



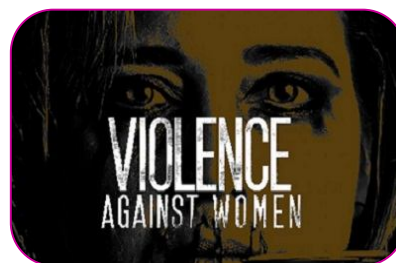
## VIOLATION OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

*Human rights are those minimum rights which are compulsorily obtainable by every individual as he/she is a member of human family. The constitution of India also guarantees the equality of rights of men and women. However, in the sphere of women's human rights in India, there exists a wide gulf between theory and practice. Indian society is a male dominated society where men are always assumed to be superior to society. The women in India very often have to face discrimination, injustice and dishonour. Though women in India have been given more rights as compared to men, even then the condition of women in India is miserable. The paper will throw light on the human rights of women in India and that how all the fundamental rights given to the women are being violated in India, by focussing on the various crimes done against them.*



**KEY WORDS:** Human rights , human family , various crimes.

### INTRODUCTION

The paper will study the various human rights of women in India and how they are being violated. Although special rights are being given to woman as compared to men, yet they are least beneficial to them.

### WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA:

Right to equality, Right to education, Right to live with dignity, Right to liberty, Right to politics, Right to property, Right to equal opportunity for employment, Right to free choice of profession, Right to livelihood, Right to work in equitable condition, Right to get equal wages for equal work, Right to protection from gender discrimination, Right to social protection in the eventuality of retirement, old age and sickness, Right to protection from inhuman treatment, Right to protection of health.

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### VIOLATION OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS:

#### Violation of Women human Rights in Past:

The Indian women exploitation is not the present phenomenon. Rather she is being exploited from the early times. The women in Indian society never stood for a fair status. The following crimes were done against the women in the past times.

**DEVADASIS:**

Devadasis was a religious practice in some parts of southern India, in which women were married to a deity or temple. In the later period, the illegitimate sexual exploitation of the devadasis became a norm in some part of the country.

**JAUHAR:**

Jauhar refers to practice of the voluntary immolation of all wives and daughters of defeated warriors in order to avoid capture and consequent molestation by the enemy. The practice was followed by the wives of Rajput rulers, who are known to place a high premium on honour.

**PURDAH:**

Purdah is a practice among some communities of requiring women to cover their bodies so as to cover their skin and conceal their form. It curtails their right to interact freely and it is a symbol of the subordination of women.

**SATI:**

Sati is an old custom in Indian society in which widows were immolated alive on her husband's funeral pyre. Although the act was supposed to be voluntary on the widow's part, it is believed to have been sometimes forced on the widow.

**VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL:****1) VIOLATION OF „RIGHT TO EDUCATION“:**

Despite the improvement in the literacy rate after independence, there continues to be a large gap between the literacy levels of men and women. Almost half the women population are even unable to recognise language characters. At least 60 million girls lack access to primary education in India. Due to a large percentage of uneducated women in India, they are not even aware of their basic human rights and can never fight for them.

**2) VIOLATION OF “POLITICAL RIGHT”:**

The political status of women in India is very unsatisfactory, particularly their representation in higher political institutions – Parliament and provincial Legislation which is of great under-representation which hampers their effective role in influencing the government initiatives and policies regarding women's welfare and development. Their representation has been unable to reach even 10% in Lok Sabha. Thus it is clear that: a) There is male domination in Indian politics and almost all the parties give very little support to women in election despite their vocal support for 33% reservation of seats for women in Parliament and Provincial Legislation.

**3) VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO PROPERTY:**

In most of the Indian families, women do not own property in their own names and do not get a share of parental property. Due to weak enforcement of laws protecting them, women continue to have little access to land and property. In fact, some of the laws discriminate against women, when it comes to land and property rights. Though, women have been given rights to inheritance, but the sons had an independent share in the ancestral property, while the daughter's shares were based on the share received by the father.

**4) VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO PROTECTION OF HEALTH:**

According to the World Bank report, malnutrition is the major cause of female infertility. The presence of excessive malnutrition among female children as compared to male children is basically due to differences in the intra-family allocation of food between the male and female children. Normally, the male members are fed before the female members of the family.

### 5) VIOLATION OF „RIGHT TO EQUAL OPPERTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT„AND „RIGHT TO GET EQUAL WAGES FOR EQUAL WORK“ :

The employment of the women in agriculture, traditional industries and in sizeable section of new industries is declining at a very fast rate. The reason is that the adoption of new technological changes requires new skill, knowledge and training. And women in India, who constitute a large share of world's illiterate lacks such skills and knowledge. The studies have also showed that for the same task, women are paid less than the males. Technological changes in agriculture and industry are throwing out women from the production process. The women workers are concentrated only for certain jobs which require so - called female skills. Thus, Indian labour market is adverse to women workers. It shows that, the role of women in large scale industries and technology based businesses is very limited. But even in the small- scale industries their participation is very low. Only 10.11% of the micro and small enterprises are owned by women today. Statistics show that only 15% of the senior management posts are held by the women. In agriculture where women comprise of the majority of agricultural labourers, the average wage of women on anaverage is 30 – 50 % less than that of men.

### CONCLUSION:

Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law , general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

The principle of universality of human rights is the cornerstone of international human rights law. This principle, as first emphasized in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948, has been reiterated in numerous international human rights conventions, declarations, and resolutions. The 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, for example, noted that it is the duty of States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

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