On the path
OF FREEDOM

SADHGURU JAGGI VASUDEV IS A YOGI, MYSTIC
AND VISIONARY, AND A PROMINENT SPIRITUAL LEADER.
HE WIDENS OUR PERCEPTION ON THE ROLE, SIGNIFICANCE
AND REACH OF WOMEN IN OUR WORLD

Indian spirituality has simply out of question.
seen many men and
women reaching the
heights of their
consciousness. A
man is as capable as a
woman when it comes to inner
nature. It is only the peel,
the body, which you call as a
man or a woman. What is
within is the same.

In ancient times, women
also wore the sacred thread,
because without it, they
could not read the
scriptures. Like a man, she
could live within the
marriage for ten to twenty
years, and when she had the
urge to become spiritual,
she could renounce the
family. However, when
barbarian hordes invaded
India, women slowly lost
their freedom. The rules
started changing. The first
let down for a woman was
when it was declared that
she could not wear the
sacred thread. It was also
said that the only way she
can attain mukti, or her
Ultimate Nature, was by
serving her husband. The
right to renounce was
reserved for the man alone.

Unfortunately, this
continues even today. A
woman is told that she has
been born only to serve her
father or her husband.

People who talk about
advaita, nonduality of
existence, have taught this,
"Everything is one, but
women are less." In spite
of the fact he knows that his
existence depends upon her,
if he cannot even accept her,
his accepting all the
dualities in the existence is
Once, a certain social
reformer asked Swami
Vivekananda on how he
could empower women.
Vivekananda said, "You do
not have to do anything
about them; just leave them
alone. They will do what
they have to do." This is all
that is needed. It is not that a
man has to reform a woman.
If he just gives room, she
will do what is necessary.

Generally, a woman's
femininity will not allow
her to be an effective master.
But she is very good at
pursuing the path. A man's
receptivity is lesser. So
whenever there is a master,
more women will gather,
simply because they are
more suited for receiving.
There have been some very
wonderful masters who
were women, but they are of
different kind. They
cannot operate the way a
man does. They have to find
a certain kind of situation, a
certain kind of support
system in the society.
Society never supported a
woman as a master,
especially in the West.

However, there have been
a few women who have more
masculine fire in them than
most men do. Such women
can become very wonderful
masters, if the social
support is there. There have
been such people, but in all
these many centuries of
human history, they never
had that kind of support.
Probably in the future, it
should be possible. There
may be many women as
spiritual masters.