

Women Empowerment by Education About Their Rights



Social Science

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

The legal basis of the modern concept of human rights is the slogan "Liberty Equality and fraternity. Women have equal pay for equal work, equal share in the property of father, right to Marry a Man of their choice and complain against domestic violence, demand of dowry, sexual harassment etc. But still there is violation of their rights by others. So, there is need to sensitize/educate women about their rights and make them independent. Only and only then women empowerment can be achieved.

INTRODUCTION

The "Rig Veda" which is regarded as the oldest document declares that all human being are equal. Indian ethos and social philosophy provides a sound Moral foundation for the individual and group rights.

'Rights' according to the New Webster's Dictionary, are a just claim or title, whether legal, prescriptive or Moral, Oscar Wilde defines 'right' as a reasonable claim to freedom in exercise of certain activities. The legal base of the Modern concept of human rights is the slogan, "liberty, Equality and Fraternity of the French Revolution. The universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on December 10, 1948 declares, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Almost all rights are enshrined in the Indian constitution as Fundamental rights, offering all citizens individually and collectively those basic freedoms and conditions of life which can make life significant and are also essential for Moral and Material upliftment of people.

There can be no peace, security or sustainable economic development in societies which deny human rights including rights for women. Women are also the true peace makers and peace builders contributing towards political, industrial, commercial, educational, agricultural development etc.

Numerous international and regional instruments have drawn attention to gender related dimensions of human rights issues, the most important being the UN convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women, adopted in 1979. In 1993, 45 years after the universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted the eight years after CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) entered into force, the UN world conference on Human Rights in Vienna Confirmed that women's rights were human rights, And yet this was a step forward in recognizing the rightful claims on one half of humanity, in identifying neglect of women's right as a human rights violation and in drawing attention to the relationship between gender and human rights violations.

In 1994, ICPD (The International Conference on Population and Development) in Cairo articulated and affirmed the relationship between advancement and fulfillment of rights and gender equity or equality. It also asserted that the empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status was a highly important end in itself as well as essential for the achievement of sustainable development.

Indian constitution has been very liberal about rights of Women. Women have right of education, of equal pay for

equal work. They have legal right of equal share in the property of father. They have right to marry a man of their choice and can complain against domestic violence and issues related with demand of dowry. They can also complain against ill treatment at work places, Female foeticide is a crime so are pornography, rape and honour killing. Child marriage and Satipratha are also crimes in the eyes of law.

In spite of these international agreements, the denial of Women's basic human rights is persistent and widespread. For instance:

- Many women are sacrificed at the altar of dowry
- Men-Women ratio has been disturbed because of female foeticide
- A girl child is discriminated in education and nutrition.
- Women suffer sexual harassment at workplace.
- Working conditions, seeking permission for jobs.
- Discrimination regarding marriage, land, property and inheritance, emotional harassment. All this happens because women are not sensitized about their rights. Education should play a key role in sensitizing women about their rights and making them independent.

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