ABSTRACT
The present study focuses on studying the awareness of women about their own rights given to them by constitution of India. Randomly a sample of 250 women from Ludhiana district of Punjab was taken. A questionnaire having questions related to women’s special rights was prepared by the investigators including Right under international law, Rights of wife, Women’s Rights to minor children, Women’s Protectional Rights under Criminal law, Women’s Rights under Labour Laws, Women’s Personal Rights and Right to Marry. This questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. The data was analyzed with help of percentage and t– ratio technique. The results showed that 24.4% women are highly aware about the women rights, 64.4% women are moderately aware and 11.2% women are very less aware. Highly educated women are better aware about women rights than less educated women.

Keywords: Women; Women Rights

INTRODUCTION
Women constitute half of the world's population, work two third of the world's working hours, earn one tenth of the world's income and own less than one tenth of the world's property.

Women play an important role in the development of human society. Education, especially the education of women is of paramount importance empowerment of women with knowledge, skill and self-confidence is necessary to participate fully in the development process. Literacy reduced gender inequality and women become conscious of their conjugal rights and privileges. They can resist their exploitation in case of matters of marriage maternity, childcare and family planning. In our country most of the citizens are not well aware about laws and rights especially the rights of a woman. It is sad that our education is not equipping the women well aware about her rights, this type of ignorance make their life hell. They can't raise their voice as they don't know their rights and law.

Fundamental Rights of Citizen
Our constitution gives us some other rights which are known as fundamental rights. These are Right to equality, Right to freedom, Right against exploitation, Right to freedom of religion, Right to education and culture, Right to constitutional remedies and Right to Education.

Women's Special Rights
In our constitution women have some special rights also. These are Right to Marry Right of Wife to
Women play a great role in the overall development and progress of the nation. However, their participation in different fields either directly or indirectly is still behind in many aspects. In most cases, women are considered inferior to men, and their life is restricted within the four walls of the house. Education of women is the most powerful tool for change of position in society and family. Education enables the women to take decisions concerning them. The economic role of women is realized. A modern Indian woman is striding forward, matching her skills and abilities with men, but this is true of very small percentage of Indian women. The plight of women has not improved everywhere in spite of their education. They don’t enjoy the right to take decisions regarding various items like men. The women of our country are not well aware about their rights as a citizen and special rights as a woman. For being independent and responsible citizens, women must exercise their special rights.

The researchers were curious to know the difference in awareness level of women about their own rights when they are highly educated and when less educated.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To study the awareness level of women about their own rights.
2. To study awareness level of women about their own rights with respect to varying level of education.

**HYPOTHESIS**

There is no significant difference in the awareness level of women about their own rights with respect to varying level of education.

**METHODOLOGY**

**Design** - Descriptive survey method was adopted in the present study. Data was collected from rural and urban women with different levels of educational qualification.

**Sample** - Randomly 250 women from Ludhiana district were taken for the study. Women with low education level (Matric or 10+2) and high education level (Post Graduates) were taken proportionately.

**Tool used** - Questionnaire of Awareness of Women’s Rights was prepared for data collection. The items of the questions belonged to the following domains:

- Right under international law
- Rights of wife
- Women’s Rights to minor children
- Women’s Protective Rights under Criminal law.
- Women’s Rights under Labour Laws
- Women’s Personal Rights
Right to Marry

Statistical technique
Percentage and t ratio was used as statistical technique to analyze the data.

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND RESULTS

Table 1. Showing frequency of scores of awareness level of women about their own rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Class Interval</th>
<th>Mid Point</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7-10</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10-13</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>13-16</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>19-22</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>22-25</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>250</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Normal probability curve of score of women's rights awareness of whole sample

The probability curve of women's rights awareness is nearly normal. The mean lies at 15.91, and SD is 3.92. The women with score 11.99 and below have low level of awareness about women's rights. The women with score 12 to 19.99 have moderate level of awareness about women's rights and the women with score above 20 are highly aware about women's rights.

In the whole sample following results are found

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of awareness</th>
<th>%age of women lying in this category</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>Below 11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>64.4%</td>
<td>12-19.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>20 and above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This shows that 64.4% women are moderately aware about the women's rights. 24.4% women are highly aware and 11.2% women are very less aware.
Table 2. SD, SE₀ and t ratio on the variable of awareness of women's rights among highly educated women and less educated women groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>SE₀</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>Level of significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Highly educated women (Post Graduates)</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>17.53</td>
<td>0.204</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Less educated women (Matric and 10+2)</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>13.76</td>
<td>1.759</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 revealed that for highly educated women the mean score of awareness about women’s rights is 17.53. For less educated women group the mean score of awareness about women's rights is 13.76. The t-ratio was calculated as 2.15 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. This shows that more educated women are better aware about their own rights than less educated women.

The reason for the above result may be that the educated women have better exposure and understanding than less educated women. More educated women are in habit of reading newspaper, other literature and attending seminars and discussions related to women and become aware of their rights. More educated women are more concerned above the programmes on TV and information at internet which is related to women and women’s rights. Less educated women who are generally not in job has less exposure to different programmes, discussions and literature. Generally they do not participate in the programmes concerned with women's rights.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of analysis and interpretation of data it is found that

1. 24.4% women are highly aware about their own rights, 64.4% women are moderately aware and 11.2% women are very less aware.

2. Highly educated women are better aware about women rights than less educated women.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

1. The study shows that only 24.4% women in the population are highly aware about their rights, whereas every woman should be well aware about her special rights as woman, so our curriculum should be designed in such a way that all women can become aware about their rights.

2. We can also say that the awareness about these rights should be started from school stage, so that if a woman is less educated even then she should know her rights.

3. Workshops and training camps should be arranged to develop required skills.

REFERENCES


