



## THE STATUS AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN WITH REFERENCE TO BUDDHIST MORAL PRINCIPLES

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article History:

Received 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

Received in revised form 2<sup>nd</sup>

March, 2022

Accepted 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Published online 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

#### Keywords:

Women Status, Empowerment, Buddhism, Moral Principles, Eliminate Suffering, Inequality.

### ABSTRACT

Empowerment of women can delineate to encouraged women's sense of personality and capability to determine personal choices, right to influence communal revolutionize for them. What's more, women have self-government, equal opportunities, and the talent to formulate strategic choices in all areas of their lives. In the contemporary era, the concept of women's empowerment has expanded more and more importance. All types of empowerment- social, political, economic, cultural, legal, ethical, religious, and even spiritual allotted to women with the sympathetic and the enlightened Buddha. Buddhism recommended equal status to women with men. In Buddhism, the concept of empowerment put in the picture that a woman who wants to empower herself should not only understand her potential and factual personality but must put in efforts to achieve her goals. The main purpose of Buddhism is to eliminate suffering. The inequality of women is a form of suffering. Therefore, Buddhism cannot be against feminism to oppose the suffering of all sentient beings. The present study tries to discuss about the Buddhist perspective on empowerment of women and real situation of women in Buddhism.

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### INTRODUCTION

In present humankind, women have been challenging with men in the entire nation. We can find that women have realized to place such as ruler of the state. For instances Germany, Nepal, and many other countries. There has been a sense of equality in both men and women. This shows us how things have been changing in the contemporary time. This will give the same opportunities to both men and women. The country can also develop very fast if everyone gets good opportunities. Both men and women well thought-out the two wheels of a cart. If one wheel is smaller than the other is, the movement will definitely be impaired. This paper is an attempt to study the aspect of empowerment of women as depicted in Buddhism. According to Diana Paul, the traditional view of women in early Buddhism was that they were inferior.<sup>1</sup> For Buddhism the Four Noble Truths are 'the truths of the Noble Ones', the truths or realities for the spiritually worthy ones. These truths are suffering, the cause of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the path leading to renouncement of *tanha*<sup>2</sup> and cessation of suffering. The truths are understood as the realization both men and women that led to the enlightenment of the Buddha. Buddhism advocated the *Dhamma* promotes the eradication of all negative attitudes and false views are genderless at its pristine and transformative core.

Buddhism accepts as true that emancipation or the enlightenment and the independence from the succession of rebirth. Buddhism advocates that there are no diversity both men and women. Both are subject to old age, sickness, death, desire and suffering. For Buddhism women have the equivalent forthcoming as men to achieve the wisdom, insight and compassion necessary for enlightenment. Buddha was the first religious teacher who gave women equal and unfettered opportunities in the field of spiritual enlargement. He truly paved the way for women to lead a full religious life. He was not a reformer but he admitted women into the monastic order. Both the *Mahayana* and the *Theravada* traditions mention women who have attained enlightenment. In Buddhism (*monks*), men are called *bhikku* and (*nuns*) are called *bhikkuni*. Both aim for the goal of liberation from *samsara*. In Buddhism, there have always been women in the *sangha*. Khandro Rinpoche, Masatoshi Ueki, is two female spiritual teachers. They suggest that there have always been women in the *sangha* and that women have always followed the *Dhamma*. Buddhism holds that both the men and women as equality able to understand and practise the *Dhamma* and both capable of achieving enlightenment. Buddha recognised the political right of women to join the *sangha*. He forced the *sangha* to recognise women's right to be leaders. Against the dominant Hindu view, Buddha held that women could develop her own personality and individuality independent of any male support. He was the first to recognise the need for women's education and political initiative. In Buddhism, both husband

<sup>1</sup> Diana Y. Paul; Frances Wilson (1985), *Traditional Views of Women in Buddhism*, University of California Press, ISBN 978-0-520-05428-8.

<sup>2</sup> Desire, thirst, greed etc.

and wife expected to share equal responsibility and discharge their duties with equal dedication. The husband admonished to consider the wife a friend, a companion, a partner. Buddha give emphasis to the abundant position a women can play and should play as a wife a superior mother in making the family life a achievement. This shows that in the Buddhist society the wife occupied an equal position with the husband.

## **CONCLUSION**

Buddhist feminism is acts of moving that try to find build up the religious, legal, and social status of women within Buddhism. The current amendment about the status of women's in the Buddhist time brings a contemporary significance. It advocates the right path to eliminate ignorance and weakness in the midst of women. The right path is that of empowerment. Empowerment brings enlightenment. Empowerment of women means empowerment of the entire humankind as in the current time. In conclusion, we may say that women are at the interior of the world inside home and hold the centre of the humankind exterior own residence. It is across the world accepting that similar to all human beings, women too have a right to liberty from desire; liberty from terror and liberty to be alive in dignity like their male equivalents do, all over the humankind.

The empowerment of women is one of the answers to the inconvenience of discrimination, subordination and marginalisation that women face in the world. Buddhism furnishes importance to goodness and recognizes equal opportunity of civilization with discourse that everyone can achieve the uppermost position following regulation and be in command of the strength of mind. It entails that not only men but women also attain *Nibbana*.

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### **How to cite this article:**

Nijara Medhi (2022) 'The Status and Empowerment of Women With Reference To Buddhist Moral Principles', *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*, 11(05), pp.884-885. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijcar.2022.885.0201>

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