

# Women and Leadership—A Way to Self Empowerment

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**Abstract**—Leadership is the main quality that can make a woman confident and successful. Days are gone when women were confined to four walls only. Education is the main factor contributing towards the Success of Women in the World. They are getting aware about their rights. Some leaders are born leaders and some become leaders by learning. The main focus of this paper is on the role of leadership in making a Woman Self Empowered. Some examples show the success journey of those women who are successful and they are proved very good leaders. Women need for leadership is also discussed. The paper also focuses on Problems or Obstacles to Restrict Woman's urge to be on Leadership Ladder.

**Keywords:** Leadership, Women, Self Empowerment, Education.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it” - Dwight D. Eisenhower

“As long as women continue to be in a position of receiving rather than giving, they shall continue to bear injustice” -Kiran Bedi

Leadership is an ability of a person to lead or guide others, in US academic environments leadership is defined as "a process of social influence in which a person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task. Leadership is to display power and a way to control others. Any Leader derives its Leadership from a unique mix of one or more of the following factors"

- Primal Leadership-higher levels of physical power need to display power and control others, force superiority, ability to generate fear, or group-member's need for a powerful group protector.
- Psychoenergetic Leadership-superior mental energies, superior motivational forces, perceivable in communication and behaviours, lack of fear, courage, determination.
- Macro-Leadership-higher abilities in managing the overall picture.

- Micro Leadership- higher abilities in specialized tasks.
- Project Leadership- higher ability in managing the execution of a task.
- Spiritual leadership- higher level of values, wisdom, and spirituality

Leader is an explorer, cutting a path through the jungle (forest) for the rest of his group to follow. Leader can be a political leader, pursuing a passionate, personal cause. Leader can be an executive, developing her company's strategy to beat the competition. Leaders help themselves and other people to do the right things. They set direction, build an inspiring vision, and create something new and it is dynamic, exciting and inspiring. Leadership is about mapping out where you need to go to “win” as a team or an organisation. Leaders must also use management skills to guide their people to the right destination, in a smooth and efficient way.

## 2. WOMEN AND THEIR NEED FOR LEADERSHIP

Women have extensive multi-tasking abilities. There are evidences showing where women manage business and families at the same time. Women in leadership roles can act as mentors to develop other potential women leaders. If we talk about Business World, Both Men and Women are needed to address business issues effectively. Diverse viewpoints can result in better and more effective solutions to business issues arising in this informational age and highly competitive age. If more women leaders are available, it can double the talent pool of creative leaders.

## 3. PROBLEMS OR OBSTACLES TO RESTRICT WOMEN URGE TO BE ON LEADERSHIP LADDER

Society is the main factor which restricts a woman's freedom if she wants to do something different making her leadership qualities shine through her work. In Our Constitution, although women and men are given equal status, still there are lot of barriers which exist in real world that are hard to ignore. Women have not equal say in lot of matters as Our

Society is male dominated Society. Still Many Women have struggled to show their worth and they are shining like stars in corporate world and other areas like Social work, Medicine, Teaching, Space, Mountaineering, and Engineering etc.

Crime rates against women in Country are putting a serious ban on women freedom as their families perceive these things as insult and stigma on their reputation. Rape, Eve Teasing, Abuse etc are the issues that are really making the journey of women uncomfortable making the world for them an unsafe place to breathe. Electronic Media and Print Media are displaying such headlines daily that choke the breathing of people who read and hear it.

Lack of Education in women is an impediment making the women community weak. Uneducated women cannot be that knowledgeable and self confident. Orthodox people still feel that there is no need of more education for women and they want to restrict their boundaries to four walls only. Education is the need of Society. Women are an important part of it. Woman makes family and more connected to future generations being a mother, daughter etc. So they should be encouraged to take education. Education makes a woman independent and develops her vision to think widely, although society and parents are getting aware and they are sending their daughters to schools and colleges these days.

Lack of Motivation and Inspiration is also a big problem due to which women are lagging behind in leadership. They should be motivated and provided inspiration at best so that they can realise their dreams.

#### 4. NEED TO DO FOR MAKING WOMEN LEADERS

Women should be encouraged by their families so that they can show their real worth. Schools, Colleges and Universities develop leadership qualities in women. Coaching, mentoring and multi-day workshops are quite important to help develop women leaders to their fullest potential. Nuptial ties should not be an end to her dreams. She should be given every support by her husband and in laws to show the purpose she is nurturing in her heart and she should be given the life of a free bird so that she can fly as high as she wishes.

Examples of Women Leaders-An Inspiration to women who want to live their dreams

#### Top Female Leaders Around the World

TIME takes a look at 13 women who have made it to the top:

- Helle Thorning-Schmidt, First Female Prime Minister of Denmark
- Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand
- Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
- Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of Argentina
- Dilma Rousseff, President of Brazil

- Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia
- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia
- Sheik Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh
- Johanna Sigurdardottir, Prime Minister of Iceland
- Laura Chinchilla, President of Costa Rica
- Tarja Halonen, President of Finland
- Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania
- Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago

**TIME suveys the women who have most influenced our world;**

#### 5. OTHER LEADING LADIES

- Jane Addams (1860-1935)- Addams was appointed to prominent state governmental and community boards, where she focused on improving sanitation, midwifery and food safety and reducing narcotics consumption. An ardent pacifist and outspoken advocate for women's suffrage, Addams was also the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Corazon Aquino (1933-2009)- She was the first female President of the Philippines. She still stood tall as the people's choice.
- Rachel Carson (1907-1964) - If Green movement exist today, it is because of her. Her monumental book *Silent Spring* documented the devastating effects of pesticides like DDT on birds and the environment, and the revelations eventually helped lead to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Mother Teresa- Mother Teresa is also known as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. She was a Roman Catholic religious sister and missionary. Mother Teresa was the recipient of numerous honours, including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which constitutes a threat to peace. Mother Teresa was widely admired by many for her charitable works. She devoted her life in serving the poor and destitute around the world.
- Hillary Clinton- Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton is an American politician, campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination in the 2016 election. She was the United States Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013, the junior United States Senator representing New York from 2001 to 2009, and First Lady of the United States during the presidency of Bill Clinton from 1993 to 2001. Hillary Clinton had been a fierce advocate for victims of child abuse since her law-school days, and throughout her tenure as First Lady, she became a leading voice on the

global stage on behalf of women in the developing world. She also staked her claim as an authority on military affairs, gaining the trust of the armed forces and several Senate Republicans. Indeed, when she became Secretary of State in 2009, her vision for a military escalation in Afghanistan won out over competing plans.

- Indira Krishnamurthy Nooyi- is an India-born, naturalized American, business executive and the current Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo. She has consistently ranked among the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. In 2014, she was ranked 13 in the list of Forbes World's 100 most powerful women.
- Kiran Bedi- is a retired Indian Police Service officer, social activist, former tennis player and politician from India. She is the first woman to join the Indian Police Service (IPS) in 1972.
- Priyanka Chopra- is an Indian actress, singer, producer and philanthropist, and the winner of the Miss World pageant of 2000. She has received numerous awards, including a National Film Award, and five Filmfare Awards. She was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award, by the Government of India in 2016. The same year, Time named her one of the "100 most influential people in the world". She was appointed as an Ambassador for Child Rights in 2010. She promotes various causes such as environment, health and education, women empowerment and women's rights. She is particularly vocal about gender equality, and gender pay inequality. She has found visibility internationally with American TV show "Quantico". Few days back she was invited to the annual White House Correspondents Dinner with US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.
- Malala Yousafzai - is a Pakistani activist for female education. She is the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate. She is known mainly for human rights advocacy for education and for women in her native Swat Valley in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of northwest Pakistan, where the local Taliban had at times banned girls from attending school. The 2013, 2014 and 2015 issues of

Time magazine featured Malala Yousafzai as one of "The 100 Most Influential People in the World".

## 6. CONCLUSION

This paper is an effort to bring the fire of leadership in women so that they can achieve their dreams. Independent women can work better and they can help the Society to make it a better place. Education is the biggest need of the human being. So Men and Women both have a right to get education. Women should be inspired by their families so that they can achieve their dreams. Examples of Successful Women given in this paper can inspire the Women and create a sense of leadership in them. In the Last, Only thing, as a researcher we want to mention that it is the Education only that can make a woman confident and a Good leader. Education is the need of this Competitive and Global world. Parents should give good education to their daughters in order to make them self Sustained and Self Empowered.

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