

# **Role of the Women in National Movement in Bihar (1857-1947)**

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The women of Bihar have walked steps to steps in national movement and also have been part of communist, socialist, trade union and peasant movements. Overruling various social traditions and stereotype mindset, the women of Bihar have stepped out during National movement. They have not only matched pace with men in the struggle for freedom but also have provided successful leadership to it. Mahatma Gandhi employed Satyagraha for the first time in Champaran district of Bihar in 1917 in order to protect people from the atrocities of Nilaha Gora. At that time, the number of women was comparatively negligible than men in public service. Mahatma Gandhi appealed women to participate in national movement. The women of Bihar at his call, defied their stereotype image and jumped into the battlefield of Satyagraha. Before the Gandhian age in Bihar, the Purdah system had confined the women within their home. Mahatma Gandhi observed this status of women very closely and was ardent to bring about women awakening. The history of woman awakening in Bihar starts with the freedom movement of Mahatma Gandhi. It was attempted to bring woman awakening even before Gandhi but it became meaningful only after him. The women got more opportunities in freedom movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The nature of movements before Mahatma Gandhi was violent but he provided non-violent nature to the freedom struggle. Women are comparatively successful than men in employing truth and non-violence. Thus, the women of Bihar showed great enthusiasm in the freedom struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.