Polity & Governance · GS - II

The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 marked a significant step towards gender equality in property rights. Examine its key provisions and discuss the challenges in ensuring effective implementation of daughters' inheritance rights in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Hindu Succession Act 1956, 2005 Amendment, Section 6, coparcenary rights, Vineeta Sharma judgment 2020, gender justice, customary practices, property awareness, legal enforcement.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 reformed inheritance law by recognising daughters as equal coparceners in Mitakshara joint Hindu family property, strengthening women's economic rights.

Key Provisions

- Section 6 grants daughters coparcenary rights by birth, equal to those of sons.
- Daughters enjoy equal rights and liabilities in coparcenary property.
- The *Vineeta Sharma v. Rakesh Sharma* (2020) judgment clarified that these rights do not depend on the father's survival on 9 September 2005.
- Daughters can seek partition and claim their lawful share in qualifying coparcenary property.

Implementation Challenges

- Patriarchal attitudes often discourage women from asserting inheritance claims.
- Lack of legal awareness and financial resources restrict access to justice.
- Informal family settlements and social pressure may lead women to relinquish their shares.
- Complex ownership structures can create disputes over the nature and extent of property rights.

Way Forward

Promote legal literacy, affordable legal assistance, transparent property records and gender-sensitive dispute resolution.

Conclusion

Legal equality must translate into actual ownership and economic independence. Effective enforcement of inheritance rights is essential for substantive gender justice.

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