

# EVERY HEALTHY MAN IS OBLIGED TO PROVIDE FOR HIS WIFE, CHILDREN: SC

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Rights & Welfare of Women - Schemes & their Performance, Mechanisms, Laws Institutions and Bodies

A healthy man is obliged to provide through legal means, even by physical labour, for his wife and minor children, the Supreme Court has said in a judgment.

A Bench led by Justice Dinesh Maheshwari said it was a basic canon of law “that it is the sacrosanct duty of the husband to provide financial support to the wife and to the minor children. The husband is required to earn money even by physical labour... If he is able-bodied, he cannot avoid his obligation, except on the legally permissible grounds”.

The judgment was based on an appeal filed by a woman who failed to win her case for maintenance from her estranged husband in the Family Court and the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The woman had argued in the High Court that the lower court had denied her claim for maintenance on perfunctory grounds. The husband contended that she had failed to prove that she could not maintain herself. But the apex court said the purpose of maintenance was to prevent even the slightest possibility of an estranged wife facing destitution.

The purpose of maintenance is to prevent the chance of an estranged wife facing destitution

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