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# LET'S TALK ABOUT 'WINGS' OVER 'STRINGS'

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## Abstract:

*"She wanted to Fly like a Bird  
They wanted her to Fly like a Kite  
She chose her Wings over their Strings...!!!"*

Yes...she has started dreaming, thinking, talking and choosing. She has stopped pleasing, has learned to say no, evaluate her self-worth and take her own decisions. She is learning, working, earning and has a room of her own. She has started achieving, celebrating, partying and spending her own money. She has learned to refuse to change her name and has earned her own identity. Yes...her very own 'IDENTITY'. She is no more confined to only fulfilling the duties of the titles such as that of a daughter, a sister, a wife and a mother but has also learned to be a friend, a colleague, a companion, and a boss. She is no more an anonymous woman who used pseudonyms while penning down her thoughts. She is Virginia Woolf to opine "**A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write a fiction**". She is Kamala Das who unapologetically writes her mind and states "**If wrappings of cloth can impart respectability, the most respectable persons are the Egyptian mummies, all wrapped in layers and layers of gauze**". She is Helen Cixous who confronts "**We must kill the false woman who is preventing the live one from breathing.**" She is Gloria Steinem who boldly propounds "**We have become the men who we wanted to marry**". She is a woman of twenty first century and she is gradually stepping out of the boundaries that are being set by the patriarchal society and heading towards progress every day.

There is no denying in the fact that these advancements and improvement in the condition of the women have emerged after a lot of struggle that they have faced and many battles that they have fought. Looking only from the optimistic lens and throwing light on the progress that women have made through various revolutionary movements in past few centuries, the paper aims to accentuate the evolution of the independent woman who came, who saw, who conquered and earned her own identity. She is the woman of the present era, progressing in all shades and colors.

**Keywords:** Identity, 'Progressing In All Shades and Colors', Self-Worth, 'She Is No More an Anonymous Woman Who Used Pseudonyms'.

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**Introduction:** After a long and struggling process of metamorphosis over centuries, women all around the world, in a significant number, have evolved as beautiful butterflies with all their colourful wings. Talking always about the hardships, the challenges, the suppression and the exploitation faced by the women down the centuries, the progress that they have made over a period of long struggle remain underrated. In fact it has always portrayed women as victims of their fate who are shackled and held back by the conventional norms of the patriarchal society thereby sowing the seeds of sympathy towards the fair sex. Their progress did not taste the appreciation that they rightly deserve for the escalating advancement they are making in all the fields. It is time now that we must talk about the achievements they have

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made and the milestones that they have crossed through their journey in the making of the women with their own individuality and identity.

Women all across the globe have gradually started recognizing their true potential. They have started questioning the roles that are forcibly assigned to them in the society by others. The National Association of Colored Women was one of the most prominent organizations formed in 1896 during the African-American Woman Suffrage Movement in America. It adopted the motto "Lifting as we climb" with the aim to demonstrate to an ignorant and suspicious world that their aims and interests are identical with those of all good aspiring women. This initiative worked as wonders and today we have a remarkable Oscar winning actor Halle Berry, a tennis prodigy Serena Williams who is first player to win twenty three grand slams, the Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison for extraordinary contribution in the field of literature and the list goes on.

The 1918 act, in UK championed by suffrage pioneer Millicent Fawcett and suffragette leaders the Christabell Pankhurst, is considered a pivotal moment for women's rights that helped lay the foundations for progress towards greater political, social and economic equality[1]. Recognizing their self worth, women have started breaking the barriers and earning a respectable position in the society. These women are emerging boldly, stepping out of their canopies and speaking their minds fearlessly. There is no arena, which remains unconquered by women. Whether it is politics, sports, entertainment, technology or literature, everywhere, women are heading with power and grace. An outspoken and proud mid-century feminist, Simone de Beauvoir could include everything from 'philosopher' to 'existentialist' to 'activist' to 'published author' on her resume. This revolutionary French thinker boldly writes "Capabilities are clearly manifested only when they have been realized." [2] in her highly influential treatise , *The Second Sex*, on gender differences, religious discrimination against women, a case in favor of abortion, a discussion of female agency and pleasure during sex.

Today, the modern women have become accomplished and self- sufficient. They are now fiercely ambitious and are proving their metal not only on the home front, but also in their respective professions. The seeds of no discrimination in profession were sown by The Sex Disqualification Act 1919 that meant women could no longer be disqualified from certain professions on the grounds of sex. It thus gave women access to the legal profession and accountancy for the first time and meant they could also hold any civil or judicial office or post.

The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 made it illegal to discriminate against women in work, education and training. It also meant women could apply for a credit card or loan in their own name. Women are coming up in all spheres of life. They are joining the universities and colleges in large numbers. They are entering into all kinds of professions like engineering, medicine, politics, teaching, etc. The Equal Pay Act 1983 allowed women to be paid the same as men for work of equal value.

This march of progress and development is not restricted only to white and privileged women in developed countries. It is rather a widespread movement that has brought a significant change in the lives of women from all the sections of societies of whether they are from developed, developing or underdeveloped countries. Audre Lorde wrote numerous philosophical texts on feminism as a theory and on how it relates to the real-life experiences of women of color. In her works, she fearlessly voices "Those of us who stand outside the circle of

this society's definition of acceptable women; those of us who have been forged in the crucibles of difference – those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are black, who are older – know that survival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths...”[3]

All these reforms and initiatives have brought a significant change in the condition of women. As compared to the past, women in the present era have attained a remarkable progress. Although they still have to travel a long way, but the journey they have made till now has provided them open fields to play, classrooms to study, stages to perform and many platforms to showcase their talents. These women are progressing in all dimensions, irrespective of the color of their skin or the fat around their belly or the scars on their faces. They no more need to camouflage their inner self to suit their surroundings. They are rather celebrating their own colors in all shades. To conclude in words of Madeleine Albright "It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I'm not going to be silent".

### References:

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