

## **Inheritance Laws and Land Rights: Case Studies of Scheduled Caste Women in R.S. Pura Block, Jammu District**

**Ruchi\***

*Ph.D Scholar, Deptt. of Sociology, University of Jammu, Jammu*

### **Abstract**

*The chief form of income generating property is agricultural land in India. The gender based discrimination in the accessibility and ownership of productive resources including land was considered to be embedded in the social, legal, economic and political structures which further perpetuate inequalities in other spheres. Access to and ownership of property especially land enhances women's status and position in any community or society. Ownership and inheritance laws are guided by certain laws. The Hindu Succession Act (HSA) was passed in 1956, granting equal rights to Hindu women in the parental property. In the State of J&K this Act was passed on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.1956. The HSA has given an important place to Hindu females in the classification of heirs. So this act is applicable to the scheduled caste women also as they come under Hindus. Customarily, in Jammu district (R.S Pura Block), the equal inheritance proclaimed by the act is only notional. In practice few women own land, even fewer effectively control it. Though women have rights but they do not claim their rights due to the various socio- cultural norms. However few women especially the unmarried and widows makes an effort in this direction and claimed their rights. This paper focuses on the case studies of scheduled caste women in R.S Pura Block, district Jammu claiming the land rights. These case studies show to what extent these women have to face problems in the context of claiming their land rights. The study area selected for the present paper is R.S Pura Block because in this area 37 percent of the population constitutes the scheduled castes. The main economic activity is agriculture and dairy farming. The implementation of land reforms in this region has made this area more justifiable for fruitful agricultural activities.*

**Keywords:** *Women, Inheritance laws, land rights, Customs.*

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

**Ruchi**, "Inheritance Laws and Land Rights: Case Studies of Scheduled Caste Women in R.S Pura Block, Jammu District",

RJPSSs 2017, Vol. 43, No.1, pp. 6-10,

[http://anubooks.com/?page\\_id=2012](http://anubooks.com/?page_id=2012)

Article No.2 (RJ1878)

## **Introduction**

Being second most effecting social problems of the world, human sex trafficking is gaining concentration as it can influence various other social institution as well as contributing for the raise of other social evils. It is a direct hit in disturbing the cultural as well as social conditions apart from economic issues. In recent social trend, is not only issue of exploitation against human being but also the issue of human rights, socio—cultural existence of an individual as well as the society. Gender issues also raises because of patriarchal societal system. It is the matter of socio-cultural issue where the matter of sexuality is not been considered as the subject for discussion in traditional Indian society, especially with children and young adults. Such socio-cultural issue has made the youngsters more vulnerable for the social evils where they fails to identify the vulnerability and also to protect themselves from such threatening atmosphere. According to Dr. Kumudini Achchi (2010) in her thesis “A study on the role of NGOs in mainstreaming commercially sexually exploited women in South India”, majority of preventive interventions of NGOs and GOs in South India focuses on women and very less (24%) number of the NGOs found having only one programme focusing men i.e., creating awareness about sex buying and its consequences. This indicates that men, though been a major part of the whole issue of sex trafficking, have not been considered socially or legally. It is essential to involve men in the process of prevention of sex trafficking but culturally, in the patriarchal society it is a challenging factor. Here the need for assessing the detrimental effects of inclusion of young adults in the process of prevention exists.

## **Methodology:**

To achieve the same, study adopts descriptive and diagnostic research design. Interview schedule is used as tool for data collection along with observation method. With simple random sampling design 40 student respondents studying in Pre university, graduation and Post graduation were interviewed and the data was analyzed using simple descriptive statistics.

**Table No.1 showing the respondents' awareness about human trafficking and its impact:**

Sl. No.	Students	Sex of the Respondents			
			Yes	Partially	Total
1	Post graduation	F	13	02	15
		P	32.5	5.0	37.5
2	Graduation	F	02	13	15
		P	5.0	32.5	37.5
3	Pre University	F	02	08	10
		P	5.0	20.0	25
	TOTAL	F	17	23	40
		P	42.5	57.5	100

The study reveals that majority respondents have expressed their low knowledge about the issue of human trafficking and its impact on individual and society. 57.5% of the respondents have expressed about their partial awareness about the issue. The old adolescents studying in Pre University are found more in this category. This indicates lack of awareness among adolescents when compared to young adults. The respondents, who have expressed their complete knowledge about human trafficking, found having only basic knowledge about the issue and not intensive one. This status upholds the need for awareness creation at initial level of college or during adolescence when their interest in opposite sex triggers. This can be a strong preventive activity for eradication of the social evil. But the sensitive part in the process is choosing the mode or methods to reach the target group. The researcher felt this sensitivity, as she witness the practitioners from various parts of Karnataka are providing awareness about HIV/AIDS and the information miss used by adolescents and young adults. This can come out with adverse effect and make the situation still worst.

**Table No.2 showing the interest of respondents' interest to know more about human trafficking:**

Sl. No.	Community	Willingness to understand the concept better			
			Yes	To some extent	Total
1	Post graduation	F	8	7	15
		P	20	17.5	37.5
2	Graduation	F	3	12	15
		P	7.5	30	37.5
3	Pre University	F	5	5	10
		P	12.5	12.5	25.0
4	TOTAL	F	25	15	40
			62.5	37.5	100

The cultural and social background influences the perception, experience, attitude and behaviours of the human beings. This stands more sensitive with adolescents and young adults. The exposure and the knowledge gained by an individual are other important issues that can mould and modify the behaviours of the persons. Based on the view, the study focused on interviewing the young adults studying from Pre University, graduation and postgraduates. It reveals that majority of the respondents (62.5%) expressed their willingness to know more about the issue and also to involve in such intervention which helps is nation development by curbing social evil. The result indicates the willingness of youngsters to be part of a good cause which needs to be uplifted with suitable intervention techniques.

**Table No.3 showing the opinion of respondents about the interventions needed:**

Sl. No	Community	Occupation of the Respondents				Total	
			1	2	3		4
1	Post graduation	F	1	2	7	5	15
		P	2.5	5	17.5	12.5	37.5
2	Graduation	F	3	0	11	1	15
		P	7.5	0	27.5	2.5	37.5
3	Pre University	F	1	1	5	3	10
		P	2.5	2.5	12.5	7.5	25.0
	TOTAL	F	5	3	23	9	40
		P	12.5	7.5	57.5	22.5	100

(1 = Preparing the parents; 2 = Awareness; 3 = Training; 4 = Exposure / field visit to NGOs working for the issues)

The study was keen in understanding the requirements of respondents towards making them empowered in eradicating the social evil such as sex trafficking. The respondents were found being very enthusiastic in providing suggestions to equip themselves in the process. The training need has been identified by 57.5% of the respondents towards management and developmental dimensions of the field. Since these respondents are not very confident about the field and its nature, they expressed their willingness to have training which has turned to be the most huge requirement expressed. Otherwise 22.5% of the respondents have expressed their willingness to visit various NGOs working for the issue to get to know the field and interventions programmes offered by them. 12.5% of the respondents have mentioned their priority of taking consent from the parents to get involved with the issues as the issue is attached with stigma. This also indicate the hesitation the youngsters carry because of stigma. This condition highlights the requirements of developmental programmes for the youths to furnish details of trafficking and coping mechanisms with stigma attached. In sum, the table explains that there is need a for tailor made interventions

*Ruchi*

with younger generation in involving them in the process of prevention of human sex trafficking.

**Conclusion:**

Human trafficking is a dehumanization process where the female generation is victimized. They are criminalized in the process where their human rights are completely violated. In such condition to protect women and children from exploitative situation, involving younger generation has become essential. In this view, a study was conducted considering 40 respondents including both the sex perusing various levels of education. The study reveals that these young respondents are suffering from lack of information though they are interested in involving with such national development activities. Stigma attached to the issue also has made the respondents a bit shaky where they would prefer to seek consent from the parents. Otherwise the respondents would prefer to have training about management and developmental aspects of the field along with exposure trip to various NGOs working for prevention of sex trafficking. General awareness for the younger generation and to some extent to their family also has been highlighted in the study. The social workers need to consider the identified need for younger generation and prepare a suitable model so that the reach for the target groups will be successful.

**Reference**

1. *Suman Fernando (2010), Mental health, Race and Culture, Palgrave Macmillan, London.*
2. *Eagleton (2000), The idea of culture, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Oxford, United States.*
3. *Kumudini Achchi (2010), A Study on the role of NGOS in mainstreaming commercially sexually exploited women in South India, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Mysore, Mysore.*
4. *Ward Helen et al., National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, Imperial College London, Norfolk Place, London, 1991*
5. *Nair P.M. (2005) Trafficking in Women and Children in India, Orient Longman Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.*
6. *Monzini Paola (2006), "Sex Traffic – Prostitution, Crime and Exploitation", Books for Change, Bangalore.*