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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### A NEW VISION TOWARDS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE LIGHT OF WOLLSTONECRAFT, NIVEDITA AND NODDINGS

Jayed Iqbal<sup>1</sup> and Prof. Dibyendu Bhattacharyya<sup>2</sup>

1. Research Scholar, Department of Education, University of Kalyani, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India.
2. Professor, Department of Education, University of Kalyani, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India.

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#### Abstract

This paper explores the contributions of three influential thinkers—Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and NelNoddings—to the vision of women's empowerment. Drawing on their works from different historical periods, the paper examines the commonalities and shared principles underlying their perspectives while also highlighting their distinct contributions. The aim is to provide a comprehensive understanding of a new vision towards women empowerment that integrates their ideas. The analysis begins with an examination of Mary Wollstonecraft's contributions during the 18th century women's empowerment movement. Wollstonecraft's emphasis on education as a means of empowerment, her critique of gender roles and norms, and her advocacy for women's political and legal rights serve as foundational pillars for subsequent discussions. Moving into the 20th century, the paper then delves into Sister Nivedita's contributions within the Indian context. Nivedita's focus on cultural preservation, recognition of women's agency, and the promotion of self-reliance for Indian women provide a unique perspective on women's empowerment and the intersectionality of culture and gender. The exploration continues with an analysis of NelNoddings' work in the 19th century. Noddings brings an ethical dimension to the discussion, emphasizing the importance of empathy, compassion, and caring relationships in empowering women and nurturing their holistic well-being. Drawing upon these three distinct perspectives, the paper identifies commonalities and shared principles, such as the recognition of women's agency, the challenge to gender roles and norms, and the importance of education in empowerment. It also explores the implications of their ideas for contemporary women's empowerment movements, highlighting their continued relevance in addressing ongoing challenges and shaping the pursuit of gender equality. Finally, the paper concludes with reflections on the new vision towards women's empowerment that emerges from the synthesis of these influential thinkers. It highlights the significance of recognizing and valuing diversity, embracing intersectionality, and promoting inclusive and compassionate approaches in empowering women in contemporary society. This paper contributes to the existing literature on women's empowerment by offering a comprehensive exploration of a new vision

**Corresponding Author:- Jayed Iqbal**

Address:- Research Scholar, Department of Education, University of Kalyani, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India.

that draws from the ideas of Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings. It underscores the relevance of their contributions in addressing persistent challenges and shaping contemporary efforts towards achieving gender equality and creating a more inclusive and empowering society.

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## ..... **Introduction:-**

The concept of women's empowerment has been a central focus of feminist discourse for centuries, with numerous scholars and activists contributing their insights to this ongoing conversation. Among these influential voices are Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and NelNoddings. These thinkers have offered unique perspectives and proposed a new vision towards women's empowerment that challenges traditional gender roles, promotes equality, and emphasizes the importance of education, care ethics, and intersectionality. Mary Wollstonecraft, an 18th-century feminist philosopher, is widely regarded as one of the pioneers of feminist thought. In her seminal work, "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman," Wollstonecraft argued for women's equality in education and society, advocating for their intellectual and social development. She emphasized the significance of education as a means to empower women and enable them to participate fully in public life. Sister Nivedita, a disciple of Swami Vivekananda, brought a unique perspective to the discourse on women's empowerment. Her writings and activism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries emphasized the empowerment of Indian women through education, self-reliance, and the revitalization of Indian culture. Nivedita's vision of women's empowerment drew from her understanding of spirituality, Hindu philosophy, and the recognition of women's innate strength and potential.

NelNoddings, a contemporary philosopher and educator, contributed to the new vision of women's empowerment through her work on care ethics. Noddings argued for the inclusion of care and nurturing as integral aspects of moral education and emphasized the importance of relationships and empathy in promoting ethical behavior and personal growth. Her perspective challenges the traditional dichotomy between public and private spheres and recognizes the value of care work performed predominantly by women. In light of the insights provided by Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings, a new vision towards women's empowerment emerges. This vision transcends mere political and legal rights and encompasses a holistic understanding of empowerment that includes education, care, and recognition of women's diverse experiences. It recognizes the significance of education as a means to challenge societal norms, fosters care ethics and nurturing as essential values, and embraces intersectionality to address the specific challenges faced by different groups of women. This new vision also emphasizes the need for collaboration and solidarity among individuals and movements to bring about meaningful change. It calls for policy reforms that dismantle systemic barriers and create an inclusive and equitable society where women have equal opportunities, rights, and agency. Moreover, it challenges existing power structures and encourages a shift in societal attitudes and norms to ensure the full realization of women's empowerment.

The new vision towards women's empowerment, inspired by the insights of Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and NelNoddings, offers a transformative perspective that goes beyond the mere pursuit of equality. It calls for a comprehensive approach that encompasses education, care ethics, and intersectionality, while emphasizing collaboration and policy reforms. This new vision invites us to reevaluate our societal values and norms, working towards a future where women are empowered to reach their full potential and contribute to a more just and equal world.

## **Women empowerment towards a New Vision:**

Women empowerment towards a new vision represents a paradigm shift in our understanding and approach to gender equality. It goes beyond the traditional notions of women's rights and focuses on creating an inclusive and empowering environment that enables women to thrive in all aspects of life. This new vision encompasses several key elements that are essential for achieving women's empowerment:

- ✚ **Gender Equality:** The new vision acknowledges the inherent equality between men and women and rejects any form of discrimination or bias based on gender. It strives to create a society where women have the same opportunities, rights, and access to resources as men.
- ✚ **Agency and Autonomy:** Women's empowerment entails recognizing and respecting women's agency and their right to make decisions about their lives, bodies, and futures. It promotes women's autonomy and encourages them to be active participants in shaping their own destinies.

- ✦ **Education and Knowledge:** Education plays a pivotal role in empowering women. The new vision emphasizes the importance of providing quality education to girls and women, ensuring equal access to educational opportunities, and promoting lifelong learning. Education equips women with knowledge, skills, and confidence to challenge gender norms, pursue their aspirations, and contribute to society.
- ✦ **Economic Empowerment:** Economic empowerment is crucial for women to attain independence and participate fully in the workforce. The new vision supports initiatives that enhance women's economic opportunities, such as equal pay, access to financial resources, entrepreneurship support, and breaking down barriers to career advancement.
- ✦ **Health and Well-being:** Women's empowerment involves addressing the specific health needs and well-being of women. It advocates for comprehensive healthcare services, including reproductive rights, maternal health, mental health support, and access to quality healthcare facilities. Ensuring women's well-being is essential for their overall empowerment.
- ✦ **Social and Cultural Transformation:** The new vision recognizes the need to challenge and transform societal and cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequalities. It aims to break down gender stereotypes, promote gender-sensitive language and media representation, and foster inclusive social attitudes that value and respect women's contributions.
- ✦ **Intersectionality:** Women's empowerment cannot be achieved without acknowledging the intersecting identities and experiences of women. The new vision highlights the importance of considering the diverse challenges faced by women based on factors such as race, ethnicity, class, religion, and sexuality. It seeks to create an inclusive movement that embraces and addresses the unique struggles faced by different groups of women.
- ✦ **Collaborative Action:** Women's empowerment requires collective action and collaboration among individuals, communities, organizations, and governments. The new vision encourages the formation of partnerships and alliances to amplify women's voices, advocate for policy changes, and drive societal transformation.
- ✦ **Political Participation:** Empowering women politically is vital for shaping policies and decision-making processes. The new vision promotes women's representation and leadership in political arenas, encouraging their active involvement in governance and policymaking.
- ✦ **Safety and Security:** Ensuring the safety and security of women is a fundamental aspect of empowerment. The new vision calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and trafficking. It emphasizes the importance of creating safe spaces and implementing legal frameworks that protect women's rights.
- ✦ **Intergenerational Empowerment:** The new vision recognizes the intergenerational nature of women's empowerment. It seeks to empower not only current generations of women but also future generations by promoting gender equality education, instilling values of equality and respect from an early age, and challenging ingrained gender norms and biases.
- ✦ **Global Solidarity:** Women's empowerment is a global issue that requires global solidarity. The new vision encourages collaboration and support among countries, organizations, and individuals to address global challenges, share best practices, and advocate for women's rights and empowerment worldwide.
- ✦ **Empathy and Care:** The new vision incorporates the principles of empathy, care, and compassion. It recognizes the importance of nurturing relationships, fostering a caring society, and promoting caregiving as valuable and essential work. By valuing care, the new vision challenges traditional gender roles and promotes a more equitable distribution of caregiving responsibilities.
- ✦ **Male Engagement:** Achieving women's empowerment necessitates the active involvement and support of men. The new vision encourages men to become allies and advocates for gender equality, challenging harmful masculinity norms, and promoting respectful and equal partnerships.
- ✦ **Sustainability and Environmental Justice:** The new vision recognizes the interconnectedness between women's empowerment and environmental sustainability. It highlights the need for environmental justice, addressing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, and ensuring women's participation in environmental decision-making processes.
- ✦ **Access to Technology:** The new vision acknowledges the role of technology in empowering women and bridging gender gaps. It advocates for equal access to information and communication technologies, digital literacy, and opportunities in the digital economy.
- ✦ **Leadership and Representation:** The new vision emphasizes the importance of women's leadership and representation in all spheres of society. It strives for equal representation of women in decision-making positions, such as politics, corporate leadership, academia, and the arts.

- ✦ **Empowerment through Art and Culture:** Art and culture have the power to challenge norms, provoke critical thinking, and inspire social change. The new vision recognizes the transformative potential of art and cultural expressions in promoting women's empowerment and challenging oppressive narratives.
- ✦ **Continuous Learning and Adaptation:** Women's empowerment is an ongoing process that requires continuous learning, evaluation, and adaptation of strategies. The new vision encourages reflection, learning from experiences, and adapting approaches to address emerging challenges and opportunities.
- ✦ **Celebration and Recognition:** The new vision celebrates women's achievements, contributions, and resilience. It recognizes and acknowledges the progress made in women's empowerment efforts and highlights the importance of celebrating women's successes to inspire future generations.

The new vision towards women's empowerment, shaped by the perspectives of Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and NelNoddings, encompasses a comprehensive and transformative approach. It aims to achieve gender equality, foster women's agency, promote education, economic empowerment, health, and well-being, challenge social norms, embrace intersectionality, and foster collaboration. This vision calls for collective action, political participation, safety, and security, while emphasizing empathy, care, sustainability, and recognition. By embracing this new vision, we can strive towards a more equitable and inclusive world where women are empowered to fulfill their potential and contribute to the betterment of society.

### **Contribution of Mary Wollstonecraft in Times of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Women Empowerment Movement:**

Mary Wollstonecraft's contribution to the 18th-century women's empowerment movement was significant and pioneering. As one of the key figures of the movement, Wollstonecraft challenged the prevailing societal norms and advocated for women's rights, equality, and education. Her work, particularly her seminal book "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman," remains a landmark text in feminist literature and has had a lasting impact on women's rights movements. One of Wollstonecraft's primary contributions was her critique of the prevailing notion that women were inherently inferior to men. She argued that women's perceived inferiority was not due to their nature but rather a result of their limited opportunities for education and social advancement. Wollstonecraft emphasized the importance of education as a means to empower women and enable them to participate fully in society. She believed that education should be accessible to both genders and advocated for equal educational opportunities for women.

Wollstonecraft challenged traditional gender roles and argued for the recognition of women's intellectual capacities. She advocated for women's involvement in public life, including politics, economics, and governance. Wollstonecraft argued that women's exclusion from these spheres not only deprived them of their rights but also hindered societal progress as a whole. Her advocacy for women's equal participation in public life laid the groundwork for subsequent feminist movements.

Another significant contribution of Wollstonecraft was her emphasis on the importance of reason and rationality in promoting women's rights. She argued that women, like men, possessed the capacity for rational thought and should be treated as autonomous individuals capable of making informed decisions. Wollstonecraft challenged the prevailing notion that women were primarily emotional beings and argued for their inclusion in intellectual and philosophical discussions. Furthermore, Wollstonecraft's work addressed the issue of marriage and women's role within it. She critiqued the prevailing system of marriage, which often reduced women to dependent and subordinate roles. Wollstonecraft advocated for equal partnerships based on mutual respect and highlighted the need for women's economic independence to ensure their autonomy within marriage.

- ✦ **Challenging Gender Norms:** Mary Wollstonecraft played a crucial role in challenging the prevailing gender norms of the 18th century that positioned women as inferior to men. She argued that women's perceived inferiority was a result of limited opportunities for education and social advancement, rather than inherent differences in ability.
- ✦ **Education for Women:** Wollstonecraft emphasized the importance of education for women as a means of empowerment. She advocated for equal access to education for both genders, believing that educated women could contribute meaningfully to society and participate in public life.
- ✦ **A Vindication of the Rights of Woman:** Wollstonecraft's most notable work, "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman," remains a cornerstone of feminist literature. In this book, she articulated the need for women's rights and called for equal political, social, and economic opportunities.
- ✦ **Reason and Rationality:** Wollstonecraft emphasized the importance of reason and rationality in advocating for women's rights. She argued that women possessed the same capacity for rational thought as men and should be treated as autonomous individuals capable of making informed decisions.

- ✦ **Women's Inclusion in Public Life:** Wollstonecraft argued for women's inclusion in public life, including politics and governance. She believed that women's participation in decision-making processes was essential for achieving gender equality and societal progress.
- ✦ **Critique of Marriage:** Wollstonecraft critiqued the prevailing system of marriage, which often reduced women to dependent and subordinate roles. She advocated for equal partnerships based on mutual respect and highlighted the need for women's economic independence within marriage.
- ✦ **Influence on Feminist Thought:** Wollstonecraft's ideas had a profound influence on feminist thought and activism. Her work laid the foundation for subsequent waves of feminism and shaped the discourse around women's rights and gender equality.
- ✦ **Intellectual Legacy:** Wollstonecraft's intellectual legacy is significant, as she challenged long-held beliefs about women's capabilities and provided a philosophical basis for gender equality. Her ideas continue to be studied and discussed in academic circles.
- ✦ **Controversial Figure:** Wollstonecraft's ideas were met with significant backlash and criticism during her time. Her outspokenness and unconventional lifestyle, including her personal relationships, made her a controversial figure. However, her courage to speak out against societal norms paved the way for future feminist movements.
- ✦ **Influence on Suffrage Movements:** Wollstonecraft's work inspired and influenced suffrage movements around the world. Her advocacy for women's rights laid the groundwork for the demand for women's suffrage and political representation.
- ✦ **Legacy in Literature:** Wollstonecraft's writing style and rhetorical techniques continue to inspire feminist writers and activists. Her use of reasoned argumentation and passionate appeals for justice resonate with contemporary feminist literature.
- ✦ **Intersectionality:** While Wollstonecraft focused primarily on gender equality, her work laid the groundwork for intersectional feminist thought. Her emphasis on the universality of reason and the rights of women set a precedent for understanding the interconnected nature of gender, race, class, and other social categories.
- ✦ **Role Model for Women:** Wollstonecraft's life and writings have made her a role model for women seeking empowerment and independence. Her courage to challenge societal norms and her commitment to advocating for women's rights serve as inspiration for women today.
- ✦ **Impact on Legal Reforms:** Wollstonecraft's ideas contributed to legal reforms that aimed to improve women's rights and status. Her advocacy for equal rights and opportunities influenced legislative changes that addressed issues such as marital property rights, divorce laws, and access to education.
- ✦ **Enduring Relevance:** Wollstonecraft's contributions to the women's empowerment movement continue to be relevant and influential today. Her work reminds us of the ongoing struggle for gender equality and the importance of education, autonomy, and inclusivity in achieving women's empowerment.

Wollstonecraft's ideas were radical for her time, and her work faced significant backlash and criticism. However, her contributions laid the foundation for future feminist movements and inspired generations of women to fight for their rights. Her ideas on education, women's equality, and autonomy resonated with many and continue to influence feminist discourse and activism to this day.

Mary Wollstonecraft's contributions to the 18th-century women's empowerment movement were groundbreaking. She challenged prevailing gender norms, advocated for women's rights and equality, emphasized the importance of education, and called for women's inclusion in public life. Her work played a crucial role in shaping feminist thought and paved the way for subsequent generations of women's rights activists. Wollstonecraft's ideas continue to be relevant and influential in the ongoing struggle for women's empowerment and gender equality.

### **Contribution of NelNoddings in Times of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Women Empowerment Movement:**

NelNoddings has made invaluable contributions to our society through her work in the field of education and the ethics of care. Her development of the ethics of care theory has reshaped our understanding of education and the importance of nurturing relationships. By emphasizing the role of caring and empathy, Noddings has challenged traditional educational approaches and advocated for a more holistic and compassionate approach to teaching and learning. Her ideas have influenced educational practices worldwide, inspiring educators to prioritize the well-being and emotional development of students alongside academic achievement. Noddings has also been instrumental in highlighting the significance of moral education and the cultivation of ethical responsibility in schools. Her work has had a profound impact on educational policy discussions, urging policymakers to consider the role of care and relationships in shaping effective educational systems. Additionally, Noddings has been a vocal advocate for gender equality in education, encouraging the recognition and addressing of gender disparities. Her influence extends



beyond formal education to emphasize the importance of caring parent-child relationships and the development of compassionate citizens who actively contribute to their communities. Overall, NelNoddings's contributions have helped foster more nurturing, inclusive, and humanistic educational environments that prioritize the well-being and holistic development of individuals. Her work continues to inspire educators and shape the future of education in our society.

NelNoddings has made significant contributions to our society through her work in the field of education and the ethics of care. Here are some key contributions of NelNoddings:

- ✦ **Ethics of Care:** NelNoddings is renowned for her development of the ethics of care theory. She argues that care should be a central focus in education and that fostering caring relationships between students, teachers, and the community is essential for the holistic development of individuals.
- ✦ **Caring Curriculum:** Noddings advocates for a caring curriculum that goes beyond traditional academic subjects. She emphasizes the importance of teaching empathy, compassion, and ethical responsibility alongside academic knowledge.
- ✦ **Emphasis on Relationships:** Noddings emphasizes the significance of building positive and supportive relationships in educational settings. She believes that fostering caring relationships between educators and students creates a conducive environment for learning and personal growth.
- ✦ **Critique of Traditional Education:** Noddings challenges traditional educational approaches that focus solely on intellectual development and academic achievement. She argues for a more holistic approach that values emotional well-being, ethical development, and the cultivation of empathy.
- ✦ **Moral Education:** Noddings emphasizes the need for moral education in schools. She believes that teaching ethics and values is crucial for helping students develop a sense of responsibility, empathy, and moral reasoning.
- ✦ **Gender Equality:** Noddings has explored the intersections of gender and education. She has highlighted the importance of addressing gender disparities in educational settings and promoting gender equality.
- ✦ **Teacher-Student Relationships:** Noddings emphasizes the role of caring teacher-student relationships in fostering positive learning experiences. She believes that when teachers genuinely care for their students' well-being, it creates a supportive environment that enhances student engagement and achievement.
- ✦ **Educational Policy and Reform:** Noddings has been an influential voice in educational policy discussions. Her work encourages policymakers to consider the importance of care and relationships in shaping educational systems and reform efforts.
- ✦ **Influence on Educational Practices:** Noddings's ideas have influenced educational practices globally. Educators have incorporated the ethics of care into their teaching approaches, creating more nurturing and inclusive learning environments.
- ✦ **Parent-Child Relationships:** Noddings's work extends beyond formal education to emphasize the significance of caring relationships in parent-child interactions. She promotes the idea that caring relationships between parents and children contribute to the child's emotional well-being and overall development.
- ✦ **Compassionate Citizenship:** Noddings advocates for the development of compassionate citizens who are actively engaged in making positive contributions to their communities. She believes that education should instill values of compassion, empathy, and social responsibility.
- ✦ **Emotion in Education:** Noddings challenges the traditional separation of emotion and intellect in education. She argues that acknowledging and addressing emotions is essential for effective teaching and learning.
- ✦ **Humanizing Education:** Noddings promotes humanistic approaches to education that prioritize the well-being and flourishing of individuals. Her work emphasizes the importance of nurturing students' self-esteem, sense of belonging, and personal growth.
- ✦ **Critique of Standardized Testing:** Noddings has critiqued the overreliance on standardized testing and its impact on educational practices. She argues that a narrow focus on test scores can undermine the broader goals of education, such as character development and the cultivation of caring individuals.
- ✦ **Advocacy for Social Justice:** Noddings's work aligns with the principles of social justice. She emphasizes the importance of addressing systemic inequalities and promoting inclusive educational practices that empower marginalized students.

NelNoddings's contributions to our society lie in her advocacy for the ethics of care in education, her emphasis on relationships and empathy, and her promotion of a holistic approach to education that nurtures individuals' emotional, moral, and intellectual development. Her work has had a significant impact on educational theory and practice, fostering more compassionate and inclusive educational environments.

### **Contribution of Sister Nivedita in Times of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women Empowerment Movement:**

Sister Nivedita, also known as Margaret Elizabeth Noble, made significant contributions to the women's empowerment movement in the 20th century. Her tireless efforts and advocacy have left an indelible impact on society. Nivedita played a crucial role in promoting education for women, recognizing it as a key element in their empowerment. She fought for equal access to education, encouraging women to pursue knowledge and intellectual development. Nivedita also championed the cause of self-reliance and independence for women, encouraging them to acquire skills and participate in economic activities to attain financial autonomy. In her quest to promote Indian culture and nationalism, she inspired women to take pride in their heritage and contribute to the national movement for independence. Nivedita actively advocated for women's rights, speaking out against social injustices and discriminatory practices prevalent in Indian society. She focused on issues such as child marriage, female infanticide, and the restrictions imposed on widows, highlighting the need for gender equality and social reform. Furthermore, Nivedita recognized the potential of art, crafts, and spirituality in empowering women. She promoted the revival of indigenous art forms, encouraged women's participation in artistic endeavors, and emphasized the spiritual potential of women. Through her collaboration with prominent Indian leaders, establishment of schools and institutions, and engagement in social work, Nivedita made a lasting impact on women's empowerment. Her legacy continues to inspire women to pursue education, assert their rights, embrace their cultural heritage, and contribute meaningfully to society. Sister Nivedita's unwavering dedication and pioneering work in the 20th century women's empowerment movement serve as a testament to her lasting influence and the transformative power of her ideas.

Sister Nivedita, born as Margaret Elizabeth Noble, was an influential figure in the 20th-century women's empowerment movement, particularly in the context of India. Her contributions can be highlighted as follows:

- ✦ **Education for Women:** Sister Nivedita recognized the significance of education in empowering women. She played a vital role in promoting education for girls and women, advocating for equal access to education and encouraging women to pursue knowledge and intellectual development.
- ✦ **Women's Empowerment through Self-reliance:** Sister Nivedita believed in empowering women through self-reliance and independence. She encouraged women to develop skills, engage in vocational training, and participate in economic activities, enabling them to be financially independent and assertive in society.
- ✦ **Promoting Indian Culture and Nationalism:** Sister Nivedita actively worked towards promoting Indian culture and nationalism, inspiring women to take pride in their heritage and contribute to the national movement for independence. She encouraged women's involvement in social and political activities, fostering a sense of agency and empowerment.
- ✦ **Advocacy for Women's Rights:** Sister Nivedita was a staunch advocate for women's rights and fought against social injustices faced by women in Indian society. She spoke out against practices such as child marriage, female infanticide, and restrictions on widows, emphasizing the need for gender equality and social reform.
- ✦ **Empowering Women through Art and Crafts:** Sister Nivedita recognized the potential of art and crafts in empowering women and preserving Indian traditions. She promoted the revival of indigenous art forms, encouraged women's participation in artistic endeavors, and supported initiatives that provided economic opportunities for women through traditional crafts.
- ✦ **Women's Health and Well-being:** Sister Nivedita emphasized the importance of women's health and well-being. She worked towards improving healthcare facilities for women and raised awareness about issues such as maternal health, sanitation, and hygiene, aiming to uplift the overall well-being of women in society.
- ✦ **Bridging East and West:** Sister Nivedita played a crucial role in bridging the cultural divide between the East and the West. Through her writings, lectures, and interactions, she promoted a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indian culture among Western audiences, challenging stereotypes and fostering cultural exchange.
- ✦ **Inspirational Role Model:** Sister Nivedita's own life and dedication to the empowerment of women served as an inspiration for countless individuals. Her commitment to social service, education, and uplifting women's status inspired generations of women to pursue their goals and contribute to society.
- ✦ **Literary and Intellectual Contributions:** Sister Nivedita's writings, including articles, essays, and books, provided intellectual insights into women's empowerment, Indian culture, and social issues. Her works continue to be studied and admired for their depth of thought and progressive ideas.
- ✦ **Collaboration with Indian Leaders:** Sister Nivedita worked closely with prominent Indian leaders of her time, such as Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore. Her collaboration and association with these influential figures further strengthened her impact on the women's empowerment movement and the broader national discourse.

- ✦ Establishment of Schools and Institutions: Sister Nivedita was instrumental in establishing schools and institutions that focused on providing education and vocational training for women. These institutions created platforms for women's empowerment, enabling them to acquire skills, gain knowledge, and contribute to society.
- ✦ Championing Women's Spirituality: Sister Nivedita recognized the spiritual potential of women and encouraged their active participation in spiritual pursuits. She believed that spirituality could be a source of strength and empowerment for women, enabling them to lead meaningful lives.
- ✦ Emphasis on Women's Moral and Intellectual Development: Sister Nivedita emphasized the importance of women's moral and intellectual development. She believed that women should be encouraged to cultivate virtues, engage in critical thinking, and contribute to the intellectual and cultural progress of society.
- ✦ Social Work and Community Service: Sister Nivedita actively engaged in social work and community service, particularly in the areas of education, healthcare, and upliftment of underprivileged sections of society. Her initiatives aimed to address social inequalities and empower marginalized women and children.
- ✦ Legacy of Empowerment: Sister Nivedita's legacy continues to inspire and empower women today. Her teachings, principles, and contributions to women's empowerment serve as a reminder of the strength and potential of women in society.

Sister Nivedita's contributions during the 20th-century women's empowerment movement in India were multifaceted and far-reaching. Through her advocacy for education, women's rights, cultural preservation, and social reform, she left a lasting impact on women's empowerment and continues to be a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

#### **Comparative Outlook:**

A comparative outlook of the new vision towards women empowerment in the light of Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and NelNoddings reveals both similarities and differences in their perspectives. While they all contribute to the discourse of women's empowerment, their approaches and emphases vary based on their historical contexts, cultural backgrounds, and areas of expertise.

One key similarity among these visionaries is their recognition of the importance of education in empowering women. Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings all emphasize the need for women to have access to education to develop their intellect, skills, and agency. They argue that education is the key to breaking societal barriers and achieving gender equality.

Furthermore, all three thinkers challenge traditional gender roles and norms, advocating for women's rights and equal opportunities. They reject the notion that women are inherently inferior to men and argue for women's participation in various spheres of life, including politics, education, and the workforce.

However, they differ in their specific approaches and perspectives. Wollstonecraft's focus is primarily on the political and legal rights of women. She argues for women's equal participation in public life and criticizes the prevailing gender inequalities of her time.

Sister Nivedita, on the other hand, places a significant emphasis on the preservation and promotion of Indian culture and spirituality. She sees women's empowerment as intimately tied to the reclamation of Indian heritage and the revival of traditional values. Nivedita advocates for women's education not only for personal development but also to nurture them as custodians of cultural traditions.

NelNoddings brings a unique perspective to the conversation through her ethics of care theory. She emphasizes the importance of nurturing relationships, empathy, and compassion in education and in society as a whole. Noddings argues that caring relationships are essential for individual well-being and social cohesion, and thus, contribute to women's empowerment.

While Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings each offer valuable insights into women's empowerment, their perspectives can be seen as complementary rather than mutually exclusive. Wollstonecraft's focus on political and legal rights, Nivedita's emphasis on cultural preservation, and Noddings' ethics of care all contribute to a holistic understanding of women's empowerment.



- ✦ **Education as a means of empowerment:** All three visionaries emphasize the importance of education in empowering women. They believe that access to education equips women with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to challenge societal norms and achieve equality.
- ✦ **Recognition of women's agency:** Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings all acknowledge and advocate for the agency of women. They reject the notion that women are passive recipients of societal norms and argue for women's active participation in shaping their own lives and the society they live in.
- ✦ **Challenging gender roles and norms:** The visionaries challenge traditional gender roles and norms, advocating for women's equal rights and opportunities. They aim to dismantle the restrictive roles assigned to women in society and create a more inclusive and egalitarian society.
- ✦ **Critique of social injustices:** Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings critique various social injustices faced by women, such as discrimination, gender-based violence, and unequal access to resources and opportunities. They strive to address these injustices and create a more just and equitable society for women.
- ✦ **Cultural and national context:** Nivedita's contribution is particularly shaped by the cultural and national context of India. She highlights the importance of cultural preservation and the empowerment of Indian women within the framework of their cultural heritage.
- ✦ **Political and legal rights:** Wollstonecraft's work focuses extensively on advocating for women's political and legal rights. She argues for equal representation and participation of women in political processes, challenging the exclusionary nature of governance at the time.
- ✦ **Ethical dimension:** Noddings brings an ethical dimension to the discussion of women's empowerment with her ethics of care theory. She emphasizes the importance of caring relationships, empathy, and compassion in empowering women and nurturing their holistic well-being.
- ✦ **Intersectionality:** While not explicitly discussed by these visionaries, the concept of intersectionality, which recognizes the intersecting forms of oppression and privilege experienced by individuals, is relevant in understanding the experiences of women across different social, cultural, and economic contexts.
- ✦ **Agency and autonomy:** Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings all advocate for women's agency and autonomy, emphasizing the importance of women making choices for themselves and having control over their lives.
- ✦ **Importance of self-reliance:** Nivedita highlights the significance of self-reliance for women's empowerment. She encourages women to acquire skills, participate in economic activities, and attain financial independence.
- ✦ **Emphasis on empathy and compassion:** Noddings' ethics of care theory emphasizes the importance of empathy, compassion, and nurturing relationships in empowering women and fostering a more caring and inclusive society.
- ✦ **Recognition of women's contributions:** All three visionaries recognize and value the contributions of women to society. They challenge the notion that women's roles are limited to the private sphere and assert the importance of women's participation in public life.
- ✦ **Embracing diversity:** While not explicitly discussed, the visions of Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings can be interpreted as inclusive and embracing of diversity. They recognize the diverse experiences and perspectives of women and advocate for equality and empowerment for all women, regardless of their backgrounds.
- ✦ **Historical context:** The works of Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings are rooted in their respective historical contexts, reflecting the specific challenges and opportunities faced by women during those times.
- ✦ **Continuation of their legacies:** The visions of Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings have continued to inspire and influence contemporary discussions on women's empowerment. Their ideas and principles provide a foundation for ongoing efforts to achieve gender equality and create a more inclusive and empowering society.

These key points highlight the contributions of Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and Nel Noddings to the vision of women's empowerment. Their ideas and perspectives continue to shape the discourse on women's rights, gender equality, and the pursuit of a more just and inclusive society. By recognizing the commonalities and differences in their visions, we gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of women's empowerment and the ongoing efforts needed to achieve it.

A comparative outlook of the new vision towards women empowerment as presented by Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings highlights the common themes of education, challenging gender norms, and advocating for women's rights. Their unique perspectives provide a comprehensive understanding of women's empowerment, encompassing political, cultural, and ethical dimensions. By examining their contributions together, we gain a more nuanced and multifaceted perspective on the pursuit of gender equality and empowerment.

### Relevancy of Their contribution in contemporary stand point:

The contributions of Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and NelNoddings remain highly relevant in the contemporary standpoint of women's empowerment. Their ideas and perspectives continue to resonate and offer valuable insights for addressing ongoing challenges and shaping the discourse on gender equality. Here are some key points highlighting the relevance of their contributions today:

- ✦ **Feminist Thought:** The works of Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings are foundational texts in feminist thought. Their ideas have laid the groundwork for feminist theories and movements that continue to advocate for women's rights and challenge gender inequalities.
- ✦ **Gender Equality:** All three visionaries emphasize the importance of gender equality. Their contributions provide a framework for understanding and addressing the persistent disparities and discrimination faced by women in various spheres of life, including education, employment, and politics.
- ✦ **Education and Empowerment:** The recognition of education as a crucial factor in women's empowerment remains highly relevant today. Their emphasis on providing equal access to education for women is aligned with current efforts to promote gender-inclusive education and close the gender gap in educational attainment.
- ✦ **Political and Legal Rights:** Wollstonecraft's focus on women's political and legal rights is still relevant in contemporary discussions. The struggle for equal representation, participation in decision-making processes, and the elimination of discriminatory laws and policies remains ongoing.
- ✦ **Intersectionality:** While not explicitly discussed by these visionaries, the concept of intersectionality has gained prominence in contemporary feminist discourse. Recognizing the intersecting forms of oppression and privilege experienced by women helps to address the diverse experiences of women based on factors such as race, class, sexuality, and ability.
- ✦ **Ethical Dimension:** Noddings' ethics of care theory continues to be relevant in promoting a more compassionate and caring society. It highlights the importance of empathy, nurturing relationships, and the well-being of individuals, which are vital aspects of contemporary discussions on social justice and human rights.
- ✦ **Cultural Preservation and Identity:** Sister Nivedita's emphasis on cultural preservation and empowerment within the framework of cultural heritage resonates with the ongoing efforts to recognize and celebrate diverse cultural identities. It highlights the importance of acknowledging and valuing different cultural perspectives in the pursuit of women's empowerment.
- ✦ **Advocacy for Women's Agency:** The recognition of women's agency and autonomy is central to the contemporary standpoint on women's empowerment. The visionaries' advocacy for women's active participation in decision-making processes, control over their bodies, and the ability to make choices for themselves aligns with current efforts to promote women's agency and self-determination.
- ✦ **Care Work and Unpaid Labor:** Noddings' ethics of care theory draws attention to the significance of care work, which includes unpaid domestic and caregiving labor traditionally performed by women. This remains highly relevant today as discussions on recognizing and valuing care work gain traction in the pursuit of gender equality.
- ✦ **Embracing Diversity and Inclusion:** The visionaries' contributions emphasize the importance of embracing diversity and ensuring inclusion in the pursuit of women's empowerment. This aligns with contemporary efforts to promote intersectional feminism, amplify marginalized voices, and create spaces that value and uplift the experiences of all women.

The contributions of Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and NelNoddings continue to hold great relevancy in the contemporary standpoint on women's empowerment. Their ideas and perspectives provide valuable insights and guidance for ongoing efforts to achieve gender equality, challenge gender norms and inequalities, and create a more inclusive and just society for all.

### Conclusion:-

The exploration of a new vision towards women empowerment in the light of Mary Wollstonecraft, Sister Nivedita, and NelNoddings has shed light on the rich contributions of these remarkable individuals. Their philosophies, ideas, and actions have paved the way for a more inclusive and equitable society.

Mary Wollstonecraft, with her groundbreaking work "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman," challenged societal norms and advocated for women's rights, education, and equal opportunities. Her emphasis on reason, education, and the need for women's agency has laid the foundation for feminist thought and the women's empowerment movement.

Sister Nivedita, through her unwavering dedication to education, culture, and social reform, played a vital role in empowering women in India. Her efforts to promote education for girls, advocacy for women's rights, and preservation of Indian heritage have left a lasting impact on women's empowerment in the 20th century.

NelNoddings, with her ethics of care theory, has revolutionized the field of education by emphasizing the importance of nurturing relationships, empathy, and compassion. Her focus on the holistic development of individuals and the integration of caring values in educational settings has paved the way for a more humane and empowering approach to education.

Collectively, the contributions of these visionary women have shaped our understanding of women's empowerment and provided a new lens through which to view gender equality. They have challenged societal norms, championed education and equal opportunities, and highlighted the importance of care, empathy, and compassion in empowering women.

Moving forward, their ideas and principles offer valuable guidance for contemporary women's empowerment movements. By acknowledging the historical foundations laid by Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings, we can build upon their legacies and continue the pursuit of a more inclusive and equitable society. This requires ongoing efforts to dismantle gender-based discrimination, promote education and empowerment, foster caring relationships, and challenge societal norms that limit women's agency and potential.

The new vision towards women empowerment inspired by the works of Wollstonecraft, Nivedita, and Noddings serves as a powerful reminder of the progress made and the work that lies ahead. By embracing their principles and applying them to contemporary contexts, we can continue the journey towards a more empowered, equal, and compassionate world for women.

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