

**AWARENESS ON WOMEN RIGHTS AMONG UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS OF KERALA**

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## **DECLARATION**

I, **EDATHODATHIL SAJANI** do here by declare that this dissertation entitled “**AWARENESS ON WOMEN RIGHTS AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF KERALA**” has not been submitted by me for the award of any Degree, Diploma, Title or Recognition before.

Farook College

**EDATHODATHIL SAJANI**

Date: 30.06.2021

## **CERTIFICATE**

I, **Dr. NIRANJANA. K.P**, do here by certify that the dissertation entitled **“AWARENESS ON WOMEN RIGHTS AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF KERALA”** is a record of bonafide study and research carried out by **EDATHODATHIL SAJANI** under my supervision and guidance, and has not been submitted by her for the award of any Degree, Diploma, Title or recognition before.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

- **Need and Significance of the Study**
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Women in India now participate in all activities such as education, politics, media, art and culture, service sectors, science and technology etc. They are holding the most important positions in the world. Women are the real pillars of a society upon which present as well as the future generation of a nation builds. The role of women is no doubt meaningful in the reproduction of human races, but patriarchy and conventional society have reached women to a position of triviality. Women are the subject of mistreatment both within and outside the house. Innumerable laws have been enacted by the legislature, but the position of women remains unaffected. The women rights are inalienable, fundamental and inseparable part of human rights. The complete development of women personality, freedom and their equal involvement in political, social, economic and cultural life are important for international as well as national development.

Indian constitution was written in an era when the social condition of Indian women was very poor and need an urgent reform. She was mentally and physically tortured in the society. She was struggling to find her social status and respectable place in the society. Indian women were in a need of some laws in order to improve their social position as well to ensure proper safety against mental and physical torture. At that time, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the author of our Indian constitution, took certain constructive and much needed steps in favour of Indian women to make them independent and socially strong and today we can see the revolutionary change in the position and image of Indian women. Due to the revolutionary changes brought by our constitution and efforts made by Indian women, they have earned

themselves a respectable position in the society. Today, women are everywhere and to be precise women are in space, women are incorporate, women are in politics, women are in entertainment field, women are in defense field and the list goes on.

But still our experiences and research evidences showed that in this advanced era too Indian women are struggling to maintain their dignity and freedom. World Health Organization (2021) reported that violence against women – particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence – is a major public health problem and a violation of women's human rights. Estimates published by WHO (2021) indicated that globally about one in three (30%) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Most of this violence is intimate partner violence. Worldwide, almost one third (27 percent) of women aged 15-49 years who have been in a relationship reported that they have been subjected to some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. Mental and physical torture of women has again become common and that is why they have starting feeling unsafe.

The world is moving towards economic and technological revolution, we are still striving for equal rights and it is disheartening that Indian woman continue to be abused, oppressed and exploited. Governments and organizations that do not have access to standards, guidelines and tools cannot adequately solve these problems. The discrimination in any form against women is violate of human rights. Violence against women is rooted in discrimination and inequality, which makes it difficult to resolve. Men and women who have no opportunity to question gender roles,

attitudes and beliefs cannot change them. Women who do not understand their rights cannot claim their rights. In order to perpetuate from harmful practices against women along with changing social and cultural norms, public awareness and education of women rights is required.

Women in India are being provided with the legal security to secure their economic, social and culture lives. With the proper knowledge of legal and constitutional rights relate to woman, their position can be further strengthen in the society. There are lots of provisions in our law which protects a woman from mental and physical torture. The constitutional rights for women in India are mentioned in various Articles such as Article 14, Article 15(1), Article 15(3), Article 16(2), Article 23(1), Article 39(a), Article 39(d), Article 39(e), Article 42, Article 51-A(e), Article 243-D(3), Article 243-D(4), Article 243-T(3), Article 243-T(4) etc. Apart from these, the measures taken by the Indian government in interest of women life safeguard in the form of various legislations such as Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, prohibition and redressal) Act 2013, The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention)] Act, 1956 etc.

### **Need and Significance of the Study**

The condition of women is quite contradictory in nature. There are many amazing examples of successful women at different levels, but at the same time violence, discrimination, torture and exploitation etc., make the life of others

miserable. Women are no longer a child bearer and care taker of home only but come out of to fight for their own identity. They are human being like their fellow men and enjoy the same rights and duties with men. They have achieved a lot but they have yet to achieve so many things. Despite their advancements, the problem of women and the women belonging to the dalit, tribal, wandering communities and women working in unorganized sector stay untouched.

Women rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls worldwide and they formed the basis for the women rights' movement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and feminist movement during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In some countries, these rights are institutionalized or supported by law, local custom and behaviour whereas in others, they are ignored and suppressed. Women rights differ from broader notions of human rights through claims of an inherent historical and traditional bias against exercise of rights by women and girls, in favor of men and boys. Issues commonly associated with women are related to notions of bodily integrity and autonomy, to be free from sexual violence, to vote, to hold public office, to enter into legal contractors, to have equal rights in family, to work, to fair wages or equal pay, to have reproductive rights, to own property, and to education.

In India, problems of marriage, dowry, and divorce are extremely serious, and women are vulnerable to violent crimes especially in the weaker and economically backward parts of society. Kapur (2018) indicated that individuals particularly in rural areas considers male children are better and male children would accumulate wealth for them; on the other hand, females are considered to be burdens and it is believed that a female can only perform household chores; still there is

prevalence of female infanticide and sex selective abortions. The results of the study also indicated that women often undergo sexual harassment at the work place by their colleagues or higher-level officers and violence within home is universal across culture, religion, class and ethnicity.

Education is a good indicator of women development and progress. In recent scenario, policy makers and government has made the policies which envisages the equality to women in all the areas. As per the 2011 population census of India, 81.84 percent of women are literate. Even though a large section of women population remains uneducated, has no knowledge of laws and are facing exploitation of all sorts. A comparative study on the level of awareness about constitutional and legal rights among working and non-working women conducted by Das (2015) revealed that 50 percent of respondents feels subordination in their lives and 53.33 percent does not feel freedom in expressing their desire. The study also indicated that highly educated women have more awareness and understanding of constitutional rights than the women with no education. Among the respondents, 60 percent women have no idea of Domestic violence act, 81.33 percent of women have less awareness about government schemes for the development of children and women, and 67.77 percent respondents does not know about laws against sexual exploitation

Now a day, women have equal legal rights to health care, education, civic participation and economic justice. However, despite of the progress in gender equality over the past century, women are still victims of harassment, assault and discrimination in the workplace and in the family. Researches indicated that the awareness on women rights enable the individuals to share power equally, gain full

access to the means of development and to inspire a whole generation to work together towards achieving equality and justice. Education is found to be positively related to active participation in decision making in the family (Das, 2015). Once awareness is raised, the potential to stop all forms of violence will also increase. Thus, the present study aims to analyze the awareness on women rights among undergraduate students in Kerala.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Public awareness and education are essential to changing social and cultural norms which liquefy harmful practices. Awareness about women rights and remedies provided under various women related laws, make women fit to face the challenges in real life situations. Thus, the study is entitled as, “**AWARENESS ON WOMEN RIGHTS AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF KERALA**”

### **Definition of Key Terms**

#### **Awareness**

Good (1959) defined awareness as “the state of being aware, conscious of a situation or object, without direct attention to it or definite knowledge of its nature”.

In this study, awareness means awareness on women rights i.e., awareness on various constitutional and legal safeguards for women.

#### **Women Rights**

Women rights are the fundamental human rights that were enshrined by the United Nation for every human being on the planet nearly 70 years ago.

These rights include the right to live free from violence, slavery and discrimination to be educated, to own property to vote and to earn a fair and equal wage (Maran,1998).

In this study women rights means the rights enshrined in the constitution and legal safeguards for women in India.

### **Undergraduate Students**

In this study, under graduate students refer to those students studying at undergraduate (degree) level in arts and science colleges of Kerala State.

### **Variable of the Study**

The variable selected for the study is “Awareness on Women Rights”.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

- To find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.
- To compare the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroups based on
  - Gender
  - Locale
  - Subject of Study

## **Hypotheses of the Study**

The hypotheses framed for the study are

1. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale.
3. There is no significant difference in mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on subject of study.

## **Methodology in Brief**

The study adopted descriptive survey method in order to analyze the Awareness of Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.

### **Sample**

The population for the study consisted of undergraduate students studying in arts and science colleges of Kerala state. The sample for the study comprised of 205 undergraduate students studying in various arts and science colleges of Kozhikode and Malappuram district of Kerala State.

### **Tools Used for Data Collection**

To measure the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala, “Awareness Test on Women Rights” prepared by the investigator with the help of supervising teacher was used (Sajani & Niranjana, 2020). The awareness test



consists of 30 multiple choice questions relate to various constitutional and legal rights for women.

### **Statistical Techniques Used**

The statistical techniques used for the analysis of data are

- Descriptive Statistics
- Percentiles
- Test of significance of difference between means of large independent sample (t-test)

### **Data Collection Procedure**

Data were collected from the undergraduate students studying in various arts and science colleges of Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala state by administering the ‘Awareness Test on Women Rights’ through google forms.

### **Scope and Limitations of the Study**

The study was intended to find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. The study was conducted among undergraduate students studying in various arts and science colleges of Kozhikode, and Malappuram districts of Kerala State. International human rights treaties prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender and also require States to ensure the protection and realization of women’s rights in all areas – from property ownership and freedom from violence, to equal access to education and participation in government. Understanding the awareness on women rights among undergraduate students, will be helpful for the policy makers, teachers and social workers to undertake suitable strategies in order to free society from violence against women.

Even though precautions were taken to make the study as successful as possible, certain limitations have crept to the study. The limitations of the study are;

- Sample selected for the study considered only the undergraduate students of Kozhikode, and Malappuram districts of Kerala state
- Sample for the study was limited to undergraduate students of Kerala.
- Due to the limitation of online method of data collection, the sample for the study was limited to 205 undergraduate students
- As data collected through online mode, it was difficult to give due weightage to gender, locale and subject of study during data collection.

### **Organization of the Report**

The report is presented in five chapters

#### **Chapter 1**

The chapter one presents introduction to the problem, its need and significance, statement of the problem, operational definition of key terms, objectives of the study, methodology in brief, tool employed, statistical techniques used and scope and limitations of the study.

#### **Chapter II**

The chapter two gives a conceptional overview of women rights reflected in constitution and legal safeguards for women in India. It also includes the review of studies related to legal and women rights, in constitution and various legislations.

### **Chapter III**

The chapter three describes the methodology of the study in detail with description of variables, objectives, tools employed for data collection, sample selected for the study, data collection procedure and statistical techniques used for the analysis.

### **Chapter IV**

The fourth chapter deals with the statistical analysis and interpretation of the data collected for the study.

### **Chapter V**

The fifth chapter presents a summary of the study, major findings, tenability of hypothesis, educational implications of the study and scope for further research.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

- **Theoretical Overview of Women Rights**
- **Related Studies on Women Rights**
- **Conclusion**

Review of related studies is an essential aspect of a research. The purpose of the review is to expand the context and background of the study, to help further in defining the research as it shows what other researchers have already done and what other investigator are doing contemporarily. In other words, it basically helps the investigators to find various research gaps and provides insight to investigate about use of methodology. It describes how the research is related to prior research and it shows the originality and relevance of the selected research problem. Specifically, it justifies proposed methodology. The literature review seeks to describe, summarize, evaluate, clarify and/or integrate the content of primary reports (Cooper, 1989). Thus, it provides a critical review and appraisal of the related studies and shows how the related studies contribute towards advancing the present knowledge regarding the specific area under investigation.

The present study is an attempt to find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. So, this chapter consists of two major sections. The first section deals with the theoretical background of the variable and second section deals with the various studies carried out by other researchers by using the variable or similar variables under consideration. Review of related literature done for the present study is described under the following sections:

- Theoretical Overview of Women Rights
- Related Studies on Women Rights

## **Theoretical Overview of Women Rights**

The strength of the chain is the strength of its weakest link. In our society women are the weakest links so that they may be strengthened for strengthening the society as a whole and that is possible only by empowering them. Nehru said, “Women should be uplifted for the upliftment of the nation, for if a woman is uplifted, society and nation is uplifted (as cited by Bangari, 2019). Women have to play an important role in the building up of every economy.

According to Sayula (2005) “Women empowerment is any process that provides greater autonomy to women through the sharing relevant information and provision of control over factors affecting their performance.” In India, in addition to the constitutional provisions and approval of different international practices, several legislative bills have been passed to ensure women empowerment. Since independence, bringing women into the mainstream of development has been the government’s main focus. In order to empower them and mainstream them, policy makers have been working hard to create an enabling environment, including necessary policies and plans, institutional mechanisms at all levels, and sufficient financial resources. The government of India undertook a number of legislative measures to safeguard the interest of women. The various Acts passed by government for women to equality aims to fundamental rights including social, cultural, religious, educational, economic and political activity participation. Constitution makers and the leaders of the country have realized that better social development of the country can be achieved only by raising the status of women. Therefore, more and more legislations to ensure better opportunities and to grant more right and concession for

women is incorporated from time to time which in turn help to bring change in attitude among people towards women and their role in society.

### **Constitutional Rights for Women in India**

The rights enshrined in the Constitution of India for women are explained under this section (Ministry of Law and Justice Legislative Department, Government of India, 2020).

- Article 14: Equality before law: The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
- Article 15 (1): Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste sex or place of birth: The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.
- Article 15 (2): No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and palaces of public entertainment; or (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public
- Article 15 (3): Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children. In other words, the State can make any special provision for women and children without any hurdles or obligations.

- Article 16 (2): Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment: No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or, any employment or office under the State
- Article 19: Freedom of speech and expression: The citizens (which include both women, men and third gender) the Right to Freedom, which among other things guarantees freedom of speech and expression of practicing trade and profession etc.
- Article 21: Protection of life and personal liberty: No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law is to prevent encroachment on and loss of life. Anyone including women, can seek protection under this.
- Article 23 (1): Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour: Traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.
- Article 23 (2): Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from imposing compulsory service for public purpose, and in imposing such service the State shall not make any discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste or class or any of them.
- Article 23-24: The Right against exploitation enshrined in Article 23 and 24 of the Indian Constitution guarantees human dignity and protect people from



any such exploitation. Thus, upholding the principles of human dignity and liberty upon which the Indian Constitution is based.

- Article 39 (a): The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means to livelihood.
- Article 39 (d): The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- Article 39 (e): The state is required to ensure that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.
- Article 42: Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief: The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.
- Article 51A (e): It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
- Article 243 D (3): Not less than one third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.
- Article 243 D (4) - One third of the total number of offices of chairperson in the panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women. The 73rd

constitutional Amendment Act passed by the parliament in 1992 ensures one third of the total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies whether in rural areas.

- Article 243 T (3) - One third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every municipality shall be reserved for women.
- Article 243 T (4) - Offices of chairpersons in the municipalities shall be reserved for women in such manner as the State legislature may provide. to reserve 1/3rd of all seats in the Lower house of Parliament of India, the Lok Sabha, and in all state legislative assemblies for women. The seats were proposed to be reserved in rotation and would have been determined by draw of lots in such a way that a seat would be reserved only once in three consecutive general elections. The Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 9 March 2010. However, the Lok Sabha never voted on the bill. The bill is still pending as it never went to the Lok Sabha.

### **Legal Safeguards for Women in India**

Women related legislations in India are explained under this section (Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, 2020; Digital Repository of All Central and State Acts, India Code, 2021).

- **The Indian Divorce Act/ Divorce Act (1869)** – The Divorce Act applies to the whole country except the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Furthermore, it applies only to those people who profess the Christian religion and the parties must also reside in India to apply for any remedy under the Act. Some sections were amended in Indian Divorce (Amendment) Act of 2001. The Act permits

dissolution of marriage on the petition by the husband or the wife, and dissolution of marriage on mutual consent. On a petition for dissolution of marriage presented by a husband or wife on the ground of adultery, the petitioner shall make the alleged adulterer or adulteress a co-respondent, unless the petitioner is excused by the Court from so doing on any of the following grounds, namely: (a) that the wife, being the respondent is leading the life of a prostitute or the husband, being respondent is leading an immoral life and that the petitioner knows of no person with whom the adultery has been committed; (b) that the name of the alleged adulterer or adulteress is unknown to the petitioner although the petitioner has made due efforts to discover it; (c) that the alleged adulterer or adulteress is dead.

- **The Legal Practitioners (Women) Act (1923):** An Act for the removal of doubts regarding the right of women to be enrolled and to practise as legal practitioners. It is expedient to remove certain doubts which have arisen as to the right of women to be enrolled and to practise as legal practitioners. Notwithstanding anything contained in any enactment in force or in the letters patent of any High Court or in any rule or order made under or in pursuance of any such enactment or letters patent, no woman shall, by reason only of her sex, be disqualified from being admitted or enrolled as a legal practitioner or from practicing as such; and any such rule or order which is repugnant to the provisions of this Act shall, to the extent of such repugnancy, be void.
- **The Hindu Marriage Act (1955):** The Act extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and applies also to Hindus domiciled in the territories to which this Act extends who are outside the said territories.

The bridegroom has completed the age of 21 years and the bride, the age of 18 years at the time of the marriage. A woman can seek the help of the police to help her stop her marriage if she is being forced to marry against her will. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 incorporated Monogamy and strictly prohibits a Hindu from getting involved in a marital relationship with more than one person. Bigamy and Polygamy, if proved is strictly punishable under the Indian Penal Code as per provisions under Section 5 and Section 17 of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

- **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (1956):** This Act provides in pursuance of the International Convention signed at New York on the 9th day of May, 1950, for the prevention of immoral traffic. Any person who keeps or manages, or acts or assists in the keeping or management of, a brothel shall be punishable on first conviction with rigorous imprisonment for a term of not less than one year and not more than three years and also with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees and in the event of a second or subsequent conviction, with rigorous imprisonment for a term of not less than two years and not more than five years and also with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees.
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) -** The Dowry Prohibition Act aims to prohibit the giving or taking of dowry which extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. According to this act taking or giving of dowry at the time of the marriage to the bride or the bridegroom and their family shall be void. According to Section 2 of the Act, the

‘dowry’ is defined as means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly: (a) by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage; or (b) by the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other person, to either party to the marriage or to any other person; at or before or any time after the marriage in connection with the marriage of said parties but does not include dower or mahr in the case of persons to whom the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) applies. If any person, after the commencement of this Act, gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years, and with the fine which shall not be less than fifteen thousand rupees or the amount of the value of such dowry, whichever is more. If any person demands directly or indirectly, from the parents or other relatives or guardian of a bride or bridegroom as the case may be, any dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees. According to section 498 A of IPC any cruelty for dowry to a woman by the husband or his relatives is a non bailable offence with up to three years jail and fine. Act also provides that any agreement for the giving or taking of dowry shall be void.

- **The Maternity Benefit Act (1961)** – The Act regulates the employment of women in certain establishment for certain period before and after child-birth and to provide for maternity benefit and certain other benefits which

is applicable to whole of India. It states a women employee who has worked in an organization for a period of at least 80 days during the 12 months preceding the date of her expected delivery is entitled to receive maternity leave, nursing breaks, medical allowances, payments, etc. The Act aims to protect the dignity of motherhood and the dignity of a person by providing for full and healthy maintenance of the women and her child at this important time when she is not working. As per the provisions of the Act, no employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any establishment during the six weeks immediately following the day of her delivery or her miscarriage and no woman shall work in any establishment during the six weeks immediately following the day of her delivery of her miscarriage. Subject to the provisions of this Act, every woman shall be entitled to, and her employer shall be liable for, the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of the average daily wage for the period of her actual absence immediately preceding and including the day of her delivery and for the six weeks immediately following that day.

- **The Equal Remuneration Act (1976)** - This act extends to whole of India and provides the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevention of discrimination, on the ground of sex, against women in the matter of employment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. On and from the commencement of this Act, no employer shall, while making recruitment for the same work or work of a similar nature, [or in any condition of service subsequent to recruitment such as promotions, training or transfer], make any discrimination against women except where the

employment of women in such work is prohibited or restricted by or under any law for the time being in force: Provided that the provisions of this section shall not affect any priority or reservation for scheduled castes or scheduled tribes, ex-servicemen, retrenched employees of any other class or category of persons in the matter of recruitment to the posts in an establishment or employment.

- **The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act (1986)** : This Act prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This act prohibits advertisements containing indecent representation of women and prohibition of publication or sending by post of books, pamphlets, etc; containing indecent representation of women. The word “indecent representation of women” means the depiction in any manner of the figure of a woman, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to, or denigrating, women, or is likely to deprave, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals. The word "advertisement" includes any notice, circular, label, wrapper or other document and also includes any visible representation made by means of any light, sound, smoke or gas. No person shall publish, or cause to be published, or arrange or take part in the publication or exhibition of, any advertisement which contains indecent representation of women in any form. No person shall produce or cause to be produced, sell, let to hire, distribute, circulate or send by post any book, pamphlet, paper, slide, film, writing, drawing, painting, photograph, representation or figure which

contains indecent representation of women in any form. Any person who contravenes the provisions of section 3 or section 4 shall be punishable on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and with fine which may extend two thousand rupees, and in the event of a second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term of not less than six months but which may extend to five years and also with a fine not less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees.

- **The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act (1987):** Sati is the cultural practice of burning or burying alive a woman, along with the body of her deceased husband. This Act provides for the more effective prevention of the commission of sati and its glorification and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), whoever attempts to commit sati and does any act towards such commission shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.
- **The National Commission for Women Act (1990) :** As per the provisions of this Act, The National Commission for women (NCW), a statutory body of the government of India, established in January 1992. This body was established to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women. This act extends across India, except for Jammu and Kashmir. It recommends the remedial legislative measures, facilitates redressal of grievances and advises the government on all policy matters affecting the women. It enjoys all the



powers of a civil court. The National Commission for Women Act aims to improve the status of women and worked for their economic empowerment.

- **The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) :** This Act aims at providing protection to wife or female live-in partner from violence at the hands of the husband or male live-in partner or his relatives. The Law extends protection to women who are sisters including adopted sisters and mothers. Domestic violence under the Act includes actual abuse or threat of abuse, whether physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, or economic. The word “domestic relationship” means a relationship between two persons who live or have, at any point of time, lived together in a shared household, when they are related by consanguinity, marriage, or through a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption or are family members living together as a joint family. Domestic violence in case it harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse; or harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security.
- **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006):** The Act provides for the prohibition of solemnization of child marriages and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In this Act, “child” means a person who, if a male,

has not completed twenty-one years of age, and if a female, has not completed eighteen years of age. This act defines “child marriages” as a marriage when the groom of the bride is underage, that is, the bride is under 18 years of age or the boy is younger than 21 years. Parents trying to marry underage girls are subject to action under this law. Since the law makes these marriages illegal, it acts as a major deterrent. Whoever performs, conducts, directs or abets any child marriage shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years and shall be liable to fine which may extend to one lakh rupees unless he proves that he had reasons to believe that the marriage was not a child marriage. Where a child contracts a child marriage, any person having charge of the child, whether as parent or guardian or any other person or in any other capacity, lawful or unlawful, including any member of an organization or association of persons who does any act to promote the marriage or permits it to be solemnized, or negligently fails to prevent it from being solemnized, including attending or participating in a child marriage, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend up to one lakh rupees.

- **The Sexual Harassment of Women of Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act (2013):** The Act provides protection against sexual harassment of women at workplace and for the prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto which extends to the whole of India. The term “sexual harassment” includes any one or more of the following unwelcome acts or behavior (whether directly or by implication) namely: - (i) physical contact

and advances; or (ii) a demand or request for sexual favours; or (iii) making sexually coloured remarks; or (iv) showing pornography; or (v) any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature. The Act ensures that no woman shall be subjected to sexual harassment at any workplace. Sexual harassment results in violation of the fundamental rights of a woman to equality under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution of India and her right to life and to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution and right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business which includes a right to a safe environment free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment of the nature of unwelcome physical contact and advances or a demand or request for sexual favours or showing pornography is punishable up to three years or fine or both. The protection against sexual harassment and the right to work with dignity are universally recognized human rights by international conventions and instruments such as Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, which has been ratified on the 25th June, 1993 by the Government of India.

- **The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, (2013)** : This Act more popularly called the Anti-Rape Bill, is now law. The Act came into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2013 following the outrage of the entire nation behind the homicidal gang rape that took place in New Delhi on the night of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The protest in the Delhi after the barbarous rape incident indicated the whole of India, the enormity as well as the seriousness for an immediate reform in Rape Laws. The Act is deemed to be one of the most important changes that have been made in the existing criminal laws namely the Indian Penal Code, the Code of

Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. Act provides for amendment of Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 on laws related to sexual offences. According to Section 354C, Voyeurism is the act of watching a person engaged in private activities. If a man watches a woman engaged in private activities, when the woman does not expect anyone to be watching, he has committed the offence of voyeurism. The Section 354A provides that sexual harassment has been made a gender-neutral offence whereas earlier, a man who makes unwelcome sexual advances, forcefully shows pornography or demands/requests sexual favours from a woman commits the offence of sexual harassment *simpliciter* under section 354A; this is punishable by imprisonment of up to three years.

- **The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, (2019):** This Act extends whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir and protects the rights of married Muslim women and to prohibit divorce by pronouncing talaq by their husbands and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. According to the Act, "*talaq*" means *talaq-e-biddat* or any other similar form of *talaq* having the effect of instantaneous and irrevocable divorce pronounced by a Muslim husband. Any Muslim husband who pronounces talaq referred to in Section 3 upon his wife shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine. The Act provides without prejudice to the generality of the provisions contained in any other law for the time being in force, a married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced shall be entitled to receive from her husband such amount of subsistence allowance, for her and

dependent children, as may be determined by the Magistrate. It also provides that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, a married Muslim woman shall be entitled to custody of her minor children in the event of pronouncement of talaq by her husband, in such manner as may be determined by the Magistrate.

- **Female Sexual Assault Victims have the Right to Keep their Identity**

**Anonymous:** In India, it is a criminal offence to disclose the identity of victims of offences committed under Sections 376, 376A, 376B, 376C or 376D of the IPC (broadly, offences covering sexual assault). The relevant section is 228A of the IPC which prohibits publication of the names of sexual assault victims save in exceptional cases, including where the publication is authorized in writing by the victim or by the next of kin of the victim (where the victim is dead or minor or of unsound mind). Further, under Section 23 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, the media is prohibited from disclosing information which could lead to disclosure of the identity of a victim in case of offences committed under the Act. To ensure that her privacy is protected a woman who has been sexually assaulted may record her statement alone before the district magistrate when the case is under trial or in the presence of a female police officer.

### **Related Studies on Women Rights**

Before exploring the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students, it is necessary to look into various aspects already studied, as research is a continuous process and it must have some continuity with earlier facts. The knowledge gathered in the past should be consolidated to keep it on records for future use. It is like

consulting the maps of previous explorer for future direction. In this section, an overview of some studies related to women rights and related variables is given.

Janaki (1999) conducted a study on the awareness of legal rights of women on a sample of 330 adult women and men. Results indicated that men appear to be more aware than women regarding fundamental rights while women were more aware of fundamental duties. Majority of both women and men across the three religious groups were aware of laws protecting working women and male respondents were comparatively more aware than women. Women were comparatively more aware of laws affecting them intimately i.e. maternity benefits, working conditions etc. Both women and men from the Hindu community were aware of the laws pertaining to marriage, dowry and property rights. Results of the study also indicated that only a limited number of respondents specified the different legislation and more women were able to specify the laws than men. Whereas, amongst Muslims, men were comparatively more aware of the legal rights affecting women and awareness amongst Christian male respondents was comparatively higher than women especially with regard to divorce, maintenance and property rights. The study also pointed out that with an increase in education, there was a corresponding increase in awareness of legal rights among the respondents.

Gurumoorthy (2000) in an article reported that empowering women contributes to social development. Economic progress in any country whether developed or underdeveloped could be achieved through social development. The self-help group disburses micro-credit to the rural women for the purpose of making them enterprising women and encouraging them to enter into entrepreneurial

activities. Credit needs of the rural women are fulfilled totally through the help groups. The self-help groups also ensures the quality of status of women as participants and encourages women to take active part in socio-economic progress of our nation.

Narasimha (2001) compared the effectiveness of state initiatives with the motivation and conscientization strategy advocated by Action for Welfare and Awakening in Rural Environment (AWARE), a non-governmental development organization working in 6000 villages spread over 7 states in India. It analyzed the success of AWARE work among women through various case studies and concluded that besides monetary resources, it the mindset of the policy makers, bureaucrats and particularly the women concerned that must change in order to assist the empowerment of women.

A case study conducted by Anand (2002) examined the performance of selected Self Help Groups and assessed its impact of micro credit programme on empowering women. It has been clearly established that delivering credit alone may not produce the desired impact. The supporting services and structures through which credit is delivered, ranging from group information and training to awareness-raising and a wide range of other supporting measures are critical to make the impact of group activity strong and sustainable.

Bhagyalakshmi (2004) pointed out that advancement as a signatory to the UN convention, government (both state and central) has taken several measures to ensure full development and advancement of women. The study also reported that the women specific programmes showed positive results in empowering women and there are miles to go and promises to keep. All forms of violence against women, physical and

mental, whether at familial or communal level shall be dealt with great care. The study also stated that all forms of discrimination against girl child and violation of her rights shall be eliminated by undertaking strong measures both preventive and disciplinary within and outside the family. The author concluded that though women play a major role in agriculture and allied sectors, their contribution is hardly recognized and intensive efforts were needed to ensure that benefits of training, extension and programmes to make women more effective in their own area of operation.

Dhar (2009) mentioned that 40 percent of the worlds' child marriages take place on India, resulting in various cycle of gender discrimination, literacy and high infant and maternal mortality rates. The author also indicated that gender discrimination is the reason for the high maternal mortality rate and the need of the hour is the respect for the rights women and children quality education for a decent standard of living, protection from abuse, exploitation and violence and employment of women.

Bilal (2014) conducted a study on awareness and exercise of legal rights among working and non-working women in Punjab on sample of 100 women (50 working women and 50 non-working women) from Moga district of Punjab. Tool used for data collected was questionnaire on women rights. The results of the study indicated that working women are having more awareness of legal rights than non-working women.

Das (2015) conducted a comparative study on the level of awareness about constitutional and legal rights among working and non-working women. Sample for the study consisted of 150 women, 75 each from working women and non-working women. The results of the study revealed that 50 percent of respondents feels subordination in



their lives and 53.33 percent does not feel freedom in expressing their desire. The study also indicated that highly educated women have more awareness and understanding of constitutional rights than the women with no education. Among the respondents, 60 percent women have no idea of Domestic Violence Act, 81.33 percent of women have less awareness about government schemes for the development of children and women, and 67.77 percent respondents does not know about laws against sexual exploitation.

Patil, Tadasad and Deepthi (2015) conducted a study on the awareness regarding women rights among post graduate students of Karnataka State Women's University, Vijayapura. Sample comprised of 176 post graduate students. The results of the study indicated that there was great awareness on women rights among post graduate students. The percentage analysis of awareness of the different laws and acts as considered for women revealed that 86.4 percent of the respondents agreed that they were aware of the Dowry Prohibition Act; 81.8 percent agreed on the awareness regarding the Special Marriage Act; 77.3 percent agreed on awareness of Protection of women against Sexual Harassment Bill and 72.7 percent agreed on awareness about the Hindu Marriage Act and the Indian Marriage Act. The results also indicated that when rating the knowledge of women's rights, it was found that 45.5 percent of the respondents rated to have moderate knowledge and 27.3 percent respondents rated to have high as well as low knowledge regarding the women's rights.

Devi and Ranjithamani (2017) conducted a study on legal awareness among 200 women teachers. The findings of the study revealed that there is significant difference between awareness of legal rights among women school teachers on the basis of their subject and locality. Results also indicated that the science teachers

possess better awareness towards legal rights than art group teachers', and urban teachers possess better awareness towards legal rights than rural teachers.

Kansal, Singh, and Kumar (2017) conducted a cross-sectional study to assess the awareness level of legal and social issues related to reproductive health and its association with the various individual and family/household level characteristics. Data was collected from 650 adolescent girls in the age group of 15-19 years. The results of the study indicated that 42.90 percent of the respondents were aware of legal age of marriage and 14.9 percent knew about the right age of childbearing. Dowry Prohibition Act and Domestic Violence Act were known to 46 percent and 27 percent of respondents, respectively, and only 2.6 percent were aware of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. Regression analysis showed a significant effect of education on awareness of legal age of marriage, right age of childbearing, domestic violence, and dowry prohibition acts.

A study on academic achievements and women empowerment in rural India conducted by Bangari (2019) indicated that women in rural India are getting primary and secondary education which is free and compulsory and most of them are pursuing higher education and building their careers in teaching and education administration. The study also reported that apart from traditional and regular education most of the working women and those who are serving as academicians would like to upgrade their knowledge in a particular stream and acquire additional knowledge along with the degree.

Nithyanatham and Rekha (2019) carried out a study on awareness of female understudy educators regarding rights and privileges for women among female in

Chennai city teacher training educational institutions. The sample comprised of female understudy educators selected randomly from B.Ed Integrated (N=70) and B.Ed. normal courses (N=90). Results of the study indicated that the female understudy educators need more awareness related to personal, familial and social life. Even though there was moderate and high level of awareness for 92 per cent of the sample, eight per cent of the sample had low level of awareness.

Panerio and Albay (2020) studied the awareness of existence of violence against women among 491 female respondents randomly chosen from the different barangays of residents in Digos City. The results of the study revealed that female respondents were moderately aware on the existence of violence against women and may simply means no engagement to such related cases in terms on information awareness.

Rahi, Bhatia, and Sharma (2020) conducted a study on legal awareness about women rights on a sample of 97 women teachers in Delhi NCR. Tool used for data collection was questionnaire on women rights. The results of the study revealed that the teachers in government schools had better knowledge of women rights in comparison to the private school teachers.

### **Conclusion**

The review of related literature and studies on women rights helped the investigator to develop an insight into the various constitutional rights and legal safeguards for women as well about the studies conducted so far. It is evident from the studies that women in the independent India have more rights than their counterparts but most of our women are not very much conscious of these rights. The

studies also indicated that the uneducated rural women do not have any awareness of women rights, constitution of India has guaranteed equality, liberality and dignity to the women of India. It is also evident from the studies that educated women and working are having more awareness than uneducated and non-working women. While reviewing the studies, it was noted that even though studies on legal awareness of women rights are conducted among post graduate students, teachers, working women, non-working women no studies are conducted among undergraduate students so far. Almost all studies have emphasized that arising awareness of women rights would bring a qualitative change in the social order of our country and help our society align with the evolving changes in the technology driven era. Under this background and awareness of women rights for young at an early age help be vigilant and productive adults who ensure judicious implementation of these rights, the investigator decided to find out the extent of awareness on women rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.

## **METHODOLOGY**

- **Variable of the Study**
- **Objectives of the Study**
- **Hypotheses of the Study**
- **Method Used**
- **Sample Selected for the Study**
- **Tool Used for Data Collection**
- **Data Collection Procedure**
- **Statistical Techniques Used**

Methodology is a process which reveals all the methods and techniques followed by the researcher during the course of research work. The success of any research work depends largely upon the suitability of the methods, tools and techniques followed by the researcher in collecting and processing data. Thus, the role of methodology is to carry on the research work in a scientific and valid manner. Research Methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. A suitable method helps the researcher to carry out the work in a scientific manner. Methodology occupies a very prominent part in any type of research. It refers to the general strategy followed in collecting and analyzing data necessary for solving the problem. The method needed for a study is decided by the nature of the problem and the type of data required for answering the questions relating to the problem. Methodology includes all the techniques, methods and procedures used by the investigator to conduct an investigation.

Methodology describes how the investigator is conducting the investigation and how the study will be executed. This chapter explains the specific procedures or techniques used to identify, select, collect, process and analyze the information related to the study. It describes the method adopted for the study, tools used for data collection, and the statistical techniques used for collecting and analyzing the required data. The methodology adopted for the study is described under the following major headings;

- Variable of the Study
- Objectives of the Study
- Hypotheses of the Study
- Method Used
- Sample Selected for the Study
- Tool Used for Data Collection
- Data Collection Procedure
- Statistical Techniques Used

### **Variable of the Study**

The variable selected for the study is “Awareness on Women Rights”.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

- To find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.
- To compare the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students with respect to subgroups based on
  - Gender
  - Locale
  - Subject of Study

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

The hypotheses framed for the study are

1. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students with respect to subgroup based on gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students with respect to subgroup based on locale.
3. There is no significant difference in mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students with respect to subgroup based on subject of study.

### **Method Used**

Survey method was used to collect necessary data as the purpose of the study is to find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. The survey is a well-organized method through which we gather information directly from the respondents. A survey is viewed as a research method in which quantitative as well qualitative information is systematically collected from a relatively large sample taken from a population (Leeuw, Hox & Dillman, 2007).

### **Sample Selected for the Study**

Selection of the sample is an important aspect of any research work. The population considered for the study is undergraduate students studying in various arts and science colleges of Kerala state. The study was carried out on a sample of



205 undergraduate students selected from various arts and science colleges of Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala state. While selecting the sample representation was given to the factors like gender, locale of the colleges, and subject of study. Thus, the study used stratified sampling technique. Break-up of the final sample is given in Table 1.

Table 1

*Break-up of the Final Sample*

Category	Subgroups	Number of students
Gender	Male	40
	Female	165
Locale	Rural	110
	Urban	95
Subject of Study	Arts	80
	Science	125

The factors or strata taken into consideration while selecting the sample are the following.

**Gender**

While selecting the sample the investigator gave due representation to male and female undergraduate students studying in various arts and science colleges as the review of research studies related to women rights revealed that that there exists gender difference in the measuring of similar variable.

**Locale of the Sample**

In order to get accurate representation of the population the investigator decided to include undergraduate students on the basis of locale. On the basis of

locale, undergraduate students studying in rural and urban colleges were included in the sample. The review of research studies related to women rights indicated that there exists locale difference in the measuring of similar variable.

### **Subject of Study**

Due representation was given to the subject of study of the undergraduate students while selecting the sample. The undergraduate students studying arts and science subjects are considered while selecting the sample. While reviewing the studies, related to women rights it was noted that there exists difference in the measuring of similar variable with respect to subject of study of sample.

### **Tool Used for Data Collection**

The present investigation is an attempt to find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. The required data were collected by using “Awareness Test on Women Rights” (Sajani & Niranjana, 2020) developed and standardized by the investigator with the help of the supervising teacher. The preparation and standardization of the tool, Awareness Test on Women Rights, is described under this section.

### **Planning of the Test**

Planning of the test is the first step in the construction of the test. After reviewing the literature on women rights, the investigator decided to include constitutional rights which are applicable for women and legal safeguards for women in India as the content to be covered while preparing the tool. Regarding the test items, it was decided to include 30 items related to women rights in the ‘Awareness Test on Women Rights’ to measure the variable. The investigator also decided to include

multiple choice test items on constitutional and legal safeguards related to women with four options in the Awareness Test on Women Rights'. As the standardization procedure has to be done, the investigator decided to include additional items. Hence, the draft Awareness Test on Women Rights consisted of 34 items.

### **Preparation of the Test**

The draft Awareness Test on Women Rights which consists of 34 multiple choice test items related the women rights was prepared by the investigator. Four alternative responses were given to the multiple-choice test items. 'Awareness Test on Women Rights' includes test items related to constitutional rights and legal safeguards applicable for women in India. The draft 'Awareness Test on Women Rights' is given in Appendix I. The examples of multiple-choice test items included in the Awareness Test on Women Rights are given below.

#### **Examples of Constitutional Rights of Women in India**

1. Which article prohibits the practice of human trafficking in India?
  - a. Article 21 (1)
  - b. Article 14 (1)
  - c. Article 30 (1)
  - d. Article 23 (1)
2. Under which article every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity to women?
  - a. Article 51 A
  - b. Article 42 A
  - c. Article 39 A
  - d. Article 50 A
3. Any law passed or any action taken by a state government to prevent or restrict women from taking up employment in state government or public sector undertaking violates the following fundamental right
  - a. Cultural and educational rights
  - b. Right to freedom
  - c. Right to equality
  - d. Right against exploitation



8. When did Dowry Prohibition Act come into force?
  - a. 1960      c. 1962
  - b. 1961      d. 1963
  
9. A demand or request for sexual favours or showing pornography
  - a. up to 3 years or fine or both
  - b. up to 4 years or fine or both
  - c. up to 5 years or fine or both
  - d. up to 6 years or fine or both
  
10. According to Indian Law, what is the minimum age of marriage?
  - a. 16 years for women and 19 years for men
  - b. 18 years for women and 21 for men
  - c. 21 for women and men both
  - d. 18 for men and women both

### **Try Out**

The draft Awareness Test on Women Rights with 34 multiple choice test items was tried out by the investigator on a representative sample of 100 undergraduate students. The Awareness Test on Women Rights included all necessary guidelines about the test and instructions for filling the responses. Due to the pandemic situation, the draft test was administered through the Google forms. The responses collected from 100 undergraduate students are selected for item analysis.

### **Item Analysis**

Item analysis was carried out by the investigator to ensure the quality of test items and for selecting items to the final test. For item analysis the procedure

suggested by Ebel and Frisbie (1991) was adopted. As the tool was an awareness test, the item analysis was carried out on the basis of difficulty index of the items. The responses of 100 undergraduate students were arranged in descending order based on total score obtained for the Awareness Test on Women Rights in order to identify the upper and lower group separately. The upper 27 percent and lower 27 percent of selected sample ( $N=100$ ) of undergraduate students were identified. The 27 percent of respondents with highest total score is considered as upper group (27 students with highest score) and the 27 percent of respondents with lowest total score is considered as lower group (27 students with lowest score). The number of right responses for each item, both in upper and lower group was counted. The difficulty index of each item was calculated for selecting the item for the final test. The difficulty index of an item is represented by the percentage of students who responded to a particular item correctly. The difficulty index was found out by using the formula ;

$$DI = \frac{U+L}{2N}$$

Where, U = is the number of right responses of an item in the upper group

L = is the number of right responses of an item in the lower group

N = is the size of the sample of the upper or lower group (=27)

The difficulty index of each item in Awareness Test on Women Rights is given in Table 2.

Table 2

*Difficulty Index of Items in Awareness Test on Women Rights*

Item No	U	L	Difficulty Index
1	20	4	0.44**
2	27	5	0.59**
3	23	8	0.57**
4	23	4	0.50**
5	27	2	0.54**
6	26	6	0.59**
7	8	1	0.17
8	24	5	0.54**
9	14	3	0.31
10	26	6	0.59**
11	25	4	0.54**
12	24	2	0.48**
13	27	9	0.67
14	25	6	0.57**
15	26	4	0.56**
16	26	6	0.59**
17	14	7	0.38
18	26	6	0.59**
19	27	3	0.56**
20	26	6	0.59**
21	24	6	0.56**
22	23	2	0.46**
23	27	4	0.57**
24	22	4	0.48**
25	24	1	0.46**
26	10	8	0.33
27	26	3	0.54**
28	25	4	0.54**
29	25	2	0.50**
30	24	4	0.52**
31	23	2	0.46**
32	26	2	0.51**
33	16	7	0.43**
34	26	4	0.56**

\*\* Indicates the items accepted

### **Preparation of Final Test**

On the basis of indices of difficulty index of each item, the items for final Awareness Test on Women Rights were selected by the investigator. The items having difficulty index between .04 and .06 were selected to the final scale. In the first round 29 items were accepted as the value of difficulty index lies between .04 and .06. In order to include 30 items in the test, in the second round those items having difficulty index between .35 and .06 were selected. Thus, item no.17 was included in the test with some modifications. Hence, the final version of 'Awareness Test on Women Rights' consists of 30 multiple choice test items. The time limit fixed for completing the test is 30 minutes and maximum mark is 30 marks. The final version of Awareness Test on Women Rights is given in Appendix II.

### **Scoring Procedure**

The Awareness Test on Women Rights consists of 30 multiple choice items followed by four options. The respondent has to mark their responses to each item by selecting appropriate option from the four alternatives. The scoring key was prepared to ensure the objectivity while scoring the responses. The investigator decided to assign a score of '1' for each correct answer and a score of '0' for each wrong response. The total score obtained for items in Awareness Test on Women Rights for each sample is considered as the score of respondents for Awareness on Women Rights. The scoring key of Awareness Test on Women Rights is given in Appendix III.

### **Validity**

An index of validity shows the degree to which a test measures what it intends to measure when compared with accept criterion. In other words, validity is



the extent to which the scores from a measure represent the variable they are intended to measure. A test is said to be valid to the degree that it measures what it claims to measure (Best & Kahn, 1998). The validity of the Awareness Test on Women Rights is ensured through face validity and content validity by consulting with experts in the field of education. The items in the present test were phrased in least ambiguous way and the meaning of all the terms were clearly defined so that the subjects responded to the items without difficulty and misunderstanding. While constructing the test items, utmost care was taken by the investigator to include those items related to constitutional right and legal safeguards for women. Hence, the scale possesses face validity and content validity.

### **Reliability**

A test is said to be reliable to the degree that it measures accurately and consistently, yielding comparable results when administered a number of times (Best & Kahn, 1998). The reliability of the Awareness Test on Women Rights was established by using Cronbach's alpha. Cronbach's alpha is used to measure the internal consistency of the scale. The Cronbach alpha coefficient obtained for the items in the Awareness Test on Women Rights is 0.91. Hence, the test is reliable.

### **Data Collection Procedure**

The data required for the study was collected from 205 undergraduate students studying in various arts and science colleges of Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala state. The investigator depended on online method of data collection as the regular classes in various arts and science colleges of Kerala was conducted through online mode due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. The

investigator contacted the principals of various colleges of Kozhikode and Malappuram districts and sought permission to collect data through online mode. After getting the permission, the investigator administered the Awareness Test on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala state by using a Google form. Necessary instructions for marking the responses and purpose of the study were mentioned in the Google form provided to the students. The time limit for marking the responses is fixed as 30 minutes. The responses thus collected from 205 undergraduate students studying in various arts and science colleges in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala state were considered for data analysis.

### **Statistical Technique Used**

For the purpose of analysing the collected data following statistical techniques were used:

- Descriptive Statistics
- Percentiles
- Test of significance of difference between means of large independent sample (t-test)

### **Descriptive Statistics**

Descriptive statistics was used to describe about the nature of the distribution of scores of Awareness on Women rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. To know the basic properties of the variable, Awareness on Women Rights, mean, median, mode, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis was calculated.

### **Mean**

The mean is the most used measure of describing the central tendency of the scores of a distribution. The mean of a distribution is commonly understood as the arithmetic average (Best & Kahn, 1998). The mean is probably the most useful of all statistical measures, as it is the base from which many other important measures are computed.

### **Median**

The median is a point (not necessarily a score) in an array, above and below which one-half of the scores fall. It is a measure of position rather than of magnitude and is frequently found by inspection rather than by calculation (Best & Kahn, 1998).

### **Mode**

The mode is defined as the most frequently occurring score in a distribution. The mode is the score that occurs most frequently in a distribution. It is located by inspection rather than by computation (Gupta, 1969). In grouped data distributions the mode is assumed to be the mid score of the interval in which the greatest frequency occurs.

### **Standard Deviation**

Standard deviation is the most important and stable measure of variability. The standard deviation, the square root of the variance, is most frequently used as a measure of spread or dispersion of scores in a distribution (Gupta, 1969). The standard deviation measures the absolute dispersion or variability. The greater the standard deviation, the greater will be the magnitude of the deviations of the values from their mean.

### **Skewness**

Skewness is an important characteristic for defining precise pattern of a distribution. It helps the investigator to describe about the direction of the variation or the departure from symmetry (Gupta, 1969). In short, skewness refers to the lack of symmetry and when a distribution is not symmetrical it is called skewed distribution.

### **Kurtosis**

The term kurtosis refers to the degree flatness of peakedness of a frequency distribution as compared with the normal distribution (Gupta, 1969). In other words, measure kurtosis describes the extent to which the distribution is more peaked or flat topped than the normal curve.

### **Percentiles**

Percentiles are commonly used to report scores in tests. Percentiles indicate the percentage of scores that fall below a particular value. The extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students was interpreted with the help of percentile scores.

### **Test of Significance of Difference between Means of Large Independent Sample (t-test)**

The Test of significance of the difference between means of large independent sample (*t*-test) was used to know whether there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students with respect to the subgroups based on gender, locale and subject of study.

For the present study, the statistical analysis was done by using SPSS 21.0 version.

**ANALYSIS AND  
INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

- **Preliminary Analysis**
- **Major Analysis**

Data analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical or logical techniques to describe, illustrate, condense and evaluate the collected data. An essential component of ensuring data integrity is the accurate and appropriate analysis of research findings. Analysis is a systematic process of selecting, categorizing and interpreting to provide explanation of the single phenomenon of interest (McMillan & Schumacher, 1989). Thus, analysis helps in studying the organized data to discover inherent facts and meanings along with a critical examination of results of one's analysis of data.

This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of data collected. The present study was intended to find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. It also aimed to compare the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroups based on gender, locale of the colleges and subject of study. Hence, the objectives of the study are;

- To find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.
- To compare the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroups based on
  - Gender
  - Locale
  - Subject of Study

The hypotheses framed for the study are;

1. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale.
3. There is no significant difference in mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on subject of study.

Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics were used for analysing the data. The essential descriptive statistics which help to describe a data distribution are measures of central tendency or position, measures of shape, measures of dispersion and measures of relationship. The investigator used descriptive data analysis that is mean, median, mode and standard deviation to understand the nature of the distribution of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.

Inferential statistics was used for drawing conclusions about populations based on observation of samples. For research purposes, their primary use is to test hypotheses and to provide an estimate of random error (chance). A critical examination of the results will lead to acceptance or rejection of the proposed hypothesis that in turn will contribute to knowledge in particular. Thus, the investigator used Test of significance of difference between two means (*t*-test) to compare the Awareness on

Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroups based on gender, locale of the colleges and subject of study.

The details of statistical analysis and its results and interpretations are presented in the following headings:

- Preliminary Analysis
- Major Analysis

### **Preliminary Analysis**

As the first step of analysis the investigator has done the preliminary analysis of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. For this the statistical constants such as mean, median, mode, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis were computed for the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students. Descriptive statistics of scores of the variable, Awareness on Women Rights, among undergraduate students of Kerala are presented in Table 3.

Table 3

*Descriptive Statistics of Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Undergraduate Students of Kerala*

Variable	N	Mean	Median	Mode	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis
Awareness on Women Rights	205	14.03	11.00	9.00	7.62	0.610	-0.920

Table 2 reveals that the arithmetic mean obtained for the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 14.03. The median value of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 11.00, which means that 50 percent of undergraduate students scored above 11 and



50 percent of the undergraduate students scored below 11 for Awareness on Women Rights. The standard deviation of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 7.62. Mode obtained is 9.00, which indicates that the most frequently occurring score is 9.00 for the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.

The Skewness score of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 0.610. This shows that the distribution is positively skewed. The measure of Kurtosis is -0.920, which shows that the distribution is slightly mesokurtic in nature.

As the mean, median and mode is approximately equal. It can be concluded that the distribution of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is almost normal. The distribution of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala is graphically plotted in Figure 1.

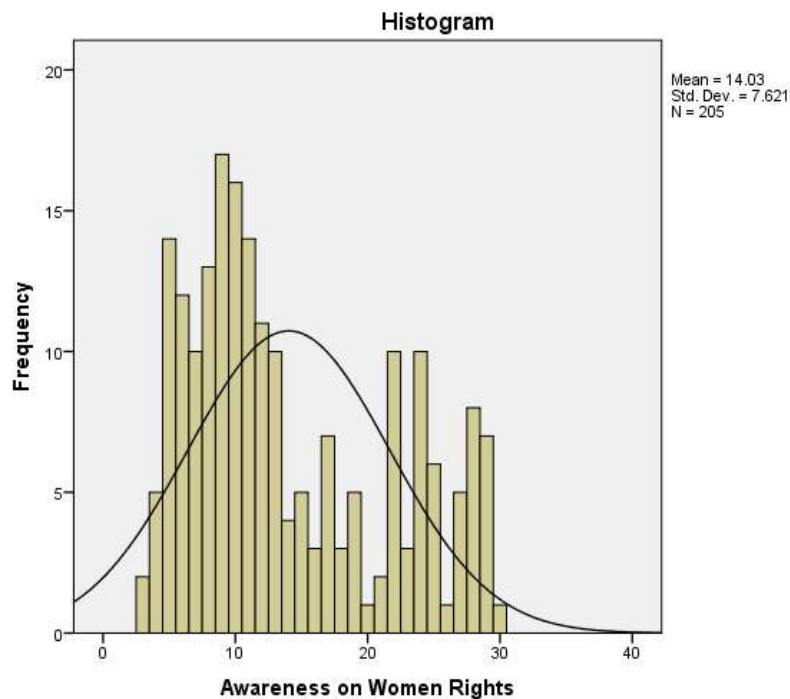


Figure 1. Graphical Representation of Frequency Distribution of Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Undergraduate Students of Kerala

Figure 1 shows that the graphical distribution of the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. It is evident that the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students follow approximately a normal distribution. From the interpretation of statistical indices obtained, it is also clear that the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students approach to normal distribution. Hence, inferential statistics was carried out.

### **Extent of Awareness on Women Rights among Undergraduate Students of Kerala**

The first objective of the study is to find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. The extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students was found by using percentile scores of the distribution. The percentiles P<sub>10</sub>, P<sub>20</sub>, P<sub>30</sub>, P<sub>40</sub>, P<sub>50</sub>, P<sub>60</sub>, P<sub>70</sub>, P<sub>80</sub> and P<sub>90</sub> are calculated and presented in Table 4.

Table 4

*Percentile Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Undergraduate Students of Kerala*

Percentiles	Score	Mean
P <sub>90</sub>	27.00	
P <sub>80</sub>	22.80	
P <sub>70</sub>	18.00	
P <sub>60</sub>	13.00	
P <sub>50</sub>	11.00	14.03
P <sub>40</sub>	10.00	
P <sub>30</sub>	9.00	
P <sub>20</sub>	7.00	
P <sub>10</sub>	5.00	

Table 4 shows that the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 14.03. Table 4 also reveals the percentile scores for every tenth percentile i.e., P<sub>10</sub>, P<sub>20</sub>, P<sub>30</sub>, P<sub>40</sub>, P<sub>50</sub>, P<sub>60</sub>, P<sub>70</sub>, P<sub>80</sub> and P<sub>90</sub>. The 10<sup>th</sup> percentile score of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 5.00. It means that the scores of Awareness on Women Rights of 10 percent of undergraduate students lie below the score of 5.00. The 50<sup>th</sup> percentile score of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 11.00. It means that the scores of Awareness on Women Rights of 50 percent of undergraduate students lie below the score of 11.00. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile score of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 27.00. It means that the scores of Awareness on Women Rights of 90 percent of undergraduate students lie below the score of 27.00. In a similar way we can interpret all other percentiles.

### **Discussion**

As, the mean value obtained for the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 14.03 which lies in between 60<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> percentile. The 60<sup>th</sup> percentile score of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 13.00. It means that the scores of Awareness on Women Rights of 60 percent of undergraduate students lie below the score of 13.00 which is around the mean value. Thus, it can be concluded that the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is not satisfactory.

### **Major Analysis**

The second objective of the study is to compare the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroups based on gender, locale and subject of study. Test of significance of difference between means of large

independent sample (*t*-test) was used to compare the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroups based on gender, locale and subject of study. Major analysis and interpretation of data are presented in the sub headings such as;

- Mean difference analysis of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on gender
- Mean difference analysis of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale
- Mean difference analysis of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on subject of study

#### **Mean Difference Analysis of Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Undergraduate Students for the Subgroup based on Gender**

The Mean and Standard Deviation of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on gender was calculated. The comparison of mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for subgroup based on gender were done by using the test of significance of difference between means of large independent sample (*t*-test). The results of *t*-test for Awareness on Women Rights among male and female undergraduate students are given in Table 5.

Table 5

*Data and Results of the Test of Significance of Difference between Mean Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Male and Female Undergraduate Students of Kerala*

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t - value	Level of significance
Male	40	11.60	7.08	2.39	.05
Female	165	14.62	7.65		

Table 5 depicts that the critical ratio obtained for the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among male and female undergraduate students is 2.39 which is greater than the tabled value of  $t$  (1.96) required for significance at .05 level. The mean score of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate male students is 11.60 and female students is 14.62. The standard deviation obtained for male students is 7.08 and female students is 7.65. Since the  $t$ -value obtained is greater than the tabled value, it can be concluded that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate male and female students of Kerala.

### **Discussion**

The results of t-test indicated that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate male and female students of Kerala. Similarly, Janaki (1999) reported that women were comparatively more aware of laws affecting them intimately i.e. maternity benefits, working conditions etc., than men. As further analysis of the results of the present study, the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate male and female students were analyzed. It was found that the mean score of Awareness

on Women Rights for undergraduate female students ( $M=14.62$ ) is greater than that of male students ( $M=11.60$ ). Hence, it can be concluded that female undergraduate students are having more Awareness on Women Rights than male undergraduate students of Kerala.

### **Mean Difference Analysis of Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Undergraduate Students for the Subgroup based on Locale**

The Mean and Standard Deviation of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale was calculated. The comparison of mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale were done by using the test of significance of difference between means of large independent sample ( $t$ -test). The results of  $t$ -test for Awareness on Women Rights among rural and urban undergraduate students are given in Table 6.

Table 6

*Data and Results of the Test of Significance of Difference between Mean Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Rural and Urban Undergraduate Students of Kerala*

Locale	N	Mean	SD	t- value	Level of Significance
Rural	110	14.78	8.11	1.53	NS
Urban	95	13.17	6.96		

From Table 6 it is evident that the mean scores for Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students in rural colleges is 14.78 and for undergraduate students in urban colleges is 13.17. The standard deviation obtained for rural students is 8.11 and urban students is 6.96. The critical ratio obtained for

Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale is 1.53 which is less than the tabled value of  $t$  (1.96) required for significance of .05 level. It indicates that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale.

### **Discussion**

The results of t-test indicated that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students in rural and urban colleges of Kerala. Thus, it can be concluded that the undergraduate students in rural and urban colleges of Kerala are having same level of Awareness on Women Rights. In contrast, the study conducted by Devi and Ranjithamani (2017) indicated that the urban teachers possess better awareness towards legal rights than rural teachers. But the analysis of present study indicated that undergraduate students studying in rural and urban colleges of Kerala do not differ in their Awareness on Women Rights.

### **Mean Difference Analysis of Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Undergraduate Students for the Subgroup based on Subject of Study**

The Mean and Standard Deviation of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on subject of study was calculated. The comparison of mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students studying art and science subjects were done by using the test of significance of difference between means of large independent sample ( $t$ -test).

The results of *t*-test for Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students studying arts and science subjects are given in Table 7.

Table 7

*Data and Results of the Test of Significance of Difference between Mean Scores of Awareness on Women Rights among Arts and Science Undergraduate Students of Kerala*

Subject of Study	N	Mean	SD	<i>t</i> – value	Level of Significance
Arts	80	16.49	8.35	3.63	.01
Science	125	12.46	6.69		

Table 7 shows that the critical ratio obtained for the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among arts and science undergraduate students is 3.63 which is greater than the tabled value of *t* (2.58) required for significance at .01 level. The mean score of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate arts students is 16.49 and science students is 12.46. The standard deviation obtained for arts students is 8.35 and science student is 6.69. Since the *t*-value obtained is greater than the tabled value, it can be concluded that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate arts and science students of Kerala.

### **Discussion**

The results of *t*-test indicated that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate arts and science students of Kerala. The study conducted by Devi and Ranjithamani (2017) also indicated that there exists significant difference in the awareness towards legal rights



among science and arts teachers. As further analysis of the results of the present study, the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate arts and science students were analyzed. It was found that the mean score of Awareness on Women Rights for undergraduate arts students ( $M=16.49$ ) is greater than that of science students ( $M=12.46$ ). Hence, it can be concluded that undergraduate students studying arts subjects are having more Awareness on Women Rights than those who are studying science subjects.

### **Conclusion**

The results of analysis revealed that the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is not satisfactory. The results of mean difference analysis indicated that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights for the subgroups based on gender and subject of study. Results also indicated that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights for the subgroup based on locale. Further analysis of mean scores on Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students depicted that the female undergraduate students are having more Awareness on Women Rights than male undergraduate students of Kerala. Similarly, undergraduate students who are studying arts subjects are having more Awareness on Women Rights than those students who are studying science subjects.

**SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND  
SUGGESTIONS**

- **Study in Retrospect**
- **Major Findings**
- **Tenability of Hypotheses**
- **Educational Implication**
- **Suggestions for Further Research**

This chapter provides an overview of the significant aspects of the various stages of the study such as the study in retrospect, major findings emerged from the study, conclusions arrived, educational implications of the findings and suggestions for further research.

### **Study in Retrospect**

This section tries to make a retrospective study of the statement of the problem, variable, objectives, hypotheses, tools and statistical techniques used for the study.

#### **Restatement of the Problem**

The study is entitled as:

**“AWARENESS ON WOMEN RIGHTS AMONG UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENTS OF KERALA”**

#### **Variable of the Study**

The variable selected for the study is “Awareness on Women Rights”.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

- To find out the extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.

- To compare the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroups based on
  - Gender
  - Locale
  - Subject of Study

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

The hypotheses framed for the study are

1. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale.
3. There is no significant difference in mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on subject of study.

### **Methodology**

#### **Method Used**

The study adopted descriptive survey method in order to analyze the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala.

#### **Sample**

The population for the study consisted of undergraduate students studying in arts and science colleges of Kerala state. The sample for the study comprised of 205

undergraduate students studying in various arts and science colleges of Kozhikode and Malappuram district of Kerala State.

### **Tools Used for Data Collection**

A standardised test, ‘Awareness Test on Women Rights’ (Sajani & Niranjana, 2020) was used to measure the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students. The awareness test consists of 30 multiple choice questions relate to various constitutional rights and legal safeguards for women in India.

### **Statistical Techniques Used**

The statistical techniques used for the analysis of data are

- Descriptive Statistics
- Percentiles
- Test of significance of difference between means of large independent sample (t-test)

### **Major Findings**

- The mean score obtained for the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 14.03. The median and mode obtained for the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students are 11.00 and 9.00 respectively. Thus, the distribution of scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala follows normal distribution approximately.

- The extent of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala are found as follows

Percentiles	Score	Mean
P <sub>90</sub>	27.00	
P <sub>80</sub>	22.80	
P <sub>70</sub>	18.00	
P <sub>60</sub>	13.00	
P <sub>50</sub>	11.00	14.03
P <sub>40</sub>	10.00	
P <sub>30</sub>	9.00	
P <sub>20</sub>	7.00	
P <sub>10</sub>	5.00	

- The mean value obtained for the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is 14.03 which lies in between 60<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- The mean difference analysis of the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala for the subgroup based on gender reveals that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among male and female undergraduate students.

$$t = 2.39, p \leq .05$$

- The high mean score associated with female undergraduate students ( $M=14.62, SD=7.65$ ) reveals that female undergraduate students are having more Awareness on Women Rights than the male undergraduate students ( $M=11.60, SD=7.08$ ) of Kerala.
- The mean difference analysis of the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala for the subgroup based on locale

reveals that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among rural and urban undergraduate students of Kerala.

$$t = 1.53.39, p > .05$$

- The mean difference analysis of the scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students of Kerala for the subgroup based on subject of study reveals that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among arts and science undergraduate students of Kerala.

$$t = 3.63, p \leq .01$$

- The high mean score associated with arts undergraduate students ( $M= 16.49$ ,  $SD= 8.35$ ) reveals that the arts undergraduate students are having more Awareness on Women Rights than the science undergraduate students ( $M= 12.46$ ,  $SD= 6.69$ ) of Kerala.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the analysis the investigator reached the following conclusions.

The results of analysis revealed that the Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students is not satisfactory. The results of mean difference analysis indicated that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights for the subgroups based on gender and subject of study. Results also indicated that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights for the subgroup based on locale.

Further analysis of mean scores on Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students depicted that the female undergraduate students are having more Awareness on Women Rights than male undergraduate students of Kerala. Similarly, undergraduate students who are studying arts subjects are having more Awareness on Women Rights than those students who are studying science subjects.

### **Tenability of Hypotheses**

The tenability of hypotheses is examined in the light of the above findings.

The first hypothesis states that *there is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on gender*. The result showed that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on gender. *Thus, the first hypothesis is rejected.*

The second hypothesis states that *there is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale*. The result showed that there exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on locale. *Thus, the second hypothesis is accepted.*

The third hypothesis states that *there is no significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate students for the subgroup based on subject of study*. The result showed that there exists significant difference in the mean scores of Awareness on Women Rights among undergraduate



students for the subgroup based on subject of study. *Thus, the third hypothesis is rejected.*

### **Educational Implications**

The present study gave the investigator a vivid picture of the awareness on women rights among undergraduate students of Kerala. The value of any piece of research in education lies in the implications of the study. The result of the analysis shows that the awareness on women rights among undergraduate students is not satisfactory. Based on the major findings of the study some practical suggestions are given by the investigator to enhance the awareness on women rights among undergraduate students. A cooperate effort of policy makers, teachers, community and parents is needed to educate undergraduate students on women rights which in turn will be helpful to uplift the society from social evils.

Curriculum of undergraduate students can be framed in a such a way to integrate important legal issues/acts of women rights as a compulsory part of their educational programme irrespective of the subject. The undergraduate students can be given opportunity to participate in various training programmes and seminars conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Central and State governments and by various organizations. Legal literacy programs for undergraduate students can be started by educational institutions to improve their awareness. Teachers can initiate debates on anti-social activities against women which helps to control the legal ignorance and strengthens the educational process. Parents can share the news on women agitations and discuss with their children to

makes more awareness among them. Media can incorporate awareness about women issues and legislations for women in their routine programs.

Considering the social structure of India, it is evident that the professional and personal roles of women are growing, but according to present research findings, not everyone is aware of women rights. We all know that amidst of all these laws and constitutional rights the anti-social activities against women such as dowry death, sexual harassment at home and workplace etc., are increasing day by day. This research is centered on youth, because when they are aware of women rights at an early age, they can become vigilant and productive adults by ensuring that these rights are implemented wisely. Awareness and knowledge of women rights among the youth must be initiated in a much bigger way in order to realize the aim of just and equitable society. It will also help to lessen the violence against women to a great extent.

### **Suggestion for Further Research**

The findings of the study and limitations encountered in the present study helped the investigator to suggest the following areas for further research.

- An evaluation of undergraduate programs in various universities of Kerala with respect to women rights can be undertaken.
- Experimental study to develop and validate a self-learning module on women rights for undergraduate students can be carried out
- The extent of awareness on women rights among teachers and students at various areas of education that is secondary education, higher education and professional education can be done.

- A comparative study of awareness on women rights among teachers and students in Kerala with other states can be conducted.
- Same study can be replicated among parents, teachers and social workers
- Influence of Socio-economic Status, Media etc., on awareness on women rights can be carried out.
- Content analysis of text books of undergraduate programmes with respect to women rights of various disciplines can be carried out.

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## **APPENDICES**

## Appendix I

### FAROOK TRAINING COLLEGE

#### AWARENESS TEST ON WOMEN RIGHTS (Draft)

**Edathodathil Sajani**

M.Ed. Student

**Dr. Niranjana K.P.**

Assistant Professor

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Name of the Student (Optional) :

Name of the College :

Gender : Male/ Female

Locality : Urban/Rural

Subject of Study : Science/ Arts

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#### Instructions

This test consists of items related to women rights mentioned in Indian constitution and various legislations. The items are followed by four options like a, b, c, d. Read each item carefully and mark your responses by giving a tick mark (✓) in options provided.

---

1. According to the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, what is the punishment for demanding dowry directly or indirectly, from the parents or other relatives or guardian of a bride or bridegroom
  - a. Up to 5 thousand rupees fine
  - b. Up to six months imprisonment
  - c. Up to three months punishment
  - d. Up to one year punishment or up to ten thousand rupees fine
2. Under which article one third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every municipality shall be reserved for women?
  - a. Article 250 D (2)
  - b. Article 256 D (3)
  - c. Article 243 D (4)
  - d. Article 240 D (2)

3. According to section 498 A of IPC any cruelty for dowry to a women by the husband or his relatives is
  - a. a non bailable offence with up to three years jail and fine.
  - b. a bailable offence with up to three years jail and fine.
  - c. An offence with fine up to five thousand rupees
  - d. a non bailable offence with up to seven years jail and fine.
4. As per the Criminal law (Amendment) Act, Voyeurism is a criminal offence and means
  - a. Violence against women in domestic environment
  - b. Violence against women at workplace
  - c. Watching or capturing images of a woman engaged in a private act
  - d. Showing pornography
5. Sexual harassment at workplace (Prevention Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 applies to
  - a. The whole of India
  - b. The whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir
  - c. The whole of India except north eastern states
  - d. The whole of India except union territories
6. Any law passed or any action taken by a state government to prevent or restrict women from taking up employment in state government or public sector undertaking violates the following fundamental right
  - a. Cultural and educational rights
  - b. Right to freedom
  - c. Right to equality
  - d. Right against exploitation
7. The 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional Amendment Act passed by the parliament to ensure one third of the total seats for women in all elected offices in local bodies whether in rural areas in which year?
  - a. 1992
  - b. 1998
  - c. 2005
  - d. 2012
8. The punishment for stalking a woman, on the first offence is
  - a. up to three years imprisonment
  - b. Six months to one year imprisonment
  - c. Monetary fine.
  - d. Only monetary fine.

9. The state shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief under which Article?
- Article 14
  - Article 20
  - Article 15
  - Article 42
10. Which article prohibits the practice of human trafficking in India?
- Article 21 (1)
  - Article 14 (1)
  - Article 30 (1)
  - Article 23 (1)
11. As per the recommendations of the committee on the status of the women in India National Commission for women Act was passed in which year ?
- 1995
  - 1990
  - 1947
  - 1950
12. Which article of the Constitution of India ensures the benefit of the directive principles of state policy to the women?
- Article 14
  - Article 39
  - Article 18
  - Article 20
13. Which article in the constitution grants us the Right against exploitation?
- Article 14-18
  - Article 23-24
  - Article 32
  - Article 368
14. Under which article every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity to women?
- Article 51 A
  - Article 42 A
  - Article 39 A
  - Article 50 A

15. Select the laws enacted by the Parliament for the welfare of women.
- Special Marriage Act of 1955
  - Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961
  - Equal Remuneration Act of 1976
  - All the above
16. Women Reservation Bill was passed in which year in RajyaSabha?
- April 1, 2011
  - June 12, 2010
  - March 9, 2010
  - July 12, 2012
17. Protection of women from domestic violence act was passed in which year?
- 2001
  - 2002
  - 2003
  - 2005
18. Commission of Sati (prevention) Act was passed in which year?
- 1996
  - 1993
  - 1985
  - 1987
19. The state to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood is under which article?
- Article 52 (a)
  - Article 30 (a)
  - Article 55 (a)
  - Article 39 (a)
20. Under which article the constitution grants us the Right to freedom?
- Article 14-18
  - Article 19-22
  - Article 32
  - Article 368
21. When did Dowry Prohibition Act come into force?
- 1960
  - 1961
  - 1962
  - 1963

22. Dowry is defined under which section of the dowry Prohibition Act, 1961?
- Section 3
  - Section 5
  - Section 2
  - Section 4
23. In which of the following Acts have the Supreme Court Struck down the words “adult male before the word person in section 2(q) holding that these words discriminate between persons similarly situated and is contrary to the object sought to be achieved by the said Act ?
- Protection of women from domestic violence act 2005.
  - Dowry Prohibition Act 1961
  - Family Courts Act 1984
  - Sexual Harassment of women at work place Act 2013.
24. Which of the following is not duty of the protection officer according to the protection of women from domestic violence Act 2005?
- Ensuring that the aggrieved person is provided legal aid under legal services authorities Act 1987.
  - Make the domestic incident report
  - Assist the magistrate in the discharge of his/her functions under the Act.
  - Coordinate between the services provided by concerned ministries and NGO's
25. In which year Hindu Marriage act was passed?
- 1995
  - 1990
  - 1956
  - 1955
26. Legal practitioners of women act was passed in which year?
- 1983
  - 1980
  - 1923
  - 1986
27. A demand or request for sexual favours or showing pornography
- up to 3 years or fine or both
  - up to 4 years or fine or both
  - up to 5 years or fine or both
  - up to 6 years or fine or both



28. According to Indian Law, what is the minimum age of marriage?
- 16 years for women and 19 years for men
  - 18 years for women and 21 for men
  - 21 for women and men both
  - 18 for men and women both
29. Which among the following constitutes “sexual harassment” according to the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013?
- Unwelcome physical contact.
  - Trafficking
  - Acid attack
  - Abetting
30. As per the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, when any person is prosecuted for taking of dowry then the burden of proving that he/she has not committed the offence lies with
- Everyone associated with the person who is being prosecuted
  - The person who is being prosecuted
  - The local councilor
  - The marriage registrar
31. Which of the following is not relevant as far as the protection of women from Domestic Violence Act is concerned?
- Workplace
  - Monetary relief
  - Protection order
  - Physical abuse
32. According to .....No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law is to prevent encroachment on and loss of life
- Article 14
  - Article 16
  - Article 17
  - Article 21

33. Sexual abuse defined u/s 3 of domestic violence Act in terms of:

- a. Violation of the dignity of women.
- b. Any sort of sexual advancement by the husband
- c. Husband wants to see pornography with the wife.
- d. Husband wants to do harassment.

34. Act which prohibits the depiction of the figure of a woman, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being derogatory to, or denigrating, women, or is likely to deprave, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals is

- a. Special Marriage Act
- b. Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act
- c. Maternity Benefit Act
- d. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act

**Appendix II**  
**FAROOK TRAINING COLLEGE**

**AWARENESS TEST ON WOMEN RIGHTS (Final)**

**Edathodathil Sajani**  
M.Ed. Student

**Dr. Niranjana K.P.**  
Assistant Professor

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Name of the Student (Optional) :  
Name of the College :  
Gender : Male/ Female  
Locality : Urban/Rural  
Subject of Study : Science/ Arts

---

**Instructions**

This test consists of items related to women rights mentioned in Indian constitution and various legislations. The items are followed by four options like a, b, c, d. Read each item carefully and mark your responses by giving a tick mark (✓) in options provided.

---

1. According to the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, what is the punishment for demanding dowry directly or indirectly, from the parents or other relatives or guardian of a bride or bridegroom
  - a. Up to 5 thousand rupees fine
  - b. Up to six months imprisonment
  - c. Up to three months punishment
  - d. Up to one year punishment or up to ten thousand rupees fine
2. Under which article one third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every municipality shall be reserved for women?
  - a. Article 250 D (2)
  - b. Article 256 D (3)
  - c. Article 243 D (4)
  - d. Article 240 D (2)

3. According to section 498 A of IPC any cruelty for dowry to a women by the husband or his relatives is
  - a. a non bailable offence with up to three years jail and fine.
  - b. a bailable offence with up to three years jail and fine.
  - c. An offence with fine up to five thousand rupees
  - d. a non bailable offence with up to seven years jail and fine.
4. As per the Criminal law (Amendment) Act, Voyeurism is a criminal offence and means
  - a. Violence against women in domestic environment
  - b. Violence against women at workplace
  - c. Watching or capturing images of a woman engaged in a private act
  - d. Showing pornography
5. Sexual harassment at workplace (Prevention Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 applies to
  - a. The whole of India
  - b. The whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir
  - c. The whole of India except north eastern states
  - d. The whole of India except union territories
6. Any law passed or any action taken by a state government to prevent or restrict women from taking up employment in state government or public sector undertaking violates the following fundamental right
  - a. Cultural and educational rights
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  - c. Right to equality
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  - a. Article 21 (1)
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  - d. Article 23 (1)

9. As per the recommendations of the committee on the status of the women in India National Commission for women Act was passed in which year ?
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10. Which article of the Constitution of India ensures the benefit of the directive principles of state policy to the women?
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  - Article 39
  - Article 18
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11. Under which article every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity to women?
- Article 51 A
  - Article 42 A
  - Article 39 A
  - Article 50 A
12. Select the laws enacted by the Parliament for the welfare of women.
- Special Marriage Act of 1955
  - Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961
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  - 2002
  - 2003
  - 2005

15. Commission of Sati (prevention) Act was passed in which year?
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  - 1993
  - 1985
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16. The state to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood is under which article?
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  - Article 30 (a)
  - Article 55 (a)
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17. Under which article the constitution grants us the Right to freedom?
- Article 14-18
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  - Section 2
  - Section 4
20. In which of the following Acts have the Supreme Court Struck down the words “adult male before the word person in section 2(q) holding that these words discriminate between persons similarly situated and is contrary to the object sought to be achieved by the said Act?
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  - Dowry Prohibition Act 1961
  - Family Courts Act 1984
  - Sexual Harassment of women at work place Act 2013.

21. Which of the following is not duty of the protection officer according to the protection of women from domestic violence Act 2005?
- Ensuring that the aggrieved person is provided legal aid under legal services authorities Act 1987.
  - Make the domestic incident report
  - Assist the magistrate in the discharge of his/her functions under the Act.
  - Coordinate between the services provided by concerned ministries and NGO's
22. In which year Hindu Marriage act was passed?
- 1995
  - 1990
  - 1956
  - 1955
23. A demand or request for sexual favours or showing pornography
- up to 3 years or fine or both
  - up to 4 years or fine or both
  - up to 5 years or fine or both
  - up to 6 years or fine or both
24. According to Indian Law, what is the minimum age of marriage?
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  - Trafficking
  - Acid attack
  - Abetting

26. As per the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, when any person is prosecuted for taking of dowry then the burden of proving that he/she has not committed the offence lies with
- Everyone associated with the person who is being prosecuted
  - The person who is being prosecuted
  - The local councilor
  - The marriage registrar
27. Which of the following is not relevant as far as the protection of women from Domestic Violence Act is concerned?
- Workplace
  - Monetary relief
  - Protection order
  - Physical abuse
28. According to ..... No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law is to prevent encroachment on and loss of life
- Article 14
  - Article 16
  - Article 17
  - Article 21
29. Sexual abuse defined u/s 3 of domestic violence Act in terms of:
- Violation of the dignity of women.
  - Any short of sexual advancement by the husband
  - Husband wants to see pornography with the wife.
  - Husband wants to do harassment.
30. Act which prohibits the depiction of the figure of a woman, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being derogatory to, or denigrating, women, or is likely to deprave, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals is
- Special Marriage Act
  - Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act
  - Maternity Benefit Act
  - Prohibition of Child Marriage Act



**Appendix III**  
**FAROOK TRAINING COLLEGE**  
**AWARENESS TEST ON WOMEN RIGHTS**

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**SCORING KEY**

Sl. No.	Scoring Key	Sl. No.	Scoring Key
1	B	16	D
2	C	17	B
3	A	18	B
4	C	19	C
5	A	20	A
6	C	21	D
7	A	22	D
8	D	23	A
9	B	24	B
10	B	25	A
11	A	26	A
12	D	27	A
13	C	28	D
14	D	29	C
15	D	30	B