

**RELEVANCE OF MAHARSHI DHONDO KESHAV KARVE'S WORK ON WIDOW WITH  
POST PANDEMIC PERIOD: ECONOMIC ASPECT****Miss. Aakanksha Bharat Padghan***PhD. Scholar**BAMU (Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad)**Email Id: [aakankshapadghan98@gmail.com](mailto:aakankshapadghan98@gmail.com)***Abstracts**

*Maharshi dhondo keshav karve was a pioneer of widow education and women empowerment in India. In pre-independence era, women education was itself difficult but still he worked for widow education, he himself married widow and broke the cruel rules of society. As a social reformer continued his efforts, established educational institute, Hindu widow home in 1896. Later in 1916, established women's university named shreemati nathibai damodar thackersey in pune. He also worked for abolition of caste system and village primary education.*

*In pre-independence era, society was underdeveloped but in modern era, even though India is developing country, still the caste system is not abolished nor the women education has developed at higher level. Even in current time period, widow remarriage is not accepted widely in society nor their education. Regardless rules and constitution discrimination is present and after the covid-19 pandemic many families lost their financial support also many people died resulting into more number of widow. From many families, females also lost their lives but society support to male candidate to remarry but not to female candidate. They suffered from society's hatred, domestic hatred and also financially. From last some years, views toward widow has changed and it led to less hatred towards them from family and society. But they need to be empowered and financially independent to support themselves and their families.*

*Therefore it is time to empower women to be financially independent. So, when they will be financially independent they don't need to suffer anymore in domestic part and society. So, this study will be focused on how to relate Maharshi karve's work in modern era and solve the modern issues of widows. Specifically this study will be based on post covid-19 pandemic period.*

**Key words:** *Widow, Education, Empowerment, Remarriage.*

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**Introduction**

In India there are 10% of all women are widow. They are most vulnerable in financial aspect than others. In post pandemic period, women are affected in financial area. As many women's don't have their own work or depend on husband for financial support. But women who lost their husband due to covid-19 are badly affected by it. They lost their financial support, family support and became vulnerable in society. They lack financial support and social

security. But in modern India, problems of widows are decreasing their intensity than in Pre-independent and in Initial stages of Independent India. Government of India has made laws like Hindu widow's Remarriage act, 1956 and property rights of widows. Because of these laws, widows are having positive hope in their growth and development.

Even though this development and laws, widows are suffering financially as they are not much literate, don't have financial knowledge, away from mainstream of society in working. These issues are still present in society which is depriving widows in getting their rights and still society has not fully accepted them.

Maharshi Karve, social reformer has worked to improve the situation and living standard of widow by establishing education society. So, in this research paper work on Maharshi Karve on widows will studied and with the help of their work, the situation of widow after post-pandemic will be solved.

Women who lost their husband in covid-19 pandemic and became widows are known by "Covid widow". These Covid widows' problems will be studied and solution will be suggested in this research paper with respect to maharshi karve's work on widow.

### Literature Review

1. B.L. Dubey, Padma Dwivedi, S.K. Verma (2015), in research paper, "Quality of life among Widow". In this research paper, they have collected primary data on widows and run t-test on it. The result of analysis shows that working women have better quality of life than non-working women.<sup>2</sup>
2. Gary R. Lee (2013), in article, "Current Research on Widowhood: Devastation and Human Resilience". This study is cross-sectional, qualitative and quantitative in nature and studied the widowhood in detailed.<sup>3</sup>
3. Kathleen Marsha Davis (1997), research paper titled, "A descriptive study of some problems of widows in Portland, Oregon". In this research paper, studied widows problem in detailed and suggested solutions on it.<sup>4</sup>
4. Leslie A. Morgan (1981), in research paper titled, "Economic Change at Mid-Life Widowhood: A Longitudinal Analysis". In this cross-sectional study primary data used to analyzed. Results are widowhood is not cause of poverty and focused on social security and financially independent of widows.<sup>5</sup>

### Objectives

1. To study Problems of widow
2. To study work of Maharshi Karve on widow
3. To study Relevance of Maharshi karve's work in post-pandemic situation of widows
4. To suggest ways to solve widow's issues by using Maharshi karve's work

### Research Gap

Post pandemic effects on widows have not studied and there is less research paper on it. Maharshi karve's work on widow is not much covered in research paper. So, this paper will work on Maharshi karve's contribution in women empowerment specifically focused on widows.

### Statement of proposed problem

To study Relevance of Maharshi karve's work on widow in post-pandemic period

In this study the work of Maharshi karve's on widow will be highlighted and will be used for solving widow's issues in post-pandemic period.

### Scope of study

Issues of widow in Maharshi karve's period and in modern society will be studied under this research paper.

Maharshi karve's work will be highlighted and studied and based on their work, Solution on problems of widows will be suggested.

So, this research paper will study problems of widow, Maharshi karve's work on widow, Relevance of their work in post-pandemic period to solve widow's issues. This study will be studying financial aspect of widow and will be suggesting solution to empower and financially literate widows. So, they will be financially independent.

### Research Methodology

#### 1. Qualitative approach

Study will be qualitative in nature as Maharshi karve's work and post-pandemic situation will be analyzed.

#### 2. Variables

Independent variable- Post-pandemic effects, Maharshi Karve's work on widow

Dependent Variable- Widow economic condition, Growth and development of widow,  
Empowerment of widow

#### 3. Data- Secondary data will be used for this research.

#### 4. Components of study- Maharshi karve's work on widow, Post-pandemic period effects on widow, Economic condition of widows.

### Socio-economic Relevance

#### 1. Social Relevance

This study will highlight problems of widow and will help in to reduce them. Therefore it will lead to women empowerment and women development. Lastly it positively impact the society because women's are half of the society and widow's issues are inbuilt in it, so will help in their growth and development with society's growth and development.

#### 2. Economic Relevance

As women's contribute almost of the population, if they are financially empowered and independent then economy of country will developed and also individual and society's economic growth will improved. So with this study economic inclusion can be achieved.

#### 3. National Relevance

As women's became financially independent, they can contribute and work in nation's improvement in every aspect. So this study will also lead to nation's growth and development.

#### 4. International Relevance

India's economic growth and development will also help on international level as India's economic strength increases, India will have more advantage in international trade and India's status and reputation on international level will be boosted. So, this study is also important on international level.

### Situation of widow in India

Widow in India, if we classify them according their ages-

#### 1. Child Widow

In Pre-independent and in initial stages of independent India, child widow has seen. Child girl married to older

male was present at that time and also accepted. It has led to child widow as old age male will be passed soon after marriage. Because of this situation social reformers like maharshi karve worked hard for their rights. Minimum age of marriage for girls fixed at 18, it is resulted from child widow. So, because of law and order, there are no child widows as child marriages are banned in India.

## 2. Young aged widows

In young aged widows, there are chances of getting remarried are highest. They have time for their education and can do work efficiently. So, they suffered from loss of husband and from society but in financial aspect, they have high chances to become independent. So, they suffered less financially.

## 3. Middle aged widows

They suffered most because they no longer in mainstream of education and if unemployed then in work. So, they suffered with education and financially also. If they have jobs then, need to balance work and family. So, they suffered with jobs and no jobs but if they have jobs then they can be financially independent can take decisions.

## 4. Old age widow

These are most vulnerable, as they can no longer able to do work, no education. If they didn't get family support, then they suffered in every aspect. So, government should give financial assistance to old age widow.

### Problems of widow women

#### 1. Financially dependent

Women are financially dependent on their family or husband. But after husband, their financial situation gets worst because they don't have job. So, financial dependency makes their lives harder after their husband. Therefore widow's suffered more.

#### 2. Low financial literacy

Women are deprived from basic education in many parts of India even in modern society. It leads to low literacy rate in India that is 53.7%. Half of the women's are still illiterate in India. The illiteracy of basic education is higher and about financially illiterate is more than it. Because of low financial knowledge, widow's failed to take financial decisions which lead to economic problems.

#### 3. Economic Problems

Because of low literacy and financial literacy, widows are suffering from unemployment. Not having earning options leads to bad living standards, so widows without jobs suffer from income and economic problems more.

#### 4. Employment opportunities problem

Unemployment rate in covid-19 has increased up to 12.4%. For widows, this has negatively affected, they have lost jobs. Employment opportunities are also in small number, it leads to more unemployment in widows.

#### 5. Skill training Related

Widows are not getting skilled training which leads to less earning. So, lack of skill training programs for widow has become problem in their growth and development.

#### 6. Social Security problem

Even if widows get job and have good earning, they face social security problem. Society's view towards them, family don't support them leading to insecurity in society. At working places they didn't get respect, they are

looked down, they face these are issues make them unable to improve.

### 7. Household responsibility

Widow becomes single parent and they have to balance work and home. Children, old age people's responsibility falls on them and it resulted in depression. They has to take care of sick person and can't take their care, so they bear all burdens by themselves with social insecurity. But it negatively affects widow.

### Work of Maharshi Karve's on widow

#### 1. SNDT university-educational institute

Maharshi karve in 1916 established SNDT for women's education and widows are also taking courses in this institute. So karve has established education institutes to provide them knowledge, provide them more employment opportunity as they will be having knowledge. So, by educating widow, he has tried to improve their living standards.

#### 2. Economic development

As widows are educated, they can have opportunities for employment. So by earning, they will become financially independent and lead to economic growth and development of women's. It will reduce their burden as they will be having income. So, he has encouraged widows to work and earn by themselves and became financially independent.

#### 3. Remarriage and social status

Karve himself has married to widow and set the example that widow remarriage need to be accepted in society. As a social reformer he showed widows ways from their problems. They have encouraged them to fight for their rights and be themselves.

#### 4. Women Empowerment

As widows will be getting education and employment so, by being financially independent, they can take financial decisions from which they were deprived. So, by educating widow maharshi karve has improved and form base for women empowerment and widow empowerment.

### Relevance of Maharshi Karve's work on widow with modern world (Post-Pandemic period)

#### 1. Financially literate and financially independent

As in covid-19, many family and women's lost their husbands and it led to worst situation in covid-19 pandemic. Employment opportunities reduced and because of this widow have suffered from financial crisis. So, by educating them and by proving financial knowledge, widows can become financially literate and financially independent.

#### 2. Women's education society

In establishing education institutes as per maharshi karve, widow can get education and will have job. So, by establishing more education institute, problems of widows can be solved. By proving job training, professional training education values can be increased of widow's and it will help in getting more job opportunities.

#### 3. Employment opportunities

In covid-19 pandemic shortage of employment opportunities has been seen. So, widows has suffered from losing jobs in pandemic so, after pandemic if more employment opportunities are created then widow can get job and can become self sufficient. As maharshi karve has encouraged widows and women's to become

independent so by providing more employment opportunities in modern society, the financial dependency of widow can be reduced.

#### 4. Women empowerment

Maharshi karve has encouraged and helped widow in the growth and development. Literacy, financial literacy, job opportunities can help widow in post-pandemic for their improvement.

#### Solution on widow's problems

In post-pandemic period following solutions will be helpful in widow empowerment. As widows are also part working force, their improvement will lead to India's growth and development. So, in post-pandemic following suggestions can help in solving widow's problems-

##### 1. More employment opportunities

Government should provide more job opportunities of widow, so they will have earning source and can become financially independent. So, by providing jobs to single women parent and to widows will lead to solve their financial problems.

##### 2. More education opportunities

Widows should be provided with skilled training, financial knowledge to get educated and for getting more job opportunities. Education institutes should also be established at regional and rural places as widow can have problems with distance or at district level. With this they can manage family and education both and can balance it.

##### 3. Good working environment

At working places widows should not be getting harassed, for this more law and order is needed. At job places, there should child care unit, should pay them fair salary according to their work. This good working environment will improve the living standard of widow.

##### 4. Financial Support

Government should provide free transportation facility to widow as they have financial issues and also provide them financial support to raise children and take care of old parents until they get job. With this widows will suffered less and can solve problem of finances.

##### 5. Skill or professional training

They should be provided with skilled and professional training to earn. As having skilled and professional knowledge, it will help in good job opportunities. So, for better living standards skill and professional training will play important role.

##### 6. Social treatment

Social security and view of society towards widow need to be changed in positive manner. Social workers needed to encourage society to support widows, the way they treat to widow will change. It is important for them as they are the part of society, so they have right to get their rights and respect. It will help them in living good life.

#### Limitations of study

1. Only widow's situation in post-pandemic period will be studied and others like women, old age people, and children will not studied under this research paper.

2. Only Maharshi karve’s work on widow will be studied and other reformers work will not be included in this research paper.

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