



The rights of women under Indian law are guaranteed through the **Constitution of India, statutory laws, and judicial precedents.** These rights aim to promote equality, protect dignity, and ensure social justice for women. Below is a comprehensive list categorized into **Constitutional, Legal, Personal Law, and Special Rights:**

I. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

1. Right to Equality – Article 14

- a) Equal protection of the laws for men and women.

2. Right Against Discrimination – Article 15(1) & (3)

- a) Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.
- b) Allows the State to make special provisions for women and children.

3. Right to Equal Opportunity in Public Employment – Article 16

4. Right to Life and Personal Liberty – Article 21

- a) Includes right to dignity, privacy, reproductive autonomy, etc.

5. Directive Principles – Article 39(a), (d), (e)

- a) Equal pay for equal work.
- b) Protection against exploitation and abuse.

II. LEGAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN UNDER STATUTORY LAWS

A. Protection from Violence and Abuse

1. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

- a) Right to reside in shared household.
- b) Protection, residence, maintenance, and custody orders.

2. Section 85 Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

- a) Protection against cruelty by husband or in-laws.

3. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

- a) Right to a safe and harassment-free workplace.

4. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) (Sec 74, 64, etc.)

- a) Punishment for outraging modesty, assault, rape, stalking, etc.

B. Reproductive and Health Rights

1. Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (Amended 2021)

- a) Right to safe and legal abortion under certain conditions.

2. Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PCPNDT)

- a) Prohibits sex-selective abortions and female foeticide.

C. Marriage and Divorce Rights

1. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

- a) Right to maintenance, divorce on grounds like cruelty, adultery, desertion.

2. Muslim Personal Law

- a) Right to mehr, maintenance (iddat), khula (divorce by wife).

3. Special Marriage Act, 1954

- a) Inter-caste/inter-religion marriage rights.

D. Maintenance and Property Rights

1. Section 144 BNSS

- a) Right to maintenance from husband after separation/divorce.

2. Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (Amended 2005)

- a) Equal coparcenary and inheritance rights for daughters.

3. Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986

- a) Right to maintenance and mehr after divorce.

E. Workplace and Labour Rights

1. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

- a) Equal pay for equal work.

2. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961

- a) 26 weeks paid maternity leave.

3. Factories Act, Shops and Establishments Act

- a) Welfare measures and working conditions for women.

III. SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR WOMEN

1. Free Legal Aid – Under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

- a) Women are entitled to free legal services.

2. Reservation in Local Bodies – Constitution (73rd & 74th Amendments)

- a) 33% seats reserved in Panchayati Raj institutions.

3. Fast Track Courts for Crimes Against Women

4. Right to Privacy in Reporting Sexual Offences

IV. LANDMARK JUDGMENTS UPHOLDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

1. **Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)** – Guidelines against sexual harassment at workplace.
 2. **Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018)** – Struck down adultery law (Section 497 IPC) as discriminatory.
 3. **Shayara Bano v. Union of India (2017)** – Triple Talaq declared unconstitutional.
 4. **Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala (2018)** – Sabarimala temple case; women have right to enter.
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