

Contribution of Ahilyabai Holkar in social and economic development of women

Dr. Shivcharan Laxman Kottewar

Assistant Professor, Dept of Commerce, Arts, Science and Commerce College, Chikhaldara, Dist. Amravati (M.H)

Abstract

Ahilyabai Holkar was born in a Maratha family in the village of Chaundi in Maharashtra. In her childhood Malharrao Holkar chose her to marry his son. However, after the untimely death of her husband, Ahilyabai took over the leadership herself. The condition of women in India during his time was not very good. Women were given a secondary position in society. During that time widow women had to face many social constraints. In such circumstances, Ahilyabai fought for women's rights. One of the most important dynasties in Indian history was the Maratha Empire, and one of its most revered female rulers was Ahilyabai Holkar. He was born on 31 May 1725 and ruled from 1767 to 1795 on behalf of the Holkar dynasty. Ahilyabai established herself as an outstanding ruler, social reformer and supporter of women empowerment. Her leadership continues to inspire today and the policy decisions she made had a major impact on the social and economic development of women. The contribution of Ahilyabai Holkar in the development of women has been presented in detail in this research.

Introduction:

One of the most important dynasties in Indian history was the Maratha Empire, and one of its most revered female rulers was Ahilyabai Holkar. He was born on 31 May 1725 and ruled from 1767 to 1795 on behalf of the Holkar dynasty. Ahilyabai established herself as an outstanding ruler, social reformer and supporter of women empowerment. Her leadership continues to inspire today and the policy decisions she made had a major impact on the social and economic development of women. The contribution of Ahilyabai Holkar in the development of women has been presented in detail in this research.

1. Historical Background:

Ahilyabai Holkar was born in a Maratha family in the village of Chaundi in Maharashtra. In her childhood Malharrao Holkar chose her to marry his son. However, after the untimely death of her husband, Ahilyabai took over the leadership herself. The condition of women in India during his time was not very good. Women were given a secondary position in society. During that time widow women had to face many social constraints. In such circumstances, Ahilyabai fought for women's rights.

1.1 Objectives of the Study:

1. Understanding Ahilyabai Holkar's Leadership and Social Service.
2. To highlight the role of women in social empowerment.
3. To analyze the steps taken for economic development of women.
4. Reflections on Social Reform and Religious Tolerance.
5. Setting Ahilyabai's work as a guide for women's empowerment today.
6. Impact of Ahilyabai's Contribution on Modern Society.

1.2 Research Methodology:

To study the historical documents of Ahilyabai's time through primary sources. Studying books, research articles and academic journals on Ahilyabai Holkar through secondary sources. Conducting oral interviews with local historians and researchers. To do social and economic analysis comparative study of decisions and policies taken by women for their empowerment. Comparing Ahilyabai's work with other women rulers and the progress of women in other regions. To study Ahilyabai's work in the context of today's women empowerment in comparison with modern times. Ahilyabai Holkar's social and economic contribution will be analyzed based on the above research methods. This research will shed light on opportunities for women, reforms and the historical and modern significance of Ahilyabai's work.

1.3 Need for study:

To understand how Ahilyabai Holkar's social and economic reforms were instrumental in women's empowerment, to understand the historical contribution to women's empowerment, to study the process of policy change and women's empowerment through Ahilyabai's leadership and how the example of women's empowerment can inspire women today as well as women's social and economic empowerment. To understand the importance of reforms, to understand the importance of their policies on issues such as women's education, economic self-reliance and widow remarriage. This study is needed to know how Ahilyabai's contribution influences today's women's empowerment movement

2. Contribution to Women Empowerment.

2.1 Support of widow remarriage:

As Ahilyabai herself was a widow, she tried for widow remarriage. Widows were not allowed to remarry during her time, but this reform policy of Ahilyabai gave many women a chance for a new life. He introduced policy changes for widow remarriage in his state, which provided economic and social support to widows.

2.2 Educational Opportunity for Women:

Ahilyabai provided educational opportunities for women. At that time, women did not get much opportunity for education, but Ahilyabai established schools and educational institutions to change this mindset. He emphasized the importance of religious as well as professional education for women. Education gave women not only personal advancement but also the ability to make independent decisions in society.

3. Contribution to Economic Empowerment of Women:

3.1 Financial Assistance and Loan Scheme:

Ahilyabai planned various schemes for economic empowerment of women. He inspired women to become economically independent through industry, agriculture and handicrafts. They provided loans to farmers at low interest rates, which also benefited women. This led to women starting their own small businesses and gaining their financial independence.

3.2 Contribution to Agriculture:

Ahilyabai took various measures to improve the economic condition of farmers in her state. He encouraged women to work in agriculture and gave them the right to own property. This allowed women to participate economically in agriculture and play an important role in their family's economy.

4. Social Reforms:

4.1 Religious Tolerance:

Ahilyabai Holkar gave importance to religious tolerance. He tried to create unity among people of different religions and castes. He encouraged both men and women in the community to participate in religious events, which helped women to take an active part in religious and social life.

4.2 Work against caste division:

Ahilyabai worked against the caste division prevalent in the society. He took strategic steps to provide equal opportunities to people of different castes. The values of social unity and justice were propagated in his kingdom. He appointed women to high positions in his government, which inspired women to gain their rights.

5. Religious and Cultural Contribution:

5.1 Reconstruction of Religious Sites:

Ahilyabai Holkar did the work of reconstruction of various religious places. He worked on the reconstruction of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, religious sites in Gaya, Ayodhya and Mathura. He made special efforts for the participation of women in this religious work. This gave women an opportunity to contribute in religious and cultural fields.

5.2 Religious and Cultural Practices:

Ahilyabai promoted women's significant participation in religious practices and culture. He promoted women's dignity and religious freedom, which greatly improved the social position of women. Their religious work was not only for piety, but also to give women a place of honor in the society.

Conclusion:

Ahilyabai Holkar's work and contribution is an inspiring example in Indian history. During his government career, he took remarkable steps for the social and economic development of women. His policies provided women with opportunities for education, economic independence, social equality, and religious participation. Ahilyabai's contribution makes her an ideal female leader and her work is followed even today. The path laid by Ahilyabai is still a guide for women empowerment.

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