

Status of Women in Goa

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ABSTRACT

Goa, a major tourist destination, resource rich and blessed with natural beauty, with over seven million female population, earns distinction for being among the best states in India. Large number of Legislative Acts and NGOs have done tremendous job to protect the movements of women. Being an attraction to night clubs, casinos and parlors; large number of local gangs and mediators play heinous role to exploit the sentiments of women and thereby add to more crimes. Despite odds and challenges, women's movements in Goa form an interesting data about the domestic and professional alignments. The study examines various initiatives and challenges like health, marriage, education, political participation and sex trafficking in comparative dimensions. The study ends by saying that women should be treated as equal creature of society with no discrimination at any stage for a progressive democracy and contribution of knowledge.

Keywords: Women, Goa, Crime, Legislation, Social Security

Background

Women, a symbol of love, share and care, have undergone numerous challenges since ages. Reforms and legislations were brought gradually by the constitution, law making agencies and large number of NGOs. Consequently, such agencies have largely been influenced by the programs of reform and upliftment without giving any concrete solution. Before the advent of English rule in India, women were in a quite a deplorable social condition with a number of oppressive rules being thrust upon them by social community. With the various reform movements and a gradual change in the perception of women in society, they now emerged as educated, socially aware, competent "new women" with a strong sense of vision in contemporary India.¹ During the age of globalization and economic liberation, the issues of 'women' aligned with women's rights, gender identity, women's movements and more recently associated with honour and dignity who are working as nurses, sisters, wives and miscellaneous social services. In other way round, women are symbols of beauty, sex, prostitution, crime and marginalized group. Gender Studies and Women movement remain an interest area of academic debate which broadly includes dynamics like femininity, Feminization, Matriarchy, Sexism, Women in Science and religion.