

Presentation on the Eve of International Women's Day, 2021

According to 2011 census, the sex ratio of India is 943. This means that population-wise, for every 1,000 men in the country there are 943 women. Hence, it's only logical that the judicial system will make laws that would support the women in every possible way against injustice.

The Indian judicial system, being the world's largest, has many laws to serve this purpose. Unfortunately, due to lack of public awareness, the laws fail to take action.

Here are 8 frequent injustices that take place, especially against women, and the laws against them:

- **Eve Teasing:** Sections 294 and 509 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) prohibit any individual or group of people pass any kind of offensive comment or execute any such gesture towards a girl of any age
- **Child Marriage:** This is not just for girls. However, the incidents reported indicate towards the underage girls. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, prohibits a girl who is not 18 (age defined by the Hindu Marriage Act) to get married
- **Improper Police Procedure:** Under the high court directive, every police station must have a lady officer, not of a post below that of Head Constable, available round-the-clock and the police shall also help the victim of sexual assault of any degree with counseling assistance and further aid towards the betterment of the victim. Besides, a woman can only be searched by a lady officer and can be arrested only in the presence of a lady officer. A woman cannot be arrested before sunrise or after sunset, however, exceptions can be made under the directive of the magistrate
- **Minimum Wage:** According to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government of India has set minimum wages for every section of profession that must be paid to any skilled, semi-skilled and

unskilled workers. The minimum wage for a skilled worker in Delhi is Rs 423, be it a man or a woman

- **Succession of Property:** Under the clause of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, any person who is entitled to be the heir of a property of ancestor, should get the property regardless of gender
- **Dowry:** Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, says that if any one gives or receives or even helps the exchange, he or she will face a jail term five years or more and a fine of Rs 15,000 or the sum of dowry, whichever is more
- **Domestic Violence:** This falls under Section 498A of the IPC. According to this law, any person can complain about any incident where a family member has offended him or her cruelly or with the intention of cruelty. This law is applicable for or against any member regardless of gender
- **Offensive Propaganda:** The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, prohibits any individual or organisation to publish or help post, publish, exhibit or advertise - online or offline - any kind of representation of women that can be considered to be indecent.

Sources: National Commission for Women, Wikipedia