



## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**WOMAN AND THE LAW (1985).** By T.N. Srivastava. Intellectual Publishing House, New Delhi. Pp. ix + 228.

THE LAST few decades have witnessed an influx of laws pertaining to women. Either there have been special laws for women or there have been special provisions in general laws safeguarding women's interests. However, all this has little meaning unless women themselves are aware of these laws and seek protection thereunder.

The book<sup>1</sup> under review has been written with an idea to apprise women of the various laws. It is divided into thirteen chapters. While the first and the last chapters contain an introduction and conclusion respectively, the eleven chapters in between discuss the women's position under the different areas of laws. These are the Constitution, criminal law, marriage, marital relief and divorce, maintenance and custody of children, inheritance and succession, adoption, minority and guardianship, family court, industrial law and social welfare legislation.

The author has dealt with the above mentioned areas of laws *vis-a-vis* women, in a very simple and readable manner.

Most of the educated women are also not aware of the various rights they enjoy under the laws, the remedies they have in case of a problem and the relief they are entitled to.

The book assumes greater importance and significance to-day when many women are coming out of their homes and taking jobs and heading towards independence. At every step they are likely to come into conflict with situations which call for legal remedies, for instance at work place, there may be problems like harassment, exploitation and discrimination. At the home front also there might be many problems such as cruelty, dowry demand and harassment. Infact the book covers almost every situation that a woman might be faced with at one time or the other and discusses the legal remedies available to her, including the procedure for the same.

The author could however be more careful in editing. The spelling mistakes are innumerable, e.g., burning has been spelt as burnis,<sup>2</sup> cognizable as congnizable<sup>3</sup> and harassment has been spelt as harasment<sup>4</sup> and so on.

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1. T.N. Srivastava, *Woman and the Law* (1985).

2. *Id.* at 25.

3. *Id.* at 19.

4. *Id.* at 32 and 33.



At one place the author wrongly states that the fact that a person is unfit for procreation renders the marriage voidable<sup>5</sup> under the Hindu Marriage Act. This is far from truth. Incapability to procreate is no ground for any matrimonial relief though impotence is. The two are different things. In short, the book is simple, interesting and educative.

*Kusum\**

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5. *Id.* at 80.

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