DWEDT 3: PAPER III: WOMEN AND LEGAL RIGHTS

Objectives:

This paper aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of women's legal rights in India and the constitutional safeguards available for their protection. It focuses on key legislations such as the Domestic Violence Act, POSH Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, along with property, inheritance, and criminal laws related to women. The course also highlights legal aid mechanisms, support systems, and the role of the judiciary in ensuring justice and protection of women's rights.

Course Outcomes (COs):

CO1: Understand the constitutional rights of women in India and identify the fundamental and directive principles safeguarding women's status.

CO2: Examine major laws related to domestic violence, dowry, child marriage, and workplace harassment, and understand their implementation mechanisms.

CO3: Analyze women's property and inheritance rights under different personal laws and legal frameworks.

CO4: Evaluate criminal laws related to offences against women, including rape, trafficking, and acid attacks, along with protection and rehabilitation measures.

CO5: Assess the role of legal aid services, family courts, and the judiciary in ensuring justice and strengthening women's legal rights through landmark judgments.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER SETTER/EXAMINER:

1. The syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.
2. The question paper will consist of three sections: A, B, and C. Sections A and B will have four questions each from the respective sections of the syllabus and will carry 10 marks each. The candidates will attempt two questions from each section.
3. Section C will have fifteen short answer questions covering the entire syllabus. Each question will carry 3 marks. Candidates will attempt any 10 questions from this section.
4. The examiner shall give a clear instruction to the candidates to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.
5. The duration of each paper will be three hours.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES:

Candidates are required to attempt any two questions each from the sections A, and B of the question paper, and any ten short answer questions from Section C. They have to attempt

questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.

DWEDT 3	**Paper–III: Women and Legal Rights** **Section A** Unit 1: Constitutional Rights of Women in India: Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles & Constitutional Safeguards for Women Unit 2: Laws Against Domestic Violence (DV Act 2005) Unit 3: Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH Act): Prevention and Redressal Mechanisms Unit 4: Laws Against Dowry and Child Marriage: Dowry Prohibition Act & Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and Related Legal Provisions. SECTION B Unit 5: Property and Inheritance Rights for Women: Hindu Succession Act and Muslim Personal Law Unit 6: Women and Criminal Law: Laws Related to Rape, Trafficking and Acid Attacks, Protection and Rehabilitation Measures Unit 7: Legal Aid and Support for Women: Women Helplines and Family Courts Unit 8: Role of Judiciary in Women's Justice: Landmark Judgements Related to Women's Rights.	M.M - 100 Ext. - 70 Int.- 30 Pass- 40%

Suggested Readings

1. Nivedita Menon, *Seeing Like a Feminist*, Zubaan Books
2. Neera Desai and Maithreyi Krishnaraj, *Women and Society in India*, Ajanta Publications
3. Geraldine Forbes, *Women in Modern India* , Cambridge University Press
4. Uma Chakravarti, *Gendering Caste Through a Feminist Lens*, Stree Publishers
5. Nandita Gandhi and Nandita Shah, *The Issues at Stake: Theory and Practice in the Contemporary Women's Movement in India*, Kali for Women

6. Devaki Jain, *Women, Development and the UN: A Sixty-Year Quest for Equality and Justice*, Indiana University Press
7. Bina Agarwal, *A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia*, Cambridge University Press
8. Deepa Narayan, *Chup: Breaking the Silence About India's Women*, Penguin Random House India
9. Vina Mazumdar, *Emergence of Women's Question in India and the Role of Women's Studies*, Centre for Women's Development Studies