

# A Study on Awareness of Women's Rights among Student Teachers

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## Abstract

This research explored the awareness of women's rights among student teachers, utilizing a normative survey method. The study considered background variables such as gender, subject and locality. A women's rights questionnaire, developed and validated by the researcher, was employed for data collection. A sample of 100 student teachers from Meerut district was selected using a random sampling technique. Statistical methods including mean, standard deviation, and t-test were used to analyze the data. The findings indicated a significant difference in awareness of women's rights among student teachers based on gender, subject and locality.

**Keywords:** Awareness and Women rights

## Introduction

Women's rights are fundamental human rights established by the United Nations nearly 70 years ago for all people worldwide. These rights encompass freedom from violence, slavery, and discrimination; the right to education; the right to own property; the right to vote; and the right to fair and equal pay. As the well-known phrase 'Women's rights are human rights' emphasizes, women are entitled to these rights just as men are. However, women and girls are still denied these rights in many parts of the world, often due to gender-based discrimination. Securing women's rights goes beyond offering opportunities to individual women and girls; it is about ensuring equality and justice for half of the global population.

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, affirming that all human beings are born free and have an equal right to

dignity. Similarly, the Indian Constitution guarantees various rights to all citizens, regardless of gender, including the right to equality under Article 14 and the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. Gender equality encompasses a society where both men and women enjoy equal opportunities, rights, and responsibilities in every aspect of life. This includes equality in decision-making, economic and social freedom, equal access to education, and the right to pursue a profession of their choice.

The present study was carried out to assess the level of awareness of the student teachers about the legal provisions provided in India which secure the dignity of women. The study area is comprised of both rural and urban area and the sample selected for collecting data are heterogeneous in terms of their level of gender, subject, locality, qualification, and age, etc. the study was carried out in order to assess the extent of women rights awareness across this heterogeneous group. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Indian Divorce Act, 1969, Maternity benefit Act, 1861, Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 etc. are some of the very important laws in India for protecting the rights of women in India. But, it is not known that how many student teachers are aware about these laws and their uses. Therefore, researcher examined the study of awareness women's rights among student teachers.

## **Need for the study**

Educating women is highly effective in reducing violence against them, yet many women and girls remain unaware of the laws protecting them and their rights. It is crucial for women worldwide to be informed about their rights. Education on women's rights should begin early, with student teachers in schools playing a key role. However, for student teachers to effectively impart this knowledge, they must first be well-versed in these rights themselves. The goal is to 'empower prospective teachers globally' so that they can pass on this vital knowledge to future generations. Therefore, this study aims to assess the awareness of women's rights among student teachers.

## **Title of the study**

The present study is conducted on:

## **A Study on Awareness of Women's Rights among Student Teachers**

### **Definition of key terms**

### **Awareness of women's rights**

Women's rights are human rights. We are all entitled to human rights. These include the right to live free from violence and discrimination; to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; to be educated; to own property; to vote; and to earn an equal wage.'

### **Student Teachers**

Students those are studying in teachers training programme

### **Objectives of the study**

Following are the major objectives of the present investigation.

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The study aims to find awareness of women rights among student teachers. The following objectives have been formulated for the present study-

- To find out whether there is any significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of male and female student teachers.
- To find out whether there is any significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of science and art student teachers.
- To find out whether there is any significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of rural and urban student teachers.

### **Hypotheses of the study**

The following hypotheses have been tested-

- There is no significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to gender.
- There is no significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to subject.
- There is no significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to locality.

## **Research methodology**

Generally research problems have different methods for investigation. The method followed in the present study is normative survey method.

## **Sample For the present study**

The investigators collected the samples from the student teachers from B.Ed. colleges in Meerut district. The investigators collected a sample of 100 student teachers from different B.Ed. colleges in Meerut district. Adequate representations were given to factors like gender, subject and locality.

## **Tool used in the study**

Tools for collecting the pertinent data, the investigators used women's rights Questionnaire which was developed and validated by the investigators and field experts. To access the factors influencing the women rights among student teachers the investigator used 4-point rating scale with the options such as strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. Out of which the most suitable must be selected by giving a tick mark against the space provided.

## **Reliability and Validity**

To ensure the validity of the tool the investigator used content validity by getting judgment about the statements in the tools from the teachers, student teachers and experts in the of education. The reliability of the tool was found to be 0.87 by test and Cronbach's alpha reliability method.

## **Interpretation and organization of Data**

### **Hypothesis-1**

- There is no significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to gender.

### **Table-1**

**Mean, SD, t-value of awareness of women rights of student teachers based on Gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D</b>	<b>‘t’ Value</b>	<b>Level of significance</b>
<b>Male</b>	50	51.70	6.89	<b>3.069</b>	<b>Significant 0.05</b>
<b>Female</b>	50	55.41	5.06		

Table-1 shows that the t-value 3.069 which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis ‘There is no significant difference on awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to gender’ is rejected.

**Hypothesis-2**

- There is no significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to gender.

**Table-2**

**Mean, SD, t-value of awareness of women rights of student teachers based on subject**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D</b>	<b>‘t’ Value</b>	<b>Level of significance</b>
<b>Science</b>	50	53.99	7.70	<b>2.191</b>	<b>Significant 0.05</b>
<b>Arts</b>	50	50.77	6.98		

Table-2 shows that the t-value 2.191 which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis ‘There is no significant difference on awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to subject’ is rejected.

**Hypothesis-3**

- There is no significant difference between the mean scores of awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to gender.

**Table-3**  
**Mean, SD, t-value of awareness of women rights of student teachers based on Locality**

<b>Locality</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D</b>	<b>‘t’ Value</b>	<b>Level of significance</b>
<b>Rural</b>	50	53.93	6.03	<b>2.387</b>	<b>Significant 0.05</b>
<b>Urban</b>	50	50.57	7.92		

Table-3 shows that the t-value 2.387 which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis ‘There is no significant difference on awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to locality’ is rejected.

**Major findings of the study**

- There is significant difference on awareness of women rights of student teachers with regard to gender, subject and locality.

**Discussion of the results**

The recent education advances in the field of education have made women’s rights a vital competency for the present day student teachers. In this study, the result reveals that male student teachers have high-women’s rights compared to female student teachers and science student teachers have high women’s rights compared to arts student teachers and rural student teachers have high women’s rights compared to urban student teachers in Meerut District area. This may be due to the reasons that have more attitude and knowledge in women’s rights. From the findings, it is concluded that there is significant difference between gender, subject and locality in their women’s rights in student teachers.

**Conclusion**

Although knowledge of women’s rights and laws is an essential part of education for student teachers, it is becoming increasingly important due to challenges such as limited access to current books, journals, and up-to-date information. These challenges can affect exam performance and future work after graduation. This study contributes to

understanding the awareness levels of women's rights among student teachers in the Meerut District. The factors identified in the study could be utilized to enhance knowledge of women's rights. With advancements in technology, multimedia programs-such as advertisements, debates, dramas, and discussions are increasingly highlighting women's rights. Consequently, this study will not only help the public become more attentive to issues of violence against women but will also aid students in developing an awareness of their rights and fully enjoying them.

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