



A STUDY OF AWARENESS ON LEGAL ACTS-(WITH REFERENCE TO YOUNG WOMEN)

Smt. EADI SUNITHA.

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, SRR & CVR Govt Degree College (Autonomous)
Vijayawada .

ABSTRACT

In recent days, women protection and welfare is getting overwhelming response across the globe. It is also gradually gaining its momentum to fight against the women exploitation which is still prevalent today. In a country like India, the population faces a number of problems especially in the women related issues .Awareness is like the sun when it shines on things they are transformed,(Thich Nhat Hanh) it is right that awareness is the right weapon in the hands of women , but here they do not have proper awareness relating to the issues of consumer rights which basically cover the social rights, human rights and political rights in general and legal acts . The government of India has brought many statutory regulations, ever since Independence, to protect the interests of women ,no of acts has been passed. The main aim of this paper is to study the awareness Levels of women students in the various colleges in Vijayawada city. About 30 students were selected for the study, Data is collected with structured questionnaire .the questionnaire contains II sections which are having set of questions regarding relating to specially to women and free dial numbers. The back ground study of the paper focuses on the students(women) awareness on legal acts and women related legal act which helps in bringing the knowledge into transformation and when any issues happened then in turns into Action to file a case against.

Key words: Legal Acts, Awareness, Regulations, Rights, Exploitation.

INTRODUCTION : Self-awareness is probably the most important things towards being a champion(billie jean king) In recent days, women protection and welfare is getting overwhelming response across the globe. It is also gradually gaining its momentum to fight against the women exploitation which is still prevalent today. In a country like India, the population faces a number of problems one especially in the women related issues .Awareness is like the sun when it shines on things they are transformed,(Thich Nhat Hanh) it is right that awareness is the right weapon in the hands of women , but here they do not have proper awareness relating to the issues of consumer rights which basically cover the social rights, human rights and political rights in general and legal acts . The government of India has brought many statutory regulations, ever since Independence, to protect the interests of women ,no of acts has been passed .

NEED OF THE STUDY :

Teenagers(girls) are becoming the victims of many incidents in various places , in colleges, at hotels, where ever not, recently one incident has taken place at Vijayawada (based on real fact dated,17/10/2020) became the victim and lost her life due to rejecting the friendship of the boy ,because that poor girl can't express her pain to her parents or neither to the higher authorities when she is getting harassment messages and phone call to her, if she informs that same to the authorities it would save her life, so this is one of the example ,that every girl student (or) women should express their problems to someone and also aware of some of legal acts which are avail to her in the society, that would help herself to avoided this type of practices. . Another most important thing that Eve-Teasing and Ragging are still prevalent in schools and colleges, but the victims are not coming forward to instance immediately to their higher authorities of the colleges due to fear and shy and also not aware of the possibilities and provisions she had in the society. So, here arises the need of having awareness of such laws which can protect herself from this types harassments in colleges or outside of the colleges. They are no of legal act are prevail for the youngest women in this society which are their for their protection like POCSO ACT-2012 most powerful Act which protects the girl who are of 16 yrs to 18 yrs from the sexual harassment, RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT-2005,it is one of important Act which every girl child should go to school or college for their education RAPE –(SEC-376,376A,376B,376C,376D) Eve Teasing(Sec-509)in this Act any boy student or of same sex committed this type teasing the victim can file a compliant under this section , Sexual Harassment (Sec-354a), Acid Attack (Sec-326a,326b) Stalking (Sec-354d), Women Trafficking (Sec-370,370a,372,373) .

REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

S NO	AUTHOR NAME	TITLE OF THE PAPER	JOURNAL	MAIN FOCUS	SAMPLE AND METHODOLOGY	CONCLUSIONS
1	Madhu Kumari (March-2020)	Social Media And Women Empowerment	International Journal Of Scientific& Technology Research Volume-9, Issue-3,2020	Digital literacy programme for colleges and universities	Theoretical study	Digital literacy programme for colleges and universities ,which enriches the empowerment and promote digital literacy especially for women which includes awareness about cyber crimes, safe sue of internet and social platform
2	Dr. Shambhunath .B(May-16)	Awareness On Legal Rights Of Women: A Study Of Kalaburagi District	International Journal Of Law , ISSN-2455 , volume-2,May-16	Awareness on legal rights of Kalaburiagi district	40 respondents are selected for the study, convenient sampling is used.	Majority of the women being illiterate, ignorant and poor are unaware of their rights and status, and they think that the file cost is very high and it is time consuming process

3	V. Manjula Devi, Mrs Ranjithamani(2017)	A Study Of Legal Awareness Among Women Teachers	International Journal Of Research, ISSN-2350-0530,vol-5, May-2017	Focus on working and non working women-awareness	200 respondents are selected ,stratified random sampling method is used	.1.the science teachers posses better awareness towards legal rights than art group teachers. 2.urban teacher posses better awareness towards legal rights than rural teachers
4	Ritamani Das (2015)	A Comparative Study On The Level Of Awareness About Constitutional And Legal Rights Among Working And Non-Working Women Of Kokrajhar Town	Journal Of Research In Humanities And Social Sciences , Volumn-3,Issue-10(2015) Research Paper	Awareness on legal rights working and non working women at Kokrajhar town	150 working and non-working women were selected and Simple random sampling method are used for the study	1.it is necessary to motivate women so that they can raise their voice against any kind of exploitations. 2.Education as well as Media should offer help to all people to raise the slogan"- Empowering women, Expanding awareness, Eradicating violence"
5	Jigar Shah (Dec-2016)	A Study Of Awareness About Cyber Laws For Indian Youth	International Journal Of Trend In Scientific Research And Development Volumn-1,ISSN-2456,DEC-16	Awareness on cyber laws are observed	Theoretical study	Lack of awareness is observed in the case of protection towards their personal P.C and laptops, some of respondent are still the victims of various virus to not updating the passwords from time to time and media should create the awareness about various cyber crime

Based on the above literature the objectives are framed to study the awareness of legal acts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the level of awareness among the students regarding the legal act and women specific acts. .
2. To know the role of media in promoting awareness on legal acts.
3. To offer suggestions and recommendation for further improvement of the study.

RESEARCH DESIGN: The study adopted Descriptive Research Design to assess the awareness levels by understanding the opinions and problems of the girl students. A pilot study was conducted to validate the identified variables to study the student Awareness On Legal Acts And Women Specific Act.. 30 respondents(girl students) were selected through convenient sampling from degree college in Vijayawada.

Vijayawada is known as hub of educational platform which consists of different types of govt colleges and private colleges in different streams. In this awareness study one college has been selected in which is co-education college. The study main focuses on degree students because it is age of students which faces numbers of problems from the opposite sex.

DATA ANALYSIS : The data was collected from the respondent through the questionnaire it consists of Legal Acts and Women Specific Act provided by the government, and Dial Free numbers which the respondent (students) has to say YES if she is aware of the legal acts. If she don't know the acts say NO to the questions.

Awareness on Acts

S.NO	SECTION-I YOUNG WOMEN SPECIFIC ACTS (UNDER IPC-SECTIONS)	Respondents(30)		
		Aware (Yes)	%	Not aware(No) %
1.	Nirbhaya Act-2013	24	80%	6-20%
2.	Andhra Pradesh Disha Act-2019	28	93.3%	2-6.6%
3	POCSO ACT-2012	16	53%	14-46%
4	RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT-2005	25	83%	5-16.6%
5	RAPE –(SEC-376,376A,376B,376C,376D)	18	60%	12-40%
6	Eve Teasing(Sec-509)	16	53%	14-46%
7	Sexual Harassment (Sec-354a)	18	60%	12-40%
8	Acid Attack (Sec-326a,326b)	20	66%	10-33%
9	Stalking (Sec-354d)	5	16%	25-83.3%
10	Women Trafficking (Sec- 370,370a,372,373)	4	13.3%	26-86.6%
11	The Dowry (Prohibition)Act,1961	15	50%	15-50%
12	Protection Of Women From Domestic Violence Act,2005	17	56.6%	13-43.3%
13	Do you know about ABHAYAM Call center no 9440729828,7382448325	3	10.0%	27-90%
SECTION-II AWARE OF DIAL FREE NUMBERS				

1.	100 police	30	100%	Nil---
2.	1800-180-5522 anti Ragging	18	60%	16-0%
3.	9121211100- what'sup no cyber Mitra	15	50%	15-50%
4	112,181,1091,1090, 100- she team help line	18	60%	12-40%
5.	Role of media in promoting awareness	yes	50%	No-50%

FINDINGS:

1. the selected respondents(girl students) are of only 18-25 age group has taken for the study. degree students because it is age of students which faces numbers of problems from the opposite sex.
2. The all-over awareness of the legal acts of respondents(girl students) of commerce arts and sciences students had 56% only .All the streams of the respondents don't proper awareness on some of the legal act with section ,only a few respondents are aware of sections of acts.
3. Nirbhaya Act-2013, Andhra Pradesh Disha Act-2019, Right To Education Act-2005 has scored the high percentage of awareness because they are recently accounced by the govt ,and great movement had done in that period to save the girls.
4. POCSO ACT-2012 is one of very powerful act, which protect the girl aged between(16 to 18yrs) but the only 53% of respondents are aware of this act and remaining 46% are unaware of this act.
5. Eve Teasing(Sec-509), Sexual Harassment (Sec-354a), Acid Attack (Sec-326a,326b) the awareness percentage is 60% and unaware are of 40% only because the poster are posted in college with tollfree nos.
6. Stalking (Sec-354d), Women Trafficking (Sec- 370,370a,372,373) the awareness levels of respondents is very low with percentage of 16% and 13.3% and unaware is 83.3% and 86.6% so their need in this to get more awareness on legal act as particular.
7. Majority of the students are not aware of ABHAYAM Call center number which was posted in auto (90%) and only 10% are aware of it .
8. In the case of dial free numbers almost the numbers are aware by the respondents because the poster of free dial numbers is posted in the college's premises.

SUGGESTIONS:

There is large scope to create awareness **on** legal acts because only 56% are aware of acts, so

1. The colleges and the Govt has to give wide publicity of the legal act through the poster.
2. In every college there should be one legal cell and anti-ragging cell must be established to protect and create awareness in girl students about the incidents and provisions.
3. Media also plays an important role in creating awareness regarding the legal acts which it should publish each day about the legal acts and the provision with dial free numbers to educate the girl students.
4. In syllabus also one subject should be introduced on legal acts with all provisions and sections.
5. The women welfare society and the she teams should campaign once in month regarding the legal acts .

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY: In this covid -19time the study is confined to Vijayawada city only ,and the sample size is also less because the collection of data of large respondents are not permitting due to this pandemic time.

CONCLUSION :

Awareness is a important weapon in the hands of women that can protect herself from any harassment in the society, The back ground study of the paper focuses on the students(women) awareness on legal acts and women related legal act which helps in bringing the knowledge into transformation and when any issues happened then in turns into Action to file a case against. The Govt should promote more and more awareness programs to motivate the girl students to safe herself from these activities, so that no other young women become the victims in the society. There is no end for awareness in any aspects in the society.



Source: Researcher Own Model

REFERENCES :

1. Madhu Kumari (March-2020) "Social Media And Women Empowerment "International Journal Of Scientific& Technology Research Volume-9, Issue-3,2020
2. Dr. Shambhunath .B(May-16)" Awareness On Legal Rights Of Women: A Study Of Kalaburagi District "International Journal Of Law , ISSN-2455 , volume-2,May-2016.
3. V. Manjula Devi, Mrs Ranjithamani(2017) "A Study Of Legal Awareness Among Women Teachers" International Journal Of Research, ISSN-2350-0530,vol-5, May-2017.
4. Ritamani Das (2015) "A Comparative Study On The Level Of Awareness About Constitutional And Legal Rights Among Working And Non-Working Women Of Kokrajhar Town" Journal Of Research In Humanities And Social Sciences , Volumn-3,Issue-10(2015) Research Paper.
5. websites:
6. wdcw.ap.gov.in
7. wcd.inc.in
8. ncrb.gov.in
9. www.womenlawindia.com