

# **CANONSHERE LAW REVIEW**

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## **WOMEN IN INDIA THROUGH THE AGES: A BOOK REVIEW**

This book review is written by G. Kondaiah, a PhD Scholar from Department of Zoology, Government Degree College for Women, Pulivendula, (Affiliated to Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa), Andhra Pradesh, India.

### **Abstract**

Women in India Through the Ages is a compelling exploration of the evolving status, roles, and contributions of women across different historical epochs. The book traces their journey from ancient reverence and participation in intellectual life, through periods of subjugation and socio-political marginalization, to their resurgence in modern times as agents of change and empowerment. By weaving together cultural, social, and legal perspectives, it highlights both the struggles and triumphs of Indian women, offering readers a nuanced understanding of their resilience and impact on the nation's progress. This review critically engages with the text's historical depth, thematic coherence, and relevance to contemporary gender discourse.

**BOOK NAME: WOMEN IN INDIA THROUGH THE AGES**

**AUTHOR: Dr.V. MANIKANDA SETHUPATHY**

**PUBLICATION YEAR: 2025**

**PUBLISHED BY: MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY, Directorate Of Distance And Continuing Education, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu -627 012.**

**PAGES: 258**

This book was written with the constitution, laws, changing position of women, and perspectives in mind. Given the stark disparity in the representation of men and women in constitutional law, it is specifically designed for the female population. By studying the many laws that are in place, this seeks to provide a legal viewpoint in the fight against women's issues in India. The book was authored by the author and is divided into five parts, or units:

1. Perspectives on Women's Issues, 2. Social Reform Movements and Their Impact, 3. Constitution, Laws, and the Changing Status of Women, 4. Women's Welfare Organizations and Schemes, and 5. Women and Economy.

#### **Unit-I: Perspectives on Women's Issues**

The author provides a broad overview of several feminist viewpoints, including socialist, liberal, Marxist, and radical. It also discusses historical facets of Indian women throughout antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the present. The author explained Other dissident liberal feminists of the 20th century believed that women required civil liberty, economic opportunity, and sexual freedom in addition to the ability to vote. Numerous feminist viewpoints that explain women's subordination have emerged since the 1960s, when the women's liberation movement gained momentum, and this has further solidified feminism.

#### **UNIT-II: Social Reform Movements and their impact**

The author discussed the Brahmo Samaj and social reformers like Rammohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Jyotiba Phule, and Savitribai Phule in shaping social reform movements in India. Sati and Child Marriage, Widow Marriage, and Women's Liberation. One of the most crucial subjects for the UPSC IAS exam is Brahmo Samaj. It covers a large portion of the UPSC GS Paper 1 Syllabus 2023's International Organizations subject as well as the

UPSC preliminary exam's current events of global significance. Savitribai Phule's commitment to education was emphasized by the author, and her role in providing women with educational opportunity despite strong opposition from reactionary forces and higher castes stands out as a quintessential example of bravery and conviction.

### **Unit-III: Constitution, Laws and the changing status of women**

The author of this class discussed a number of obstacles to women's political engagement, including patriarchal attitudes, a lack of funding, social and cultural hurdles, political violence, and harassment. The political involvement and voting rights of Indian women in 1950 are examined in this chapter. The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution (1992) were referenced explicitly. The fundamental rights (Articles 14–18, 19, 21, and 23–24), the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) (Articles 39, 42, 44, and 45), the fundamental duties (Article 51A), and the reservation in local governance (73rd and 74th Amendments, 1992) are among the other constitutional protections for women that the author has covered.

### **Unit-IV: Women's Welfare Organizations and Schemes**

Government and non-governmental welfare organizations, welfare programs (such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Mahila Shakti Kendra), financial and economic support programs (like as Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh), health and nutrition programs (as well as Janani Suraksha Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana), and safety and legal protection programs for women in India have all been covered by the author. Throughout the year under review, the National Commission for Women sought to empower women economically and took a number of actions to raise their status. It addressed child marriage, supported legal education initiatives and Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats, and reexamined laws like the National Commission for Women Act of 1990, the PNDT Act of 1994, the Indian Penal Code of 1860, and the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 in order to make them stricter and more efficient.

## Unit-V: Women and Economy

Work, Worker, and Women are what the author plans to present. The definition of "work" is engagement in any economically productive activity. This kind of involvement might be either mental or physical. In addition to physical labor, work also include efficient supervision and guidance. It also covers unpaid labor in the company or family business. It also provides a quick overview of the evolution of the term "worker" as it has been used in the Census of India over time. According to this chapter, there are primarily two categories of workers in the unorganized sector: (i) women who work for themselves and (ii) wage earners, also known as casual laborers. The author describes many worker types, including cultivators, self-employed people in urban areas, women who work as unorganized laborers in the organized sector, and self-employed people in rural areas.

### A KEY ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK

In this book "Women In India Through The Ages," Dr. V. Manikanda Sethupathy offers a perceptive and engrossing analysis of the unique challenges faced by women in the field given under Indian law. The author offers a comprehensive investigation of the subtleties surrounding women's ages in India by closely examining case studies, regulatory frameworks, and societal conventions.

Additionally, the author's analysis of the sociocultural factors affecting women's participation in India's independence movement provides valuable insights into the root causes of gender-based issues. He adds to our understanding of the fundamental right to vote, rules pertaining to dowries, and the Indian government's programs for the welfare of women.

likewise, the book highlights the importance of multidimensional approaches that include To empower women and achieve true gender equality, laws, education, and awareness must be implemented effectively. But issues like unequal opportunities, domestic abuse, and gender discrimination still exist. The National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Act No. 20 of 1990 of the Government of India) is emphasized in the author's multidimensional approach.

The rights, laws, and regulations that currently govern women's issues are also critically evaluated in the book, along with their crucial roles in independence movements and social

reform. The laws pertaining to inheritance and dowries are examined, and the rights of women are protected. The relationship between women and the media is complicated and has changed over time, reflecting societal shifts, cultural standards, and the struggle for gender equality. The author offers valuable insights into the prospects of women entrepreneurs in India. The author used in-depth case studies and comparative analysis to explain legal frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels. recognize the contribution of women to economic expansion and their involvement in the unorganized sector. Globalization's effects on women's employment and the difficulties faced by female entrepreneurs are also emphasized by the writers.

In conclusion, "Women In India Through The Ages" is considered a seminal work in the fields of gender studies and Marxist attitudes toward women's concerns. This book is a must-read for lawmakers, lawyers, scholars, and activists who support gender equality and justice because of the author's in-depth research and practical recommendations for policy and practice. As we seek to promote safer and more inclusive spaces for women, his work is a current and helpful resource for guiding future research, advocacy, and action in this important issue.