CHAPTER 2

Combating Gender Injustice: Women and the Hindu Law of Personal Status in Bangladesh

A Comparative Analysis

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FIGURE 2.1  A newly married Hindu couple.
PHOTO BY ABU ALA RUSSEL/DRIK
Abbreviations

**AD** Appellate Division  
**AIR** All India Reporter  
**BLC** Bangladesh Law Commission  
**BLD** Bangladesh Law Digest  
**BMP** Bangladesh Mahila Parishad  
**Bom** Bombay  
**CEDAW** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women  
**DLR** Dhaka Law Reports  
**FGD** Focus Group Discussion  
**GoB** Government of Bangladesh  
**HMA** Hindu Marriage Act  
**HRCBM** Human Rights Congress of Bangladesh Minorities  
**ICCPPR** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights  
**ICESCR** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
**Kar** Karnataka  
**LJ** Law Journal  
**LW** Law Weekly  
**MFLO** Muslim Family Laws Ordinance  
**MIA** Moore's Indian Appeals  
**MJF** Manusher Jonno Foundation  
**MLR** Miscellaneous Law Reports  
**Nag** Nagpur  
**NGO** Non-Government Organization  
**PRIP** Private Rural Initiatives Program  
**Raj** Rajasthan  
**SAILS** South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies  
**SC** Supreme Court  
**UFC** Uniform Family Code  
**UFL** Uniform Family Law  

1 Introduction

The Bangladesh Constitution of 1972, Government policy documents as well as the State’s commitments under international law impose upon it a duty to strive to achieving justice for all its citizens. The Constitution specifically places women on an equal footing with men in all spheres of State and public life. At