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156

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16

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN INDIA:
A Reality or Myth?

Dr. Divya Nath

Abstract

It is said that "women hold up half the sky", but this saying by itself does not appear to give women in India, a position of dignity and equality. Although geographically, men and women share the same space, they live in different worlds. The Constitution of India provides an impressive list of rights to all its citizens, without any discrimination. Not only this, considering India has had a patriarchal society, in which women have been a suppressed lot down the ages, the government has also tried to provide extra protection to its female citizens, through gender specific laws and special initiatives. But the reality is, that even after 68 years of independence, sprawling inequalities persist in women's access to education, healthcare, physical and financial resources, and opportunities in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres. True, that women have made great strides in many areas, with notable progress in reducing gender gaps,

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