



A Comparative Study of Women's Rights Law Literacy among Female College Students

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Abstract:

In the present study, the literacy regarding Women's Rights Laws among girl students from the Arts, Science, and Commerce streams of senior colleges has been examined using the survey research method. Using a purposive sampling technique, 90 students (30 from Arts, 30 from Science, and 30 from Commerce) from senior colleges in Shirpur Taluka were selected. To measure the Literacy level of Women's Rights Laws among these students, a self-made scale consisting of 25 statements was developed by the researcher. The response options provided were Agree, Disagree, and Cannot Say. For the analysis of the collected data, statistical measures such as mean, standard deviation, and 't' value were employed. The findings of the study indicate that there is a significant and meaningful difference in the Literacy regarding Women's Rights Laws among students from different academic streams (Arts, Science, and Commerce). This clearly shows that the level of awareness about Women's Rights Laws varies according to the academic discipline.

Introduction:

India is progressing rapidly on the path of development. Efforts are underway to achieve prosperity at all levels. The fields of education, social systems, security, and other sectors are functioning efficiently. Along with men, women too have contributed significantly to the nation's progress through their capability and participation. Education, dignity, and equal rights are the birth right of every woman. However, even today, we witness violations of women's rights in society. Incidents such as dowry deaths, domestic violence, workplace harassment, and unequal treatment continue to occur. To stop these injustices, it is essential to create awareness about women's rights. Women's rights are an important part of the nation's social justice system. In this context, 26 November is observed as Dowry Prohibition Day. Giving or taking dowry has been declared a punishable offence by law. Dowry Prohibition Officers have been appointed at every police station, and district- and taluka-level committees have also been formed. Women must recognize their rights and lodge complaints against those who demand



dowry. Various officials and institutions in the state are working to protect women's rights. District Women and Child Development Officers, Sub-Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, and Block Development Officers have been appointed for this purpose. Additionally, 72 shelter homes and 82 recognized Service Providers have been established for women's welfare. The Maharashtra State Commission for Women works to ensure justice and dignity for women. To prevent sexual harassment at the workplace, the Vishakha Guidelines have been implemented, and complaint redressal committees are functioning across the state. A special task force has been formed to prevent the trafficking of women. Laws are in force to eradicate the Devadasi system and rehabilitate affected women. To curb sex-determination tests, the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act is strictly implemented. Under this Act, those conducting sex determination are subject to penalties and imprisonment; however, no criminal case is filed against the pregnant woman. To prevent child marriage, Village Child Protection Committees have been established, consisting of Gram Sevaks, Anganwadi workers, Sarpanch, and social workers. Each district also has a designated Child Marriage Prohibition Officer.

Overall, numerous laws, schemes, and institutions are working for the protection and empowerment of women and children. However, despite all these efforts, many women still lack adequate knowledge about their rights. Therefore, the present study has been undertaken with the objective of making women aware of their rights and encouraging them to exercise those rights.

Statement of the Problem:

To Conduct a Comparative Study of Women's Rights Law Literacy among Female College Students in Shirpur Taluka.

Objective:

To compare the literacy of Women's Rights Laws between girl students of the Arts, Commerce and Science streams in senior colleges.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between the literacy among Arts and Science streams girl's student of senior colleges.
2. There is no significant difference between the literacy among Arts and Commerce streams girl's student of senior colleges.
3. There is no significant difference between the literacy among Science and Commerce streams girl's student of senior colleges.



Research Methodology

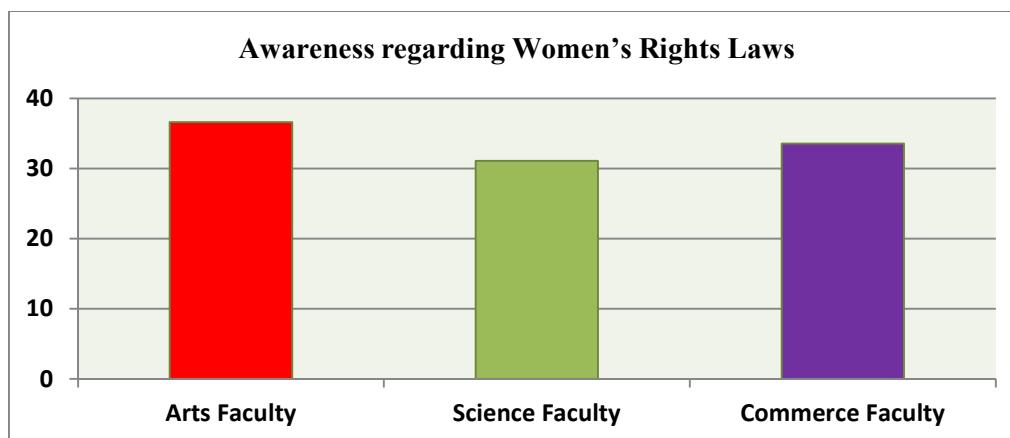
- **Research Method:** To study the awareness of Women's Rights Laws among girl students of the Arts, Science, and Commerce streams, the descriptive research method and survey technique were adopted.
- **Population:** The population for the present study consisted of all third-year girl students enrolled in senior colleges of Shirpur Taluka.
- **Sample:** Using the purposive sampling technique, a sample of 90 girl students from senior colleges in Shirpur Taluka (30 from Arts, 30 from Science, and 30 from Commerce) was selected.
- **Research Tool:** To measure the Literacy of Women's Rights Laws among girl students, a self-made scale on Women's Safety and Legal Awareness was prepared. It consisted of 25 statements, with response options Agree, Disagree, and Cannot Say. The tool was validated by subject experts, including the research guide and psychology teachers.
- **Statistical Measures:** For the analysis of the collected data, statistical measures such as Mean, Standard Deviation, and 't' value were used.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

For this study, a self-made questionnaire was administered to girl students from the Arts, Science, and Commerce streams to examine their literacy regarding Women's Rights Laws. Based on their responses, the hypotheses were tested as follows.

Table No. 01

Girls Students	N	M	SD	Table 't' value	Obtained 't' value	Decision
Arts Faculty	30	36.63	3.23	2.00	6.92	Rejected
Science Faculty	30	31.09	2.96		3.78	Rejected
Arts Faculty	30	36.63	3.23		6.92	Rejected
Commerce Faculty	30	33.54	3.10			
Science Faculty	30	31.09	2.96			
Commerce Faculty	30	33.54	3.10			



Analysis and Interpretation

- **Hypothesis 01:** For a df (58), the table 't' value at the 0.05 level of significance is 2.00. The obtained 't' value is 6.92, which is higher than the table value. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is a significant difference in the mean scores of awareness regarding Women's Rights Laws between girl students of the Arts and Science streams. The mean score of awareness among Arts students is higher than that of Science students. Hence, it can be concluded that girl students from the Arts stream possess greater awareness of Women's Rights Laws compared to those from the Science stream.
- **Hypothesis 02:** For a degree of freedom (58), the table 't' value at the 0.05 level of significance is 2.00. The obtained value is 3.78, which is greater than the table value. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This shows that there is a significant difference in the mean scores of awareness regarding Women's Rights Laws between girl students of the Arts and Commerce streams. The mean score of awareness among Arts students is higher than that of Commerce students. Hence, it can be concluded that girl students from the Arts stream have greater awareness of Women's Rights Laws than those from the Commerce stream.
- **Hypothesis 03:** For a degree of freedom (58), the table 't' value at the 0.05 level of significance is 2.00. The obtained value is 6.92, which is higher than the table value. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is a significant difference in the mean scores of awareness regarding Women's Rights Laws between girl students of the Science and Commerce streams. The mean score of awareness among Commerce students is higher than that of Science students. Hence, it can be concluded that girl students from the Commerce stream possess greater awareness of Women's Rights Laws compared to those from the Science stream.

**Findings:**

1. A significant difference is found in the mean scores of awareness about women's rights laws among female students from the Arts and Science streams of senior college.
2. A significant difference is found in the mean scores of awareness about women's rights laws among female students from the Arts and Commerce streams of senior college.
3. A significant difference is found in the mean scores of awareness about women's rights laws among female students from the Science and Commerce streams of senior college.

Discussion Based on the Conclusions:

Based on the above conclusions, it is clear that the awareness of women's rights laws changes from one academic stream to another. Female students from different streams show different levels of knowledge. Students from the Arts and Science streams, and Arts and Commerce streams, have noticeable differences in their awareness levels. This suggests that Arts students are generally more aware of women's rights because their subjects include social issues, law, human rights, and civics. There is also a difference in awareness between Science and Commerce students. These streams mainly focus on technical, mathematical, or business-related subjects. They include very little content about women's rights laws, social issues, the Constitution, or human values. Therefore, students from these streams tend to have lower awareness about women's rights.

Overall, the findings show that students who study social science subjects have better knowledge of women's rights laws. Arts students, in particular, learn subjects like Social Sciences, Political Science, History, and Sociology, which help them understand women's rights, laws, and related social issues. Since significant differences are found in all three comparisons, it clearly shows that awareness about women's rights laws is not the same across all streams. Because of this, colleges need to take steps to increase awareness. Special programmes, workshops, legal awareness sessions, and sensitization activities should be organized especially for Science and Commerce students. The analysis shows that awareness about women's rights laws depends on the academic stream, and there is a need to introduce educational policies and programmes to make this awareness equal for all students. Increasing awareness of women's rights is very important in today's society, and educational institutions must take the lead in promoting it.



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