

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

Dr. D. V. Srilakshmi

Assistant Professor in Law,
Mahatma Gandhi Law College,
Osmania University, Hyderabad
Email: dantusrilakshmiphd@gmail.com
Mobile: 9121797142

Abstract

Violence against women in India refers to physical or sexual violence committed against Indian women, typically by a man. Common forms of violence against women in India include acts such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, and murder. Crime against women such as rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, honour killings, and the forced prostitution of young girls has been reported in India. Police records in India show a high incidence of crimes against women. The survey itself has been criticized for bias. Women belonging to any class, caste, creed or religion can be victims of this cruel form of violence and disfigurement. In India, domestic violence toward women is considered as any type of abuse that can be considered a threat; it can also be physical, psychological, or sexual abuse to any current or former partner. In 1961, the Government of India passed the Dowry Prohibition Act making dowry demands in wedding arrangements illegal. However, many cases of dowry-related domestic violence, suicides and murders have been reported. From 1980s, till today numerous such cases were reported.

Keywords: Violence against women in India, sexual assault, dowry deaths, Acid attacks, child marriages, Domestic violence in India.

INTRODUCTION

Women rights are human rights. Millions of women around the world face discrimination and abuse just because they are women. Every woman deserves the rights to realize and enjoy her freedom and potential, and is equally entitled to personal freedoms, from the right of personal security to the right to determine freely the number and spacing of the children they bear. However, due to gender-based discrimination and inequities that remains so common around the world, many women are not given the proper education or care they need, their experiences go unnoticed, unheard, they are being forced into prostitution, and their lives are threatened by violence, including violence in their own homes. Cyber-crime and victimization of women are on the high and it poses a major threat to the security of women. However, women constitute 50% of the world population and the development of every country is impossible if women and their rights are ignored.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know about the status of women in India
- To know the violence against women in India

WOMEN RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. In 1970s the global feminist movement started changing the world. The engagement of women with transnational processes resulted in transforming conventional human rights theory and practice (as violations were perpetuated mainly by state actors in the public sphere), as well as in changing State doctrine to include positive responsibility. Important steps towards the realisation of women's and girls' rights were made at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994, the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, and the so-called Beijing +5 conference (ainlingat five-year review of the Beijing conference) in New York in 2000. The United Nations recognised that women and girls also have human rights in early 1990s. The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1980 ensures that all women have the right to equal opportunities in political and public life, including the right to vote, education, health: care and employment. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), 1993 recognizes violence against women as an obstacle to equality, development, and peace.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

“Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women” However, some national violence studies show that up to 70 per cent of women have experienced physical and or sexual violence in their lifetime from an intimate partner.

MEANING OF VIOLENCE

The term violence refers to any physical force for or any damage or injury to person or property. **Oxford Dictionary defines:** “Violence as behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt, damage or kill someone or something”.

WHO defines Violence: “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal development, or deprivation”.

Three pieces of legislation that address women’s rights violations throughout India are: 1) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; 2) Prohibition of Child Marriage Act; and 3) Pre conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act. However, there is alarming rise in violence against women in India.

The human rights of Indian women are violated every day. The recent past have seen Indians protesting throughout the country on a series of highly-publicized rape and murder cases involving young female victims. The shameful Delhi rape incident in December 2012 provided testimony to the state of affairs. Mumbai is also the city where a 20-year-old Nepali woman was gang-raped by three men on 22 December, and a 15-year-old physically challenged girl was raped by her father in the supposed safety of her own home. Assaults on women’s dignities in India take place daily. According to the Indian National Crime Bureau, 24,206 cases of rape were reported in 2011 or one every 21 minutes, and 26 percent of these cases resulted in conviction. . According to government estimates, almost every 20 minutes, a woman is raped in India. In New Delhi, dubbed the “rape capital of India,” the incidence of rape rose from 572 in 2011 to 661 so far in 2012. We need to remember that rape is just one of so many crimes/violence against women. According to National Crime Report Bureau, 1.5 lakh crimes against women are registered annually out of which nearly 50,000 are related to domestic violence in their homes.

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

Crimes against women in India includes rape, sexual assault, insult to modesty, kidnapping, and abduction, cruelty by intimate partner or relatives, trafficking, persecution for dowry, dowry deaths, indecency, and all other crimes listed in Indian Penal Code Crime against women such as rape, acid throwing, dowry killings, honour killings, and the forced prostitution of young girls has been reported in India. Police records in India show a high incidence of crimes against women. The National Crime Records Bureau reported in 1998 that by 2010 growth in the rate of crimes against women would exceed the population growth rate. Earlier, many crimes against women were not reported to police due to the social stigma attached to rape and molestation. Official statistics show a dramatic increase in the number of reported crimes against women.

ACID THROWING

A Thomas Reuters Foundation survey says that India is the fourth most dangerous place in the world for women to live in. The survey itself has been criticized for bias. Women belonging to any class, caste, creed or religion can be victims of this cruel form of violence and disfigurement, a premeditated crime intended to kill or maim permanently and act as a lesson to put a woman in her place. In India, acid attacks on women who dared to refuse a man’s proposal of marriage or asked for a divorce are a form of revenge. Acid is cheap, easily available, and the quickest way to destroy a woman’s life. The number of acid attacks has been rising.

Acid throwing is the act of throwing acid or an alternative corrosive substance onto a person's body “with the intention to disfigure, maim, torture, or kill.” Acid attacks are usually directed at a victim's face which burns the skin causing damage and often exposing or dissolving bone. Sulfuric acid and nitric acid are most commonly used for acid attacks. Hydrochloric acid is also used, but is less damaging. Acid attacks can lead to permanent scarring, blindness, as well as social, psychological and economic difficulties. The Indian legislature has now regulated the sale of acid. Compared to women throughout the world, women in India are at a higher risk of being victims of acid attacks. At least 72% of reported acid attacks in India have involved women. India has been experiencing an increasing trend of acid attacks over the past decade.

Scholars believe that acid attacks in India are being under-reported. 34% of acid attacks in India have been determined to be related to rejection of marriage or refusal by women of sexual advances. 20% of acid attacks have been determined to be related to land, property, and/or business disputes. Acid attacks related to marriage are often spurred by dowry disagreements.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage has been traditionally prevalent in India but is not so continued in Modern India to this day. Historically, child brides would live with their parents until they reached puberty. In the past, child widows were condemned to a life of great agony, shaved heads, living in isolation, and being shunned by society. Although child marriage was outlawed in 1860, However, child marriages are still prevalent in the country at a significant rate. The prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929. The prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021 increases the minimum age of marriage for females to 21 years, bringing it on par with that for males)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

'Domestic violence is violent victimization of women within the boundaries of family, usually by men. Domestic violence is in a majority of cases violence against women by the members of house where she resides. It can be the husband, his parents, or siblings or any other resident who has the overt or covert latitude for actions that can cause physical or mental agonies to women...it happens behind closed doors and is most often denied by the very women who has been victim of violence.'

Term " Domestic Violence against women" means any act or conduct which has potential to injure or hurt women physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and also spiritually within the four walls of house, however, such an act or conduct is done usually not by strangers.

FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

a) Physical Abuse:

1. Pushed or shoved you
2. Held you to keep you from leaving
3. Slapped or beaten you
4. Kicked or choked you
5. Hit or punched you
6. Thrown objects at you
7. Locked you out of the house
8. Abandoned you in dangerous places
9. Refused to help you when you were sick, injured or pregnant
10. Forced you off the road or driven recklessly
11. Threatened to hurt you with a weapon.

b) Sexual Abuse:

1. Minimized the importance of your feelings about sex
2. Criticized you sexually
3. Insisted on unwanted or uncomfortable touching
4. Withheld sex and affection
5. Forced sex after physical abuse or when you were sick
6. Raped you
7. Been jealously angry, assuming you would have sex with
8. Anyone insisted that you dress in a more sexual way than you wanted.

C) Psychological Abuse:

Psychological abuse which includes behaviour that is intended to intimidate and persecute, and takes the form of threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation.

D) Economic Abuse:

Economic abuse includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment, etc.

E) Emotional Abuse:

1. Continually criticized you called you names or shouted at
2. You insulted or driven away your friends or family
3. Humiliated you in private or public
4. Kept you from working, controlled your money or made all
5. The decisions refused to work or to share money
6. Taken car keys or money from you
7. Regularly threatened to leave or told you to leave
8. Threatened to kidnap the children when the abuser was angry
9. With you abused pets to hurt you
10. Manipulated you with lies and contradictions.

INDIVIDUAL BASED VIOLENCE:

It is found that aged women and girl child particularly vulnerable to domestic violence. The condition of women in the families is undoubtedly still quite precarious. Unmarried girls, unwanted in their father's homes could also experience violence.

- a) Violence against Girl Child, (Unmarried Women)
- b) Violence Against Married Women
- c) Violence Against Aged Women.
- d) Following are the causes which carry on domestic violence:
 - i) Cultural ii) Economic iii) Legal iv) Political.

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT, 2005

At present, where a woman is subjected to cruelty by her husband or his relatives, it is a crime under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. As a result of that, a law is proposed keeping in view the rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution to grant for a remedy under the civil law which is intended to protect the women from being sufferers of domestic violence and to prevent the incidence of domestic violence in the society.

“Any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence when it harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security; or has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct; or otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person.

Refusal to pay any sum of money for whatsoever reason will attract the provisions of this law. Non-payment of rent related to the shared household will also constitute an economic abuse even if the husband himself is devoid of sufficient resources or even if he is in jail. No doubt that the Act is landmark legislation in the Indian history and people of India welcomed the same with great enthusiasm yet, there is an apprehension in the minds of the people about the misuse of the Act against the innocent husband and his family members. It definitely cannot be said in general that the troubles and tortures of all kinds and differences always arises from the side of the husband and the in-laws. The wedded woman cannot be said to be just and fair in all cases. This Act is being misused in a number of cases where it is used as a weapon by the wives and their paternal relatives to put an innocent husband and their relatives to unnecessary harassment. Hence before going to apply the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the concerned parties and authorities should think about the consequences of the application, so that innocent persons and their families are not put to unnecessary harassment.

DOWRY

In 1961, the Government of India passed the Dowry Prohibition Act making dowry demands in wedding arrangements illegal. However, many cases of dowry- related domestic violence, suicides and murders have been reported. In the 1980s, numerous such cases were reported.

In 1985, the Dowry Prohibition (maintenance of lists of presents to the bride and bridegroom) Rules were framed. According to these rules, a signed list should be maintained of presents given at the time of the marriage to the bride and the bridegroom. The list should contain a brief description of each present, its approximate value, the name of who has given the present, and relationship to the recipient. However, such rules are rarely enforced.

FEMALE INFANTICIDE AND SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION

In India, the male-female sex ratio is skewed dramatically in favour of men, the chief reason being the high number of women who die before reaching adulthood. Tribal societies in India have a less skewed sex ratio than other caste groups. This is in spite of the fact that tribal communities have far lower income levels, lower literacy rates, and less adequate health facilities. Many experts suggest the higher number of men in India can be attributed to female infanticides and sex-selective abortions. The sex ratio is particularly bad in the north-western area of the country, particularly in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.

Ultrasound scanning constitutes a major leap forward in providing for the care of mother and baby, and with scanners becoming portable, these advantages have spread to rural populations. However, ultrasound scans often reveal the sex of the baby, allowing pregnant women to decide to abort female fetuses and try again later for a male child. This practice is usually considered the main reason for the change in the ratio of male to female children being born. In 1994 the Indian government enacted the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act. of 1994, which prohibits sex selection and regulates pre natal diagnostic techniques to prevent

their misuse. If a person is found guilty of killing a female foetus, he/she may be punished for a maximum of 3 years imprisonment and a penalty upto Rs. 50,000 under the Act. Apart from the above, prevention of female infanticide Act 2019 also enacted by the Central Government.

RAPE

Rape in India has been described by Radha Kumar as one of India's most common crimes against women and by the UN's human-rights chief as a "national problem". Since the 1980s, women's rights groups lobbied for marital rape to be declared unlawful, but the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 still maintains the marital exemption by stating in its exception clause under Section 375, that: "Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape". While per-capita reported incidents are quite low compared to other countries, even developed countries a new case is reported every 20 minutes. New Delhi has one of the highest rate of rape-reports among Indian cities. Rape is one of the most common crimes against women in India. Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 defines rape as penile and non-penile penetration in bodily orifices of a woman by a man, without the consent of the woman. In India, a woman is raped every 29 minutes. Victims of rape are increasingly reporting their rapes and confronting the perpetrators. Although women are increasing their exposure to sexual harassment by leaving the home more often, they are becoming more independent. Women are becoming more independent and educated, which is increasing their likelihood to report their rape. Although rapes are becoming more frequently reported, many go unreported or have the complaint files withdrawn due to the perception of family honour being compromised. Women frequently do not receive justice for their rapes, because police often do not give a fair hearing, and/or medical evidence is often unrecorded which makes it easy for offenders to get away with their crimes under the current laws. Increased attention in the media and awareness among both Indians and the outside world is both bringing attention to the issue of rape in India and helping empower women to report the crime. After international news reported the gang rape of a 23 year old student on a moving bus that occurred in Delhi, in December 2012, Delhi experienced a significant increase in reported rapes. The number of reported rapes nearly doubled from 143 reported in January–March 2012 to 359 during the three months after the rape. After the Delhi rape case, Indian media has committed to report each and every rape case

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND EVE TEASING

Eve teasing is a euphemism used for sexual harassment or molestation of women by men. Many activists blame the rising incidents of sexual harassment against women on the influence of "Western culture". In 1987, The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act was passed to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings or in any other manner. Of the total number of crimes against women reported in 1990, half related to molestation and harassment in the workplace. In 1997, in a landmark judgment Supreme Court of India took a strong stand against sexual harassment of women in the workplace. The Court also laid down detailed guidelines for prevention and redressal of grievances. The National Commission for Women subsequently elaborated these guidelines into a Code of Conduct for employers. In 2013 India's top court investigated on a law graduate's allegation that she was sexually harassed by a recently retired Supreme Court judge. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act came into force in December 2013, to prevent Harassment of women at workplace.

WOMEN'S SAFETY LAWS

1. Guardians & Wards Act, 1890
2. Indian Penal Code, 1860
3. Christian Marriage Act, 1872
4. Indian Evidence Act, 1872
5. Married Women's Property Act, 1874
6. Workmen's compensation Act, 1923
7. Indian Successions Act, 1925
8. Immoral Traffic (prevention) Act, 1956
9. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
10. Commission of Sati(Prevention) Act, 1987
11. Cinematograph Act, 1952
12. Births, Deaths & Marriages Registration Act, 1886
13. Minimum Wages Act, 1948
14. Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
15. Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929
16. Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application, 1937
17. Indecent Representation of Women(Prevention) Act, 1986
18. Special Marriage Act, 1954

19. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
20. Hindu Successions Act, 1956
21. Foreign Marriage Act, 1969
22. Family Courts Act, 1984
23. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
24. Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956
25. Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
26. Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971
27. National Commission for Women Act, 1990
28. The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994
29. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
30. Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013
31. Indian Divorce Act, 1969
32. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
33. Hindu Widows Remarriage Act, 1856
34. Muslim women (protection of rights on divorce) Act, 1986

Violence against women is gross violation of human rights of women which is a major issue of debate. The violation of women's fundamental rights through physical, mental, emotional, and sexual violence against women has become almost commonplace in the Indian context. In India the common violence against women are domestic violence, slavery in the form of domestic workers, exploitation, forced prostitution, sexual harassment including rape and sexual assault, female foeticide and infanticide. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, once told, 'Our women have more rights than women of other countries, but there are large areas wherein women are suffering, why may be, they are not conscious of their right.

CONCLUSION

The society is under the impression of age-old dogma that woman is inferior to man. Religion is wrongly interpreted and women are at the receiving end not from today but from earlier ages. To some extent media is also responsible for contributing to all the above forms of violence. The exaggerated news coverage of reports of domestic violence, the daily soaps screening the torture of a daughter-in-law at the hands of family members, the films portraying an element of violence against people of all age groups etc. are some of the menaces which media is causing. It is influencing the mindset of the viewers strongly. The problem arises when instead of taking a lesson from those news clippings, films, and television shows, people start enacting the same in their homes. Comparatively, the visual media is far more influencing than the print and electronic media in these cases. Illiteracy and mob mentality of majority of Indians misguides them in all these cases. Some of the basic human rights such as right to equality, right to education, right to live with dignity, right to liberty, right to politics, right to property, right to equal opportunity for employment, right to free choice of profession, right to livelihood right to work in equitable condition, right to get equal wages for equal work, right to protection from gender discrimination, right to social protection in the eventuality of retirement, old age and sickness, right to protection from inhuman treatment. Being a human the women also have the above mentioned human rights at par with men.

REFERENCES

- [1] The meaning of it is; where women are respected god lives there and where they are disrespected there everything becomes void.
- [2] Dr. Devinder Singh, Human Rights Women and Law, 2005, Allahabad Law Agency, Faridabad, p. 5.
- [3] Ibid.
- [4] M. K. Gandhi, Speeches and Writings. G. A. Natesan & Company, Madras, 1933. Cited in Report of the Committee to Amend Criminal Law, 2013, P.5.
- [5] Dr. Arun Kumar Singh, 'Gender Inequality and Law: An Analysis in Indian Perspective', Gender Justice and Women Empowerment (edited by S.K. Singh), New Delhi, Radha Publication, pp. 173-203.
- [6] Katarina Tomasevski 'Women's Right' cited in Janusz Symonides, Human Rights Concept and Stand'irds 2002, New Delhi, Rawat Publication, p. 232.
- [7] Mamta Rae, Law Relating to Women and Childrefl,2005, Lucknow, Eastern Book Company, p. 40.
- [8] Christine Bell, 'Women's Rights as Human Rights: Old Agenda in New Guses' cited in Angell Flegarty and Sheobhan Leonord Human Rights An Agenda for the 21st Century London, 1999, London, Cavendish Publication Ltd., p.14i.
- [9] General Assembly Resolution No.48/104, U.N. Declaration No A/48/49.
- [10] Justice Verma Committee Report on Amendment to Criminal Law,2013, p.119.

- [11] Rashmi Oza 'Human Right Education and Discrimination Issue', in Ranbir Singh, Human Right Education Law and Society, 2004, Hyderabad, Nalsaar University, p. 72.
- [12] Dr. Krishna Chandra Jena, 'Violence Against Women A Human Right Violation' in Human Right Education Law and Society, 2004, Hyderabad, Naisar University, p. 91
- [13] Dr. Krishna Chandra Jena, 'Violence Against Women A Human Right Violation' in Human Right Education Law and Society, 2004, Hyderabad, Naisar University, p. 91
- [14] Mjnisha Jam 'Slowroad to Succor for Abused Women' in The Telegraph, Guwahati, 29th November, 2006 p. 11.
- [15] Law Commission of India 172nd Report 2000 see also Arun Kumar Singh Human rights and crime victims right to compensation 'in IJJPL Vol 12007 p.89.
- [16] Dr. Arun Kumar Singh, 'Offence of Rape and Relevancy of Consent: An Analysis with Special Reference to India', Indian Journal of Human Rights and the Law, Vol.7 (2010), pp. 2 1-28.
- [17] Francis Coralie Mullin v Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi, AIR 1981 SC 746
- [18] Dr. Arun Kumar Singh, 'A Socio-legal Discourse in Rights of Muslim Women in India, Vidhik Chetana, Volume 5, Dec. 2012, pp. 45-54.
- [19] Durga Das Basu, Commentary on Constitutional Law of India, 2008, Butterworth, Wadhwa, Nagpur, 3402.
- [20] "Gender Inequality Index". United Nations Development Programme. Retrieved 2 October 2018.
- [21] The Global Gender Gap Report 2018" (PDF). World Economic Forum. pp. 10—11.
- [22] Rajya Sabha passes Women's Reservation Bill". The Hindu.Chennai, India. 10 March 2010. Retrieved 25 August 2010.
- [23] Jump up to: a b C Dyson, Tim (2018), A Population History of India: From the First Modern People to the Present Day, Oxford University Press, p. 20, ISBN 978-0-19-882905-8
- [24] Stein, Burton (2010), A History of India, John Wiley & Sons, pp. 90— ISBN 978-1-4443-2351-1
- [25] Ramusack, Barbara N. (1999), "Women in South Asia", in Barbara N. Ramusack, Sharon L. Sievers (ed.), Women in Asia: Restoring Women to History, Indiana University Press, pp. 27—29, ISBN 0-253-21267
- [26] Ludden, David (2013), India and South Asia: A Short History, Oneworld Publications, p. 101, ISBN 978-1-78074-108-6
- [27] Parihar, Lalita Dhar (2011). Women and law: from impoverishment to empowerment. Lucknow: Eastern Book Company. ISBN 9789350280591.
- [28] Rao, Mamta (2008). Law relating to women and children (3rd ed.).Lucknow: Eastern Book Co. ISBN 9788170121329. ...women and the protection provided under various criminal, personal and labour laws in India
- [29] Narayan, Jitendra; John, Denny; Ramadas, Nirupama (2018). "Malnutrition in India: status and government initiatives". Journal of Public Health Policy. 40 (1): 126—141. doi: 10. 1057/s41271-018-0149- 5. ISSN 0197-5897. PMID 30353132.
- [30] India + Rape and Sexual Assault, Guardian, retrieved 15 August 2019
- [31] Nelasco, Shobana (2010). Status of women in India. New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications. p. 11. ISBN 9788184502466.
- [32] Kamat, Jyotsana (19 December 2006). "Gandhi and status of women (blog)". kamat.com. Kamat's Potpourri. Retrieved 24 December 2006.
- [33] "Oxford University's famous south Asian graduates (Indira Gandhi)". BBC News. 5 May 2010.
- [34] "Women related law:- All compiled — Into Legal World". Into Legal World. Archived from the original on 7 December 2017. Retrieved 7 December 2017.
- [35] "Women related law:- All compiled — Into Legal World". Into Legal World. Archived from the original on 7 December 2017. Retrieved 7 December 2017.
- [36] Menon-Sen, Kalyani; Kumar, A.K. Shiva (2001). "Women in india: How Free? How Equal?". United Nations. Archived from the original on 11 September 2006. Retrieved 24 December 2006.
- [37] George Jacob (29 May 2006). "Bank seeks possession of property in Mary Roy case". The Hindu. Retrieved 12 May 2013.
- [38] Jacob, George (20 October 2010). "Final decree in Mary Roy case executed". The Hindu. Retrieved 21 October 2010.
- [39] "Women Of All Ages Can Enter Sabarimala Temple, Says Top Court, Ending Ban". NDTV.com. Retrieved 28 September 2018.
- [40] National policy for the empowerment of women". wcd.nic.in. Ministry of Women and Child Development. 2001. Archived from the original on 25 October 2015. Retrieved 24 December 2006.
- [41] Rao, M.V.R. (27 October 2006). "Imrana: father-in-law gets 10 yrs, Muslim board applauds order". southasia.oneworld.net. OneWorld South Asia Archived from the original on 27 September 2007. Retrieved 25 December 2006.
- [42] V.D. Mahajan, Modern Indian History, S. Chand, New Delhi, 2010.
- [43] Maya Mazumdar, Social Status of Women in India, Dominant publishers and distributors, New Delhi, 2004.
- [44] J.N. Pandey, Constitution of India, Central Law Agency, New Delhi, 1986.

[45] Sunita Kishor and Kamla Gupta, "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India", National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) India 2005-2006, 2009.