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THE ROLE WOMEN IN INDIAN RENAISSANCE

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Almost one half of the population is women and their remarkable endeavor and struggle that women underwent to bring themselves are unknown. Indian country has its own culture and heritage. It went through a long and hardened way to attain the fruits of freedom. The Indian social reform movements which coincided with the raise and growth of Indian nationalism climaxing in freedom for the country is regularly marked by the active role of large number of women along with men. The relentless fight against social oppression and prejudices and the arduous attempts at the revival of Indian art, Literature and other forms of cultural advancement ran parallel and other forms of cultural advancement ran parallel and sometimes got entwined with the nationalist movement.

Though Indian women did not have to go through a suffragette movement as in Britain and some other industrially advanced countries, the barriers of social prejudice they had to overcome were formidable. Many of them had to encounter stone walling opposition at every level from the household & at community level. The role of Indian women in freedom struggle of India came from all sections of the Indian society. With the entry of Indian women, Indian national movement became people's movement. The role of women in Indian freedom who gave directions and purpose to the mass of deprived women whatever be their background and cultivated tastes they were strongly sensitive to any offensive expression as Indians to their national heritage and their pride. This paper is an attempt in bringing the life example of Savitri Bai phule the first woman to start school for girls in India. The another one is about girl students took initiative and called the other students to participate in Quit India Movement

Savitribai Phule

She was born in a well-to-do farmer's family on 3rd January 1831 at Naigam in satara district in Maharashtra. She was married to Joytiba who fought against all kinds of discrimination. According to him education was the most important factor for one's development. He considered high caste orthodoxy to be at the loot of beliefs which perpetuated the inequalities. Poverty, ignorance and lack of education had given rise to wide disparities. Jyothiba's decided to fight against the ignorance pervading the society. He decided to educate women and as a first step he taught and trained his wife as a teacher. Jyothiba's family on knowing that Joytiba is teaching his wife they turned both Jyothibai and savitribai Phule out of home. After a long teaching Savitribai Phule was sent to a training school where she passed out with flying colours.

When savitribai completed her studies she along with her husband started the first school for girls in India in 1848. When savitribai went out of her to go to school groups of orthodox men would follow her, abuse her in obscene language, throw rotten eggs cow dung, tomatoes and stones. When she reported the incident to her husband Jyothibai suggested her to take another extra saree which she should change before entering into school and after the school is over she has to change the saree which she wore while coming to school. Both fought against all forms of social prejudices, they practiced what they preached.

They started to take care of deserted children, widow and other destitute women. They had a special attention on children with leprosy. After the death of jyothiba, Savitribai took over the responsibility of Satya Shodak Samaj founded by Jyothiba. She herself was struck by the disease while nursing a sick child and died on 10th March 1897. If savitribai were not to undergo the ordeals

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