



Women Empowerment – Human Rights

**B.SREENIVASA
REDDY**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, SSA Govt. First Grade College,
BELLARY-583101 –Karnataka INDIA

ABSTRACT

Simply stated, a right is a claim of an individual recognized by the society and the state obviously a proper definition of the term right has three ingredients. First, it is a claim of the individual, second individual should receive recognition by the community and finally political recognition. Rights are just like moral declarations unless they are protected by the state. According to H.J. Laski. "Rights, in fact, are those conditions of social life without which no man can seek, in general, to be himself at his best. For since the state exists it make possible that achievement, it is only by maintaining rights that its end may be secured." Human rights : a modified version of natural rights and civil rights, which are coupled with each other, and has assumed a significance of its own ever since the formulation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the Human Rights commission and their adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948. Elinor Ruzwert, the then president of United Nations General Assembly, declared that instead of "Rights of man, She declared as Human Rights" in 1948, so that, 'women rights' or 'women' were included in this declaration. Human rights that are applying to all human beings therefore human rights are universal, all human beings come under human rights and holders of human rights without any discrimination, every human being has their rights, and these rights protect especially human existence.

KEYWORDS : women empowerment, Human rights, women rights, recognized, society, obviously, definition, ingredients, community, political, declarations, protected, achievement, secured, civil rights, significance, adoption.

INTRODUCTION:

Simply stated, a right is a claim of an individual recognized by the society and the state obviously a proper definition of the term right has three ingredients. First, it is a claim of the individual, second individual should receive recognition by the community and finally political recognition. Rights are just like moral declarations unless they are protected by the state.

The rights have a moral character whether Human rights Natural rights political, economic, social moral and social, moral and civil rights, in other words, they are the rights which a society properly organized on the basis of good will should recognize. And rights are not only related to social welfare, they also related to a dynamic character.

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According to Gilchrist :

"Rights arise, therefore, from individuals as members of society, and from the recognition that, for society there is ultimate good which may be reached by the development of the power inherent in every individual." So in this way they are the rights which a society organized on the basis of good will should recognize. [J.C. Johari, contemporary political theory, P.229.]

However, the most important point, which highlights the "Humanism and also Human rights", that is, according to Marxism as Wellas New leftism, seems new society in which man has a free happy and dignified life, Marx termed it "thereof human emancipation", man is free all sorts of exploitation and oppression, Glorious human values prevail. [J.C. Johari, contemporary political theory, P.No. 657.]

Human rights:

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Now –a- days, human rights are become more important and giving more importance to them because from the grass root level, it means family level to International level every aspect which is related to development, security, welfare of the people etc., related to human rights or comes under human rights moreover any decision which was taken and which is taking by the governments of any nation is related to human rights, The human rights are depend on basic rule of "All are equal, no discrimination" this is the aim of human rights.

Human rights that are applying to all human beings therefore human rights are universal, all human beings come under human rights and holders of human rights without any discrimination, every human being has their rights, and these rights protect especially human existence.

In this regard, one can recognize a positive tendency of acceptance of human rights by states, a growth of an international institutionalization for the protection of human rights and a progress of the mechanisms for monitoring human rights performances by states to respect the Universality of human rights and some small steps by the corporate world [By Dr. Peter Kirchs chlaeger, Co- Director of the centre of Human Rights Education, university of Teacher Education of central Switzerland Lucerne.]

Because human rights establish moral boundaries so, Human rights do not stop before fractions, cultures, etc.

STATUS OF WOMEN

Traditional Indian literature gave high respect to women e.g. in Vedic period women leads equal status with men. Manu had said "where women are honoured, the Gods are pleased but where they are not, no sacred rite yields any reward".

Yagnavalkya said, "women are the embodiment of all divine virtues on earth., and the Ramayana and Mahabharata gives full credit to women.

After that, slowly women were treated by barbarous customs like "Sati" [burning of widow on the funeral pyre of her husband denial of right to remarry to widows, female infanticide, existence of "devadasi" system, child marriages, etc., Women suffered from lots of disabilities. Women is psychologically felt inferior to men, physically women is dubbed as dull and dumb, intellectually no wisdom and socially, women has a place lower than man, she is made to lead second class citizenship or subordinate life, women is considered ineligible for all

public life, they confine to four walls, or family -mothering the babies, even in family life, they always secondary, these are all caused by man's domination or atrocities and the main weakness point of women is physically they are very weaker than men. Almost half of the women population dependent always at one, or the other time, on man, be, he a father, husband or the son, yet the women, today is no more a commodity to be bought and sold at man's whims, [S.S. Awasthy, Indian Government and politics, P.408]

Over the years, the women movement has developed a theory of power of society which sees the relationship between the sexes as one of inequality subordination and oppression and which sees this as a problem of political power than a fact of nature. Feminist regard the distinction between men and women not merely biological, but also sociological and thereafter political, men and women are biologically different, but they are seen, regarded and structured socially as different gender, The masculine gender, being physically strong and having made himself as the in charge of the external or what may be called public, exploits woman by considering her as an inferior being, a slave, and commodity. [S.S. Awasthy, Indian Government and politics, P. 409].

In Indian culture women are subjected to gender discrimination right from the births. The female infanticide is widely prevalent even though it is highly in practice; an estimated 1.2 million lives were snuffed out either through abortion or post natal murders. The girls are also allowed to remain under nourished and, therefore, the female mortality rate is much higher than that of boys. [S.S.Awasthy, Indian Government and politics, P.No. 411]. Girl children are denied the proper educational facilities, nourishment and medical facilities. Parents and other family members think that they are burden to the family.

The gender bias not only reflected on one aspect, it society reflects on political, social, economic each and every point in the society reflects by the gender bias, even in jobs also it shows impact. In many places of India and world wide, women are denied job opportunities, because the men folk more equipped to the job, and they feel that for women right place is kitchen and rearing children. Women also have to face sexual harassment, and the position of dalit women is so worst these are all live example to discrimination which was facing by women folk.

In political aspect, while the women's vote in terms of numbers is not much behind that of the men, their representation in legislative bodies has been very poor. The highest representation of lok Sabha was in 1984 and that too eight percent. [S.S. Awasthy Indian Government and politics, P.No. 410] and all over the India the State Assemblies also have a meager representation from women folk, so, women are slowly alienated from the political system.

Not surprising women are used like surrogates to their men folk because after introducing 73rd Amendment Act in 1992, according to this Act 1/3 seats reserved for women, so reserved quota would be filled by the wives, daughters, etc, relations, women's representations in political field, and decision making bodies is very low.

There have many social legislations designed to achieve betterment of women, but they remain as paper tigers, rarely to be followed. In present times, the number of women either government or private offices is increasingly tremendously but compare to women population it is very low, And it will be wrong to state that as a result of all these efforts all the women in India have emancipated.

Still the male domination of the society was a fact. And women were suffering immense social evils and social oppression within the family, and also in the society. They were also suffering from illiteracy, ignorance, and economically dependent position etc. Polygamy was in practice still it is continuing, women not even the right to divorce [just like a "curse"]

In this context the Indian constellation included human rights in the fundamental rights to protect every individual right, and for the protection of human rights so many provisions existed by the Indian constitution. In the same way, in 1993 the Indian government established Human rights commissions at both central and state level to strengthen the human rights and proper implementation.

In India, even though a largest democratic country suffering from human rights problems. Like children, women, etc., so many long lasting problems are here E.g.: 'women issue' is a chronic problem, so many number of rape cases are reading in every day news papers even 4 years children also victimized to this cruel behaviour, still unashamed violations of human rights are took place in all parts of the world especially with chronic problems. In this way number of international and regional instruments has drawn attention to Women human rights issues.

CEDAW:

UN convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women adopted in 1979, and after eight years CEDAW came into force. CEDAW noted as, The International Bill of Rights for Women. In addition, required proper safe guards for their realization, because conferment of rights is not enough or sufficient.

It is essential that governments should protect and promote people's rights moreover protection of rights, it is not only duty of governments similarly, and people also must be vigilant. Therefore, It is the Proud spirit of citizens, less than the letter of the law, that is their most real safeguard [Laski, OP, cit., P. 89.]

In 1993, 45years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted, and the UN world conference on Human Rights in Vienna confirmed that women rights were human rights.

And if anyone or any where, in identifying neglect of women's rights as human rights violation and in drawing attention to the relationship between gender and human rights violations should be punished. And this was a step forward in recognizing the rightful claims of women folk who were sharing half of the humanity.

The CEDAW defines the right of women to be free from all forms of Discrimination and also look action to protect this right. Under CEDAW look many actions to protect women's rights such as prepared one agenda for national action to end discrimination, for achieving equality between men and women for equal access, equal opportunities in all the fields such as education, health, employment etc., introduced core principles. So CEDAW is the only human rights treaty which has creates a new world for women and women's rights.

In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo [ICPD] articulated and affirmed the relationship between advancement and fulfilment of rights and gender equality and equity. The ICPD declared in their programme of action that, the achievement of sustainable development depends on women empowerment and political social, economic improvement, so ICPD recognized that, the highly important and essential of women empowerment.

In 1995, the fourth world conference on women in Beijing discussed in wider range on women's rights and the gender equality, women's empowerment as one of the eight Millennium Development goals. [But many promises have not yet to be kept.]

CONCLUSION:

Women are suffering low socio- economic, political inequalities over the past decade, and women empowerment is a new challenge for all and still women getting less money than men, even same kind of work, Gender based violence [never ending] increasing of trafficking on women etc., these are all for instance of women condition at world wide.

The commission [CEDAW] trying to identify emerging trends, injustice, discriminatory practices against women, for the purposes of formulation of right and useful policies, and initiate development strategies to protect women's human rights as well as gender equality.

When social, economic, political emancipation is possible and healthy development of democratic process free from corruption and free from criminalization of politics took place in the society when women's political participations is possible for women empowerment and emancipation.

Therefore we need an exclusive women's political party, which would increase their political participation and also help change their social and political conditions. The empowerment of women is a remedy to Indian women, and will lead to a better society. The Indian constitution declared all discriminations were invalid. And prohibited from practicing discriminations in terms of caste, creed, religion, sex etc.

The emancipation of women is not easy matter, and can take place only when the "empowerment desire" comes from within women folk. Women should feel the need of empowerment, equality and equal rights.

We are still talking and discussing about human rights, gender issues and wasting our time but not putting it on the ground, it means there is no proper action for this dream comes true. The university is still a claim, not reality. Hence must and should implement of women's rights or human rights should take it legal forms so that at least something is better than nothing.

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