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Participation and Contributions of Women in Indian History with Special Reference to Laban Satyagraha and Ayen Amanyanda

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ABSTRACT:

Susan B Anthony, one of the leading educationists in world-arena of all time rightly pointed out the definition of women-“the day will come when men will recognize women as his peer, not only at the fireside, but in countries of the nations...” The fact is that women participation in every where is essential. In fact, they are not only home-makers, but also they are plan-makers, and nation- makers. In Indian context, they have equal contribution in every respect, be it social point of view or economic point of view or cultural point of view. What is more is that they had their strong participation before and after the freedom of India. In Indian freedom history, their names are written in golden letters. They fought against the British with equal zeal and enthusiasm as men did. Their roles can never be ignored. They stood strong beside Gandhi Ji and worked with him everywhere. This paper will focus on the participation and contribution of women in Indian history with special reference to Laban Satyagraha and Ayen Amanyanda.

Key words: women, participation, contribution, Indian history.

Literature Review:

Any writing related with women had has been a great interested to the scholars around the globe. Many scholars in India wrote many journals regarding this. One much good writing is **The Women who Ruled India By Archana Garodia Gupta**.

This is an excellent scholastic copy where the contribution of ladies in the field of Indian freedom movement has been beautifully explained. Despite, there is another book on the specific topic and it is **Women in Indian Society By Meera Desai and Usha Thakkar**.

Objectives:

The objectives of this paper can be-

1. To point the role of women in Indian freedom movement.
2. To highlight the need of women in Indian history specially in British rule.
3. To focus on the great contribution that the Indian ladies had to get the long coveted freedom of India.
4. To underline the sacrifice that a lady can in order to bring good-time for a nation.

Role of women in the movements:

Participation and contributions of women in the Laban Satyagraha and Ayen Amanyanda Andolon.

The participation and contribution of women in the Laban Satyagraha and Ayen Amanyanda Andolon movements played a significant role in shaping the movements and advancing their objectives. Here are some key points regarding the role of women in these movements:

- **Active Participation:** Women actively participated in the Laban Satyagraha and Ayen Amanyanda Andolon movements at various levels, including grassroots mobilization, organizing protests and demonstrations, and advocating for their rights and demands. They played crucial roles in mobilizing communities, raising awareness, and challenging the existing socio-economic and political structures (Source: Rao. A. (2009), Gender and social movements, Sociology Compass, 3(1), 53-71).

- **Leadership and Representation:** Women emerged as leaders and representative in the movements, often challenging traditional gender roles and norms. They took on leadership positions, both within formal organization and informal networks, and contributed to decision-making processes and strategic planning (Source: Basu, A. (1995), *Women's movements in the Third World: Identity, mobilization, and autonomy*. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 21, 339-369).
- **Issues of Gender Equality and Women's Rights:** Women in the movements advocated for gender equality and women's rights, highlighting issues such as gender-based violence, discrimination, unequal access to resources, and limited political representation. They sought to address these issues within the broader context of socio-economic and political transformation (Source: Kabeer, N. (2005), *Gender equality and women's empowerment: A critical analysis of the third millennium development goal*, *Gender & Development*, 13(1), 13-24).
- **Challenges and Empowerment:** Women faced various challenges, including societal resistance, patriarchal attitudes, and gender-based violence, within and outside the movements. However, their involvement in the movements also provided opportunities for empowerment, collective action, and the assertion of their rights and agency (Source: Sen, G., & Grown, C. (1987), *Development, crises, and alternative visions: Third World women's perspectives*, Monthly Review Press)
- **Intersectionality:** It is important to recognize that women's experiences and roles in the movements were shaped by their intersecting identities, including race, class, caste, and ethnicity. Women from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds often faced additional barriers and worked towards addressing multiple forms of oppression (Source: Mohanty, C. T. (2003), *Feminism without borders: Decolonizing theory, practicing solidarity*, Duke University Press).

Challenges and empowerment of women within the movements:

Within the Laban Satyagraha and Ayen Amana Andolon movements, women faced specific challenges and experienced various forms of empowerment. Here are some key points regarding the challenges and empowerment of women within these movements:

Challenges faced by women in the movements:

- **Particular norms and gender roles:** Women encountered resistance from traditional patriarchal norms and gender roles that limited their participation and leadership opportunities within the movement.
- **Societal backlash:** Women faced backlash, criticism, and even violence from conservative elements within society who opposed their involvement in public activism and challenging traditional power structures.
- **Limited resources and support:** Women often encountered economic barriers, such as limited access to financial resources and institutional support, which affected their active engagement in the movements.
- **Double burden of responsibilities:** Many women faced challenges in balancing their roles within the movements with their domestic responsibilities, as they were often expected to fulfill traditional gender roles in addition to their activism.

Empowerment of women within the movements:

- **Increased visibility and recognition:** Women's active participation and contributions within the movements helped raise their visibility and recognition as important agents of social change and transformation.
- **Building solidarity and networks:** Women formed networks and solidarity groups within the movements, providing support, mentorship, and a platform for collective action, which empowered them to overcome challenges and amplify their voices.
- **Assertion of rights and agency:** Through their involvement in the movements, women asserted their rights, challenged gender-based discrimination, and demanded equal participation and representation in decision-making process.
- **Transformation of gender norms:** Women's participation in the movements contributed to challenging and transforming traditional gender norms, both within the movements and in broader society, by showcasing alternative models of leadership and activism.
- **Policy and legal changes:** Women's advocacy within the movements often led to policy and legal changes that addressed gender inequalities and improved women's rights, such as reform in laws related to domestic violence, inheritance, and political representation.

Conclusion:

It is a pivotal fact that in building a nation, women are very important pillars. They had great contribution to get the heritage of India back from the British. In speaking of Ayen Amana and Laban Satyagraha, their roles and responsibilities are unique and can never be ignored. They went hand in hand with men and faced all the hazards and storms. Hence, one can safely conclude that the emergence of women in the sky of Indian freedom movement is not a certain incident. Rather, it is well-rooted and has its own heritage.

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