
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, DIGNITY & PEACE VALUES FOR CREATING A PEACEFUL WORLD

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Abstract: Our modern society is driven by a culture of violence & materialism while the whole of human life is in a state of turmoil due to conflicts, violence & intolerance in the society.

At present, we are living in fast changing, modernizing and globalizing society with mix population – different religions, race, culture, faith, etc. in modern age which is known as age of materialism in 21st century.

Gender inequality in education, economic and political inequalities between men and women in India is increasing & women's dignity is decreasing rapidly because of culture of materialism and decreasing of human values.

The well-being of humanity and the earth planet ultimately depend upon the gender equality, empowering all women for creating global peaceful & harmonious society.

Women are the born peace makers & leaders for developing culture of peace and human dignity in the families & society. Peace values & Women's Empowerment can initiate social changes and hence social development by bringing about a change in attitude of the individual human being and also for creating a peaceful world in 21st century.

The main objective of my Paper on "Women's Empowerment & Peace Values for creating a peaceful world" is creating a social awareness for Women's Empowerment and Human Dignity for social transformation as well as cultural transformation in 21st century.

Keywords: Women's Empowerment, Human Dignity, Peace Values Social And Cultural Transformation.

Introduction: India is known as land of "Unity in Diversity" as for centuries it has accommodated different ethnicities, religions and languages. India is a spiritual country where diversity stands as one family. A citizen to be able to live peace in this vast geography with this huge population requires only applause. Still some unfortunate incidents trigger inter-religious and inter-ethnic violence.

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The Global Problem: Women's Empowerment & Human Dignity: The struggle for the dignity and equal rights of women is the global human and civil rights struggle of our time. War and violence, economic disparity and impoverishment, environmental damage and its devastating consequences fall disproportionately upon women and girls who also suffer the most prevalent injustices in our world today.

Women continue to suffer disproportionately from poverty and environmental devastation, from violence and abuse, life-damaging discrimination in access to education and health care, the burdens of unpaid care-giving, unequal pay and women's dignity in Asian & African countries.

The Future of Women depends upon Women's Empowerment, social justice and living with dignity in the age of globalization and age of crisis of poverty, injustice & inequality.

March 8th, 2018 International Women's Day 2018: 8th March International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world building momentum & taking actions for women's rights by United Nations.

The UN 2018 - "The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March, is 'Time is now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives': This year's 2018 theme will be dedicated the World Women's Congress in Accra, Ghana in August 2018. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day>

Globalization & Women's Empowerment: In an age of globalization, the struggle for Women's Empowerment & human dignity for women has become more complex and challenging. Time's up for Social Injustice of women. Every woman has the right to live in dignity—free of fear, coercion, violence and discrimination. Every woman has the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health. Yet, for hundreds of millions of girls and women worldwide, these human rights are denied;

Human dignity & living Peace fully without any fear are the highest craving of all humankind. Attaining equality between women and men and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women are fundamental human rights.

Women's Peace Leaders for Empowerment:

Women Are Born Peace makers and Peace Leaders:

Women are mothers, mentors, leaders, peacemakers, advocates and so much more. Honor a woman in your life.

—Mary-Frances Winters

A mother is our first guru, our first teacher. Women teach us our first behaviour, our first step in life. And then women also have a great role to play in society. She can be a strong peacemaker; at home, in the community, in society and in the world. Women can glue differences and bring people of diverse nature together – she does it in her home all the time!

Women have both gentleness and strength. Indian scriptures place tremendous amount of power in women. The primordial energy known as Shakti which is the life force behind entire creation is feminine. That is why our scriptures honour women as the highest aspect of divinity- the Aadhya Shakti.

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Globalization, Conflicts & Women Challenges: In an age of globalization, the struggle for Women's Empowerment & human dignity for women has become more complex and challenging. Time's up for Social Injustice of women. Every woman has the right to live in dignity—free of fear, coercion, violence and discrimination. Every woman has the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health. Yet, for hundreds of millions of girls and women worldwide, these human rights are denied;

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"For generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They have proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls" Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

Conflict is not gendered; its fallouts and consequences are gendered.

Throughout history, many have fought for peace due to religious differences, castes & languages but war has never ended, and the women and children are still suffering because of it. Women have a very significant role in the all round progress and development of human society. Their participation in decision-making in all spheres including in peace process for the cause of community development is very crucial. Since time immemorial, Indian women have been playing a meaningful role in multi-dimensional aspects of human life.

A message of hope, that they can also be a tool of peace, is desperately needed. The motherly hearts of women that create life is the only power that can nurture the world. This is the reason that all women of the world must work together with the hearts of mothers to cease war and achieve world peace.

International Women's Day 8th March is the day for women's rights of Empowering and for accelerating the actions for transforming women's lives & their economic growth and advancing the quality of life of women's for men, families, children and societies. 8th March, the International Day of Women is an appropriate time to focus on the destructive impact of violence on women. Violence *against women* is a year-round occurrence and continues to an alarming degree in the world.

Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: In 1967, United Nations Member States adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which states that discrimination against women is an offence against human dignity and calls on States to "abolish existing laws, customs, regulations and practices which are discriminatory against women..There are Seven Women's Human Rights

- Violence against Women.
- Sexual & Reproductive Rights and Health.
- Political and Civil Participation.
- Marriage & Family.
- Human Trafficking.
- Labour & Employment.
- Women Human Rights Defenders.

Gender Inequality & Spiritual Values for Peace Building?: Gender inequality in education, economic and political inequalities between men and women in India is increasing & women's dignity is decreasing rapidly because of anger, greed and culture of materialism and decreasing of human values.

The well being of humanity and the earth planet ultimately depend upon the gender equality, human dignity ; Empowering all women and girls and women's economic empowerment for crating global peaceful & harmonious society

According to Indian philosophy, there are five main spiritual Values , which are required for peace building in multicultural society.

- 1) *Sathya* –Truth ; 2) *Dharma* –Righteousness
- 2) *Prema* –Love; 4) *Shanti* –Peace & 5) *Respect*

Love is the Source and Sustenance of all the Values. Love associated with thought is Truth. The same Love expressed, as action is Right Action. When Love becomes the guiding principle of understanding with a state of supreme Peace .The same Love expressed, as action is Right Action. When one contemplates Love, the heart and mind are filled and reason, the intelligence becomes permeated with Nonviolence.

Women are assigned a special role as a peace maker in the family & in the society.

Faith in the self, faith in each other , unconditional love - free give & take of love & sharing of emotions are very important in conflict times in peace building in multicultural society.

Compassion (Karuna): According to Buddhism, there are two qualities are essential for a man to be perfect that he should develop equally for achieving inner peace & peace in the society:

1. Compassion (Karuna) on one side, and
2. Spiritual Wisdom (Gyan) & spiritual practice for living together

Compassion represents love, charity, kindness, tolerance and such noble qualities on the emotional side, or qualities of the heart.

Women are known as Goddess of Compassion (Karuna ki Devi) , women as compassionate Peace Maker can spread the messages of Peace & harmony by sending the letters of peace & harmony to social leaders in conflict areas & also to International Peace Organizations' & NGO's & Global Leaders.

How to Cultivate Peace & Peace Building? Four Fields for cultivating Peace?

According to Indian philosophy of life that teaches peace, compassion, tolerance and non-violence to the world & which gave the message of universal love & world peace for oneness of humanity. There are four fields for cultivating Peace to uplift the character of humanity & cultivating the peace for creating a peaceful & joyful society. :

1. **Peaceful Mind** through being content and having few desires.
2. **Peaceful Body** through diligence and a simple life.
3. **Peaceful Family** through love and respect for each other.
4. **Peaceful Conduct** through peaceful thoughts, words, and actions

Eight Universal Peace Values for Peace building & Human Unity: A woman by nature is multi-talented and multi-faceted. Usually people think women are emotional but the fact is, women are also great peace builders & transformational leaders

Women have both gentleness and strength. Indian scriptures place tremendous amount of power in women. The primordial energy known as Shakti which is the life force behind entire creation is feminine. That is why our scriptures honour women as the highest aspect of divinity-the Aadhya Shakti

The following are the Eight Universal Peace Values which are required for Peace building & human unity .in Multicultural Society

- **1st Tolerance** - Tolerance is the Crown of all values
- **2nd Courage** - Courage is the Heart of all values
- **3rd Truth** - Truth is the Foundation of all values for peace and non-violence.
- **4th Purity**- Purity is the Mother of all values; Purity is the foundation of women's empowerment and peace building in family & in society.
- **5th Respect** - Respect is the demonstration of all values.
- **6th Love** -Love is the queen of all values.
- **7th Peace** - Peace is the king of all values. and
- **8th Unity** - Unity is the embodiment of all values

The spiritual principles embedded within these values are the foundations of true humanness. The values are interrelated.

'Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam' – World is One Family: The world is one family and the oneness of humanity has been a fundamental belief of Indian Civilization. World Peace and oneness of Humanity can only be achieved through **Women's Empowerment and Human Dignity.**

World is One family, we are all children of One Father (Creator).One Sun & One Moon;

One Light & One Supreme Power .One Love & One Life;

One Universe & One Humanity. Our Goal is One to achieve World Peace & Human Unity. Women are the backbone of any society. The role of women in the development of a society is of utmost importance.

Let the message of Peace go as wide as possible:

- Let there be harmony in every walk of life.
- Let human mind blossom to its full capacity
- Let individual & society on one hand, and man & women on the other, respect & cooperate with each other to achieve world peace & human unity.

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