

The Better halves or whatever you call us!

This society has a lot of roles to offer to women. She is seen as a mother, daughter, sister, and all other roles that she plays in her daily life, but she is never considered as an individual. The Indian Lady is considered to be the epitome of beauty with fair unblemished skin, hour glass figurine and off course, the traditional saree. (Off course the dark and fat lady in jeans is undermined and called a whore, or that's what Bollywood teaches and preaches.) 'Sanskari Mahilayen' come in Desi Avatar, and bitches in jeans. But then again, this was the 60s and 90s I am talking about. Bollywood has now revolutionized and is paying its female actress a large sum of 15 crores, which is again, ironically, less than what the male actor gets.

Opinionated women are worse. I mean how can women, puny creatures, talk in a gathering? They should be simply visible. Or that's what sexist people think. Women are just supposed to do their duty. Who said they are entitled to dance, sing, party, or even take a puff or a peg? They are raised (with a lot of pamper and comfort, with the best make up kit and the best of education) just to get married and beget children. No? You do not agree? You think I am over exaggerating? I am over hyped? You have been discriminated against; just that it was too subtle. Someone might have commented on how free your life style was, probably a girl said that you hang out too much. Probably your parents said don't go out in the night because it is not safe, or probably there are hostel rules that do not allow you to move out. And you are just reluctant, because it was too delicate to notice.

The Pinjra Tod Campaign came into being for the very same reason. Women from hostels and PGs raised their voices out aloud to prevent sexist rules from governing their lives. After all, women have the right to choose their own lifestyles. Choosing to party late night doesn't mean that the girl is inviting rape, or when she dresses shallow doesn't mean that she is a slut. Does this sound like monotonous rambling to you when I repeat these? It sounds like the posts you keep reading on Facebook, no? And you are right now defending yourself, telling yourself that you are not like the others and you do not discriminate. Did you see a girl last night and comment on her lifestyle? That she drinks or smokes or hangs around with a lot of guys? There! You have done the damage. You are the same.

The pads against sexism was a movement in New Delhi. Women wearing blood stained clothes carrying pads and tampons in hand, marched the streets and tried to dilute the myths we have about menstruation. Women are NOT UNCLEAR when they menstruate. It's just plain clean blood that oozes out of the uterus. It's the membrane on which your baby would have grown, had you been pregnant. Tell me something? How can a baby grow on something unclean? You think you are above this taboo? The last time you were advised about "Deh ki gandagi hai", means that people think of you as unclean.

We require a change of mindset at this junction. We need to understand that a successful society must first learn to respect its women, and then engage her in every walk of life, according to the

words of Chanakya, the great guide of Chandragupta Maurya. The entire civilization is the product of the union of women and men, and undermining one gender would mean disrespecting nature and her rules. We are women, not the better halves, not the other halves, just the part of you that you fail to recognize, the inspiration that drives you, the creation that keeps you awed, the beauty that keeps you amazed, and never to forget, the intelligence that keeps you dazed. Cheers to the women race!

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