Conclusions and Suggestions

Entire view of the legal as well as social status throw the light on the basic feature appearing worldwide that women are considered inferior and are not given basic rights. Women is a creator, protector of a family as well as a great asset of the state. She can contribute substantially towards the nation building. To deny, women in India her social, legal and economical rights are also violation of constitutional rights as well as violations of numerous international conventions and treaties entered into by India with UN.

Women have made lot of progress in recent past but they still have to fight against rooted customs and evils which are very hard to be eroded in the society which is primarily male dominated. There are various laws also passed which gives the son and daughter a right of equal share in the property further under the law women is not to be treated as property of a man. In case the marriage does not work out or any partner is not satisfied with the marriage, the person has a right to divorce. There are many laws, rules, policies are made but inculcating the same in the society or the acceptance of these rules by the society is very difficult challenge which women need to undergo. Women need to struggle, fight against all the odds and come up and grow. By fighting against the misconceived customs, the various evils are eradicated and society becomes more acceptable for a women to live their life.

Women is today’s era must refuse to marry the boys who are demanding the dowry in marriage. Many women are killed inhumanly in case girl’s parents failed to give the articles /cash as demanded by the grooms parents. In view to curb this inhuman killings, Dowry prohibition Act was enacted by the government. However, till today such a ridiculous system is followed in many caste and even today, we do here news of dowry deaths. Thinking one step further, the boys should refuse to marry when his parents are not allowing him to marry unless the dowry is paid. But this happens rarely where man refuses to pay
heed to the parents demand. There are many educated boys who also don’t have courage to take a stand against their parents and say that such practices are wrong.

Indian constitution has granted equal rights to both man and woman however, in a male dominate society, the acceptance to such right in favour of women is not favoured and therefore women suffer in each field. Women are responsible for bearing a child but they are kept undernourished or malnourished. They slog in the field and even complete their domestic work still they are ill treated at work as well as at home. Women suffer in silent at home and they are not even allowed to raise their voice or retaliate. Women cook food for every one in the family but they are not allowed to eat before their husbands eat and every one eats in the matter. Only left over food is given to her, this leads to malnutrition amongst pregnant women. Malnutrition leads to death of infants. Girl Child is never given care and commitment from the parents right from the beginning. Girl child is breast fed only for short and thereafter it is stopped so that women can once again become a mother and deliver probably a boy child.

Right to Education is guaranteed to all under the Indian Constitution, however very few gild child actually go an attend the school and completes their primary education. The girls often drop the school due to many reasons such as family does not want them to study, parents wants the girl to look after house hold work and taken care of younger sibling. Even though primary education is free, family does not want them to study because, if a girl studies more than no one will marry her and they are treated as burden on family because after all even if she works and earns, the earnings will go to groom’s family. Such a thinking does not allow women to study and even complete the primary education.

Since women are uneducated they are forced to take up the work which is physical and requires lot of hard work as compared to men who are into skilled jobs. Women on field work from 4 o’clock in the morning till 8
o’clock in the evening but still they earn lesser amount due to unskilful job. In a unorganised sector women are made to suffer lot with no leave, break or maternity leave.

Typically in Indian culture, women are considered as inferior and their lives are all driven by traditions and various social cultural system. Constitution of India has given right to equality and made many laws to bring the justice to women, however, enforcing the law are very difficult when the cultural practices are ground rooted.

**There are various reasons why women are treated as liability:**

1. Women are not considered as capable of earning
2. Women are not a legal heir who can take the family ahead
3. Women are considered as not able to take responsibility of their old partner
4. Women thought as a domestic helper

Women cannot take part in the last ritual of a person which gives MUKTI to the soul.

**Discrimination against women at various stages:**

India is a vast country having many states, customs and varied religious practices being followed. There are states where oldest man is considered as head of the family and there are also matriarchal society where oldest women is considered as head of the family. All these different practices makes some where gender biases against the women. Women faces the gender discriminations at different states of their life.
1. At the stage of Birth

2. At the stage of childhood

3. After Marriage

4. While women is widow

a. Birth:

In India, the male to women ratio is very unusual and there is lot of imbalance is being seen. For every 113 male, 100 female are born. Such difference is created due to gender disparity. Its is also observed that at different regions the male/female ratios are different. Female unborn child are aborted because the family does not want to have the baby girl. Though in India, sex determination is banned, however, its very difficult to enforce. Family always prefer male child for various reasons. Pregnant women upon finding that she is bearing a girl child, are forced to either abort the child or family abandons the baby girl after the birth. In India, its illegal to do sex determination test and do selective abortion. The law has also created some exception to the rule i.e. when the woman is raped, disabled child is born, contraceptives has failed and unwanted pregnancy has occurred. Around 11 million abortions takes place each year and 20,000 women dies each year pursuant to post abortion complications.

b. Childhood:

From the aforesaid discussions, it is clear that, girl child is never welcomed in the family and when born, she is treated discriminatingly with boy child. In case parents are poor and has less resources to meet their end, they often divert their resources towards boy child because they feel boy child will help them in
their old age whereas girl will get married and go away. This results in malnutrition and girl may never reach the required growth.

c. After Marriage

As a girl child the women remains in the custody of a parents and after the marriage she becomes property of her husband and husband is thereafter is required to take care of her. Women are never treated equally with the man. In many customs girl are taught how to respect the husbands and his family and they are told that parents home is not their how however, she will get the home after she gets married. So she is expected to take care of husband and family and do all household chores.

Women after marriage unfortunately also faces dowry demand and may also be harassed for dowry in case her parents fails to meet all the requirements of groom. Women are ruthlessly killed, burned alive. In India, dowry is prohibited under a Dowry Prohibition Act. Seven year of imprisonment is defined which may extend to life imprisonment.

Dowry Deaths cases - 8,239  
Attempt of Dowry deaths - 1,285  
In 2009 4,890 case were still pending for investigations. This data is as per National Crime record.

d. Widow

In past when husband used to expire, women were forced to become SATI by burning herself with pyre of her husband. India passed many laws and tried to curb the ritual of Sati however,
there were hardened and traditional minded people who considers widow as liability.

Ridiculous processes are followed like shaving women's head, making her wear only plain white clothes. Women are made to suffer alone because her own family does not take her back as well as her in laws treats her as a bad luck and throws her out of the matrimonial home. Women in such a condition who is not even educated are left with no alternatives to lead their life with dignity. Further they are considered by society as inauspicious and not allowed to attend wedding, any other celebrations etc. She was not even allowed to remarry and live even though women has become widow at a very younger age. Child marriages lead to such widows because at times boys expire before attending younger age also. In such cases, girl who does even know that she is married is told that she is a widow since her husband has expired and now she has to stay for a whole life like a widow.

e. **Inheritance**

In urban cities and amongst middle class women, the women's right to inheritance are improved but at the rural parts women continue to suffer. Once husband is expired, the entire property goes to the eldest son and in case women (wife or daughter) who are not educated, they are unable to enforce their rights even though there are laws which gives women a right to inherit the property.

So women suffer at each stage of their life though government has enacted many laws to protect the women but lack of enforcement of law is the main concern. Pandit Jawahar lal Nehru has said that in case you want to find out whether nation is prospering than we need to see whether how much women have progressed in the nation. Only when
almost half of the population are not oppressed and allowed to develop
can the nation also develop.

**Survey has brought shocking facts into light:**

1) Highly educated women are also unaware of laws which are
specifically enacted for security / safety of women. However, women
are unaware of such laws. Further, women are also not aware of any
one of the laws also which can help them in case of need. Such is the
situation of women which is quite shocking.

Out of 599 women sample surveyed, 65.8% women knew some basic
laws about women's rights. That means 34.2% of women did not know
any law about the women. These includes women who are working,
highly educated women.

2. Women residing and working in metro city are also not safe. Women
in metro also have complained that they face abuse which includes,
sexual, physical abuse, violation of educational rights, political rights
violations. Metro city where we assume that women are safe and law
and order situation is in control, but reality is different which shows that
women are not safe even at metro city and the situation at rural areas is
much more difficult.

The question was put to the women that whether they have faced any
violations of their rights or whether they have faced any abuse in any
form, which includes, Sexual abuse, physical abuse, educational rights
violations, political rights violations etc. It came out from the data
collected that 38.1% of women stated that they have faced the abuse,
which shows that the abuse is rampant in metro city.
However, there are factors which affected the answers of the women as to whether they have faced any violations of their rights or have faced any abuse. Factors are psychological, fear of raising any voice or concerns, how society will view such acceptance, male dominance in the family, doesn't want to discuss such issues with any one. Women were found to be scared

3) It was also observed that women hardly take steps to stop the abuse faced by them by taking the legal steps. However, they take help from the relatives or handling the violators by themselves. It itself shows that women have less confidence in our law and order and therefore hardly women prefers to approach the police authorities.

In view of the above, the women who took atleast some step to stop such violence is very less i.e. only 24.5% of women raised the voice against such an abuse and has taken a step which includes, handling the abuser by herself, taking help from the relatives or family members and very less number of women actually approached the police and lodged the complaint or NC.

4. Awareness of laws and rights available to women can definitely improve the status of women. If women are aware about their rights, women can avail them for their benefit and avoid or defend themselves against the violence. Awareness definitely reduces the violence since women are geared up more to handle the situation.

Women also feels that awareness of the rights available to women has reduced the violations faced by them. 52.6% of women felt that awareness has reduced the violations faced by the women. There are 34.2% of women doesn't know any law or rights available to them. So in other words more and more awareness of the law and rights available to women is required since the same shall reduce the violations greatly.
5. We have many stringent laws to deal with violence against women which we have discussed in our discussions in Chapter 2, however, research shows that we still need stringent and strict laws to handle criminals and punish them accordingly. Women feels that laws are not adequately strict and we need more strict laws. However, researcher opines that in India, we do have strict law however, we need a proper enforcement of laws.

87.1% of women also feels that we need more stringent laws to tackle the issues faced by women so that the abuser / violators gets punished faster and they also get scared of the punishment which will be imposed on them if found guilty. However, 12.9% of women feels that we do not need more laws, we have enough laws however, and more strict implementations of such laws are required.

6. There are very less women who knows about NGO"s which are active in women's right and who can help them in case of need. It also shows that government is lacking in spreading the awareness about NGO and their work. For the benefit of women, awareness about NGO needs to be spreaded.

Survey also revealed that only 39.6% of women who were surveyed are aware of NGOs helping women. In other words 60.04% of women were not aware of any NGO who is active in helping women, which is a matter of concern since when women is not able to talk or interact about her violations to anyone, where do she shall approach, it's the unconcerned body who can lend help and hear her out. So the NGOs needs to work in this directions by spreading more awareness of their existence.
Survey brings into light that many women who faces the violence does not take the help of either legal judiciary, police mechanism which shows that women are scared to take their concern to the police authorities / judiciary due to variety of reasons i.e. fear of society remarks and stigma, treatment offered by police, long time in delivery of justice, no family support, women’s future itself is jeopardised.

Violence against women is a universal problem, every one women out of every three women are either beaten, forced into sex or in some way or other faces abuse during their lifetime. This all needs to be tackled.

In order to put an end to various abuses faced by the women, it requires elaborative and all inclusive approach. Women faces violence and the same starts from gender based discrimination and inequality. The wider context is required in order to solve the situation faced by women. All the laws, Acts, policies, budget decisions does not help the women and it may adversely affect and increase the vulnerability of women to violence.

The approach to handle the situation should be overall and holistic, it should prevent as well as protect the women. It should criminalise the violence against women further make policies which identifies perpetrators of crime and does justice as well.

One person cannot bring such a paradigm shift or change in the eradication of the violence. Collective efforts from governments, states, men, women, law enforcers, judiciary, civil society etc. all are required in order to bring solution to such a widespread issue.

Men and Women are two wheels of the same chariot, the balance development of both is required to be achieved and any imbalance between the two is bound to distract the society. There are thousands of
law which are enacted and may be day by day we will still have better laws, but in reality can these laws, Acts, Regulations at national as well as international level can it protect the women. Its answer is in negative, true equality can only be achieved by implementation of these constitutional principles and laws. There is much need of social awareness and awakening in this regard. The co-operation from NGOs, independent social worker, religious preachers, actors etc. are required and then only women can have better development and balance between two can be achieved.

Judiciary also plays a very vital and important role along with legislature. The real meaning and wider interpretation is given by the judiciary so that justice reaches to the needy as well as public interest at large is achieved.

By the various judgements, the judiciary has empowered the women through judicial activism as well as traditional role of giving the justice. Judiciary as per its traditional role provides justice by interpreting various laws. Further, it gives wider meaning to the provisions of the legislations and gives judgement so as to give the justice in its true sense.

There is another form of judiciary is the activist role, which is “Judicial Activism”. In case there is no specific law to deal with some situation which is faced by the court, then in such a scenario, the court makes the guidelines and directions to be followed in the other similar cases. The court applies its power and meets with the demands of dynamic societal changes. There are many lapses like legislation is not able to meet with the pace of society by enacting different laws. The laws are rigid and it takes time to make amendments in them which some time causes injustice to the people. In order to bridge this gap, the judiciary uses its intrinsic powers and makes guidelines and delivers the justice to the needy.
The concept of women’s empowerment is a crucial issue of our country. Since it’s a new concept, therefore, there are many areas where there are no laws for protection of women. In such cases, judiciary becomes the society’s last hope from where they can get the justice. Therefore, court uses its activist power and delivers the justice.

Worldwide women has faced the oppression and violence. Women had struggled to get their rights, the journey was too difficult since the violence was widespread in all forms. The women faced situations of its worst kinds however, various international treaties, conventions, and various provisions of laws made domestically, the situation faced by women, difficulties of women saw some ray of hopes. We saw that the crisis faced by women were visible world wide and efforts made to improve the conditions of women and develop them by eradicating all forms of violence so that they can also be developed.

**Effects:**

1) Along with the women, the entire family, communities and states at large remains underdeveloped due to violence against women;

2) Economic production and resources of public services gets reduced;

3) It reduces human capital formation;

4) Women face social stigma and discrimination;

5) Society at large and nation also suffers.
Suggestions:

1) There is a growing need for women empowerment since the world wide the situation is bad and in some countries it is out of control.

2) Even though there are number of laws for the protection of women, the violence against women is widespread and rampant. The laws remain in books, its implementation shall be looked into it more stringently. Strong machinery should be figured out by the government for implementation of laws.

3) Justice delayed is justice denied and more so such crime against women where her dignity at stake, she suffers from lot of mental agony. In order to resolve this fast track court shall be formed only in order to handle the cases relating to women.

4) Crimes against women needs understanding of the mental condition and show sympathy towards the victim. More women judges should be appointed to take care of women related matters.

5) Foetus rights should be recognised as fundamental rights in order to tackle the issue of female foeticide.

6) Focused should be on women education so that they come out as strong human as well as entire family, society and nation also gets educated.

7) Survey shows that out of the women survey 61.50% of the women are aware of some laws for protection of women. It shows the awareness of women is less and the government, NGOs needs to work on making women aware about their rights.
8) Laws needs to be revised and amended so that the punishment which are provided in rape laws, dowry laws becomes deterrent for criminals.

9) We need to change the mindset of the society, society need to understand the rights of women and accept that women has fundamental right to live with all dignity and they should be treated equally with all rights.

10) Proper Education needs to be followed in the society which itself inculcates the gender sensitisation so that male child can start respecting and understand that women is also a human being and she has all rights to live without violence from other gender.

11) Police and judiciary also needs to become gender sensitised towards the women. They are required to understand the mental and physical health of the women due to violence faced by the women.

12) Preventive measures such as emergency help lines, awareness of rights available to women, basic training of self defence is required to given to all girl child at the school level, making the police stations and judiciary more approachable are necessary for reducing the violence against women.

13) A male’s thinking pattern relating to their ego, bragging and authority and power needs to be changed so that society can see some positive change.

14) The requirement in the present scenario is for achieving the equality and not empowering one gender over the other so that society develops and the nation moves in the right direction of advancement.
15) Commitment by Media for spreading awareness can be used effectively. Since it has visual effect and can change the public opinion.

16) Women's organization need to make their existence more prominent so that women are aware about it as well as it should take steps to spread awareness.

17) We need the evolutionary process, whereby mothers are required to inculcate to the children, the concept of equality and teach them to treat that both man and women are equal and they deserve equal respect and are honorable. For achieving this first women needs to be educated adequately and for this government need to use all the technology, systems in order to bring up the nation.

Summary gains:

1) Studied various human rights available to women.

2) Studied the status of women with respect to various human rights available in India and also other countries.

3) Described various human rights violations being faced by women and to became familiar and analysed the patterning of human rights violations including geographic patterns, cross national patterns, social patterns.

4) Studied with various legislations articulated in our country and crosscountries.

5) Evaluated the role of judiciary in safeguarding the women's human rights.
6) Described the inefficiency of the present system in protecting the women's human rights and the limitations of the government in implementing the laws and handle the human rights violations.

7) The analyses and evaluation of National Commission for Women and how effective they are in protecting human rights of women and how such commission can be improved in order to provide more awareness among women and in protecting their human rights.

8) The measures are suggested for better awareness amongst women with regard to their human rights and to support and guarantee the women's human rights in number of ways and further steps to be taken for protecting the same.

**Limitations:**

1) The result is completely based upon the research conducted in Tardeo Area of Mumbai, Malabar Hill. Hence may not be applicable directly to other metropolitan areas on account of socio-cultural multiplicity and relative factors.

2) The study is restricted to 1000 women who may be rich, poor, working class or housewives, who had faced human rights violations.

3) The questionnaire, which has been used as the tool of research, does not cover all the aspects.

5) In spite of all the hard work in obtaining the data, some aspects may be missed out.
6) Though I have tried to meet each woman in person, it's not possible to record the facts objectively.

**Scope for further works:**

Further study can be carried out on a particular human right of a women and see in the global scenario as to how that particular right affects the women in her overall development.

**ALL THIS SHALL WORK PROVIDED MINDSET OF SOCIETY CHANGES TOWARDS WOMEN AND THAT ONE WOMEN CAN DO......!**