

Anandibai Joshi :
India's first woman doctor



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Abstract

Anandibai Joshi was a Marathi chitpavan Brahmin women of the 19th century, West Indian was an exceptional high caste Hindu woman who has gone down in history as the first woman doctor of India. Although it was not easy to educate women those days, her husband Gopal Rao played a remarkable role as a supportive companion in Anandi bai's life by encouraging her to get higher education and set an example for others women. She earned Master Degree from women's medical College Pennsylvania in 1886. She went there determined to return as a Hindu women doctor. In America her health started felling rapidly as she neared the completion of her studies and although she died of tuberculosis shortly after returning to India. She accomplished her goal to become an doctor to serve women of India.

Keywords : Chitpavan, Master Degree, tuberculosis

Introduction

Childhood and Early life

Anandibai Gopal Joshi was born on 31st March 1865 Pune Maharashtra. She was born and brought up in chitpavan Brahmin family who were landlords which later experienced economical crisis. She was daughter of Ganpatiamriteshwar Joshi and Gangoobai Joshi. Anandibai was the 6th of 10 children's of the four brothers and five sisters. Her Name was Yamuna popularly yumna (daughter of sun).

Married Life

As her family was practising the ritual of child marriage she was forced to marry at the age of 9 to Gopal Rao Joshi a widower almost 20 years senior to her. She was named Anandi by her husband after their marriage. Gopalrao Joshi was a postal clerk in Kalyan, later he was transferred to Alibag and then finally migrated to Kolhapur. He was a non-traditional thinker who supported women's education. At the age of 14 Anandibai gave birth to a baby boy who