The word 'woman' evokes the thought of giving birth to new life, of tenderness of love and of pursuing a career. It has many definitions mother, friend, wife, daughter, student and a professional. In the fields of economics, politics and society, she plays many roles. There are many examples of women who have excelled in the field of art and literature. However, on the other hand, there are millions of women who are treated as second-class citizens. A study carried out by the United Nations States that women who constitute nearly half of the world’s population and nearly one – third of work labour force, put in nearly two thirds of work hours but receive only a tenth of the world’s income and own only one hundredth of the world’s property. (United Nation, 1975) Women contribute significantly to the world economy. It is estimated that in monetary terms it is about $17 trillion annually. Half of the world food stock is produced by them.

The former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, while addressing the gathering in United Nations Information Centre, raised similar issue when he said, "In all societies, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cut through lines of income, class and culture ... Let us focus on women suffering everywhere ..... " (Tribune, 9th March 1999). Condition of women in the world is clear from these points:-

- There are nearly one billion adult illiterates in the world among them 2/3 are women.

- Out of the world's 1.3 billion poor, 70% are estimated to be women.
• There are about 42% cases of HIV affected women.

• An estimated 20 million unsafe abortions are performed worldwide every year, resulting in the death of 70,000 women, approximately 5,85,000 die every year, about 1,600 women die during childbirth and pregnancy.