Erin Sims[[1]](#footnote-1)

Speech 101

**General Purpose:** To inform

**Specific Objective:**  To inform the audience of the impact that Savitribai Phule had on the Indian society for women during the 19th century.

**Organizational Scheme:** Chronological

**Introduction**

**Attention Getter:** A young girl who was about eleven years of age, decided that she wanted to seek change within her country.  This young girl is Savitribai Phule, who is still today known as the Mother of Modern Education in India.  As an active reformer, she broke all traditional shackles of the 19th century, and eliminated the discrimination and inequalities which were present during the time of the British Rule.

**Relevance Statement:**  Considering that there are still injustices that exist today, I believe that it is important for us to understand how Savitribai Phule confronted the numerous injustices that existed within the Indian culture.

**Credibility Statement:**  The evidence I plan to provide is supported by the work of Dr. Renu Pandey, who is researcher at the Indian Agriculture Research Institute, and who also wrote the article, *Crusaders of Female Education in Colonial India: A case study of Savitribai Phule.*I also gathered evidence from Dr. Parduman Singh, who is a history professor at the Government College of Women, and she wrote the article, *Economic, Social, and Cultural Impact of British Rule on India.*I also used evidence from Patricia Hill Collins who is a University professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park, and who wrote the book, “Intersectionality”.

**Thesis:**  Savitribai Phule was an active reformer and poet who had great influence on the improvement of women's right in India during the British Rule.

**Overview of the Main Points:** I first plan to discuss how the British changed the Indian society and culture.  Second, I hope to explain the early life of Savitribai Phule, and how she began to appreciate education as such an early age.  Finally, I will attempt to explain how Savitribai Phule was able to reach social equality in India.

**Transition**:  *First, we must first discuss how British control had such a negative impact on the society for Indian women.*

**Body**

1. **MP1**: The British had a very large impact on the society and culture of India during the 19th century.
   1. British influence became powerful in India due to the British being successful pioneers in the industrial and technological world, this evidence is supported by Antoinette M. Burton who is an American historian, and Professor of History and Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies at the University of Illinois, who wrote “Burdens of history: British feminists, Indian women, and imperial culture, 1865-1915” in 1994.
   2. According to Burton, the Indian culture was psychologically weak during this period, thus they had no choice but to adopt the British authorities.
      1. Dr. Parduman Singh, an Assistant Professor of History at the Government College for Women, describes that the British brought ideas of freedom, liberty, and equality, but none of these ideas came to pass once the British saw they had complete control over India, in her article *Economic, social and cultural impact of British rule on India,* from the International Journal of Research in Economics and Social Sciences on November 11, 2016.
      2. Singh mentions that the inequalities that existed during British rule included: discrimination of women, lack of education, unemployment, unequal social rights, and ultimately this damaged the Indian culture.

**Transition**: *Second, let us focus our attention on learning more about the life of Savitribai Phule.*

1. **MP2**: Savitribai Phule was born into a wealthy family on, January 3rd in 1831, in a small country in India named Maharashtra, where she spent most of her early years learning to read and learning the importance of an education.
   1. By the age of nine she was married to her husband, Jotiba Phule, in 1840 according to the article, *Crusaders of Female Education in Colonial India: A case study of Savitribai Phule*, written by Dr. Renu Pandey in March 2015.
      1. Though initially illiterate, Pandey describes how she began to seek her education after marriage.
      2. Pandey describes that, despite Phule being uneducated, she sought to teach others the imperativeness of an education with the help of her husband.
   2. In her eyes, education was an important tool that could help eradicate evil spirits in human beings, and the main thing she primarily discussed in her writings according to Singh.

**Transition**: *Third, we now need to focus our attention on the actions of Phule which reformed the Indian culture for women.*

1. **MP3**: Savitribai Phule was a radical proponent of female education and someone who fought for equality for women in India.
   1. During a time where gender oppression was very prominent in India, this couple faced the odds, by attempting to successfully create equality to suffering women.
      1. Patricia Hill Collins who is a University professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park, and who wrote the book, “Intersectionality” in March 2015 writes that Phule stood up for the religious practices of Muslims and Adivasis.
      2. Collins also says that she encouraged the practice of equal rights, and she strongly emphasized that women should be given the same privileges as men.
      3. According to Pandey, Phule worked to eliminate the caste system (a caste system is a practice that dictates what type of occupation a person will have) in India.
      4. In 1853, she created a shelter for pregnant widows along with granting widows the right to remarry if they chose, as claimed by Collins.
   2. Phule had a passion for female education.
      1. She created an educational system that is offered universally, child sensitive, intellectually critical, and social reforming, as D. R. Bhagat explains in the article *Savitribai Phule, The Pioneer of Women Education in India*, which was published on website Daily Excelsior written on March 1, 2016.
      2. Bhaget goes on to describe Phule’s passion for female education, which began by her starting a school in Maharwada in 1847.
      3. According to Bhagat, Phule became the first female teacher in India.
   3. Pandey explains how the writings and poems of Phule became an inspiration to others.
      1. According to Pandey, much of her poetry discusses issues such as education, caste distinction, child welfare, and social reform.
      2. According the Singh, Phule continued her journey as an Indian social reformer and poet until her death on March 10, 1897

**Transition***: Now, hopefully we have a better understanding of how Savitribai Phule fought against inequality in India during the 19th century.*

**Conclusion**

**Reviewed Main Points:**After the Industrial Revolution, Britain was granted free access to India. The British had a large impact on the Indian society and culture which resulted in many forms of discrimination against women.  During the life of Savitribai Phule, we examined the passion that Phule showed towards education, and her desire to seek reform for the Indian women. We also looked at the different steps that Phule took to reach this goal of social equality in India.

**Restated Thesis:** Savitribai Phule was an active reformer and poet who had great influence on the improvement of women's right in India during the British Rule.

**Clincher connected with Introduction:**The life of Savitribai Phule teaches us that anyone can create change, no matter the age, no matter the circumstance, all it takes is the dedication of the individual to pursue their goals.

References

Burton, A. M. (1994). *Burdens of history: British feminists, Indian women, and imperial culture, 1865-1915.*Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Collins, P. H., & Bilge, S. (2016). *Intersectionality*. Malden, MA: Polity Press.

Pandey, R. (2015). Crusaders of Female Education in Colonial India: A case study of Savitribai Phule. *International Journal of Innovative Social Science & Humanities Research, 2*(1), 1-6.

Singh, P. (2016). Economic, Social and Cultural Impact of British Rule on India. *International Journal of Research in Economics and Social Sciences, 6*(11), 456-460.

1. Many thanks to Erin for allowing me to use her work as the basis for this example. A student consent form is on file. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)