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# Legal Awareness about Women Rights: The Indian Adolescent

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**Abstract:**With the changing norms and evolving society, it becomes significant for the youth to be aware and informed about the benefits their country's laws provide them through their set rights and duties. The laws for women in any country help in succoring them towards their well-being and development in both personal and professional roles. This research aimed at evaluating and identifying the level of legal awareness the adolescents of the national capital region of India had about these very laws made for women safety, security and progress.

**Keywords:** Legal Awareness, Women Rights, Adolescents

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## INTRODUCTION:LEGAL AWARENESS – SIGNIFICANCE FOR ADOLESCENTS

Adolescents are the future human resource of a country. Their upbringing, thoughts, values and ethics define the way the coming generations would view the world around them. They play a significant role in establishing the norms of the society and put in endless energies to help implement them. Being aware of their laws and constitution helps them realise the significance of adopting the norm and practicing it wholeheartedly. Environment, world economy and women rights are the key areas of concern where we can manage to train and equip our adolescents today for their brighter future which would in turn make this world a better place to live. Women's liberation is materialized when they contest predominant customs and cultural philosophies in successfully advancing their welfare. In a country like India, the most educated of women feel unempowered, unsafe and vulnerable largely due to the patriarchal societal system prevalent in the country. Any resistance from women towards oppression and undesirable authority is faced with dejection, violence and sexual abuse. Hence a good knowledge of women rights amongst the adolescents – both boys and girls can set a precedent for them to respect and support the women of their families, communities and the country on the whole.

## Indian Constitutional Rights and Provisions for Women

Constitutional Rights and Provisions for Women cannot be visualised as a single dimensional area of discussion but it is rather a multidimensional field interlinked with various aspects of a woman's life, culture of the country, her status in the society and gender equality provisions and standards.

The Indian constitution is a beautifully designed document which has ensured all these aspects in its dominion and speaks volumes about empowering women and not just providing egalitarian opportunities to them.

## Research Objectives

1. To study the levels of understanding of Women's Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst the adolescents of private and government schools of NCR.
2. To compare the levels of Legal awareness of Women's Rights amongst private and government school adolescents.
3. To Examine the Relationship between the levels of understanding of Women's Rights in the Indian Constitution and levels of Legal awareness of Women's Rights
4. To identify the provisions made by the secondary and senior secondary private and government schools in helping the adolescents know the rights as in the Indian Constitution.

## Hypotheses of the Study

The present study has realised the following hypotheses:

- H1: There is no significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst the adolescents of private and government schools of NCR.  
 H2: There is no significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst girls and boys of private schools of NCR.  
 H3: There is no significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst girls and boys of government schools of NCR.  
 H4: There is no significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst girls of government and private schools of NCR.  
 H5: There is no significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst boys of government and private schools of NCR.  
 H6: There is no significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst adolescents of Arts, Commerce and Science streams.  
 H7: There is no significant difference in the levels of Legal Awareness of Women’s Rights amongst the adolescents of private and government schools of NCR.  
 H8: There is no significant difference in the levels of Legal Awareness of Women’s Rights amongst girls and boys of privateschools of NCR.  
 H9: There is no significant difference in the levels of Legal Awareness of Women’s Rights amongst girls and boys of governmentschoolsof NCR.  
 H10: There is no significant difference in the levels of Legal Awareness of Women’s Rights amongst girls of private and government schools of NCR.  
 H10: There is no significant difference in the levels of Legal Awareness of Women’s Rights amongst boys of private and government schools of NCR.  
 H11: There is no significant difference in the levels of Legal Awareness of Women’s Rights amongst adolescents of Arts, Commerce and Science streams.  
 H12: There is a no significant relationship between the levels of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution and levels of Legal awareness of Women’s Rights.

**Research Design**

The present study employs Mixed Methodology Research Design (using both Quantitative and Qualitative Design) based on Sequential Explanatory Design. Sequential Explanatory Design suggests collection and analysis of quantitative data followed by collection and analysis of qualitative data. The basic purpose of using such a design was to explain and interpret the quantitative results with the assistance of qualitative results.

**Sample and Sampling Technique**

The sample of adolescence student and teachers’ is selected randomly from systematically selected government and private senior secondary schools from Delhi NCR region. The total number of student participated in the study is 500 from Delhi NCR (Noida, Gurugram and Faridabad).

S.No.	Delhi National Capital Region (NCR)	Schools Randomly Selected	Sample of student selected Through Systematic Sampling	Number of students’ selected from class XI and XII through Random sampling	Number of students’ Actually Participated
1.	North Delhi	2 Government, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Government	8*2=16 from class XI, 8*2=16	60

			16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	from class XII	
2.	South Delhi	2 Governme nt, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Governm ent 16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	8*2= 16 from class XI, 8*2= 16 from class XII	58
3.	East Delhi	2 Governme nt, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Governm ent 16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	8*2= 16 from class XI, 8*2= 16 from class XII	54
4.	West Delhi	2 Governme nt, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Governm ent 16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	8*2= 16 from class XI, 8*2= 16 from class XII	55
5.	Central Delhi	2 Governme nt, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Governm ent 16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	8*2= 16 from class XI, 8*2= 16 from class XII	58

6.	Faridabad	2 Government, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Government 16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	8*2= 16 from class XI, 8*2= 16 from class XII	53
7.	Ghaziabad	2 Government, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Government 16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	8*2= 16 from class XI, 8*2= 16 from class XII	54
8.	Gurugram	2 Government, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Government 16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	8*2= 16 from class XI, 8*2= 16 from class XII	56
9.	Noida	2 Government, 2 Private	16*2=32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Government 16*2= 32 (16 Male, 16 Female) from Private	8*2= 16 from class XI, 8*2= 16 from class XII	52
	Total	18 Government, 18 Private	576	576	500

**Data collection tools****Constitutional Rights and Legal Awareness Scale**

was developed by the investigator for the purpose of data collection. The scale has total of 35 questions related to five dimensions of legal awareness on women rights. Part I of the questionnaire is related to obtaining personal information of the respondents. Part II has two sub sections A & B. Part A is related to awareness related to constitutional rights with 10 items. Part B has 25 items related to legal awareness [ Right of Women Education and Special Law of well Being (5 items); Social Rights (12 items); Political and Economic Rights (5 items); FIR Related Provisions (3 items)].

**Validity**

S.No.	Dimensions of Women Rights	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
1.	Right of Women Education and Special Law of well Being	68.88%	8.04%	23.08%
2.	Social Rights	69.96%	21.2%	8.84%
3.	Political and Economic Rights	59%	15.6%	25.4%
4.	FIR Related Provisions	76.73%	17.74%	5.53%

Validity of the tool was established through Content and Face Validity.

To ensure the content validity, the tool along with its blue print, objectives and criteria checklist was submitted to seven experts. The experts were requested to give their opinions and suggestions on the relevancy, accuracy and appropriateness of the items in the questionnaire. The experts commented on the structure and wordings of the questionnaire. The comments were then incorporated. Adequate level of validity was established. Face Validity of the tool was then done.

**Reliability:**

Reliability was found through Cronbach Alpha. The Cronbach's alpha value was then calculated through SPSS software (version 22) for finding out the reliability of the test which turned out to be 0.901k. Thus, it demonstrates that the scales are consistent and reliable.

**Interview Schedule for Students':**

A Structured Interview Schedule for students was developed by the investigator. The interview schedule is divided into 2 parts. Part I deals with obtaining Personal information of the students'. Part II has 13 questions related to women rights awareness.

**Validity**

The validity of the interview schedule for teacher educator's was established through content and face validity. For validity opinion of the experts was sought.

**Reliability**

The reliability of the interview schedule for students' was also established through intra-rater reliability. Researcher herself acted as an interviewer, so that reliability can be increased. For establishing the reliability, the final draft of the interview schedule was pilot tested on 50 adolescent students' to assess whether respondents could and would answer the questions asked during the course of interview. Very close relation was

found between each interview. The pilot phase enabled the researcher to improve, revise and edit the schedule before final data collection.

**Data Analysis Procedure**

For analysing data, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22 was religiously used. The responses on the items were coded and entered in the Microsoft Excel software. Then the required analysis was done with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences 22 Version.

**Statistical Treatment and Results:**

For the purpose of this study, the data has been analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation) and t test. For the purpose of data analysis SPSS (Version 22) was used.

**Constitutional rights and legal awareness score of adolescents**

**Level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst the adolescents of Government and Private schools of NCR**

<b>Comparison Between Government and Private School Adolescents</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>T Test</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Govt.</b>	21.62	30.44	3.06745	0.00228	Significant Difference
<b>Private</b>	20.2	22.84			

There is Significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst Government (M= 21.62) and Private school (M=20.2) Adolescents of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is less than 0.05. This indicates that Government school adolescents are more aware of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution than the Private School Adolescents. This is one of the significant finding that will be reverified from the further comparisons.

<b>Comparison Between Government School Boys &amp; Girls Adolescents</b>					
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>t test</b>	<b>p value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Boys</b>	21.52	31.72	0.7339	.463706	No Significant Difference
<b>Girls</b>	22.05	32.98			

Null Hypothesis is accepted and Alternate Hypothesis is rejected. There is no Significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst girls and boys of Government schools of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is > 0.05.

<b>Comparison Between Private School Boys &amp; Girls Adolescents</b>					
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>T Test</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Boys</b>	20.21	24.36	0.2851	.775828	No Significant Difference
<b>Girls</b>	20.38	23.29			
<b>Null Hypothesis is accepted and Alternate Hypothesis is rejected. There is no Significant difference in the level of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst girls and boys of private schools of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is &gt; 0.05.</b>					

<b>Comparison Between Government &amp; Private School Adolescents Boys</b>					
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>T Test</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Govt.</b>	21.52	31.72	1.95879	.051258	No Significant Difference
<b>Private</b>	20.21	24.36			
<p><b>There is no Significant difference in the level of understanding of Women's Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst boys of Government schools of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is &gt; 0.05.</b></p>					

<b>Comparison Between Government &amp; Private School Adolescents Girls</b>					
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>T Test</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Govt.</b>	22.05	32.98	0.7339	.463706	No Significant Difference
<b>Private</b>	21.52	31.72			
<p><b>There is no Significant difference in the level of understanding of Women's Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst girls of Government schools of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is &gt; 0.05.</b></p>					

**COMPARISON IN THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION AMONGST ADOLESCENTS OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND SCIENCE STREAMS.**

<b>Comparison Between Arts, Commerce, Science streams Adolescents</b>					
<b>Stream</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>F Test</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Arts</b>	21.61	5.2846	<b>F = 3.39996</b>	<b>.034153</b>	Significant Difference
<b>Commerce</b>	20.96	5.3374			
<b>Science</b>	20.18	4.9067			
<p><b>There is Significant difference in the level of understanding of Women's Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst arts, commerce and science stream adolescents of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is &lt; 0.05. This calls for the pairwise comparison to check where the difference exist. On comparing the pairs of the streams via Tukey HSD(Honestly Significant Difference), it was found out that the difference exist between Arts (Mean 21.61) and Science (Mean 20.18) streams adolescents. Arts stream adolescents had more awareness related to Women Rights in the Indian Constitution than the Science stream adolescents.</b></p>					

**LEVEL OF LEGAL AWARENESS OF WOMEN RIGHTS IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION AMONGST THE ADOLESCENTS OF PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF NCR**

<b>Comparison Between Government and Private School Adolescents on Legal Awareness</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>T Test</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Govt.</b>	<b>57.15</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>5.02084</b>	<b>.00001</b>	<b>Significant Difference</b>
<b>Private</b>	<b>51.76</b>	<b>11.02</b>			

There is Significant difference in the level of understanding of Legal Awareness on Women's Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst Government (M= 57.15) and Private school (M=51.76) Adolescents of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is less than 0.05. This indicates that Government school adolescents has more legal awareness of Women's Rights in the Indian Constitution than the Private School Adolescents.

**Comparison Between Government School Boys & Girls Adolescents on Legal Awareness**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>t test</b>	<b>p value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>55.94</b>	<b>12.31</b>	<b>1.46221</b>	<b>0.14495</b>	<b>No Significant Difference</b>
<b>Girls</b>	<b>58.37</b>	<b>12.34</b>			

Null Hypothesis is accepted and Alternate Hypothesis is rejected. There is no Significant difference in the level of Legal Awareness on women Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst girls and boys of Government schools of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is > 0.05.

<b>Comparison Between Private School Boys &amp; Girls Adolescents on Legal Awareness</b>					
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>T Test</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Boys</b>	<b>52.26</b>	<b>11.03</b>	<b>0.77121</b>	<b>.220658</b>	<b>No Significant Difference</b>
<b>Girls</b>	<b>51.21</b>	<b>10.90</b>			

**Null Hypothesis is accepted and Alternate Hypothesis is rejected. There is no Significant difference in the level of Legal Awareness on women Rights in the Indian Constitution amongst girls and boys of private schools of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is > 0.05.**

<b>Comparison Between Government &amp; Private School Adolescents Boys on Legal Awareness</b>					
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>T Test</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Govt.</b>	<b>58.37</b>		<b>1.46221</b>	<b>0.14495</b>	<b>No Significant Difference</b>
<b>Private</b>	<b>55.94</b>				

**There is no Significant difference in the level of understanding of Legal Awareness on women Rights amongst boys of Government schools of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is > 0.05.**

Comparison Between Government & Private School Adolescents Girls on Legal Awareness					
Gender	Mean	S.D.	T Test	P Value	Difference
Govt.	51.21		4.70289	.00001	Significant Difference
Private	58.37				
<p><b>There is Significant difference in the level of understanding of Legal Awareness on women Rights amongst girls of Government schools of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is less than 0.05. Private School girls (Mean 58.37) are more legally aware on the women rights in the constitution than the girls of Government Schools.</b></p>					

	Interview Questions	Always	Sometimes	Never	Can't say
1.	As a girl/boy I am given equal opportunities in my family as compared to other siblings.	65.6%	29%	2.4%	3%
2.	I have the freedom to interact with my friends during the evenings.	48.2%	40.8%	7.2%	8.8%
3.	I go out for movies, shopping, and outings with my friends.	27.8%	46.2%	21%	3.8%

4.	I go out for movies, shopping, and outings with my family only.	32.6%	<b>48.6%</b>	13.4%	3.8%
5.	I get chance to express myself and my thoughts without any pressure or boundation.	<b>58%</b>	32%	6.4%	3.6%
6.	Respecting the men of the house is the only way to have a happy family.	28.6%	25.8%	<b>31.6%</b>	14%
7.	Doing what my parents want is mandatory for me.	30.4%	<b>46.8%</b>	14.8%	8%
8.	I can wear whatever I like within the acceptable norms of my family.	<b>48.6%</b>	34.8%	10.4%	6.2%
9.	I have no choice in selecting my clothes.	17.2%	31.8%	<b>44.4%</b>	6.6%

10.	Women are entitled to equal pay as men for the work done equally	63.2%	23%	4.6%	9.2%
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**Comparison in the level Legal Awareness in the Indian Constitution amongst adolescents of Arts, Commerce and Science streams.**

Comparison Between Arts, Commerce, Science streams Adolescents on Legal Awareness					
Stream	Mean	S.D.	F Test	P Value	Difference
Arts	56	13.1236	F = 16.00132	.00001	Significant Difference
Commerce	55.6331	12.0579			
Science	49.5061	9.5977			
<p>There is Significant difference in the level of understanding of Legal Awareness in the Indian Constitution amongst arts, commerce and science stream adolescents of NCR @ 0.05% level of significance as p value is &lt; 0.05. This calls for the pairwise comparison to check where the difference exist. On comparing the pairs of the streams via Tukey HSD(Honestly Significant Difference), it was found out that the difference exist between Arts (Mean 56) and Science (Mean 55.63); &amp; Commerce (Mean 55.63) and Science (Mean 49.51) streams adolescents. This indicates that Arts and commerce stream adolescents are more aware related to legal awareness in the Indian Constitution than the Science stream adolescents.</p>					

**Correlation between the levels of understanding of Women’s Rights in the Indian Constitution and levels of Legal awareness of Women’s Rights**

For finding out the relationship between two independent variables i.e. Level of understanding of Women Rights and level of legal awareness of Women right Pearson Coefficient Correlation test is used as the research data meets its all assumptions.

Correlation Variables	r Value	p Value @ .05	Correlation	Significance
Organisational Climate and Organisational Commitment	0.086	0.54	Positive Correlation	Not Significant

The results on relationship between the Level of understanding of Women Rights and level of legal awareness of Women rights shows that there is no significant relationship between the two ( $r=0.086$  and  $p> 0.05$ ). Hence in this case, our null hypothesis is accepted and there is no significant relationship between. Level of understanding of Women Rights and level of legal awareness of Women right among adolescents.

**Analysis of Responses of Students’ interview**

Actual status of the execution and practice of	Exceptionally good	Good	Average	Below Average	Need immediate attention
	11.4%	22.6%	37%	19.2%	9.8%

<b>women rights</b>					
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**Findings of the study**

1. Majority (68.85%) of the adolescents are aware of the rights of women and special laws for their wellbeing.
2. Majority of the Adolescents are aware of social Rights (69.96%), Political and Economic Rights (59%), and FIR related provision (76.73%).
3. Government and private school adolescents students differ significantly on the level of understanding of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
4. Government school boys and girls do not differ significantly on the level of understanding of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
5. Private school boys and girls do not differ significantly on the level of understanding of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
6. Government and private school boys do not differ significantly on the level of understanding of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
7. Government and private school girls do not differ significantly on the level of understanding of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
8. Arts, Commerce and Science stream students differ significantly on the level of understanding of women rights in the Indian Constitution. Arts students have higher level of understanding of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
9. Government and private school adolescents students differ significantly on the level of legal awareness of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
10. Government school boys and girls do not differ significantly on the level of legal awareness of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
11. Private school boys and girls do not differ significantly on the level of legal awareness of women rights in the Indian Constitution .
12. Government and private school boys do not differ significantly on the level of legal awareness of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
13. Government and private school girls do not differ significantly on the level of legal awareness of women rights in the Indian Constitution
14. Arts, Commerce and Science stream students differ significantly on the level of legal awareness of women rights in the Indian Constitution. Arts and commerce adolescent students have higher level of legal awareness of women rights in the Indian Constitution.
15. No Correlation between level of understanding of women rights and level of legal awareness was found. However, there was found to be positive correlation between the two, i.e. if one increases, the other also increases.
16. Interview from the students shos that they get equal opportunity and freedom in their families and society. But when major decisions are concerned, the parents plays a primary role in deciding what is mandatory. Moreover, they are of the view that women are entitled to equal pay as men.
17. Lack of resources, time constrains, lack of support from schools authorities to organize these activities are found as major hindrance in understanding women rights and legal awareness related to this.
18. Major suggestions about incorporation of legal awareness of women rights in school activities given by teachers are organizing more awareness campaigns/drives/activities, involving media for creating such kind of awareness, educating the teachers, creating provision to merge these activities in curriculum, separate time slots in school calendars for raising such awareness.

**Educational implications of study**

Following are the educational implications of the study-

**For adolescents**

The awareness about the different aspects related to legal rights among women is very low. Women do not know their rights and therefore do not exercise their legal franchise. Those who are aware, lack the willingness and earnestness to exercise their rights. Very few were able to enumerate provisions incorporated in these rights. With the help of this study the women will come to know about their legal rights and will get motivation to use them. It will help students in developing awareness about the legal rights and help in checking the laxness of enforcement and amendments and inclusion of various new laws in the statute book. They can also examine whether amendments are weak, too conventional or anti-women. The legal awareness on part of women can

result in more organized fights for crime against women. The groups can check if any compromises had to be made in their struggle and can force the court not to treat the accused with irresponsible leniency

### **For Teachers**

Teachers are the maker of future of the students. This is the role next to parents. A teacher has to remember that unlike classroom instruction in the time-honored disciplines, the teaching of human rights does not involve the memorizing of facts or the acquisition of skills in solving classroom problems, it is more a matter of creating practical awareness among students from the very beginning so that they may be able to know their rights and will be able to use them. Teacher may organize class room activity, out of class activity, social activity, social organization activity, visits to courts, civil courts.

### **For Parents**

study will be fruitful for the parents. They will come to know about the rights of women. If any mis-happening happened to their daughter or any one near to them they will also encourage and make aware their right and they will also encourage and make aware their female child to know their rights. They will be able to know about various NGOs and GOs that how they can help them about social evils. They will be able to come out of social evils. They will encourage providing education for girl child.

### **Stakeholder's level**

Management of schools have great responsibility to act as monitoring and evaluation mechanism for implementation activity. It will help school authorities to make provision for inclusion of women rights in school curriculum.

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