

Awareness on legal rights of women: A study of Kalaburagi district

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Abstract

The women need legal rights because to get protection from the harassment, marriage dowry, divorce, domestic violence, rape and from other violence. Women in the independent India have more rights than their counterparts in many other countries of the world. But most of our women are not very much conscious of these rights. Uneducated rural women do not have any awareness of right the constitution of India has guaranteed Equality, Liberality, and Dignity to the women of India. Illiteracy and Ignorance, Customs like child marriage and dowry. Law as an instrument of social change ought to achieve equilibrium by orderly regulating socio-economic relationship and obliterating societal irritants. Law ought to adopt, adjust and supplement the needs of the society and it is supposed to generate, activate and accelerate ordered social change, objectives such as, To know about the various laws related to women, To give relevant information about their rights and duties. Woman has always been ignored in the Indian society from the time immemorial and such gender discrimination is becoming more and more obvious in the present day society which claimed to be civilized one.

Keywords: legal rights, RULE of law, women and society

1. Introduction

The women need legal rights because to get protection from the harassment, marriage dowry, divorce, domestic violence, rape and from other violence. Women in the independent India have more rights than their counterparts in many other countries of the world. But most of our women are not very much conscious of these rights. Uneducated rural women do not have any awareness of right the constitution of India has guaranteed Equality, Liberality, and Dignity to the women of India. The women rights under the personal laws are inferior to those of men. the concept of that "Women is much a human being as a man and thus entitled to some freedom rights and responsibilities "it's to yet find universal acceptance in spite of the assertion that women have complete and equal rights with men in every respect by the international bill of human rights, legislation is important but the implantation machinery at all levels has to be sensitized and responsible to women needs.

Awareness and knowledge of women's rights to equality in the society at large women must be innovated in a much bigger way in the judicial and laws enforcement process whether as judicial officer's lawyers or police. The constitution vision of gender justice can be realized only a set of multiple stogies which include more affirmative action. The struggle for legal equality has been of the major concerns the women's movement all over the world whether in the internal situation of her position in the parental or matrimonial home or in the external situation of acquiring education skills professions employment ect all these involve the law.

Due to legal equality women get respect and responsibility now we see that women are working outside homes in various offices, colleges, factories, ect. legal equality has enable some women's to hold dignified position but legal equality is all that is sufficient today the law grants immense power to the women she has the rights or equal status in the social, cultural, economical, and political fields. But what was lacking it was the world of her own disbelieves and ignorance which always

kept her as the shadow of her men. As such the first step towards up gradation is to educate and make her conscious of her position and status.

Though education in India is free and compulsory yet she is not able to permit her children, especially the girls, to attend the school the irony of the situation is that in spite of the of the protection provided by the law, she remains unprotected.

The legal system is reflections of the social attitude towards women it is not responsive to her plight. The laws enacted for the protection of women suffer from various shortcomings. The attitude of the courts in interpreting these laws is conservative rigid and traditional. The enforcement of these laws is so poor that the offenders seem to have lost all fear of authority. They grow bolder because they are not caught so they think that they can indulge in crime with impunity, there is no death of crimes, even very brutal ones against women which made to the front page of the newspaper and stirred the con science of the nation. But the public outers that followed did not help the long arm of law to dispense justice to the victims.

The majority of women is still grouping in the dark and has not yet realized fully their rights and responsibilities. This automatically results in their lesser part in all national activities as independent citizens. The reason may be mentioned in a brief as follows.

- a) Illiteracy and Ignorance
- b) Customs like child marriage and dowry.
- c) High maternal mortality service etc. A heavy toll of female lives in the earlier reproductive age of 15 and 34.... greater deaths occur among females even between the age of 35 and 54 than in believed. This is the main cause adverse sex ratio for women in India
- d) Repeated pregnancies and deliveries lastly, if she has to fight for her rights. She should now about her rights and legal protection.

Given to her this study is taken up to know the awareness about legal rights of women.

2. Nature of the Study

Law as an instrument of social change ought to achieve equilibrium by orderly regulating socio-economic relationship and obliterating societal irritants. Law ought to adopt, adjust and supplement the needs of the society and it is supposed to generate, activate and accelerate ordered social change. The law can play a significant role in altering preconceived stereotypes as well as in altering discriminatory practices by the use of sanctions.

The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women as they not only constitute nearly half of its population but also influence growth of the remaining half "awareness about women's legal rights among women : a study of Kalaburgi district" which is the title of the study which is related in Kalaburgi district.

3. Review of Related Study

Before exploring new phenomenon, it is necessary to look into various aspects already studied as research is a continuous process and it must have some continuity with earlier facts. The knowledge gathered in the past should be consolidated to keep it on records for future use it is like consulting the maps of previous explorer for future direction. This chapter attempt to present a brief resume of research findings related to objectives of the present study.

- 1) Dhar (2009) comments that 40 percent of the world's child marriages take place on India, resulting in various cycle of gender discrimination, illiteracy and high infant and maternal mortality rates. She also says gender discrimination is the reason for the high maternal mortality rate. The need of the hour is the respect for the rights women and children, quality education, a decent standard of living, protection from abuse, exploitation and violence and employment of women.
- 2) Ramakrishna (2008) asserts that we talk about freedom and education of women. But every day in some part of our world, women are being brutalized. They are being raped and mutilated. Like inequalities in wealth. The description of women's rights varies from place to place. Even the most basic of human rights not to be violated sexually or otherwise are violated and many violations are committed against May women.
- 3) Habib (2008) cites the study conducted by the social science research council of the planning ministry in support of his view. It is revealed that more than 90 percent of adolescent girls and women in Bangladesh were being sexually abused in their workplace, but many of cases are not reported.
- 4) Kapadia (2007) studied the occurrence of physical violence experience by young married women at the hands of their husband. This study also examines linkages between gender role expectations and physical violence in two low-income setting in Maharashtra. their analysis of two low-income settings indicate two patterns of initiations of physical violence in young married women i.e. within six months of marriage and after the birth of the first child. Their study highlights a critical social as a main trigger for physical violence against women.
- 5) Fuller (2008) explain that the violence against women. Has been increased in the xenophobic violence that swept across South Africa at the begging of the year 2008. moer than 50 people have died. Hundreds were injured and

thousands were displaced. Sexual violence against women in South Africa as a means to control and punish women was committed in large number. Men rape South Africa women as a means of controlling them or curbing their preference to choose foreign men. Also they are subject to all sorts of physical assault.

- 6) Bhave (2007) states that in Bangalore on May 21. 2001, Rinki, a newly married nineteen-year house wife allegedly to tortured and set on fire by anil (her husband) and his family members. This heinous murder was a familiar example of dowry harassments.
- 7) Behera (2006) Observe that in all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women are girls are subject to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture.

4. Methodology

Under this heading the various methods employed in collecting and analyzing the data are discussed. After careful consideration, the method which suits best the purpose of present study are streamlined and adopted with suitable modification. However, the aims and objectives of the study and the limitations of the researcher are also kept in view, while deciding the method of Inquiry. In the following section a brief note will be given on the various methods, tools and techniques employed in collecting and analyzing the data pertinent to the present study. Methodology is paramount importance in any scientific enquiry as the validity of the facts primarily depends upon the system of investigation. The various aspects concerning the methodology have been described under the following heads.

4.1 Objective of the Study

- 1) To know about the various laws related to women
- 2) To give relevant information about their rights and duties
- 3) To realize the laws relating to women's protection
- 4) To bring awareness and knowledge of women's rights to equality
- 5) To enable them to enjoy equalities men of the same status
- 6) To know more about women's exploitation.

4.2 Hypotheses

Following hypotheses are formulated for the present study.

1. Women are less aware about their legal rights.
2. The constitutional provisions and security measures are out of their reach and the existing legislation is inadequate.
3. By creating knowledge about laws among women's.
4. There is no significant difference about the awareness of women's general rights.

4.3 Tools and Techniques

Keeping in view the type of respondent, nature of data required and limitations of times, interview scheduled was preferred to the questionnaire method. In recent year interview schedule is more frequently used in research owing to the convenience and accuracy it guarantees. It is also considered as an important method to collect data for the study of relationship and testing the hypotheses.

The schedule was constructed keeping in view the aims and objectives of the study. Interview does not require any significant changes and as such was used as the main tool of data collection. The schedule is mostly structured and so designed as to elicit relevant data under different section as

shown below 1) Personal and family background 2) Educational Background.

4.4 Sampling Method

A sample is small specimen or a separated part of the whole population representing its general qualities, as far as possible. It is smaller set of values selected from the population, reflecting characteristics. The sampling technique is a procedure for the selection of a sample from the population, in this study I want to use the sampling method which is most important. Because when we take a problem for study or research than the whole problem we can't study for that it is use full to use this method. In this study, want to show about the legal rights of women. For this study I have chosen both Rural and Urban areas in Kalaburgi District. The 40 respondent constituting the study sample will interviewed personally and individually with the help of the schedule as individual is believed to be the most convenient unit of study in the field.

4.5 Data collection Techniques

The collection of data refers to a purposive gathering of information relevant to the subject matter of the study of the units under investigation. Statistical data may be classified into primary and secondary depending upon the nature of data and mode collection. Primary data means original observation collected by the researcher as his agents for the first time for any investigation and used by them. Secondary data means data collected by others and used by others (newspapers and books journals periodical and internet ect)

4.6 Data Processing

After the data collection the field schedules will be checked by carefully and all the entries will be edited properly. Then the article table will be made and other the artificial and interpretation of the data had to be done and the results will be obtained accordingly.

5. Importance of the Study

Woman has always been ignored in the Indian society from the time immemorial and such gender discrimination is becoming more and more obvious in the present day society which claimed to be civilized one. The women folk of which is claimed to be a civilized one. The women folk, of which is the present candidate happens to be a member, is miserably shocked by the treatment, behaviour and status that met with by the women folk from the male dominated the society. The governments of India have made repeated attempts through their policy declaration, from time to time, for the fulfillments of women in the country as a whole. several legislation have been added to the various statue books which are exclusively aiming at the solution of the women's problems, but they could not achieve the desire goals, due to maladministration, improper or total non-implementation of such measures.

In a society where about half of the population and three- fifth of the females (1991) are illiterate, orthodox and tradition bound, beliefs and practices cannot be snuffed out overnight. Nor it is easy to create a strong public opinion against their practices. Legislation, of course, does make some impact but it can only be introduced very cautiously and in stage. And, social legislation cannot root out the social evils. If a law is enacted but not properly implemented it only creates contempt for the law. The implementation of social laws requires the

support and the co- operation of the public. So, this all made me to choose the topic for my article.

6. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Table 1: Educational Status

S. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Literate level of Education	30	75%
	Primary Education	15	
	Higher secondary Education Above.	08	
2.	Illiterate	10	25%
	Total	40	100%

The table 1 which gives the clear picture of statistical data of the educational status. As the study while is the comparative study of a rural areas. The educational level which is very good at the urban level then of the village. The total literate respondents are 30 out of 40 with 75% in that the most of people who got education till the primary level and very much people who are educated till the primary and secondary level. Illiterate Respondents are very less when we compare o literate rate, as it is 10 out of 40 with 25%.

Table 2: Occupational of Respondents

S. No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Main	25	62%
2	Subsidiary	15	37.5%
	Total	40	100%

It is assumed that the main occupations are either the government private or the jobs outside the home. While subsidiary occupations are assumed to be the works with the family such as sewing weaving, papad, making running kirani store attached to home selling of pickles, papads, serving as maid servants and fetching of water for other etc.

As in comparative study in rural and urban areas. The most of people who are engaged in the main occupation then of subsidiary occupations. in main occupation there is few members who are government servant and remaining members who work in private and do jobs outside the home and the frequency is 25 out of with 62% but the subsidiary occupation there are 15 out of 40 with 37.5%.

Table 3: Legal Equality, Women Get Respect and Responsibility

S. No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	33	82.5%
2.	No	07	17.5%
	Total	40	100%

Table 3 Suggest that by the legal equality. Women get respect and responsibility. As 33 out of 40 with 82.5% of women's are in favor to this and 7 out of with 17.5% are against to this. By the legal equality the women who can stay equal to men in every field according to their consideration.

Table 4: Equal Remuneration Act-1976

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	24	60%
2.	No	16	40%
	Total	40	100%

Table 4 shows the clear picture about the equal remuneration act-1976. In this matter 24 out of 40 with 60% says that they know this act. But the discrimination is made unequal in giving wages particularly in rural Area. Then also they don't approach to the labor officer but they don't do see this 16 out of 40% with 40% say that they don't know about this act.

Table 5: Reservation for Women's in the Local Govt.

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	13	32.5%
2.	No	27	67.5%
	Total	40	100%

Table 5 Suggests the reservation of women's in local government. As per 13 out of 40 with 32.5% women's about this but with of women's who don't know about this i.e. 27 out of 40 with 67.5% only the urban women's who are knowing about this but rural women's who are unaware of this.

Table 6: Laws relating to Sexual Harassment

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	12	30%
2.	No	29	70%
	Total	40	100%

Law relating to sexual harassment is one that the respondents of rural and urban areas women's don't know. With regard to this only 12 out of 40 with 30% Respondents known about this law and 28 out of 40 with 70% of respondents don't know this law. This is one of the important laws for the working women are who working in the various fields.

Table 7: The maternity Benefit Act-1961

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	11	27.5%
2.	No	29	52.5%
	Total	40	100%

Table 7 Executes the maternity benefit act-1961. Here 11 out of 40 with 27.5% response was that they know about this Act. As, we compare other side 29 out of 40 with 52.5% respondents who are large in number don't known about this Act. Only half of urban area people know about this don't the rural people who totally don't know about this Act.

Table 8: favor of the Prohibition of dowry act-1961

Sl. No	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Yes	26	65%
2.	No	14	35%
	Total	40	100%

Table 8 says the Respondents 26 out of 40 with 65% were favoring the prohibition of dowry act- 1961. But 14 out of 40 with 35% were against to prohibition of dowry act-1961. This is so because there is no use of implementing of the dowry law, as the dowry is increasing day by day.

7. Results and discussion

First of all relating to the group of Respondents,45% were the age of years, 42.5% were the age of 18-30 years, 42.5% were the age of 30-50 years, and only 12.5% were age of group of

above 50 years, while in the matter of educational level the literate women who consist of 62.5% in that most of respondents who completed their education till the primary education and illiterate respondents are of 37.5% Regarding to the occupation 62.5% of respondents were in the occupation and remaining 37.5% of respondents were in the subsidiary occupation. The dowry prohibition act-1961 57.5% of them said yes and 42.5% said that they don't know about this act. In the maternity benefit act 1961. Only 27.5% were known and 52.5% of them don't know about this act. The Equal remuneration act-1976, in this 60% of them knows about this. But they in the general form rather than of legal form. 40% of them don't know about this Act in general form or in the legal form. Regarding to sexual harassment, only 30% of them and in same way 70% of them don't know about this act. In the matter of reservation for women's in the local govt 32.5% said that they know this Act and 67.5% of them said they don't know about this Act.

8. Suggestion

1. There is a need of creating socialization, social awareness and motivation among women on was footing basis.
2. There must be a need for change in social attitude.
3. There is need for spiritual revolution.
4. To amend the existing law, create special court to tackle promptly the problems relating to women.
5. Consciousness must be created in favor of women through powerful mass media T.V, radio and Cinema.
6. To create awareness of their rights and duties.
7. To put up remedial measures to bring up women's participation in political process.
8. Give Education to women especially to rural women.
9. To create consciousness about the legal rights of women which the constitution as given.
10. Awareness and knowledge of women's rights to equality has to be created among women's.

9. Findings

1. The rural women who are illiterate, poor, Ignorant of laws, and rules and Regulations.
2. The majorities of women are still groping in the dark and have not yet realized fully their rights and responsibilities.
3. Educated women's of urban areas are also unaware of their rights.
4. They don't know the constitutional provisions which as given to them.
5. Most of our women are not very much conscious of the rights.
6. Gender discrimination are more obvious in the society.
7. Women's who are unaware of the government facilities relating to the development.
8. Enforcement of these laws is inadequate.

10. Conclusion

It is true the central and the state government have undertaken various legislative and other measures for promoting the welfare of women. We cannot, however, say that the intended purpose of the government is fulfilled and the targeted persons have received all the benefits. The educated, middle class and upper caste women of towns and cities have taken relatively greater advantage of these measures, whereas the vast mass of uneducated lower class and lower caste women of the rural

areas are not even aware of most of these welfare measures. The deficiencies involved in the measures and the inefficient implementation of the developmental programmes by the indifferent bureaucrats have come in the way of the success of these measures. In spite of these shortcomings, the awareness of women regarding this measure is slowly growing. After the lapse of a few centuries the society is becoming slowly aware of the historic necessity of providing women a respectable position in society and paying special attention to the problems haunting them.

Lastly majority of the women being illiterate, ignorant and poor are unaware of the rights and status. They consider their legal process being costly, time consuming. And long Tradition, customs, social taboos and women own submissiveness are still the millstones hanging around the women.

11. References

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