CHAPTER- III

Women and the Constitution of India

India was on the verge of National consciousness of having a system of rules and regulations of her own. On the eve of independence, it was a house divided against itself by sharp differences in religion, caste, language, ethnicity, region and so on. All these were a great challenge before the political leaders. The framers of the Constitution were to consider all these factors. They were compelled to address themselves to the various group interests along with the general interests of the Indian people. The political leaders were busy in safeguarding the special interest of Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They did not think about the women problems at all and were busy in maintaining the several group interests to keep in tact their vote bank policy and women always remained as a neglected section of the society.

Women had a great share in the freedom movement. In spite of that their contributions were not recognized and had a poor sharing in the making of the Indian Constitution. In India, a political lobby of women could not be formed and male politicians realized that women would not only vote differently but would also go according to the wishes of their men-folk for voting and there was no need to woo them separately. Her husband, father, brother, or father-in-law always directs the women in exercising her voting right. It has been in the interest of the man politicians that women's political apathy—both the voter and the non-voter type—has continued and most of them still consider voting as a ritual to be performed at the bidding of their husbands or joint family elders without bothering about political parties, issues, candidates or about their own problems.

So the political aspirations of several women who were active freedom fighters have been lost in the post-independence thirst for power and rapidly declining moral standards of the politicians. Whenever the question of power came the male politicians did not consider the heroic deeds and sacrifices of the women freedom fighters. Women also failed to challenge the male domination of the political life in the country. Most of the women leaders gave up their efforts to participate in the political life of the country after independence.
Deliberations in the Constituent Assembly

A glimpse of what the male freedom fighters had in their minds about giving positions of power to women had already been given by Jawahar Lal Nehru when he confused his inability to get women selected in the Congress Working Committee even when he was President of the party in 1936. It was clear that male politicians were not ready to give up a single place for the women instead of their dedication towards the country. So from the very beginning women were deprived of their due share in the power and that were captured by men.

The Constituent Assembly, which was elected through the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote, remained completely silent about the women’s participation. The Assembly was created for the aspiration of having a Constitution to represent the people of India. It has 296 members to represent in the Assembly from the various castes and communities of India. There were members from all the sections of the people—General, Muslims and Sikhs. Among the members of the Assembly was the President of the All India Women’s Conference.

The total number of woman members elected to the Assembly was small. The number and names of women from different Provinces as well as Indian States in November 1949 is given in the following table.-

Table—2.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>No. of Elected Members</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Madras</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1. Mrs. Amma Swaminadan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Dakshyyani Velanyndhan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bombay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1. Mrs. Hansa Mehta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 West Bengal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1. Mrs. Renuka Roy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 United Provinces</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1. Mrs. Kamala Choudhury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Mrs. Purnima Banerjee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Begum Aizaz Rasul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Central Provinces Indian States</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Travancore Cochin</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Mrs. Annie Mascarenes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women were not equally represented in the Constituent Assembly from all the Communities of India. There was no woman elected to the Assembly from the Provinces like East Punjab, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Delhi, or from any other Indian State. It is seen from the following table that in the Constituent Assembly out of 296 members only 11 women were elected. The maximum number of woman representatives came from Uttar Pradesh and followed by Madras. There was the complete absence of woman members in the Constituent Assembly from many areas of the country. The women who were on the forefront of independence movement did not get a chance of membership in the Assembly. However though 11 women got a chance of entry in the Assembly but none of them found a place as a Chairperson of any Committee. Some of them served as members of the various Committees.

Table-3.1
The following Members served in the various Committees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Mrs. G. Durgabai</th>
<th>1. Rules Procedure</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Raj Kumar Amrit Kaur</td>
<td>1. Finance and Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities, Tribals and Excluded Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Provincial Constitutions Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mrs Amma Swaminadhan House Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mrs Sarojini Naidu</td>
<td>Adhoc Committee on the National Flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Mrs. Hansa Mehta</td>
<td>1. Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights Minorities, Tribals and Excluded Areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Begum Aizaz Rasul</td>
<td>Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities, Tribal sans Excluded Areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table focuses a poor representation of woman members in the various Committees of the Constituent Assembly. No woman was appointed in the more important Committees like the Drafting Committee, (this Committee was responsible for making the Constitution) Union Powers Committee, and Union Constitution committee. Women were appointed as members in the less influential Committees like Provincial Constitution Committee and in some Ad-hoc Committees. The male dominated society, the power seekers did not feel it necessary to keep women in the various Committees and by sharing power with the female section they will be deprived
of their position. They thought that the womenfolk of the society would suppress their interests. Moreover there was no Committee concerning the women issues at all.

The Constitution makers did not consider women issues as important issues at all. According to the Constitution makers the most urgent and delicate issues were those of Minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to keep the communal harmony in the country.¹ In the Constitution of India, there is the provision of reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.² But there is no provision of reservation for the women. Even in the present day there are demand of reservation for Minorities in various sectors but women irrespective of caste, colour and religion has no priority at all. Women did not protest against the unequal distribution of powers. The subordinate and submissive role of women was perhaps taken for granted that they would accept every decision of the male dominated society and would never revolt against it. It has become a permanent system of the society.

In the Constituent Assembly, there was hardly any debate on women specific issues³ Not that the members were unaware of the age-old traditions of subjecting women to gross injustices and infirmities of various kinds. The debate and discussion in the Constituent Assembly was set concerning the various matters. Gender issues did not figure the list of agenda of discussion except as a part of policy approach and package of provisions for social justice in general. There was the difference of opinion in the Constituent Assembly concerning the matter on policy approach i.e. some of them were in favour of non discrimination as a rule and those others who advocated protective discrimination with equal or greater emphasis.⁴ The Constitution of India made a deliberate radical departure from the inherited social system by granting to women equal social and political status. Traditional Indian society viewed women as members of a family or a groups of daughters, wives and mothers. But Constitutional status meant that every woman whatever her identity may be has the opportunity to act as a citizen of the country and a part and parcel in the nation building process. The

Notes:
1. Medhi, Kunja, (editor), Status of Women and Social Change, Women Studies Research Centre, Gauhati University, p-12
2. Varma, Sudhir, Women's Struggle for Political Space, Rawat Publication, 1997, New Delhi, p-153
3. Ibid,p-154
4. Ibid,p-190-191,
Constitution of India as finally adopted, the Chapters on Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy bear the faithful application of the principles of non-discrimination. So that women are entitled to the same rights as men as citizens of India.5

**Constitutional Provisions**

After the attainment of independence, the people of the country were over confident about the social change that would take place through Constitutional and legislative measures. The powers were shifted from the hands of the foreigners to the natives of the country. So, it was quite natural that an abrupt change was required in the social, political, and economic fields. Under the wave of over-enthusiasm towards social change, it was ascertained that the Constitutional provisions and legislative actions could only change the social status of women. So, an attempt has been made to make a Constitutional framework of the Constitution and also to provide the various provisions through the Constitution relating to women so that they are not to suffer any discrimination on account of their being women. Various provisions protect women. In the Preamble itself, the Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of state Policy and election laws—the principle is directly laid down.6 Besides all these provisions, various laws, policies, schemes and projects relating to women have been adopted. The Indian Constitution is unique in itself. In the Constitution, there was an attempt to organize the society through democratic ways assuring the dignity of the human beings. The Constitution guarantees the basic rights of human beings.7 It has adopted the democratic system of administration where the voice of the people is respected. The Constitution guarantees the finest value of liberty, equality and justice. It has adopted the Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties. The makers of the Constitution very well realized that the law had to work as an instrument of social change. With that idea and motive in mind the Constitution has guaranteed to every citizen certain basic rights and commanded the State to follow certain social policies directed towards justice to every section of society which are expressed in the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy.

5. Ibid,p-193
6. Mehta, Rama, Socio- Legal Status of Women in India, Mittal Publications, Delhi, 110035, p-49.
The Constitution makers were aware of the sociology of the problem of emancipation of women. So equality of the sexes is essential for the National development. A State cannot progress unless the whole population is active. It is necessary to provide opportunities for the proper exercise of human rights and claims to promote with special care the economic and educational interests of women and to make them free from the male domination. The society is in need of eliminating the sex inequality, which is rampant in the early society and to protect women from every kind of social injustices and exploitation. So, with the aim in view, the Constitution has done three things first, the discrimination is prohibited on the ground of sex; secondly, it empowers the State to make special provisions for women with a view to enabling it to take special care on women in the light of their peculiar physiological, biological and social position; and lastly, there are Directive Principles of State Policy which gave specific directions to the State to do certain things in relation to women. In addition to these, the Preamble to the Constitution also embodies the spirit of equality.

The Preamble to the Constitution declares to secure certain principles for all its citizens, of which the women are also beneficiaries. Those principles are—social, economic and political justice; liberty of thought and expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity and to promote among them fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity as well as integrity of the Nation.

**Fundamental Rights**
The Constitution of India guarantees seven Fundamental Rights and they are—Right to equality, Right to freedom, Right against exploitation, Right to religion, Cultural and educational Rights, Right to property and Right to Constitutional remedies. Of these the Right to Property has been eliminated by the 44th Amendment Act, so that only six rights are there in the Constitution. The Constitution has established the equality of sex in law.8 Article 14 of the Constitution has guaranteed equality before law and equal protection of law to both men and women. Art. 15 proclaimed that a citizen on the ground of sex only should not subject to any disability, restriction or condition. It also empowered the State to make any special provision for women.

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even in violation of the fundamental obligation of non-discrimination among citizens inter alia of sex. The special provisions, which are in favour of women, need not be restricted to measure which are beneficial in the strict sense. Restrictions upon the right of alienation of women have similarly been upheld. Similarly reservation of seats for women in local bodies or educational institutions have been held to be valid in view of the provisions of the Art. 15 (3). Article 16(1) provides that “there shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State”. Article 16 (2) provides that no citizen shall on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of any employment or appointment under the State ensured a significant position to Indian women.

Article 16 is an example of the application of the general rule of equality before law laid down in Article 14 and the prohibition of discrimination guaranteed by Article 15(1) with a special reference to the opportunity to any office under the State. J.Das explained the relative scope of the Article 14, 15, and 16 as “ Article 14 guarantees the general right of equality. Article 15 and 16 are instances of the same right infavour of citizens in some special circumstances. Article 15 is more general than Article 16, the latter being confined to matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State”

Besides equality, the Constitution of India provides for special system of protection and favourable treatment for the women. Article 15 of clause (3) mentions, “nothing in this Article (Art.15) shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children”. Clause (3) of the same Article contained some provisions exception to the prohibitions in the clause 1 and 2 of the Article 15 of the Constitution. So if the institutions are set up by the State exclusively for women or public entertainments that would led to the violation of the Art.15. Article 23 of the Constitution mentions about the right against the exploitation i.e. prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour. The ideal of human dignity, which though pervades the entire Constitution, has been laid in explicit terms in the form of Article 23, which prohibits traffic in human beings. It means human beings are treated as goods or chattels through sale or hire. Though there is no clear provision in the Article

10. Ibid, p-58
directly forbidding ‘traffic in women’—this form of exploitation, the expression “traffic in human beings’ would include traffic in women and children used for the immoral purposes.” In other words, it is the new form of slavery which was prevalent in the past and this evil is still prevalent in a new name of traffic in women and children for immoral purposes. Trafficking in women in India is not a new one and that evil practices were prevalent since old times. Medieval Feudalism brought down the position of women to a low status. Prostitution became rampant and is unfortunately spreading further due to the problem of unemployment. Unemployment problem led women to the easy prey of this malady. This evil practices has undoubtedly brought down the status of women.

The absolute concept of liberty and equality are very difficult to achieve in modern welfare society. That is why the Fundamental Rights are not in absolute terms. These rights are in the form of restrictions, which the Government is expected to follow up. These rights are implemented for the greater interests of the people. The State may encroach upon the domain of these rights for the common good or common interests. The point is whether a Fundamental Right should be subjected to restriction for the common good or public interest will depend upon the conditions and circumstances prevailing at a particular time. So, the Constitution provides for the equal status to both men and women. Secondly, preferential treatment to women and it depends upon not on sex discrimination but on societal facts attached to women as a class.

**Directive Principles of State Policy**

The Constitution of India has provided enough scope and opportunities for the development of women in India. Directive Principles of State Policy are enlisted in Part IV of the Indian Constitution. These are certain directions to the State Government for the protection and welfare of women. Some of these directions concern women indirectly or by necessary implication. There are a few directions, which are specific to women. The women specific directives, which have a special bearing on their status, are—Articles-39—a, d, e, and 42. They are—

12. ibid, p-60.
Article 39 a of the Indian Constitution directs the State to frame its policy for ensuring that the citizen, men and women equally have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.

—Article 39 d of the Constitution directs the State to ensure that there is the equal pay for equal work for both men and women.

—Article 39 e of the Constitution directs the State to ensure that the health and strength of the workers i.e. both men and women and the tender age of children are not forced by economic necessity to enter a vocation unsuited to their age or strength.

—Article 42 of the Constitution directs the State to make provision for ensuring just and human conditions of work and maternity relief.

The Directive Principles of State Policies set out the aims and objectives to be carried out by the States in governing the country. The principle of social justice has the direct manifestation into these Articles. These principles are expression of the socio-economic objectives of the Constitution. The motive of these directives is to make the country a Socialistic pattern where there is the absence of exploitation and this aim will be fulfilled only when the principles are carried out honestly. The Constitution makers had an image of making the country into a welfare State and that can be achieved only if the States implement them with a sense of moral duty. The economic condition of the people in the post independence era was very bad. So the Constitution makers had there in mind to establish economic democracy with the political democracy. Directive Principles are certain directions given to the State Government for the overall development of citizens, which were not provided by the Fundamental Rights. These principles constitute very comprehensive political, economic and social programmes for a democratic State. Directive Principles and Fundamental Rights are conscience of the Constitution, which represent the basic rights in human beings in the country.

The State cannot discriminate in treating the citizens due to the existence of Directive Principles. The State is expected to frame policies, which are completely based on equality of sexes. The principle of equal pay for equal work is one of the directive and the application of this principle will improve the status of women. The

15. Ibid, p-18
16. Ibid, p-19
Constitution has provided the opportunity of equal treatment to all citizens where no discrimination of citizens can be made between men and women on the basis of sex. The Constitution has provided special care and attention for the needs of women to enable them to exercise their rights and participate in the social activities. To cope with the various needs of women many legislative steps have been taken. But in spite of the Constitutional arrangements and legislative steps, women are not treated equally and they are always deprived of their due. Sex discrimination is rampant in our society and the goal of equal treatment has become a dream. Further, the various Five-year Plans are also another initiative of the Government to improve the status of women. The Sixth Five-year Plan has taken great innovations in this area. It says, "The low status of women in large segment of Indian society cannot be raised without opening up of opportunities of independent employment opportunities and income for them".

The Constitution of India has provided enough scope for the development and protection of women through Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. Government has provided relaxation and concession to woman labourers to facilitate their multiple roles as mother, wife and a worker in the various Governmental and private sectors. Old age pension is given to the old people who are above 60 years of age. Both men and women are the beneficiaries of this facility. The Constitution has given enough scope to the women of India through Directive Principles of State Policy but all these steps are meaningless until and unless women of our country becomes aware of these facilities.

**Fundamental Duties**

Article 51 e of the Indian Constitution casts a Fundamental Duty on every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to dignity of women. The Fundamental Duties, which were added by the Forty Second Amendment Act of the Constitution in 1976 in addition of creating and promoting a culture, also strengthen the hands of the Legislature in enforcing these duties vis-à-vis the Fundamental Rights. In a nutshell, the Constitution makes no distinction between men and women.
The 42nd Amendment Act took place, perhaps in a bid to make the image of Socialist countries into practice. The reasons for introducing the Fundamental Duties in the Constitution are intended to serve as a constant endeavor to remind every citizen that while the Constitution has conferred specifically certain Fundamental Rights, at the same time as a citizen of the country has certain democratic obligations and democratic conduct towards the State. Citizens can enjoy these rights with certain restrictions whenever necessary. A citizen can enjoy the rights only when he is conscious of certain duties. Article 51 A seeks to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.22 This provision seeks to do away with Medieval Feudal practices like Sati, Child Marriages and Dowry etc. The duties are imposed upon the citizens and upon the State and legislations are necessary for their implementation. It is the pious duty of every citizen to respect these duties. Every citizen should promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India. They should forget sectional diversities and promote National unity and integrity and should respect the dignity of women. The Constitution has tried to establish gender justice through the Fundamental Duties.

**Elections**

Article 325 of the Constitution has provided the women right to contest in the election. It is provided that “no person is to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.” There shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to either House of Parliament or to the either House of the State Legislature and no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in any special electoral roll for any such constituency on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, or any of them”. (Art. 325)

However, these provision have not been free from interpretational problems

Women everywhere are subjected to inequalities and exploitation, both in law and in practice. The condition of women throughout the world is mostly same. Prior to independence their condition was much worse. Gender deprivation was dominant in the Indian society. So gender equality became the main thrust area after independence. It has become the cornerstone of democracy and justice to women

22. Ibid.
became the goals of the society. The Constitution of India has many provisions of safeguard and security through various Articles and specific legal steps enacted to prohibit all forms of inequalities and discrimination against women. India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and has also ratified the two UN Covenants i.e. International Covenant on Economic Cultural and Social Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In addition, India has also ratified the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women on July 9th, 1993 for the realization of women's rights.

**Women Related Plans, Acts, Projects and Schemes**

The Government has adopted a large number of women related Plans and Programmes through various Five Year Plans. The different Five Year Plans launched many progressive steps in favour of women. The First Five year Plan stressed on the women’s role in the family and the community and adequate services need to promote the welfare of women. Separate departments are created for the implementation of the welfare services to women. In 1953, the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) was formed to extend welfare services to the women of the country.

The Second Five Year Plan gave importance to the welfare of women. It gave protection of women against the hazardous work, maternity benefit and crèches for children of the working mothers. Mahila Mandals were formed to organize the women at the grass root level.

The Third Five Year Plan emphasized on the expansion of women’s education. In this Plan, major part of expenditure was allotted for the rural welfare services and condensed courses on education for adult women. The Plan also gave importance on the provision of services for maternity and child welfare centres, health, education, nutrition and family planning.

The Fourth Five Year Plan gave importance on women’s education and the welfare of the family. This Plan also stressed on the family planning to reduce the birth rate from 40 to 25 per thousand through mass education and motivation. Many developmental projects have been undertaken for the improvement of child welfare and maternity centres.

The Fifth Five Year Plan diverted the attention towards women from the welfare of women to the developmental projects through which women should be made economically independent24. The Plan aimed to help the needy women with dependent children and working women. Various training programmes were launched to production-cum-training units, management and sales marketability of goods produced by different units. Various health programmes were launched to provide minimum health facilities, maternity and child welfare, family welfare, family Planning and other nutrition facilities to women.

The Sixth Five Year Plan was a landmark in the history of women’s progress and development. The Plan aimed at the development in the following areas—education, health and employment. Various developmental steps were taken by increasing the number of girls hostel, assistances were given to the educational institutions to improve girls education, health facilities were provided to women and children and efforts were made to offer larger employment opportunities to women.

The Seventh Five Year Plan too continued to stress on the developmental programmes for women to develop the economic and social status of women. The Plan also motivated to bring women into mainstream politics. The Plan also inspired the Government to adopt many women related schemes for the empowerment of women.

The Eighth Five Year Plan also stressed on the development of women. The various women oriented steps were taken on these sectors—education, health and employment. Importance was given on the job facilities to women. To empower women, economic empowerment has the priority. Self-confidence among women was created so that they can work with men in equal footing.

The Ninth Five Year Plan stressed on the empowerment of women. The Plan has undertaken various women related steps for empowering the female sections of the society. The National policy for empowering women was provided. Women’s equality will be established through National Policy on Education (N P E), 1992.

The Constitutional provisions for the protection and safeguard of women are not sufficient enough. Besides these provisions, the various Five Year Plans also

donot provide the required safety and security to women. So the Government has to enact various legislative steps to remove social discrimination and various types of violence and atrocities against women. The various legislative steps are:

1. **Law against Sati, 1829**
   
   This Act abolished sati system that was rampant in the early society of India.

2. **Widow Remarriage Act of 1856.**
   
   According to the provisions of this Act widow remarriage was legalized.

3. **Registration of all Births and Deaths Act, 1929.**
   
   According to this Act, registration of every birth and death with the Municipality made compulsory. It helped in checking female infanticide.

4. **Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.**
   
   The Act prohibits the marriages of minor children, which were prevalent in the early Indian society. The Act also known as Sarada Act. It was amended in 1976. It rose the age of marriage for girls from 15 to 18 years and for boys from 18 to 21 years.

5. **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**
   
   According to this Act, monogamy became the law.

6. **Special Marriage Act, 1954.**
   
   Registration of Marriages, Divorce by mutual consent, inter-caste, inter-regional and inter-religious marriages were legalized.

7. **Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956.**
   
   The Act provided that the natural guardian of a Hindu minor both for person and property of the legitimate son or an unmarried daughter is father and after him mother can act as a natural guardian. For illegitimate boy or illegitimate unmarried girl, the mother and after his father is natural guardian. In case of married women husband is the legal guardian.

8. **Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956.**
   
   This Act lays down the provision for adoption of a child by both man and woman and each have the right to maintenance over the child.

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26 Ibid,
9. Hindu Succession Act, 1956

This Act is applicable to all Hindu domiciled to the territory of India have the succession of properties.


The Citizenship Act, 1951, has entitled citizenship to both men and women, by birth, registration or through naturalization.

11. Representation of People’s Act, 1951, 1992

To strengthen the provision of representation of the people Act, 1951, it has been emphasized that the principle of equality is the basis of democracy. Under the Constitution all citizens i.e., both men and women, have the right to vote and the right to contest elections.

12. Anti-Dowry Act, 1961

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was passed and amended in 1984 and in 1986, which prohibits giving, and taking of dowry is liable to punishment.27


This Act was amended twice in 1976 and in 1986, prohibits trafficking among women and girls for purposes of prostitution as means of livelihood.

14. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition), Act, 1986

It prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisement or in writings, paintings, figures, and publications or in any other manners connected therewith or incidental thereto.


This Act induced abortion by qualified doctor on humanitarian and medical grounds.


This Act recognizes that women victims of rape deserve a different treatment.


Setting up of family courts with a view to promoting reconciliation in and securing speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and other family matters.28

27 Ibid, p-211.
28 Ibid, p-213.
18. **Commission of Sati Prevention Act, 1987.**

The Act was passed by the Parliament to provide for the prevention of commission of Sati and its glorification.

19. **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides for free legal aid.**

The Government took some steps in the form of laws relating to woman workers for their safety and security.

1. **Laws for Regulation of Wages 1948-76.**
   
i) Workers Minimum Wages Act, 1948, provides equal pay for equal work.
   
ii) Payment for Bonus Act, 1965, for both men and women.
   
iii) Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, for both men and women.

2. **Laws for Social Security 1948-72.**
   
i) Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, women should get same facilities as men.
   
ii) Maternity Benefits Act, 1961. Maternity leave to be given and expenses to be borne by the employers applicable to all factories, mines, plantations, and establishments.
   
iii) Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, workers entitled to gratuity, both men and women.

3. **Welfare Measures: 1974-76.**
   
   
   

4. **Industrial Relations Laws: 1926-1946.**
   
i) Trade Union Act, 1926.
   
ii) Industrial Employment Act, 1946, has provision to help women.
   
   
iv) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
   i. Beedi and Cigarette Worker's Employment Act-1946.
   ii. Factories Act, 1948, special working condition for women.


   The Act was amended in 1978 and regulating the working condition of contract labour which includes payment of wages and provision of workers engaged in construction work. All these Acts are equally applicable to women also.

7. Amendment of Indian Penal Code, 1983.

   This Act provides that woman victims of rape deserve different treatment and not negligence by the society. Provision of protection of victim from publicity is necessary.


   This Act provides for free legal aid.

   The condition of women in Assam is not much different from the rest of the country. But regarding social position women of Assam enjoys a bit high status then other parts of the country. Women of Assam are the beneficiaries of all these Acts implemented by the Government of India. Besides these, the Government of Assam has enacted certain Acts in favour of women of Assam. The Register of Assam Acts has recorded since 1944 the following Bills passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly in favour of women of Assam.

   **Bills relating to the Condition of Women Workers in Assam**

1. Act XVIII of 1944.

   The Act regulates the various conditions of female workers, their wages or salary in factories or in any other establishment. The State must provide maternity leave for certain period and after birth of the child.

2. **Assam Act XVII of 1951.**

   The Act provides that a female worker in a Plantation must not be engaged in work during a period of eight weeks preceding her delivery as well as during eight weeks following it.

3. **Assam Act V of 1952.**

   This Act by effecting and amendment and to the existing laws reduces the total period of maternity leave from 16 weeks to 12 weeks in the case of workers in the Plantations.

4. **Assam Act XII of 1964.**

   It makes two amendments to the Central Act 53 of 1961 in its application to Assam, namely a) the period of maternity leave has been extended from six weeks to eight weeks as provided in the Central Act and this proves the liberal attitude of the Government towards women (b) an employer, according to the Central Act, is made liable to extend maternity benefits to workers and bound to pay salary weekly in the case of daily wage earners and monthly salary to the permanent employees.

5. **Assam Act I of 1965.**

   This is the latest amendment to the Central Act 53 of 1961, which adds some provisions relating to the death of a worker on maternity leave. The Act provides that salary and other maternity benefits should be given to the family of the deceased workers.

6. **Assam Act XX of 1953.**

   The Assam Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitor’s Regulation Act (Amendment) 1953 amends section IV of the Act of 1944 which provides that the Council shall, in addition to other categories of members includes two members elected by the registered nurses, two midwives elected by the two superintendents and two matrons.

7. **Assam Act of 1935.**

   This Act provides the system of Muslim marriages and divorces in Assam. According to the Act the registration of divorce are to be signed by both the husband and wife and thereby providing the legal status to the Muslim women in case of divorce.
Besides these Acts, the Assam Municipal Act of 1956 and the Panchayat Act of 1959 provides for the nomination of women to the Municipal Boards and Panchayats. Assam Government has also undertaken certain other steps in favour of women of Assam. The other steps are—

1. **The Assam Health Establishment Bill, 1993**

   This Bill was passed by the Assam Government to regulate the health establishment and to provide better position with respect to health care of the people particularly women.

2. **The Assam State Commission for Women Bill, 1994.**

   Like the National Commission for Women the similar type of Commission was set up in 1994 to handle the women related problems of Assam. It is mainly set up to monitor employment laws affecting women and to advise Government about the matters related to the improvement and upliftment of status and dignity of women in the society.

3. **The Assam Health Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2003.**

   The Health Act of 1993 was amended in 2001 and further certain welfare oriented steps were taken for the health benefit of women.

4. **Job Reservation Bill for Women in the State Government Offices.**

   The scheme of reservation of jobs for women was undertaken for the welfare of women of Assam. According to the provision, 30% posts in the State Government services are reserved for women.

The Constitution of India and the different Five year Plans of the Government have given enough scope for the development of women. The Government of India has enacted various laws in favour of women but those legal steps are not sufficient enough for the proper empowerment of women. So the Government has started various development oriented approach to articulate that the women issues are properly reflected, articulated and solved. With the declaration of International decade of women year, the various women organizations too have become conscious about the women problems. Women problems has become a global issue today. The condition of the

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women at the International level are mostly same except the Scandinavian countries. Women of the Scandinavian countries are politically conscious and they have great share in the administration of the countries. So, male domination and deprivation of women has emerged as the global issue. To tackle this burning situation various strategies have been adopted globally. International Conferences on women were held. The Government has started a Department of Women and Child Welfare Development under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Government has started a different Committee on Empowerment of Women to handle the women oriented issues. There are Empowerment Committees at the State level too. The committee on the status of women and the Empowerment Committees were set up by the Government to provide legal, Constitutional and administrative safeguard to the women. These Committees were established to deal with certain basic issues of women, which are completely separate from the general issues. The National Commission of Women was set up at the National level and state Women Commissions were set up in each State to deal with the women problems of the States.

**Various Women related Plans and Policies of the Government are**

1. **National Commission for Women Act (1990)**
   
   This Act provided for the establishment of a National Commission on Women to protect and safeguard the interests of women. The main aims and objectives of the Commission is to solve various women problems and make their lives more secured and peaceful.

2. **The National Perspective Plan for Women (1988).**
   
   This Plan was set up to handle the various women problems and recommend suggestions for the development and upliftment of women.

3. **National Policy on Education  (1986).**
   
   This Plan provided that the National Policy on Education will play dominant role for the Empowerment of Women.31

4. **National Health Policy( 1983 ).**
   
   This Policy suggests various health related programmes to improve health and hygiene of the women and children.

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31. Ibid
5. **The National Plan of Action of Women, 1976.**

   This Plan was adopted in 1976 and it has become a guiding force for the development of women.

6. **The National Expert Committee on Women Prisoners (1986).**

   This Committee was formed for the various problems of the women prisoners and suggested measures for their solution and rehabilitation.

7. **National Nutrition Policy (1993).**

   This Policy was started in 1993. The main aims and objectives of the policy was to improve the nutritional status of women and children in the country.

8. **The National Policy for Children, 1974.**

   The Plan suggests that the State should take proper care and nurture of the children because they are the National properties (both boys and girls).


   This Plan was started with the intention of proper Plan of Action for the girl child i.e. to take proper care and protection of the girl child with special gender awareness.

10. **Shramshakti**

    The report of the National Commission for self employed and women in informal sector (1988) has studied the various issues faced by women in the unorganized sectors and identified the contribution of poor women for the development of National economy in both the urban as well as rural sectors.

11. **National Policy on Women.**

    The Department of Women and Child Welfare has started a Draft plan of National Policy on women. It has certain aims and objectives of creating an atmosphere adjacent to women, an environment of equality of men and women. The policy aims to abolish violence against women, supporting women’s participation in the nation building process, sharing in the decision making process, cooperating with men in all the activities where men participates, opportunities to every area of jobs and making their dominant role in every sphere of the society.

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The Government has adopted various women related schemes to empower women. The Department of Women and Child Welfare and the Human Resources Development acts as the agencies for implementation of these programmes.

The following development oriented schemes for the different departments of the Government of India have adopted for women and they are—

1. Mahila Samakhya. (M.S)

This scheme has been adopted by the Government in 1986. The Scheme was for the educational development of women. It means that women are of capable of equality to men and to grow confidence among women.

2. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (D.W.C.R.A)

This scheme was adopted in 1982-83 as a sub scheme of IRDP as the various poverty alleviation schemes did not give importance to the benefit of the poor women. So the scheme helps women through different package of loans and subsidies.

3. The Non Formal Education (exclusively for girls)

This scheme was started in 10 educationally backward States extended to cover urban slum areas, tribal areas, hill areas and special projects for working women.

4. Female Health- Guide Scheme (F.H.G.S)

The scheme was started to train the female workers in the country.

5. Training of DAIS.

This programme was started by the Government to train the women but since 1997, the task was conducted by the N.G.O’s


Vocational training programme was started in 1977 mainly to give training to different vocations in order to provide employment opportunities in industries, services, professions and self-employment for the women.


This centrally sponsored scheme was started in 1981, under family welfare programme. A volunteer is selected from the village community as village health
guide, who after training acts as a link between the community and the Government health system.

8. Rehabilitation of Handicapped Women.

This scheme of training centres was mainly started to provide vocational training for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped women.


The scheme was mainly started to provide Central assistances to the States and Union Territories to construct hostels for the Scheduled Tribe girls.

10. Girls Hostels for Scheduled Castes (G.H.S.C.)

Under this scheme, Central assistance was provided to the States and the Union Territories to construct girl's hostel for the Scheduled Castes girls.

11. Industrial Training Institute Centres

Grants-in aid was given to the States Government and the Union Territories to establish Industrial Training Institute centres for women.


This scheme was mainly started for the technological development of women. The technological centres were set up to improve the living conditions of rural women and the weaker sections of the society.

The Women and Child Welfare Department (W, C.W.D.) was created to implement the various programmes for the empowerment of women. They are—

1. Balika Samridhi Yojana (B.S.Y)

The Prime Minister of India announced the scheme on 15th August 1997. The main aims and objectives of the scheme was to help the families below poverty line in the birth of a new born girl child and for her proper nourishment.

2. Mahila Samridhi Yojana (M.S.Y).

The project was launched on October 2nd, 1993. This was a Centrally sponsored scheme and provided mainly to encourage thrift among the rural women.

This scheme was launched in 1987. The main aims of the programme was to help poor women through improving the skills of poor women, inspiring self-help groups, engaging them to various employment, and also providing scope of employment in farming, fisheries, handloom, khadi and village industries.

4. Indira Mahila Yojana (I.M.Y).

This scheme was started on 29 August, 1995 in 200 blocks of the country. It was an attempt of the Government to benefit the women sections of the society. This programme was mainly launched to continue awareness programme among the women through the I.M.Y. The awareness centres would set up at the village level, anganabadi levels and at the block level.

5. National Resource Centre for Women (N.R.C.W.)

This centre was established by the Department of Women and Child Welfare with the assistance of Danish International Development Agency (D.N.I.D.A) to create leadership capacity among women, to handle women issues and to train them about women’ progress.


It is the National financing authority started in 1993. The main aims and objectives of this Fund is to help the poor and needy women. The R.M.K. gives financial assistance to the poor women to start their independent business and to whom banking system are not easily accessible.

7. Campaign for Protected, Safe and Health Environment for Women and Children.

This programme was a campaign and started in 1997. In this scheme various organizations were to launch campaign for healthy environment is must for the health and hygiene of the women and children.


The scheme was started in 1972-73. The main aim of this programme was to help the women workers who are employed outside their home town and to attract more and more women to various jobs in the cities and towns.
9. **Indira Awas Yojana**

Under this scheme houses are allotted for the female members of the household, or in joint names of husband and wife to enable women to own assets. States have been directed to issue similar facilities to the poor families.


This scheme was launched mainly to rehabilitate the women and girls who were victims to various events like rape, trafficking, suffering from mental problems, exploitation etc.

11. **Mahila Mandal Programme (M.M.P)**

This scheme was launched in 1961-62 to help the rural women. The main aims and objectives of the programme is to spread these organizations in the rural areas because these areas lack of various facilities. These units are to work for the development of the rural women and children.


This scheme was started in 1982 by the Government to provide financial help to the various educational institutions. The educational institutions may carry out various educational tasks like publicity and propaganda etc. They should inspire women to do research work about the women issues.

13. **Commission for Women’s Rights (C.W.R).**

The Commission was set up to protect women rights. The main duties of the Commission are to hear complaints against the domestic violence and other crimes against women and provide justice to the victims and punish the criminal.

14. **Condensed Course of Education for Adult Women and Vocational Training Courses (C.C.E.A.W.V.T.C).**

The Board has started this course in 1958 and in 1975 respectively and this was revised in 1988-89. The scheme was undertaken to train the women about the various courses and trained them about the various jobs.

15. **Central Social Welfare Board (C.S.W.B)**

The Government of India created the Central Social Welfare Board in 1953. This Board was created to offer welfare services to the women and children.
16. **Awareness Generation Project for Rural and Poor Women (A.G.P.R.P.W.).**

This programme was launched to help the rural poor women in 1987-88. The main aims and objectives of the scheme were to create awareness among the women and make them responsible towards the family and the society.\(^{33}\)

17. **Urban Affairs and Employment (U.A.E.).**

The scheme was stated in December 1997, named as Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana in replace of Nehru Rozgar Yojana. The objective of the scheme was to help the poor with the facility of urban basic services to the people of the urban areas. This includes two special schemes, the Urban Self Employment Programme (U.S.E.P.), and Urban Wage Employment Programme (U.W.E.P.).

18. **Economic Empowerment Programme for Women (E.E.P.W.).**

This scheme was launched in 1958 to assist the various organizations. The main aims of the programme were to the organizations in carrying out the programme of helping the poor and needy women mainly to the category of helpless widow, destitute, disabled and other victimized women.

19. **Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (T.R.Y.S.E.M.).**

This scheme was started in 1979. The main aims and objectives of the programme is to train the rural youth about technical skills for self employment.

20. **Voluntary Action Bureau and Family Counseling Centres (V.A.B and F.C.C.).**

These organizations were established in 1982-1984. The main aims and objectives of these centres were to help the helpless women. It has to carry out rehabilitation programme for those women who are the victims of domestic violence and other social atrocities.

21. **Hostels for Working Women.**

The Central Social Welfare Board has provided provisions for the hostels for the working women. It provides financial assistance to the various organizations to start hostel facilities for the women employees.\(^{34}\)

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33. Ibid, p-112.
34. Ibid
22. Integrated Rural Development Programmes (I.R.D.P)

This programme was mainly launched for the rural development. The scheme was started in 1976 and extended through the country in 1980-81. The main aims and objectives of the scheme was to help the rural women who are below poverty line and to train them about the various jobs and skills for self employment.

23. Creches for Working and Ailing Mothers

These centres were created to assist the working mothers and ailing mothers to keep their infants during office hours. This scheme was applicable to only lower income group.


The scheme was started in 1989-90 and later on came to be known as National Rural Employment Programme (N.R.E.P), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (R.L.E.G.P). The main aims of these schemes were to provide more employment facilities on productive works.

25. Swayamshidha.

It is an integrated programme launched in September, 2001. The long term objective of the programme is the all round empowerment of women especially social and economic, by ensuring their direct access and control over resources through a sustained process of mobilization and convergence of all ongoing sectors programme.


The Bill has been drafted in consultation with National Commission for Women in protection for women against domestic violence.

27. Swadhar

Swadhar is a programme to address the needs of women in difficult circumstances who are not covered by other schemes such as widows, destitute, women prisoners, migrants. It envisages provision of shelter and basic amenities to such women and convergence of programmes for skill and vocational training.35


A Central level Committee has been formed in 1999 under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Women and Child Development to monitor and coordinate the efforts of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and Ministries/Departments of Government of India for the marginalized women of Vrindavan and adjoining areas. The Committee attempted to make progress in the matters of providing shelter, medical facilities, pension and security to the widows of Vrindavan.

29. Central Services Leave Rules.

A woman employer is entitled to 90 days leave with pay from the date of delivery. Further condition of 60 days is allowed incase of illness of baby when presence of mother is necessary. The Haryana Government has fixed it to 180 days in March 1992. The Assam Government has fixed the leave at 135 days.

Assam Government has implemented all the plans and programmes and projects for the welfare of women of Assam. Besides these steps the State Government has undertaken certain other steps in favour of women of Assam and these are-

1. Dindayal Achani - Under this programme the various types of assistances are provided to the rural poor women who are helpless. Through this scheme the Government has tried to make the women economically empowered.

2. Kalpataru Achani - This scheme was started mainly for the unemployed youths of Assam. According to this scheme financial assistances are provided to the unemployed youths to start for independent business.

3. Jyan Joyti Achani - This scheme is started to inspire the students for their performances in the H.S.L.C examination. Under this scheme, computer has been awarded to the students who have scored 60% percent and above in the said examination. This programme was started in 2005.

4. Mukhya Mantri Tathya Prajukti Aru Niyog Achani 2006:- This is mainly a training programme organized by the Government. This employment training programme was started in 2006 in the I.T.industries of Assam and the main objectives of the scheme is to provide the required training and make fit for job.

5. Extension of Maternity Leave:- Extension of Maternity Leave is another
women oriented step taken by the Government of Assam. Like other states Assam Government has extended the maternity leave of women employees from 90 days to 135 days

6. The Committee on Empowerment of Women:- The Empowerment Committee on women was constituted by the State Government to handle various women issues. The first report of the Committee was presented on 13th May 1999.

A short glimpse to the Constitution of India reveals that there is enough scope of equal status for both men and women. The Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution tried to safeguard the rights and interests of women. The Directive Principles of State Policy is also provided many principles favourable to the women. The law making authority has enacted certain laws relating to women. Besides all these provisions, the Government has adopted certain schemes especially for women. Inspite of the constitutional and legal provisions, women are not treated equally—socially, politically and economically.

Socially women are ill-treated. Women feel insecure at every step both inside the family and outside the four walls of their home. The male members always treat them as neglected one. They easily become the victim of domestic violence like bride-burning, dowry deaths, physical assault and other mental tortures. Dowry deaths have become common practice inspite of the anti-dowry laws. Rape has been rampant factor and even a minor child is not escaped from it. Child marriages are common in the interior places inspite of the Child Marriage Restraint Act. Widow marriages have not been practiced till today due to the fear of social critics. Till today a girl does not get the equal facilities like a boy. A girl in not spared for her study as the boy is. She has to remain busy in the household chores and if there is any time she can study.

Politically women are not given equal opportunities. In the electoral politics male domination plays the vital role. Most of the women are to remain satisfied with the grass root movement, protest movement, campaigning in the election for male candidates, attending rallies etc. They rarely get a chance to contest in the Parliamentary and Assembly elections. Most of the time they are selected for grass root politics. Casting of vote is a mass participation by the women and they cannot miss it, voting is done by the women according to the direction of the male boss of the family. They
are rarely selected as candidates for election. Party leaders prefer a male candidate as a winning candidate in comparison to a woman. A woman to contest for election has to struggle and can establish herself through hard work and sacrifice. Some ladies of influential families mainly political leader's family have bright scope of political life. In most of the cases women from the leader's family get a chance to contest for election but they are also marginal in number. So, as a whole, women are under represented in the political scenario of the country. Women make half of the electorate and have the right to vote and to hold office and the fate of male legislators are to depend upon the women, relatively small number of women can reach these offices. The gender discrimination in politics result in the low representation of women in the Parliament, state Legislature. and other elected bodies. The reason for under representation of women in the National and State politics are clear. The male dominated society does not want that women should go in the same footing with the men. They will be displaced from their position i.e. they are to give up place for the women. So, it is better to ignore them by identifying them as unfit for politics. Sufficient number of women are not projected as candidates for election. The political parties are not liberal to include women in the mainstream politics. Only a handful of selected candidate of families having political background gets a chance in the fray. The attitude of different political parties is mostly same. The male dominated society donot want the political empowerment of women. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts have been passed without any cyclone in the Parliament because they did not disturb the political game of the Parliament and the State Legislatures. The National and State politics will not be hampered by this Act, only their domination over the grass root politics will be hampered to a little extent. These two Acts deal with the reservation of women at grass root level. The Constitutional Amendment Bill, (81st Amendment Bill) which wants to reserve 33% seats for women in the Parliament and in the State Legislatures has been in rough weather because it poses a threat to the male members and if the reservation comes into effect. The Bill is still has become a matter of political game of the politicians.

To make women feel secured in the society, to seek justice and equality for women economic empowerment of women is necessary and without economic strength women cannot be able to exercise their rights and duties properly guaranteed
by the Constitution. So there should be the easy entry of women in all the fields, in all
the sectors of employment. Women are not lagging behind in case of merit, capability
etc. They should be projected in high post according to their merit and it should
increase their status in the family and in the society. The economic empowerment of
women will increase the number of women involved in the economic decision making
i.e. like men, women had also the power to take economic decision of the family,
society etc. There should be the proper training programme for the poor women to
employ them for the highly profiled jobs, equal amount of wages should be paid to
the female labourers equal to that of male labourers because women are paid less in
most of the cases. Humane conditions of work should be established in the various
industries and factories and women should be treated sympathetically.

There are so many efforts of the Government to establish equality between
men and women but inspite of that woman are not enjoying equal status with men in
the society. Theoretically there are strong efforts of the Government for the upliftment
of women but there are shortcomings in their application. Only Constitutional
provisions cannot establish justice in the society. The social mindset has to be changed
and an atmosphere of women’s easy accessibility to all sectors of society should be
created.

The Constitution has provided equality before law i.e. all are equal in the eye
of law. There are Fundamental Rights and other legal safeguards for the protection of
women. But actually there is discrimination in the social system of marriage, divorce,
inheritance, guardianship of the child, etc. In fact, all these responsibilities are vested
to a man. In reference to the above analysis it can be said that equality and justice of
women are provided with in the Indian legal system. But actually discrimination and
inequality still exist in the society. Laws are made and formulated and enforced in a
male dominated society. They are well equipped with the social fabric of the male
dominated society. They reflect the interest of men. So the provision of Fundamental
Rights, Directive Principles of State Poicy, Fundamental Duties, various women
oriented Laws and Schemes, Committees, and Commissions, Women Organizations,
Declaration of 1975 as the International Women Year for women etc. could do a very
little for establishing equality between men and women because the entire system is
based on gender deprivation and gender discrimination.
Shortcomings in the Policies and Programmes of the Government...

The Constitution has provided enough scope of facilities through Constitutional Provisions, legal systems, various Schemes and Projects and Articles But these Laws, Schemes, and Projects are not sufficient enough for the equality and justice of women. There are many shortcomings in the implementation of these policies. They are –

1. The British system of bureaucratic administration is still continuing in India and the bureaucrats who are not free from corruption run it. These bureaucrats who are mostly corrupted implement the various Plans and Programmes. Money sanctioned by the Government are misused by these corrupt officials. So, there is lack of rapid development regarding the women related programmes.

2. Lack of uniformity of the policies is another characteristic of bureaucracy. The political leaders to obtain polical benefit and popularity announce the policies. They do not consider the matter whether they are beneficial or not. The leaders rather announce these programmes to spread their election manifesto for the next election.

3. Again the schemes are announced without considering the situation whether they are applicable to that area or not. In most of the cases the benefit of the schemes does not reach to the poor and needy women.

4. Government sanctions huge amount of money to implement the various women related programmes. But as the Government officials carry out these responsibilities and as most of them are corrupt, they spend a lump sum amount for project and the remaining amount goes to their pocket. So these Government policies cannot be fruitful in such a corrupted system.

5. Only Constitutional provisions and legal system are not sufficient enough to make women's progress. The whole mindset of the society should be reformed and the society should have a liberal attitude towards women and only in that case women can use all these opportunities.

6. These policies and programmes are being implemented by officials in Government culture where there is no commitment towards attainment of success of the programmes.

7. Inspite of the various provisions of the development, women of the society are not the beneficiaries of those programmes. So only laws and programmes cannot change the fate of the women. The whole environment, the age-old thoughts and beliefs about women are to be changed and only in that case development and justice of women will be possible.