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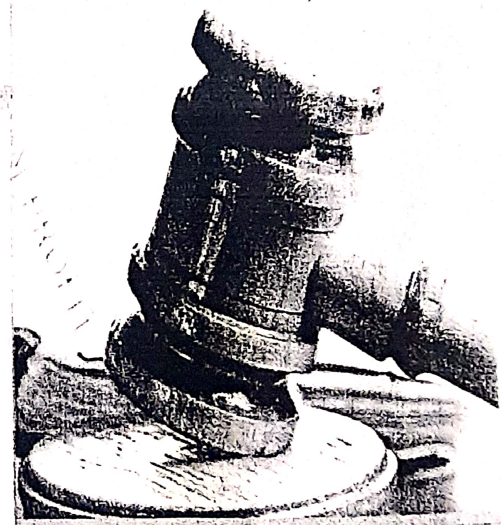
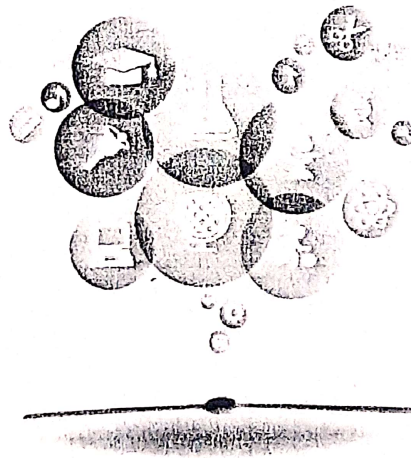
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Women Empowerment; Constitutional and Legislative Provisions:

An Overview

Dr. Tarannum Jabeen

Assistant Professor and Head Department of Political Science BLDEA'S Smt. Bangaramma Sajjan
Arts, Science and Commerce College for Women Vijayapura - 586101 Dist. Vijayapura Karnataka

Introduction:

In defining the term "minority group," the presence of discrimination is the identifying factor. As Louis Wirth has pointed out, "minority group" is not a statistical concept, nor need it denote an alien group. "A minority group is any group of people who because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from the others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination." Women are getting discriminated by men in every spheres of life, like, economical, social, educational, cultural, religious and political etc.

It has been indicated that women fail to present in full force, they lack a sense of group identification and do not harbor feelings of being treated unfairly because of their sex membership. Can it then be said that women have a minority group status in our society? The answer to this question depends upon the values of the observer. If we assume that there are no differences attributable to sex membership as such that would justify casting men and women indifferent social roles, it can readily be shown that women do occupy a minority group status in our society.

Human consciousness in modern society is conditioned by the concept of human rights and human dignity. The laws regarding women, drawn up during the medieval period by the jurists, though based on interpretations of the scriptures, are unlikely to be accepted by women today. They no longer accept their subordinate position. They demand equal status with men.

Keywords: Women as minority, vulnerable group, representation and empowerment of women, awareness programmes, women in Islam, Indian democracy, constitutional guarantees, women reservation, innovative strategies, funding organizations.

Objectives: The objective of this paper is to

- To enlighten women about the constitutional provisions initiated for their empowerment.
- To know the status of women, and measure how far to go.
- To remove women vulnerability.
- To bring awareness among women and women empowerment.
- To develop key recommendations & inputs for the policymakers.
- To encourage women for active participation in politics and society.

Minority Women as Vulnerable Group:

Since the time immemorial during 18 and 19 century conditions of women in India were very worst, equality of men and women and non-discrimination on the basis of gender constitutes one of the vital human rights concerns, finding expression in all international instruments as well as in the Indian Constitution. In reality, however, Minority women in India constitute one of the most deprived groups who are unable to fully enjoy their equal rights. Their deprivation and vulnerability derives from the following sources:

- 1) Cultural and Religious,
- 2) Legal
- 3) socio-economic and Educational, and
- 4) Violence against Muslim Women.

The India's Democratic View towards Women:

India, is one of the largest democracies in the world, is also has one of the largest minorities. A good democracy, however, not only shall protect rights but also women's rights and rights of minorities as a community. The Indian government has pledged that it will put women at the heart of governance. A variety of measures have been taken, which in order to honour the pledge including the introduction of 33% equality among women in government, implementing measures the