

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LEGAL EFFORTS IN SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

<sup>1</sup>Bijal Dave, <sup>2</sup>Dr Veena Dwivedi

<sup>1,2</sup> Researcher, Guide Gokul Global University, Sidhhapur

## ABSTRACT

The land of goddesses is found in India. Men love Durga and beg her for Shakti, for Laxmi to give them cash, and so on. In a country where women are revered, it is sad to talk about women's empowerment. Women's empowerment is a significant social phenomenon that requires a knowledge of its multiple effects, including those on family structures and units. Giving someone power and authority is the literal definition of women's empowerment. The position of women in society is being enhanced by increased income, skill development, and self-confidence. The enabling factors that support women's empowerment can be viewed as well. Women require domestic authority, participation in societal decision-making processes outside the home, and social status, position, and equity in order to achieve their goal. In this essay, a number of laws that affect women and provide them position in society and empowerment were examined from a social perspective.

**KEYWORDS-** Women Empowerment, Law, Sociological Perspective.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The role women play and can play in the world of development has been the main topic of discussion since the dawn of the third millennium. The past few centuries have witnessed significant advancements in the realms of economic and political empowerment for women. Many women in developing nations are far from enjoying the benefits of the development process despite their tireless efforts to ensure the sustainability of machinery. States were compelled to create road plans for women's empowerment and ensuring gender justice and equity by international policies, treaties, and legal enactments for women's empowerment. The nation's growth. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was passed into law in 1948, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Prejudice Against Women was ratified in 1979 in order to eliminate prejudice and give women equal opportunity to participate in society. The UNIFEM UN Development Fund for Women was established in 1985 as a separate entity under the United Nations Development Programme, and the Third UN Conference on Women, held in Nairobi in 1985, set policies for the advancement of women through the year 2000. The commitment of the international community to ensuring full implementation of women's and girl children's human rights was a major focus of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing in September 1995. The proclamation placed more emphasis on the advancement of women and their full involvement in society, decision making process and economy (Agarwal & Rao, 2004).

There are less than satisfactory achievements in virtually all-important human development indicators, despite the nation's commitments to women in the Constitution. Between 1991 and 2001, the literacy rates of all females increased from 39.3% to 54.3%, but much more needs to be done, especially for communities and regions that are socially and economically disadvantaged.

The proportion of women in the labor force, which measures economic empowerment, decreased by 3% (from 22.5% to 25.7%) between 1991 and 2001, according to the labor participation rate. The average wage gap between men and women widened in both rural and urban areas between 2000 and 2004.

The country's economy has undergone a paradigm shift that favors tech-dominated industries, rendering traditional ones like agriculture unprofitable and unprotected. As a consequence, poverty is becoming more and more prevalent among women. Regrettably, the average life expectancy for females in the years 1998-2002 was

62.2 between 1994 and 1998. 1991 3931991 437 1,00,000 live births; 2001 54.2 maternal mortality rate; 1998 4071991:927:191; 2001:933 HIV prevalence in 2002 among pregnant women aged 15 to 24.

.2004-05 20.38 Pay disparities between men and women in rural areas in 1999-2000: 15.83 2004-05 20.38 Pay disparities between men and women in rural areas in 1999-2000: 24.55 2004-05 31.23 Crimes against women (number: 1.28 lakh Another factor that keeps women in poverty is a lack of opportunities for alternative work, skill development, or access to credit in the society. Traditional patriarchal regimes contribute to maintaining women at the bottom of the social and economic ladder by denying them of their fundamental rights to land, assets, and other possessions and by placing a low value on their existence.

The high rate of female genital mutilation and child marriage is a result of these circumstances. The lack of suitable schools or health centers, drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities prevent a very substantial segment of women from using these amenities. This is a key reason why women still experience concerns including low literacy rates and health problems. The high frequency of MMR and IMR as well as her poor standing in society are caused by several legal, social, and economic initiatives for women.

There are a variety of reasons why women are becoming more vulnerable to violence and abuse. The lack of gender-sensitive officials and lax law enforcement are failing to stop the rise in violence against women. At the same time, women's extraordinarily low levels of understanding of their own rights contribute to the continuation of violence against them. Another significant factor that contributes to the continuing victimization or social exclusion of victimized women is the lack of sufficient rehabilitation and reintegration services.

## **2. INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, CONVENTIONS AND THE MDG**

A number of international agreements and human rights instruments have been ratified by India to guarantee equal rights for women. The ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1993 is a significant one of them. India has signed the convention with one reservation and two declaratory statements. Both declarations mention the union. While we agree with the principle of mandatory marriage registration, we have stated that failure to register a marriage at the same time will not render it invalid. This is in line with our policy of not interfering in the private affairs of any community without the initiative and consent of that community. In line with this policy, the provisions regarding marriage and familial bonds in article 16(1) will be observed. We did not agree to Article 29(1) of the Convention, which establishes compulsory arbitration or adjudication by the International Court of Justice of disputes concerning interpretation.

The Mexico Plan of Action (1975), Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcome Document of the UNGA Session on Gender Equality have been endorsed by India. Key issues that women should be concerned about are outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action. The obligations stated in the international accords are reflected in the Plan papers and National Policy for the Empowerment of Women. Eight Millennium Development Objectives (MDOs) were established in the Millennium Declaration, which was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Women empowerment and gender equality are encouraged, as well as improving maternal health. Despite the fact that only these two explicitly address gender issues, achieving gender equality is essential to achieving all of the MDGs, including those related to increasing access to safe water, lowering child mortality, reducing poverty and hunger, and protecting the environment.

Three elements that greatly influence the level of empowerment of women in the national hierarchy are their economic, social, and political identities, as well as their weight and age. The results and momentum created by the other factors cannot be maintained if efforts in even one of them are absent or insufficient, since they will not be able to withstand any changes or upheavals. Women feel empowered when all three issues are addressed simultaneously and worked together. Therefore, in order for a woman to attain full control, all the social, economic, and political elements that affect her life must successfully coexist.

## **3. WOMEN AND THE LAW**

Despite the existence of laws pertaining to women, their efficiency is not sufficient due to their ineffective execution and lack of public knowledge. The lack of adequate knowledge of these special laws and gender-sensitiveness in the legal system is a major contributor to this. As a result, it is crucial to prioritize training and capacity building for these stakeholders, not only to inform them about the complexities of the laws but also to

foster gender-sensitive attitudes within the system. Women need to be informed about the specific laws that safeguard their interests and rights. The spread of awareness is important for this goal.

The Indian Constitution's Articles 14, 15, and 16 recognize women's equality rights. In order to fulfil the promise of equality, Article 15(3) permits the state to take specific measures for women and children. In spite of various rules that are gender-specific, women's status in society is still undervalued. Women's experiences with discrimination and violence based on gender are examples of how women's position is undervalued. It is necessary to evaluate and strictly enforce regulations that have an impact on a woman's equality rights in order to find a long-lasting solution to gender-based violence. It is imperative to develop and put into effect laws that forbid gender discrimination in both the public and private spheres. As this procedure develops throughout the ensuing years,

#### **4. PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

The Indian Constitution recognizes women equal rights in any act of gender-based violence that causes or is likely to cause physical, sexual, or psychological injury or suffering to women is considered violence against women (VAW) Threats of such actions, coercion, and arbitrarily deprived liberty are all included. Violence against women is one of the most common ways that human rights are violated in the world today. While violence against women is a possibility for all women, it interacts with other social and identity-based elements like caste, religion, ethnicity, handicap, and sexual orientation in order to make some groups more vulnerable to certain forms of violence than others. As a result, depending on where you live, the kind of violence and how it manifests can be different. In order to address the issue of violence against women effectively, efforts are being made to improve the current legislation through evaluation and revisions as well as the creation of institutional procedures. Short Stay Homes, help lines for women in need, Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps, and designating one Fast Track Court in a district (where there are two) to handle only instances of violence against women are some of the support services available to victims of violence.

There are increased hiring of female police officers, female-only police stations, rape crisis intervention centers in police districts in several major cities, and women-only police cells. Additionally, initiatives are being taken to raise awareness within the judges, police, and civil administration. The number of crimes against women in the nation keeps rising despite these initiatives. The most recent figures from the National Crime Records Bureau show that there were 1.36 lakh cases of crimes against women in 1999, 1.44 lakh in 2001, and 1.51 lakh in 2005. These crimes included torture, molestation, rape, and sexual harassment. Deaths from dowry, reckless driving, and other issues. In 2004, torture and molestations accounted for 37.7% and 22.4% of all crimes against women. Rape, kidnapping, and abduction incidents came in at 11.8% and 10.1% 2.9% of rape victims were children under the age of ten. Since most cases are not reported because of the associated social stigma, the number would be higher. Out of the 71,620 cases that were scheduled for trial in 2004, 19.7% of them involved rape, and only 25.2% of those resulted in convictions.

#### **The NCR's Crime Counter Produces the Startling Figures of:**

- Every three minutes, a crime against women is committed.
- One sexual assault case every 15 minutes
- Every 29 minutes, a rape occurs
- One case of sexual harassment occurs every 53 minutes
- Every 77 minutes, a dowry death occurs.
- Every nine minutes, a case of cruelty to a spouse or relative occurs.

The Tenth Five-Year Plan outlined a comprehensive plan of action, encompassing both short- and long-term initiatives, both at the national and state levels, to address the issue of violence against women. To impose harsher penalties, the Indian Penal Code and other relevant laws should be amended. The issue of many types of violence against women in society was addressed by collaboration with NGOs during interventions. Violence against women is one of the most important concerns affecting women, added. Women in the nation face three issues: violence against women, economic empowerment of women, and women's health. Women will only be able to take part in India's democracy on a social, economic, and political level.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

### Few Women's Rights Clauses in The Constitution

The Indian Constitution recognized the value of women as a valuable human resource by giving the State the authority to take positive discriminatory measures in their favour and granting them equality. Several sections of the Constitution emphasized the importance of advancing women's economic status and safeguarding their political rights and participation in decision-making. All of the rights, commitments and safety nets included in the Indian Constitution for women have been translated from de jure to de facto status by the Government of India.

Article 14 - Equal rights and opportunities in the political, economic and social spheres for men and women.

- Under Article 15(1), discrimination against any citizen on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, etc. is prohibited.
- Special provision allowing the State to discriminate against women under Article 15(3)
- All people have equal access to possibilities for public posts, according to Article 16:
- Article 39 - The State shall direct its policy towards safeguarding all citizens equal rights to means of subsistence, including men and women.
- Article 39(d) guarantees equal compensation for comparable work for both genders. According to Article 42 of the Constitution, the State must offer fair and compassionate working conditions, including maternity leave.
- Section 51 (A) (e) prohibits conduct that violates a woman's dignity. Laws that affect women can be divided into the following categories:

The following are examples of offences against women, as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC): rape, including rape while in custody.

- Kidnapping, selling young women for prostitution, importing females for the purpose of prostitution, kidnapping or coercing a lady into marriage.
- Cruelty in the married home;
- Dowry deaths.
- Abusing a woman's modesty and molestation.

### Obscenity-related provisions and causing miscarriage.

- Social laws with specific gender-based provisions
- Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, Public Law 28 of 1961
- Act of 1979 to Modify Child Marriage Restraint
- Act of 2005 Protecting Women from Domestic Violence.
- Commission of Sati Prevention Act (1987), Section 3 of 1988
- The Indecent Representation of Women Act of 1986
- Act of 1956 to Prevent Immoral Traffic
- The Pregnancy and Prenatal Diagnostic Technique Act of 1994
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971
- Rules established by the Supreme Court for preventing sexual harassment at work. (1997)
- The 2005 Domestic Violence Against Women Protection Act
- 1976 Equal Remuneration Act
- The Maternity Benefit Act of 1961
- Act of 1990 creating the National Commission for Women
- The Commissions of Sati (Prevention) Act of 1987 and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act of 1986

### OTHER LAWS THAT AFFECT THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Labour laws include the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, the Contract labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1970, the Minimum Wages Act of 1948, the Factories Act of 1948, and the Workmen's compensation Act of 1923.

There are laws governing criminal and civil procedure, such as the Indian Evidence Act (1872), the Code of Criminal Procedure (1973), and the Code of Civil Procedure (1908)The 1987 Act establishing judicial authorities.

Maintenance and individual rights to marriage and property. Supreme Court rules requiring weddings to be registered.

To ensure that women have the same rights as men, the aforementioned rules must all be carefully implemented. The sections below are organized by theme.

### **LAWS RELATING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- Labour laws include the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1970, the Minimum Wages Act of 1948, the Factories Act of 1948, and the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923.

There are laws governing criminal and civil procedure, such as the Indian Evidence Act (1872), the Code of Criminal Procedure (1973), and the Code of Civil Procedure (1908) The 1987 Act establishing judicial authorities.

Maintenance and individual rights to marriage and property.

### **Wedding registration is required by the Supreme Court.**

**All of the above-mentioned guidelines must be followed to ensure that women enjoy the same rights as men. Below, you will find sections organized by theme**

### **DOWRY**

Between 2002 and 2004, the incidence of dowry deaths showed a mixed trend. The total number of cases registered has decreased from 6822 in 2002 to 6208 in 2003, and then to 7026 in 2004 (a 13.2% increase) In 2004, Uttar Pradesh saw the highest number of dowry-related deaths, followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The conviction rate for this offence in 2004 was 32.1, which was slightly higher than the average conviction rate for crimes against women under the IPC (29.3) There were 3592 instances reported under the Dowry Prohibition Act in 2004, up from 2816 in 2002 to 2684 in 2003 (-4.7% In 2004, Bihar had the most cases filed under this Act, followed by Orissa and Uttar Pradesh and Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. In comparison to the average conviction rate for SLL offences against women (70.66), this offence had a conviction rate of only 25 in 2004.

Even though there are laws prohibiting dowry, as well as sections in the IPC that address dowry fatalities and harassment caused by dowry, their execution has been poor. The department of women's and children's development, among others, has taken on additional duties related to the prohibition of dowry in numerous areas of the country. The police and other law enforcement agencies have displayed apathy when it comes to registering and looking into reports of dowry-related harassment and dowry fatalities. Protection against harassment related to dowry is included in the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005 The Dowry Prohibition Act requires modification to provide clarification for the current regulations.

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

It is possible that there are more rape instances being recorded now, which has led to an increase in the frequency of rape cases recently. Over the past five years, 12 percent of all crimes committed against women in the country involved rape. In 2004, the number of reported rape incidents jumped by 13.6% Since 2000, there has been a steady rise in crimes against women, according to a worrying statistic. Rape cases make up more than 10% of all crimes against women and were reported in 399 cases in 2003–2004, a 26.5 percent rise from the previous year. The age range of the victims shows that they were acquainted with the criminals and ranged in age from 18 to 30. 9 percent of the time, the father or perhaps other family members or close relatives were the actual culprits. More than three-quarters of the time, the criminals are neighbor's or other people the victims know.

### **CHILD MARRIAGE**

The practice of child marriage persists despite the passage of laws restricting and prohibiting it in India. Getting married young hurts a woman's growth, health, earning potential, and negotiating power in relationships. There are penalties for participating in or engaging in underage marriages stipulated by the Underage Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 A child marriage's validity is governed by the Special Marriages Act, or marriage guidelines that are specific to particular religious' groups. This is a social issue in India, so in addition to legal solutions, granting women equal rights can be helpful.

There are other crimes as well.

Sati, Bigamy, Molestation, Obscenity, Indecent Representation of Women, Kidnapping, Abduction, and Importation of Girls are gender-specific offences recognized by the IPC and individual legislation. State governments are in charge of certain aspects of the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of these offences. The needs of women who experience these particular types of abuse must be given special consideration by the criminal justice system.

#### **TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN**

There are numerous instances of forced and fraudulent human trafficking, but there is no reliable information. Trafficking and prostitution are often confused. The ILO, IOM, UNIFEM, and other organizations assert that, in addition to prostitution, other motives for trafficking include: entertainment, industry, forced labor, domestic labor, camel racing, illicit child adoption, bonded labor, forced marriage, drug trafficking, beggars, etc.

Due to poverty, a breakdown in the available means of survival, food insecurity, unemployment, debt, the frequency of disasters, and conflicts, the victims of such situations, especially women, have almost no options for surviving. Girls are also trafficked under the presence of marriage, and they are trafficked under the presence of marriage. Victims often find themselves unintentionally trapped in a life of sexual and physical abuse. Women who have been forced into prostitution are particularly vulnerable. They have little control over their income, in addition to the risks associated with pregnancy, abortion, maternal mortality, and STDs like HIV and AIDS. All individuals who traffic women for sex work and support themselves off of their earnings are subject to punishment under the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act of 1956.

#### **NATIONAL POLICIES FOR WOMEN**

The National Policy for Empowerment of Women seeks to advance, develop, and empower women in all facets of life by making the legal and judicial systems more responsive to women's needs and by mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout the development process. The creation of appropriate institutional frameworks, their enlargement, and the fulfillment of international obligations and commitments were some of the commitments. Empowerment of women in politics, academia, the workforce and the law is one of the fundamental principles of governance outlined by the current administration. It's got everything.

1. Women and Poverty
2. Education and training of women
3. Women and health
4. Violence against women
5. Women in armed conflict
6. Women and economy
7. Women in power and decision-making
8. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
9. Human rights and women
10. Women and media
11. Women and environment
12. Girl child.

#### **THE MAIN THRUST BEHIND THIS POLICIES ARE AS FOLLOW:**

- Sound economic and social policies can help women reach their full potential.

The equal enjoyment by women and men of all fundamental human rights and freedoms in all areas of political, economic, social, cultural, and civil life.

Women have equal access to health care, high-quality education, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal pay, occupational health and safety, social security, and public office, among other things.

Women's equal participation and decision-making in the nation's social, political, and economic life is guaranteed..

- Improving legislative frameworks in order to eradicate all forms of

- discrimination against women.

Cultural perceptions and local customs can be changed through active involvement of both men and women.

Gender perspectives should be included throughout all stages of development.

All types of violence against women and girls as well as prejudice should be abolished.

- Establishing and nurturing connections with organizations in the community, especially those that aid women.

### **COMMITMENT TOWARD THE WOMEN**

Women should be granted one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha.

- Domestic violence and gender-based discrimination legislation will be enacted.
- All funds going into panchayats would go to programs for the advancement of women and children.
- The associations of rural women will be urged to take on more responsibilities. • Clean water, proper sanitation, early childhood development, health, and nutrition are all development initiatives that are owned by the organization.
- Legal equality for women in all areas will become a reality, especially when discriminatory laws are repealed and new rules are passed that give women the same ownership rights to things like houses and land.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Funding should be allocated to support** protection officers, service providers, members of the judiciary, police, medical staff, counsellors, and lawyers with **education, awareness**, and capacity building.
- The Department should prioritize monitoring its implementation. It is important to establish a strong MIS. Funds should be set aside for this.
- The government and non-governmental organizations should take steps to promote social justice. The PWDVA is an organization. Awareness of the Act should be included in all significant government initiatives focusing on women.
- The current definition of dowry and the sanctions for the persons involved should be reviewed by reviewing the Dowry Prohibition Act.
- Allow the registration of a list of gifts given and received during a marriage, while registering it in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- Inform health care providers about the importance of preserving evidence in dowry-related deaths.
- Training and education on dowry-related violence against women and dowry-related deaths for members of the judiciary and law enforcement.  
The younger generation should be educated by drama, nuked Natak, and other media efforts.
- Revisions and discussions to the draft during consultations. The topics include marital rape, age of consent, question of consent, and simplification of procedural and evidence laws.
- It is possible to register a list of gifts given and received during a marriage in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- Funds must be set aside to educate the legal system, the court, and the medical sectors after the measures are enacted.
- The application of many laws is a major barrier to ensuring that women receive justice.
- A different attorney should be used to represent the victim than the police prosecutor.
  
- It is possible to register a list of gifts given and received during a marriage in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- The minimum age for a minor is 18, so make sure they get special treatment.
- Ending Sati's resurgence and subsequent veneration is crucial. It is essential to implement the Commission of Sati Prevention Act rigorously.
- To effectively combat trafficking by giving women options for a livelihood, focus on the entry point where traffickers begin selling and buying people.
- To combat trafficking and forced migration, interregional networks are necessary to establish interregional networks.

- There is a critical need for education at all societal, communal, and governmental levels to create livelihood possibilities that would reduce the vulnerability of women and children. On-going training programs for police, judiciary and other government personnel involved in the prevention of trafficking must be developed.
  - The formulation of a relief/rehabilitation policy requires extensive consultations with diverse parties.
  - Every state must establish special courts for cases involving human trafficking. The processes in these courts also must be time-limited.
  - Protective home staff must have specialized training and be sensitized. Victims shouldn't be made to return to their houses. Follow up is important if they return to make sure they are safe. For effective psycho-socio reintegration and rehabilitation, the victim should have access to continuity of treatment for at least three years following rescue.
  - Establishing witness prosecution programs.
  - Special development initiatives should be developed for the regions where the majority of women come from since poverty is a major contributor to a person's susceptibility to human trafficking. Many women and girls are trafficked from which large numbers of women and girls are trafficked.
  - The law on the prevention of intergroup violence must address sexual violence in times of war. Organizations dedicated to human rights and humanitarian causes, as well as women's organizations, shall be consulted throughout the creation of such laws.
  - A package on conflict resolution techniques from a women's perspective could be prepared and made available to groups, government agencies, etc. working in these areas. Instant relief, rehabilitation, and long-term solutions can be achieved with these norms and guidelines. With the assistance of teams and professionals with relevant experience, such a package can be created.
- 
- Women should be encouraged to participate in talks, peacekeeping and conflict resolution by the government. Consultations should be encouraged to increase confidence in the area.
  - Special resource allocation should be made for legal awareness in these places.
  - Since there is limited data or information available in this area, studies could be requested from organizations and researchers with appropriate expertise to gain a true picture of the situation on the ground.
  - These places often have a lot of widows or households headed by women, often as a result of gang violence or the exodus of men, so it's important to take specific steps to help them.
  - Recognize that domestic abuse is pervasive and systematic in both conflict and post-conflict settings, and that humanitarian, legal, and security responses as well as training in emergency situations should address this issue. Women should be encouraged to participate in talks, peacekeeping and conflict resolution by the government. Consultations should be encouraged to increase confidence in the area.
  - Special resource allocation should be made for legal awareness in these places.
  - Since there is limited data or information available in this area, studies could be requested from organizations and researchers with appropriate expertise to gain a true picture of the situation on the ground.
  - These places often have a lot of widows or households headed by women, often as a result of gang violence or the exodus of men, so it's important to take specific steps to help them.
  - Recognize that domestic abuse is pervasive and systematic in both conflict and post-conflict settings, and that humanitarian, legal, and security responses as well as training in emergency situations should address this issue.
  - Sanctions that are specifically directed at girl and woman trafficking. The trafficking of women and girls into or through conflict zones requires that those responsible be brought to justice. In times of conflict, the current trafficking rules must be followed, and national legislation should make trafficking a crime with severe penalties. Trafficking victims ought to be shielded from legal action.

#### REFERENCES

1. Agarwal, Rashmi & Rao, B.V.L.N. (2004) *Gender Issues: A Road Map to Empowerment*, Shipra Publications, New Delhi.
2. ADB 2001 *Legal empowerment: Advancing good governance and poverty reduction*. Overview Report RETA 5856, Manila, Asian Development Bank.
3. Asthana S 1996. *Women's health and women's empowerment locality perspective* Health and Place, 2(1): 1-13.

4. Chandrasekhar, H.M. & Lokesh, M.U. (2009). Role of SHGs in Socio-economic change of vulnerable poor. *International NGO Journal*. 4 (4), 127-131. Census of India, 2001
5. Dube S C 1988. *Modernization and Development – The Search for Alternative Paradigms* London: Zed Books Ltd.
6. Incidence of Cognizable Crimes (IPC) Under Different Crime Heads Durin1993 to 2004”, National Crimes Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs (1997)6 SCC 247
7. Human Development Report, 1997, U.N.D.P.GOI (2002): Tenth Five Year plan 2002-2007, New Delhi
8. Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen. (2002) *India: Development and Participation*; New Delhi, Oxford University Press.
9. Jytsna Jha and Dhir Jhingran: *Elementary Education for the Poorest and Other Deprived Groups – the Real Challenge of Universalisation*, Manohar, New Delhi 2005
10. Fahimi Roudi Farzaneh (2006), ‘Gender and Equity in Access to Health Care Services in the Middle East and North Africa; Population Reference Bureau; www.prb.org/anch,2006gender and equity
11. Government of India 200 *Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-2007*.
12. Heise L, Garcia-Moreno C. Intimate partner violence. In Krug et al., eds. *World report on violence and health*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.
13. Incidence of Cognizable Crimes (IPC) Under Different Crime Heads During1993 to 2004”, National Crimes Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs (1997) 6 SCC 247
14. Mitra A, Singh P. Human capital attainment and gender empowerment: The Kerala paradox. *Social Science Quarterly*, 2007, 88:1227–1242.
15. Maternal mortality in 2000: Estimates developed by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA
16. Narayan, D. 2002. *Empowerment and Poverty Reduction: A Sourcebook*. Washington DC: World Bank.
17. *Violence against women. Fact sheet No. 239*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2008 who.int/media centre/factsheets/fs239/en/print. Html, accessed 5 February 2009).
18. Sarkar NN. The impact of intimate partner violence on women’s reproductive health and pregnancy outcome. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 2008, 28:266–71.
19. Census of India, 2001
20. National Family Health Survey I, 1989- 1999
21. “Maternal mortality in 2000: Estimates developed by WHOM, UNICEF and UNFPA
22. NPP: Small Family Norm and Sex Selection” A.R. Nanda, Executive Director PFI Paper Presented at the Seminar on the New Paradigm of Development and the
23. Renan Jhabvala and Shalini Sinha “Women and Work”, prepared for Human Development Resource Centre, UNDP, India (2005), mimeo
24. Renan Jhabvala and Shalini Sinha “Women and Work”, prepared for Human Development Resource Centre, UNDP, India (2005),
25. Sex Selection, Organized by the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library at TeenMurti Bhavan, New Delhi August 6-7 2004
26. Robeyns Ingrid (2006), ‘Sen’s Capability Approach and Gender Inequality, Selecting Relevant Capabilities’, in Agarwal Humphries and Robeyns (eds) , *Capabilities Freedom and Equality Amartya Sen’s Work from a Gender Perspective*; pp: 72-98
27. Sen. Amartya (1984), *Resources, Values and Development*, OUP, New Delhi
28. “Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept.” Connell, R.W. and James W. Messerschmidt. 2005. *Gender & Society* 19:829-59.
29. UNDP data 1990 and 2001 UNDP data 2002.
30. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (1990, 1995): *Human Development Report*, OUP; Oxford United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Sep. 2006, News Release.
31. UNDP (1997): *Governance for Sustainable Development*, New York, United Nations Development Programme
32. World Bank. 2007. *“Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project, Implementation Completion and Results Report.”*.
33. World Bank (1992): *Governance and Development*, Washington DC, World Bank.