

Durga Puja and the Condition of Indian Women

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Durga Puja is a popular festival in states like West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Bihar etc. Of late it has become a National Festival of our country. Durga, is a deity of power believed by the Hindus. The story of Mahisasur Mardini depicts the victory of Maa Durga over Mahishasura to protect the Universe which epitomizes the spirit of Durga Puja, the victory of good over evil.

Just like Maa Durga, women in India are powerful, sensitive, righteous and courageous. The history of women in India has seen a vast change in perception over several decades. India now has many successful women participating in areas of education, sports, politics, media, art & culture, entrepreneurship, science & research, technological applications, social sector etc.

However, in this 21st century, in a country like India, Maa Durga is worshipped throughout. On the other hand, India is still fighting the demons for their

crimes against women. Human Trafficking, Rape, Girl child abortions, Dowry deaths, Domestic violence, child marriages etc. has become common headlines in newspapers every day. All of the above crimes are against the women of the society. In a time when woman are world leaders, we as a country are still asking them to follow rules and regulations bestowed on them by the social lords. This is hindering the progress of women in the society of our country.

We should promise to stop turning a blind eye to these societal demons we live with. We need to welcome a change in perspective of looking at our girls. As we welcome Maa Durga this year, let us all join hands and come victorious over the evil within and all around us. Along with this give our women all the reasons to celebrate the festivities that are about to begin. ●