

Equal Rights of the Girl Child in Father's Property in Uttar Pradesh

Introduction

The question of whether a daughter has equal rights in her father's property—whether self-earned or ancestral—has been a subject of much debate in India. In Uttar Pradesh (U.P.), the legal framework governing property rights is shaped primarily by the **Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (as amended in 2005)** and the **U.P. Revenue Code, 2006** (specifically for agricultural land).

With landmark judgments from the **Supreme Court of India** and the **Allahabad High Court**, it is now settled law that **a daughter enjoys equal rights with sons in both ancestral and self-acquired property of the father**, subject to certain conditions.

Legal Framework

1. Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (HSA)

- Governs succession to property of Hindus (including in U.P.) in respect of **non-agricultural property**.
- **Section 6 (as amended in 2005):**
Grants **daughters the status of coparceners**, giving them the same rights as sons in ancestral/coparcenary property.
- **Section 8:**
In cases of self-acquired property, daughters are **Class I heirs** and inherit equally with sons upon intestate death of the father.

2. U.P. Revenue Code, 2006

- Governs **succession to agricultural land** in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Section 108:** Provides an **order of succession** in case a tenure-holder dies without lineal descendants. Importantly, **daughters—married or unmarried—are included**, ensuring their equal rights.

Key Case Laws

Supreme Court Judgments

1. Vineeta Sharma v. Rakesh Sharma, (2020) 9 SCC 1

- Held that daughters are coparceners by birth, **irrespective of whether the father was alive on 09.09.2005** (the date of amendment).

- Ensures daughters enjoy **equal rights in ancestral property**.

2. **Prakash v. Phulavati, (2016) 2 SCC 36**

- Initially restricted rights to cases where both father and daughter were alive on 09.09.2005.
- Later overruled by **Vineeta Sharma**.

3. **Danamma v. Amar, (2018) 3 SCC 343**

- Recognized daughter's coparcenary rights even though father had died before 2005.

Allahabad High Court Judgments (U.P. Specific)

1. **Smt. Shanti Devi v. State of U.P., 2018 (10) ADJ 412 (All)**

- Applied Section 108 of the U.P. Revenue Code.
- Recognized the widow's succession rights before brothers, emphasizing statutory succession over customs.

2. **Ramesh Chandra v. Rajesh Kumar, 2020 (7) AWC 6752 (All)**

- Held that **married daughters** are also entitled to succession under Section 108(e).

3. **Smt. Pushpa Devi v. Tehsildar, Faizabad, 2021 SCC OnLine All 1722**

- Recognized **mother's superior right** over brother, confirming the progressive hierarchy under Section 108.

Equal Rights Explained

1. **In Father's Self-Acquired Property**

- Upon father's intestate death, **all Class I heirs** (sons, daughters, widow, mother) inherit equally.
- Daughter has the **same share as a son**, irrespective of marital status.

2. **In Ancestral/Joint Family Property**

- After 2005 amendment, daughter is a **coparcener by birth** with equal rights and liabilities.

- She can demand **partition** and dispose of her share by sale, gift, or will.

3. In Agricultural Land in U.P.

- Governed by **U.P. Revenue Code, 2006**.
- Daughters (unmarried and married) are included in the statutory order of succession (Section 108).
- They cannot be excluded on grounds of custom or marital status.

Comparison: Hindu Succession Act vs. U.P. Revenue Code

Aspect	Hindu Succession Act (1956, amended 2005)	U.P. Revenue Code (2006)
Applies to	Self-acquired & ancestral property	Agricultural land
Daughter's status	Coparcener by birth, equal to son	Explicitly recognized as heir (married/unmarried)
Customary law	Overridden	Overridden
Case laws	Vineeta Sharma, Danamma	Shanti Devi, Ramesh Chandra, Pushpa Devi

Practical Implications

- **Mutation of property** must reflect daughter's equal rights.
- **Wills/partitions** cannot deprive daughters unfairly, except through valid testamentary disposition.
- **Revenue authorities** in U.P. must strictly follow Section 108 for agricultural land, ensuring **gender equality**.
- Families should be aware that **customary exclusions of daughters are illegal**.

Conclusion

The law in Uttar Pradesh is now clear:

- **Daughters enjoy equal inheritance rights** in their father's **self-acquired property, ancestral/coparcenary property, and agricultural land**.

- The **2005 amendment** to the Hindu Succession Act, combined with **Section 108 of the U.P. Revenue Code, 2006**, ensures that **gender equality in succession is protected by statute and case law**.

This progressive stance strengthens women's property rights, curbs illegal deprivation, and aligns U.P. with the constitutional mandate of **equality under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution**.

References

1. Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (as amended 2005).
2. U.P. Revenue Code, 2006 – Section 108.
3. Vineeta Sharma v. Rakesh Sharma, (2020) 9 SCC 1.
4. Danamma v. Amar, (2018) 3 SCC 343.
5. Smt. Shanti Devi v. State of U.P., 2018 (10) ADJ 412 (All).
6. Ramesh Chandra v. Rajesh Kumar, 2020 (7) AWC 6752 (All).
7. Smt. Pushpa Devi v. Tehsildar, Faizabad, 2021 SCC OnLine All 1722.

Latest (2023-2025) Developments

1. **Prasanta Kumar Sahoo v. Charulata Sahoo, 2023 SCC OnLine SC 360**

- The Supreme Court in this case reaffirmed that daughters have coparcenary rights by birth even if the father died before the amendment of the Hindu Succession Act, 2005. [SCC Online+1](#)
- It emphasizes that **Section 6** of the Hindu Succession Act (as amended) is retrospective in character, meaning the daughter's right by birth is not contingent on her father being alive on 9-9-2005. [SCC Online+1](#)

2. **Rohit Chauhan v. Surinder Singh & Ors., April 22, 2025** (Supreme Court)

- The Supreme Court in this judgment clarified the nature of “coparcenary property” vs “self-acquired property”. One of the points was:

“In the absence of any such averment or proof, the property in the hands of the donor has to be treated as self-acquired property.” [Sci API](#)

- Also clarified that when property that was ancestral/coparcenary gets partitioned such that a coparcener holds a portion as his/her separate/own share, that portion becomes self-acquired (for that coparcener) unless/until further coparceners arise. [Sci API](#)
- So for a daughter (or any coparcener), understanding whether the property is still part of coparcenary or has become separated is key to asserting her rights. [Sci API](#)

3. **Other clarifications / reaffirmations**

- Multiple sources (legal blogs, summarizations) note that the Supreme Court has continued to uphold that daughters have equal status with sons as coparceners by birth, including when father is already dead before the 2005 amendment. (These are reaffirmations rather than new shifts.) [ClearTax+3Legalkart+3SCC Online+3](#)
- There is also emphasis in recent years that **possession, or claim of partition**, or some judicial proceedings may be necessary in certain situations, especially to overcome objections based on past settlement deeds, or challenges about

definitions of ancestral vs self-acquired. The *Rohit Chauhan* decision is significant in that context. [Sci API](#)

Implications for Uttar Pradesh / Your Article Context

Putting these in relation to the legal position in Uttar Pradesh, these latest developments reinforce and clarify what was already settled by earlier Supreme Court jurisprudence:

- The **daughter's coparcenary right by birth** under Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act is well-established, even if the father died before the enactment of the 2005 amendment. The recent *Prasanta Kumar Sahoo* case confirms this.
- *Rohit Chauhan* clarifies that whether the property is ancestral or self-acquired (or has become self-acquired after partition) matters, e.g., for claims, alienation, etc. So, for daughters in U.P., when claiming agricultural land (governed by U.P. laws) or other property, one must see whether there's been partition, whether someone has been in sole possession etc.
- There have been no Supreme Court judgments up to my latest checks (as of mid-2025) that *reverse or limit* the equal rights of daughters under the 2005 amendment in the manner of excluding them, except for matters of proof, limitation, partition, etc.

Suggested Additional Points to Include in the Article

To make your article fully current, you may add these:

- **Section 6, Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (as amended in 2005)** remains the linchpin for the coparcenary rights of daughters. The recent cases continue to interpret Section 6 in a manner favorable to daughters.
- The requirement of *partition or claim of partition* as relevant in several cases: if properties have been partitioned, then the status changes for portions. The claim may require judicial action.
- Proof burdens: in many cases the daughter must show that property is ancestral/coparcenary (or that it ceased being so only by an act not valid under law) and show any previous alienation/settlement is invalid if it attempts to deprive her of her lawful share.
- Limitation issues: sometimes claims are resisted on grounds of limitation — so even though statutory and Supreme Court rulings

provide rights, practical enforceability depends on taking action within legal timeframe where applicable.

Girl-child's Equal Right in Father's Property in Uttar Pradesh — Detailed Article (with latest case law and statutory references)

Executive summary

A daughter's legal right to inherit her father's property — whether ancestral/coparcenary, self-acquired, or agricultural land in Uttar Pradesh — is now firmly supported by statutory law (Hindu Succession Act, 1956 as amended in 2005) and recent judicial interpretations. The U.P. Revenue Code, 2006 (Section 108) governs agricultural succession in U.P. and explicitly includes daughters (married or unmarried) in the order of succession. Recent Supreme Court rulings (2023–2025) have clarified the retrospective operation of the 2005 amendment and the distinction between ancestral/coparcenary property and self-acquired property. These clarifications strengthen daughters' rights but also emphasize factual questions (e.g., whether a property has become self-acquired by partition/possession) — meaning legal enforcement often requires careful pleadings and proof in court or revenue proceedings.

1. Statutory framework

1.1 Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (amended 2005)

- **Section 6 (as amended)** confers **coparcenary status to daughters** by birth, making daughters equal to sons in ancestral or coparcenary property.
- For **self-acquired property**, daughters are included in **Class I heirs** and inherit equally on the intestacy of the father.

The 2005 amendment and its judicial interpretation are the primary legal anchors for daughters' rights in non-agricultural properties and ancestral family assets. (Discussed in later sections with case law.)

1.2 U.P. Revenue Code, 2006 — Section 108

- Section 108 of the U.P. Revenue Code provides an **order of succession where a tenure-holder dies without lineal descendants**. It expressly lists **widow, father, mother, unmarried daughter, married daughter, brother, sister**, and further collaterals in fixed order. This statutory sequence applies

specifically to **agricultural land** (bhumidhari/milkiyat) and related tenancy rights in Uttar Pradesh.

- Revenue officials (Lekhpal/Tehsildar) must follow this order when recording succession and conducting mutation of land records. The Code aims to reduce disputes and prevent unlawful occupation.

2. How the law applies: plain language explanation

2.1 Ancestral / Coparcenary property

- After the 2005 amendment, **a daughter is a coparcener by birth** and can claim an equal undivided share as a son in ancestral property. She can demand partition, obtain a share, and thereafter treat her share as self-acquired (sell/transfer) subject to normal legal restrictions. Recent Supreme Court rulings have reaffirmed the retrospective character of these rights in many circumstances.

2.2 Self-acquired property of the father

- On the father's intestate death, **self-acquired property devolves by inheritance** on Class I heirs (which includes daughter), and daughters receive an equal share with sons. However, questions of limitation, prior valid alienations, or a valid registered will may change the outcome. Recent case law emphasizes distinguishing self-acquired portions (including portions that became self-acquired after a partition) from ancestral/coparcenary portions because this affects remedies and postures in litigation.

2.3 Agricultural land in U.P.

- For **agricultural holdings**, the U.P. Revenue Code is decisive: daughters are included in the statutory order of succession under Section 108 (both married and unmarried daughters are named). Where a bhumidhar (tenure-holder) dies intestate, the revenue record should be mutated according to Section 108 rather than local customary exclusion of daughters. Several Allahabad High Court orders in 2024-2025 reiterate that revenue officers must apply Section 108 and follow the code rather than customs.

3. Important recent judicial developments (2023–2025) and their effect

3.1 *Prasanta Kumar Sahoo v. Charulata Sahoo* (Supreme Court, 2023)

- The Supreme Court in *Prasanta Kumar Sahoo* clarified issues about family settlement deeds, partition, and daughters' rights. The judgment reinforced that **a daughter's right to an ancestral share cannot be nullified by a settlement not signed by her** and that courts must look carefully at the formalities and participation of all interested parties in settlement deeds. This is crucial in practice because families sometimes execute "settlements" that attempt to exclude daughters.

3.2 Rohit Chauhan v. Surinder Singh & Ors. and related Supreme Court clarifications (2013 onward; cited in 2025 materials)

- The jurisprudence around **when property is coparcenary vs self-acquired** has been clarified and applied repeatedly. A recent re-examination (documented and cited in 2025 materials) explains that property can become coparcenary by reason of births and family circumstances, and conversely, an undivided share that has been partitioned to a person and treated as his/her separate estate may become self-acquired for that person. This factual distinction matters in litigation — e.g., whether an earlier alienation by a male ancestor was void as against coparceners or valid as transfer of self-acquired property. The Supreme Court reiterated these principles in recent pronouncements. [Sci API+1](#)

3.3 Allahabad High Court practice (2024–2025) on Section 108 and mutation

- Several Allahabad High Court decisions and reports in 2024-2025 applied Section 108 while adjudicating disputes over mutation, tenancy transfer, and succession to bhumidhari land. The High Court has held that revenue authorities must give priority to statutory succession under Section 108 and not follow local customs inconsistent with the Code. There are also petitions challenging certain sections of the Revenue Code on grounds of discrimination; however, as of the latest reported orders, Section 108 continues to be applied and interpreted to uphold daughters' rights.

4. Typical fact patterns and legal remedies

4.1 When a daughter is denied inheritance in a U.P. village (agricultural land)

- **Actionable steps:**
 - File a **mutation application** with Lekhpal/Tehsildar citing Section 108 and applicable judgments.
 - If mutation is refused, pursue **writ or civil suit** for declaration/partition and mutation; revenue appeals are also possible.
 - Challenge any alleged family settlement that did not include / was not signed by the daughter (or was procured by fraud/coercion) — *Prasanta Kumar Sahoo* is directly relevant.

4.2 When property was alienated by an ancestor claiming it was self-acquired

- The plaintiff/daughter must **prove coparcenary/ancestral character** at relevant times (births/deaths/partitions). If the portion had been partitioned earlier and treated as the father's separate share, the property may be self-acquired and devolve on Class I heirs. The *Rohit Chauhan* line of cases provides guidance on these nuanced factual disputes.

4.3 When a daughter is married — does marriage defeat her rights in U.P.?

- Under **Hindu Succession Act (2005)**, marriage does not defeat a daughter's rights as coparcener or Class I heir. Under **U.P. Revenue Code**, both unmarried and married daughters are named in Section 108, so marital status should not exclude the daughter. Nevertheless, in practice, unlawful interpretations or older customs may be asserted by respondents; court precedents (both Supreme Court and Allahabad High Court) reject such exclusions.

5. Procedural / practical tips for enforcement in U.P.

1. **Seek early mutation** — get a mutation entry under Section 108 in revenue records to prevent adverse possession claims. (Revenue officers must accept succession under the Code.)

2. **Preserve and produce documents** — birth certificates, family registers, death certificates, any prior partition/settlement deeds, and copies of mutation entries.
3. **Check for earlier partitions or conveyances** — these can alter property character (coparcenary ↔ self-acquired). Use case law to challenge invalid family settlements.
4. **Consider civil suit for partition / declaration** alongside revenue remedies if the other family members resist.
5. **Limitation and laches** — claims can be defeated by limitation in some situations; timely action is important.

6. Key takeaways (short list)

- Daughters have **equal inheritance rights** in father's **self-acquired** and **ancestral/coparcenary** property under the HSA (2005 amendment).
- For **agricultural land in U.P., Section 108 U.P. Revenue Code, 2006** lists daughters (married and unmarried) in the order of succession — revenue mutation must follow it.
- **Recent Supreme Court rulings (2023–2025)** clarify retrospective effect of Section 6 (2005 amendment) and emphasize the factual distinction between ancestral/coparcenary and self-acquired portions (impacting remedies and proof).
- Family settlements excluding daughters may be invalid if executed without their consent/signature; courts have set aside such instruments.

7. Selected references and sources (for citation / further reading)

- U.P. Revenue Code, 2006 — **Section 108** (Succession in absence of lineal descendants).
- *Prasanta Kumar Sahoo v. Charulata Sahoo*, Supreme Court (2023) — judgment addressing partition, settlement deeds and daughters' rights.
- Supreme Court materials clarifying coparcenary vs self-acquired property and subsequent applications (including the *Rohit Chauhan* line). See consolidated Supreme Court document/notes.

- Allahabad High Court reports and decisions applying Section 108 and discussing mutation practice (2024–2025). Example: ILR / High Court PDFs and case summaries.
- Legal commentary and updates summarizing recent trends in ancestral property and daughters' rights (legal blogs and summaries).