



# **Single Women**

Unit - II

# Single women in India

- Singleness is not a static, rigid or homogenous category. It is porous, a wide spectrum, and extremely heterogeneous.
- The conventional dictionary definition of a 'single' woman is an adult female person who is not married.
- Single women are those women who have crossed the marriageable age and are still unmarried, even though they might have plans to marry.
- Marriage and child-bearing are important markers of respectability for women in India, and hence, being a 'single' woman is also considered to be a 'problem' by the state and society alike



# Single unmarried women in India

- o In India, the minimum age for marriage of girls prescribed by the law is eighteen years but generally, the urban girls are married by the age of 22-25 years; providing a far margin of four to seven years to the legal sanctions. Therefore, such girls are considered as single women who have remained unmarried up to the age of thirty years and above.
- o The society starts suspecting and finding many faults as to why they are not married. There is a lot of pressure from the family too as the family believes that the right place for a girl is in her husband's house.
- o They are accused of being selfish, picky, unaccommodating and un-adjusting when all they are doing is living 'their' life the way they want to.

- o Many of the women who remain single do so out of personal choice or as a consequence of family circumstances or a mixture of both.
- o The early death of parents and the need to educate younger siblings or to look after children of widowed siblings have also been identified as contributory factors. Irrespective of whether the reasons for their unmarried status are circumstantial or voluntary.
- o Earlier, marriage was the ultimate goal of each and every girl, but now with increasing education, and job opportunities, independence and new ideas of gender equality, women are acquiring freedom to live their lives according to their own choices and styles.
- o The single unmarried women of today's modern India are well qualified and financially independent and are able to decide for themselves.



# Categories of single women

According to **National Forum for Single Women's Rights**, women in the following categories are included in this concept

- **Widowed Women**
- **Divorced, Separated, Abandoned, Deserted, Walked-out Women**
- **Older Never-Married Women**
- **Women with Missing Husbands**

- **Widowed Women:** Women whose husbands have died.
- **Divorced, Separated, Abandoned, Deserted, Walked-out Women:**  
This encompasses a large category of women who were once in a marriage like relationship but are now single.  
Some of the women in this category have obtained a legal divorce, but most of them have been deserted or abandoned by their husband without the due process of law.
- There are others who have walked out of abusive marriages, and yet others who have been thrown out of their homes. All of these women identify as 'Single'
- **Older Never-Married Women:** Women who are older than 30 years, have never married and do not see the likelihood of marriage in their future.
- **Women with Missing Husbands:** Married women whose husbands are missing.

# Problems faced by single unmarried women

- Stress
- Stigma
- Social Problems
- Psychological Problems
- Economic and Employment Problems
- Accommodation Problems



# Problem Faced By Single Women

## **LOW STATUS OF WOMEN:**

- the single women in India still face the low status in most of the communities.
- Restriction on movement on certain communities. No permission to work in offices by in-laws
- Violence against single women: women are subject to violence and harassment inside and outside her household.

## **DOWRY RELATED:**

- Despite, the prohibition of dowry act 1961, the system of dowry is widely practiced among most of the communities in India.
- there are several cases that are reported every year relating to abuse of brides in laws for inadequate dowry.



## **RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE:**

- Rape is a heinous crime against single women. It's on the increase in several parts of India .
- several such cases are not reported at all of the fear of negativity publicity to the victim woman and at times lack of empathy y police.

## **WOES\ SORROW OF WIDOWS:**

- The widows face a number of problems in Indian society AT times they are abused by other male member in her in laws family. In several communities are not permitted to attend social celebration such as wedding, and birth ceremonies.
- There are also restrictions on her clothing. Widow Remarriage is difficult in most cases, as male do not prefer to marry a widow.

## **SAFETY ISSUES:**

- o No matter how developed your, women are not safe on their own.
- o It's a shameful fact for the men of this world to Country accept but it also needs to be accepted by single women that they need to be extra careful about their safety. You can call me sexiest but it is true this is a man's world.

## **FINANCIAL ISSUES:**

- o The economy has been so rough that it is hard for a single women to survive while couples find it easier as to people bring home a salary .
- o If one of them gets fired the other can provide for the time being but a single person has nowhere to go if they get fired.



## **PREJUDICE AT WORK:**

- o What can make the above problem even worse for women is that they still face prejudice at work .This prejudice is faced by all women but even more so by single women.
- o Strong independent women scare men and this shows up when the boss has to hand out promotion or decide who to let go.
- o Married women are no better off here either but finally glass ceiling are shattering all over the world and slowly we are seeing things improve for women at the work place

# Hardships of single parenting

- o Financial problems
- o Single mothers seen as “socially unacceptable”
- o The need of fatherly advice and guidance
- o Handling peer-pressure on their child/children
- o The child/children going through their resentment stage
- o Unwanted proposals for marriage and indecisive state of mind
- o Social pressures of getting married
- o Less quality time to spend with your child
- o Filing of legal documents
- o Preying eyes on single mothers
- o Juggling of multiple responsibilities
- o Hard to find reliable babysitters