

“WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH RIGHT TO PROPERTY IN INDIA”

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ABSTRACT

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. Yet women account for 70 percent of the world's population living in poverty. Till the middle of 19th century women did not enjoy even primary rights like right to property, right to vote etc, even in developed countries like England. Society could not think of giving power to women. There, Sakthi or power was a masculine (male) word. But in our country thousands of years ago the word Sakthi was synonym for the word woman. It was so inseparable an idea in our culture but unfortunately due to historical reasons, present day women in India require to be empowered. We believe in empowerment rather than women's liberation (Sakthi and not Mukthi). In some places these rights are institutionalized or supported by law, local custom, and behaviour, whereas in others they may be ignored or suppressed. But to involve them in the main stream of the nation or society we have to give the right to property then only the women will empowered.

INTRODUCTION

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WOMEN DEVELOPMENT CYCLE



OBJECTIVES

1. To know the history of woman worker's right to property
2. To know the need of right to property.
3. To know the provisions for working woman in the Indian Constitution.
4. To know the special provision for the woman worker
5. To know the condition in the society.
6. To find the reasons of social discrimination.

RESULT 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. Plato acknowledged that extending civil and political rights to women would substantively alter the nature of the household. The Status of women in ancient Greece varied, from city state to city state. Records exist of women in ancient Delphi, Gortyn, Thessaly, Megara and Sparta owning land, the most prestigious form of private property at the time. In ancient Greece varied form city state to city state. Records exist of women in ancient Delphi, Gortyn, Thessaly, Megara and Sparta owning land, the most prestigious form of private property at the time.

During the 19th century women in the United States and Britain began to challenge laws that denied them the right to their property once they married. Under the common law doctrine of coverture husbands gained control of their wives' real estate and wages. Beginning in the 1840s, state legislatures in the United States and the British Parliament began passing statutes that protected women's property from their husbands and their husbands' creditors. These laws were known as the Married Women's Property Act

Courts in the 19th-century United States also continued to require privy examinations of married women who sold their property.

Working women are always a symbol of sacrifice, shouldering multifaceted responsibilities such as that of working woman, family responsibilities etc. Hence ILO has said: "All women are working women".

Broadly speaking, working- women have the following rights -

1. Equal (non-discrimination) opportunity for appointment to jobs, employment and training
2. Equal treatment in job and remuneration (paid work)
3. Recognition of women's unpaid work and harmonizing family and job responsibilities
4. Health (Increase life expectancy, maternity and nursing) and family welfare
5. Promotion of peace at home and working place- against violence and sexual harassment at work place
6. Improved working conditions including issue of night work etc.
7. Enforcing protection laws, labour inspection and supervision
7. Gender auditing and machinery to deal with women issues
8. Women literacy, training and education (eliminate illiteracy and legal literacy)
9. Financial support to vulnerable group of women workers and Social security coverage.

These points are the need for special attention to rights of women in the background of changed global economic scenario. Main Conventions of International Labour Standards for women workers can be enumerated as follows:

1. C100- Equal remuneration, 1951
2. C111- Discrimination (Employment and occupation), 1958
3. C156- Workers with family responsibilities, 1981
4. C 141- Rural workers organization
5. C122- Employment policy, 1964
6. C142- Human resources development, 1975
7. C158-Against termination of employment
8. C3 - Maternity protection, 1919
9. C103- Maternity protection (Revised), 1952
10. C183- Maternity Protection Convention, 2000
11. R 4- Lead poisoning (protection of women and children), 1919
12. C89- Night work (Women) Revised, 1948
13. C171- Night work, 1990, and (protocol) 1990
14. C149- Nursing Personnel Convention,

In the Indian Constitution exists as a right to equality which is one of the seven fundamental rights that have been granted to the people. In the PART III this right has been described as; Article 15(1)- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and the Article 16- The Equality of opportunity in matters of employment of public

In most Indian families, women do not own any 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.

The Hindu personal laws of mid-1956s (applied to Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains) gave women rights to inheritance. However, the sons (Beta) had an independent share in the ancestral property, while the daughters' shares were based on the share received by their father.

Hence, a father could effectively disinherit a daughter by renouncing his share of the ancestral property, but the son will continue to have a share in his own right. Additionally, married daughters, even those facing marital harassment, had no residential rights in the ancestral home. After amendment of Hindu laws in 2005, now women have been provided the same status as that of men.

In 1986, the Supreme Court of India ruled that Shah Bano, an old divorced Muslim woman was eligible for maintenance money. However, the decision was vociferously opposed by fundamentalist Muslim leaders, who alleged that the court was interfering in their personal law. The Union Government subsequently passed the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights upon Divorce) Act.

Similarly, the Christian women have struggled over years for equal rights of divorce and succession. In 1994, all the churches, jointly with women's organizations, drew up a draft law called the Christian Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Bill. However, the government has still not amended the relevant laws.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Education & Legal literacy must.
2. Avail all facilities which are provided by govt. and constitution.
3. Try to get rid from the evil of bad costumes.
4. Awareness/ skill training programs must be organized

CONCLUSION

There are no special support measures to protect particularly Indian women. Legal literacy and awareness programs are the other important measures for the women to achieve their rights. For the purpose paralegals are to be trained to educate women about their rights.

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