



INDIAN WOMEN WRITERS IN PRE-INDEPENDENCE ERA

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ABSTRACT

*The image of Indian woman is well known as an obedient, submissive, self sacrificing creature of the patriarchs of Vedic period. In pre-Aryan times Indian women worked together with men in tilling the soil and reaping harvest. They participated with men in religious rituals and festivals. They were worshipped like goddesses. The Manu's Law book declared "where women verily and honoured, there the gods rejoice." However, there was a turn away from the value of 'The Earth Mother' towards the increasing glorification of the male. In the 9th Chapter of **Manu Smriti** as many as twenty verses have been unsympathetically, openly and unashamedly to absolutely wrong condemnation of women. It has been asserted:*

*The father protects a woman during childhood sweet
The husband during youth bright
The sons during the old age feeble
So a woman deserves not Freedom's right
(Manu-Smriti 9.3)*
