

HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEDIA

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Abstract: “Press freedom is cornerstone of Human Rights. It holds governments responsible for their acts and serves a warning to all that impurity is an illusion”

Keyword: Human Rights , Medieval , Classical , Contemporary Social .

INTRODUCTION

The concept Human Rights is a remarkable contribution of the classical, medieval, modern and contemporary social and political thought to the culture and civilization of mankind. The case of human rights has now assumed a significance of its own because of the new realization. The matter being thought, discussed at various international, multinational and regional meets has now come to have a concrete form of its own after the General Assembly of United Nations adopted the universal declaration of Human Rights 1948.

MEANING AND CONCEPT:

The most stretching feature of human rights is that, “they may be difficult to define but impossible to ignore”. The theorists, the politicians and the statesman, may quarrel about the forms of government or the principles of statescraft, they cannot repudiate the facts of torture, hunger, genocide, arbitrary detentions in concentration camps and the like.

Man as a member of the human society has some rights in order to service as well as to make his life better. So A.A Said opines, Human rights are therefore, concerned with dignity of the individual the level of self esteem that service, personal identify and promotes Human community.

According to American secretary of state human rights have three important features. “First there is the right to be free from government violation of the integrity include torture, cruel, a person such violation inhuman, degrading treatment of punishment, arbitrary arrest or imprisonment. Second, there is the right to the fulfillment of such vital needs as food, Shelter, healthcare and education and third, there is the right to enjoy civic and political liberates. Human rights has no signal and simple conception of its real meaning, it has varies from time to time, place to place, people to people. The real meaning keeps on evolving with the changing times and under constantly shifting social and economic conditions. As an Indian eminent writer, S.C Kashyap opines, The

foundations norm governing the concept of human rights is that of the respect for human personality and absolute worth, regardless of color, race, sex, religion and for the adequate development of the human personality and for human happiness without getting involved in definitional controversies therefore, human rights may be said to be those fundamental rights to which every man or woman inhabiting any part of the world should be deemed entitled, merely by virtue of having been a human being. Looking in to that sense the paper tries to analyze the women issues, children issues, and the human rights.

WOMEN ISSUES IN HUMAN RIGHTS:

Protection of women rights is an integral element of human rights but discrimination against women starts from the womb. The practice of feticide following amniocentesis is prevalent among sophisticated, educated urban and upper middle class families.

Discrimination in jobs, partiality in feeding and clothing of boys and girls in the same family, eve-teasing, deliberate and unprovoked attacks on women, molestation, rape, sexual harassment and even brutal murders are taking place in urban and rural areas, all of which are violation of human rights.

CHILDREN ISSUES AS HUMAN RIGHTS:

Children are the weaker section of the society and their problems are also part and parcel of human rights. A news item published in The Hindu dated 27/7/1999 reported the inhuman treatment meted out to a little boy who made some minor mistake in his job at a type retreating outlet at samadhanpur on the Thiruvanathapuram-Tirunelveli highway. Human Rights violations of this kind are going on in different parts of India but many of us are unaware of it.

Man is born free, but every where he is chained. Sometimes he finds it difficult to perform his duties. Sometimes it is difficult for him to get his rights, sometimes demanding for his rights also becomes his duty. So it seems

human rights and duties are complimentary and supplementary to each other.

In absolute sense, human rights and duties were born when man was born and shall survive as long as man survives. All are equal. But some are more equal than the others. Partialities in human rights and partialities in human duties are clearly visible in our society on many occasions. Now the question that would arise is how one should perform human duties, how one should fight for human rights, how one should protect the violation of human rights and human duties. Here comes the role of media.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND ROLE OF MEDIA:

Media is not a judge, not an advocate, not an activist, not a social agent or not a social reformer. Media is a mirror, it is a torch bearer, a catalytic agent, who tries to give new directions or new dimensions to the society.

Media has emerged as an industry, its primary concern is public utility service. The realities are affecting coverage of issues related to natural human rights and consequence of human rights and human duties. The print media is now trying to mould public opinion about human rights and duties. The print media is now trying to mould public opinion about human rights. It studies the women issues as human rights. It observes the child issues as human rights.

Although the concept of human rights came into existence in 1948 with the UN's Universal Declaration to that effect in India the National Human Rights commission came into existence in the year 1993, with the protection of Human Rights Act-1993.

However, there is still lack of awareness about the human rights related issues. With the reporting and promotion of these issues and exposure to the violation of Human Rights media can serve in the interest of human rights. The media can play a pivotal role by way of building up public opinion and also by impressing on the government the need to incorporate the subject of human rights, both in schools and also in police training academics and also in the training institutes of municipal councils, corporations and other revenue departments. In India, the press played a very crucial role from the time of the freedom struggle.

MEDIA AS A BULWARK AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION:

The violation of the human rights is inexcusable at every level. We must empower ourselves to bring critical issue of hunger, human development, gender equality, sustainable employment and environment protection. Police are very often accused of violating human rights, but sadly, no effort is made to include the subject in the curriculum of police training academics.

The print media has played a significant role during the last twenty five years or so in reporting the violation of human rights.

CONCLUSION:

It may be concluded that, in molding the rights of the people, Indian print media as a self referential subsystem has contributed largely Structural coupling of Indian print

media with India Judiciary created a cumulative impact on the human rights regime as envisaged in the Indian constitution. Therefore it may be said that, Indian print media cannot ignore the human rights perspective in their reporting. Further, it may be concluded that print media has a great role in strengthening democratic values in society and promoting human rights including children's rights. The biggest need even today in Indian scene is to provide conditions that will remove abject poverty and enable men, women and children to fulfill their basic needs.

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