

“Uniformity in Property and Marital Rights across religions is the key to our empowerment”

Women put forth their demand at the Seminar on ‘Efficacy of Laws pertaining to Property and Marital Rights in Different Religions in India’ organized by National Commission for women and Bharatiya Stree Shakti in collaboration with WeSchool

March 21, 2017: Prin. L.N. Welingkar Institute of Management Development & Research (WeSchool) in association with National Commission for Women and Bharatiya Stree Shakti hosted a seminar on **‘Efficacy of Laws pertaining to Property and Marital Rights in Different Religions in India’** on Saturday, 18th March, 2017. The seminar was inaugurated in the presence of **Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson, Maharashtra State Commission for Women, Prof Dr Uday Salunkhe, Group Director, WeSchool, Meeratai Khadakkar, Prin. Judge (Retd), Family Court, Nagpur; and Kumudini Bhargav, National Secretary, Bharatiya Stree Shakti.**

The seminar was aimed at a concerted effort to study the strengths and weaknesses and to extract the best from Personal laws governing different religions and to suggest required changes. It saw participation of delegates across Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrath, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra.

In her welcome address **Kumudini Bhargav, National Secretary, Bharatiya Stree Shakti** reviewed the tasks undertaken by the NGO towards empowerment of women through various initiatives in education, health, economic independence, equality and self-respect.

Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson, Maharashtra State Commission for Women spoke about the need for enhanced collaboration between the central, state women’s commissions and NGOs for advocating women’s rights by removing the loopholes in the law and system, “Today, women are facing issues like domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplace and acid attacks. The main reasons behind acid attacks are either one-sided love or denial of the woman’s property rights. All of us must collaborate and create the pressure group to voice our concerns to the Government to effectively change the law and the system for safeguarding these rights of women.”

Due to the proactive initiatives taken by the Maharashtra State Women Commission towards support and rehabilitation of the victims of acid attacks, leading hospitals are coming forward to give them treatments like cosmetic as well as plastic surgery free of cost, sensitization of industries is helping them in getting employment and to regain their rightful place in society, she added.

While addressing the audience, **Prof Dr Uday Salunkhe, Group Director, WeSchool** said, “Women empowerment is essential for India Inc to progress and academic

institutions like WeSchool play a crucial role in nurturing women to become leaders in their chosen fields. Through initiatives like 'WISE' to empower women from family owned businesses to function effectively on their boards of directors, 'WoMentoring' for bringing women back into the workforce, 'Safe Women, Safe Nation' and 'Saksham' in association with Mumbai Police, we have constantly strived to develop and mentor our young students to become socially conscious citizen leaders. Joining hands with National Commission for Women and Bharatiya Stree Shakti on this seminar is another step forward in this direction."

While Meeratai Khadakkur, Retired Prin. Judge, Family Court, Nagpur delivered the keynote address, a report titled, "**Smart Cities With A Focus On Inclusive Gender Development**" based on the findings of a national consultative seminar held earlier was released at the hands of Vijaya Rahatkar, Chairperson, Maharashtra State Commission for Women and Prof Dr Uday Salunkhe, Group Director, WeSchool.

Along with Meeratai Khadakkur, Judge (Retd) Bageshri Parikh, Shamsuddin Tamboli of Muslim Satyashodhak Mandal, Viney Kapoor, Commissioner, RTI (Punjab), Judge (Retd) Sunanda Joshi, Adv Girish Godbole, Adv Anjali Helekar participated in the subsequent sessions to elaborate on the diversity of facets and issues faced while safeguarding the rights of women and set guidelines to establish good practices for effective implementation.

Dr Prachi Moghe, Convener of the seminar, Nirmala Apte, Varsha Pawar-Tawde, Ragini Chandratre, Nayana Sahstrabuddhe, Rajashri Nagare from the Bhartiya Stree Shakti Sanghatana had taken the lead in organizing the seminar while eminent advocates like Ram Apte, Jaee Vaidya, Prof Dr Rajadhyaksha, Prin-New Law College and Prof Vaishali Gurav, Balasaheb Apte College had contributed as the advisors of this national seminar.