

LIFE AND WORKS OF SAVITRIBAI PHULE :

A Journey of Social Empowerment through Education



Mr. Amit Adhikari | Dr. Amit Kumar Pandey | Dr. Parimal Sarkar

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Life and Works of Savitribai Phule

A Journey of Social Empowerment through Education

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Savitribai Phule

Born: 3 January 1831, Naigaon, Bombay Presidency, Company India (present-day Maharashtra, India)

Died: 10 March 1897 (aged 66), Poona, Bombay Presidency, British India (present-day Pune, Maharashtra, India)

Alma mater: Normal School, Poona

Teachers Training Program, Ahmednagar

Occupation(s): Teacher, activist, social reformer

Era: 1831-1897

Organization: Satya Shodhak Samaj

Known for: Promoting girl's education and women's emancipation

Notable Work: "Bavankashi Subhodh Ratnakar"



Professor Indrajit Lahiri, Authorized Vice-Chancellor
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MESSAGE

It is a matter of great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed authors Mr. Amit Adhikari, Dr. Amit Kumar Pandey and Dr. Parimal Sarkar for their remarkable work *Life and Works of Savitribai Phule: A Journey of Social Empowerment through Education*. This book is a timely and significant contribution to the discourse on social reform and educational empowerment, highlighting the enduring legacy of Savitribai Phule, a pioneering figure in Indian history. Savitribai Phule's relentless pursuit of education for the marginalized and her tireless efforts to challenge the entrenched social norms of her time serve as a beacon of inspiration for all. Her life is a testament to the power of education as a transformative tool in the fight against social injustices and gender inequality. This book not only sheds light on her extraordinary life and contributions but also reminds us of the ongoing struggle for equality and the vital role that education plays in achieving it.

The authors have meticulously documented the life and works of Savitribai Phule, capturing the essence of her vision and the impact of her work on society. Their scholarly approach, combined with a deep understanding of the subject, makes this book an invaluable resource for students, educators and anyone interested in the history of social reform in India.

As the Vice-Chancellor of Netaji Subhas Open University, I am proud to endorse this book, which will undoubtedly serve as an essential guide for those committed to the cause of social empowerment through education. I hope that this work will inspire future generations to continue the legacy of Savitribai Phule and contribute to the creation of a more just and equitable society.

Place: Kolkata
Date: 04.09.2024

Warm regards,
Indrajit Lahiri
Prof. Indrajit Lahiri
Authorized Vice Chancellor
Netaji Subhas Open University

PREFACE

Savitribai Phule, a name that resonates with the spirit of social reform and the empowerment of women in India, stands as an enduring symbol of courage, resilience, and vision. In an era where women were confined to the peripheries of society, Savitribai Phule emerged as a beacon of hope, challenging oppressive norms and working tirelessly to uplift the marginalized through education. This book, **“Life and Works of Savitribai Phule: A Journey of Social Empowerment through Education”**, is an endeavor to explore the multifaceted life of this extraordinary woman and to highlight her invaluable contributions to the cause of social justice.

The genesis of this book lies in the profound impact that Savitribai Phule’s life and work have had on the socio-cultural fabric of India. Born in a society entrenched in rigid caste and gender hierarchies, Savitribai, alongside her husband Jyotirao Phule, pioneered a movement that sought to dismantle these oppressive structures. Their shared vision of a just and equitable society was rooted in the belief that education is the most powerful tool for social change. Savitribai’s work as an educator, reformer, and social activist not only laid the foundation for the women’s rights movement in India but also inspired generations of reformers and activists who followed in her footsteps.

This book is structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of Savitribai Phule’s life and her pioneering efforts in the realm of education and social reform. The chapters are carefully curated to take the reader on a journey through her life, starting from her humble beginnings, her marriage and partnership with Jyotirao Phule, her role as an educator, and her relentless pursuit of social justice. Each chapter delves into different aspects of her life, offering insights into the challenges she faced and the revolutionary steps she took to overcome them.

Chapter 1 introduces Savitribai Phule, setting the stage for the remarkable journey that follows. Chapter 2 traces her early life, shedding light on the influences that shaped her worldview. Chapter 3 chronicles her educational journey, highlighting the obstacles she overcame to become the first female teacher in India's history. Chapter 4 explores her marriage to Jyotirao Phule, a partnership that was as much about love as it was about a shared commitment to social reform.

The subsequent chapters delve deeper into her social reforms and activism, her career as an educator and reformer, and the legacy she left behind. Chapter 7 presents notable quotes by Savitribai Phule, offering a glimpse into her thoughts and beliefs. Chapter 8 discusses her enduring influence on Indian society, while Chapter 9 provides a summary and reflections on her life and work. Finally, Chapter 10 offers multiple-choice questions (MCQs) related to Savitribai Phule, aimed at helping students preparing for NET, SET, or similar exams.

It is my hope that this book will serve as a valuable resource for those seeking to understand the life and legacy of Savitribai Phule. Her story is not just a tale of individual achievement but a testament to the transformative power of education and the relentless pursuit of equality and justice. Through this book, I aspire to inspire readers to carry forward her vision and contribute to the ongoing struggle for social empowerment.

AUTHORS

Mr. Amit Adhikari

Dr. Amit Kumar Pandey

Dr. Parimal Sarkar

Place: Kolkata

Date: 01.09. 2024

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We also owe a special thanks to Dr. Amrita Dutta, Principal of Netaji Nagar College, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, for her invaluable guidance and constant encouragement. Her insights and expertise have significantly contributed to the depth and quality of this work.

We are immensely grateful to all those who have provided us with assistance, inspiration, and resources, enabling us to delve deep into the life and contributions of Savitribai Phule. This book is a testament to the collective effort of everyone involved, and we are honored to share this journey of social empowerment through education with our readers.

AUTHORS

Mr. Amit Adhikari

Dr. Amit Kumar Pandey

Dr. Parimal Sarkar

Place: Kolkata

Date: 01.09. 2024

Dedicated

To

My Janani, Dr. Amrita Dutta

This work is dedicated to my guiding star, Dr. Amrita Dutta, the Principal of Netaji Nagar College, Kolkata. Your unwavering support and wisdom have been the foundation upon which I built my dreams. As a mother, mentor, and educator, you have instilled in me the values of perseverance, compassion, and integrity. Your tireless efforts to nurture young minds inspire me every day. This dedication is a small token of my immense gratitude for your love, guidance, and the endless encouragement you have provided throughout my journey.

By

Amit Adhikari

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