Introduction

The present study is about the struggle of women in slum areas to achieve a status of equality which existed in the vedic age and in the present Constitution of India. The struggle has been a tough one as it requires the victory of old traditions like Caste system and male domination. The thesis describes the work of the Non Government Organizations (NGO’s) which are heavily involved with defining and raising the status of women particularly in rural areas.

As part of our researcher have tried to take a broad overview of the work being, present trend in work and issues being raised. As a result researcher would like to present specific suggestions and recommendations with particular reference to women agencies

The growth of N.G. O in India has been remarkable in recent decades. Their significance lies in the fact that they represent commitment, involvement, innovation, creativity and rich experience in development work at the micro level. NGO’s have therefore come to assume a lot of importance at both the national and international level.

This paper therefore focuses with view to understand the work of N.G.Os related with Liberation of Women particularly in slum areas. It also rates high in the number of voluntary groups in operation; The range of activities taken up is also very wide covering strategies ranging from relief and welfare work to initiating mass movements.

Introduction chapter will focus the summary of all chapters, liberation of women & work of NGO’s in Maharashtra. Following topics would be discussed.

(a) International scenario for the protection of women
(b) Crimes & legal perspectives
(c) Judicial activism for the protection of women
(d) Role of the NGOs & their
(e) Constitutional provisions for women protection
(f) Judicial activism for the protection of women
(g) Features & profile of NGOs
(h) Work of NGO.s for liberation of women

Liberation Of Women Historical Origins This will cover the status of the women in early vedic age & the when it began to decline from the later vedic age. Position of women in pre-Independence
period Women's position during the British period Liberation of women in Modern India Earliest Social Reformers

Constitutional provisions for protection of women

Law

Constitution of India

• Article 14 (the right to equality)
• Article 15 (the right to non discrimination)
• Article 19(1)(g) (the right to practice one’s profession)
• Article 21 (the right to life)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

• Article 11 ([State] takes all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment)
• Article 24 ([State shall] undertake to adopt all necessary measures at the national level aimed at achieving the full realization)

Crimes & Legal Perspectives

If we open any day’s newspaper, we find many instances of crime against women on a daily basis in all parts of our country as well as in the world. For example there are crimes like eve teasing, molestation even in modern cities like Mumbai or Delhi. This just means that the cities have changed externally in terms of all the glitter brought in by material prosperity, but mindsets have not changed that drastically.

Crimes include the following (not an exhaustive list but by way illustrations only:

• eve-teasing
• molestation
• sexual harassment at work place
• rape
• murder
• honour killing
• preventing even adult girls from marrying according to their choice
• domestic violence
• psychological or physical torture
• dowry demands and harassment
• forcing girls to stop their education in order to look after younger sibli

**International scenario for the protection of women**

This chapter will discuss the concepts of Human Rights. It will focus on the International Scenario for the Protection of Women.

Women’s rights are enshrined in many international and regional instruments to which most governments are committed, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights.

Parties to CEDAW are required to take all appropriate measures: “to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women” (Article 5a) and to “eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development”. (Article 14)

They should “have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning” and “obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy” (ibid).

“Everyone has the right to education” (UDHR, Article 26).

“Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses” (UDHR, Article 16).

Parties to CEDAW shall “take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations”. This includes: the “right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent” and “to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights” and “the same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property” “The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect” (Article

**Judicial Activism for the Protection of Women**
The Judiciary has played a very important role for the implementation for the laws of the protection of women such as-

In this chapter, it is intended to Judicial Activism for the Protection of Women. Landmark Judgments Given by the Supreme Court.

Maintenance: As we are all aware about the case of Shah Bano, which has brought tremendous change for the maintenance in the Muslim women’s right to maintenance. There was a persistent and rampant sexual harassment of women at the workplace and there was total absence of legislation to cope with this societal evil.

**Brief history of Vishakha**


Jurisdiction: Supreme Court of India

Date of Decision: 13 August 1997

enforce the rights of gender equality and to prevent discrimination for women in the workplace. These guidelines included the responsibility upon the employer to prevent or deter the commission of acts of sexual harassment and to apply the appropriate settlement and resolutions and a definition of sexual harassment which includes unwelcome sexually determined behaviour (whether directly or by implication)

**Role of NGOs And Their Function**

The following features would be covered:

There are many Nongovernmental organizations in Maharashtra working in women related issues. They deal with issues such as:

- Human Rights and Women’s Human Rights
- Constitutional and Civil Rights
- Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- Strategies against Violence
- Women's Economic Rights
- Gender Sensitive Parenting and Rights of the Child
- Women and Sexuality
- Reproductive Rights
Working Profile of NGO's. Mumbai & Thane has numerous NGOs working in different fields as under:

- Education
- Health
- Livelihood,
- Rights including women rights, minority rights etc
- Social Issues
- Financial
- Support services
- Rural
- Agriculture
- Housing Energy
- Water
- Sanitation
- Waste Management
- Environment
- Culture and Recreation
- Education

Each of these NGO’s have different profiles of funding, scale, area of operation and target groups. A study of a sample of these NGO’s will be conducted as to their reach and impact.

**Case study of a representative sample of prominent NGOs of Mumbai areas of Maharashtra.**