

The Effects of the Glass Ceiling on the Legal Profession: A Challenge to the Indian Legal System in Comparison with Glass Ceilings in Various Nations

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Abstract: *Since India gained independence, the Indian legal system has made significant progress, starting with the admission of Cornelia Sorabji into the Allahabad High Court in 1921 to practice as a lawyer. Following the enactment of the Legal Practitioners' (Women) Act of 1923, the limitations on Indian women engaging in the legal profession were officially eliminated. Providing female advocates with access to the Indian courts, at least in theory. Moreover, the Indian constitution of independent India has granted Indian women the entitlement to equality and protection against any form of gender-based prejudice, enabling them to access education and pursue their desired profession. However, were the affirmative steps implemented by the framers of our constitution really achieve gender equality in Indian courts? Did the idea of equality extend to the individuals who purportedly possessed authority over it? The recent declaration issued by Justice Hima Kohli regarding the imbalanced presence of women in the Indian judiciary presents a contrasting portrayal of the principle of equality advocated by the architects of our constitution, in a context where it was intended to be upheld by the populace. This article examines the factors contributing to the underrepresentation of women in high-ranking positions within the legal profession. It delves into the underlying causes of gender disparity, conducts a comparative analysis of the obstacles encountered by female lawyers in various countries, and ultimately puts forth recommendations and remedies to address this problem.*

Keywords: Legal profession, glass ceiling, gender discrimination, women, future