

Awareness of Human Rights-Some Issues

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I. Introduction

Out of the various philosophical and religious traditions, what are the rights that all humans are supposed to have? There is of course no absolute agreement but there are certain rights that have been accepted by a large number of people at the dawn of the 21st century. Some basic Human Rights include:-

- Right to life
- Right to liberty
- Right to property
- Right to privacy
- Equal treatment before the law
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of religious worship
- Freedom from torture
- Freedom from cruel and inhuman
- Freedom of punishment
- Freedom from discrimination, whether base on race, gender, religion or sexual orientation
- Freedom of movement and residence
- Right to an adequate standard of living
- Right to education
- Right to information

The rights are not universally accepted by all societies, but they are accepted by many and are as stating place for discussion of Human Rights. They are not completely consists- What do we do if one persons rights of freedom from discrimination conflicts with another rights to speak racist world freely?-but nothing in Human society is consistent. In additional the sources of there rights are not completely agreed upon: are they legal rights, natural rights or do they stem from religious teaching? As long as the idea of Human Rights is accepted by many, however its exact origin may not be important.

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II. Human Rights in Abroad

The term Human Rights refer to the rights and privilege that every person in the world should expect to receive as a part of being Human. Human Rights have been violated throughout history and in virtually all know societies, as people have faced oppression (unjust or cruel excessive of authority) persecution and exploitation (relationship in which one side benefits at the other expenses). Only after World War II (1939-45) did Human Rights become an important international issue and a serious concern of nations around the world.

III. Human Rights in Practice

Most countries support the idea of Human Rights. Some work hard to ensure that the rights of their citizens are protected and apply political and economic pressure to compel other countries to abide by Human Rights principles. Other Nations do little to protest the Human Rights for their citizen.

Early in the 21st century, million of people around the world were suffering from serious violations of their basic rights and freedom-everything from torture, rape and genocide (deliberate and systematic killing of a particular ethnic, religion or national group) to political killing and imprisonment, and forced labour. Greece and Japan were among the countries that allowed thousand of women to be imported and sexually exploited as prostitutes. Roma (Gypsies) faced discrimination, harassment, violence in most European, Central Asia, North American countries.

The civil war that raged in many countries added greatly to the number of human rights violations. The international community failed to persuade Russia to end massive abuses by its armed forces in Chechnya. Young children served as soldiers in countries such as Colombia, Sierra, Sri Lanka. More than half a million people were killed in the genocidal civil war in Rwanda in the mid-1990s and millions more were forced to in exile.

In US after the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, the federal government took actions that some people regarded as Human Rights Violations. President George W. Bush decreed that suspected terrorist could be tried by special military commission instead of by regular criminal courts. The department of Justice admitted detaining some 1100 people and refused at first to release their names, locations and the basis for their detection.

IV. In Support of Human Rights

Several private international organizations including Human Rights Watch strive to keep the Human Rights violations in the public eye.

Although progress has been made in addressing the very worst abuses many others exceed the ability of international institutions to deal with them. More vigorous efforts to bring Human Rights violators to justice are so very needed if all the world people are going to gain their full rights as human beings.

V. Human Rights Watch-1978

As the largest Human Rights organization based in the US, Human Rights Watch investigates Human Rights abuses in all regions of the world. Upon publishing its findings Human Rights Watch prompts media to cover such incidents of Human Rights Violations. Then the group turns its attention to abusive government in effort to shame them by doing so, state officials are pressured to refrain from harmful tactics. Human Rights Watch also meets directly with government officials and in extreme cases it calls for the withdrawals of internationally military and economic support for that nation.

Human Rights Watch believes that international standards of Human Rights apply to all people equally and that sharp vigilance and time protest can prevent the atrocities of the 20th century from recurring. The group promotes the idea that progress can be made when people of good will organize and challenge Human Rights abuses. Human Rights Watch is committed to accurate reporting and maintain its independence by not accepting financial support from any government or government fund agency. It depends solely on the contribution from private foundation and individuals donations.

VI. Human Rights in India

Despite extensive constitutional and statutory safeguard, there are many human rights abuses in India, some of which can be traced to intense social tension, secessionist movement and security forces attempts to repress these elements. Extra judicial execution and political killings including deaths while in custody- as well as excessive use of force, disappearances, torture and rape by security forces have been reported particularly in Jammu & Kashmir, whose judicial system has been disrupted by the armed conflict between government forces and armed separatist group. Impunity or freedom from fear of punishment has been and remains a serious problem in such areas. Despite the record of abuses the India defense minister told in parliament that during the first half of 1998 no members of the army had been prosecuted and punished for any of these crimes, nor had any compensation been paid to the victims or their families.

The dispute over Jammu & Kashmir stems from the desire of many Kashmiris to merge with Pakistan. India nationalists are together to let this

region secede and have even fought battles over it part of which is now under Pakistan control.

The Jammu & Kashmir distributed Areas Act of 1990, which has been in force in several districts in Andhra Pradesh, gives police extra ordinary power of arrest and detention. Police officials in these areas rarely if ever are held accountable for Human Rights abuses. According to Human Rights group, security forces have also kept prisoners in incommunicado detention and such missing persons have often been found dead. Thousand of people are held by the military and para military forces in log term, unacknowledged detention in interrogation centers and transits campus in Jammu & Kashmir, as well as in the northeast. These campuses are supposedly intended for only short-term confinement. Human Rights groups are afraid that many of these acknowledge prisoners are subject to torture and extra judicial killings.

Although the law prohibit torture and confession extracted by force are generally in admissible in court, torture is common throughout the country. Authorities systematically use torture during interrogations both for punishment and to extort money. Rape is also common as part of the broader pattern of custodial abuse. Although explicit guidelines exist on the arrest search and police custody of women, rape still occurs systematically.

Prisoners operate above capacity and are often severely over crowded because the court system itself is over loaded. The result has been the detention of thousand of persons awaiting trial for period longer than they would receive as sentences of convicted. Prisoners may be held for month or year before obtaining a trial date. Further more, food and medical care in prison are inadequate.

Citizen may emigrate without restriction and enjoy freedom of movement within the country except in certain border areas where special permits are required. The Government prohibit the foreign travel of some government critics, especially those advocates Sikh independence. On occasion Human Rights activist in Jammu & Kashmir, fearing threats by militants and security forces, have been unable to move around the state to document Human Rights violations. International Human Rights group have had difficulty in obtaining Visas to visit India for research purpose.

Despite laws designed to prevent discrimination based on ethnicity, religion and language, other laws coupled with social and cultural practice promote discrimination. According to National Commission for SC & ST, caste clashes are common in UP, Bihar, Tamil Nadu. In general, strong prejudice still exists against Dalits also called "untouchable" -by the members of India's other caste. While the government officials condemns racist attack on dalits, they often do little to prevent them. Dalits, today like

Africans Americans in the US in the 1950s, still do not have equal political and social standing with higher caste in India.

Although many law protects the right of women-including the Equal Remuneration, The Prevention of Immoral Traffic Act, the state- the government often fails to enforce these laws especially in rural areas where the traditions is deeply rooted. Domestic violence is very common and dowry disputes pose a serious problem. In the typical dispute a groom family members harass a women whom they believe has not provided a sufficient dowry. This harassment often result in the women death which family members try to portray as suicide or kitchen accident. According to Women Rights Commission of India and NGO, more than 7000 women and children are brought into the country annually from neighboring states for the sex trade.

Freedom of the press exists in India. Newspaper and magazines regularly publish investigative reports on Human Rights violations and allegations of government wrong doing. In contrast, television and radio, which are basically government monopolies, are frequent accused of manipulating the new to benefit the government. A government censorship board reviews film before licensing them for distribution and deletes materials that portray the government in the unfavorable rights.

In recent years, India has made minimal progress in resolving the Human Rights problem. In Punjab the serious abuses of the early 1990s were acknowledge and condemned by the Supreme Court. Ongoing prison visits to Jammu & Kashmir by the International committee of the Red Cross have demonstrated at the last some government openness on Human Rights problem. However, researchers for International Human Rights organization such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are not permitted to visit certain areas of the country where Human Rights violations are the worst.

Thus from the above discussion we conclude that their should be a proper ways in finding the justice. In this regard if we need to borrow the common laws to safeguard the innocent that must be applied so the we can live in peace