



THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AND GENDER JUSTICE (1995). By M.A.A. Baig. Orissa International Society, Berhampur. Pp. 64. Price Rs. 125.

THE BOOK under review¹ is another addition to the list of preliminary referencers on some laws and cases pertaining to women. The small book is divided into six chapters along with a conclusion, a table of cases, and selected constitutional provisions. The first chapter on 'Gender Equality' refers to some cases decided by the Supreme Court and High Courts in India which have upheld the equality of women in matters of employment and property. The author has criticised the Supreme Court judgment in *Sowmithri Vishnu v. Union of India*² dismissing a petition which challenged section 497 of the Indian Penal Code on grounds that it was discriminatory against women.

The title of chapter II, viz., 'Prohibition of Discrimination on Certain Grounds' is misleading. The four page chapter in fact deals with special constitutional provisions to legislate for women and children. (article 15(3)).

Chapters III, IV and V very briefly refer to some legal provisions and cases on personal liberty, privacy, prohibition of trafficking, equal remuneration and other economic provisions.

In chapter V the author has welcomed the recent Kerala High Court order striking down certain discriminatory provisions from the Indian Divorce Act 1869 and makes a plea for reform of the antiquated legislation which is harsh on Christian women.

On the issue of Uniform Civil Code, the author in his last chapter sounds a note of caution. He says, "in order to evolve common laws we should identify such laws that are not sensitive, or, if touched, will not hurt sentiments."³

Baig in his conclusion rightly emphasises the need for creating awareness in women as to their legal rights. Without such awareness legal provisions are not meaningful, according to him. He feels that the duty to do this rests on various government agencies like the Legal Aid Board, Human Rights Commission, Womens Commission and other government as well as non-government organisations.

The readability of the book, however, is marred by the innumerable printing and spelling mistakes in it. To mention just a few, Parsia for Parsi,⁴ Christiane for

1. M.A.A. Baig. *The Constitution of India and Gender Justice* (1995).

2. A.I.R. 1985 S.C. 1618.

3. *Supra* note 1 at 49

4. *Id* at 11.



Christians,⁵ prevalence for prevalence,⁶ started for stated,⁷ irretrievably for irretrievably,⁸ dissertation for desertion, tents for tenets, and so on.

The book is a useful essay giving some information on gender issues but is too expensive for the quantity and quality of material therein.

*Kusum**

5. *Ibid*

6 *Id.* at 15.

7 *Id* at 20

8. *Id* at 39.

9. *Ibid*

10 *Id* at 47

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