

Human Rights with Special Reference to Women

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Abstract:

This article attempts to explore the concept of human rights in modern age with especial reference to women. The article has discussed the issue mainly relating to the condition of women in the society of India and Pakistan the major problems commonly found in the societies include discrimination and abuse against other social, ethnic, religious and or gender backgrounds. Author suggests the mass awareness regarding human rights problems and their violations. In addition, the literacy level should be raised since the education of public can make people care about the human rights problems happening all around the world today.

Keywords: *Human Rights, Women, Developing Countries, Modern Age, Education*

Introduction

The origin of the modern concept of human rights is attributed to Stoics; Zeno the founder of this school propounded the theory of Natural Law under which a man as a human being was said to have some universal rights wherever and in whatever condition he may be. The Romans, under the influence of Stoics also started laying emphasis on human rights. With the rise of Christianity in Rome their rights were interpreted in the context of religion and their source was said to be Divine. After the “Dark Ages” the first instance of human rights is cited from Great Britain where Magna Carta was issued in 1215. Originally, Manga Carta

was simply a contract between the king and the Barons under which the rights of man has a human being. It was only after a long time it was interpreted in the context of human rights. The British parliament approved it in 1355 and passed a law under which none could be deprived of his life, liberty or land without following the prescribed process of law. However, from 14th to 16th century European political thoughts was dominated by the views of Machiavelle and Luther on account of which the states acquired unlimited authority over the individual.

Human Rights are international moral and legal norms that aspire to protect all people everywhere from severe political, legal and social abuses (Maryam Inayat 1999 p. 72). Example of human rights are the rights to freedom of religion, the right to fair trial when charged with a crime and the right not to be forward and the right to engage in political activity. These rights not to be forward and the right to engage in political activity. These right & exist in morality and in law at the national and international levels.

The philosophy of human rights addresses questions about the existence, content, nature universality and justification of human rights. We cannot measure them that to which extent they are justified. Because here nowadays everyone talks about his or her right regardless of the problems faced by our nations.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, UN act 1948b) sets out a list of over two dozen specific human rights that countries should respect and protect. We may group these specific rights into six or more families; “Security rights” that protect people against crime such as murder massacre, torture and rape; “liberty rights” that protect freedoms in areas such as belief, expression, association, assembly and monument; “political rights” that protect the liberty to participate in politics through actions such as the problems do occur in developed nations as well such as China, USA etc etc. The UN has tried to solve such problems by imposing various law & sanction. These measures have limited amount of effectiveness because it is up to the people to solve the existing problems today.

The major problems commonly include discrimination and abuse against other social, ethnic, religious and or gender backgrounds. Many countries with oppressive gouts force human rights violations against their own people other

gouts do little to prevent human rights problems from happening in their countries.

Human Right problems have been facing by many nations and are still faced by them. I am going to highlight few nations and their problems, which include developing and under developing nation as well. Very brief and small subsets of the countries are given blow:

Perhaps the most talked about region exhibiting human rights violations today. The United State and NATO has decided to take military action in response to these problems. The type of human rights violations in KOSOVO in a form of “ethnic clashing” or genocide of the Albanians (William J. Eric 1988, p. 27).

Since the Chinese took over of the region of Tibet, the Tibetan people, especially monks have been tortured or killed by the Chinese gout. Many people still right for the liberation of the region of Tibet and let the Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, out of exile. One Million Tibetans have died because of Chinese occupation (Stoddart Huston 1988, p.170).

After being took over by Taliban, a militia group, many human right violations have taken place in Afghanistan. Women have been the most victimized as they are no longer allowed to hold jobs, go to school or walk outside without being covered from head to head. The Taliban call this they’re so called “Islamic Law”. Many other violations committed against innocent civilians have also taken place as the Taliban’s struggles to maintain control continue (Roger Michael 1997 p. 113).

Although USA is a great supporter to human rights but as a matter of fact there is a great challenge for human being is the USA as one of the examples is the acquiescence for the use of sweat shops for cheap labor. The clothing industry is flooded with labor provided by minors at ridiculously low wages, harsh working conditions. The best example which can be quoted is their attitude towards Muslims their anti-Islamic policy after 9/11 attack.

Pakistan and India both are developing countries which need lot of reformation in the field of politics, economy and justice. Talking about both these nations since they have been together for the past so many centuries along with differences but that will be unfair when we talk about the problems of Pakistan. How can we forget India “Our Closest Neighbors”. Regarding Human Right problem has been

remained unsolved. Human Rights violation is now very common. Both nations are still under caste system, feudalism, Class system, racial differences, colour differences, gender discrimination, child labor, women rights, language problem and the list goes on and on. But the question is that no one speaks up. We say we are one Nation one state and we are independent but how? In a state where a brother is fighting with his own that's so, funny they call themselves the Islamists but the question is are they following those palter us given in our Holy Quran and Sunnah regarding Rights of Women. In Saudi Arabia women are also brutally degraded but our ignorant politicians and media especially say that "OK" since Saudi Arabia produces a quarter of the world's oil and is close ally of USA. But how come you can compare oil with women what a Negative attitude. Their man helps four wives and dozens of children on the basis that that in Islam men can have four marriages for no reason. Islam gives permission but with certain reasons. It is nothing that one should feel proud to have four wives they failed to provide justice to anyone of them their duty is to sit at home and look after their 12 to 14 children. That is very humiliating and frustrated (Zulekha Tehreem 2000 p. 210).

Since discrimination is the part of the Hindu culture. India's women are still far from living in a state of equality with men. They suffer a great deal of injustice and humiliation. But their demand for equality has become a political factor in land and progress on the road to emancipation is being made thanks to the work of private organizations.

A women is discriminated against as a daughter, a wife, a widow, at home out a society in the workplace at religious festivals with respect to schooling food health care sexuality, inheritance infect in all matters in all respects throughout her entire life. Sons are always given preference as heir, which only sons may perform. Daughters are perceived as a burden, among other things because of dowry which must be paid if she is to marry and which can bring ruin to poor and middle class families (Dykee 1988 p.77). The legal ban on dowry is not enforced countless now born daughters are still hilled immediately after birth especially in state of Rajasthan, Bihar and Tamil Nadu. Husbands are treated as Gods. Earlier Indian women were supposed to be burnt alive along with their dead husband that's called "Satti". Nowadays it is not so but still a widow can't have portion of her deceased husband's assets so, this is how Indian women is leading her life like

a like hell. Many NGO's organizations are working infact they have shown much success. Especially in villages there women rights are being preserved by these feminist Organizations but still much more efforts are needed (Aziz J. Nazami June 28, 2000).

The conditions of women are worse in Muslim Nations. Point to be noted. So, as the case with Iran violence against women, abuse and so called "Honour killings" are still widespread phenomena. In a country where repression targets the whole population which suffers from severe social and economic problems, violence against the population which suffers from severe social and economic problems, violence against the population hits women, who are also the victims of violence, is on the increase and within the family. It is difficult to know the real extent of domestic violence because it occurs within the family structure. There are few public debates or figures available on this issue (Dykee 1977 p. 197).

In Pakistan the women face brutal oppression. In Pakistan there are rigid Taboos. Women can't get out of it in the villages of Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Balochistan; women are treated like robots and puppets that have to follow what their men say. They are proud of it. The women of village are supposed to be blind, deaf and speechless. She is supposed to give more and more births, without medical facilities, she has to cook for her husband who s a drug addict, she has to work 24 hours besides that she has to work in fields as well. Domestic violence is so common she also has to get beaten up not only by her husband but by her mother in law as well. This is her fact not by God but by "Her Husband". In Pakistan abortion is totally illegal "Our Mullahs are totally against abortion they want women to have 15 to 16 children no matter whatever the circumstances may" (Aziz Pasha 1968, s.c. 662). As a result many women die from illegal abortion under unsafe conditions. Many women and small your girls get pregnant after being raped unless they can prove they were raped they are then liable to 14 years imprisonment for having sex outside marriage. But in order to secure a conviction for rape a woman needs a lengthy legal procedure. There have been so many cases where these types of cases have been suffocating in files up and down. Thousand of them have not even being filed due to so much fear and terror of their own families (Ram Narain 1977, p.186).

This discrimination against women starts in childhood. Many girls are sent out to work in carpet factories and other industries and even smuggled (women

trafficking) that's a global issue now. There are is an attitude that education is wasted on girls. There is so much pressure that can't be measured.

There are some major problems besides that there are numberless, countless minor problems as well for e.g. our working women who goes out is treated like an alien, in offices a cheap kind of hostile attitude, she cannot stand on the bus stop easily because of so many eyes fired on her.

So, just like this there is a net of problems regarding women rights. But there were some global problems of women of different Nations. Though nowadays our women is standing side by side in each in every field with males but still much has to be done especially in rural areas.

The problem if human right violation can be helped at scale communities can petition for the rights of people living in other countries. More organized action can include rallies with spokes people, such as Richard Geri for the Tibetan liberation protest on several occasions such as protest in from of clothing stores like Guess or Nike, some which use sweatshop for manufacturing their products.

There is an urgent need to recognize the rights of the people of other nations are part of the design of western foreign policy. Vietnam was neither a mistake nor an exception. The provocation and subsequent invasion of Iraq was for precisely the same purpose as we might learn in future, may be the present invasion of Somalia, a country deliberately devastated through "Superpower policies". The umbrella of Soviet blaming act having now vanished, the world is replete with potential Vietnams: North Korea, Cuba and sets of Central America, Libya, perhaps Iraq again and many others nations.

The cold war has taught us the nuclear deterrence does indeed work. Not only in preventing repeats of Hiroshima, but even in preventing a conventional war. Take an example of Pakistan and India. The two countries have not gone to war since 1971 the longest period of peace in their history like these two nations , everybody knows today that it would be catastrophically suicidal to use atomic weapons or to provoke a nation that possesses then contrary to the American propaganda that not everyone is "evolved" enough to know this. Almost certainly it is one way to ensure that US and its allies do not have any "military option" in their strategy for exploitation of weather nation of the World. Once a number of nations if not ideally all, play an equal role in world affairs.

Conclusion:

Action must be taken in order to change the situation of the world today. One of the first actions should be taken regarding building a website to educate others of the situation with human rights. The education of public can make people care about the human rights problems happening all around the world today. By making people care the masses can be swayed to take action well within their reach. It is power in numbers which is needed to solve the problems of human rights violations.

Numerous human rights activists organizations have step forward to protect the rights of humans throughout the world. These groups provide the voice necessary to make the global population aware of such atrocities. The people suffering under these crimes often are unable to get their pleas for help across. Perhaps the only way to truly help the situation is by publicizing the right of the victims. Organizations like Amnesty International, Americas Watch and the Feminist Majority Foundation publicize transgressions in the world. On the global or local level, petition signing and letter writing campaigns are organized in those campaigns; normal citizens are encouraged to write to world leaders expressing their ideas and feelings of what needs to be done to improve the situation. Peace full demonstrations are staged to protest against human rights violations. In the end I can only write is that it is such a vast topic enough. We see the each human is entitled to their own opinion, their own voice and their own beliefs. Although gout can chain is people, it cannot chain their voices. The rise of humanity cannot be withheld. The laws made by oppressive gouts against humanity will have humanity crying for freedom. The time for freedom may not be soon, but it can only happen if the people will it to.

In the words of James Baldwin an American writer “Words like” freedom, justice, democracy are not common concept on the contrary they are rare people are not bon knowing what these are. It takes enormous and above all individual effort to arrive at the respect for other people that there words imply.

Careful review about violation of human rights generally and women’s rights particularly need revolutionary steps to be taken for a noticeable change in the society. The government must make sure that they are equally participating in Socio-Political progress. Women of developing areas need to be given share in

the society specially they must be given equal opportunity in different fields. Women of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia and Iran are deprived of their natural and municipal rights the government of these countries must make settle rules to accommodate this part of society in different discipline so that these developing countries can face the modern challenges of 21st century.

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