

Inspirational Lady : Dr. Taraben Patel

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Since Ancient times, women have played an important role in social change & social development. Although feminist movement has taken by men, but the role of women is the base to realize the real sense of it.

The present article focus on the contribution of the known sociologist the person who laid down the base for sociology subject in Gujarat that is Dr. Taraben Patel. Sociology is such subject that gives the realistic, scientific sense of society. Dr. Taraben Patel has prepared whole generations by founding sociology subject in Gujarat. It analyse the Gujarati Society till today. In which Dr. Vidhyut Joshi, Dr. Gaurang Jani, Dr. Jayprakash Trivedi, Anand Bhatt, Dr. Ramnik Chudasma etc.

Dr. Taraben Patel : An Introduction

Taraben was born on 29th Jan, 1918 in a small villege near to city of Uganda. But she came back to India with her mother in a very small age. Her childhood days were spent in Peej village with her maternal grandfather Dadabhai Mathurbhai. She got her middle education from Nataani Highschool of Baroda. In 1936, she passed her matriculation exam and received college education from Baroda College. In 1941, she received B.A. Honours degree in Gujarati & English. And in 1944 she got M.A. degree. After that she served as honorary teacher in Sunav High School in her native place. From her childhood itself, she decided to go in some new direction. So she wanted to go to America for further studies. This was the time when it was extremely difficult for Patidar Girls to get even a education. The elder people at the village wanted Taraben to be principal of the school. But Taraben was waiting for the abroad for higher studies. During this period, Sardar Patel comes to Sunav village and Taraben told him about her desire to study in America for further education. Sardar replied 'yes, daughter, must go.' and Sardar Saheb's confirmation was approved by family and village people. And the doors were opened for Taraben to study in abroad.

Education

Before Independence, one Patidar girl goes to abroad for higher studies is like a day dream. It was the time when it was not easy to go abroad. A cargo ship carrying Calcutta turned into a passenger ship. In such ship Taraben got ticket. The day on which the ship will take place was not decided. For the eighteen days continuously, she used to go to port and check the details of the ship. As a woman, she has been enduring her patience. At last, after 28 days journey she reached to San Francisco.

The proportion of rain is shown from 1932-1938. Apart from rain there are no other resources of water so to revolve the scarcity of water. Irrigation system is necessary. With the co-

operation from people government should build a dam on river and the irrigation facility should be created. Today, we talk about public-private partnership, that was talked by Taraben years ago here. Here, long vision is seen to look at the society.

Apart from this, there is a clean representation of the Indian family. The role of mother in the family is attached with the Indian values. The mother is an unique example in the Indian family for her spirit of violence, patience & sacrifices Manusmruti. The main problems of rural Gujarat are presented. In this, present time educational problems are taken care of. Accordingly to Taraben, it is not enough to make primary education compulsory but it is also necessary to make high school & colleges in village with all equipped tools and also the syllabus should be like that which enables employment.

The Ph.D. thesis of Dr. Taraben Patel is on 'The Social Status of Indian Women' Here main ten chapters are included. The status of women in Ancient times, Social-Historical Status, Status of women in marriage, women & education, feminist movement in India and political status of women, law & position of women etc. have been analyzed. The main conclusion of the study is as follow. To bring the change in the status of women from 1900 to 1950 – Social problem, laws, education, social customs level played an important role. Apart from this, the political participation of women in Independence movement and efforts of Mahatma Gandhi have played an important role to bring a change in the statue of women.

Contribution of Dr. Taraben Patel

The first attempt to prepare Gujarati language books and sociology subjects in Gujarat University was done by Dr. Taraben. She started an efforts by herself syllabus. For B.A. (Sociology) she wrote five books (1) Elements of Sociology (2) Indian Social Structure (3) Social History of India (with Dr. S. S. Patel) (4) Research Methods in Sociology and Statistical Changes (with Vimal Shah) and after retirement (5) Family problems & Avoidance. Apart from that She translated book 'The Proper Study of Mankind' in Gujarati titled as 'Manavjivanna Navla Vahen'

Taraben considers the experience of fieldtrip in sociology education as main. For that she also took her students on fieldtrips and this tradition is still continued in sociology department. As the M.A. Sociology students get the experience of field work, she make compulsory in the syllabus, that field work based dissertation. It is because of this small dissertation sociology students gets the training to look social world scientifically, and analyze it. Taraben had the special interest in the research that one useful in the real life. She made survey on the problems of beggars in Ahmedabad City. For this to get an idea of the numbers of beggars in different areas of Ahmedabad

where beggars gathered in huge numbers. From this, 100 beggars were selected and through short interview their primary data was collected. In this study, Taraben gave training to student, and kept the student with her. The main aspect of this study is that it became an important information report for Gujarat Government to make laws regarding beggars. From 1946-48, Taraben studied M.A. Sociology from Columbia University, New York. She wrote an dissertation in M.A. in Social Study of Rural Gujarat. Her dissertation is considered as prominent dissertation in sociology. If we look at on important things in her dissertation, than in first chapter we get the introduction on Gujarat. In this geographical position, area map of Gujarat, temperature of Gujarat from January to December in 1946 etc is covered very minutely. It was the time when Google and internet were not famous, so it was difficult to get all such information. Apart from that effect of temperature on agriculture temperature has been affected by Social Customs.

Formation of Social Policies

Due to reservation, there are problems and tensions created in all over the Country. During last three years in Gujarat Patidar agitation, Dalit agitation, OBC agitation etc. have taken a momentum. So it is commendable to promise that of Dr. Taraben in this field. With regard to constitution provisions. Gujarat lost of educationally and economically backward communities. For that 'Bakshi Commission' was formed and Taraben played an important role as member of that commission. For that, she made a survey of different caste/communities. To measure social backwardness, she

prepared questionnaire. And on the basis of this report total 82 caste/communities were included in OBC.

Under the guidance of Taraben 83 M.A. students, 1 M.Phil student and 8 Ph.D. students done their research in 1978. Taraben was retired. During the 24 years of her teaching career, many arts colleges were established in Gujarat. Most of these colleges Gujarat University students were joined as professor and hence education of sociology was sphere in good way. In this way, Taraben has contributed directly and indirectly in the base of sociology education. Besides, compare to other universities, Taraben teach in mother tongue and prepare.

Taraben studies sociology in literature New York & London and received higher degrees. Although deeply associated with American sociology, she was not impressed by sociology study method and theoretical example based on functionality of America for studying Indian Society. She firmly believes that the deep understanding of sociology's post streams are pre-requisite for the analysis of systematic and structural formation of Indian Social organizations.

Hence, Dr. Taraben Patel laid down the foundation of sociology in Gujarat University and also played an important role in the formation of social policies in the government and in all over India, sociology department was named Dr. Taraben Patel. She was very loving person along with being a teacher and researcher. Accordingly to Leena Badshah, Taraben as a sociology professor has created a tradition that is like family organization.

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