



**Research Article**

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTAURY-WOMEN IN DEFENCE**

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**ARTICLE INFO**

**Article History:**

Received 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2018

Received in revised form 24<sup>th</sup>

February, 2018 Accepted 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

Published online 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

**ABSTRACT**

One of the major problems of Indian society is the respect and support given to women. Women being discriminated against education and other rights. This article is mainly concentrating on the support and encouragement given to women in Defence in 21<sup>st</sup> century. It covered: interest of women participation in Defence training during their college time, gender inequality, support from parents, self confident of women, thoughts of men about women in Defence and knowledge about facilities available in Defence.

**Key words:**

IAS: Indian Administration Service

IFS: Indian Forest Service

NCC: National Cadet Corps

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**INTRODUCTION**

If we talk about the position and status of women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there are many areas where women are leading. Many women are involved in high posts like, I.A.S, I.F.S. They are also in our Defence Services. Even though the Indian laws have been made without discrimination against women, there are many areas where women's are still, discriminating by their own surrounded people.

The main objective of this research is to find:

- The Trend of women in NCC
- Existence of gender inequality
- Self-confidence of women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Knowledge about facilities available for NCC cadet

To meet the following objectives the study had done in Bangalore city.

**National Cadet Corps (NCC)**

The National Cadet Corps is the Indian military cadet corps with its Head Quarters at New Delhi. It is open to school and college students on voluntary basis. The National Cadet Corps in India are a voluntary organization which recruits cadets from high schools, colleges and Universities all over India. The Cadets are given basic military training in small arms and parades. The officers and cadets have no liability for active military service once they complete their course but are given preference over normal candidates during selections based on the achievements in the corps. <sup>[1]</sup>

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**The Motto of NCC:** Unity and Discipline (Ekta Aur Anushasan)

**History**

The NCC in India was formed with the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948. It was raised on 15 July 1948 The National Cadet Corps can be considered as a successor of the University Officers Training Corps (UOTC) which was established by the British in 1942. During World War II, the UOTC never came up to the expectations set by the British. This led to the idea that some better schemes should be formed, which could train more young men in a better way, even during peace times. A committee headed by Pandit H.N. Kunzru recommended a cadet organization to be established in schools and colleges at a national level. The National Cadet Corps Act was accepted by the Governor General and on 15 July 1948, the National Cadet Corps came into existence.

**Entry of Women in NCC**

The role of women in the Indian army began when the "Indian Military Nursing Service" was formed in 1888, and nurses fought in World War I and II. In 1992, the Indian Army began inducting women officers in non-medical roles<sup>[2]</sup> such as Army Services Corps (ASC), Army Ordinance Corps (AOC), Army Education Corps (AEC) etc.,

In 2014, India's army had 3 percent women, the Navy 2.8 percent and the Air Force performed best with 8.5 percent women.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2015 India opened new combat air force roles for women as fighter pilots, adding to their as helicopter pilots in the Indian Air Force.

Currently, women in the non-medical care, serve as Short Service Commissioned (SSC) officers. Under this type of

commission, they can serve in the armed forces for a period ranging from 5-14 years. On release, they can pursue a career in the civil sector.<sup>[4]</sup>

Eligible women, who qualify various tests successfully, serve as Short Service Commissioned officers in the following branches of the Armed Forces.

**Army:** EME, Signals, Engineers, Army Education Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Army Service Corps, Intelligence and Judge Advocate General's branch.

**NAVY:** All branches of the Navy (except submariners and divers).

**Air Force:** Flying (transport aircraft and helicopters), Technical and Administration branches.

**Coast Guard:** All branches of the Coast Guard.

### About Bangalore

Bangalore, also known as Bengaluru (Kannada) is the capital of the Indian State of Karnataka. Bangalore is India's third most populous city. There are many people from across the world living in the city, due to growing presence of Multi-National Companies. It is also a home to many of the most well-recognized colleges and research institutions in India. Also known as the Silicon Valley of India. The total population of Bengaluru is estimated to be of 12.3 million in 2017. And the sex ratio is 908 females for 1000 males.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Boldry, Wood and Kashy (2001) in their paper talks about perception of men and women in military training. The research has been done by collecting information from a set of students about perception of themselves and others by using rating procedure on different attributes. Their findings reveal that sex remains an important characteristic in military training. The marked impact of gender stereotype in military training is likely maintained in part through structural factors such as the limited numbers of women currently enrolled in training programs and male-dominated history of military.<sup>[5]</sup>

Hazarika, Dhruba (2011) in her paper talks about gender inequality in post-Vedic and epic ages and also women empowerment in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It also includes the different rights available for women in India also different Acts and Schemes of the central government as well as state government to empower the women of India. But even though in India women are discriminated and marginalized at every level of the society whether it is social participation, political participation, economic participation, access to education, and also reproductive healthcare.<sup>[6]</sup>

Rosenberg, Anna M.(1942) talks about importance of Women in Defence in earlier century(during World War II) as well present and involvement of women in different activity in America. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt-has received and is fully earning the title of "America's Number One Defence Volunteer."

There are several factors talks about this new and growing importance of women of America in the Defence. It has especially a new meaning for the women of this country. That is because they no longer think of economic and social progress for their people in terms of the individual. More and more they think of it in terms of the family unit, and it is upon

the women of America that the chief responsibility for the fostering of the family unit depends. America is defending homes-the right of that home to stick together, the right of the children in that home to grow up with strong and healthy bodies.<sup>[7]</sup>

Many papers talk about women empowerment in terms of gender equality, work of Women in Defence during World War II, analysis of the Labor Problem and Women's Rights etc., These papers helped me to familiarise with Women empowerment an early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Data Collection and Result Analysis

Data has collected by creating a questionnaire on Google Forms in the month of March, 2018. This form has given to fill in three different categories.

1<sup>st</sup> Category: Army and Air Force Women cadet

2<sup>nd</sup> Category: Army and Air Force Male cadet

3<sup>rd</sup> Category: Non-Cadet Men and Women

This questionnaire was filled by the Pre-University and Under Graduate students of different colleges in Bangalore. The data has collected by applying non-probability snowball sampling.

Research questions for 1<sup>st</sup> Category:

- Reason behind women to join NCC
- Support from parents, relatives and friends
- Existence of men dominating women
- Self confidence of women in 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Research questions for 2<sup>nd</sup> Category :
- Existence of Gender inequality
- Acceptance of female cadet by male cadet
- Research questions for 3<sup>rd</sup> Category :
- Awareness about facilities available for Defence cadet
- View of non-cadet about, Defence is a good carrier for women

The analysis of the following questions has been done by using Excel software and presented it graphically.

Data has collected from 500 students around Bangalore. The distribution has shown in Fig. 1. The responses from male students are 56% and from female students is 44% as shown in Fig. 2.

From 1<sup>st</sup> category (Female cadet) 66.7% responses came from Army and remaining from Air Force. From Fig. 1(i) we can see that nearly 70% of students are joining NCC to take up Defence Forces in future.

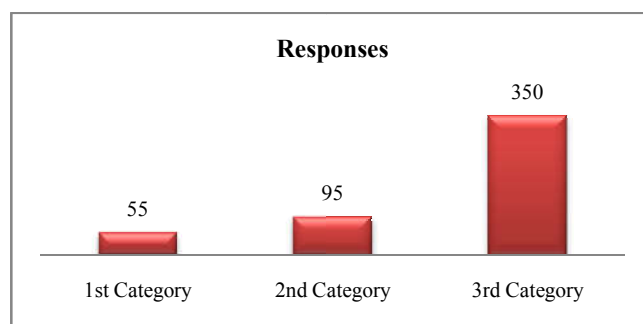


Fig. 1

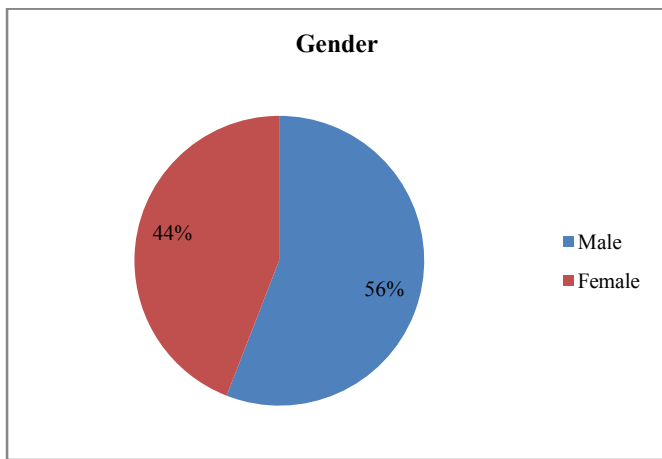


Fig 2

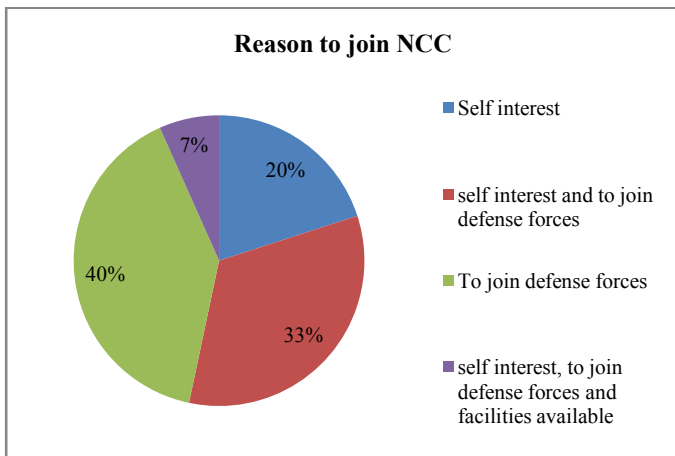


Fig. 1 i

If you joined NCC with self interest, Whether your parents are happy with your decision?

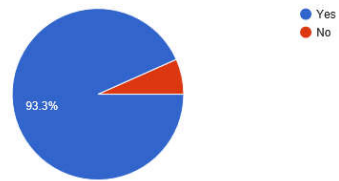


Fig. 1iv

Before joining NCC are you aware of the facilities available in defense?

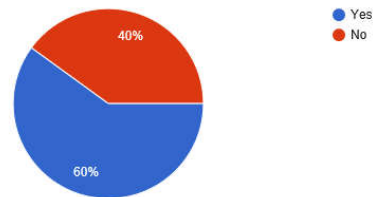


Fig.1 v

Reason to join NCC

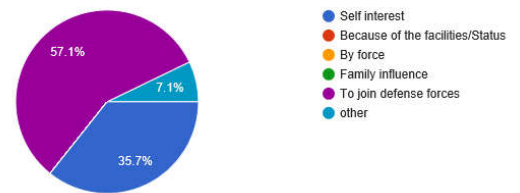


Fig. 2 i

Did any time a male cadet has dominated you?

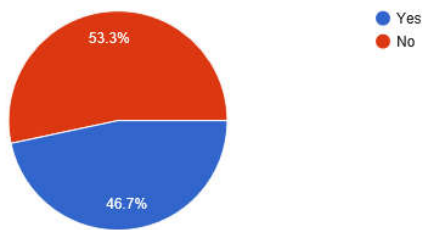


Fig. 1ii

Is there a gender equality in your family ?

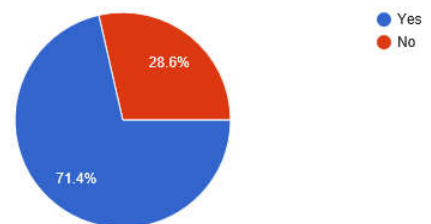


Fig 2 ii

Are you comfortable to work with male cadet?



Fig. 1 iii

Are you comfortable to work with female cadet?

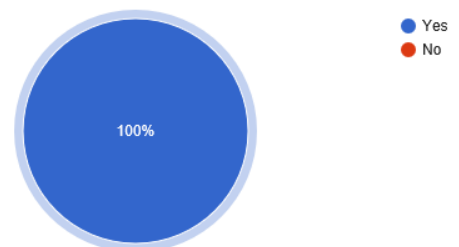


Fig 2 iii

Before joining NCC are you aware of the facilities available for defense cadet?

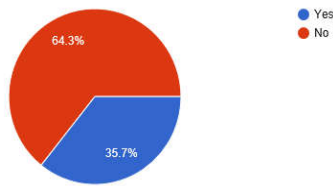


Fig.2 iv

Any plans of joining Defense in future ?

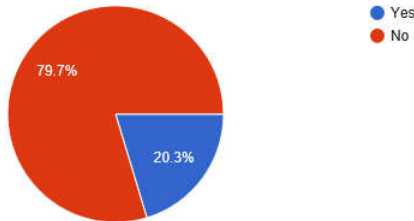


Fig. 3 i

If No,What is the reason?

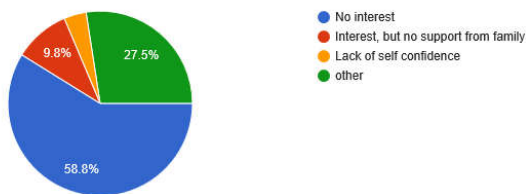


Fig. 3 ii

Is there a gender equality in your family ?

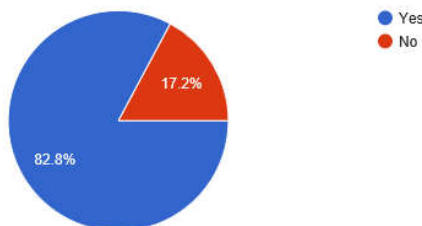


Fig. 3 iii

What is your opinion about women in NCC?

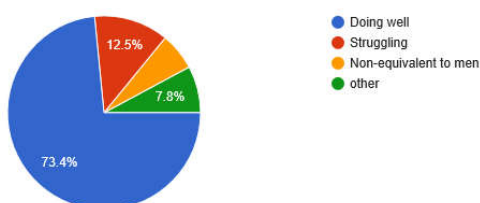


Fig. 3 iv

Are you aware of the facilities available for Defense cadet?

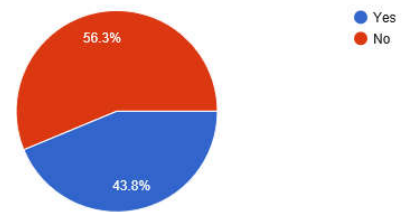


Fig. 3 v

From Fig. 1(ii) and 1(iii) we can see that 46.7% of female cadets felt that they have dominated from male cadet and none of the female cadets feel uncomfortable to work with male cadets. And also from Fig. 1(iv) shows that 93.3% of parents are happy with the decision taken by their daughters to join NCC. And If we talk about the awareness of facilities available for cadet then 40% of them are unaware before joining to NCC. Fig. 1(v)

From 2<sup>nd</sup> category (Male cadet) 28.6 % responses came from Army and remaining from Air Force. Fig. 2(i) represents 57.1 % of students are joining NCC to take up Defence Forces in future. From Fig. 2(ii) we can see that in 28.6% of cadets family follows gender inequality. But from Fig. 2(iii) we can see that none of the cadets have a problem to work with a female cadet. And If we talk about the awareness of facilities available for cadets then 64.3% of them are unaware before joining to NCC. Fig. 2 (iv)

From 3<sup>rd</sup> category (Non-cadet) 57.8 % responses has come from female and remaining from a male. From Fig. 3(i) & 3(ii) we can see that 9.8 % of students are interested to join NCC but there is no support from family and 5% of them are female students. Fig. 3(iii) represent that 17.2% of the family follows gender inequality. Fig. 3(iv) shows that 73.4% of people feel that female-cadet are doing well in Defence. And If we talk about the awareness of facilities available for cadet then from Fig. 3(v) we can see that 56.3% of them unaware of it.

## CONCLUSION

The present findings reveals that most of the students have taken up NCC to be a part of Defence Force in future and almost all women cadet are interested to continue in this field, the reason might only because the confidence they have in themselves as well the support and encouragement given by their family and friends. But from the non-cadet responses we can see that there is a lack of awareness about facilities available for cadets.

This research study suggesting providing enough awareness about facilities available for male and female cadets, So there will be increase of number of cadets in Defence Force in the coming year.

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**How to cite this article:**

Jevitha Lobo (2018) 'Women empowerment in 21st century-women in defence', *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*, 07(4), pp. 12056-12060. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijcar.2018.12060.2112>

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