

ABSTRACT

SECURITY TO THE SOUL OF JUSTICE PROTECTING WITNESS AND ENSURING JUSTICE

***DR. BHAGWANA RAM BISHNOI¹**

Witness Protection compliments the Right to life in two ways, firstly it ensures the protection of life and dignity of a witness and secondly it ensure a free and fair trial. Witnesses play a key role in Criminal Justice System and are considered to be the ears and eyes of the Courts. In India, the frequency of witnesses turning hostile is very high and the conviction rate of is very low. Such scenario verily defies the right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. It, thus becomes necessary to examine the existing framework for witness protection and suggest measures to strengthen it. This Article discusses the historical and legislative background of the Witness Protection and describe the existing framework in India. It also aims to identify various limitations in the Scheme and also the recent trends in this regard.

Key words: 'Witness Protection', 'Criminal Justice', 'Fair Trial', 'Witness Rights'.

¹PRINCIPAL, GOVERNMENT LAW P.G.COLLEGE, BIKANER

