
OBJECTIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

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“ Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the united nations for the maintenance of peace “ – Article 26 Clause 2 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“All Human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. So stated article 1 of the universal declaration of Human Rights in 1948, Human Rights are a fundamental value. There is a long Indian tradition of standing up for the weak against abuse by the strong. Upholding Human Rights values in every aspect is firmly established in our tradition. “The great Mauryan emperor Ashoka, The Great renounced the path of violence after the massacre in the War of Kalinga.” “The Moghal Akbar, The Great, granted religious minorities legal status in his realm. One of the most influential movements was Mahatma Gandhi’s movement to free his motherland from British rule. It is the core of our Constitution and the heart of our national interest today. But the values that we stand for-freedom, human rights, the rule of law are all universal values. Given the choice, people all over the world want them. But it is regrettable that India which was once looked upto by whole world as the pioneer of these values is now groveling in lowly dust of atrocities and human rights abuse. Human Rights abuse is sadly a reality in Indian society. It is not just an affront to the values of tolerance, freedom and justice that underpin our society. It is also a tragic waste of human potential

History:- The emphasis on Human Rights Education began in 1995 in the beginning of the U.N decade for Human Rights Education, though previously addressed in 1953 with the UNESCO Associated school program, which served as an ‘initial attempt to teach human rights in formal school settings”. Human Rights Education became an official central concern internationally after the World Conference on Human Rights.

“Every one has the right to know, seek and receive information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms and should have access to human rights education,”According to

Article 1 of the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training adopted on 19th December 2011.

Human Rights Education, Training and Public Information are, therefore, necessary and essential for the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among the communities, and for fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace. Through the learning of human rights as a way of life. Fundamental change could be brought about as a way of life, fundamental change could be brought about to eradicate poverty, ignorance, prejudices, and discrimination based on sex, caste, religion and disability and other status amongst the people.

The National Human Rights Commission of India and many NGOs have launched a country-wide public information campaign for human rights. It aims to make everyone more conscious of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and better equipped to stand up for themselves. At the same time, the campaign spreads knowledge of the means which exist at the international and national levels to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Objectives of Human Rights Education

- ❖ To strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- ❖ To value human dignity and develop individual self respect and respect for others,
- ❖ To develop attitudes and behaviors that will lead to respect for the rights of others,
- ❖ To promote respect, understanding and appreciation of diversity,
- ❖ To empower people towards more active citizenship,
- ❖ To ensure genuine mime gender equality and equal opportunities for women and men in all spheres
- ❖ To promote democracy, development, Social Justice, Communal harmony, Solidarity and Friendship among people and nations,
- ❖ To further the activities of international understanding, tolerance and non-Violence.

Human rights have been recognized as standards of achievements and norms of behaviours of all members of society, in particular the government and its agencies. Human Rights form the foundation of society, and without its observance, society would disintegrate. Society can be maintained only by protecting and promoting dignity of human beings.

Magna Carta :-The basic chapter of human rights is found in Magna carta i.e., American War of Independence and French Revolution. They were mostly in the form of negative rights, i.e. state shall not interfere with the enjoyment of certain basic rights. But after the world war-II, attempts were made to build an international system so that holocaust of war was not repeated. This system wanted to protect civil and political rights of people and ensure that all nations were committed to this. At the same time, the international community also had the obligation of fulfilling certain positive rights like Economic, Social and Cultural rights. These positive rights required positive action involving the use of resources and in 1948, Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations which included both civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

Human Rights need to be considered in totality as human dignity is by its nature indivisible. It was not enough merely to protect individual rights like Civil, Political, Economic rights etc, without looking at the whole picture, as people were doing. Adequate steps need be taken to build up mechanisms to safeguard these human rights in entirety.

Human Development: Development was described as comprehensive economic, social and political process where all rights can be realized, and not merely as increase of GDP or rise in volume of employment or export promotion. Development necessarily entails economic growth, but this growth has to be equitable, participatory, accountable and transparent. The right to development is something which cannot be realized immediately. Right to food, health, education, employment, standards of living need to be realized progressively in a phased manner, summing up to the right to development, and ultimately to human development. Human Development means expansion of freedom and ensuring peoples' ability to lead lives of their choice, with the removal of obstacles such as hunger, malnutrition, ill health, illiteracy and economic insecurities.

Historians would certainly describe the last few decades as the age of corruption and kickbacks. Unprecedented corruption, a proliferation of scams and growing involvement of public servants occupying apex positions in them. Media reports about huge amounts of money hoarded in foreign banks, justify such a description. Naturally, the rights of the common man are dented

The struggle for the promotion and protection of human rights inevitably requires the elimination of aberration that, over time, fragment society, leaving some more equal than others

Conclusion: While Human Rights institutions like the National Human Rights Commission have a significant role in the promotion and protection of Human Rights in all spheres, it can at best work in efforts towards protecting and promoting human rights of the most vulnerable groups. The contribution of civil society actors and the state are just as crucial in the noble endeavour. To quote Mahatma Gandhi, "The change we wish to see." Let us draw inspiration from the lives of great men like Mahatma Gandhi in building a new India, a great India based on social justice.

In the end, it is the need of the hour to take human rights in a positive sense and not allow its politicization. It has often been seen that human rights movement start with great principles like morality, ethics, respect of human beings etc., We must educate the masses about their rights and duties and help them fight for the same.