

EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF SAVITRIBAI PHULE AND BEGAM ROKEYA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya were pioneers in India's women's empowerment revolution. This study investigates the contributions of Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya, two pioneers in the history of women's education in India. Despite enormous challenges and societal hostility, these women fought for women's education by defying patriarchal standards to promote social reform. This paper illustrates how they have contributed to the growth of women's education in India by analysing their lives, works, and educational ideologies in comparative detail. The researcher revealed three objectives in this paper. This study adopts a qualitative research design, applying a comparative analysing approach. The study shows how Savitribai Phule's commitment to practical education, in addition to Begum Rokeya's emphasis on literature and cultural education, geared up the road for generations to come of women to succeed in education and empowerment.

Keywords: Education, Women Empowerment, Savitribai Phule, Begum Rokeya, Social Reform.

I. INTRODUCTION

Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya were pioneering social reformers who advocated for women's education, while their methods and settings contrasted. Savitribai Phule concentrated on establishing schools and promoting for girls' education in Maharashtra, whilst Begum Rokeya emphasised women's rights and education in Bengal, regarding social customs and advocating for girls' education.

II. OBJECTIVES

Analyse Begum Rokeya's initiative regarding women's education.

Analyse Savitribai Phule's initiative regarding women education

Comparative Educational analysis of Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya

III. METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a qualitative research design, applying a comparative analysing approach, to look at Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya's viewpoints on education. The study draws on both primary and secondary sources, including Savitribai Phule's and Begum Rokeya's biographies and autobiographies. Secondary sources contain scholarly articles, books, and research papers.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Savitribai Phule (1813-1897)

On January 3, 1831, she was born in Naigaon, Maharashtra (at present Satara). She was born to parents from the Mali Community, which is now known as Other Backward Classes (OBC). After marriage Jyotirao Phule at the age of nine, she received schooling by him, and she later utilised that education to take on inequality, graded patriarchy, and social oppression in Maharashtra, particularly in Pune.

Savitribai Phule and Education

Savitribai Phule, a 19th-century social reformer who was born in Maharashtra. She was a trailblazer for women's education throughout the country. Savitribai Phule, Jyotirao Phule's wife, was regarded with honour as the country's first woman teacher. Savitribai Phule was India's first female teacher and a social reformist who campaigned for women and those from lower castes. She spoke protested against the harsh social system that existed in Pune (Maharashtra) in the nineteenth century. Her contribution consisted of argumentation and fundamental principles like truth, equality, and humanism. Savitribai Phule was a pioneering social reformer and encourage for women's rights.

Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule embraced education as a method to enhance the conditions of socially disadvantaged classes. The goal of stimulating education was to eradicate the myth that lower-caste people and women possessed the skills that were required. The two are considered as the first social reformers that recognised the need of education in overcoming the societal threat of inequality. Savitribai Phule recognised the crucial role of women's education in promoting social transformation.

Savitribai Phule: A Pioneer in Women's Education

Early Years and Education: Savitribai Phule was born on January 3, 1831, in Naigaon, Maharashtra. She married Jyotirao Phule at the age of nine and began studying after that.

Contribution to Women's Education: Savitribai Phule & her husband established India's first women's school in 1848. despite strong hostility from society, she persevered in her efforts to improve women's education.

Impact on Women's Empowerment: Savitribai Phule's contributions to women's education assisted future generations of women receive access to education and economic potential.

Education and in Equality

Savitri Bai Phule is one of them. Along with her husband, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, she worked diligently against untouchability, hegemonic, casteist, and status quoist influences to make certain that girls from the least powerful elements of society, in particular those belonging backward, scheduled castes and tribes, possessed access to education.

Important Facts Concerning Savitribai Phule

Here are some facts concerning Savitribai Phule. These are mentioned as follows:

- Savitribai Phule and Jyotirao Phule opened the first women's school in Maharashtra in 1848. The school was inaugurated at Bhide Wada, located in Budhwar Peth for the lower castes, she also established a school in Pune at Maharwada.
- Savitribai Phule advocated for addressing together societal oppression and basic human necessities such as food, health, and clothing. She endorsed the idea of teacher education.
- Savitribai Phule was also a poet whose literature is considered as literature of the oppressed
- Her notable works include Kavya Phule, Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar, Matushri Savitribai Phulenchi Bhashane Va Gaani, Jotibanchi Bhashane Vol. 1 to 4 - [Collection of Mahatma Phule's speeches, edited by Savitribai Phule], speeches as president of Satya Shodhak Parishad, and letters to Mahatma Phule.
- Savitribai Phule is hailed as one of India's first modern feminists
- Savitribai Phule took on the work of Satya Shodhak Samaj after the demise of Jyotirao Phule.
- With Jyotirao Phule, she started 18 schools for girls. She formed the Mahila Sewa Mandal in 1852 to spread awareness about women's rights.
- Along with Jyotirao Phule, she opened a care centre for pregnant rape victims. The centre was called, 'Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha.'
- Savitribai Phule and Jyotirao Phule formed two educational trusts in the 1850s: the Native Female School in Pune and the Society for Promoting the Education of Mahars, Mangs, and Etceteras.

Begum Rokeya (1880-1932)

Early Life and Education: Begum Rokeya was born on December 9, 1880, in Pairaband, Bengal (now Bangladesh). Begum Rokeya, a revolutionary Bengali Muslim feminist, battled for women's education and empowerment by building schools, organising organisations, and creating literature extensively regarding equal rights and opportunities for women, particularly in the Muslim community.

Important Facts Concerning Begum Rokeya

• Founding the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' School

Begum Rokeya established the Sakhawat Memorial females' School in Bhagalpur and later brought it to Calcutta to educate Muslim females, an unusual practice at the time.

• Anjuman-e-Khawateen-e-Islam (Muslim Women's Society)

In 1916, she formed this organisation to promote for women's education, employment, and political and legal freedoms. It additionally assists widows and orphans and sponsors girls' education.

- **Focus on Muslim Women's Education**

Begum Rokeya's work focused mainly on advancing the rights of Muslim women, who endured substantial social and religious restrictions at that time.

- **Begum Rokeya: Message for Women Education**

Begum Rokeya recognised that establishing the woman of her potential in society was not easy. As a result, it is crucial to shift societal and female perceptions. As a result, there is no practical alternative to women's education. She knew that women's backwardness, inferiority, and slavery stemmed from a lack of knowledge. "We are unsuitable for freedom due to a lack of knowledge. We lost our freedom since we were incompetent.

We are lagging ahead because we do not have the same potential to practise good education as men" - with this message, she hoped to make society realise the value of women's education. She believed that education seemed essential for women not only for mental development but also for effective engagement in home and social life. However, in that period's society, getting formal education for women free of the family was an impossible goal.

Begum Rokeya has dedicated her life to the protection and independence of women, despite the difficult climate she faced at the time. In all of her meditations and knowledge, ideas and consciousness, both her heart and mind were female. Her long-held ambition was to provide women equal rights in a society dominated by men.

- **Begum Rokeya: A Visionary for Women's Rights**

- **Early Years and Education:** Begum Rokeya was born on December 9, 1880, in Pairaband, Bengal (now Bangladesh). She gained her early schooling at home and then entered a missionary school.
- **Literary Contributions:** Begum Rokeya was a prolific writer whom wrote a number of works, including "Sultana's Dream" (1905), a utopian novel that envisioned a world where women enjoyed equal rights.
- **Contribution to Women's Independence:** Begum Rokeya's writings and educational endeavours questioned patriarchal conventions while working for women's rights, education, and economic empowerment.

- **Comparative Analysis (Educational Contribution) of Savitribai Phule & Begum Rokeya**

The Comparative analysis of educational thoughts of savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeys has been followed in below:

1. Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya sought to empower women, educate them, and foster social transformation.
2. Savitribai Phule emphasised grassroots education and social reform in Maharashtra, whereas Begum Rokeya promoted literary and educational activities in Bengal.
3. Savitribai Phule pursued a practical approach, establishing schools and educating women. Begum Rokeya, upon the other hand, employed her works to challenge cultural standards and promote women's right.
4. Incorporate Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya's lives and works into educational curricula to inspire future generations.
5. Building on the pioneers' initiatives, initiatives should promote women's education, economic empowerment, and social reform.
6. Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya's legacy ought to foster ongoing feminist movement which challenges patriarchal conventions and promotes for women's rights.

V. CONCLUSION

Savitribai Phule and Begum Rokeya were pioneers of India's women's empowerment revolution.

Their contributions to women's education, reforming society, and literary agitation laid the groundwork for subsequent generations of women's rights activists.

This research emphasises the importance of their work and its continuing relevance in contemporary India.

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