

The Condition of Women in Modern India and Feminism

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Abstract

The condition of women in modern India reflects significant social, educational, economic, and political changes alongside the persistence of deeply rooted gender inequalities. Over the past several decades, increasing access to education, employment, legal rights, political participation, and digital platforms has contributed to greater opportunities for women's empowerment and self-expression. At the same time, women continue to experience challenges related to gender discrimination, unequal access to resources, domestic violence, workplace inequality, unpaid care work, early marriage, and social expectations surrounding gender roles. This study examines the changing condition of women in contemporary India through the perspective of feminism. It explores how feminist thought has challenged patriarchal structures and contributed to debates concerning equality, autonomy, dignity, representation, and social justice. The study also considers the diversity of women's experiences across class, caste, rural-urban location, education, occupation, and cultural contexts. Feminism in India has developed through multiple movements and intellectual traditions addressing issues such as education, political rights, labour, sexuality, violence, property rights, and representation. The study emphasizes that women's empowerment involves not only formal equality but also meaningful access to opportunities, decision-making, safety, and social recognition. Overall, understanding the condition of women in modern India requires attention to both the progress achieved and the structural barriers that continue to shape women's everyday lives. Feminist perspectives remain significant for examining these complexities and promoting a more inclusive and equitable society.

Keywords: Women in India, Feminism, Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, Patriarchy, Gender Discrimination, Women's Rights, Social Justice, Female Education, Gender Roles.

