes to the woman of say Maharashtra or Kerala. Every region in India enjoys different culture. That is why the number of women journalists is greater in the literally advanced states like Maharashtra and Kerala. In these states the women are courageous. They opt and work for vivid lines of career whereas the women from Bihar, Rajasthan prefer to live happily within the four walls of home.

But after observing the present situation one will conclude that the participation of women journalist is increasing steadily. There are women editors of fortnightly. Gradually, the problems faced by today’s women journalists will be overcome by the protection of law and positive change in social elements.

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