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**A BRIEF STUDY ON CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND WELL -  
BEING OF SINGLE WOMEN**

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**Abstract**

Indian women's journey over the centuries and decades has had some remarkable leads, beginning with the Article 14 of Indian Constitutions and the onwards journey up to the present day. Women a girl, a wife , a mother, a grandmother, overall women is a key of the family. World can never be complete without a women. Law is the set of rules imposed to govern the behavior of people. From the beginning of this world women is treated as a weaker section of the society and they are the wounded of the crime like rape ,d owry ,eve teasing, female infanticide, dowry, domestic violence and child marriage. They are only allowed to live under the shoes of their husband and fathers. Laws are being made to secure the lives of the women from the violence of their families and societies and to provide them with their rights of which they are the owners. This paper covers the aspect of women from past history to the present world. It shows how the law of our country has contributed its best to change the lives of women, to make them live with pride and respect not as a shame. Thus now a day's women have faced so many problems. The government has taken so many initiative programmers'. The legislation role is also very important. The Study is Purely Theoretical. The Study is based on secondary data sources. The necessary information about the women Problems in India and its various components are collected from Books, Journals, Internet Source or related topic. The Researcher's study about the topic entitled, 'A Brief Study of Constitutional Rights and Well Being of Single Women' includes :I. Introduction II. Methodology III. Theme of the study IV Conclusion.etc.

**INTRODUCTION**

The founder of the National Forum wrote for the rights of single women that the stories of these single women are not nice. These stories tell about human cruelty, old delusion, systematic corruption and savage caste customs. Women have survived and brought up their children, through the blood and sweat of their labor while they have been discarded, abandoned and murdered, they are strong women not weak women. According to the 2011 census data single women from 21% of India's population and are close to 73 million in number.(Time of India, May 17,2016). Between 2001 and 2011, there was an almost 40% increase in their numbers. Women and child development ministry under Smt. Menka Gandhi stated to

revise policy for the first time since 2001 to address the concern around being single and female ,which include social isolation and difficulties in accessing even ordering services.(kundu,2018). Single women are largely constructed as vulnerable or as women as distress in policy language, depriving them of their agency and imaging them as passive recipients of state and social charity. Singleness is not a static, rigid or homogenous category.It is porous, a wide spectrum, and extremely heterogeneous. The Conventional Dictionary definition of a single women is an adult person who is not married. The National Forum however synthesis the definition of a single women as a women who is not living with a man in a marital like relationship and includes widow, divorced

and separated women and unmarried women above the age of 35.

#### **MATERIEAL AND METHOD**

The Study is purely theoretical evocative and logical in nature. The study is based on the secondary data source. The necessary information about the Issues and problems faced by women and its various components are collected from various books, journals, internet source of related topics.

#### **THEME OF THE STUDY**

The theme of the present topic is based on single women, their problems and constitutional rights.

##### **i. Problems of Single Women**

Women in India do not have equal access to autonomy, mobility to outside the home, social freedom, etc than men. Some of the problems faced by the women are because of their domestic responsibilities, cultural and social specified roles, etc. Safety of women matters a lot whether at home, outside the home or working place. According to the statistics of National Crime Records Bureau, highest rate of crime against women was recorded in the Chennai in 2000 (around 4,037 incidences). Crime rate against women in Delhi was 17.6/100,000 females in 2000 (2,122 incidents) and 151.13/100,000 females in 2013 (11,449 incidents).

Some of the most common crimes against women are rape, dowry deaths, sexual harassment at home or work place, kidnapping and abduction, cruelty by husband, relatives, assault on a woman, and sex trafficking.

A National plan of action for women was prepared in 1980, but this did not focus on single women as a separate category. Such schemes still only addressed the manifestations of the problem. Consequently, the impact of such efforts was limited and piecemeal.

1. Violence against women
2. Dowry death
3. Women trafficking
4. Eve teasing and acid attacks

##### **ii. Constitution of India**

Women's have been granted the main privileges by the Constitution of India, under the constitutional law, men and women are equal. So as to enable them to take part effectively in the society.

1. **Preamble**-The Constitution is the supreme law and main objectives are to

promote harmony throughout the nation includes fraternity, liberty and equality as the nation of a happy life and assures justice, social, economic and political; equality of status and opportunity and dignity to the individual. It also helps to maintain integrity in the society and to promote unity among the citizens to build a great nation.

2. **Fundamental rights**-Hillary Clinton said that "Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights, once and for all". If we trace the pages of history nowhere men and women were treated alike and assigned the same status. Women have been always fighting for their rights and position in society. Article 14 provides the equality of education, article 15(1) prohibits sex related discrimination, article 15(3) gives special affirmative rights to states about women matters. Article 16 ensures the equality of opportunities to all individuals in the field of employment.
3. **Directive principle of state policy**-The Constitution of India, 1949 article 14 state the state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal before the law or the equal protection of the law with in the territory of Indian Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Though these are not justifiable in the Court but these are essential for governance nonetheless.

##### **iii. Constitution of India and Women Empowerment and their Well Being:**

It is realized that the long run supremacy of male over female in all respect in the patriarchal society in India is highly responsible for assisting the empowerment of women. Single women are going to command and be commanded. Certainly, they are bound to play a very active and all important role in the all round peace, progress and prosperity of the country in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. Directive principles of State Policy also contains important provisions regarding women empowerment and it is the duty of the government to apply these principles while making laws or formulating any policy. Though these are not justifiable in the Court but these are necessary for governance nonetheless. Some of them are: Article 39 (a) provides that the State to direct its policy

towards securing for men and women equally the right to sufficient means of livelihood. Article 39 (d) mandates equal pay for equal work for both men and women. Article 42 provides that the State to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief. Here is the list of some specific laws which were enacted by the Parliament in order to fulfill Constitutional commitment of women empowerment:

1. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
2. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
3. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
4. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.
5. The Medical termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
6. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987.
7. The Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.
8. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Protection and) Act, 2013.

The Indian Constitution safeguards the rights of every citizen of the country. However, certain articles in it offer specific rights to women, ensuring their well-being and dignity in society. It safeguards a women's life and offers them strength or support in legal battles.

#### **iv. Constitution of India and women safety:**

Women in India enjoy legal protection to ensure their economic, social, and cultural life. These are some measures that showed the efforts of the government of India to save the lives of women. There is a list of safety laws for women in India working in the field to provide safety and security to the women from all type of crimes against women. Some safety laws are Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929, Hindu Widows Remarriage Act 1856, Special Marriage Act 1954, Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Indian Penal Code 1860, Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Indian Divorce Act 1969, Maternity Benefit Act 1861, Foreign Marriage Act 1969, Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971, Christian Marriage Act 1872, Married Women's Property Act 1874, Births, Deaths & Marriages Registration Act 1886, Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, Indecent Representation of Women

(Prevention) Act 1986, Muslim women (protection of rights on divorce) Act 1986, Equal Remuneration Act 1976, Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act 1987, National Commission for Women Act 1990, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Prohibition of Sex Selection Act 1994, Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act 2013.

#### **v. Role of Government regarding women's safety-**

Another Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2015 has been passed replacing the existing Indian juvenile delinquency law of 2000, also known as Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. This act was passed by the Lok Sabha on 7th of May in 2015 and however, by the Rajya Sabha on 22nd of December in 2015. This act is passed to lower down the juvenile age from 18 to 16 years in cases of abominable offense especially after the release of Nirbhaya's case accused juvenile.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In Indian modern society it is very much essential to all women get educated to solve all women issue in any society and in any circumstances in order to live with honor, education will only give them strength and societal status.

Earlier women were facing problems like child marriage, sati pratha, parda pratha, restriction of widow remarriage, devdasi system etc. However, almost all the old traditional problems have been disappeared gradually from the society. But there are other new issues rising like, women disparity, gender discrimination, and violence against women, female infanticide, unemployment, dowry etc. It is high time now that women should get a respectable and dignified position in the Indian society. The incidence of dowry death, child marriages, eve teasing, molestation, sexual harassment and ill treatment of women are on increase. Despite the constitutional guarantee of equality of women in India.

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