

# Violence against Women in India

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Violence against Women in India ●

# Women (Human) Rights and Contemporary Indian Thinkers

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## Introduction

Each individual in society needs to be respected and treated in a certain way. He or she possesses some inherent and undeniable rights by virtue of his/her being a human being. These are the rights which every human being is entitled to enjoy and to have protected. In other words, such rights are necessary to ensure the dignity of every person as a human being irrespective of one's caste, religion, race, colour, language, sex, nationality or any other factor. Scholars and philosophers in both domestic and international level accepted that human beings possess some basic rights which originate with the very birth of the individuals. "To have human rights, one need not do anything special than be born a human being." These rights have moral, legal, and political bearings.

Human Rights are essential for the development of the human personality. United Nations Universal declaration of Human Rights (Article 1) categorically said that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. So, each human individual has a right to be treated respectfully. Woman, as a human female must enjoy economic, civil, political, social and cultural rights. So, women's rights are human rights. History of India is very most eventful regarding the position, status and rights of women from ancient to medieval and mediaeval to modern or contemporary time. In the pre-independent India women were in despair. Their mental and physical distress tortured some true 'human beings' whom we may call contemporary thinkers and social reformers. Their endeavor to set up first school for women, abolition of sati and child-marriage, encouragement of widow remarriage all these are remarkable steps towards the establishment of equal rights for women.

## Objectives of the paper

The objectives of the paper are

1. To introduce the concept of human rights and women (human) rights
2. To sketch out the views Contemporary Indian thinkers regarding women rights

## Methodology

The paper is based on the data collected from the secondary source i.e. published literature of the subject (books, journals, articles and write-ups, news, etc.). The method followed in this paper is descriptive and evaluative.

## The Concept of Human Rights and Women (Human) Right

'Human Rights' is the vocabulary of 20th century. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights defines Human Rights as "those rights which are inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as human beings."<sup>3</sup> The shocking experiences of World War II actually established human rights as a movement and proved that human rights issues were significant at both national and international level. Suppression of fundamental human rights during war resulted in a systematic articulation of the concept of human rights.