



Mains Practice Question

Q. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context?

“To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves.” –Jawaharlal Nehru (Answer in 150 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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Approach:

- Begin with the meaning of the quotation and meaning it possesses in the present context.
- Discuss the multifaceted impact of women on society.
- Summarize the central idea of the quote and conclude.

Introduction:

Jawaharlal Nehru's above statement underscores the **pivotal role of women in driving societal progress and transformation**. In the contemporary context, this quote emphasises the **significance of women's empowerment and their contribution to broader societal development**.

Body:

Women's Multifaceted Impact on Society:

- **Contribution of Women in Shaping Values:** Indian mothers, through their **teachings of respect for elders and kindness towards others**, play a key role in shaping values that emphasize family bonds and social harmony.
- **Empowerment for Economic Growth: India's Self-Help Group (SHG)** movement, particularly in states like **Kerala and Tamil Nadu**, has empowered women economically **enabling them to start and manage businesses effectively**.
- **Women's Education as a Catalyst:** The "**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**" (**Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child**) campaign in India seeks to address gender bias and promote female education, fostering a more enlightened society.
- **Women in Political Leadership:** Indira Gandhi, as **India's first female Prime Minister**, demonstrated the potential of women in political leadership and made significant policy contributions during her tenure.
- **Women's Role in Sustainable Development: Vandana Shiva**, an environmental activist, has championed sustainable agriculture and the preservation of biodiversity, emphasizing the **interconnectedness of women, environment, and development**.

Conclusion:

Therefore, the quotation by Jawaharlal Nehru reminds us of the importance and power of women in our society and our nation. It urges us to respect, support, and celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in various fields.

