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Women in the Society

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ An overview of the changes taking place in the lives of women
- ▶ Understanding the injustice to women, their real strength and capabilities and the opportunities available to them

Objectives

- ▶ To understand the mind-set of society with regard to the status of women and to change it
- ▶ To learn the right attitude to help ourselves and the women in our lives so that they achieve their best potential
- ▶ To know about the capabilities of girls and women and not treat them in a patronising way or brush off their dreams and wishes
- ▶ To appreciate the ability, the ambition and the courage of women and the social changes taking place now

■ Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Globe
- ▶ Pictures, charts, atlas and newspapers and magazines
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

■ Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the background to the status of women in India at different levels, in different places.
- ▶ Students should be encouraged to cultivate new mind-sets and be free of unnecessary fear and prejudice, balancing their capabilities and opportunities and vulnerabilities.
- ▶ Tell the students about hundreds of women achievers—Sudha Murthy, Kalpana Chawla, ISRO scientists, the winners of the Padma and Nari Shakti Awards in the recent years: women who are handicapped and yet have been farming, aged women specialising in yoga, marathon runner over a 100 years old, etc.

■ Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., pausing to examine and explain the data in the boxes.
- ▶ Particularly focus on women breaking glass ceilings to achieve success in various fields, while also managing their personal lives and cultivating the quality of nurturing people and organisations.

Current Status of Women

- ▶ Historically women neither secure nor treated properly—called the weaker sex—not given any role or responsibility in society—have been struggling for equality.
- ▶ Typically considered only homemakers—even in professions they must choose ‘safe’ or ‘soft’ jobs—teachers, nurses, etc.—women considered unsuitable for jobs like scientist, technical or technologically oriented work, because of risks involved and because of the mindset that they cannot handle such work.
- ▶ This mindset responsible for differences in treatment of men and women—in education and in choice of profession—girls encouraged to get married early.
- ▶ Many girls breaking the mould—single or married.

Changing Scenario

- ▶ Education important today—equally for girls and boys—allowed to choose their paths in life wisely.

Social Reforms Among Women

- ▶ Reforms introduced by various NGOs and women organisations like Lions or Rotary Clubs—to give status and recognition to women.
- ▶ Women’s movement—the struggle to change women’s lives—even men supported the movement: Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Dayananda Saraswati, Raja Ram Mohan Roy [abolition of sati pratha].
- ▶ 1856—Widow Remarriage Act—Constitution grants equal rights to men and women in all spheres.
- ▶ 19th century—change—against the purdah system—led by women leaders like Annie Besant, Sarojini Naidu, Kamla Devi Chattopadhyaya, and others.

Protests

- ▶ Women adopted different ways to fight discrimination: Campaigning, raising slogans, creating awareness—managed to get law changed—2006 some benefits to women.
- ▶ Practice of dowry—face torture from in-laws.
- ▶ Campaigned against dowry—women’s organisations—fought against dowry deaths—laws passed to protect women against dowry.
- ▶ Raised voice against harassment and discrimination—1997—Supreme Court guidelines for protection of women against sexual harassment at workplace.

- ▶ Raising awareness on issues concerning women's rights—education, health, etc.—dramas, meetings, cultural programmes, rallies, protests, etc.
- ▶ 33% reservation—introduced in local government bodies—Tamil Nadu provides free education for girls [free books, uniforms, meals, cycles].
- ▶ Opportunities given to women and future prospects increased/improved—difference still, but women have begun to take control of decisions regarding their lives and rights.

Information about some Inspiring Women Achievers in India

- ▶ **Gita Gopinath:** Harvard economist—first woman to be the Chief Economist at the IMF—second Indian to get permanent membership of the Harvard's Economics Department.
- ▶ **Hima Das:** first Indian athlete to win gold at the IAAF World Under 20 World Athletics Championship—gold and silver at Asian Games Jakarta 2018—she is called Dhing Express.
- ▶ **Mary Kom:** Sixth gold in World Amateur Boxing Championship in 2018—No. 1 in International Boxing Association—hails from small town in Manipur.
- ▶ **Avani Chaturvedi:** first Indian woman fighter pilot to fly solo—MiG-21.
- ▶ **Aruna Reddy:** first Indian gymnast to win medal at the Gymnastics World Cup—trained for 13 years—won bronze medal at Melbourne in 2018.
- ▶ **Dhivya Suryadevara:** 2018 appointed first female CFO of General Motors—Fortune magazine's under 40 list—MBA from Harvard University.
- ▶ **Komal Mangtani:** one of world's most influential female software engineers—heads Business Intelligence Team, Uber—Forbes' list of America's top 50 women in technology.
- ▶ **Indira Malhotra:** 2018 appointed judge in Supreme Court—first woman raised directly from the bar—second woman to be Senior Advocate at the SC.
- ▶ **Sudha Balakrishnan:** first female CFO of the RBI.
- ▶ **Debjani Ghosh:** first woman head of Nasscom in 2018—worked with IT firm Intel for 20 years as MD for South Asia.

Assessment Corner

Oral Assignment

- A. Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm the right answers. Let them write down the correct answers if they like in their books.

Written Assignment

- B–D. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask the students to write the answers on their own. Then the teacher can announce the correct answers to the students and they can ask their partners to cross-check them.

In either case, the answers can be written as homework and the teacher can check them in the class.

Think Tank

- E. **HOTS questions:** Discuss the two questions in the class and let the students write the answers to E and F as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.