

## Socio-Political Changes and Woman's Human Rights in India

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### Abstract

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*Human rights are vital part of human being .both male and female exist in it but our social system makes differences between them. So a big fight takes place for human dignity. Due to the discrimination women have to aware to avail their human rights. Women's rights are entitlements and freedoms claimed for women and girls of all ages in many societies. I believe India is a highly advanced civilization in a state of decay, caught in a series of paradoxes. The Indian woman is the victim of doubled prejudice: that of her gender. In one hand she is treated as a goddess and in other hand she has to face harassment in various stages of her life. It is in this context of social realities that the barriers facing Indian women need to be analyzed. Now the all scenario is going to change, in modern India, women have adorned high offices in India including that of the President, Prime minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Leader of the Opposition. As of 2011, the President of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha are all women. Women in India now participate in all activities so the status of women's human rights in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few years. This study will provides a detailed overview of topic, including how the prohibition of discrimination works at the root level, explains from a human rights perspective how to challenge key issues facing women today. These issues are framed by globalization, the understanding of which requires the use of complexity theory, and 'human rights' which has become the most important framing of contemporary projects for of women's human rights and global justice.*

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**Key Words:** changes. Doubled prejudice, harassment, human rights, societies,

### Introduction

Women's rights are entitlements and freedoms claimed for women and girls of all ages in many societies. Actually Women make up 45 percent of the world's workforce. Women contribution to national development is crucial. So to involve them in the main stream of development most of the developing countries have to empower women and enhance them towards their various rights. After that as we all know that women are still fighting issues such as female foeticide, rape, dowry death, communalism, fundamentalism, sexual harassment, gang -rapes, violence-domestic and social, poverty and so on. The awareness of basic knowledge of women's rights which are available to women can aware them that how to deploy these rights in order to curb exploitation. Hence, there are Articles like 15(3), 51(A) (c), 16 and other law in India, so on for woman empowerment. If, there is a right approach to implement the laws, rules, regulations and constitutional provisions, which are made in national and international level. Then it may be the key of women up gradation. It will be potential for making an ideal world.

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In this research work, various provisions and schemes for poverty alleviation, self employment generation, sanitation, capacity building and women's social and economic empowerment will be discuss. The main aim of this research work is to support women and build their capacity in their family, society and nation and laying a strong foundation for their overall development.

### ***Women Development Cycle***



### ***Review of Research and Development in the Subject***

Few year back women's rights research work encompasses a range of human rights in develop and developing countries, as they relate to the equity needs of women, working at once to advance new rights and opportunities for all women and to combat the abuses of specific groups of women and girls. There are some reviews of research found on the proposed topic "The socio-political changes and woman's human Rights "on national and international level-

- Urbanization, coping mechanisms and slum women's status, Walter Fernandes. (Dept. of Research, Indian Social Institute, New Delhi and Editor, Social Action.), Social Action, Vol.41, 1991, p.p. 382-398, the consequences of migration on rural poor women who join the urban informal sector. It is affirmed that migration alone does not add to the woman's status and may even result in her downward mobility.
- Social Action, Vol.41, 1991, p.p. 367-381 - This paper discusses at length the effect of modernization on the rural women. It states that the declining status of the rural woman is not because of technology alone. It is the result of a combination of forces in the form of literacy, caste and class barrier, low self-perception of women and the lackadaisical attitude of the Govt. towards women's issues.
- Status of Women and Social change, By B. Sivaramayya in Journal of Indian law institute, Vol. 25, 1983, pp. 270. The author looks at ancient shastric Hindu law in matters of rights of women; sati practices, the involvement of the British in enacting laws to protect women's social status.
- Howard, Susannah. Has done research work on "Systemic Discrimination and Women's Human Rights: Formulating Effective Remedies for States' Responsibility to Protect Women from Domestic Violence". There is a conclusion that a central difficulty in the project of enhancing the international protection of women's human rights is the continued widespread and systemic discrimination women face at the hands of private, non-state actors.

- Kelly, Lisa. Has done work on the "Due Diligence in the Protection of Women's Human Rights: Re-Visiting M.C. v. Bulgaria" The European Court of Human Right's 2004 This research contributed to a growing international consensus around the definition of sexual violence and the importance of effective rape legislation and enforcement practices.
- Bird, Kathryn. "Neglected Obligations: Canada's Disregard for the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*" In 1979 Canada signed and later ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Woman.

### **Objectives**

- To study the socio-political changes in India.
- To identify the indicators and substantiate the existence of disparity and disadvantage of socio-political changes women face in India
- To know the impact of socio-political changes on woman's human rights.
- To know the practical aspect of woman right.
- To know the condition of women's human right in India.
- To highlight the causes and barriers that limit women's human rights and its effect on Women's human rights
- To know the problems and perspective of woman's human rights
- To compare woman's human rights in different states in India.
- To examine the obligation of the State to ensure women's human rights
- To aware human being towards ".Beti Bachao" because the ratio is decreasing day by day.
- To motivate and enhance the women towards their dignified life style

### **Methodology**

The definition of the socio-political changes and woman's human rights encompasses a large arena comprising a wide range of activities range of activities, such as in the constitutional provision, international law, criminal law, various acts, plans, social institutions, and collectives, informal and formal political action. The information for this baseline report was primarily collected from secondary sources and has been supplemented with primary information, in certain areas. They range from Statistics regarding socio-political changes and woman's human rights at all levels of governance to qualitative information that includes individual case studies, debates and critiques of woman's human rights. While information is scarce and inadequate, thus limiting Baseline Report on the research topic.

### **Results and Discussion**

The Women in developing countries work an average of 60 to 90 hours per week. They earn an average of 75 percent of men's pay in nonagricultural work. Ninety percent of the 27 million workers in export processing zones are women, most of them between the ages of 16 and 25. Some 2,931 trade unionists throughout the world were tortured or jailed last year for fighting for workers' rights. Two hundred forty were murdered. Most women throughout the world are relegated to low-skilled, low-wage jobs.

Their work often is dangerous. And women are likely to face such "invisible" threats on the job as discrimination, sexual harassment, physical abuse and pregnancy exams as a condition of work. The global economy isn't working for millions of working women around the world. In 10 years, 80 percent of all women in industrialized countries and 70 percent of all women globally will work outside of the home. We need rules for the global economy that work for working families.

As the Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen pointed out, 25 million girls are missing from India's population every year as they are not even allowed to be born! And The United Nations Children's Fund, estimated that up to 50 million girls and women are 'missing' from India's population. The Police records show high incidence of crimes against women in India. The National Crime Records Bureau reported in 1998 that the growth rate of crimes against women would be higher than the population growth rate by 2010. Earlier, many cases were not registered with the police due to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation cases.

After independence India has made several laws, constitutional provision- articles 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in this regard. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women. India made the Special Marriage Act, 1954, The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 with amendment in 2005, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended in 1995), Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1976, The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1983 The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and so on. The Crimes Identified Under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) Rape (Sec. 376 IPC), Kidnapping & Abduction for different purposes (Sec. 363-373), Homicide for Dowry, Dowry Deaths or their attempts (Sec. 302/304-B IPC), Torture, both mental and physical (Sec. 498-A IPC), Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC), Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC), Importation of girls (up to 21 years of age) Due to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 and the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993 woman empowered in local level government bodies. But the less awareness toward rights, this show the below table;

**Table 1: Various Constraints of Research Work**

Various Constraints	%	Various Constraints	%
Health Awareness	06%	Awareness About Nutrition	10%
Literary/Education	52%	Knowledge About Various Rights-Pol. Economic, Social. Etc.	05%
Knowledge About Constitutional Provisions	2%	Economically Independent	02%
Fundamental Rights	9%	Equal Opportunity	30%

Now in the present scenario due to the government policies, globalization, modernization, industrialization, economic based policies the total female sex ratio in India is 940 per 1000 males and the female child sex ratio is 944 girl children per every 1000 boy children of the same age group. The overall female sex ratio has increased by 0.75 % in the Census 2011 as compared to the previous Census of 2001. The Social awareness exists in the Indian society to save girl child. Women in India now participate in all fields such as education, sports, politics, media, art and culture, service sectors, science and technology so the status of women's human rights in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few years.

India today is at the cusp of a paradigm change in its growth and its position in the world. Both men and women act decisively to capture this opportunity. India need to think big and scale up rapidly in each and every area, So India put a special focus on empowering women and girls, because we believe they hold the key to long-lasting social change in communities. be it education, infrastructure, industry, financial services or equality of both genders.

Today women with their smartness, grace and elegance have conquered the whole world. They with their hard work and sincerity have excelled in each and every profession. Women are considered to be more honest, meticulous, and efficient and hence more and more companies prefer hiring women for better performance.

### **Conclusion**

It's a reality that women everywhere are likely to suffer from some form of gender discrimination. We need to augment our efforts for empowering women and enhance their progress through their human rights. It is our moral, social and constitutional responsibility to ensure their progress by providing them with equal rights and opportunities. The one of the key factors in determining the success of development is the status and position of women in the society. Empowering women must be a united approach, a cause that requires continued attention and stewardship by all. Legal literacy and awareness programmes are the other important measures for the women to achieve their rights. For the purpose para-legals are to be trained to educate women about their rights to face the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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