

JOURNAL FOR LAW STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN**

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Swami Vivekananda has rightly said that “It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing”.

The human society depends upon two main pillars that is Man and Woman and thus, it is there responsibility to equally contribute towards the betterment of the society. But we all know that the women has never been considered as a part of the society and was not even given basic human rights from her birth. The women has never been given even an identity of their own rather they are identified by their relation to the man or the family. The women has always been made to suffer discrimination all over the world from the beginning of the time. Her choices were made to be limited and governed by the social pressure. Women has always been exploited starting from the sexual violence which was perpetrated by the war time combatants till now where women is exploited sexually, domestic violence and other types of gender based violence. Women has always been discriminated based on her sex and a lot of injustice has been done to her.

Even when India got freedom and when the Indian Constitution was formulated, it granted equal rights to both men and women, considering them legal citizens of country. Even the women were given equal rights same as that of men in terms of freedom and opportunity. But despite of it, the women was still considered “nil” by the society or was not even considered as a part of the society.

Later on in 1948 the Universal Declaration on Human rights was adopted which enshrines “the equal rights of men and women” and addressed equality. In 1979 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against (CEDAW) to prevent or reduce the discrimination against women based on gender. It

also proposed that there must be proper implementation of these provisions and proper redressal forum should be there to facilitate gender equality and eliminate gender discrimination.

Because of the role played by the Government, activists and role of women itself now the women have improved their status by taking their own stand and by encouraging 'Women Empowerment'. At present, women are still improving their status in the society day by day. The women are playing an active role in contribution towards the development of the nation and society.

The economist Lawrence Summers has rightly quoted that "Investment in girl's education may well be the highest return investment available in the developng world". The women today are educated because of which their income increases the Gross development Product and leads to development of the nation. The women has been gaining a postive role in every sphere of work which tends to develop the nation as well as the society. The women gives competition to the men as a worker in every field. Women today represents the nation by being a sportsperson and playing a combat role in the defence services of the nation. Women also provides with governance to the nation by forming proper government and managing the State and society by being a politician. The women today is a doctor, teacher, student and most importantly has an identity of her own. The women today has become self-sufficient that she can overcome any obstacle in her own way single handedly. The women have achieved her identity and her right to make choices through her own hardwork. Even the Government plays an important role because through government's various legislataion for providing equal wages, job security, proper working conditions, maternity benefits and prevention of sexual exploitation of women, the women hs been able to come at par with men in all ways.

Today on one hand the women is climbing the ladder of success but on the other hand despite of all the efforts of women and the Government the women is still suffering the violence afflicted on her by family, men and the society. Women are still bound to do only household work and women's ultimate destiny is still considered to be "marriage", women is still submitted to male dominated society, women is still not given appropriate education. Even the rate of crime against women has increased a lot and women is not safe anywhere. Female foeticide and caste based discrimination against women still happens and has increased. Women has always been and is still considered to be the possession of another family and thus considered to be not worthy of investment due to which female foeticide and abandoning of

women takes place. Poor health of women also occurs due to malnutrition and due to untimely pressure of motherhood. In rural regions, women suffer from cultural indoctrination from Indian traditions and customs even more acutely. Women's reproductive and sexual rights are given no protection and respect. Indian women faces poor treatment, violence and exploitation on a daily basis and despite of large amount of work done by women to support their families their opinions are rarely acknowledged by anyone nor their rights are protected. Most of the times the work done by women is unpaid or unprotected. Despite of various legislations women still face great physical insecurity and sexual exploitation in public. Women may have left the secured domains of their homes, but a harsh, cruel, exploitative world awaits them, where women have to prove their talent against the world who see women as merely vassals of producing children. The Indian women has to make her way through all the socialised prejudices against her and the men yet have to allow and accept the women to be equal participants in the country's way forward. Thus, it is important to restore equality between men and women. Real empowerment of women, however lies in helping them unfold the spiritual aspect of their personality, build their character and manifest their purity and motherhood. Although women have achieved a lot but still they have to travel a long way. Hence, we can say that to save our culture and tradition it is important for us to uplift the women of our society.

