



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRESENTS STATUS OF WOMAN IN INDIA

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**Abstract:** Indian Women have equal rights and the Indian constitution guarantees all the rights, freedoms and privileges which are given to men to women. The objectives of the study was to study the concept of Human Rights in Indian constitution, present condition of women and types of movements which can be available to secure rights of women in India. Study indicated that the status of women has improved considerably in post-independence India however the women's from rural areas immensely suffer from gross violation of their basic human rights as comer to Urban Literate Women who have the firm status and lead an independent life economically, socially and politically.

**Keywords:** Human Rights, Post-independence, Indian constitution

**Introduction:**

Indian Women have equal rights with men. The Indian constitution guarantees all the rights, freedoms and privileges which are given to men to women. There are several states which protect and promote the basic human rights and provide active protection, which have given equal opportunities and rights that can aspire to all sexes at any position and status in the society.

During last few decades, India has got many great women personalities in the field of politics, research, administration, sports, defense, cultural and social reformer, such as Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Savitribai Phule, P.T. Usha, Kalpana Chawla, Razia Sultana, Pratibhatai Patil, Kiran Bedi etc. Their active participation in their respective field made the common Indian women feel proud and encouraged.

**Objective of study**

- i) To study the concept of Human Right.
- ii) To study the Human Right in Indian Constitution.
- iii) Indian Women and their deprivation of Human Right.
- iv) To examine human rights of women in present time.
- v) To study the present condition of women.
- vi) Women's human rights as common sense.
- vii) How human rights framework applying to women and what types of

movements are available to secure rights of women.

**Hypothesis**

- i) Human Rights notify women justice system.
- ii) Women empowerment plays important role in social development.
- iii) Many problems related to women's are arising even though government regularly notifies women's rights.

**What are the Human Rights?**

In section II of the protection of Human Rights act, 1993, Human Rights means the rights relating to Life, Liberty, equality and dignity of the individual, guaranteed by the constitution or embodied economical, social and cultural rights adopted by the general assembly of the United Nations, on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1996.

In the concept of Human Rights, which includes the -

- i) Right of Life
- ii) Right to Liberty
- iii) Right to security of person.
- iv) Recognition everywhere as a person before the law.
- v) Freedom of movement as a nationality.
- vi) Freedom of thought conscience and religion.
- vii) Freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- viii) Freedom to take part in Government.

**Women status in the past**

As far as the status of women in the past is concern, women's since ancient time were living very worse life. They were confined up to child in kitchen and not allowed to participate in the political, socio-administrative activities. They were also not allowed to express their opinion and their verbal liberty was restricted. This situation was continued for long time till some women's were active in the political matters. During 'Sultanata' period, the female ruler like Razia Sultana did noted freedom movement and made women to active in fighting for the rights. Rani Laxmibai and Savitribai Phule are example of this context in the society. They are also worth to showing beginning of women's preparation to enter in the public life to fight for their rights, but majority of women's were living under very severe conditions. After independence, notwithstanding the fact that, Indian Constitution gave fundamental rights to its citizens, but the status of women continued to decline and they are subject to humiliation and violence. The cherished desire and constitutional rights remained a mirage for the women.

**Present Status of Women**

Study indicated that the status of women has improved considerably in post-independence India. Women have left their mark in almost all sectors which were forbidden to them. They are active in politics and administrative and defense services as well as private sectors and work as equal as men's. India's leading lady personalities like, first IPS Officer Ms. Kiran Bedi, Congress party president Ms. Sonia Gandhi, Former president of India Mrs. Pratibhatai Patil, Social activist Smt. Medha Patkar, Indian columnist and novelist Shobha Day, Sportsmen Saina Nehwal, Business icon Chitra Ramakrishna, Leading industrialist Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Economist Shikha Sharma and Head of Project Drishti Nita Ambani and again many more influential women personalities who have left their mark in India's modern History.

In the present situation we can categorized the Women as under

- i) Rural illiterate women.
- ii) Urban illiterate women.

- iii) Urban literate women.

**i) Rural Illiterate Women**

It is the most ignorant category about their basic human rights in rural areas; the man has badly suppressed the women, on the name of religion, traditions and customs. In some parts of our country there is a custom where husband eats food first and after he finished women eats, literally his leftover food. This is derogatory custom which result in malnutrition of women in the poor regions. In the rural areas women have to work double than men, because she has to work in fields as well as has to work at home to look after her family and due to much of physical manual work she has to suffer from physical exertion. These women's don't have time and resources to get even primary education. Hence illiteracy causes the ignorance; therefore, women are not aware of their rights. That's why the women's from rural areas immensely suffer from gross violation of their basic human rights.

**ii) Urban Illiterate Women:**

The same thing as that of rural illiterate women goes on with the urban illiterate women, the only difference is that the rural illiterate women have to work in agricultural fields and urban women have to work either in factories as labor or have to work as house-made. In several metro-cities, there have been incidents of exploitation of women at work places, either it may be household or in factories or offices as they are not aware of their rights and unable to seek the justice due to lack of knowledge. Moreover the illiteracy is the biggest hindrance in the path of justice.

**iii) Urban Literate Women**

Lastly, here I come to that category of women who is literate, sophisticated and modern. As we are living in the globalized and modernized society, there is considerable percentage of women who are educated, working as professionals and who represent the firm status of women and lead an independent life economically, socially and politically. They are well equipped with knowledge and awareness about their surroundings, but whether they are capable to uproot or eradicate the discrimination, injustice and violation of their basic human

rights? I would say, up to certain extent; because, number of times they are even aware of these things but can't raise their voices on the violations of rights due to familiar or social pressure or may be due to lengthy and complicated legal procedures.

Indian women are intelligent, hard working with qualities of strength and tolerance; they quite compete to break the bond of traditional subordination. Further, they can consolidate their positions and redefined their status in the society.

#### **Women Human Rights and Protection**

During the United Nations decade for women in 1976's to 1985 women from many geographical, religions, cultural and class background took up to improve the status of women. A number of sources indicated that women generally occupy a lower social status than men in India. Indian criminal law is set out on the Indian penal Code. The penal code addresses crimes against women in several sections and deals with such things as voluntarily causing a miscarriage for reasons other than the health of the women. Other legislations addressing women's rights include the equal Remuneration Act-1976, the maternity benefits Act 1971, and certain provision of the Hindu Marriage Act 1955.

#### **Conclusion:**

1. The present status of women should be viewed properly and try to make her status more powerful in the socio-legal terms.
2. Now there is need to overlook this problem with broader, modern and contemporary spectrum.
3. In India there is need for further consolidation and redefinition of the status of women based on the equality, equity and mutual respect between men and women without any discrimination.
4. All the wings like government, whether at state or central level, organizations whether governmental or non-governmental members of society and the women themselves should unite and struggle to protect the status of women against the injustice and violation of their human rights,

discrimination, ill-treatment, abuse and exploitation.

5. It depends on women to ensure it by being vigilant, alert and united to raise their voices against any violation of their human rights or privileges.
6. It is necessary to change view of society about women and have to consider women equally in every activity.

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