

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT – HUMAN RIGHTS**Yamini Sharma**

Ph.D. Scholar

VIT Vellore

Abstract

Simply stated, a right is a claim of an individual recognized by the society and the state obviously a proper definition of the term right has three ingredients. First, it is a claim of the individual, second individual should receive recognition by the community and finally political recognition. Rights are just like moral declarations unless they are protected by the state. According to H.J. Laski. "Rights, in fact, are those conditions of social life without which no man can seek, in general, to be himself at his best. For since the state exists it make possible that achievement, it is only by maintaining rights that its end may be secured!" Human rights : a modified version of natural rights and civil rights, which are coupled with each other, and has assumed a significance of its own ever since the formulation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the Human Rights commission and their adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948. Elinoar Ruzwert, the them president of united Nations General Assembly, declared that instead of "Rights of man, She declared as Human Rights" in 1948, so that, 'women rights' or 'women' were included in this declaration. Human rights that are applying to all human beings therefore human rights are universal, all human beings come under human rights and holders of human rights without any discrimination, every human being has their rights, and these rights protect especially human existence.

Key words: women empowerment, Human rights, women rights, recognized, society, obviously, definition, ingredients, community, political, declarations, protected, achievement, secured, civil rights, significance, adoption.

Introduction:

Women's empowerment is the process of empowering women. Empowerment can be defined in many ways, however, when talking about women's empowerment, empowerment means accepting and including people (women) who are on the outside of the decision-making process into it. Women's empowerment is the most crucial point to be noted for the overall development of a country. Many celebrities are all for girl power such as Liza Koshy and Lilly Singh (who has her own late night show and has won many awards and also raised money for #girllove and other charities) "This puts a strong emphasis on participation in political structures and formal decision-making and, in the economic sphere, on the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making." Empowerment is the process that creates power in individuals over their own lives, society, and in their communities. People are empowered if they have an access to opportunities without any limitations or restrictions such as in education,

profession and in their way of life. Feeling entitled to make your own decisions creates a sense of empowerment. Empowerment includes the action of raising the status of women through education, raising awareness, literacy, and training and also give training related to self defense. Women's empowerment is all about equipping and allowing women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society.

Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. More than 40 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted that "everyone has the right to education". In 1990, Governments meeting at the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand, committed themselves to the goal of universal access to basic education. But despite notable efforts by countries around the globe that have appreciably expanded access to basic education, there are approximately 960 million illiterate adults in the world, of whom two thirds are women. More than one third of the world's adults, most of them

women, have no access to printed knowledge, to new skills or to technologies that would improve the quality of their lives and help them shape and adapt to social and economic change. There are 130 million children who are not enrolled in primary school and 70 per cent of them are girls.

It is said that education increases "people's self-confidence and also enables them to find better jobs and they can work shoulder to shoulder with men". They engage in public debate and make demands on government for health care, social security and other entitlements". In particular, education empowers women to make choices that improve their children's health, their well-being, and chances of acquiring survival skills. Education informs others of preventing and containing the disease, and it is an essential element of efforts to reduce malnutrition. Furthermore, it empowers women to make choices that can improve their welfare, including marrying beyond childhood and having fewer children. Crucially, education can increase women's awareness of their rights, boost their self-esteem, and provide them the opportunity to assert their rights.

Despite significant improvements in recent decades, education is not universally available and gender inequalities persist. A major concern in many countries is not only the limited numbers of girls going to school but also the limited educational pathways for those that step into the classroom. More specifically, there should be more efforts to address the lower participation and learning achievement of girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Simply stated, a right is a claim of an individual recognized by the society and the state obviously a proper definition of the term right has three ingredients. First, it is a claim of the individual, second individual should receive recognition by the community and finally political recognition. Rights are just like moral declarations unless they are protected by the state.

The rights have a moral character whether Human rights. Natural rights political, economic, social moral and social, moral and civil rights, in other words, they are the rights which a society properly organized on the basis of good will should

recognize. And rights are not only related to social welfare, they also related to a dynamic character.

According to H.J. Laski. "Rights, in fact, are those conditions of social life without which no man can seek, in general, to be himself at his best. For since the state exists it make possible that achievement, it is only by maintaining rights that its end may be secured!"

Women's empowerment and achieving gender equality is essential for our society to ensure the sustainable development of a country. Many world leaders and scholars have argued that sustainable development is impossible without gender equality and women's empowerment. Sustainable development accepts environmental protection, social and economic development, including women's empowerment. In the context of women and development, empowerment must include more choices for women to make on their own.

Women empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in development and economics. It can also point to the approaches regarding other trivialized genders in a particular political or social context.

According to Gilchrist:

"Rights arise, therefore, from individuals as members of society, and from the recognition that, for society there is ultimate good which may be reached by the development of the power inherent in every individual!" So in this way they are the rights which a society organized on the basis of good will should recognize.

However, the most important point, which was highlights the "Humanism and also Human rights: that is, according to Marxism as Well as New leftism, seems new society in which man has a free happy and dignified life, Marx termed it "thereof human emancipation': man is free all sorts of exploitation and oppression, Glorious human values prevail.

Human rights:

A modified version of natural rights and civil rights, which are coupled with each other, and has assumed a significance of its own ever since the formulation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the Human Rights commission and their

adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948. Elinor Ruzwert, the president of United Nations General Assembly, declared that instead of "Rights of man, She declared as Human Rights" in 1948, so that, 'women rights' or 'women' were included in this declaration.

Now -a- days, human rights are become more important and giving more importance to them because from the grass root level, it means family level to Inter national level every aspect which is related to development, security, welfare of the people etc., related to human rights or comes under human rights moreover any decision which was taken and which is taking by the governments of any nation is related to human rights, The human rights are depend on basic rule of "All are equal, no discrimination" this is the aim of human rights.

Human rights that are applying to all human beings therefore human rights are universal, all human beings come under human rights and holders of human rights without any discrimination, every human being has their rights, and these rights protect especially human existence.

In this regard, one can recognize a positive tendency of acceptance of human rights by states, a growth of an international institutionalization for the protection of human rights and a progress of the mechanisms for monitoring human rights performances by states to respect the Universality of human rights and some small steps by the corporate world.

Because human rights establish moral boundaries so, Human rights do not shop before fractions, cultures, etc.

Status of Women

Traditional Indian literature gave high respect to women e.g. in Vedic period women leads equal status with men. Manu had said "where women are honoured, the Gods are pleased but where they are not, no sacred rite yields any reward".

Yagnavalkya said, "women are the embodiment of all divine virtues on earth., and the Ramayana and Mahabharata gives full credit to women.

After that, slowly women were treated by barbarous customs like "Sati" [burning of widow on the funeral pyre of her husband denial of right to

remarry to widows, female infanticide, existence of "devadasi" system, child marriages, etc., Women suffered from lots of disabilities. Women is psychologically felt inferior to men, physically women is dubbed as dull and dud, intellectually no wisdom and socially, women has a place lower than man, she is made to lead second class citizenship or subordinate life, women is considered ineligible for all public life, they confine to four walls, or family - mothering the babies, even in family life, they always secondary, these are all caused by man's domination or atrocities and the main weakness point of women is physically they are very weaker than men. Almost half of the women population dependent always at one, or the other time, on man, be, he a father, husband or the son, yet the women , today is no more a commodity to be bought and sold at man's whims.

Over the years, the women movement has developed a theory of power of society which sees the relationship between the sexes as one of inequality subordination and oppression and which sees this as a problem of political power than a fact of nature. Feminist regard the distinction between men and women not merely biological, but also sociological and thereafter political, men and women are biologically different, but they are seen, regarded and structured socially as different gender, The masculine gender, being physically strong and having made himself as the in charge of the external or what may be called public, exploits woman by considering her as an inferior being, a slave, and commodity.

In Indian culture women are subjected to gender discrimination right from the births. The female infanticide is widely prevalent even though it is highly in practice; an estimated 1.2 million lives were snuffed out either through abortion or post natal murders. The girls are also allowed to remain undernourished and, therefore, the female mortality rate is much higher than that of boys. Girl children are denied the proper educational facilities, nourishment and medical facilities. Parents and other family members think that they are burden to the family.

The gender bias not only reflected on one aspect, it society reflects on political, social, economic each and every point in the society reflects by the gender bias, even in jobs also it shows impact.

In many places of India and world wide, women are denied job opportunities, because the men folk more equipped to the job, and they feel that for women right place is kitchen and rearing children. Women also have to face sexual harassment, and the position of dalit women is so worst these are all live example to discrimination which was facing by women folk.

In political aspect, while the women's vote in terms of numbers is not much behind that of the men, their representation in legislative bodies has been very poor. The highest representation of Loksabha was in 1984 and that too eight percent. and all over the India the State Assemblies also have a meager representation from women folk, so, women are slowly alienated from the political system.

Not surprising women are used like surrogates to their men folk be-cause after introducing 73'd Amendment Act in 1992, according to this Act 1/3 seats reserved for women, so reserved quota would be filled by the wives, daughters, etc, relations, women's representations in political field, and decision making bodies is very low.

There have many social legislations designed to achieve betterment of women, but they remain as paper tigers, rarely to be followed. In present times, the number of women either government or private offices is increasingly tremendously but compare to women population it is very low, And it will be wrong to state that as a result of all these efforts all the women in India have emancipated.

Still the male domination of the society was a fact. And women were suffering immense social envious and social oppression within the family, and also in the society. They were also suffering from illiteracy, ignorance, and economically dependent position etc. Polygamy was in practice still it is continuing, women not even the right to divorce (just like a "curse.")

In this context the Indian constellation included human rights in the fundamental rights to protect every individual right, and for the protection of human rights so many provisions existed by the Indian constitution. In the same way, in 1993 the Indian government established Human rights commissions at both central and state level to strength-en the human rights and proper implementation.

In India, even though a largest democratic country suffering from human rights problems. Like children, women, etc., so many long lasting problems are here E.g.: 'women issue' is a chronic problem, so many number of rape cases are reading in every day news papers even 4 years children also victimized to this cruel behaviour, still unashamed violations of human rights are took place in all parts of the world especially with chronic problems. In this way number of international and regional instruments has drawn attention to Women human rights issues.

CEDAW:

UN convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women adopted in 1979, and after eight year CEDAW came into force. CEDAW noted as, The International Bill of Rights for Women. In addition, required proper safe guards for their realization, be-cause conferment of rights is not enough or sufficient.

It is essential that governments should protect and promote people's rights moreover protection of rights, it is not only duty of governments similarly, and people also must be vigilant. Therefore, It is the Proud spirit of citizens, less than the letter of the law, that is their most real safeguard.

In 1993, 45years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted, and the UN world conference on Human Rights in Vienna confirmed that women rights were human rights.

And if anyone or any where, in identifying neglect of women's rights as human rights violation and in drawing attention to the relationship between gender and human rights violations should be punished. And this was a step forward in recognizing the rightful claims of women folk who were sharing half of the humanity.

The CEDAW defines the right of women to be free from all forms of Discrimination and also look action to protect this right. Under CE-DAW look many actions to protect women's rights such as prepared one agenda for national action to end discrimination, for achieving equality between men and women for equal access, equal opportunities in all the fields such as education, health, employment etc., introduced core principles. So CEDAW is the

only human rights treaty which has creates a new world for women and women's rights.

In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo (ICPD) articulated and affirmed the relationship between advancement and fulfillment of rights and gender equality and equity. The ICPD declared in their programme of action that, the achievement of sustainable development depends on women empowerment and political social, economic improvement, so ICPD recognized that, the highly important and essential of women empowerment.

In 1995, the fourth world conference on women in Beijing discussed in wider range on women's rights and the gender equality, women's empowerment as one of the eight Millennium Development goals. (But many promises have not yet to be kept.)

Conclusion:

Women are suffering low socio- economic, political inequalities over the past decade, and women empowerment is a new challenge for all and still women getting less money than men, even same kind of work, Gender based violence [never ending] increasing of trafficking on women etc., these are all for instance of women condition at world wide.

The commission [(EDAM trying to identify emerging trends, injustice, discriminatory practices against women for the purposes of formulation of right and useful policies, and initiate development strategies to protect women's human rights as well as gender equality.

When social, economic, political emancipation is possible and healthy development of democratic process free from corruption and free from criminalization of politics took place in the society when women's political participations is possible for women empowerment and emancipation.

References

1. J.C. Johari, contemporary political theory, P.229.
2. LC. Johari, contemporary political theory, P.No. 657.
3. By Dr. Peter Kirchs chlaeger, Co-Director of the centre of Human Rights Education, university of Teacher Education of central Switzerland Lucerne
4. SS. Awasthy, Indian Government and politics, P.408
5. S.S. Awasthy, Indian Government and politics, P. 409
6. S.S.Awasthy, Indian Government and politics, P.No. 411
7. S.S. Awasthy Indian Government and politics, P.No. 410
8. Laski, OP, cit., P. 89.