

Women And Law

(Optional)

Objectives of the course:

The need to gender justice as special subject is to be emphasized as the constitutional mandates have not achieved the desired results. The fundamental rights did not preclude having special provisions. The planners and policy makers therefore, treated women only as beneficiaries of welfare measures. The hope was the benefits of development would percolate below to all including women and therefore, there was no need for special efforts to bring them into the mainstream. However, this trickle-down theory of development is still to be materialized in spite of the positive action of women's representation in local bodies. Women are discriminated in almost all sectors that perpetuate the patriarchal values. The course should draw attention to the helpless condition of women, their exploitation and sufferings and also the strategies to remove the discrimination.

Unit – I

Women in India: Constitutional background and legal protection both at national and international level- rights of women in industry- in prison-in family-in unorganized sector- rights of tribal women

Unit – II

Violence against women: Offences against women; contemporary issues- recent developments in law relating to rape, marital rape, Nirbhaya Law, Sexual Harassments at Workplace, Acid attack, Domestic violence and its forms

Unit – III

Science & Technology and women: Assisted Reproductive Technology and its implication- contraceptive technology and sterilization- Amniocentesis and its impact on the society- pervasive technology and invasive privacy, Women and Media

Unit – IV

Empowerment of Women: Social, economic, political, legal and cultural empowerment of women – Legal reforms (Legislative and Judicial reforms) towards empowerment of women – Role of NGOs in the empowerment of women

Unit – V

Commissions and Committees: National and State Human Rights Commissions in the protection of women – National and State Commissions for Women- Towards Equality Report; National Policy on Women Empowerment, 2001; Justice Verma Committee Report

Reference Books

Agnes Flavia, *Law as Gender Inequality* (Oxford,1999)

GB Reddy, *Women and Law* (Asia Law House, Hyderabad)

Sharma K. Maga, *Law with respect to Rape, Sodomy, Abduction & Kidnapping* (Kamal Publishers)

Ruth A. Brand Wein (Ed.), *Battered Women, Children and Welfare Reform (the ties that bind)* (Sage Publications)

Dr. Paras Diwan, *Law with respect to Dowry, Dowry Deaths, Bride burning, Rape and related offences* (Universal Law Publishing Co.)

Nirmala Jeyaraj (Ed.), *Women and Society (A Reader in Womens' Studies)* (Cambridge Press 2005)