



WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS: AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract

Human right are the fundamental right for every one either male or female. Women's rights are also human rights. The constitution of India also guarantees the equality of rights of men and women. However, in context of women's human rights in India, there exists a wide differences what actually is in theory and in practically. As our Indian society is a male dominated society where men are always assumed to be superior as compared to women. Every women in India have to face a lot of discrimination, disrespect, within the so called 'society'. Though women in India have been given more rights as compared to men, even then the condition of women in India is not very good. The paper will try to explain the human rights of women in India and also the several factors which are responsible for the violation of their rights, and also the various crimes which is prevalent even today.

Keywords: women, violation, discrimination, education, human right, society.

"Democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing"-----Vienna World conference on Human Rights 1993.

Introduction

The term women's right basically refers to freedom which inherently possessed by women and girls child including all ages, which might be institutionalized, suppressed by law, custom and behavior in a particular society. Men and Women had same right over certain things as men possess, then why women's right are limited. Universally also it is claimed that all human beings on this earth are treated equally irrespective of their caste, creed, religion etc. Different statutory provisions are formulated and enacted obviously to safeguard the weaker section of the society. And it is shocking that our womenfolk who constitutes half of the population from the very early age were the victims of different evils produced by society and no attention was paid towards girl child. Means our half population are not aware about their fundamental and legal rights. The thing is that they are not properly educated, they not been given proper teaching to how to use their rights. Making laws is not enough, but the right thing is that one should know its proper use at right time.

Basically all these are books talks, but the thing is that our female counterparts are still lagging behind in major things which was clearly indicated from the lower status of women in Indian society. Later on, they had to face a lot of discrimination in society and sometime in home also. Somehow the status of women is same, yes by the passage of time certain things are changed but there is a lot to be achieved. In early time period the women enjoyed an equal status over certain things. But later on with the passage of time certain major changes were made and meanwhile with the growth of different social evils the status of women goes much lower in the society. Social evils like sati system, child marriages, female infanticide, bad condition of widowhood and many more things degraded the status of women in society and they were treated as an object having no feelings. Same as happening in now-a-days scenario that women were no longer considered as a human being but merely as an object.

Women as a whole universally, considers as a symbol of 'Power and Energy'. As earlier women enjoyed equal status with men, but today their status is degrading due to several factors and also gender inequality, etc. are deeply rooted in Indian society. Human rights are the inherited rights by birth to all the human beings irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, sex and nationality. Now-a-days violence against women has become an alarming and chronic issue today, which mainly results in violation of their basic fundamental rights. As discrimination against women and violation of human values still persists.

Constitutional rights for women

The constitution of India has granted equal rights to the men and women. In fact, it confers special rights upon women. As Indian Constitution guarantees justice, liberty, and equality to all the citizens of India. In spite of this we will found a lot discrimination, injustice towards them. Different kinds of laws were made against them. Article 12 imply that state parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health. Article 13 includes that the state shall take all appropriate measures to remove discrimination against women in the field of economic and social life as to ensure equality. Article 14 states that State shall not deny to any person equality before the law. Article 15 ensure that there should be no discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex. Article 17 prohibits the practices of untouchability.



Though the articles contained in the constitution meant for the equality for all and non – discrimination on the grounds of sex, women is always discriminated and dishonored in Indian society. Although various efforts have been taken to improve the status of women in India, the constitutional dream of gender equality is still very miles away from becoming a reality. Article 42, directed to provide maternity relief to female workers. Over the years Indian Parliament have taken significant steps for through legislations to achieve the goal of empowering the women in India. Government in India has enacted a variety of laws like Dowry Prohibition Act, Sati prevention Act and many more to guarantee the rights of the women.

Basically there is a need to discuss the rights of the women separately because women counter parts represents more than half the population of India, then also yet she is discriminated and violated in every grounds of her life.

Certain Women Human Rights As Human Right In India

- Right to equality towards everything.
- Right to education.
- Right to live with respect.
- Right to political empowered.
- Right to have property in parental property.
- Right to equal opportunity for employment as men.
- Right to choose profession according to their choice.
- Right to get equal wages for equal work.
- Right to have protection from gender discrimination.
- Right to protection of health.

Different Kinds of Violation of Women Human Rights In India

Women's rights must be understood as human rights, by everyone. Basically, the human rights must begin at home. Women's are also the part of this society and their human rights are not only universal, but also indivisible. Women should be respected in this society because without respecting women's fundamental human rights, women's rights towards peace, equality and also for development are unattainable. In this today's scenario women and even small girls children also face human rights violations because of their sex. There are many ways in which women's human rights are violated in this society. It has been again and again said that in this 21st century women of India are enjoying the rights as equal to men. But in reality, the image is that the women in India have been the sufferers from past. It is right that we entered in this new global era but from earlier times women was facing discrimination, injustice and dishonour. Let us now discuss the various crimes done against the women in spite of being given rights equal as compared to men. These points given below will explain that continuation of violation of human rights of women in India.

Violation of Women Human Rights In Ancient Time

The following crimes were done against the women in the past times:

1. SATI: Sati is an old custom in Indian society in which widows were immolated alive on her husband's funeral pyre. In pre colonial India, it was banned by Raja, but this practice continued to prevail in post colonial India.
2. PURDAH: It bounds their right to interact and to move freely in the society and it is a symbol of the subordination of women. Women were bound to follow this system very seriously.
3. DEVADASIS: Devadasis was a religious practice in some parts of southern India, in which women were married to a deity or temple. Basically women were forcefully bound to do this practices.
4. EARLY MARRIAGE: Again one of the most crucial form of violation of women's human rights which mostly took by the decisions of the elders of the family. As a result was that it basically hampers the life of small girls by making small girls child widow.
5. FEMALE INFANTICIDE: Another evil which in another way violates the women's human rights in one of the most brutal form. In colonial era, the practice was prevalent in many of the provinces. With the Act of 1870 Prohibition on female infanticide, not much was attained.

Violation Of Human Rights In Present Time

1. Violation of Right to Equality: The World Human Rights Conference in Vienna first recognized gender – based violence as a human rights violation in 1993. The same was declared by United Nations Declaration in 1993. Basically women subjected to different kinds of discrimination on several grounds. They do not possess equality in society as men do. A woman even today was considered as unwanted child in the family.



2. Violation of Right To Education: Education is one of the means to become empower for any individuals of the society. Education can bring a new light of hope in anybody's life. Education act as milestone in terms of any individuals then also women were deprived from this right. They can be only using their different laws in their defense when only they are educated. Then only this can be fruitful to their life. Due to the less percentage of uneducated women in India, are deprived from their fundamental rights and would never fight for them.
3. Violation of Right To Property: Generally in most of the Indian families, women do not possessed equal amount of property on their own names and do not get share of parental property. Most of the women had very less or no right over the parental property due to which they had to face harassment after their married life also.
4. Violation of Right To Live With Dignity: Sexual harassment of different kinds is an act of terror that violates a woman's body, life and also self – respect. It is one of the terrific way through which a woman is systematically made to feel inferior, weak and afraid. Due to which they do not feel free to move in this cruel society. Thus, eve teasing denies a woman's fundamental right to move freely and carry herself with dignity.
5. Domestic violence, rape, child marriage, dowry harassment and bride burning are the certain examples of the different kinds of violation of fundamental right of women.

All these evils discussed above on behalf of women are frequently followed in this day-to-day world. As this shows that women or female are considered merely as an object by our society. On one hand we worship goddess or female deity on several occasions and on very next day we forget all rituals or customs and starts continue to again degrade her life. Violations of human rights especially with reference to women's rights can be lowered by telling them that they are also a human being like men who had their own life with their own decisions. Women and girl should be educated as education must be considered her first priority of life. Firstly, and foremost we have to education our women , girls then only they can use their certain right against them. Then only they understand the benefits of making different laws which are only for them.

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