

Women's Part in The Indian Independence Movement

***Agni Singh**

Abstract

The history of India's struggle for freedom would be incomplete without acknowledging the efforts of women. Women's contributions to India's new pedigree are prioritized. Throughout the history of free struggle, women have shown dedication, charity, and courage. Hundreds of women fought alongside men, but many of us are unaware. They fought with relentless courage and enthusiasm. Indian women have been freed from many shackles and have abandoned their traditional domestic obligations. As a result, women's participation in the struggle for independence and the awakening of the nation is truly extraordinary and commendable. Women, on the other hand, find it impossible to fight as a warrior in a male-dominated society. Despite trying to change the attitude of the conservatives, who believed that women were only for household chores, they were unsuccessful. In addition to feeding their families, women also suffer from such situations. The purpose of this article is to highlight the legacy that women have left in history by showing off their strong personality.

Keywords: Indian, Women, Women's Liberation Movement, Role, and Culture

INTRODUCTION

Prior to independence, women's rights in the country were severely restricted. At the root of the problem was the epidemic of male domination. Women's main duties were limited to domestic duties. They were not allowed to participate in other duties or events, nor to express their thoughts or ideas. During this period, many policies that were harmful to women were introduced. Marriage of children, restrictions on remarriage of widow, killing of female fetuses, killing of female children, pada system, sati, and polygamy are all examples of these practices. Many social activists, such as Raja Ram Mohan Lai, Ishwar Chandler Vidia Sagar, and Jotiva Puree, face a significant hurdle to changing the status of women in Indian society under the control of the East India Company. I faced it. During this time, quite a few women acquired martial arts talent. "Rani Lakshmi Bai" fought for India's independence. The 1817 Bhima Bai Holkar anti-British campaign marked the beginning of women's involvement in the Indian Rebellion of Independence. After the 1857 rebellion, the first Indian socialist "Madame Bikaji Kama" fought for the independence of her country. It is undeniable that a significant number of women are involved in the anti-imperialist struggle in India.

Objective

1. To research the Indian liberation struggle in general.
2. To investigate the role of women liberation fighters in India's independence struggle.

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3. To raise awareness about various female liberation fighters.
4. To demonstrate Indian women's social and economic liberation
5. To bring attention to Indian women's pains and sacrifices.

Research Methodology

To create this research, the data was mostly focused on a linguistic approach, with books authored by prominent academics and papers, as well as papers published in different national and international journals, serving as the common basis. As a result, this research was written using secondary data.

Review of Literature:

There are many works on the role of women in the Indian independence movement, and some of the most popular books and articles are listed below.

- I. **“Manmohan Kaur”** is a well-known figure in the Punjabi community (1985) This book chronicles the liberation movement of Indian women from 1857 to 1947, a span of 90 years. It starts in 1857 with the first effort at liberation and ends in 1947.
- II. **“Chopra, P.N. (1975)”** This book focuses on the remarkable role of Indian women in the war for independence in India, as well as their narrative of sacrifice, selflessness, and courage. They battled with zeal and unwavering bravery.
- III. **“Thaper Suruchi (2006)”** She has done outstanding work in India's liberation cause. This article centres on regular middle-class women's nationalist engagement in India's liberation struggle, particularly in the united provinces. “Sarojini Naidu, Vijaylaxmi Pandit, Sucheta Kripalani, and Annie Beasant” are among the important women leaders mentioned by the author.
- IV. **“O.P. Ralhan (1995)”** This text focuses on the social and economic situation of Indian women, who have already played an important role in the development of our civilization. From the past to the present, the author emphasizes the importance of Indian women. Today's generation needs to be aware of the importance of these women's achievements.
- V. **“M.G. Agarwal (M.G. Agarwal)”**: The books in this series explore the role of the Freedom Fighter during the struggle for independence. This book examines the struggle for freedom by people of all disciplines during India's independence. This is an attempt to evoke memories of the Revolutionary War. Women in the free struggle have been deeply involved in many ways, and efforts have been made to characterize their role in the free struggle, including freedom fighters in different disciplines.
- VI. **“Brown, Judith (1972)”** Women's involvement in the movement is described in the book as a political annoyance.

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- VII. **“Tarachand’**. In particular, we seek to explore the role of women in social processes, their perspective on their lives, and the greater social reality and its origins. He also lists some help in solving problems.

INDIA'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE

1. The first war of Independence (1857-58)
2. Partition of Bengal, Swadeshi Movement (1905)
3. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919)
4. Non-cooperation movement (1920)
5. Poorna Swaraj declaration by the congress; Meerut conspiracy case (1929)
6. Civil disobedience: The Dandi March (1930)
7. The Quit India Movement (1942)

THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S WOMEN LEADERS

"Women have played an important role in India's anti-imperialist struggle. Our list of female leaders in the free struggle would be quite long if we remember their names. National Starting with the levels "Sarojini Naidu, Lani Lakshmi Bai, Vijayarakshmi Pandit, Kamala Devi Chatpadiyai, Muridura Sarabai", "Annie Mascaren and A.V. , "Rameshwarineru", and many women have embarked on a political career at the state level. In addition to these Indian women, Irish women such as Annie Besant and Margaret Cousins also used their experience of British oppression in Ireland to campaign India.

India's female freedom fighters:

Creating a list of all women's freedom fighters is very difficult, and separating a few women is much more difficult.

- ❖ "Sarojini Naidu" was a renowned patriot who became well known around 1917. In 1925 she was the second female leader of the organization. During the 1905 dissent against the segment of Bengal, she became engaged with the public development. She was one of the ones who fought at the Darsana Saltern during Satyagraha in salt. She was detained for assuming a significant part in common rebellion. She was captured in 1942 during the steamed of "Quit India". She went to India and addressed on ladies' strengthening and nationalism. She was likewise engaged with the foundation of the Women's India Association and went with a designation of ladies' testimonial to London.
- ❖ "Rani Laxmi Bai": No female hero in Indian history is essentially as fearless and solid as Rani Laxmi Bai. She is a radiant illustration of her nation's enthusiasm and pride. For some, she is a wellspring of motivation and profound respect. In this manner, in Indian history, her name is

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engraved in brilliant letters. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay joined the Salt Satyagraha during the 1930s. She guarded expressions and artworks, handiworks and theater. In 1955, the Government of India granted her the Padma Bhushan, and in 1987, she was granted the Padma Bhushan.

- ❖ In 1917, "Aniva Santo" turned into the primary female leader of the Indian National Congress. One of her workers, Margaret Cousins, fostered the Voting Rights Act for Indian Women and established the "Indian Society of Women".
- ❖ "Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit", who led processions and picketed liquor and foreign fabric selling establishments with her sister and infant children during the Salt Satyagraha, was imprisoned three times for her patriotic efforts in 1932, 1940, and 1942. She has fought several fights and overcome numerous boundaries for Indian women.
- ❖ "Durgabai Deshmukh": She was sentenced to three years in jail for taking part in the Salt Satyagraha. Durgabai led a party of salt law violators to Marina Beach in Madras during the Satyagraha, while leaders like Rajaji and T. Prakasam in the south were occupied organising other aspects of the campaign. At an early age, she was active in founding the 'Andhra Mahila Sabha' and the 'Hindi Balika Patasala.'
- ❖ "Mridula Sarabai": During the partition, she bet her life to protect women kidnapped by mobs and Hindu and Muslim migrants from injury or murder. She was elected to the Parliamentary Commission of India on behalf of Gujarat in 1934.
- ❖ "Basanti Das": During the British reign in India, she was an Indian independence campaigner. She was involved in a number of political and social initiatives. She was detained during the non-cooperation movement after taking an active role in liberation actions. In 1973, she was awarded the Padma Vibhushan.
- ❖ "Sucheta Kriplani:" She began working in the public sector as a social worker in 1932 and entered politics in 1939, joining the Indian National Congress. She was imprisoned for two years after offering solo satyagraha in Faizabad in 1940. She went underground during the Quit India Movement and performed a significant service by surreptitiously coordinating anti-British resistance.
- ❖ Moolmati Her name is unknown, but as the mother of Ram Prasad Bismil, she played a vital part in the liberation movement. Ram Prasad was a rebel who was engaged in both the 1918 Mainpuri Conspiracy and the 1925 Kakori Conspiracy. He was captured and executed at Gorakhpur Jail on December 19, 1927.
- ❖ Moolmati was a humble lady who backed up and assisted her son in his fight for independence. She also visited Gorakhpur prison to meet her son before he was hanged. When Ram Prasad saw his mother, who was unaffected, he broke down. She was adamant in her answer, telling him how happy she was to have a kid like him. She lifted her second son's hand

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and presented him to the Independence cause after he died in a speech at a public gathering. Ram Prasad Bismil would not have had the fortitude to follow the road he had chosen if it hadn't been for her unwavering support and conviction in the independence movement.

- ❖ “Kamla Das Gupta”: Among the Indian women liberation warriors, she has been a dazzling luminary. She was a member of the 'Jugantar Party' and belonged to the militant part. She was arrested and imprisoned at the Presidency Prison in 1942 in connection with the Quit-India campaign.
- ❖ "DR.S. Muthulakshmi Reddy" was the first Indian woman to be nominated for the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1926 for her excellence and contributions in the fields of social welfare and health care. She left her position and joined the independence movement to fight To. She protests the use of female torture and oppressive measures against female agitators during her non-cooperative movement with Salt Satya Graha.
- ❖ “Margaret Cousins”: An Irish woman crusader who came in India with her husband to push for the same issues for Indian women after battling for women's voting rights in Ireland. She collaborated with Annie Besant and Sarojini Naidu to help establish a number of women's organisations in order to bring about an awakening among them.
- ❖ “Raj kumara” is a writer who lives in India. Amrit Kaur is a member of the Kapurthala ruling family. Gandhi motivated her to join the Congress during the Salt Satyagraha. She was detained in Bombay for breaking the Salt Law, and when she travelled to the North West Frontier Province to plead for independence, she was arrested and convicted of sedition. For seven years, she was the President of the All India Women's Conference. 7
- ❖ “Matangini Hazra”: West Bengal's Gandhi Burhi (Gandhian elderly lady) is a liberation warrior and martyr who will be remembered for her bravery. In 1932, she became a member of the civil rights movement. She was imprisoned during the Salt Satyagraha. She successfully led a black flag march in front of a police ringed assembly in Bengal in 1933. She was apprehended and sentenced to six months in jail this time. 8
- ❖ “Indira Gandhi” is one of India's most amazing ladies. In 1938, she was elected to the Indian National Congress. With India's independence in 1947, she began a new career of public service. She assumed responsible for overseeing the Prime Minister's residence. She fought relentlessly for minorities' social and economic growth. She envisioned a contemporary, self-sustaining, and dynamic economy. She resisted communalism, revivalism, and religious extremism in all forms with zeal and tenacity. She became an indestructible emblem of India's self-assurance. Women's Association Mahila-samitis Women's organisations like as the “Mahila Shilpa Samiti and Lakshmir Bhandar” were founded by nieces of Rabindranath Tagore and Sarla Devi in the early twentieth century, in response to the Swadeshi struggle. In 1907, the Hitashini Sabha, a women's organisation, held a Swadeshi products expo.

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- ❖ Aruna Asaf Ali "The Great Old Lady of the Independence Movement," as she is affectionately called. She was an Indian independence activist and freedom fighter best remembered for waving the Indian National Congress flag during the Quit India Movement at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay. She was also arrested for participating in the Salt Satyagraha campaign and other protest marches. She organised political prisoners and went on a hunger strike to protest the ill-treatment they were receiving in jail.
- ❖ Usha Mehta, who joined in the "Simon Go Back" campaign as a youngster, recognised that her true purpose was to broadcast for the Congress Radio during the Quit India Movement. Usha Mehta told her father that schooling would have to wait and that she would leave her home to support the liberation cause. For a fortnight, no information concerning her location was available. Over 100,000 demonstrators were arrested or concealed with significant leaders, giving the British the appearance of being able to quiet the Quit India movement. Usha had resurrected a long-dormant covert radio station. Gandhi's and other prominent leaders' messages were transmitted here, in addition to her partners (the proprietors of Chicago Radio, the person providing equipment and supplying technicians), Vithalbhai Jhaveri, Chandrakant Jhaveri, Babubhai Thakkar, and Nanka Motwani. " Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Achyutrao Patwardhan, and Purushottam Trikandas" offered enthralling presentations at the station, which also included National Songs.
- ❖ In her autobiography, Inner Recesses, Outer Spaces, "Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya" explains how her mother, Girijabai, founded "Mahila Sabha" in Mangaluru in 1911 to bring women together to discuss concerns and find solutions.
- ❖ "Rameshwari Nehru" had also established a prominent women's periodical called The Stree Darpan at the time. Women's journals such as "Bharat Mahila", which dealt with women's concerns, were also becoming more popular.
- ❖ "Jyoti Sangh," Women Conference (AIWC), a notable Gujarati women's organisation, was founded in 1927.

Women's Participation during the Gandhian Period:

Gandhi was arguably the most realistic and famous expression of Indian knowledge and culture of our time. As Mahatma, his people speak to him in awe. He was a true seeker, a social reformer, an economist, and a political philosopher. Thanks to him, the Indian National Congress has become the People's Congress and the National Movement has become a mass movement. He instilled fearless boldness in people and taught them to resist injustice without resorting to violence. Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to the Indian liberation struggle is considered of utmost importance as he alone led the cause of independence. Gandhi's non-violent and non-violent methods were the basis of the independence movement against Britain. Between 1918 and 1922, the Indian independence movement culminated. INC, led by Gandhi, has conducted a series of essentially non-violent civil disobedience campaigns. The main purpose was to undermine the British government by refusing to

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cooperate. According to Gandhi, India's ultimate independence was not achieved until our girls fought our men in the fight for independence.

Women during Gandhian governance:

- ❖ Women were encouraged and motivated by Gandhi's fight against caste, inequality, and child marriages, as well as his encouragement of women's education. They encourage a large number of women to participate. Women's involvement in the non-cooperation campaign has never been seen before, especially among the educated and middle classes. Leading figures were "Amrit Kaur, Aruna Asaf, Sarla Devi, and Muthul Laxmi Reddy".
- ❖ Inspired by Gandhi's ideas, after Gandhi's imprisonment, Sarojiny Naidu organized non-violent protests against salt laws and tariffs at the Darsana Salt Mill during a civil disobedience campaign. She fought for the right to vote and became the first Indian woman to be elected president of the Indian National Congress.
- ❖ Underground action led by Usha Mehta and Arna Asahu Ali was crucial in maintaining the campaign to quit India. In 1920, the political scene was dominated by women. Many women came out during this period. As a result of overcoming socio-economic barriers, Indian women recognized the power of collective action and paved the way for women's empowerment in independent India.

CONCLUSION

The story of women's participation in India's struggle for independence is that women risked arriving on the streets, in prisons and in parliament. After a lengthy struggle, India gained independence on August 15, 1947. Thousands of Indian women have devoted their lives to fighting for their own freedom. Not only were women involved in nonviolent campaigns that gave India freedom, but their success depended on their active participation. For the first time in human history, and perhaps the only one, empowered only by peace, values and courage, they faced and defeated the power of a vast world empire where the sun never set. Finally, over the last 50 years, the women's movement has developed and deepened its ties to other movements such as trade unions, environmental groups and other social justice groups that fight oppression, injustice and deterioration.

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