

LAWS RELATED TO WOMEN

- **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (28 of 1961) (Amended in 1986)**
- **The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (3 of 1988)**
- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**
- **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION and REDRESSAL) Act, 2013**
- **The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013**
- **The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986**
- **Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women & Children Regulation Acts, 2014.**

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

Bans the giving or taking of dowry defined as valuable property, security etc. given as consideration for the marriage.

Penalty for giving or taking dowry

- If any person, after the commencement of this Act, gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than (Subs. by Act 43 of 1986, Sec.3) five years, and with the fine which shall not be less than fifteen thousand rupees or the amount of the value of such dowry, whichever is more:
- Provided that the Court may, for an adequate and special reasons to be recorded in the judgment, impose a sentence of imprisonment of a term of less than [(Note: Subs. by Act 43 of 1986, Sec.3) five years.

Advisory Committee:

As per the Provision envisaged in Section 8 b(4) of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Advisory Boards have to be constituted comprising of five members from Social workers inclusive of atleast two women to assist the Prohibition Officers.

- All Cases will be enquired by District Social Welfare Officer In the presence of the advisory committee and the overall report of the committee is taken as final report.
- DSWO should forward the case to the police station with above report.
- DSWO should not dispose dowry case.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

Nature of Violence:

- Verbal and emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Economic abuse

Duties and Functions of Protection Officers:

- To assist the aggrieved person in making a complaint.
- To provide her information on the rights of aggrieved persons.
- To provide legal aid to the aggrieved person.
- To assist the aggrieved person in obtaining medical aid.
- To inform the service provider's service.
- To maintain a record and copies of the report.
- To liaise between the aggrieved person, police and service.
- To take all reasonable measures to prevent recurrence of Domestic Violence against the aggrieved person.
- To assist the Magistrate in the discharge of his functions under this act.
- To make a domestic incident report to the magistrate.
- Conduct Home visit.

Service provided for the aggrieved

- Shelter homes
- Medical Facility
- Legal Aid

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

a) **“Organized sector”** means any department, organization, enterprise, institution, office, Government company or a corporation or a co-operative society, non-governmental organization, educational institution, hospitals or nursing homes, sports Facilities or other institute, where the number of employee is more than ten

b) “Unorganized sector” means an enterprise employs workers, the number of such workers is less than ten in a dwelling place or a house where women is employed.

Types of Sexual harassment

- Physical contact and advances or
- A demand or request for sexual favors or
- Making sexually colored remarks or
- Showing pornography or
- Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

Prevention of sexual harassment

- To prevent sexual harassment at workplace, Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) & Local Complaints Committee (LCC) need to be formed.
- Every employer of a workplace shall, constitute a Committee “Internal Complaints Committee” with 4 members
- Members of ICC and LCC shall hold office for such period, not exceeding three years
- The Collector of every District is to discharge functions under this Act.
- DSWO is the Nodal Officer to support the implementation of the Act.

Internal Complaint Committee

No	Member	Eligibility
1.	Chairperson	Women working at senior level as employee; if not available then nominated from other office/units/ department/ workplace of the same employer
2.	2 Members (minimum)	From amongst employees committed to the cause of women/ having legal knowledge/experience in social work
3.	Member	From amongst NGO/associations committed to the cause of women or a person familiar with the issue of Sexual Harassment

Local Complaint Committee

- Every District Officer shall constitute in the district concerned, a committee to be known as the “Local Complaint Committee” to receive complaints of sexual harassment from establishments where the Internal Committee has not been constituted due to having less than ten workers and if the complaint is against the employer himself.
- From women working in an organization having less than 10 workers
- When the complaint is against the employer himself
- From domestic workers.

Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women & Children Regulation Acts, 2014

Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Working Women hostel and homes should run without licence.
Section 5(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every person desiring to establish, maintain or conduct hostel, lodging house or home for women and children shall make an application for licence to the Collector.• Every application for licence shall be accompanied by such fee not exceeding three thousand rupees in Banker's Cheque or Demand draft drawn in favour of the Collector.• Every application for renewal of the licence granted under sub-rule(5) shall be made to the Collector in Form 1 and shall be accompanied by fees of Rs.3000/- in Banker's Cheque or Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Collector.
Section12(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every home for women and children which is established shall be registered under this Act.• The application for registration should be made to the Collector in form IV.• Collector shall issue the certificate of register in Form V.

Section 15(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved building should be used. • Accommodation facilities with an average space norms of 40 sq. ft. per child and 120 sq. ft. per women • The hostel. lodging house or home for women and children shall be housed in a building approved by the competent authority under the relevant law. • Building stability certificate and sanitation certificate obtained either from Public Works Department/ Registered Chartered Engineer and Health Department. • Certificate from fire service and rescue department is necessary.
Section 16(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of security personnel.
Section 17(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of visitors register.
Section 18(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity card to manger, parent & inmates should be provided.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- Child marriage is an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to 2 years, or with fine up to Rs. 1 Lakh, or both.
- Courts can issue injunctions prohibiting solemnization of child marriages.
- Offences under the Act are cognizable and non-bailable.

Persons who can be punished under the Law include :

- Whoever performs, conducts or directs or abets any child marriage
- A male adult above 18 years marrying a child
- Any person having charge of the child, including: Parent or guardian
- Any member of organization or association, promoting permitting, participation in a child marriage or failing to prevent it.

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 Rules 2009

Parents and grandparents in age of 60 years & above unable to maintain themselves from their own income. In case of "Childless Senior Citizen", senior citizens can demand from the relatives. Relatives mean those who are either in possession of property of the senior citizen or would inherit it.

Services available for aggrieved women

I. One Stop Centre

- Provides integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof.
- Facilitates immediate, emergency and non - emergency access to a range of services including medical, legal, psychological and counselling support under one roof to fight against any forms of violence against women.

Services Offered in One Stop Centre

- Emergency Response and Rescue Services
- Medical assistance
- Assistance to women in lodging FIR /NCR/DIR
- Psycho - social support/ counselling
- Legal aid and counselling
- Shelter and
- Video Conferencing Facility

II. HELPLINE NUMBERS	
Child Helpline	1098
Women Helpline	1091
Elders Helpline	1253
Cyber crime	1930

Women Helpline Number 181 - Objective

- To provide toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women affected by conflicts seeking support and information.
- To facilitate crisis and non-crisis intervention through referral to the appropriate agencies
- To provide information about the appropriate support services, government schemes and programmes available to the woman affected by violence.

III. KAVALAN SOS APP

- The app is for the people of Tamil Nadu to seek police assistance instantly in emergency situations such as physical emergencies, eve teasing, kidnapping or natural disasters such as floods, earthquake, etc.
- People residing in Tamil Nadu, especially, Women and elderly people can use the Kavalan – SOS app whenever they feel vulnerable or threatened. Through this mobile app, help from Police can reach them at the earliest no matter where they are. People can also contact the Police instantly through this app during natural disasters.

*Thank
you*