



Vidyaben Nilkanth: A Historical Study

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In the history of Gujarat, during the 18th century, which was considered as a time of social change, women's social reform activities took place in Gujarat. Which were largely confined to the curiosities associated with women such as the prohibition of widow remarriage, child marriage, kajoda marriage, the custom of drinking milk, etc. No movement about female education took place until the first half of the nineteenth century.

Vidyaben Nilkanth is a leading example of women's education in Gujarat, which is associated with both name and work. Vidyaben, without any stake, aimed only at the education and social reform of women. Vidyaben is one of the leading names in the efforts for the upliftment of women in the social reform movement in Gujarat.

Vidyaben was born on June 1, 1876 in Ahmedabad to the daughter of Bholanath Sarabhai, a pioneer of Gujarat. Bholanath was a famous social reformer. Vidyaben's childhood was spent at Bholanath Sarabhai's house.

The mother of Vidyaben was very careful about the education and after taking the children to school, she used to take care of what kind of education would be given in the school. His goal was to educate his children. He used to help the boys in their education through discomfort and difficulty. At that time, when a girl was ten or twelve years old, she was picked up from school and given housework. Her goal was to give the girl a higher education, no matter how difficult it was for her mother. He never let the children's studies get in the way. Due to the insistence of both Vidyaben's parents, Vidyaben and Shardaben were able to study with confidence.

Beginning of Vidyaben's education Maganbhai was educated in Kanyashala. In this Vidyaben studied Gujarati up to 6th standard and entered English 5th standard in Mahalakshmi Female Training College to take English education with her mama's daughters. himself could not study but he was very interested in girl's education. The home environment was also studious, with Fatehlal Gawaiya teaching music to the children of the house on a daily basis. The study of pharmacy was done by Munshi and an atmosphere conducive to the whole study and study was found from Mosal. Bholabhai Sarabhai's youngest son Ra. Vidyaben was strongly urged by Krishnarao Bholanath (Mama of Vidyaben) to enter the English classes of Mahalakshmi Training College. He notes that and I will always be indebted to him for the important part he had in my life The benefit of this environment was also received by his mother Balaben before Vidyaben. As a result, Vidyaben received unparalleled support from his mother. All I can say for my studies is that without her (mother Balaben's) help I could not



have gone to college. Gopilal Manilal Dhruv was also a great scholar. Nazar was in the Ahmedabad District Court. He also received a Good Service Medal for his honesty when he retired. His mastery of the English language was remarkable. Thus, the building of the whole of life was built on the foundation of the intellectual and encouraging atmosphere of Vidyaben's Mosal and Pierre party as well as his father-in-law's party.

Vidyaben learned to cook at the age of 10 It is also interesting to know what Vidyaben's reading was like in his childhood. At that time, there were very few books for children to read. A book called 'Baal Mitra' and one or two other such books, a magazine called 'Stribodh' which he read came out at that time and he used to read Buddhiprakash regularly as well as he used to read it occasionally.

Is The fact that Vidyaben passed the matriculation examination in 191 is very important. In a situation where Gujarati girls did not sit for this exam at that time, passing the matriculation examination is an unusually important event. Her mother Balaben and her husband Ramanbhai Nilkanth have contributed a lot in her ability to study and take the exam. Vidyaben got very good marks in Gujarati in this exam. For one mark, he lost the prize. His examiner was Govardhan Ram Bhai. Girls had to endure many kinds of harassment to get an education in college. Right now, the atmosphere seems mediocre. However, at that time college education was difficult. Despite many difficulties and inconveniences, Vidyaben and Shardaben were studying in the same class with Gatubhai. He had to suffer less with Gatubhai. The boys in college had a different seat than the girls. The boys' bench was kept away. Only after the professor enters the class do the students enter the class and no one should be confronted. Just pay attention in the book. The professor walks out of the class and spends his leisure time in a separate room. There was also harassment from the side. Vidyaben and Shardaben came together in the junior class. Although Vidyaben was six years older than Shardaben, he entered the college very early, but due to the birth of one child after another, his studies were disrupted. Scholarly professors were conducting studies. In contact with such great professors, Vidyaben as well as his son Shardabe got education and took advantage of their education and passed the BA examination. It was not a trivial matter to study hard books like Sanskrit, Rig Veda, Kavya Prakash, Tarkasangraha, hard books like history, economics, logic, philosophy after taking BA exam in November 1901. However, Vidyaben worked hard and took the exam. Is. The results were announced in December 1901 and Vidyaben graduated from Mumbai University with a logic and moral philosophy. He was the first in the entire university in these subjects. All the subjects also came second in the BA examination. So he was highly respected. He was given a certificate of honor in Ahmedabad. At that time there was an organization called Social and Literary Association in Ahmedabad. He received a certificate from that organization. The Gujarati Mandal of Mumbai Elephant College honored him. That is why everyone in Gujarat was proud because South and Parsi women were



graduates but Gujarati was not a female graduate. These two Vidushi sisters were fortunate enough to be the first female graduates of Gujarat.

Thus, in the year 1901, these two sisters studied in Gujarat College, Ahmedabad. The door of education for women was opened. thus these two sisters took the initiative in laying the foundation of women's education. Today's people may not realize that they have endured humiliation and harassment for laying the foundation. Shardaben have a place only as the first female graduate. That was the first step of his successful life and set him on the path of everlasting progress.

Vidyaben got the same deep and encouraging atmosphere as the Mosal party and the Pierre party with the father-in-law party. Vidyaben was married at the age of thirteen to Ramanbhai, the widower son of Mahipatram Roopram Nilkanth of Surat in 18 AD. Shortly after the marriage, Ramanbhai's first book 'Vivah Vidhi' was published. 19 This marriage remained a turning point for Vidyaben. Vidyaben's personality was brilliant from the beginning but he got fame only after marriage. He contributed in various fields like education, writing and society. He was able to give up because of his married life with Ramanbhai.

Scope of work of Vidyaben Nilkanth: -

The goal of Vidyaben Nilkanth's life was not only to get education but also to present his reformist ideas to the society in a more mature way through education and to lead the society on the path of progress by removing the vices in the society. Vidyaben was interested in every activity with Ramanbhai, performing his duty as an excellent homemaker. He was interested in the prayer society, widow promotion committee and world reform society. Chappania started relief work in drought and started social service. Arranging for the delivery of food and clothes to the village, grooming the sick, sheltering orphans, etc., they were constantly doing.

In the first week of October 1918, Keshavlal Dhruv and Vidyaben were appointed as the Presidents of the Convention of Secondary School Teachers and Women and Men with Interest in Women's Education respectively. Women played a leading role in education and social reform. His contribution to the field of education was made more effective through direct teaching and management of educational institutions. The following information will be helpful to understand the relationship between Shri Lalbhai Umiyashankar Gujarat Mahila Pathshala and Vidyaben. In the annual report of the year , the name is known as an honorary professor of Gujarati language.

Is. 131-14 --- As a Professor of Gujarat Gujarati

Is. 16-17 ---- Professor of Anthropology to Child Psychology

Is. 15-16 ---- Professor of English 18-191 AD ----- Professor of Psychology

Thus, he has a dynamic personality as a professor to work as a professor of different subjects. Sir Ramanbhai Nilkanth and Vidyagauri Nilkanth established 19 Gujarat Kelvani Mandal, an organization working in the field of education and social sector in Gujarat, on 9th May 19. He



was a minister in this institute from 18 to 190 AD. He was serving as the President from 18 to 19 AD. He was elected as a member of Gujarat Kelvani Mandal in 1918. As well as every year he was elected unopposed for the syndicate from Se Net. He was awarded the honorary degree of D.Litt from SNDT University in 1918. He was also elected as a member of the Board of Studies of University Music.

Vidyaben was the director of several other institutions in Ahmedabad. He himself was educated in Ra. In Maganbhai Karamchand Girls' School, Ranchhodlal Chhotlal Girls' School, Girls' School Municipal School Board, etc., he served for many years as Minister Treasurer, Vice President, and President. A new municipal girls' school was started in 180 AD when girls were expelled from government schools during the Satyagraha struggle. Vidyaben became its first principal. He was also an elected member and vice president of the Ahmedabad Municipal Board. After Ramanbhai's death, he held positions in various committees of the municipality. Apart from this, Lucknow Akhil Hind Mahila Parishad He came to the post of President. The beautiful words spoken by Dr. Reddy while introducing Vidyaben suggest the work of social reform of Vidyaben and the work of women's education, which are as follows.

“Lady Nilkanth has justified in her person the demand or women to equality with men as she had educated herself even after marriage and was the first lady graduate of the university from Gujarat, and the social work is not and eyewash as she is still connected with almost all the social work in her province.

Mrs. Vidyagauri Nilkanth and Shardababen Mehta, the founders of Akhil Hind Mahila Parishad Ahmedabad and the founders of Gujarat Stri Utkarsh, started Bal Mangalamaya Kendra to preserve in their permanent memory. 15 AD Q. Vidyaben worked as a member in the implementation of the system started by Vanita in 1917. Apart from this, Jyotish Bhagini has indirectly provided service work in the society as well as in the orphanage.

In the public activities of many women's organizations taking place in Bholanath Sarabhai Literary Institute, Vidyaben initiated Ladies Pravuti. During the stay of this club, cultural programs, sports, lectures on campus, women's education, revealed a new joy in life. Inspired by Lady Lilly, she helped in running sewing classes for needy Muslim sisters. In the year 1917, a play was experimented by Ahmedabad Ladies Club in which a few scenes from different plays were presented. Motibai Kapadia, the then president of the women's club, was Vidyaben's best friend. He performed two or three scenes from a collection of Persian poetry in the play, in which Vidyaben played the role of Temina in Sorabni. Vidyaben was very white in color. That is why Temina's steps looked so beautiful in her attire. Her contribution to the women's congregation that started in Khadiya at that time is not insignificant. Vidyaben took an active part in raising money for war refunds during the First World War through the Ladies Club.

She was the president of Vidyaben Nilkanth II Gujarat Primary Council (AD 160). She was also the first woman president of the 15th convention of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad in



Vadodara in 1918. In her lecture, she advocated mother tongue. In addition, Vidyaben was the Minister of Gujarat Vernacular Society from 18 to 120 (2 years). He made the last editing work in the form of Granth and Granth Akar and published a list of books containing the names of Gujarati writers and their works. At that time, the city's famous girls 'school Ranchodlal Chhotalal Khadia Girls' School and Sou. The Diwalibai Kanya School Fund and Administration was with the Vernacular Society and he was both the Chief Administrator of the organization and one. The Secretary was Lady Vidyagauri Nilkanth. They have Ra. Maganbhai was also in charge of the girls school. Vidyaben wrote a study article in Gujarati language in 191 and he was the editor of Mahila Mitra magazine. Four books of Mahila Mitra Varshik were published under his editorship. In 1918, Vidyaben was given the title of "Kesare Hind". The boy in the orphanage took a personal interest in accommodating the girls. How many people remembered him for the rest of his life and kept him alive for the rest of his life. The work of Vidyaben Samaj Seva was done in the management of public institutions like Gujarat Stri Samaj Seva, Mahipatram Rooparam Orphanage, Prarthanasamaj, Sudharna Samaj, Mahila Mandal, Victoria Jubilee Hospital, Ranchhodlal Chhotalal Hospital etc. Haiyan's compassion never smells of formality, position or power in his social service works. That is why Shardaben notes about Mehta Vidyaben

— Let there be nine votes through happiness
Give you nine faults in sorrow

Thus, Mrs. Vidyaben is a majestic homemaker, as soon as we see her, we get a glimpse of a talented woman. He showered Matru Vatsalya on her family and on the women's society of Ahmedabad. He himself became blessed and for all these years, this Vidushi woman will not be forgotten.

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