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Socio-legal status of women in India

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Abstract

The woman was worshipped as goddess and enjoyed equal freedom as her counterparts in the society. The concept of democracy will only assume true and national legislation that are decided upon jointly by men and women in impartial reputes for the interest and aptitudes of both shares of the population. Upgrading in the status of women was a sincere inductee made by the constitution and accepted subsequently by the Government from the very start of independent India. Reservation is one of the measures taken so that women can come out of the shell and have equal opportunity to participate legislature itself cannot transform a society without the help of the supportive agency i.e. Judiciary. The Judicial appraisal, Judicial do-gooding, social action litigation and duty of enforcement of fundamental rights which the higher court in India has evolved a gender law which has given substance blood strengthening and life to the constitutional scheme of protective discrimination in favour of women. It is very much necessary to know your legal rights. The women need to alert that once violence begins it will not stop rather continue to worsen, if not objected timely.

Keywords: Women, socio-legal status, violence, constitutional rites

Introduction

Ancient scriptures say that gods live there where woman are worshipped. Women are counted as *shakti* in Indian mythology. They are also the centre of family structure in India and considered to be an incarnation of love, peace and security for its members. Concept of ownership of land and property were settled with a desire to control women fecundity and establish ownership over her procreative power and her womb was a logically upshot. Within decline in status of women in family and society matriarchal society was replaced by patriarchal. In the patriarchal family women were confined to home and their status degenerated to as inferior by men reinforced patriarchal values and gave religious sanction to suppression to women.

Dowry Violence

Dowry violence is brutal practice where a woman is slew by her husband or relatives of husband, brother, sister, mother, father in law because her family cannot meet their dowries.

Human trafficking

Between 0.5 to 2 million people are trafficked annually into situations including prostitution, forced labour, slavery, or vassalage. The Indian Constitution is accountable for well-being of women. It not only grants state to adopt measures of positive disconnection in favour of women for nullifying the swelling socio-economic, education and political disadvantage faced by them. Article 39 of the constitution runs like a unique thread that provides that state shall in particular direct the policy towards the securing of adequate means of livelihood to men and women equally. It articulates that there shall be equal pay for equal work for both men and women and it directs that the health and strength of working men and women and that of teenagers should not be battered and citizens should not be forced by economic necessity to enter occupation unsuited to their age or strength. It has been obligated upon the state to move endeavours to secure just human condition of work and maternity relief by Article 42 of the Indian constitution. At the constitution enacts essential responsibility upon every citizen of India to relinquish practices critical to the dignity of women. To uphold the legitimate decree, the state has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to

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provide support Services to working women like sexual harassment (sec 509 IPC) Molestation (Sec 354 IPC), Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, (Amended in 1995), Dowry Prohibition Act 1961. The Equal Remuneration Act 1976 etc.

Distinct Initiatives for Women

1. National commission for women: It is established in Jan 1992, with the goal to setup this statutory body with a specific mandate to study and monitor all matters relating to the statutory safety measure provided for women and assessment of the existing legislature to suggest revision whenever necessary.
2. Reservation for women in local self-governance: The 73rd constitutional amendment act placed in 1992 by parliament to guarantee one third of total seats of women in all elected offices in legal bodies whether in rural area or urban area.
3. The National plan of Action for the Girl Child: The plan of Action is to ensure survival, protection and development of the girl child with the decisive object of building up a better future for the girl child.
4. National Policy for the Empowerment of women, 2001: The department of women and child development in the Ministry of human resource development has prepared a "National policy for the empowerment of women" in the year 2001. The goal of this policy is to bring about the progression, development and empowerment of women.

Sexual crimes

Rape is not a merely a physical assault but it is often disparaging of the whole disposition of the victim. The law besides labelling sexual relationship of a man with a wife under the age of 18 as rape, also specifies under section 376(1) of IPC that if a man commits sexual assault even on his wife, who is above 18 years age, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years and shall be liable for fine.

Implications

1. Men should share the chores and do work to lessen the domestic work of women
2. Women empowerment is to prioritised.
3. House making women must be equally considered as the working women.

Conclusion

Realizing the objective of equal participation of women and men in decision making will provide a balance that more precisely replicate the configuration of the society which is needed in order to fortify democracy. Dynamic contribution of women and integration of women standpoints at various levels of decision making may be encouraged, without which the goals of fairness, advance and harmony cannot be achieved. There are several provisions in the constitution to look into welfare of the women and, in turn, their upliftment. Gender justice is integral to social justice. The human rights of the woman are to be secured in every sphere of life. Necessary steps to be taken to make women aware of their rights to ensure their liberation.

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