

e-bulletin

Unleashing the power: Girls & women

From the desk of National President

Dear Friends



In this April issue of our bulletin we have decided to select a topic which is garnering huge attention of the society, that is 'Unleashing the Power of Women'. Status of women in

India has seen much transformation over the ages. From equal status with men in ancient times, through the low points in medieval period, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful.

The ancient texts suggest that women were educated in the early Vedic period, and scriptures mention several women sages and seers, notably Maitreyi & Gargi. However, the status of women in India began to decline around 500 BC with outside invasions. In medieval period, women's position deteriorated when child marriages and a ban on re-marriage of widows became part of social life, purdah system came through due to the foreign conquest, Devadasi system got misused for sexual exploitation, and traditions like Sati took roots. All these practices severely restricted the freedom of women in leading a life of their choice.

Reform movements gained strength during British rule, and social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Jyotirao Phule & Savitribai Phule worked for the emancipation of women in India. Abolition of Sati in 1829 & Widow Remarriage Act in 1856 were great steps forward in this direction.

In today's India, women are participating more & more in areas such as education, sports, politics, media art & culture, service sectors, science & technology, & even in defense & other administrative sectors. The constitution of India guarantees equality, non-discrimination by states, equal pay for equal work etc. Feminist activism has gained momentum. Country is today proud to have women of eminence in every field. In India Gandhi India had the longest serving woman Prime Minister in the world. We today have several women of prominence in every field. From Savitribai Phule in Education, to Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Das, Anita Desai & Arundhati Roy in literature, to PT Usha, Sania Mirza, Saina Nehwal, Mary Kom in sports to Anjolie Ela Menon in painting, to Dr Asima Chatterjee in Science, MS Subbulakshmi, Lata Mangeshkar & Gangubai Hangal in music, women have made their mark everywhere. In Industry & business, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Indira Nooyi, Kalpana Morpariya & Chandra Kochhar are household names today as trail-blazers.

In spite of all these positivity all around, we as a society are plagued with many ills which require our urgent

attention. The average female life expectancy in India is low compared to many countries. India has a highly skewed sex-ratio due to sex-selective abortion, and female infanticide. Sanitation facilities for women, especially in rural households, are a serious concern not affecting only the hygiene but also the safety & security of women. Crime against women is a burning concern in the society with rising reported cases of sexual harassment, rape etc. Trafficking of young girls & women are reported quite often. Incidents of domestic violence against women & dowry death are also rampant. The National Crime Records Bureau reports that a crime against woman in India happens every three minutes, which signifies the magnitude of the ills affecting our womenfolk & our society. These in turn impinge on the freedom of women, hold them back & confine them within the four walls of home, & deprive the nation of their productive contribution to creation of wealth, prosperity & happiness.

Since the first day of its inception, BJS has been conscious and alive to these ills of the society, and has been working actively in social development sphere, with special focus on women empowerment. Its many initiatives like Mass Marriage, Parichay Sammelan, Empowerment of Girls, Empowerment of Couples etc. are all designed & developed to address a no of these concerns in a pragmatic manner with a futuristic outlook. In these endeavors BJS has not kept itself confined within the community, but has successfully gone much beyond to achieve national outreach, for greater good of the society at large.

The newly launched iBuD program which had its successful inaugural journey this month, is again an initiative launched to encourage the latent talent in budding entrepreneurs, especially for the young women. I was happy to see two women participants in the first program itself, who were equally eager and enthusiastic as their male counterparts throughout the seven days. Going forward, I am confident that more and more women will come forward to enroll for the future iBuD programs, and will utilize this unique opportunity to equip themselves in progressing ahead matching their steps with the men.

Before I sign off, let me reiterate that BJS believes for the womenfolk to be happy & successful, they are to be guaranteed the freedom of thought & action and an environment for exercising their choice. In short, we need to remove the leashes and break the shackles for our women as an enabler to exercise the power & energy latent in them, & BJS has undertaken to contribute its might towards this end

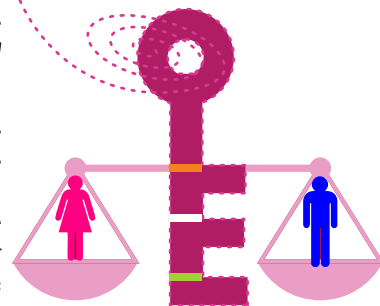


You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.

Unleashing Women Power through Entrepreneurship

Society's role in unleashing the power of females of all age groups.

Gender Equality in India



Country is today proud to have women of eminence in every field. In India Gandhi India had the longest serving woman Prime Minister in the world. We today have several women of prominence in every field.

-Prafulla Parakh
National President, BJS



Unleashing Women Power through Entrepreneurship

The era of swift transformations has opened up doors of numerous opportunities for women and a sizeable population of them is no longer confined within the four walls of the household. With access to higher education and fresh

opportunities women have successfully registered their presence in various fields like health, education, business and social welfare. Women no longer need to remain perched in the kitchen. Many social taboos have been wiped off our society, providing strong platform for girls and women to stand firmly and grow in personal as well as professional lives.

The service sector has already witnessed active participation of women. The rising trend now is to set up their own ventures (of different scales) and plunge into risk taking, progressing from merely managing tasks and meeting deadlines. For a long time, only women from affluent business families took up the family run business or ventured into some project on their own. But, the society is now willing to embrace businesswomen from all sections and strata.

Undoubtedly, the outlook has changed to a large extent, but women also need to step out of their comfort zones to take risks with their resources, whether limited or ample, to build their own innovative enterprises. From a broader perspective, a developing nation like ours cannot afford such a major chunk of unproductive population. Losing out on the brainpower and potential possessed by women and girls who constitute nearly 50% of our population is socially and economically detrimental & regressive. Women can add incrementally to a developing nation's economy and contribute to the growth factor.

Indian businesswomen like Kiran Majumdar Shaw (Biocon) and Nita Ambani (Founder-chairperson of Indian Super League) have for years, demonstrated the pertinent use of resources for delving into diversified businesses thus generating employment and building unique business models for others to

follow. They forayed into sections like biotechnology and sports and proved that these could be transformed into profitable ventures just with a well-conceived and novel idea. Yes, they had all the finances and manpower, but the enterprising capabilities displayed by these women and all the other women like them have proved to the world that well-utilized resources could work wonders.

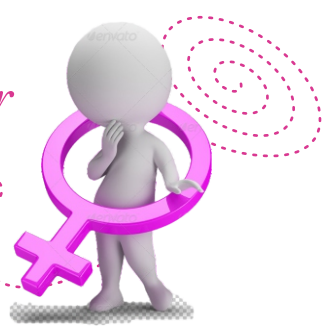
On the other hand women like Vandana Luthra (Founder VLCC-wellness chain) and Rashi Choudhary (Co-Founder of LocalBanya.com) also demonstrate to us that bang-on business ideas could lead to great start-ups even with limited finance and no patronage. Ultimately, every woman who manages against all odds to set up a successful enterprise (big or small) is a social and entrepreneurial hero. And that heroism is why The World Bank and its donor nations, as well as leading businesses, universities and NGOs are now focused so intently on lending women-owned SMEs a hand.

Women can use their management skills in running a business. They possess farsightedness and planning skills for crisis periods. They can very well shoulder the economic responsibilities and spend better on the next generation with their income; which means better education and assurance of basic resources for the children who are the future of the nation.

The time has come when more and more women must unleash their capabilities and strengths converting them to entrepreneurial skills and thus contributing to personal, social and national growth. Also for the society- If you give a woman in a developing country just a little bit of support for a business, she may well leverage that support into a brighter future for herself, her children, her family & neighbors and the world that we all share.



Society's Role in *Unleashing Women Power*



Indian society has been a traditionally male dominated society. With global trends creeping into the households, the equal opportunity environment is gradually increasing its foot hold in our country. We cannot deny that women are contributing significantly to the overall growth & development of the nation, including in decision making and wealth generation. Women across age-groups have made exemplary achievements and have proved that they are geared up to share the decision making platforms too.

Despite all this the society has been relatively hesitant in handing over the freedom of thought, expression and decision making to our womenfolk. The challenges for women begin from prior to birth and surface in different forms throughout their life. A sizable population of young girls is deprived of right to education and freedom of speech even today. There are sections of society that remain untouched by social transformations and where prejudices determine the course of a woman's life.

Women empowerment means differently to different people depending on their situations and positions in the society and also their ideologies and preconceived notions. The role of society goes far beyond educating daughters and wives and empowering them to become independent. Other than equal opportunity in education and employment, women must be empowered to become potent employers too. To unleash their true potential, the society must give them a free and safe environment to think, express and explore.

They must be encouraged to take decisions and chart their own course of life, instead of their father, brother and husband or son making decisions for them at different stages in life. Rather than watching over them against the dangers of outer world, we must work towards establishing a safe environment for women. They must be received well into the traditionally male dominated sectors and given a chance to prove themselves.

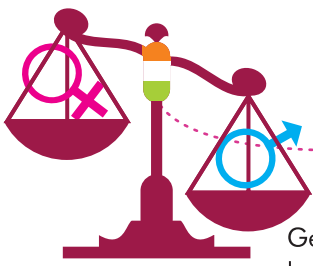
It remains a social responsibility to awaken their inner powerful self and make them going with more self-determination than ever. The society must become united in thoughts and action on this so that women across age-groups and spectrums feel motivated and free & get opportunity to unleash their talents and potential for personal and social welfare. Apart from providing them wings of freedom in different ways we must also tackle the attitude problems that lead to commodification of women.

The society must open ways for women to influence, direct and bring about social changes. It will not only benefit women and girls but would also contribute to the overall growth of nation and lay a strong foundation for the future generations too.

For Bharatiya Jain Sangathan (BJS) women empowerment has remained a focus area since long, and we have been actively involved in empowering girls and women through programs like Empowerment of Girls (EoG), Empowerment of Couples (EoC), Marriage and Family Counseling and Business Development Program (BDP). Going forward, BJS is actively working to extend the reach of the programs more & more & upscale these on national levels, in its quest to effectively contribute to this nation-wide movement.



Gender Equality in India



Gender equality is a human right, but our country faces a persistent gap in access to opportunities and decision-making power for women and men. Globally, women have fewer opportunities for economic participation than men, less access to basic and higher education, greater health and safety risks, and less political representation. Guaranteeing the rights of women and giving them opportunities to reach their full potential is critical not only for attaining gender equality, but also for meeting a wide range of national & international development goals. Empowered women and girls contribute to the health and productivity of their families, communities, and countries, creating a ripple effect that benefits everyone.

The word gender describes the socially-constructed roles and responsibilities that societies consider appropriate for men and women. Gender equality means that men and women have equal power and equal opportunities for financial independence, education, and personal development. Women's empowerment is a critical aspect of achieving gender equality. It includes increasing a woman's sense of self-worth, her decision-making power, her access to opportunities and resources, her power and control over her own life inside and outside the home, and her ability to effect change. Yet gender issues are not focused on women alone, but on the relationship between men and women in society. The actions and attitudes of men and boys play an essential role in achieving gender equality.

Education is a key area of focus. Although India is making progress in achieving gender parity in education, girls still make up a higher percentage of out-of-school children than boys, and the number of drop outs are more amongst school going girls. Approximately one quarter of girls in the developing world do not attend school. Typically, families with limited means who cannot afford costs such as school fees, uniforms, and supplies for all of their children will prioritize education for their sons. Families may also rely on girls' labor for household chores, carrying water, and childcare, leaving limited time for schooling. But prioritizing girls' education provides perhaps the single highest return on investment. An educated girl is more likely to postpone marriage, raise a smaller family, have healthier children, and send her own children to school. She has more opportunities to earn an income and to participate in political processes, and she is less likely to become infected with HIV.

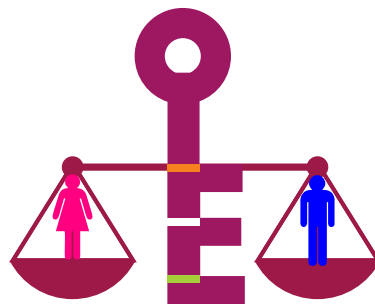
Women's health and safety is another important area. HIV/AIDS is becoming an increasingly impactful issue for women. This can be related to women having fewer opportunities for health education, unequal power in

sexual partnership, or as a result of gender-based violence. Maternal health is also an issue of specific concern. Women have limited access to prenatal and infant care, and are more likely to experience complications during pregnancy and childbirth. This is a critical concern where girls marry and have children before they are ready; often well before the age of 18. Quality maternal health care can provide an important entry point for information and services that empower mothers as informed decision-makers concerning their own health and the health of their children. Women safety and protection from physical violence, sexual assault both at domestic level & in the world outside home, are areas of serious concern in this country today

A final area of focus in attaining gender equality is women's economic and political empowerment. Though women comprise almost 50% of the population, they hardly own a share in wealth commensurate to their no. Women and girls in this country, especially in economically underprivileged section of the society perform long hours of unpaid domestic work. Women still lack in obtaining access to credit, earn income, or to move up in their workplace, free from job discrimination. At all levels, including at home and in the public arena, women are widely underrepresented as decision-makers. In the legislatures at central and state levels women representation is miniscule, though women's political participation is crucial for achieving gender equality and genuine democracy.

Globally, no country has fully attained gender equality. Scandinavian countries like Iceland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden lead the world in their progress toward closing the gender gap. In these countries, there is relatively equitable distribution of available income, resources, and opportunities for men and women. The greatest gender gaps are identified primarily in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. However, a number of countries in these regions, including Lesotho, South Africa, and Sri Lanka outrank the United States in gender equality.

BJS, as a socially conscious organization, is aware and alive to this emergent issue of gender equality and women empowerment, and have designed, developed and implemented a no of flagship programs, like empowerment of girls & couples, Parichay Sammelan etc geared to address specific issues within the broad framework of attaining Gender Equality in our society, Going forward it will always endeavor to come up with more such practical but innovative solutions to specifically identified areas in its quest of contributing to wards attainment of gender equality in our society.



Event Calendar

Program	City	State	Date	Organiser	Trainer/ Resource Person
Minority (Community awareness)	Akurdi	Maharashtra	31.03.2015	Nayan Bhandari	Kishor Desarda
	Baitul	MP	31.03.2015	Puja Tated	Rajneesh Jain
	Lasalgaon	Maharashtra	02.04.2015	Balchand Chajjed	Balchand Chajjed
	Shrigonda	Maharashtra	02.04.2015	Sakal Jain Samaj -Sandesh Gandhi Mahavir Patva	Shrimahavir Shrishrimal
	Mandsour	MP	31.03.2015	Rashmi Singhvi	Sasha Jain
	Ujjain	MP	01.04.2015	Sasha Jain	Sasha Jain
	Bruhanpur	MP	04.04.2015		Sonal Mehta
	Nashik	Maharashtra	12.04.2015	Chandwad Jain Bording School	Rajneesh Jain
	Nashik	Maharashtra	12.04.2015	Digambar Adhivention	Rajneesh Jain
	Abad, Jalna	Maharashtra	12.04.2015	Aklesh Avahane	Dhanraj Jain
	Hingoli	Maharashtra	19.04.2015	Prakash Soni, Ravindra Kanade	Sameep Indane
	Osmanabad	Maharashtra	19.04.2015	Deepak Ajmer	Dhanraj Jain
	Shirur Anant Par Latur	Maharashtra	19.04.2015	Rajkumar Gopalkar	Dhanraj Jain
	Gevrai Beed	Maharashtra	19.04.2015	Ganesh Chatturmuttha	Dhanraj Jain
Empowerment of Girls	Bangalore	Karnataka	3-5th April	Sivanchi Sangh	Rajendra Lunker
	Bilikere	Karnataka	21-23rd April	Government First Grade College, Bilikere	Dhanalakshmi H.S
	Vidisha	MP	10-12th April	BJS Vidisha	Rajashree Choudhari
	Indore	MP	10-12th April	Digambar Jain Mahasamiti Indore Sangita Vinayaka	Vimal Jain
	Nagpur	MH	12-14th April	Rotary Club Nagpur Vision	Nitin Pohare
Empowerment of Girls Introduction	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	15th April	Shivaji University	Ganesh Oswal
Empowerment of Girls Trainers Training	Mumbai	Maharashtra	15-18th April	Dr BMN College of Home Science. Seva Mandal Education Society	Dilip Chopda
Empowerment of Couples	Nashik Intro	Maharashtra	Sat, 4 April	Nandkishor Sakhala	Sanjay Singhi
iBuD Program	Pune	Maharashtra	12-18 April	BJS HO	
Lecture on Marriage	Nashik		Sat, 4 April	Sathish Bora	Sanjay Singhi
	Dhule	MH	Sun , 5 April	Dilip Batewara	
	Malkapur		Mon, 6 April	Sameep Indane	
	Akola		Mon, 6 April	Sameep Indane	
Lecture on Marriage	Raipur		Sun , 5 April	Sarita Choudhari	Rajneesh Jain
	Bilaspur	CG	Sun, 5 April	Mr. S K Jain	
	Bhilai		Mon, 6 April	Mr. M C Jain	
Remarriage Parichay Sammelan	Bellary	KA	31-May	Kantilal Parakh	Prafulla Parakh
	Pune	MH	31-May	Pune Region -Shripal Lalwani-	Rajneesh Jain
Workshop - to address various problems of society	Pune	MH	22.04.2015	BJS & JSG - Shripal Lalwani and Hasmukh Jain	Prafulla Parakh
	Malakapur	MH	27.04.2015	Meena Sancheti, Sandhya Aabad	Prafulla Parakh

BJS Summer Camps to Ensure Personality Development in Youth

In its constant effort to review, modify and upgrade its initiatives to keep up with the demands of ever changing requirements, Bharatiya Jain Sangathan (BJS) presents yet another such intervention in the arena of Personality Development Camps.

From now onwards, the programs would be available in three different formats and depending on suitability, requirement & convenience any of these programs can be opted for by the respective BJS organization at state level. The program contents are mentioned in brief for information

7-day residential Personality Development Program for

all Graduates/Post Graduates/all between 18 to 25 years of age who want to make successful career based on clarity or anyone who want to sharpen their skill & need clarity about their profession. The workshop will directly benefit the participants through sessions, interactions, sports, adventure, activities and case study presentation. The three major areas covered will be personality development, intelligence



development and professional development. The trainer's team would also provide study material whenever necessary and for reference purpose in future.

The second option in this series is a 5-day non-residential Special All Round Personality Development Program for

all Graduates/Post Graduates/all between 18 to 25 years of age. The direct fallout of this training program is that it completely wipe out negativity among participants and encourage them to build image for self, institution & also the place they come from.

The third format is a 3-day residential 'Your Future is Brighter than You Think' workshop specially designed for

all Graduates/Post Graduates/all between 18 to 25 years of age. The industrial visits, sessions by trainers and mixed set of activities would guarantee rounded personal, intelligence and professional development for the participants.

Graduation या Post- Graduation कर रहे अल्पसंख्यक विद्यार्थियों की शैक्षणिक वर्ष 2014-15 हेतु महाराष्ट्र सरकार की छात्रवृत्ति योजना ।



शैक्षणिक वर्ष 2014-15 में उपरोक्त कोर्स में किसी भी प्रवाह एवं वर्ष में अध्ययनरत अल्पसंख्यक विद्यार्थी 30 अप्रैल, 2015 से पूर्व उनके शिक्षण संस्थान में आवेदन पत्र भरकर जमा कराएं। आवेदन पत्र का नमूना वेब साइट www.dhepune.gov.in से डाऊनलोड करें। अधिकतम रु. 5000 या वास्तविक अदा किया गया वार्षिक शैक्षणिक शुल्क जो भी कम हो छात्रवृत्ति में दिया जायेगा।

पात्रता

महाराष्ट्र राज्य का विद्यार्थी जिसने 12 वीं की परीक्षा महाराष्ट्र से उत्तीर्ण की हो, जिसकी वार्षिक पारिवारिक आय रु. 2.50 लाख से कम हो तथा किसी अन्य योजना से छात्रवृत्ति प्राप्त न कर रहा हो।

आवश्यक कागजपत्र

पासपोर्ट साईज फोटो, उच्च माध्यमिक व उसके पश्चात दी गयी सभी वार्षिक परिक्षाओं की अंक तालिका की फोटो कॉपी, पारिवारिक आय प्रमाणपत्र (स्वरोजगारी अभिभावक द्वारा कोरे कागज पर स्वप्रमाणित, नौकरी करने वाले नियोक्ता का पगार प्रमाणपत्र या आयकर देने वाले सत्यापित आयकर विवरण पत्रक), स्थाई पते का प्रमाणपत्र (राशनकार्ड, वोटर्स कार्ड, बिजली या टेलीफोन बिल आदि की फोटो कॉपी आदि में से कोई एक) विद्यार्थी बैंक बचत खाते की पासबुक के मुख्यपृष्ठ व आधार कार्ड तथा अदा शैक्षणिक शुल्क की रसीद सभी सत्यापित प्रतियाँ।

30 अप्रैल, 2015 से पहले शिक्षण संस्थान के प्रधानाचार्य को आवेदनपत्र सभी आवश्यक कागजातों सहित जमा कराएँ।
स्पष्टीकरण व अधिक जानकारी तथा आवेदन पत्र ई-मेल पर प्राप्त करने हेतु हमसे सम्पर्क करें।
भारतीय जैन संगठन, पुणे (020-41200600, 41280011, 41280012, 41280013)



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