

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Subject – UPSC GS-I

Topic – Savitribai Phule

Savitribai Phule was the social reformer of the 19th Century, born in Maharashtra. She was a pioneer of women's education in the country. Revered as the country's first woman teacher, Savitribai Phule was the wife of [Jyotirao Phule](#).

Her contributions in promoting education for the socially oppressed classes and women are important to be read. This article will provide you with a brief history of Savitribai Phule and 10 important facts related to her for the [IAS Exam](#).

Who was Savitribai Phule?

She was the first female teacher of India, a social reformer who is known to work for women and lower caste. She raised her voice against the oppressive social system prevalent in the society of Pune (Maharashtra) in the 19th Century. Her contribution revolved around rationality and human reasons such as truth, equality and humanity.

Savitribai Phule & Maharashtra

She was born in Maharashtra (Naigaon - Satara) on January 3, 1831. She was born to parents belonging to the Mali Community which comes under Other Backward Classes (OBC) category today. After getting married to Jyotirao Phule at the age of 9, she was educated by him and later she used that education to fight inequality, graded patriarchy and social oppression prevalent in Maharashtra, especially Pune.

Pune was characterized by patriarchy and caste system. The revolutionary thought of Jyotirao Phule to educate the so-called lower caste to help them realize their marginalization, evoked a sense of determination in Savitribai Phule too.

Savitribai Phule & Education

Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule considered education to be a tool to bring changes in the conditions of socially oppressed classes. The idea behind promoting education was to eliminate the idea prevalent at that time that lower-caste people and women were not competent enough to take it. The duo is revered as the first social reformers who recognized the importance of education to fight the social menace of inequality. Savitribai Phule gave importance to the education of women to promote social transformation.

10 Important Facts about Savitribai Phule

There are some facts about her that a [UPSC 2020](#) aspirant should know about. These are mentioned in the table below:

Savitribai Phule - Facts for UPSC
1. Along with Jyotirao Phule, Savitribai Phule opened the first women's school in Maharashtra in 1948. The school was flagged off at Bhide Wada which was located at Budhwar Peth.
1. For the lower caste, she also established a school in Pune at Maharwada
1. Savitribai Phule realized and resonated with the idea of not only curbing the social oppression by addressing the thought but to also solve their basic needs like food, health, clothes, etc. She promoted the idea of teachers' education.
1. Savitribai Phule was also a poet whose literature is considered as literature of oppressed
5. Her important works includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kavya Phule • Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar • Matushri Savitribai Phulenchi Bhashane Va Gaani • Jotibanchi Bhashane Vol. 1 to 4 - [Collection of Mahatma Phule's speeches, edited by Savitribai Phule], • Her speeches at various places as president of Satya Shodhak Parishad and letters written to Mahatma Phule
6. Savitribai Phule is hailed as India's one of the first modern feminists
7. Savitribai Phule took on the work of Satya Shodhak Samaj after the demise of Jyotirao Phule.
8. With Jyotirao Phule, she had opened 18 schools for girls. She opened Mahila Sewa Mandal in 1852 to raise awareness about women's rights.
9. Along with Jyotirao Phule, she opened a care centre for the pregnant rape victims. The centre was called, 'Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha.'
10. Native Female School in Pune and The Society for Promoting the Education of Mahars, Mangs and Etceteras were two educational trusts opened by Savitribai Phule along with Jyotirao Phule in 1850s