

# **Inheritance Legislation and Women Empowerment- A Case Study in Bangalore**

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Economic development is a sustained long term process which necessitates major socio-cultural changes along with institutional changes. In a growing economy like India, the need for gender sensitive growth is largely overlooked. In this background, the move by the State to empower women by giving them the primary right to property is historic and would have a far reaching impact. The research undertaken focused on the following objectives:

- To determine awareness about the amended inheritance law in the society with respect to Bangalore city.
- To determine the effectiveness of the amended law in terms of access of women to property rights.
- To assess whether daughters' education is valued more post 2005 i.e. post amendment to the inheritance law.
- To determine the social impact of the amended inheritance law on women in terms of minimizing the custom of dowry giving and women's role in household decision making.

In a city like Bangalore it is heartening to note that the awareness about the Inheritance legislation which gives women equal right to property is high. It is also strongly opined that this legislation would prove to be instrumental in ensuring greater freedom of choice and equality to women. The social menace of dowry and the large neglect of girl education could also be addressed if the law is strictly implemented. The law acts as a means of recognizing that women have an identity which can be accepted and granted when they are economically empowered.

The study proves that society is changing and legislations can be the means and the end to usher in changes in social attitude, which is a feature of real growth. The State must recognize the need to strictly implement the law as we have a history of good legislations which never get implemented. If strictly enforced, there is no doubt that the Inheritance Legislation can be instrumental in creating a "Smart Economy" where development is all encompassing, and ensures gender equality.