



A study on Women's awareness of Constitutional Values in modern India

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Abstract

In this study, the researcher examined women's awareness of constitutional values in Bareilly districts. The sample was randomly selected. Three hundred (300) women were selected, comprising 50% urban and 50% rural women from Bareilly districts, and 50% women from nuclear families and 250% from joint families. The researcher used the mean, standard deviation, and t-test to interpret the data. This study helps to understand the level of women's awareness of constitutional values in the current Indian context and its impact. It also helps to understand the level of awareness of constitutional values among rural, urban, working, and homemakers, as well as the relationship between women's awareness of constitutional values and their relationship to each other.

Keywords: Constitutional values, women's awareness

Introduction

The status of women in the current Indian landscape has been experiencing ups and downs. Their individual importance has been established in different periods. In this new era of intellectual and industrial revolution, women's importance is beginning to be recognized. In the Indian social system, the family is not an individualistic institution but a collective one. Men and women represent collective power in various environments and dimensions, therefore, in the changing political culture, Indian women did not have to struggle for their right to vote. The Indian Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, grants equal rights to both men and women. Given India's rise to become one of the fastest-growing countries in the world, India needs to focus on achieving the goal of women's empowerment in the near future. We need to understand this task of women's empowerment because only through this can gender equality and economic progress be achieved in the country.

Women in India have been exploited for hundreds of years. Child marriage, female feticide, dowry, Sati, and temple slavery significantly worsened their situation. A widow was not allowed to live a normal life in society. A woman had no right to go beyond her family's wishes. In this country, while women are revered as goddesses, they are also considered weak. Due to the misconceptions of society, many people have mistreated women. Even today, in many families, boys are considered the harbinger of a family, while girls are considered a burden. In ancient times, people believed that girls would marry and leave, while boys would bring glory to the family and carry on the lineage. Women were considered someone else's property. Discrimination between boys and girls also existed. Boys were given privileges in every aspect and had greater rights to education.

Girls were taught to do household chores. At that time, people thought, "What will girls do after getting an education? They'll just have to get married and take care of the kitchen." But times are changing. We have seen considerable progress in the status of women in India. They are free to study and choose their careers. They are living independent lives. We see female doctors, engineers,

scientists, pilots, business leaders, teachers, and more. Women have even reached the positions of President and Prime Minister. They have proven that they can excel in all fields. They are both suitable for both home and office work. In some areas, women have proven themselves more capable than men. With global changes, awareness, education, and various movements that have taken place over time, the discussion of women's rights has begun worldwide, and India has not been untouched. From centuries to today, women's rights have received significant support through institutional, legal, and local customs. Gradually, women began to gain recognition at every level. Today, women in our country are granted various rights under the law.

Related literature study: A survey of some key literature related to the research problem presented is as follows:

Dwivedi Ramesh (2013), *Women and Human Rights: Constitutional and Legal Provisions*. Current society is becoming a slave to economics, where the unregulated accumulation of wealth is given greater importance. Capitalism is moving towards authoritarianism, properties, luxury, and consumerism, where idealistic values have no significance in this current society. There are various ways of violating women's rights. Women, along with innocent girls, have been victims of rights violations by men for centuries and continue to be so today.

Satpathy Preeti (2014), *Analytical Study of Constitutional and Legal Rights of Women*. Since independence, there have been significant reformative changes in the status of Indian women. After 64 years of independence, if we examine the legal provisions enacted to prevent crimes against women, it is clearly evident that numerous laws have been enacted in our country to maintain the dignified status of women. However, due to a lack of adequate legal education, they are unable to access legal information, and most women are even unaware of their rights. This research paper examines the rights enacted to uplift women and prevent crimes against them.

Singhal Vipin (2014)^[15], *Women's Empowerment and Protection of Women's Rights: An Analytical Study* | various efforts are being made by the government to

promote women's rights, and women are becoming increasingly aware of their rights. However, despite this, the situation remains adverse, with crimes against women steadily increasing. Therefore, it is essential that women be aware of their rights. They must be educated at the primary level. Second, economic independence; third, women should be informed of their rights under law and religion. Fourth, they should be given appropriate representation and participation at all levels of government.

Objectives of the Research Study: The research problem presented has the following objectives:

1. To study the level of awareness of constitutional values among urban and rural women.
2. To study the level of awareness of constitutional values among women from nuclear and joint families.
3. To study the level of awareness of constitutional values among women in different age groups.
4. To study the level of awareness of constitutional values among working and housewife women.

Hypothesis of the study: The research hypothesis is as follows:

1. There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values among urban and rural women.
2. There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values among women from nuclear and joint families.
3. There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values among women in different age groups.
4. There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values among working and housewife women.

Need of the Study: In today's world, women are no less than men in any aspect. Whether at home or in the workplace, women stand shoulder to shoulder with men. There is no area where women are not contributing. Whether at home or outside, women are fulfilling their responsibilities with great valor, but there are many reasons why they face more problems than men. In India alone, a woman becomes a victim of crime every minute. Whether at home, in the office, or in public places, their safety is always in question. Women face various problems such as

domestic violence, gender discrimination, and harassment. Therefore, it is crucial that women are aware of their legal rights so that they do not suffer any kind of harassment and can raise their voice against it. The researcher selected this topic for study keeping in mind the relevant topics.

Research Method: The researcher has used descriptive survey method to study the presented research problem.

Population of the study: Women from Bareilly districts have been taken as population to study the constitutional values of women in the current Indian scenario.

Sampling and Sampling Technique: In the present study, the sample has been selected by random method. 300 women from Bareilly districts have been selected as sample, in which 50% urban and 50% rural women and 50% women from nuclear families and 50% women from joint families have been selected.

Research Tool: In this study, the researcher used a standardized Constitutional Values Schedule, developed by Dr. Somu Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Banaras Hindu University.

Statistical Analysis of data: After collecting the data, the researcher used statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation, and t-test to interpret and analyze the data.

Delimitations of the Study: Keeping in mind the limitations of the researcher's labor, time, and resources, the research problem has been delimited as follows:

1. The present study is limited to Bareilly districts only.
2. The present study is limited to women only.
3. The present study is limited to women's constitutional values only.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Hypothesis Testing -01

- There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values among urban and rural women.

To test the above hypothesis, the mean, standard deviation, and critical ratio (t-ratio) statistics were calculated, details of which are presented in Table 1.

Table 1:

Variables	Sample size	Mean	SD	Mean difference	Df	CR-ratio	Significance Level
Urban women	360	140.38	47.028	1.0556	718	0.3073	0.05
Rural women	360	141.45	45.02				

In the above table, the mean value of awareness level towards constitutional values among urban women is 140.38 and the mean value of awareness level towards constitutional values among rural women is 141.45 and the standard deviation of awareness level towards constitutional values among urban women is 47.028 and the standard deviation of awareness level towards constitutional values among rural women is 45.02, their critical ratio value is 0.3073 which is necessary for the significance value to be 1.96 to be significant at significance level 0.05, whereas the obtained critical ratio value is 2.66473 which is much less than this, hence no significant difference was found in the

awareness level towards constitutional values among both the groups of urban and rural women, hence our null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis Testing – 02

- There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values among women from nuclear families and joint families.

To test the above hypothesis, the mean, standard deviation, and critical ratio (t-ratio) statistics were calculated, details of which are presented in Table No. 02.

Table 2:

Variables	Sample size	Mean	SD	Mean difference	Df	CR-ratio	Significance Level
Nuclear families women	360	155.2	41.62	13.43	718	4.191	0.01
Joint families women	360	141.7	44.2				

In the above table, the mean of women from nuclear families is 155.2 and the mean of women from joint families is 141.7 and the standard deviation of women from nuclear families is 41.62, and the standard deviation of women from joint families is 44.2, and the critical ratio is 4.191323 which is much higher than the significance level of 0.01 i.e. 2.58, which clearly shows that women from nuclear families were found to be more aware of constitutional values than women from joint families, the possible reason for this could be that women from nuclear families are more self-reliant due to which they are more aware of social and political issues, and women from joint

families have traditional thinking, limitations in decision making and domestic responsibilities limit their external awareness, thus our null hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis Testing - 03

- There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values among women across age groups.

To test the above hypothesis, the mean, standard deviation, and critical ratio (t-ratio) statistics were calculated, details of which are presented in Table No. - 03.

Table 3:

Variables	Sample size	Mean	SD	Mean difference	Df	CR-ratio	Significance Level
18 to 35 years women	360	151.5	48.42	3.361	718	0.963	0.05
35 to 55 years women	360	148.5	44.95				

In the table above, the mean score for women aged 18 to 35 years old with respect to constitutional values is 151.5, and the mean score for women aged 35 to 55 years old with respect to constitutional values is 148.5. The standard deviation for women aged 18 to 35 years old with respect to constitutional values is 48.42, and the standard deviation for women aged 35 to 55 years old with respect to constitutional values is 44.95. Their critical ratio is 3.361, which requires a critical ratio of 1.96 to be significant at a significance level of 0.05. However, the obtained critical ratio is significantly lower than this, indicating that there is

no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values between the two groups. Therefore, our null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis Testing -04

- There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values between working and housewife women.

To test the above hypothesis, the mean, standard deviation, and critical ratio (t-ratio) statistics were calculated, details of which are presented in Table -04.

Table 4:

Variables	Sample size	Mean	SD	Mean difference	Df	CR-ratio	Significance Level
Working women	360	169.433	47.07	29.752	718	8.404	0.01
Housewife women	360	139.681	44.44				

In the above table, the mean value of working women's awareness of constitutional values is 169.433, and the mean value of housewives' awareness of constitutional values is 139.681. The standard deviation of working women's awareness of constitutional values is 47.074, and the standard deviation of housewives' awareness of constitutional values is 44.4497. The critical ratio is 8.404145. To be significant at a significance level of 0.01, the significance level must be 2.58. However, the obtained critical ratio is 4.404145, which is significantly higher than this. Thus, it is clear that a significant difference has been found between the two groups. Consequently, our null hypothesis is rejected. The possible reason for this could be that working women are more educated, socially, politically, economically, and culturally aware, and their work area is broader than that of housewife.

No significant difference was found in the level of awareness of constitutional values between urban and rural women.

Women from nuclear families were found to be more aware of constitutional values than women from joint families. A possible reason for this could be that women from nuclear families are more self-reliant, making them more aware of social and political issues. While women from joint families experience limitations in traditional thinking, decision-making, and domestic responsibilities limit their external awareness.

There is no significant difference in the level of awareness of constitutional values between women aged 18 to 35 and 35 to 55.

A significant difference was found between the level of awareness of constitutional values between working and housewives. A possible reason for this could be that working women are more educated, socially, politically, economically, and culturally aware, and their work sphere is broader than that of housewives.

Conclusion

The results of this study are interpreted and analysed as follows:

Educational Implications: The results of the current study clearly indicate that:

- Educated women are more socially, politically, economically, and culturally aware.
- Traditional thinking, limitations on decision-making, and domestic responsibilities for women in joint families limit their external awareness.

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