

# Abstract: The Dual Realities of Alimony for Women

Alimony is meant to provide financial support to a spouse after divorce, helping them maintain a stable life. However, the process is far from simple, especially when considering the contrasting realities of financially independent women and those who are unemployed or dependent.

Through real-life cases and legal analysis, several challenges emerge. **False claims, biased legal proceedings, and financial exploitation** often complicate settlements. In many instances, **false claims go unpunished**, placing an unfair financial and emotional burden on the paying spouse. Some women, particularly those financially dependent, **face coercion and control** from their partners, making it difficult for them to claim what they rightfully deserve. The disparity between **Western and Indian alimony laws** further highlights these issues. While Western countries ensure equal asset division, Indian laws often allow the wife to keep her personal assets while claiming a significant share of her husband's income. Provisions like **Section 125 CrPC enable lifelong maintenance claims**, sometimes even after a short marriage, and **interim maintenance cases can stretch for decades**. Corruption and **delays in legal proceedings** make the process even more painful.

Another harsh reality is the **harassment faced by unemployed women**. Many **struggle emotionally and financially**, facing threats, coercion, and endless legal battles, especially if their families lack financial support. Some husbands use **delaying tactics or intimidation** to push for an unfair settlement, leaving women vulnerable and stuck in a system that fails them.

To ensure fairness, **stronger legal frameworks** are needed—**better background verification, strict penalties for false claims, and structured financial aid for truly dependent women**. A more balanced approach is essential to prevent exploitation and protect the rights of both spouses.