

STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

A Synopsis of the Report of the National Committee
on the Status of Women
(1971-74)

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PRFEACE

The report of the National Committee on the Status of Women in India covers a wide field from basic population trends to an evaluation of official policies designed to improve the status of women. It is a valuable document which deserves to be widely read and studied, especially because we consider it as an important instrument for moulding public opinion.

The Indian Council of Social Science Research therefore has brought out this brief summary of the report which it may not be possible for everyone to peruse in the original. We hope that it will meet a felt need and would be widely used.

I would like to make it clear that the responsibility for compiling this summary rests entirely on myself and my colleagues. We have tried our best to do justice to the original report. If we have failed in any particular respect, we hereby offer our sincere apologies. In case of any doubt, it should be absolutely clear that the authoritative version is, not this summary, but the original report of the Committee.

J. P. Naik
Member-Secretary

New Delhi
May, 1975

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN

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INTRODUCTION

While improvement in the status of women was a pledge made by the makers of the Constitution and admitted by the Government from the beginning as one of the major tasks facing the country, no attempt had been made to review and evaluate the changes that had taken place since independence. The Committee on the Status of Women was appointed by the Government of India in 1971 to evaluate the changes that had taken place in the status of women as a result of the constitutional, legal and administrative measures adopted since independence. Another purpose was to examine the impact of the complex processes of social change on various sections of Indian women, particularly in the rural sector. The Committee was also asked to suggest 'measures which would enable women to play their full and proper role in building up the nation'. The composition, terms of reference and programme of work of the Committee are given in the Appendix.