

Changing Face of Philanthropy in India: Phenomenal People Serving Mankind

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Abstract—“Change is the only constant in life”. Generations change, trends change in all spheres of life. Over years, there has been drastic change in terms of technology and science. It is the world of smartphones, social sites, latest gadgets, latest fashion, latest music, and so on. The changing trends are for humans, by humans so far. There are some recent trends in the field of humanity where people have come up with radical ideas to serve the humanity in best possible ways. Their service to mankind is commendable. These are ordinary people doing extraordinary work in philanthropy. Moreover, it is about achievements of such women and their journey from themselves being victims to crusaders of reforms. They are the torch bearers of hope in despair for several other women in ordeal of painful life. These women are deprived of opportunities. Miseries wrecked havoc in the lives of these simple ordinary women, females who were born to live free, independent, happy and dreamt to have identities of their own but unfortunately their lives were ruined. These voices were suppressed despite this these women mustered courage, gathered strength from the broken pieces of their lives. As Jesus Christ resurrected from death, these women also came to new life. They grappled with circumstances and challenged the difficulties of life and came out victorious. These optimistic personalities were more confident to lead a life extraordinary in fact took initiative to rescue women in the labyrinth of sorrow, rejection and ignorance. Now the trend has changed victims are crusaders and provide succour to people in need. We got an opportunity to explore the lives of such women also from city of lakes, Udaipur to where I belong. Their venture into service of humanity will lead to a progressive, prosperous nation for which we aspire.

KEYWORDS: Philanthropy, Women, Victims, Mankind

“We think too much and feel too little. More than machinery we need humanity; More than cleverness we need kindness and gentleness. Without these qualities life will be violent and all will be lost.” This well known quote by Charlie Chaplin emphasized need for humanity.

In this materialistic world where there is a rat race among people to get success, money and power through shortcut means, the sensitivity towards fellowmen is lacking. Today's youth is vying with each other to grab accolades but sometimes they try to get it on the cost of their values and

ethics in fact the new generation wants everything to be served on platter.

When we think about service to mankind the name which grabs our attention is Mother Teresa. The epitome of love and kindness. Our past history is glorified by such great personalities that were canonized for their deeds. Saint Mother Teresa felt that serving other was the fundamental principle of the teachings of Jesus Christ. In 1979, she was awarded the noble peace prize and became a symbol of charitable selfless work.

Love for mankind is termed as philanthropy as stated by Catherine Zimmer. It is derived from Greek word “Philos” which means loving and “anthropos” which means mankind.

People today are trying to climb the ladder of success by pushing the underprivileged and deprived. On the contrary there are some examples of people who are doing exceptionally good work for mankind, especially the downtrodden and needy. Ordinary people have emerged as extraordinary by their phenomenal deeds such as rendering selfless services to human beings that make them class apart. The goal of their life is not hoarding wealth but welfare of humanity. Our research paper aims to throw a light on those areas which are not touched by most of the people where recently people have achieved a lot not only by investing money but also by their emotion of care, kindness, affection and unconditional love for humanity.

The journey begins from human beings that we are by god's grace but the journey successfully ends by being a human that the person should have humanity otherwise we call man also a social animal”. Everyone of us is aware of big names and institutes working for the welfare of mankind. Most of the celebrities have also contributed to charity. Film actors like Salman Khan, founder of being human, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan initiated the Aishwarya Rai foundation to help the needy, Shabana Azmi, works for NGO called Mizwan named after a village in UP.

The inspiration of writing this research paper is our interaction with local people of Udaipur who are doing extraordinary work in philanthropy. After witnessing the lives of ordinary housewives belonging to middle class families. We realized that small deeds can contribute a lot to others. Mother Teresa rightly said: We cannot all do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

Thought provoking story of women whom we met needs to be narrated. As stated by Cixous, Helene, "Women must write about women and bring women to writing from which they have been driven away so violently from their bodies for the same reasons by the same law with the same fatal goal, women must put herself into the text – as into the world and into history by her own movement" (Cixous 75). Three women namely Mrs. Nitu Kachhara, Mrs. Arti Mehta and Mrs. Suman Kothari feed not only their households but those old men and women abandoned by their families etc. We love more about their generous act when we got a chance to interview Mrs. Nitu Kachhara, an Indian household lady who seem to be ordinary, brought up by middle class family, having dreams in her eyes and an inner urge to serve mankind. In an interview with her she revealed how her situation struck an idea and the idea transformed into a plan and the plan got executed an eventually became part and parcel of her existence. The idea named as "Parmarth". In English it actually means "serving the mankind". It is hard to find those eyes who look for old generations, wrinkled faces, trembling hands, craving eyes searching for solace. This lady happened to meet hunger ridden famished very old women in midnight while returning from a lavish party. On the way to her home in Udaipur in the dark night as soon as she heard the wailing of a women suddenly stopped the car and saw an emaciated very old women crying out of pangs of hunger; that moment was a turning point in the life of Mrs. Nitu Kachhara. She couldn't stop herself from interacting with the old lady and after realising that she had not eaten a morsel of food since morning she immediately gave fruits, chocolates etc. to her. After returning home she was speechless and petrified that day and she promised to herself that till the last breath of her life she would serve food to such abandoned people. Presently she serve food to octogenarian, a person between 80 to 89 years old. These include childless old couples, widows, widowers left alone after either of spouse death and there is no one to provide financial help, food and in most cases they are too old to cook for themselves. Seeing their sister Nitu, both aarti and suman decided to support their kind gesture. They used to prepare food packet from their homes and tried to strike a balance between household chores and serving food to needy but this was not a easy task for them. Relatives and people around them used to dissuade them and discouraged them saying that it was waste of time and money but their love for humanity and will power failed to deter them. These women tried to find out a way through which serving good could become easier. They went door to door interacted with shopkeepers, jewelers, businessmen, hotelier etc. and after

facing the upheavals of life they finally achieved more then they desired.

These people contributed in several ways. Many of them given grocery items, utensils to prepare food etc. In addition to this, two influential personality provided them four wheelers to serve the food around the city and the two vans are used to seek hunger ridden people and presently food is being prepared in Parmarth building and then distributed through vans. As it is said many a little makes a mickle.

There are some extraordinary women despite being sufferers overcomes hardships of life and discovered their new self just like a phoenix rises from ash. These amazing women devoted their life for welfare of women like them.

1. **SINDHUTAI SAPKAL:** She is raising fourteen hundred orphans and children who are abandoned by their parents. Sindhutai was born in a village in vardha district of Maharashtra. Her own life story's was tragic. As she herself was abandoned by family. She even begged at railway platform to look after her daughter. Nevertheless she won the battle of struggles of life and emerged as winners.
2. **PRAKASH KAUR:** She started unique home for abandoned girls. Presently she has provided shelter to orphan girls who have been discarded by their biological parents. Prakash Kaur was herself a victim as her ownmother rejected her as she was a burden for the family, In India, its pathetic that most of the people find girl child a burden. Pointing out the survival and struggle of a girl child, a critic puts its succinctly. "In society where the birth of a daughter is considered a source of misery and trouble, and the son is the savior and hope of the family, growing up for a girl becomes on issue of survival" (Mathur 21).
3. **MAMTA RAWAT:** A village girl saved thousands of life from 2013 floods which destructed Uttrakhand. Despite loosing her own abode, without roof on her top, helpless she undauntedly challenging the unfavorable weather conditions rescued lives of several men, women, children etc. having been trained in mountaineering. Mamta led, her 30 students for rescue mission without any government help. She became triumphant by defeating the harsh climatic condition.
4. **DR. SUNITHA KRISHNAN:** She started Prajwala, an organization which rehabilitates victims of sexual assault. Sunitha was gang raped when she was twelve. This horrible incident made her rebellious and instead of crying on her own destiny she forgot the nightmare and paved the way for those girls whose dreams were shattered by demons who ruined their honor.
5. **LAKSHMI AGARWAL:** She is an acid attack survivor and she stands for the right to acid attack victim. Moreover, her efforts held in curbing acid sales as she

filed up petition to Indian supreme court for the ban of acid selling. Her own story is a tragic one. At the age of fifteen she had suffered acid attack. This brave girl fought for years and proved herself because she believed beauty of soul matters more than a beautiful face.

Lakshmi Agarwal's life story has been an inspiration for lot of women struggling with their own troubles. Trends are changing in the glamour world also. Change from real to reel. Few months ago movie called *Chapak* has been shot on the streets of Delhi, not its not a Shahrukh khan movie, its Lakshmi Agarwal portrayal and the role is played by Deepika Padukone, the top actress of Bollywood. The latest picture of the shooting can be surfed on google. People from all walks of life beats cinema have taken up initiative to celebrate the lives of such extraordinary women whose life story's have been mentioned in our paper and *Chapak* movie is pioneer which will be released in 2020.

Small efforts contribute to bigger achievement. Likewise, small changes leads to transformation. The gradual process of serving the humanity will certainly help a nation in improve its various aspects. The social of economic growth of country like India will be only done by people who dwell in it who work for fellowmen.

In India, the gap between haves and have-nots have to be bridged. The irony is that rich are becoming more rich and poor are becoming more poorer, its not that India lacks resources. "Caroline Hartnell highlighted that India still remains a largely unequal society where old wealthy families prefer to pass on their fortune to next generation".

Progress of a country depends on latest innovations. A notion to develop can also have other facets, serving the mankind can be one of the radical ideas and which is not a common sight in today's fast pace life. Technology has save time, people have become smart using smartphones, children are becoming sharp mind as they are taught in smart classes, our economy is going cashless, manual works are done by computers. The place of humans is taken up by machines but the tragedy us that humans have started turning into machines themselves due to which humanity is in danger. Human values makes man compassionate, so the need of the hour is to inculcate values like love for humanity which will certainly help in healthier, successful and developed nation. Moreover, when the number of people serving the fellowmen will increase the social evils

like abandonment of girl child, female infanticide, rape, thefts etc. will be eradicated when a concern for fellow beings will be one of the priority.

The story's of extraordinary women who not only transform from victim to victorious but also devoted their lives for the welfare of the people like them and such women deserve best things from life. Anita Nair rightly states in her article 'She Factor', "learning to live life on her terms is also about learning to deal with world out there. Is not just about going beyond traditional roles but about being able to command respect everywhere, everyday. In the last decade, women have learnt to uncurl the syllabus that will enable them to live a life of dignity: I need to be educated, I need a career, I need a home of my own, I need wheels, I need sex, I need respect, I need to be free of fear".

The story which we have taken is our personal encounter with Mrs. Nitu Kachhara of Parmarth from city of Udaipur will be a eye-opener for most of the people who are confined to the four walls of luxurious houses and have never brooded on serving people in any form.

Our attempt to write about ordinary people doing phenomenal jobs of rendering services to those in need is a small contribution to create awareness among people that giving is always a joy and the joy is always multiplied by distributing what we have sufficient or abundant

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