

Savitribai Phule: A Biographical Study

**SUMMARY OF
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Summary

Savitribai Phule was a great teacher, social reformer, and a poetess of Marathi. She did important deeds for women education and rights with her husband Jyotiba Phule. Savitribai Phule was first lady teacher in a girl's school. She is known a harbinger of modern Marathi epic. In 1852, she founded a school for untouchable girls. Savitribai is remembered as a wife of Jyotiba Phule a co-operator of his mission. It is certainly a significant thing but there is a big fault that Savitribai deeds and her leadership are ignored. There is no doubt that Savitribai got inspiration from her husband as she was very devoted lady towards her education. Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule did many works for the girl's Education and other social works, as the foundation of Satyashodhak Samaj and famine sufferings men for widows etc.

Savitribai was not only first teacher and first principal of India but she was an ideal inspiration, an eminent social reformer, sensible poetess, thoughtful thinker and forerunner of women movement. Savitribai opened the gates of education which were closed for Shudras, Atishudras, deprived for thousands of years. Savitribai has written some very important things, her literary contribution such as Kavya Phule-collection of Poems in 1854 and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892. Total 41 poems are composed in Kavya Phule collection related to Education, Nature and social problems. In the speech of Savitri several subjects as labour, education, good conducts, addiction, and debt are composed by Savitribai. Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar is also a collection of poems. Savitribai Phule also made an effort to organize inter caste marriage for the foundation of casteless and classless society.

Objectives

The main objectives of the study are:

- 1) To study the life and significant contribution of Savitribai Phule in history.
- 2) To understand the role of Savitribai Phule in Indian feminism, her fight for the unfair treatment of women and her efforts for education as well as equal rights for women in society.
- 3) To study the culture and social and economic conditions which led to the degradation of women in 19th century.
- 4) To study the relevance of her ideas and her struggle for women's equality.

Sources and data collection

In this study, two kinds of data were used:

1. Primary Sources

- Kavya Phule – Collection of Poems 1854
- Speeches of Jyotirao – Edited by Savitribai Phule
- Two Letters of Jyotirao – Which were written by Savitribai
- Five speeches of Savitribai Phule – 1892
- Bavankashi Subodh Ratnakar – 1892

2. Secondary Sources

Books, Journals, e- sources, were used as secondary sources for this study.

The research methodology of the study

- 1) The research methodology of our study was generally based on historical, descriptive and analytical.
- 2) All data both primary and secondary sources such as her written works, letters, Previous literature review, online sources have been used.

Chapterization

Chapter 1, Introduction introduces along with the objectives, methodology as well as overview of childhood and role Savitribai. The methodology of research which was used in the study is described.

Chapter 2, “Poems of Savitribai Phule” deals in detail with poems Kavya Phule.. The poem and their explanations are systematically discussed in this chapter. Her poems clearly shows the bad condition of women and Shudras. Some poems strongly suggest that, education is God and English is mother without which men are like animals. Most part of her poems strongly opposes Brahmin ideology which is hegemonic over Shudras and women.

Chapter 3, “Speeches of Savitribai Phule” discusses the five speeches which she basically delivered on issues which are relevant in social economic and political spheres.

Chapter 4, “Contribution of Savitribai Phule in Indian Feminism” deals with her ideas on feminism and her solution for bringing gender justice. It also describes about Savitribai’s ideas that was responsible for the worst condition of women in India.

Chapter 5, “Conclusion” concludes all previously discussed chapters and sums up the personality of Savitribai Phule and her ideology which is relevant both in social, economic and political areas.