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WOMEN: COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN AYURVEDA AND BUDDHISM

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From the ancient times some scholars and artists spent their time and energy to comprehend the reality of female in multiple angles. Meanwhile she has advanced considerably through religious and medical field too. In the medical point of view Ayurveda has shown that motherhood of the female is laid in her physical structure and in the religious point of view Buddhism has described about her spirituality and attitude. Although a number of scientific and literary studies on women are found in the field of Ayurveda, still there has been no study carried out on the comparative study of women between Ayurveda and Buddhism. Acharya Charaka has mentioned that a person should not insult a woman and should not have too much reliance upon them. Further he argues one should not confide secrets to them and no one should give them authority indiscriminately. In addition to these facts, he has explained several methods to keep good relation with ladies too. Buddhism does not consider women inferior to men. Buddhism, while accepting the biological and physical differences between the two genders, does consider men and women to be equally useful to the society. Lord Buddha emphasizes the fruitful role women can play and should play as a wife and as a good mother in making the family life success. According to the facts which are gathered in relation to this study, it seem that Ayurvedic literature is a reflexion of the suppressed status of the woman in ancient India while Buddhist literature is an example that shows how the woman got some liberation from the above said status. The scope and objectives of this paper are to examine the socio-religious and economic status of the woman in ancient time. This study will be a comparative one and the main sources that will be referred in this study are texts of Ayurveda and Buddhism such as Bruhatrayi and Sutra Pitaka.

Keywords: Ayurveda, Buddhism, Woman, Status