STATUS OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT INDIA: SPECIAL REFRENCE TO MAHABRATHA AND EPICS

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ABSTRACT:
This paper deals with the status that women had and enjoyed in ancient India. There is a misconception that women were oppressed and not respected in India. It’s also said that the status of women in erstwhile India was very dreary and in the nineteenth century, it marked the beginnings of an awakening and Renaissance with the revolutionary ideas of social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar among others. These revolutionaries worked hard towards freeing the society from ill-practices and customs like polygamy, ‘purdah’, child marriage, sati-pratha etc. They even fought for women’s education and gender identity. But one thing that will be highlighted in this paper is that rights and respect for women didn’t begin from the 19th century but was from time immemorial.

KEYWORDS: Ancient India, Identity, Mahabharata, Rights, Status, Vedas, and Women.

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