



## **Human Rights and Women in India: A Perspective Study**

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India is the world's largest democracy and has made significant strides in human rights in recent decades. However, women's rights remain a major concern in the country. Despite constitutional guarantees, women in India face significant barriers to their full enjoyment of human rights, including economic, social, and political rights.

One of the most significant issues affecting women in India is gender-based violence. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, over 33,000 cases of rape were reported in India in 2018, with many more cases likely going unreported. Women also face other forms of violence, including domestic violence, honour killings, acid attacks, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Women's economic and social rights are also frequently violated in India. Women in India are often paid less than men for doing the same work, and many work in precarious and low-paying jobs in the informal sector. Women are also disproportionately affected by poverty, with many lacking access to basic services like healthcare, education, and clean water.

Political representation for women in India has been increasing in recent years, but women remain underrepresented in politics and decision-making positions. Women make up only about 14% of the members of parliament in India, and even fewer hold positions of power in the private sector. To address these challenges, the Indian government has taken steps to promote gender equality and women's rights. In 2013, the government passed the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, which requires employers to establish mechanisms for addressing sexual harassment in the workplace. In 2015, the government launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao<sup>1</sup> (Save the daughter, Educate the daughter) campaign to promote the value of girls and women and to address issues like female foeticide and child marriage.

International organizations and NGOs also play an important role in promoting women's rights in India. The United Nations has designated November 25 as the International Day for the

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<sup>1</sup>The Indian government introduced the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme to address concerns about gender discrimination and women empowerment in the country.

Elimination of Violence Against Women<sup>2</sup>, and many organizations use this day to raise awareness of gender-based violence in India and to promote initiatives to address it. NGOs like the Centre for Social Research and Breakthrough India work to empower women and promote gender equality through education, advocacy, and direct services.

**In conclusion**, women's rights remain a major concern in India, with gender-based violence, economic and social inequality, and underrepresentation in politics and decision-making positions all significant challenges. However, the Indian government and civil society organizations are working to address these issues through legislation, campaigns, and advocacy efforts. While progress has been made, there is still much work to be done to ensure that all women in India can fully enjoy their human rights.

## **Analysis Of Human Rights in India**

India is known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse traditions. However, despite being a democratic country with a written constitution that guarantees fundamental rights to all its citizens, India has struggled to protect the rights of women. Women in India have historically faced discrimination, violence, and social stigma, particularly in areas such as education, employment, and politics. Despite various measures taken by the government and civil society organizations, gender inequality continues to be a pressing issue in India.

Human rights are essential for the overall development and well-being of an individual, and women's rights are no exception. Women in India face various human rights violations, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, and female infanticide. These violations not only infringe upon their rights but also have severe implications for their health, education, and socio-economic status.

One of the most significant issues facing women in India is violence. Women in India face violence in various forms, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, and rape. The National Crime Records Bureau<sup>3</sup>(NCRB) reported 32,033 rape cases in India in 2019. Moreover, the NCRB data indicates that there has been an increase in cases of crimes against women in India in recent years. The government has taken various measures to address the issue of violence against women, including setting up fast-track courts, introducing stringent laws, and launching awareness campaigns. However, more needs to be done to ensure that women in India can live without fear of violence.

Another significant issue facing women in India is education. Education is a fundamental right, and every individual should have access to it. However, women in India face various barriers to education, including lack of resources, social norms, and patriarchal attitudes. As a result, the literacy rate among women in India is significantly lower than that of men. Moreover, women's

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<sup>2</sup>On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the colour orange is used to represent a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls.

<sup>3</sup>NCRB was set-up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators based on the recommendations of the Tandon Committee, National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985).

education is often seen as less important than men's education, which further perpetuates gender inequality. The government has taken various steps to address the issue of women's education, including providing scholarships and setting up girls-only schools. However, more needs to be done to ensure that women in India have equal access to education.

### **Women's economic empowerment is another critical issue in India**

Women in India often face discrimination in employment, including lower pay, limited opportunities for promotion, and fewer job opportunities. Moreover, women's work is often undervalued and unpaid, which further perpetuates gender inequality. The government has taken various measures to address the issue of women's economic empowerment, including setting up schemes for women entrepreneurs and providing training and skill development programs for women. However, more needs to be done to ensure that women in India have equal opportunities for employment and economic empowerment.

### **Women's political representation is another area where India lags behind**

Women's representation in politics is essential for ensuring that women's issues are adequately addressed. However, women in India are underrepresented in politics, with only 14.36% of seats in the Lok Sabha (Lower House) being held by women. The government has taken various measures to increase women's political representation, including reserving seats for women in local government bodies. However, more needs to be done to ensure that women in India have equal opportunities for political representation.

**In conclusion**, women in India face various human rights violations, including violence, lack of access to education, limited opportunities for employment, and underrepresentation in politics. The government and civil society organizations have taken various measures to address these issues, but more needs to be done to ensure that women in India can live with dignity and without fear of discrimination or violence. Gender equality is essential for the overall development of any society, and it is high time that India takes significant steps towards achieving it.

### **Assessment of Human rights and Women Rights in current perspective**

Women's rights and human rights are inextricably linked in India. While the country has made significant progress in recent decades, women continue to face significant barriers to their full enjoyment of human rights, particularly in areas such as gender-based violence, economic and social rights, and political representation. In this context, it is essential to critically analyse the current state of women's rights and human rights in India.

Gender-based violence remains a significant challenge in India. The National Crime Records Bureau reported over 33,000 cases of rape in 2018, with many more cases likely going unreported. Women also face other forms of violence, including domestic violence, honour killings, acid attacks, and sexual harassment in the workplace. While there have been some legislative reforms, including the 2013 Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act and the 2018 Criminal Law Amendment Act, these reforms have not yet translated into meaningful

change on the ground. There is a need for a holistic approach to addressing gender-based violence, including improved law enforcement, victim support services, and education and awareness-raising efforts.

Economic and social rights are also frequently violated in India, particularly for women. Women in India are often paid less than men for doing the same work, and many work in precarious and low-paying jobs in the informal sector. Women are also disproportionately affected by poverty, with many lacking access to basic services like healthcare, education, and clean water. To address these challenges, there is a need for greater investment in social protection systems, education and skills training, and efforts to combat discrimination<sup>4</sup> and stereotypes that limit women's economic opportunities.

Political representation for women in India has improved in recent years, but there is still a long way to go. Women make up only about 14% of the members of parliament in India, and even fewer hold positions of power in the private sector. There is a need for greater support for women's political participation, including measures to increase their representation in decision-making positions and efforts to address the cultural and social barriers that prevent women from entering politics.

In addition to these challenges, there are also significant concerns around human rights more broadly in India. These include issues such as discrimination based on caste, religion, and ethnicity, restrictions on freedom of expression and association, and the use of excessive force by security forces. The Indian government has faced criticism for its handling of these issues, particularly in the context of the Citizenship Amendment Act and the ongoing conflict in Kashmir.

To address these challenges, there is a need for a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to promoting human rights and women's rights in India. This includes efforts to strengthen legal frameworks and institutions, improve access to justice and victim support services, and invest in education and awareness-raising initiatives. There is also a need for greater engagement with civil society organizations, including women's rights groups, to ensure that their perspectives and experiences are taken into account in policy and decision-making processes.

## **Women Human Rights and Their Violations in India: A Critical Analysis**

We can see that every day everywhere paper News, T.V channels and electronic devices are presenting to the violation of Human Rights of Women in India. Human rights are those minimum rights which are compulsorily accessible by every individual as she is a member of human family. The constitution of India also guarantees the equality of rights of men and women. However, in the sphere of women's human rights in India, there exists a wide gap between theory and practice.

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<sup>4</sup>Discrimination is the act of making distinctions between people based on the groups, classes, or other categories to which they belong or are perceived to belong that are disadvantageous.

In our society is a male dominated society where men are always assumed to be superior to society. The India Women have to face to discrimination, injustice and dishonour. Though women in India have been given more rights as compared to men, even then the condition of women in India is miserable. This research paper will throw light on the human rights of women in India and that how all the fundamental rights given to the women are being violated in India.

## References

1. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the daughter, Educate the daughter) is a campaign launched by the Government of India. It mainly targets the clusters in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Bihar and Delhi.
2. United Nations: The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
3. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws.
4. Save the Children: Major Causes of Gender Discrimination in the Indian Society.