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ROLE OF EDUCATION IN PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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ABSTRACT :

The term human rights denotes all rights that are present in our society and without which one cannot live as human beings. Human rights are the basic rights that a person irrespective of race, gender or any other background cannot be denied anywhere or at any condition. Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination.

Education has a very important role to play for promotion and protection of human rights. Education makes us aware about our civil and political right often called as the first generation rights and the social, economic and cultural rights as the second generation rights. The concept of expanding human rights through education is now popularly present and traveled to encompass as the third generation rights itself. So it is very important that we know what is the role of education in promotion and protection of human rights.

This article enhances the importance of human rights in day to day life and the role of education in protecting and promoting them. It is shown here the potential of education to inculcate and imbibe the values of human rights and values in a person and use them in his life. The paper concludes with some suggestive measures that should be taken as a part of education programmes.

KEYWORDS : Education, Human Rights, violation, Eradication.

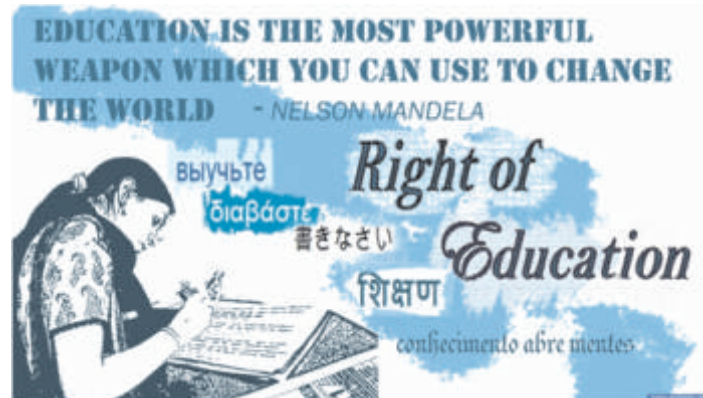
INTRODUCTION

Education has a very important role to play for promotion and protection of human rights. Education makes us aware about our civil and political right often called as the first generation rights and the social, economic and cultural rights as the second generation rights. Without proper education one cannot be introduced with these essential philosophic and there basic rights and obligations. The concept of expanding human rights through education is now popularly present and traveled to encompass as the third generation rights itself. So it is very important that we know what is the role of education in promotion and protection of human rights. Being a tool to spread awareness and information and assimilating, creating and disseminating knowledge amongst its recipients, education can play a crucial role at each of levels for promotion and protection of human rights. But, unfortunately the education system, except for last few years after the establishment of Indian institute of human rights in 1990 which registered Universities for offering such courses in 10 December 1999, has hardly shown any credible in regards of evolvement of human rights and its protection.

The development of effective educational policies requires knowledge and understanding of current



research on key human rights issues. This panel explored good practices for the incorporation of existing research into the formulation and implementation of human rights educational policies. It examined how to strengthen the relationship between research institutes and policy-making bodies. A strong partnership between the two is needed for the sustainability of human rights education through appropriate programmes and monitoring mechanisms.



Education has been recognized not only as a right in itself but also as a mechanism for the pursuit of other human rights. Literacy enables a person to think rationally, to be understanding, to be more responsible, demand for protection and to make own decisions. On the contrary, illiteracy is the mother of all issues as it gives birth to many other issues like poverty, unemployment and delay in help-seeking behavior. While the constitution of India provides free and compulsory primary education, actual delivery remains patchy. India has 35% of the world's total illiterates and has been ranked 105th in the Global Monitoring Report (GMR), 2008. People with mental illness experience a lot of stigma and discrimination and those with illiteracy and mental illness are double discriminated. Mental illness and illiteracy can contribute toward staggering economic and social costs. In developing countries, up to 90% of people with psychiatric disabilities live with their families. The extent of family support for people with psychiatric disabilities has often been cited as a major factor in the rehabilitation process and family environment serves as a protective factor in recovery of people with mental illness.

ROLE OF TEACHERS

The teachers relate to administrators, parents, community members, to teachers, other staff and students. In relationship with students, teachers are clearly super ordinate. The recognition of the power of the teacher is the predominant feature of the relationship between the teacher and the student. The teacher plays the roles of diagnostician & prognostician of student behaviour, planner, initiator & supervisor of classroom learning activities, evaluator, model, counsellor & guide, disciplinarian, machine operator and clerk.

Even before we embark on HRE, the teachers should know the rights of children and respect them. As teachers, it is not just what we teach matters, but it is also what we do that matters. Equality, the principle that the best interests of the child shall be the primary consideration in 7 actions concerning children, respect for the views of the child are the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of a Child³⁰. Children have right to leisure, play, recreational & cultural activities, apart from civil rights, liberties, right to health, right to family environment & educational right. While devising class room activities, disciplining, and evaluating, the interests of the child shall be borne in mind. 'Student Welfare' shall be the beacon light guiding all actions.

CO-CURRICULAR AND OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS

The teacher can play a decisive role in selecting and assigning projects on human rights. Dramatic clubs and literary activities can be utilized effectively. Students can be motivated to write poetry, drama and essays on human rights. Poster making competition, elocution or contests, debates etc. can also be held on similar themes.

The school can celebrate the 'World Human Rights Day' which can go a long way to create awareness among students, parents and the neighborhood community. Parents day, grand parents day can be used to create awareness among parents and grandparents thereby reaching to people beyond the learners in the school.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEACHERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION :

It is very important that Teacher plays a very import role development of the standards among the students. From the childhood it is essential that the teacher should focus on the rights of the individual. As a human being what are the rights

1. Bring to the notice of other teachers, the principal ,the textbook writers and the concerned government authority any aberrations in text books. Wrong messages should have no room. The textbooks should be meticulously examined.
2. Take initiatives to enrich the school library and personal collection with books and materials on human rights.

Role of education in promotion and protection of Human Rights:

Human rights are commonly understood as basic fundamental rights that a person cannot be denied by any individual or any government simply because he or she is a human being. They are universal and same for everyone. Human rights entail both right and obligation. Human rights developing from the concepts of natural lights became culminate with the thoughts of philosophers like John Locke, Francis Hutcheson, and Jean-Jacques Burlamaqui and became prominent with American Revolution and French Revolution. Most of the basic ideas and norms of human rights existing now adopted as Universal Declaration of Human Rights by United Nations General Assembly in 1948 has its root from Second World War and the atrocities of The Holocaust. Every year 10 December is celebrated as Human Rights Day.

A comprehensive education in human rights consists of two components: knowledge and information on human rights and the mechanisms that protect these inalienable rights. It is important that education also impart the skills needed to promote, defend, and apply human rights in daily life. Education about human rights is distinct from other types of values education. The need of promoting & protecting all human rights is important in order to secure full & universal enjoyment of these rights cannot be fulfilled without mass awareness and sensitivity to human rights issues. The human rights protection and promotion of gender equality requires more than numerical equilibrium, it also requires conceptual equilibrium, and a conscientious effort to redress inequality, as it exists. Education is a tool for creating the real idea of human rights and making people know its importance in their day to day life. It is also a tool for eliminating the violations of human rights. An educated civilization can only know its rights and hence have the knowledge to protect it.

Human Rights Act 1998

- Right to life
- Right to liberty and security
- No punishment without law
- Right to respect for private and family life
- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Right to marry
- Protection of property
- Right to education
- Right to free elections

Without education, we cannot realize how people of other races and religions share the same dreams, the same hopes. Without education, we cannot recognize the universality of human aims and aspirations. It is

important to make each and every people literate just not in order to make them educated and capable of earning but also recognize their rights towards themselves and each other. An educated person only can stand for its right. Article 51A(1) of Indian Constitution 1950, imposes a duty on all citizens to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry & reform. The effective discharge of this duty will require HRE to give people enhanced awareness & greater openness. The Constitution mandates the state to direct its policy towards securing that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom & dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral & material abandonment.

Initiatives to be taken by the government to enhance the Quality Education:

It is very essential to the government to take initiatives and implement the education policies to promote quality of education in the rural areas especially. As per the study it is observed that most of the individuals are being violated with the human rights. This violation of human rights are due to lack of education to them. The government must take initiatives towards effective implementation of compulsory education among the children from the age group of 5-14 yrs without any discrimination in the gender.

- Access to the schools within the three km radius near to the residence.
- Enrolling all the children in schools from 5yrs. onwards
- Taking steps towards dropping of the children from schools
- Providing the quality education in the government schools
- Providing child friendly atmosphere in schools
- Skill development programmes to the students
- Establishing girl schools
- Updating the syllabus and curriculum from time to time
- Imparting Information Technology Education to the school children.

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES :-

- Abolition of Child Labour
- Combating Sexual Harassment of Women
- Harassment of Women at work place
- Abolition of Manual Scavenging
- Dalits issues including atrocities perpetrated on them
- Problems faced by Denotified and Nomadic Tribes
- Rights of the Disabled
- Right to Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Girl Child Protection

Most of the above issues are due to the lack of education among the people. Most of the human rights of the individual are violated due to the lack of the knowledge among them. Education is the only way which can protect and safeguard the rights of the individual. Until and unless the individual is educated is he or she is treated as an animal in the society. They are aware from the development and their rights. Even though some of them are educated due to the lack of law rules and regulations they are lagging behind.

Compulsory Education to stop violation of human rights

Education must be imparted compulsory at the school level only. Most of the children are dropping out from the schools due to the

- Access of school in rural areas,
- Poverty,
- Illiterate parents,
- Gender discrimination

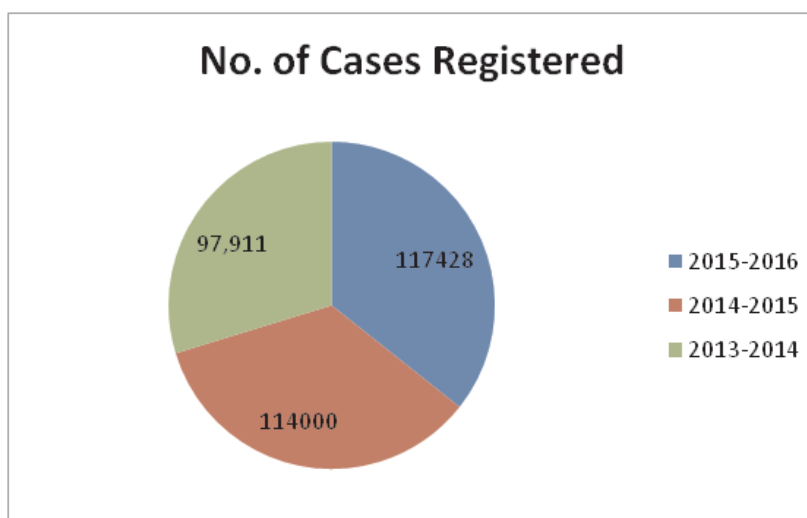
- lack of quality education in government schools etc.,

above mentioned are few reasons for the low literacy rate in the rural areas. There is a need to improve the quality of education in the government schools. Only through education only we can stop the violation of Human Rights in the society.

Impact

At the national level, the NHRC registered 1,17,428 human rights cases in 2015-2016, compared to to 97,911 in 2013- 2014. The National Human Rights Commission received 1.14 lakh complaints in 2014-15. NHRC said there are over 35,000 complaints pending for disposal. At the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), the majority of complaints are related to ‘law and order’ — 38 out of 1,404 in 2014-15.

Year	No. of Cases Registered
2015-2016	1,17,428
2014-2015	1,14,000
2013-2014	97,911



From the above diagram it is shown the number of cases registered at the NHRC year wise. It is clear that the number of cases against the violation of human rights is increasing from year to year. This is due to lack of awareness and illiteracy among the public. This type of violation of human rights can only be prevented when every individual gets educated and has the awareness about the rights.

It is found that most of the cases filed by the public are from the social deprived community i.e SC, ST and Women. The victims are from the rural areas and they are mostly illiterates. Due to not having the knowledge of the Human Rights they are being towards humiliation in the society.

Even though we are rushing towards the era of globalization and information technology on one side on the other side we can still find the humiliation of people in one way or the other in the society. From day to day there is an increase in the number of cases by which we can imagine the present position in the society. Mostly the deprived communities and women are being the victims in such cases.

CONCLUSION:

Human Rights Education is considered as one of the major tools to stop the violations against human rights. From the above discussion we saw the importance and how education can play a vital role in this regard. Education should be imparted to each and everyone so that they understand the importance of human rights. Equality shall be the primary consideration in actions concerning children, respect for the views of the child are

the general principals of the Convention on the Rights of a child. Education in their own mother language about human rights will make the learners more prompt about their values and ways to use them in their day to day life. The values of cultural diversity and social diversity should be inculcated as a basic teaching. For integration of human rights, the relevant subjects at the primary stage are languages & environmental studies. Stories, poems and songs concerning human rights values will have to be selected. Education should impart gender equality, respect for human dignity and rights.



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