

Vol 7 Issue 2 Nov 2017

ISSN No : 2249-894X

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*Monthly Multidisciplinary  
Research Journal*

*Review Of  
Research Journal*

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2249-894X

Review Of Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

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## GLOBAL POLITICS AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS –STATE INTERVENTIONS - ISSUES AND SUGGESTIONS



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**'We had these truths to be self evident that all men are treated equal that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights'**  
- Thomas Jefferson

### ABSTRACT:-

The modern idea of the Human Rights was developed in early modern Europe in the form of natural rights means god gives us rights fundamental to human beings and are therefore inalienable meaning they cannot be taken away. Post world war II gradually has witnessed unstable governments in many nations. The rebel groups have developed within these nations and are successful to acquire the modern warfare equipments internally and with the support of the arms supplying nations. These rebel groups are trying to oust the government in power for various reasons and sometimes in the name of god or saving the nation, threatening the peace and stability within and outside their nations that may also provoke the worst face of warfare techniques viz., chemical wars, nuclear threatening, mass killings, ethnic cleansing etc. Modern nations especially developed nations are intervening or transgressing into the affected countries on the pretext of protection of the human rights or for the welfare of the people. The United Nations is also acknowledging the

legitimacy of this kind of intervention. The interveners are playing the role of protectors of humanity in the affected states that are taking necessary steps to control the opposition to their governance on the one hand and suppressing the opposition or challenge to their regime by the opposition groups whether armed or un-armed by all means on the other hand and protecting their country from terrorism, occupation, distress, etc., but the purpose of these intervening states is appreciable until everything is positive but these states are facing world wide criticism that they are intervening in the state administration by trying to influence the government by supporting it or even removing it and trying to bring in the new regime or capture the country or controlling their economic activities or providing arms and money to the rebel groups to oust the government out of power and thereby creating chaos and threatening the peace and stability of the affected nations. Various forms of intervention is justified until the results are positive but when it involves the extent to affect the local people's culture, society, traditions, political and economic activities in a negative way then the criticism increases and the effective steps taken by the intervening country may face opposition and may also lead the way contrary to the development of both the countries and may face the loss of life, stability, property and peace.

**KEYWORDS:** Human Rights, Stability, Arms Regime, Military Intervention, Humanitarian Intervention, Peace, Terrorism, United Nations, Legitimacy, Discrimination, Slavery, Liberty, Eurocentrism, Non

*Governmental Organisations (NGO'S).*

## **INTRODUCTION :**

Humanitarianism means the process of taking care of the population and their overall welfare and good living conditions in all forms by the show of belongingness, generosity, love, compassion, kindness, charity, and so on and so forth. Internationally efforts were made by the majority of the countries during the nineteenth and the twentieth century through sincere attempts to establish the standards for the international common conduct. Violations of human rights is being witnessed since the evolution of human beings on this earth. It is continued in one form or the other. The whole world has been involved to provide better and peaceful living environment to the people within their jurisdiction and if need arises are extending necessary help to maintain the same in other nations by all means. Several nations are frequently witnessing the violations of human rights between the various groups of people or between the government and the people and so on. This violation of human rights is being criticised by the world nations and the United Nations Organisation and offers help to curb them if they cannot control by themselves and several powerful nations even intervene in the affected nations where they are not controlling it altogether with or without the permission of the affected nation. If this intervention is positive and limited upto the protection of human rights then it is appreciated but in many cases the intervening nations are slowly and gradually trying to involve in its social, economic and political aspects and this kind of attitude is widely criticised by the world governments.

## **Approaches to the study of Human Rights**

### **The Realist Approach**

It studies Human Rights as a soft issue on security and prosperity. Human Rights as a hard issue deals with what is rather than what should be the national interests and what should be taken as a precedence over any individual based conception of morality.

### **The liberal approach**

It studies the Human Rights as a natural right above the ideological differences to challenge the tyranny of government that opposes the rights of the people and a situation of insecurity of life and property. For instance the British, American and the French revolutions were fought for the civil, political and the fundamental rights.

### **Humanitarian Intervention**

It is a process of being concerned with the interests of humanity specifically through a desire to promote the welfare or reduce the suffering of the people in other states by the intervening parties. The modern idea of humanitarian intervention during the post cold war period or new world order scenario emerged on the pretext of protecting the humanity. It is a kind of activity by one state against the another state with or without the latter's consent. The international law states that the states sovereignty and borders should be respected while intervening in the affected nations. For instance in 1971, Indian Army intervened in a civil war between East and West Pakistan helping East Pakistan to gain its independence as Bangladesh.

## **International recognition for the protection of Human Rights**

The efforts for the protection of human rights globally has been recognised and being supported by all the nations. Several significant events that were undertaken for the protection of human rights are mentioned below:

- + Formation of the Anti-Slavery society in 1837 is claimed to be the first Human Rights NGO in the whole world.
- + Geneva and Hague convention for the regulation of the conduct of war.
- + Universal Declaration of the Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.
- + A code for member states by the International covenant on social rights, political rights, cultural rights, civil

rights, economic rights, was established as the modern human rights agenda in the post II world war era.

- ✦ The International protection of Human Rights law making process was accomplished after the murder of the six million Jews Gypsies and slaves during the World War II.

It is notably possible to state that certain values and principles are applicable to all people and all the societies regardless of their historical, cultural, political, economic, military strength and other differences.

### **Strengthening and acknowledging of Human Rights Protection**

The process of protecting the human rights among the nations that were moving ahead towards the democratic process from monarchy, tyranny and aristocratic despotism got strengthened and gradually acknowledged its significance since the seventeenth century and now everywhere the buzz word of human rights can be heard globally and the media and the constitutional governments have undertaken tremendous steps to protect the rights of the people from all walks of lives: Some of these major developments are stated below:

#### **I. Civil and Political Rights**

These are the earliest forms of the Human Rights. These rights were acknowledged through the English Revolution of seventeenth century and the American and French Revolution of the eighteenth century. The watch words of their struggle for freedom and protection of human rights are mentioned below:

- Freedom from discrimination, slavery, arbitrary arrest.
- Right to life, liberty and property.
- Negative rights, freedom of civil rights, Rights to freedom of speech, press and movement.
- Rights of participation and access to power-civil rights.

#### **II. Economic and Cultural Rights-Post 1945 scenario**

In contrast with the traditional liberal rights-social justice, unequal class power, social security rights, work, health care and education to challenge the inequalities in market capitalism and to protect colonial people from exploitation. Positive rights were provided through state intervention and welfare of worker rights. The human dignity was threatened by maintenance of such rights requires material resources and political capabilities that many states do not possess. If the states fail then on whom does the obligation fall-on and this kind of responsibility may be the undertaken by the other states/ international organisations or people of the world is a big question in front of everyone globally.

#### **III. Solidarity Rights**

During the past 1945 Human Rights scenario the social group or society as opposed to the individual is being witnessed. In the first stage a tilt was noticed towards the liberalism mainly in United Nations Declaration (Articles 3-21) an international covenant on civil and political rights. Secondly, United Nations Declaration (Articles 22-27) state about the Right to Self Determination, Decolonization, Right to Development and Peace. Thirdly, the concerns for global and national liberation movements viz., Stockholm Conventions on Human Environment, 1972, Rio Earth Summit 1992 and so on can be stated as the best examples of solidarity rights globally.

#### **Human Rights and post modernism**

The Human Rights need to take account of the political and cultural context within which the ideas emerged. The right enjoyed by one society or individual may not be the right for other societies and similarly it is a kind of position that suggests that outside world should respect the choice made by the individual nation states.

### **Cultural Imperialism**

The application of values and theories from European culture to other groups or people implying a biased or distorted view point on the nations that are intervened by these powerful nations without considering their socio-economic, cultural and political life is posing serious issues of human rights violations.

### **Euro centrism**

The political hegemony of Europe in particular and west in general through demanding stereotypes of people or culture of the Middle East and sometimes it is extended to include all the non-western people is considered as the violations of human rights.

### **Asian Values**

The social hegemony, respect for authority, belief in family, social cohesion etc., also pose as the hindrances to the Human Rights Protection.

### **Rejection of Apostasy**

The abandonment of one's religions is considered as a hindrance to the protection of human rights.

### **Islamic critique of Human Rights**

The Cairo Declaration of Human Rights on Islamic Rights derive from divine rather than Human Beings is also looked upon as a threat to the peaceful living by the human rights activists world wide.

### **Challenges of sovereign nations in protection of Human Rights**

The modern governments are witnessing numerous challenges in protecting the human rights and in providing a peaceful environment for the all round development of their nations to the fullest extent. The belief that ideas and values are valid only in relation to the particular social, cultural and historical conditions implying that these are no universal truths or no universal moral values.

### **Conditions of Humanitarian Intervention**

The intervening nations justify the intervention on various conditions existing at that particular point of time and some of them are stated below:

1. Just cause for which military intervention is needed.
2. Right authority that legitimises it.
3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) contains 29 Articles violation of Human Rights that legitimises the intervention.
4. Genocide: To destroy in whole or in part national, ethnic, social or religious groups.
5. Protecting the State Sovereignty.
6. Killing members of a group.
7. Crime against humanity.
8. Responsibility to prevent atrocities of all forms.
9. Causing the bodily harm/mental/psychological harms.
10. Responsibility to Rebuild the affected nations.
11. Composition of ethical theories that allow states to raise the lives of their own military personnel in order to save strangers.
12. Insufficient account of ethical pluralism.
13. It may allow last resort principle basic to most versions of a just war to be downgraded for the protection of Human Rights.
14. United Nations Genocide Contention (1948)
15. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the groups.
16. To wipe out particular group of people, ethnic cleansing means forcibly relocating an Ethnic group (for



instance Rohingya crisis in Myanmar)

17. Responsibility to protect (R2P) produced by the International Commission on interventions and state sovereignty set up by Canadian Government in 2000. R2P outlines the just two criteria for the justifiable military action viz., 1. Large scale loss of life 2. Large scale ethnic cleansing like killing, forcible expulsion.

18. States right to sovereignty is conditional on fulfilling its duty to protect its citizens.

19. International Debate on Humanitarian Interventions, etc.

When the issues of protecting the common humanity, obligation to solve and protect the affected population, global independence, protecting regional stability, to build up international community and shared values, promoting democracy globally the humanitarian interventions are justified as positive action. On the other hand, it is considered as negative action when it is considered as against the international law, violation of national interests, double standards like absence of the media coverage, exploitation of natural resources of the intervened state, exploitation of women and children, aged, diseased, depressed castes, etc.

### MAJOR CAUSES FOR HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS

An intervention is humanitarian only if it results in a net improvement in the conditions of affected human beings and a reduction in human suffering but if it gradually tries to grab the territories of the affected nations or interferes in the socio-economic, political or cultural life of the people then it is treated as violations of the affected people and further causing threat to peaceful living of the people. Several major causes responsible for interventions in post cold war era are as follows:

- + War on terror.
- + Economic Backwardness
- + Structural Imbalances.
- + Inequalities within the global system.
- + Natural Resources.
- + Liberal Interventionism.
- + Change of Regime.
- + Democratic Protection.
- + Internal conflicts of states affecting the international markets of the nations involved.
- + Zones of turmoil-due to disorder and chaos.
- + Superpower rivalry and balance of terror.
- + International norms and standards of morality.
- + States could no longer restrict their moral responsibility to their own people.
- + Internal factors like the faults within the society itself.
- + Emergence of the dictatorial government.
- + Corruption.
- + Pariah State.
- + Social Backwardness.
- + Structural adjustment programmes imposed by International Monetary fund and the World Bank.
- + Precedence of the national interests to the regional interests within the states and thereby exploitation of the regional people.

### Implications of the Global Politics and Human Rights Interventions

The political motives of the world nations and a pretext of protection of human rights through interventions are having their own implications and are being condemned by the affected nations on one hand and by the nations that oppose that kind of situations worldwide :

- It affects the domestic and international policies.
- Treatment of the domestic population by the intervening states.
- Humanitarian interventions affect the socio-economic and cultural lives of the local people.

- It poses a threat to individualism.
- The growth and development of the nations get affected.
- Peace gets disturbed and insecurity increases.
- Minorities rights might be violated.
- It may pose a severe threat to the weaker sections, aged, diseased especially women and children.

### Suggestions for a balanced path of protecting Human Rights through state interventions:

The interventions by the nations is treated as a threat due to the instances of influencing their socio-economic and political environment. To overcome this drawback it should be made acceptable to all the nations and several significant aspects need to be followed and acknowledged by the intervening nations for the protection of human rights and they are mentioned below:

- United Nations Charter should be strictly adhered to in the promotion of universal respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
- United Nations Declaration is not a legally binding treaty. It is seen as a customary international law that is used to apply diplomatic and moral pressure to government that violate any of its articles so the intervening nations should take due steps to not overtake the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights.
- States could no longer violate Human Rights without the risk that their actions would come across the agenda of principal organs of United Nations for the protection of Human Rights.
- International Bill of Human Rights should be considered while intervening and should be adhered to in all respects.
- To promote world wide respect for Human Rights enshrined in international laws by supporting the bodies created by Human Rights should be acknowledged and considered while intervening for the protection of Human Rights.
- International organisations should play a key role in highlighting Human Rights violations by intervening nations and impose sanctions in case of any threat to the peace of the affected nations.
- The intervening nations if intervene for the protection of Human Rights then they should be positively welcomed but if they pose a threat to Human Rights then Naming and Shaming process should be undertaken if it violates the Human Rights.
- To make recommendations to United Nations General Assembly which can advise the United Nations Security Council in case of threat to Human Rights in the affected intervened nations.
- Human Rights Watch should be encouraged to play a key role in highlighting of the events of the intervened nations globally and due actions should be taken by the international efforts to curb further threat to Human Rights in the affected nations.
- International Red Cross Society should play a significant role of protection of Human Rights in the affected regions of world.
- Monitoring and visiting the camps of prisoners of war, organising relief assistance for civilian population and administering the exchange of prisoners and missing persons should be carried out by the joint efforts of the nations against the intervened nations if it poses threat to the Human Rights.

### CONCLUSION

Peaceful coexistence is a necessary condition for the all round development of the nations in the present globalization era. Internal issues of several nations and its failures to overcome them resulting in the loss of life and property of their people and posing as a major cause for the failure of international markets and even causing threat to the Human Rights and stability of the neighbouring nations should be extended support to overcome it, but in case if the situation is above the limitations of control then the protection of Human Rights and its impact on the neighbouring nations and affecting the international economic activities should be controlled by the efforts of international organisations and the nations willing to protect them. These interventions should be strictly monitored and due care should be taken to avoid any kind of threat for peaceful living of the affected nations and its people by the intervening nations. It should further be acceptable by the



international community thereby establishing the stability of the affected nations and gradually withdrawing after the peaceful efforts to protect the Human Rights are successful in the affected nations.

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