

**75**  
YEARS  
OF  
INDIAN INDEPENDENCE  
AN OVERVIEW

— CO-EDITORS —

**Dr. Mahejabin Sayyad**

**Dr. T Aasif Ahmed**

**Dr. Indrajeet Ramdas Bhagat**

**Dr. Prakash Rodiya**

**Dr. Pranita Chitnis**

**Mr. Swapnil Rajpankhe**

Books Available at:



**Anand Prakashan**

Jaisingpura, Aurangabad (M.S.)

Ph: 0240 2400371, Mob.: 99701 48704

[www.anandprakashan.in](http://www.anandprakashan.in) | Email: [anandprakashan7@gmail.com](mailto:anandprakashan7@gmail.com)



2021-2022

# 'Women Led Development - Transforming India'



**Chief Editor**

**Dr. Prakarsh Subhashrao Deshmukh**

Associate Professor & Head,  
Department of Sociology,  
Bhai Kishanrao Deshmukh Mahavidyalaya,  
Chakur, Dist. Latur.  
(9423764060)  
prakarshdeshmukh@gmail.com



Reg.No.U74120 MH2013 PTC 251205

**Harshwardhan Publication Pvt.Ltd.**

At.Post.Limbaganesh,Tq.Dist.Beed  
Pin-431126 (Maharashtra) Cell:07588057695,09850203295  
harshwardhanpubli@gmail.com, vidyawarta@gmail.com



# Women Led Development - Transforming India

20

14.	Human Rights And Women's development	Dr. Sunita Atmaram Tengse, Department of Sociology, Late. Ramesh warpudkar, Mahavidyalaya Sonpetn, Dist. Parbhani.	161
15.	Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi: A Warrior in the First War of Independence	Dr.Pandurang D.Shitole, Asso Prof. & Head, Department of English, Sushiladevi Deshmukh Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Latur.	170
16	Rights of Women under the Indian Constitution and Other Legislations for the Women Leadership	Mr. Prashant Prabhakar Jaran dikar, Asst. Prof. Bharati Vidyapeeth's New Law College, Sangli	176
17.	Importance of Sports, Games & Physical Activities In Women's life	Dr Prashant D. Taur Director & Head, Department of Sports MSSs Arts Science & Commerce College Ambad	187
18.	Women Led Development in India Reflected in Indian Literature in English	Asst. Prof. Atish Chandrakant Akade, Department of English, Mahatma Phule Mahavidyalaya, Ahmadpur, Dist. Latur, Maharashtra	195
19.	Role of Kamala Nehru in the Freedom Struggle of India	Dr. Shyam T. Jadhav, Asst. Prof. & Head, Department of English, Bhai Kishanrao Deshmukh Mahavidyalaya, Chakur, Dist. Latur	204
20.	Role of Women in Indian Society and Women Empowerment	Dr. Nikhil Babasaheb Gaikwad, Department of English, Ankushrao Topa College, Jalna.	209
21.	Savitribai Phule: A Leader of Women Education in India	Dr. P. R. Shinde, Asst. Prof. & Head, Department of English, Shivneri Mahavidyalaya, Shirur Anantpal Dist. Latur	215
22.	Sarojini Naidu: A Public Leader and Patriot	Dr. M. D. Pathan, Asst. Prof. & Head, Department of English, Sanjeevane Mahavidyalaya Chapoli, Dist. Latur	219
23.	Role of Government in Women Led Development	Dr. Amol Digambar khedekar Assistant Professor Department of English Dankunwar Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jalna	224





"Education is the primary requirement of man and woman"  
- Jyotirao Phule

## Chapter - 21

### Savitribai Phule: Leader of Women Education in India

Dr. Prashant R. Shinde  
(M. A., M, Phil, Ph. D.)

---

*(Dr. P. R. Shinde has been working as Head & Assistant Professor in the Department of English in Shivneri Mahavidyalaya, Shirur Anantpal. He has 12 years' experience as a UG teacher and been recognized PG teacher. He has published 12 research papers in reputed journals. He has contributed as the co-ordinator of NAAC Steering Committee of the college.)*

**Abstract:**

*Savitribai Phule's contribution for the liberation of the Indian woman is significant. There was uncongenial atmosphere for women in the Indian society. They were treated as weaker section of the society. They were confined to their traditional roles such as mother and wife etc. It Savitribai Phule who lighted the flame of self-respect among the female strata of the society. Savitribai Phule made sincere efforts for the women empowerment through education. She acted as the leader for the women who were living the life of slavery for centuries together. Previously, education was regarded as male's cup of tea. Savitribai emphasized on secular education. According to her, education is one of the basic requirements like food, water and shelter. This paper focuses on the contribution of Savitribai Phule in women education in India.*

**Keywords:** *Noteworthy, mission, progression, extracurricular activities, empowerment*

**Introduction:**

Savitribai Phule's contribution for the liberation of the Indian woman is significant. Her contribution for the development of women is noteworthy. She worked for the helpless section of the society such as dalit women and widows. She is the pioneer of girl's education in India. For this purpose, she crossed all the barriers of a long tradition in Indian society. She started the first school for the girls in India. Her husband Jyotirao Phule who was one of the social reformers in colonized India, extended maximum support in her mission of women's education.

**Women Education in India:**

There was uncongenial atmosphere for women in the Indian society. They were treated as weaker section of the society. They were confined to their traditional roles such as mother and wife etc. It was Savitribai Phule who lighted the flame of self-respect among the female strata of the society. The contribution made by this couple to the progress of human society is obvious and known to all. The efforts made by Savitribai are ahead of her time. Her thoughts are quite relevant in 21<sup>st</sup> Century society. In good olden days, education was open for all but it became privilege of some castes.

Previously, education was open for the males in the Indian society. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule came forward to start movement of education for women in India. He started women education from his home by teaching his wife, Savitribai Phule. He started first school for girls in Pune by appointing his wife the first teacher in that school. The contribution of Savitribai Phule is considerable in the progression of women. She is the first teacher of women education in India. She showed courage to become the contributor of women education. Her views on women education are relevant even in the present scenario. She was a pragmatic educator who learnt to read and write from her husband.

Savitribai can be regarded as the champion of women education in India. She was the first Indian woman to come forward in this regard. She inspired girls of her time to persuade education. It was such a crucial period that women's education and human rights were almost denied during that time. She along with her husband, started the first women's school in 1848 at Bhide Wada in Pune. She admitted eight girls from different castes. At that time, the education was only permissible for the males in the society and female education was regarded as a sin against the norms of the society. That sin was committed by Savitribai Phule according to the orthodox people. She had to face wrath of so-called protectors of the customs and tradition. She not only taught reading and writing to the girls but also, she inculcated self-respect in their minds. Her work highly influenced the people in general and women strata of the society in particular. Her network of women education increased in the course of time and started three schools in which one hundred and fifty girls started taking education. She also motivated the girl students to participate in the extracurricular activities. She faced hurdles throughout life but did not lose courage and continued her efforts for the girl's education. She is the real leader of women education in India.

Savitribai Phule made sincere efforts for the women empowerment through education. She acted as the leader for the women who were living the life of slavery for centuries together. At that time, women were regarded as objects. She was the first female teacher of the first women's school in India. She started a school in 1852 for untouchable girls. She was a prominent Indian social reformer and educationist in the 19th century. She opposed social evils like child-marriage and sati system. She spoke against the discrimination of women that resulted in their subjugation. Savitribai Phule thought that everyone should get education. She thought that



education is one of the basic needs of human beings. She comprehended that the real reason for the backwardness of people is ignorance. Education for Savitribai was not only literacy or knowing the words but igniting the minds. Her first collection of poems, *Kavya Phule* was published in 1854, emphasizing the importance of English and Education.

**Conclusion:**

Previously, education was regarded as male's cup of tea. Savitribai emphasized on secular education. According to her, education is one of the basic requirements like food, water and shelter. She taught the importance of education for both boys and girls. She was a believer in the education of masses in general and women in particular. She realized that women should get an education and they were no way inferior to men. They are not the slaves of men. She emphasized that education is the key to self-respect and social reform. She also stood against the discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender. Her struggle proved fruitful for the empowerment of women.

**References:**

1. Patel, A. (2017). Contribution of Savitribai Jyotirao Phule in education field. *Towards Excellence*. Volume. 9 (2). Retrieved on 7th December 2019 from <http://www.ascgujrat.org>
2. TBI Hereos: Savitribai Phule, the mother of modern girls' education. Retrieved on 6th December 2019 from <http://www.thebetterindia.com>
3. <http://www.en.m.wikipedia.org> (9/12/2019)
4. <http://www.indiatoday.in/gyi/story/savitribai-phule> (25/11/2019)
5. <http://www.educationworld.in/modern-indias-first-feminist-savitribai-phule-the-role> (26/11/2019)
6. <http://www.indianexpress.com/article/education/savitribai/> (26/11/2019)