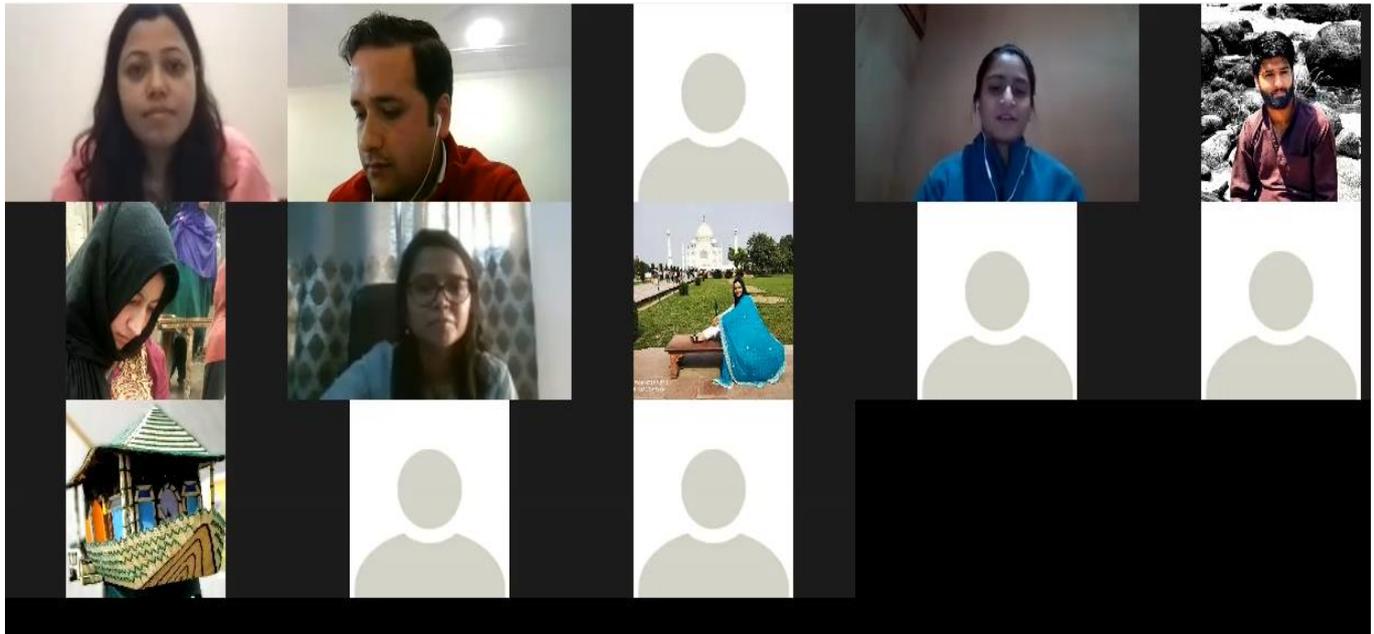


Report on the webinar on

Date: 6 December, 2020

Time: 4.00 P.M-5.42 P.M



Prepared By
Shah Faisal, Advocate

Schedule:

Time	Speaker
4.00-4.15	Advocate Shah Faisal (Moderator)
4.15-4.30	Advocate SnehaMukherjii
4.31-4.52	Advocate RajniKishor
4.52-5.08	Ms. Shaheen Malik
5.09-5.30	Advocate Deepak Kumar
5.31-5.40	Ms. Nazia

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Introduction:

Female folks in India still face the brunt of the societal and cultural burdens. Violence against the women is still prevalent in the Indian society. Many welfare legislations have been passed by the successive government in the past but such legislations didn't prove to be that fruitful due to the lack of knowledge and information. The idea of this webinar is to educate the masses especially those who are fighting the cause of women rights.

The session was started by the moderator Shah Faisal with the introduction of the participants. This is final webinar among the series of webinars from Kashmir HRLN, held for the month of November, 2020. The subject for this webinar is 'Women, law and justice'. The following speakers have expressed their views on various issues faced by women in Indian society and role of law in combating and dealing with the same.

1. Adv. SnehaMukherjee, HRLN, New Delhi: Access to reproductive health for women as well as other genders.

Began her session by explaining her area of interest and shed light on the following issues:

- a. Access to the services and access to information regarding the reproductive health;
- b. Right to seek termination of pregnancy.

I- Firstly, she explained that access to the services is not a fundamental right in India. There are a number of different schemes available but only on papers, when it comes to ground realities the situation is shockingly in bad condition due to poor financial means available to the organizations established under the relevant laws.

II- Secondly, she elucidated the concern on law related to the right to seek termination of pregnancy. As per Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, the termination of pregnancy is permitted for a broad range of conditions up to 20 weeks of pregnancy. She explains the futility of law for being unfair to women who should be its primary concern. That the law restricts women from seeking services.

2. Adv. RajniKishor, HRLN, Chattisgarh: Violence faced by women in conflicted areas.

The focus of her talk was sexual violence against women by security forces in conflict areas. She cited a number of cases where women were sexually assaulted

by security personnel and the culprits were unpunished. In the case of **NandaninSundar (Human Rights Activist/Journalist)** in 2011, she intended to challenge the state's decision to create militia by arming civilians who went on to cause sexual violence, the Supreme Court ruled the disbanding of the militia in the same year. She also cited another case which has been pending for many years due to lack of information on the perpetrators. She made another citation of a case of SoniSori, an activist, implicated on false case, then sexually assaulted in police custody. She concluded her talk by citing various examples of sexual violence against women in different conflicted areas in India.

3. **Ms. Shaheen Malik, HRLN, New Delhi: Acid attack on women**

The speaker herself being a victim of acid attack recounted the experience the victims of acid attack go through. She explained that most of the victims of acid attack are women, not only does the victim suffer physically but is profoundly traumatized as the victim loses their identity due to disfigurement of face, which cannot be fixed regardless of countless number of surgeries. Citing a case titled **Laxmi V/s. Union of India, 2013**, as a result of this case the following regulations were established regarding the sale of acid:

- a. Over the counter sale was to be banned, where it was required by the buyer, the seller was required to maintain the particulars of the seller and intended use for the same.
- b. Rs. 3 lacs to be given in compensation to the victim.
- c. As per Section 326 (A) person involved in acid attack to be given imprisonment of ten years, in case of attempted attack, he is to be imprisoned for five years.

She also expressed her concern regarding easy availability of acid in the markets despite ban imposed by the govt.

4. **Adv. Deepak Kumar, HRLN, Patna: Maternity benefit schemes.**

He spoke of the topic in the context of availability of maternity benefit schemes and challenges faced by the same. He stressed that both pre-natal as well as post-natal care is very imperative. In nutshell he explained that maternal mortality rate in India is very high, although it has decreased over the decades with the increase of literacy rate and efforts made by the state to combat the same in various forms and schemes. However, the current system dealing with the same is not very much effective as the schemes regarding maternity are conditional and weakening its grip in certain ways. The second issue is that the needy people do not get the chance to avail these schemes due to unawareness of the same information. In conclusion, there are many facilities available in the context of the subject, but at the same time there are many hurdles and need for legal intervention.

5. Ms. Nazia: Role of NGOs.

Ms. Nazia made concluding remarks by highlighting the role of NGOs in spreading the awareness among the people living in far flung areas, especially in under-developed places like Kashmir, NGOs come into play by holding seminars and awareness programs on various issues related to everyday life. In urban area people have access of information compared but in rural area access to information remains were little so the role of NGO's comes into play.

She stated that her NGO (IGSSS) major focus is on "peace building" major focus is also on youth and women.

We played a good role during the pandemic, when people were confined to the homes due to lockdown, the violence against the women increased manifold time and unfortunately we do not have any documentary information available in this context. We have already constituted SGBVC (structured gender based violence communities) which consistently monitors "gender based violence". We have organised several workshops on reproductive rights and also on transgender right.

IGSSS also train duty bearers so that they can work on grass root level and teach people common people about what human rights are. She also spoke about how her organisation is organising the workshops and helping pellet victims in day to day struggles.

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Annexure A

Annexure

B

