

## Report on Women Empowerment

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Dr.Varsha Vivek Deshpande, Associate Professor, Dr Ambedkar Law College, Nagpur delivered a special lecture on Women Empowerment. She highlighted various issues relating to gender equality. Women are often subjected to exploitation by the subordinates. Primarily, at the root of these entire causes, major cause is division of labour model within the family and society. Women were confined only to do house hold works, whereas men worked outside. They took primary responsibility of running the family and the women were made to follow the directions given by the men. There is of course natural difference between men and women. Only women can give birth to a child and not men. Feeding children, looking after health of the family were all concern of a women and not men. Women had no element of choice to run a family. The power was vested only with the men. Men dominated the society whereas women domain was only domestic.

The powers vested with the men were misused for greater extent. Women were often subject to dowry harassment, domestic violence, and unequal distribution of wealth, sometimes no rights to property etc. Such inequality was even endorsed by the laws present in India. Women were considered as property of men. For Ex- Adultery which is considered as punishable offence under IPC would not be punishable if the husband gives his consent to her living in that way; Even under Guardian and Wards Act, the first guardian of a child is father and not mother.

Quoting the words of Brazilian Scholar Robert O' Hunger- "Empowerment is the experience of being treated equally", she said government initiatives are scattered between same less theory and difference theory. The Hindu Succession Act, 2006 brought about major changes recognizing women as a coparcener, M.C Muthamma case highlights the gender equality at work. Like wise rules are amended so as to bring about gender equality today. Citing Vishaka v State of Rajasthan, she stated that the case had set a good example for women empowerment and depicts the power of Judiciary to lay down guidelines which was followed until the law concerning the same was passed after decade in 2013.

In her concluding remarks, she said we dismiss care but we don't dismiss the cause. Today women are protected through the provisions enshrined under the constitution. But what is more important is to see that these laws are not misused.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Smt Indumathi M.J, Asst Professor, VVLC

