

Awareness of Laws Related to Women: A Review

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Abstract - We all have right to live free from violence and discrimination; to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; to take education, to own property, to vote and to earn. But still women face discrimination on the basis of sex and gender. Domestic violence, sexual violence, lower pay, lack of access to education and job, inadequate health care are prevalent in Indian society. Despite progress toward gender equality over last century, women continue to face harassment, abuse, and discrimination at work and at home. According to the National Crime Statistics Bureau, anti-social acts against women such as dowry, sexual harassment, and other fatalities are constantly increasing.

The purpose of this research was to review the need of awareness among women folk regarding the constitutional provisions specially made for their betterment.

Keywords - Legal awareness, women.

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INTRODUCTION

Women currently engage in all areas of life in India, From the arts and culture to education and politics, there is a wide range of fields that fall under the umbrella of "education." They are in charge of the world's most powerful positions. Women are the true cornerstones of a society, upon which a nation's current and future generations are built. Women's role in human race reproduction is undeniably important, yet patriarchy and traditional culture have reduced women to insignificance. Women are subjected to abuse both inside and outside the home. The legislature has passed several legislation, yet women's rights have remained unchanged. Human rights include inalienable, essential, and indivisible rights for women. For international and also national growth, full development of women's personalities, independence, and equal participation in political, social, economic, and cultural life are required. Discrimination against women in any form is a violation of women's rights and fundamental freedoms. India created many documents to defend women's rights and dignity in order to avoid all of these abuses against them.

Following independence, India assumed responsibility for enacting laws to safeguard women. By embracing impartiality principles, the Indian legislative has attempted to change the previous paradigm of male subjugation society. The Constitution guaranteed men and women equal rights and mandated that the state create particular arrangements to appropriately acknowledge women's interests. As a consequence, many federal

and state laws were created to protect women from exploitation and prejudice. Preamble, Fundamental Freedoms, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution explicitly state that women's equality is guaranteed, as well as that the government has the authority to adopt positive discriminatory actions in their favor, thereby ensuring their equality. Attempts to advance women in a democratic democracy have been made in our legislation, development strategies, plans, & programs.

Women's equality is guaranteed by the Indian Constitution, but the government is also authorized to take discriminatory policies in their favor to lessen the cumulative social, educational, & political disadvantages they face. All citizens should have equal access to justice and equal protection under law, as well as the right to be free from racial or ethnic discrimination. Equal employment opportunities should also be guaranteed for all citizens. Important constitutional provisions in this regard include Articles 14, 15, 15 (3), 16, 39 a, 39 b, and 39 c as well as Article 42. Equal rights, opposing social discrimination or other forms of violence, and providing support services for working women are only some of the measures taken by the state to fulfil the goal of the Constitution. Still, we're talking about how women in India are exploited by a patriarchal culture, demonstrating that our current laws are insufficient to safeguard this vulnerable population. Women's positions cannot be changed only via dialogue. As a result, we must determine the solution by examining current legislation and discovering any

gaps. Now is the time to examine current regulations and investigate the true reason why women's positions remain untouched despite the efforts of practically all authorities. As among the most difficult legal concepts to describe, "women's rights" encompasses a broad variety of issues. In the context of women's liberties, reproductive rights, assault and rape violence, and workplace discrimination are typically linked. This includes concerns relating to immigration and refugee status; criminal justice; health care; social protection; and national benefits. Today's feminist leaders often concentrate on areas of crossover between women's rights and other issues, seeing these intersections as part of a greater catalyst for social justice.

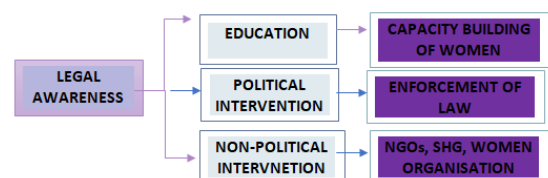
CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE ISSUE

Because of the contradictory assertions in various holy books, and often in the same text at different locations, the situation of women in ancient India was very confusing. Some have referred to themselves as 'equals to men,' while others have treated them with contempt, if not outright hostility. As a result, sociologists have had a difficult time judging women's standing in India. According to India's cultural past, women in India potentially had the position of devi, as recorded in several sacred books of Hindus, India's main population. Though women had the theoretical significance that these books indicate for the wife, who was referred to as ardhangini, in fact they were treated as second-class citizens to men. She was treated as if she were a "chattle" with no rights. In all sectors of life—family, community, religion, and politics—women were viewed and considered to have a lesser standing in terms of power and influence than males. Until recently, it was believed that she was protected by her parents until she married, that she was looked after by her husband during their married life, and that after her husband died, she was forced to spend the rest of her life underneath the roof of her children with no will or desire or rights in the family. She was not authorised to make decisions about how money was spent or invested. She didn't have any cash on her person. She had to get permission from her elders to spend money, whether it was her father, brother, spouse, or other male or female relative.

Indian culture is mostly a male-dominated society in which the father is the family's leader and the mother's status is submissive to him. In such a system, a woman's position is necessarily weak. Women have suffered much as a result of terrible social conventions and religious practices such as pardah and dowry, among others. According to the 2001 census, women make up 495.74 million people, or 48.3 percent of the country's total population. The need of improving women's position and education has already been emphasized in our Constitution via Fundamental Rights and several State Policy Directive Principles. They have been granted the right to a sufficient means of subsistence and equal

compensation for their labor as men. Women's health care and maternity leave have also been offered. Even in the Fundamental Duties, the responsibility of every Indian citizen to repudiate activities that are harmful to women's dignity is emphasized. Women's dignity has been restored by a number of legislation and court rulings. Measures have been made to provide them a piece of the family property in order to secure their rights. Laws have been made to free them from brutal rituals like as bride burning for dowry, wife beating, sati, and so on. Other policies that will serve to improve the position of women include the banning of female infanticide, feticide, discriminating against girl children, and child marriage. To empower women, the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, 1991, 1992 established a one-third seat reservation for them in Panchayats and Municipalities. A similar idea exists for them to be given seats in the Parliament or a state legislature.

CONCEPT MODEL FOR LEGAL AWARENESS



LAWS RELATED TO WOMEN

Crimes Identified Under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

Obscenity

- Sections 292, 293 & 294, Indian Penal Code, 1860
- Section 67 of the Information Technology Act
- Indecent representation of women (prohibition) Act, 1987.

Dowry Death

- Sections 304-B, Indian Penal Code, 1860
- Section 2, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Section 174, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
- Section 113-A, Evidence act, 1872.

Acid Attack

- Section 326-A and 326-B, Indian Penal Code, 1860 (amendment 2013)
- Section 357-B and 357-C, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Outraging the modesty of a women

- Sections 354, 354A, 354B, 354C, 354D, Indian Penal Code, 1860.
- Section 509 Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Rape and Sexual Assault

- Section 375, 376, 376-A-D Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Cruelty

- Section 498 - A Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Domestic Violence.

- Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- Sections 12-29, Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Compensation for Women Victims / Survivors of Sexual Assault / Other Crimes - 2018.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has formulated a compensation scheme detailed below:

Sr. No.	Particulars of loss or injury	Minimum Limit of Compensation	Max. Limit of Compensation
1	Gang Rape	Rs. 5 lakh	Rs. 10 lakh
2	Rape	Rs. 4 lakh	Rs. 7 lakh
3	Grievous physical injury or mental injury requiring rehabilitation	Rs. 1 lakh	Rs. 2 lakh
4	Acid attack victims		
a	In case of disfigurement of face	Rs 7 lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
b	In case of injury more than 50 %	5 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
c	In case of injury less than 50 %	3 Lakh	Rs. 5 Lakh
d	In case of injury less than 20 %	3 Lakh	Rs. 4 Lakh

(Supreme Court has clarified that the said scheme is to be used as guidelines by Special Courts in awarding compensation to minor victims of sexual abuse till Central Government prepares rules.)

PROGRAM FOR LEGAL AWARENESS

The National Commission for Women was established in January 1992 as a statutory entity under NC for Women Act, 1990, with the aim of protecting women's constitutional rights. In accordance with its mandate, it Commission has made different steps to raise gender consciousness in society and to combat various social ills that harm women's rights from time to time. Gender-based discrimination has been seen in many aspects of society, from organisational planning to daily encounters in the workplace & public spaces. Ignorance of the law is not an excuse, according to the Latin term "ignorantia juris non excusat," which is used globally. This idea is also extended to laypeople. Knowledge of one's country's laws/remedies enables a person to stand up for herself/himself and oppose injustice in society.

The truth of our current legal and judicial system is that a substantial segment of the public is hampered by poverty, illiteracy, and lack of legal knowledge, as well as the complexity & obscurity of laws enacted and proclaimed by legislation. As a result, a great number of people face injustice from

both governmental institutions and individuals or groups of persons. They are victims of rights violations for which they have no legal recourse. Despite the Preamble of the Constitution's vow of guaranteeing justice—economic, social, and political—justice remains out of reach for a huge portion of the population. There is a pressing need to raise legal awareness among the general public, especially among women in our nation, so that they are aware of the laws act of the Parliament for their security and welfare. NC for Women has launched a Countrywide Legal Knowledge Programme in response to the need to raise legal awareness among women and girls about their rights. The Module is based on the idea that education is a social process that produces the kind of people we want to see in the world. As a result, it is suggested that 'Each One Teach One' be used. It is critical that a Legal Awareness Program be implemented for both male and female college/university students, as it will place a heavy focus on instilling principles of equality, inclusion, and diversity, all of which are critical for the development of a healthy society. Furthermore, understanding a country's major laws is important not only for the healthy development of young brains, but it also aids pupils in the construction of right values, self-discipline, and national spirit.

The Legal Awareness Program seeks to equip our country's young with understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities, allowing them to share power more evenly, get full access to development resources, and encourage a generation of women to work hard to accomplish gender equality and justice. To accomplish the aforementioned goal, NCW has chosen to establish specific rules via this standardised module, which will be followed while putting on Legal Awareness Programs.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Women make up the majority of the world's population, yet there is still no civilization in which they are treated equally to males. However, violence against women and girls is by far the most widespread human rights violation in the world today. Violence against women is an endemic epidemic that affects millions of women and comes in a wide range of forms, cutting over economic, social, cultural, and religious lines. Her male counterparts exploit all women, whether they are poor or wealthy, ignorant or literate, housewife and working, traditional or contemporary. Many incidences of dowry murder, female feticide, starvation, material mortality rate, left widows, trafficking, molestation, prostitution, and other horrors against women are rendering women vulnerable. It is vital to educate women informed of their rights in order for them to come out and speak up about all of these issues. There have been few studies in this sector, and there is a need for further research on the knowledge of women's rights among female candidates.

CONCLUSION

Women continue to be denied the right to freedom of speech, education, and economic power. Female feticides, underage marriages, dowry and associated crimes, sexual harassment, rape, forced prostitution, and other behaviours have all stemmed from the devaluing of women. All of this is due to the fact that either women do not have rights or are unable to use their rights due to a lack of understanding. Women should learn about the essential rights that should be granted to all women. The issue of females will undoubtedly be alleviated if the literacy rate rises. It will also encourage women to speak out about their rights. The government should set up suitable orientation programmes for women so that they may see the significance and worth of women in their families and in society as human beings. The government should provide suitable orientation and training programmes for women so that they may recognise their own value and overcome life's challenges.

Women have a poor level of understanding about several areas of their legal rights. Women don't use their constitutional right to vote because they aren't aware of their rights. Those who are aware of their rights lack the motivation and sincerity to exercise them. Few people were able to list all of the provisions included in these rights. Women will learn about their legal rights and be motivated to exercise them as a result of this research. It will assist female students in establishing an understanding of their legal rights, as well as checking for slack enforcement, changes, and the incorporation of different new legislation into the statute book. They may also look at whether the amendments are overly conservative or anti-women. Women's legal knowledge may lead to more organised battles against crime against women. The organisations may determine if any concessions were necessary in their fight and can compel the court not to regard the accused with undue indulgence.

After the review, the researcher gives following recommendations on the proposed subject.

- Organizing the campaigns, conferences, seminars, media talk.
- Political intervention is needed to deal with sensitive issues related to women.
- Feminist movements need to be stronger to deliberate the legal aspects to the vulnerable sections of society.
- Coordinated efforts among NGOs, academicians and practitioners would be able to reach the grassroot level of the society.
- Mobilization and strengthening the public regarding gender issues and women's right.

- Women organization, Mahila Mandal, SHG should come forward and support the women in suffering.
- Capacity building of women is a strong recommendation, enabling women to raise their voice against injustice.

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