
Human Rights Awareness: A Powerful Weapon for Women Empowerment

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Abstract

Women equality is a burning issue of today and draws the attention of people towards practicing the human rights. Socio-economic backwardness of women is mostly due to injustice done to them by the family traditions and also due to social and mental exploitation. From the immemorial, they worked like slaves, sold as commodities resulting in their low social status, economic deprivation and educational backwardness. The discrimination based on the basis of caste, creed, sex, colour and race has been one of the prominent features of human history throughout the world. In India, gender based discrimination has a very long history.

Today, every modern society is facing acute moral crises due to partiality towards women. Moral values have lost their identities and recognition about women. Morality and humanity in society are on decline; the corruption, scams, clashes, strikes and tensions prevail at top. "It is the obligation of the state to ensure everyone the right to adequate food, education and enjoyment attainable standards of physical and mental health. These rights have to be respected and made available to citizens by the state." As said by Justice Anand, Former Chairperson, Human Rights Commission. A teacher educator is the most accountable and responsible person of the society due to his crucial position in the educational process and substantially influences the shaping of the young generation's future. He is expected to accept his co-coordinating role importance. Everywhere, Life has become painful and stressful in the absence of moral ethics and values.

This paper highlights the significance of human right awareness towards upliftment's of women i.e. women empowerment.

Keyword- Human rights, women empowerment, significance of education and role of teacher.

Introduction

After the formation of United Nations in 1945, the expression 'Human Rights' got popularity. If we look at Indian philosophies, the basic elements of human rights have been advocated and prevailing in our society since the time immemorial. According to United Nations General Assembly declaration, **Human Rights** are defined as "a comprehensive, lifelong process, by which people at all levels in development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies." The definition highlights the three key elements-

Human rights education is a lifelong process, addressing not merely school children in formal education system. It is a comprehensive process which involves all members of the society; and It is an empowering process that enables people to take control of their lives by identifying violations of human rights and learning how to use the mechanisms to redress the grievances and to put an end to violations.

Therefore, from a United Nations perspective, human rights education is not an end in itself, but a means to transformation and a mechanism to address abuses.

Objectives of Present Study

1. To classify the Human Rights
2. To highlight the need and significance of Human Rights.
3. To highlight the Women Empowerment.
4. To pinpoint the gender inequality in India
5. To pinpoint Objectives of HRE and women empowerment
6. To study forms of violence against women
7. To highlight legal rights and laws for women equality
8. To pinpoint Education: an effective tool

Classification of Human Rights

Human rights are broadly classified as civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights and group rights:

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Right to health care
- Right to work
- Right to take part in cultural life
- Right to education
- Right to adequate standard of living, including food, clothing and housing
- Right to trade union freedom

Social and Political Rights

- Right to privacy
- Right pertaining to life, integrity, liberty and security
- Right to freedom of religion, expression of opinion and movement
- Right to assembly and association
- Right to justice
- Right with respect to administration of justice
- Right to political participation

Group Rights

- Right of women
- Right of workers
- Right of the children
- Right of the juveniles

Human rights have been incorporated into Indian Constitution i.e. as the fundamental rights and directive principles *under part III and IV of our constitution*. These rights have been classified as follows:

S. No.	Fundamental Rights under Indian Constitution	Human Rights Declaration- articles
1.	Right to Equality	1. Article-14 Equality before law 2. Article-15 Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth 3. Article-16 Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment 4. Article -17 Abolition of untouchability
2.	Right to Freedom	5. Article-18 Abolition of titles 6. Article-19 Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech 7. Article-20 Protection in respect of conviction for offences 8. Articles-21 Protection of life and personal liberty 9. Article-22 Protection against detection of certain cases
3.	Right against Exploitation	10. Article- 23 Article of traffic of human beings and forced labor 11. Article-24 Prohibition of Employment of Children in factories etc
4.	Right to Freedom of Religion	12. Article-25 Freedom –free pursuit of profession, practice and propagation of religion 13. Article- 26 Freedom to manage religious affairs 14. Article- 27 Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion 15. Article- 28 Freedom to attend religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions
5.	Cultural and Educational Rights	16. Article- 29 Protection of interest of minorities 17. Article -30 Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions
6.	Rights to Constitutional Remedies	18. Article- 32 Right to constitutional remedies

Objectives of Human Rights Education and women empowerment

No one can deny the real fact that abled women are considered the future of the country. Human rights education can play a very creative role in generating sound personality of the women due to non-discrimination among male and female child. The main objectives of human rights education are:

- To examine the Human Rights with open mindedness.
- To make explicit the articles related to the Human Rights declaration and to link them to every issue/topic relevant
- To create confidence in individuals that they can bring desirable change.
- To respond to all concerns related to cultural diversity, gender, race, religion, national tradition etc
- To focus /pay attention to Human Right Justice and dignity of Human subject
- To make simple and concrete to the day to day life experience about all the human rights related education and legal aspects which are abstract in nature
- To provide space for action initiation in concerns to Human Rights right from home to outside the individual.

Gender Inequality in India

1. Men outnumber women in India. In 2011, there were only 940 women for every 1000 men. The reason may be malnutrition and Feticide.
2. Women face nutritional discrimination within her own family, she eats at last and least.
3. Due to early marriage in childhood, she cannot control over reproductive health.
4. Lower rate of literacy is found among girls as compared to boys. In 2011, Indian women literacy rate was 65.5% while male 82.1%.
5. Women are usually paid lower wages as compared to male.
6. Women are even today found weak in decision making. Lower representation of women in governance, judiciary and administration and management.
7. They are legally discriminated in land properties of parents.
8. Women are often seen facing the violence inside or outside the family throughout their life.

Women Empowerment

Human Rights are being violated. "Despite of numerous bills of rights of children, the sad realities is that the children continue to be enslaved and violated everyday as per 2017 global estimates of child labor" reported by Sosu, F.(2018). Broadly speaking, 'Human Right' means right to life, liberty, equality and the dignity of an individual irrespective of caste, creed or sex. Barker, E.(1951) stated, "Rights are the external conditions necessary for the greatest possible development of capacities of the personalities." Rights are also used in varieties of ways indicating differences in ideologies and philosophical perceptions. McCloskey (1976) described, "The rights positively as entitlements, to do, to have, enjoy or have done." There is a big correlation between women and human rights.

Forms of Violence against Women

Generally, women and girls have to face different forms of violence towards themselves inside or outside the families. They are considered to be inferior to men. They are as follows-

1. Honour Killing
2. Domestic violence
3. Dowry related violence
4. Feticide and infanticide
5. Child marriage
6. Preference of male child
7. The forced marriage
8. Sexual violence like forced nudity, rape, forced abortion
9. Acid throwing
10. Trafficking and prostitution
11. Sexual harassment at work place

Legal Rights and Laws

Provisions to Bring Equality

(During British period)

1. 1829 , Abolition of Sati
2. 1856, Widow remarriage made legal
3. 1870 female infanticide banned
4. 1872, inter-caste , intercommunity marriage made legal
5. 1891, age of consent raised to 12 years for girls
6. 1921, women get rights to vote in madras province
7. 1929, child marriage restraint act was passed
8. 1937, women get special rights to property

Legislative framework

- Protection of women from domestic violence act, 2005
- The dowry prohibition act, 1961
- The sexual harassment of women at work place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013
- The criminal laws (Amendment) act 2013, further the criminal law (amendment) act 2018
- One stop centre scheme
 - o The scheme of universalization of women helpline
 - o The scheme of Mahila police volunteers
- National Database on sexual offenders (NDSO)
- Nirbhaya Fund

Education: An Effective Tool for women equality via awareness of Human Rights

Human Rights is a symbol of hope, the need of the hour yet the violation of human rights has become a day-to-day event in our '*Civilised Society*'. Creating a safe, secured and harmonious environment for the neo-literate is the task of the family, the community, the society and the government at large.

Literacy Rate of India (Census 2011)

Year	Total population (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1951	18.3	27.2	8.9
1961	28.3	40.4	15.4
1971	34.5	46.0	22.0
1981	43.6	56.4	29.8
1991	52.2	64.1	39.8
2001	64.8	75.3	53.7
2011	74.0	80.9	64.6

Above table shows a big % gap in literacy rate among the population of male and female. There are some important government schemes for improvement in girls' education as they follows

School Education

- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao
- UDAAN
- Mahila samakhya (MS)
- Saakshar Bharat
- Mid-Day Meal Scheme

Conclusion

The most important factor in preventing gender based violence against women is to have a better understanding of its causes along with good education and human rights awareness. The state should strengthen the efforts to make the people aware about their rights and duties. There is also a need to ensure an enabling environment where women have an easy access to health, legal and social services in case they face or suffer violence. So, human rights education can easily be provided to common public especially women through the school or college education as incorporating the HRE as a qualifying subject.

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