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3. Savitri Bai Phule: The Agent for Social Development

Kasturi Sinha Ghosh

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We as Indian proudly recognize Savitri Bai Phule as one of the most eminent versatile personality of our country. Savitri Bai Phule's contribution as an Educationist, Social Reformer, Feminist, Community Organizer and even as a poet shall be fondly remembered in days to come.

This year India celebrated 187th Birth Anniversary of Savitri Bai Phule and while addressing a gathering on the occasion of Savitri Phule's birth anniversary in Naigaon, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra said that it is only because of the noble contribution of Savitri Phule that the state of Maharashtra got its identity of progressive state (The Indian Express 4th January 2019).

Early life of Savitri Bai Phule

Savitri Bai Phule was born in a dalit farmer's family in 3rd January 1831, in Naigaon of Satara District of Maharashtra. Her parents Khandoji Nevesh Patil and Lakshmi Patil did not make any arrangement for any kind of elementary or basic education for her and at the age of nine years, in 1840, Savitri bai got married to a 12 year boy named Jyotirao Phule. However she was fortunate enough to be married to Jyotirao. Her husband was an educationist and took interest in teaching her to read and write for the first time after the marriage. This light of education brought about a dramatic change in the life of Savitri Bai. She became even more enthusiastic and her quest for further knowledge increased day by day. Jyotirao, therefore kept on encouraging her to take up further education and in due course of time helped her qualify to become a teacher after completing her teacher's training programme in Ahmednagar and Pune.

This is how Savitri Bai Phule started her teaching career, from where she never looked back and kept on marching forward with lots of courage and determination.

Savitri Bai as a teacher

Savitri Bai was the first lady teacher of our country. She was very passionate teacher as we get clues from her poetries that in the morning when the students used to enter the school premises, she used to welcome each and everyone in school with lot of love and affection. Apart

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