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78 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE- STUDY OF WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS***Shruti Sharma******AUMP Department of Law, Amity Law School, Amity University
Madhya Pradesh*****ABSTRACT**

The 78th year of independence marks a significant milestone in India's journey towards progress and equality. This dissertation seeks to explore the status of women's legal rights in India, examining the evolution of laws and policies aimed at promoting gender equality and empowering women. Through a comprehensive review of existing legislation, landmark judicial decisions, and policy initiatives, this study aims to assess the extent to which women's legal rights have been upheld and enforced in the post-independence era. Additionally, the dissertation will examine the challenges and barriers faced by women in accessing justice, identifying gaps in legal frameworks and areas for reform. By shedding light on the achievements and shortcomings in the realm of women's legal rights, this research endeavors to inform future policy interventions and advocacy efforts aimed at advancing gender equality and justice for women in India.

The 77th year of independence represents a momentous occasion for India, marking over seven decades of progress, development, and social transformation. Amidst this journey towards nation-building, the issue of women's rights has emerged as a central concern, reflecting broader aspirations for equality, justice, and inclusivity. This dissertation seeks to examine the status of women's legal rights in India, tracing the trajectory of legislative reforms and judicial decisions aimed at addressing gender disparities and promoting women's empowerment.

Over the past seven decades, India has witnessed significant advancements in the legal framework governing women's rights. From landmark legislations such as the Hindu Succession Act, 1956¹, which granted daughters equal inheritance rights, to the Protection

¹ The Hindu Succession Act, 1956, No. 30 of 1956, India Code

of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which aimed to provide legal protection to women facing domestic abuse, the Indian legal system has undergone substantial transformation in its approach to gender justice. Additionally, judicial activism and public interest litigation have played a crucial role in expanding the scope of women's rights, with landmark decisions such as Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan², which recognized sexual harassment in the workplace as a violation of fundamental rights, setting important precedents for gender equality jurisprudence.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the Research Topic

The legal status of women has been a subject of great debate and modernization, not only in India as a social and political entity, but also more generally. This part would introduce the research by giving an overview of the background of Indian society, social and legal environment of women rights in Indian society.

India which is an extremely diverse country and is also populous has been struggling with such issues of gender inequality, discrimination of women and violence against women as early days. Equality and equitable representation of women are enshrined in our constitution and the affirmative action policies; however, women are still faced with the obstacles to fundamental human rights³ access.

The introduction outline three things: that is to say the process of understanding the changing nature of women's legal rights in India, the fact that the country lays the mother of all national holiday celebrations this year-2025. This study attempts to look into the labyrinthine side of this subject by unveiling various paths it has passed, legal mechanisms in place, hurdles and possible ways to go ahead.

Acknowledging the inherently complex nature of women's legal rights, this article will tackle the question by analyzing multiple facets of this topic, including historical, legal, social-cultural and theoretical viewpoints. It is anticipated that this comprehensive coverage will lead to a more detailed outlook on the questions at hand. It attempts to cast light on women's triumphs and shortcomings in the legal domain; which in turn aim at providing ameliorating suggestions, leading to mobilization efforts and social transformation initiatives.

² Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan, AIR 1997 SC 3011

³ Fundamental rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution of India, which includes rights such as equality before the law (Article 14), prohibition of discrimination (Article 15)

Briefly, this chapter lays the foundation for the later chapters of the dissertation by mentioning the primary themes, concepts, and inquiries that will be examined in depth. As the entry level it builds up for the readers a signpost that sites the intricacies of feminine legal rights in India and it drives home the relevance of dealing with them in the strive for gender equality and social equity.

Significance and Rationale for the Study

The substance and the significance of this research are validated with the urgent requirement of the comprehensive assessment of women's legal rights in India just during 78th year of the nation's independence. This implies that although there are sovereign acts on gender equality and also various legislations aimed at the betterment of women's rights, gender disparities and various barriers still impedes the later in their quest for justice and gender equality.

In the first place, we need to realize that the analysis of the role of women's laws in the context of the general improvement of the society is rooted in the idea that women's rights have strong intrinsic links with the sphere of public development. Women empowerment and gender equality are not just moral concerns but also none of three global development drivers which impact the economic growth and social harmony. Women enjoy equal rights and opportunities with everyone else is all important for the society to have both negotiating and inclusive development.

Further, as it stands, the rationale of the study emanates the realization of the persistent challenges and the complexities of the women's rights legal aspects in India. But although a great number of laws and policies for protection and emancipation of all women have been developed over the years, the female population, living across social, economic, and spatial lines, still face various kinds of the discrimination, violence, and marginalization. These issues underline the need of a well-reasoned query over existing legal frameworks, methods of enforcement and societal attitudes on women's rights.

In addition to that, the multi-timing of this research is also significant. Right now, the research is being conducted at the time when India is celebrating its 75th year of independence which is giving an opportunity to the nation to be able to reflect on the achievements, short coming and barriers, and create a plan for the future. Through a dusty deep dive into Indian women's legal rights, this research intends to generate pertinent documentation, ingenious points of view, and tangible suggestions that can be used in law, non-government organization, and other frameworks for gender equality and justice promotion for women.⁴

Based on the fact that our study can spark positive development through the revelation of difficulties, possibilities and different complexities involved regarding the status of women's legal rights in India, we can therefore state that the study can participate in the formation of a fair and equal society for everyone.

Research Questions and Objectives

The research questions and objectives formulated within this section are the contemplating directives, in which the study conditions, study methodologies, and study outcomes are properly controlled. The outline falls within the scope of the exploration on of the viability of women's legal claims in India through a comprehensive examination of historical, legal, socio-cultural, and theoretical concerns.

Research Questions:

- Historically, women's legal rights in India, were attained and developed from the pre-independent era to the present time.
- Which pivotal legislative reforms, striking law cases, and international impacts have built and reshaped the legal frame of women's rights in India?
- Which are the present legal regime that regulate women rights in India, comprising of constitutional stipulations, family legislations, and laws that prevent women from violence?

⁴ Supported by statutory enactments like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

- What are the norms of society and hegemony, and how do they intersect with the special cases that make it difficult for women to reach justice and equality in the law?
- What legality reforms make to (or have) women be empowered, why is the socioeconomic status of women important, and why are they (women) necessary (have agency)?
- What illustrate the emerging issues, obstacles and opportunities for the progressive devolvement of women's constitutional rights in India in general and from the perspective of the 78th anniversary of independence?

Research Objectives:

- Undertake a complete study of our laws and historical literature that analyses the journey of when women's legal rights were conferred in India from the age long past.
- Second, the central section of my essay will be the slideshow which will showcase some key legislative reforms, landmark cases, and international influences that have shaped the legal framework of women's rights in India.
- The analysis of the legal regulations on women's right in India, is by looking at what the constitution provides, family laws and protection against violence.
- The key to finding out socially-cultural norms, systemic barriers, and intersecting issues that women's access to justice and equality under the law, can be empowered.
- For evaluation purposes, the reform's impact on women's lives will be assessed which will incorporate women's empowerment, socio-economic issues, and agency.
- To unmask rising trends, impacts, and directions of furthering women legal rights in India; especially the implementation of targeted advice is the agenda. to develop policies, lead advocacy, and work for social change.

The formulation of research questions and objectives that I will use to guide my research, analysis, and interpretation of the findings will enable me to gain context by the end of the study, which will subsequently contribute to the production of nuanced knowledge on women's legal rights and guidelines for promoting gender equality and women empowerment in India.⁵

EVOLUTION OF WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS

Pre-Independence Era

The legality rights of women in pre-Indian independence were very complex scenery, all influenced with customary practices, religious laws as well as the regulations of the colonist. As women's legal status and rights could not be similar due to differentiating factors such as caste, class, religion, and region, intersectionality highlights the involvement of other types of social hierarchies in women discrimination and oppression.

The local customs having been shaped by the traditional laws and religious codes played a role in the patriarchal culture which was oppressive to the Indian people on a daily basis. If some communities were inclined to be egalitarian in their beliefs and customs, a lot more of them put in place policies which curbed women's freedom, featuring property rights and marital independence.

Colonial generation in India showed significant change through women's legal rights, despite its navigation at both ends. The British struck the legislative route while framing the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act of 1856⁶ and the Age of Consent Act of 1891⁷, aiming at improving a couple of aspects concerning gender equality and social reforms. Nevertheless, the reforms were not as comprehensive in their scope as they fell short of addressing the very structural characteristics that were wanted to be changed.

Another aspect of colonial rule is the fact that it enacted more patriarchal laws through acts like the Hindu Succession Act of 1956, which formalized personal laws within Hindu homes and which further discriminated against women in their rights to be part of inheritance and own property.

Despite these challenges, women's movements were also in operation during the pre-independence era as well as the social reforms aimed at empowering women, changing

⁵ National Policy for Women, 2016 and related initiatives by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

⁶ Legalized remarriage of Hindu widows; enacted under British rule in 1856

⁷ Raised the age of consent for girls from 10 to 12 years in colonial India.

outdated customs and were against traditions which were oppressing women. The pioneers from the 19th century like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Savitribai Phule have made significant contribution in promoting women's education, widows' remarriage, and abolishing discriminatory customs.⁸

Post-Independence Reforms

The phase of the post-independence in India experienced a different magnitude of progresses and statute law that is aimed at improving women's legal rights and efforts for gender equality. When the Constitution of India was implemented in 1950, the canon of equality, non-discrimination, and justice got mandatory rights, which in turn would reshape the legal landscape through systemic and deep transformation.

One of the developments which stand out in the era of post-independence was the passing of diverse legislative actions that were aimed at addressing the gender inequalities and discrimination. One example is Hindu Succession Act (1956), which introduced many reforms to Hindu law comprising daughters' right to inherit equal share in ancestral assets. This, therefore, implies a gradual shift from indistinct customs that aimed at the male heirs and helped more women not only to be in sound financial position but also capable of independent undertakings.

Secondly, the revelation of the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961⁹ which reveals the social ill of dowry thus, safeguarding women from harassment and exploitation in marriages. Mot MMF constituted as a significant measure that led to combating gender-based violence and discrimination within the family notwithstanding enforcement and implementation difficulties.

Specifically, there was a post-independence era during which many organizations and systems for women's rights promotion were established in terms of women's position in society. The National Commission for Women (NCW) started in 1992¹⁰ is the statutory body which is investigating and taking actions on gender biases, violence against women, and formation of women empowerment. Furthermore, the government implemented the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) and the Mahila Samakhya Program to

⁸ Social reformers of 19th-century India who championed women's education and rights.

⁹ The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, No. 28 of 1961, India Code

¹⁰ to safeguard and promote the rights and interests of women.

facilitate girls in getting an education, health care, and walking the path of economic prosperity.

Landmark Legislation and Cases

The shaping of legal rights of Indian women by the great laws and decisions reaffirmed judicial determination and modified the legal system as we know it. This part looks at some of the enactments of the legislature and of some of the decisions of the courts which have in many ways lead to the progress of women's rights in India.

Landmark Legislation:

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005¹¹: "Safe at Home Act" being the step stone in dealing with domestic violence it not only protected and supported women from physical, emotional and economic harm but also gave them the right to live in the so-called "safe haven". Its first achievement was in acknowledging various kinds of violence, which included physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse, and it then introduced the civil remedies like protection orders, residence orders and relief for the abused.

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961¹²: This Act was created to avoid a situation where working women were to be left without care during pregnancy and childbirth and was designed to give women the necessary leave, benefits and workplace accommodations. This made a compulsory paid leave of 12 weeks for a pregnant lady and it also forbade her employer to show dismissal or discrimination in relation to her pregnancy.

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace¹³ (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013: The scope of this law was therefore the address of sexual harassment in workplace, establishing of internal committees to report expressions of harassment and taking of measures by employer to address and redress the cases of harassment. In this, the issues of sexual harassment were addressed broadly and

¹¹ The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, No. 43 of 2005, India Code

¹² The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, No. 53 of 1961, India Code.

¹³ The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, No. 14 of 2013, India Code

it was observed that unwanted physical advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature come under the scope.

Significant Court Cases:

Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997): Therefore, the historic case of 'Vishaka v. the State of Rajasthan' was dealt with by the Indian Supreme Court. Procedures were introduced to be followed to address sexual harassment in the workplace which filled in a legislative gap, allowing women the ability to seek legal protection, when subjected to sexual harassment at the workplace. As the court said, sex-based harassment falls into the domain of fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution and employers hence, should construct complaints resolution mechanisms.

*Mary Roy v. State of Kerala*¹⁴ (1986): Here however, the court denounced the provisions of Indian Succession act which no longer favored the views of Christian women and had denied them equal rights to the ancestral property. The ruling opened the door for further improvement of the situation by recognizing the property right and equal status of women in terms of law, an important precursor of gender justice and legal reform.

IMPACT OF LEGAL REFORMS

Assessing Effectiveness

Establishing the potency of the legal reforms which are directed to the protection of women's rights is critical for the fact that one can understand the scope, the highlighted issues and possible approaches that may be further proposed in future. Here this part explores of some more dimensions of effectiveness and the outcomes of legal reforms in bringing gender justice in India.

Reduction in Gender-Based Violence: A key measure of the effectiveness of the reform is through whether it led to the reduction in the rate of gender-based violence

¹⁴ Mary Roy v. State of Kerala, AIR 1986 SC 1011

against women. The assessments must examine the rates of violence in its different forms, including domestic violence, harassment of women, compulsory deification violence, and trafficking of girls and women, and measure the effect of legal remedies such as amendments to the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and IPC, 1860.

Access to Justice: The assessment as to the legal reforms aimed to ensure that the women get justice should be made not only very carefully but it should be done on indicators such as the availability and accessibility of legal aid services, the responsiveness of the judiciary to women's cases and the timeliness and efficiency of those proceedings. The examinations should be directed toward determining how these variables contribute to or worsen the situation of women rights including legal knowledge, economic status, and cultural challenges.

Empowerment and Agency: To be effective, legal reforms can be measured by the degree to which they have assured women of their rights, have dissented discriminatory practice and have joined the women in decision making capacity. Reviewing the process should examine if women became more aware of their rights, possessed higher sense of themselves and they have chance to lead and participate in public life.

Socioeconomic Empowerment: Besides legal reforms, women may encounter certain socio-economic impacts related to her life such as better conditions associating to access to education, employment, healthcare and property rights. The Evaluations are built on assessing a shift in the main socio-economic indicators including: women's labor force participation rate, literacy level, and property ownership. The contribution of legal reforms to the mentioned outcomes will be also be taken into consideration.

EMPOWERMENT AND AGENCY

Women's emancipation and agency are two essential components of women's rights and must be treated as key indicators of the impactful ness of reforms in that area. The focus of this section is on how legal reforms through reinforcements prop up the women's position by making them able to claim their rights, take their own decision and have full participation in society.

Legal Awareness and Knowledge: Legal frameworks do acknowledge that women are aware of their rights and protections, thus having a key position in the increase of women's rights consciousness. The distribution of information on law looms is a Power base, and initiatives like legal literacy workshops, conscientization campaigns, and community based schemes enlighten women with the tools and knowledge they require to overcome the law and access safety services, as well as support their rights.

Decision-Making Autonomy: Law reforms which reflects women's decision-making authority and ensures their protection is elemental for women's emancipation. Such as the policies that the guardianship of women's property rights, inheritance rights, and rights within the marriage; they enable the women to make their own solutions. Thus, enhancing their positive agency and autonomy.

Access to Education and Employment: The legal reforms that address girl child education and providing equal employment opportunities will go along a way to help women rise socially and economically. Women can be exposed to more chances through affirmation action policies or anti-discrimination laws, gender-based in education and employment training which will encourage them to pursue their dream therefore contribute to the family and community.

Political Participation and Leadership: The legislative reforms that develop women political participation and leaderships are extremely important for improving the equality of gender participation, and the rights of women. Strategies like reserving seats for women in governmental institutions for instance, political parties, local authorities as well as legislative committees can be an effective instrument toward augmenting women's participation in decision-making process and providing them with the opportunity to take part in formulating policies and objectives that are of their interest.

Protection Against Violence: Legal improvements that are sure to help toward greater gender-based violence of these protections are important for empowering women to be equal and contribute to the community without fear. The crime of

domestic violence, sexual offenses, harassment, and trafficking along with the laws and policies that seek to rehabilitate survivors, halt the vicious cycle of violence, and protect women's right to safety and dignity through offering of the helpful services are the laws and policies¹⁵ that empower women to seek redressal, break the cycle of violence, and assert their right to safety and dignity.

Access to Justice and Redressal: The enablement of effective mechanisms in order to bring access to justice to women so that they can stand up for their rights is a must. Legal adjustment is among the reforms that improve access to legal aid, enhance the responsibility and sympathy of the judiciary for women's cases, and also make alternative dispute resolution mechanism possible for women to seek justice, challenge the impunity, and hold the perpetrators to be accountable.

Social and Cultural Empowerment: Legal reforms are the primary factor in dismantling patriarchal traditional values and customs that are the cause for the prevalence of gender inequality and have consequently restricted women's lives. Using instruments like legal acknowledgment, which safeguard the equality of gender, that play by customary practices prohibition of female gender genital mutilation and marriage of girls below 18 years, and adoption of gender sensitive cultural policies, women can advance and challenge the negative cultural practices that discriminate against their rights within their families and the community.

LESSONS LEARNED

The respective plight of girls and boys are being viewed where language used in literature, music and art express their similarities as well as differences. This passage touches upon some essential lessons from previous attempts as well as deliberations for what has worked and resulted in the advancement of women's rights in India.

Intersectionality and Diversity: Recognition of social complexity and differences among women across various social, economic, and cultural boundaries which leads to determining multiple needs and desires of women with different life experiences,

¹⁵ The National Commission for Women (NCW) protects women's rights to safety and dignity.

goals and priorities. Legal reforms must be intersectional in their approach with the aim to assist the cross-cutting forms of discrimination that the marginalized women experience, for example, the Dalit women, the tribal women in the community and the LGBTQ+ women from any group, not forgetting about the women with disabilities.

Participation and Inclusion: Substantive participation and gender inclusion in the justice reform of the country are paramount for achieving fairness in which women needs, perceptions and priorities are well represented.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Summary of Key Findings and Contributions

There has been the thorough depiction and analysis of women rights in India, the topics including the historical journals, legal frameworks, problems and battles, and the improvements. At the end of each chapter, the main points of the chapter and the contribution are being brought together as a whole in order to provide a complete report about the women's legal rights that exist in 78th year of independence.¹⁶

The analysis of the development of women's legal rights from its roots in the pre-independence struggle, to the post-independence reform, to enactment of the landmark legislation, and the role of international influence, showed clear examples of the milestones. Argues and discussions in the legal framework for women regulations revealed the gaps and problems existing in the areas of the gender-based discrimination, harassment, and inequality still being there to put an end to them.

Among the issues that were emphasized were the problems encountered by females when seeking for justice, economic opportunities, and social services. It was also known that gender inequality goes beyond women who are of the same background and contexts, thus intersectional approaches are needed for a successful treatment. Studies thoroughly investigated interventions with varied efficacy, research, and comparative perspectives which are summarized in a list of recommendations for political decisions and advocacy.

¹⁶ Women's legal rights refer to the laws and protections granted to women to ensure equality, safety, and justice in various aspects of life.

The work has addressed legal reforms' impact on women's empowerment, social status, and access to justice, as well as implementation difficulties and how to solve them. Implemented advocacy strategies, following the consideration of intersecting grounds, and creating policy recommendations for the advancement of gender equality and justice for all the women and girls in India.

Thus, this paper is a step toward the understanding of women's legal rights in India and demonstrates a route for further research, advocacy, and policymaking which is focused on helping in the eradication of gender inequality and attaining gender balance.

Reflections on the State of Women's Legal Rights in India

Reflecting on the state of women's legal rights in India, it is evident that significant progress has been made over the years, yet numerous challenges persist. While legislative reforms and judicial interventions have expanded legal protections for women and girls, gaps in implementation, enforcement, and access to justice remain prevalent.

Sociocultural norms, patriarchal attitudes, and systemic discrimination continue to perpetuate gender-based inequalities and violence against women. Despite constitutional guarantees and international commitments to gender equality, women in India still face barriers in areas such as education, employment, healthcare, and political participation. Intersectional factors such as caste, class, ethnicity, religion, and disability further compound the challenges faced by marginalized and vulnerable groups of women.

The legal framework for women's rights in India is complex and multifaceted, spanning constitutional provisions, family laws, protection against violence, employment rights, and access to justice. While significant strides have been made in legislating protections and advancing women's rights, gaps in implementation, enforcement, and access to justice persist.

Future Directions for Research, Advocacy, and Policy Development

As we look to the future, several key areas warrant attention in furthering research, advocacy, and policy development to advance women's legal rights in India¹⁷:

Intersectional Approaches: Future research should prioritize intersectional approaches that recognize and address the diverse needs, experiences, and vulnerabilities of women across different social, economic, and cultural contexts. This includes examining the intersecting impacts of gender with factors such as caste, class, ethnicity, religion, disability, and sexual orientation on women's access to rights and resources.

Empirical Research: There is a need for further empirical research to assess the effectiveness of legal reforms, interventions, and policies in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Longitudinal studies, impact evaluations, and qualitative research methods can provide valuable insights into the lived experiences of women and girls and inform evidence-based decision-making.

Capacity Building: Capacity-building initiatives should be prioritized to enhance the knowledge, skills, and resources of stakeholders working on women's rights issues. This includes training programs for policymakers, legal professionals, civil society organizations, and community leaders on gender-sensitive approaches, intersectionality, and human rights-based approaches to advancing women's legal rights.

Legal Literacy: Efforts to enhance legal literacy among women and girls should be intensified to empower them to assert their rights, access justice, and navigate legal systems effectively. Community-based legal awareness programs, paralegal services, and digital platforms can play a crucial role in increasing awareness of rights and legal remedies among marginalized and vulnerable populations. **Policy Advocacy**¹⁸: Campaigns should seek for regulatory reshaping, judicial

¹⁷ Policy development in India aims to advance women's legal rights by addressing gender inequality and promoting empowerment through legislative and social reforms.

¹⁸ Policy advocacy involves efforts to influence and promote changes in laws and policies to protect

reinforcement, and recognition of some prejudicial hurdles which are against women rights and gender equality. We shall, in line with the international instruments, supervise that laws are gender-sensitive, budgets are aligned to women's rights, institutions are accountable for women's rights in sectors that cut across health, education, employment, and governance.

Technology and Innovation: There is a need to maintain balance so that this issue does not become an avenue for fresh injustices to take place, or for laws and enforcement to be corrupted. Digital platforms, mobile apps and online resources can be used in broad to narrow geographies to deliver legal aid and counseling to the survivors of violence against women alongside other marginalized groups in far-flung and unserved areas.

Collaboration and Partnership: In the context of system-to-system transition, the involvement of governmental agencies, civil organizations, educational institutions, and private sector partners is a vital factor in making fundamental differences in women legal rights. Through the platforms, networks, and alliances, it is easier to borrow the experts, exchange knowledge, and coordinate action to solve the problems that are too complex to be handled by one person or organization. Gender equality helps with this process.

Concluding Remarks and Commitment to Gender Equality and Justice

In a nutshell it can be said that women's rights in Indian legal context has both demonstrated the milestone achievements and at the same sought ways through which gender equality and justice may be achieved. Despite the significant achievements in women's legal protection as well as their empowerment and the development of anti-discriminatory actions, numerous gaps and barriers continue to frustrate women's equal rights pursuit.

Looking through the lenses of research findings and recommendations, presented above, it is obvious that multi-channeled and sustained efforts should be announced to cope with the complicated conundrums women and girls are facing in India. Such

a feat becomes possible only when gender equality and social justice are promoted within the framework of various levels of society, including national government bodies, Civil Society Organizations, private sector networks, and communities.

We have no choice but to place secondary focus on a variety of women and girls' requirement, especially those who are located in critical positions and are disadvantaged or marginalized at the same time. This group of women includes women who come from the lowest caste, tribal, religious minority socio-political, lesbians, gays, bisexual, crossdressers, and women who live in the rural and remote part.

Henceforth, we need to intensify our endeavors in giving a lift to legal protections, enhancing access to justice, support gender responsive policies and programs and confront the patriarchal norms which put forward and guard gender based discrimination and eruption of violence. Whereas we in this regard should take interest in education, economic platforms, healthcare and social services that enable women and girls to be the most they possibly can so as to be able to take an active role in society.

Personally, and on a social scale, we all share our part in gender equity maintenance, human rights preservation, and justice delivered for the whole world population. With collective efforts of forming change through advocacy and accountability, we have the potential to create a future where all the women and girls in India can coexist in dignity, freedom, and equality as they deserve.