

## HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES

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### Abstract

The contemporary period has seen an exemplification of the way of thinking of basic rights when the United Nations embraced UN Charter of 1945. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the International Treaties on Human Rights insisted on the protection of social rights, rights of women and most importantly children's rights. Human rights of women just arose as an overall development during the first UN women's conference, held in Mexico City in 1975, assigned 1975–85 as the UN Decade for Women, and after five months the UN General Assembly launched that program. Since that time, women throughout the globe have come up and met in organizations and groupings to bring to light about issues of disparity and brutality. A huge aftereffect of 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women was the Beijing Declaration which opened the Platform for Action. These rights fuse the choice to live freed from violence, coercion, and discernment; to be educated; to own property; to vote; and to earn a reasonable and equivalent wage. Success depends on how these laws are implemented and how decision makers implement the commendation proposal. This article revolves around and explores what is being done and what needs to be done to achieve equality and adopt empowerment strategies. One of the main strategies developed is to equip experts and policy makers with the knowledge and skills to make valuable contributions in this area so that women can lead a protected life.

**Keywords:** Human Rights, Empowerment, Discrimination, Gender Equality

### Introduction

Human rights are natural and inalienable, and these rights are ensured by international law. International conferences give freedoms to governments to reaffirm their responsibilities. Women all over the world continue to suffer violations of their rights over certain reasons, the consequences differ from Nation to Nation, but prejudice and discrimination against women still prevail, involving all human rights violations known to the contemporary world. We are living in an era of development, in which human rights have been recognized through collective instruments, international human rights organizations, constitutions and committees. Therefore, it is essential to end all types of gender-based violence and to ensure that men and women have equal access to quality education, health services, economic resources, and opportunities to participate in political life.

Women need to be empowered so that they can participate equally and effectively in issues related to their lives. It will make women a part of the social and political decision-making process. The most important social and economic rights include food, shelter, medical care, employment, work, social security and different rights. They are likewise ordinarily alluded to as government assistance rights: these rights are fundamental for full participation in society. They ensure the well-being of citizens. However, in reality, women are more or less marginalized. They are considered second-class citizens. Their rights are not taken seriously.

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Women suffer from various forms of discrimination the most common ones include malnutrition, poor health, lack of education, overwork, abuse, etc. Malnutrition and poor health can cause anaemia in women. India has a high female mortality rate just because women have less access to health care facilities than men. It is necessary to change the attitude of the government and society towards women.

Women are marginalized in all areas of life. Women assume an imperative part in both creation and conceptive activities. Regardless of efforts taken by activists and non-governmental associations to wipe out discernment and relegation of women, there are as yet various reports that validate that woman are exceedingly side-lined in the current society. Still, in the process of economic development and social change, in the specific process of traditional role expectations, women's contributions are still invisible and unrecognized. Therefore, due to recognized and in our society, they are marginalized and economically discriminated against.

### **Human Rights**

The human rights doctrine aims to provide a common framework for determining the basic civic, economic, political and social conditions necessary for everyone to enjoy a minimum of good life. Many major events and turmoil have contributed to the development of human rights. Human rights are privileges that every man and woman should enjoy, because they are human beings, or it can be said that they are innate and unchallengeable rights that are attributed to human beings only because of their inherent values. In other words, human rights are the right of everyone as a human being to enjoy a dignified and safe life of his own choice. Therefore, what is suggested to increase one's self-esteem and one's basic opportunities is common freedom.

All individuals are born in this world with equivalent nobility and civil liberties. They are full of reason and perseverance and should act with each other in brotherhood. The United Nations officially proclaimed elementary rights on December 10, 1948, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and incorporated them into authoritative documents in various global activities and exchanges. It includes three types of rights: civil and political, economic, social, and emerging collective rights. The United Nations General Assembly passed two conventions in December 1966, the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" and the "International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights" in order to eliminate this defect. The International Bill of Rights is a forward leap throughout the entire existence of human rights. Therefore, it should be recognized that each of the above declarations, events and revolutions has made important contributions to enhance and shape of the concept of human rights.

### **Gender Equality**

Gender is one of the key factors causing inequality. Gender is an artificial social and cultural concept. Gender equality is fundamentally related to viable progress and is essential for recognizing the human rights of all people. Social orders that esteem women and men as equivalent are more secure and better. The United Nations General Assembly formally declared human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights received on December 10, 1948, and included them in authoritative documents in various demonstrations and settlements around the world. Gender equality is essential for achieving a quiet social order, full human potential and sustainable development. In addition, facts have proved that empowering women can increase productivity and economic growth.

The International Conference on Human Rights was held in Teheran from 22 April to 13 May 1968 to overview the advancement made since the gathering of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights and plan an arrangement for what's to come. Notwithstanding different things, the International Conference supported all social classes and Governments to commit themselves to the norms valued in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to invest more effort to oblige all people. Besides, World Conference on Human Rights complemented those endeavours should be made to wipe out energy against ladies in broad daylight and private life, to take out all types of lewd behaviour, abuse and exchanging of ladies, and to wipe out sex bias in regulatory administration. And furthermore, disposal of any struggles that may emerge between ladies' privileges and certain practices or customs, social biases and the hurtful impacts of strict radicalism.

In addition, equal opportunities at all levels, access to occupations, permissions and decision-making are also basic. However, women and girls face other human rights violations merely for the reason that of their gender. In the "Vienna Declaration and Program of Action", it was restated that the human rights of women are an inalienable, part of universal human rights. The conference urged women should to be the key recipient and ought to partake effectively in the acknowledgment of these rights and opportunities. It also emphasizes the importance of the incorporation and full participation of women as implementors and recipients of development. Sadly, various organizations around the world have warned that there is still a long way to go to achieve complete equality of rights and openness among people. The meeting urged women to fully and equally enjoy all human rights, which is a priority for governments and the United Nations.

### **Legal Rights**

The Magna Carta of 1215 is the most significant legitimate document in human history. Charters Article 63 guarantees citizens' basic civil and legal rights and protects barons from unfair taxes. Many major events and turmoil have contributed to the development of human rights. First, the earliest human rights charter can be found in three British constitutional documents, namely the Magna Carta in 1215, the Petition in 1628 and the 1688 The rights of 1689 passed after the Glorious Revolution. The British Bill of Rights of 1689 was the next way to develop the idea of human rights. The British Bill of Rights was promulgated on December 16, and passed by the British Parliament in 1689. The British Bill of Rights declares that the Ruler has no superseding power. The Bill of Rights codified customary law and elucidated the rights and freedoms of citizens.

The 1776 Declaration of Independence of the United States is of great significance in human history because it proved the right to dissident against the Government, which no longer guarantees the natural and unchallengeable rights of the person. The 1789 Declaration of the Rights of the French and Citizens led to the fall of the Bastille. The 1929 "International Declaration of the Rights of the Person" announced that the basic rights of citizens have been recognized and guaranteed by several domestic constitutions. In fact, this applies not only to citizens of every state, but also to the entire country. The declaration comprises of 30 articles covering the Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of all men, women and children. The United Nations General Assembly passed two conventions in December 1966, the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" and the "International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights" in order to eliminate this defect. The International Bill of Rights is a milestone in the history of human rights. Therefore, it should be recognized that each of the above declarations, events and revolutions has made important contributions to the promotion and shaping of the concept of human rights.

### **Women Empowerment**

Women are abused and victimized in varying backgrounds, so ladies should be engaged. The strengthening interaction will mean the change of sex relations inside the family and society. During the 1980s, the term strengthening got famous in the field of advancement, particularly with connection to women improvement. Strengthening is basically to change the construction to fortify and keep up with sex segregation. This process enables women to obtain and control over material and information resources. However, empowered women must enjoy equality, autonomy and respect in the family. The acknowledgment of equity among people in the family is the reason for strengthening in different regions. The strengthening cycle can be either individual or group. People most often participate in group activities to increase awareness and organizational skills, as well as the ability to take action and bring about change.

Specifically, the World Conference on Human Rights stressed that endeavours should be made to wipe out viciousness against ladies in broad daylight and private life, to kill all types of lewd behaviour, misuse and dealing of ladies, and to take out sex bias in regulatory administration. The theory of natural rights appeared in the works of Hobbes in the 17th century, while the classical expression appeared in John Locke's book "Two Treatises of Government". Gender is one of the key factors causing inequality. Gender equality is fundamentally related to viable progress and is essential for recognizing the human rights of all people. Gender is an artificial social and cultural concept. The United Nations General Assembly formally declared human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights received on December 10, 1948, and included them in authoritative documents in various demonstrations and settlements around the world. Many countries have enacted laws that recognize women's equal rights to citizens' participation in social and political activities.

### **Rights of the Marginalized**

The importance of human rights lies in the fact that with the emergence of human rights and the first steps taken to promote and protect human rights, human society has made a qualitative leap. The United Nations is influential in establishing a system based on the international rule of law, based on the Charter, and framed by international treaties and judicial mechanisms developed under its umbrella. Article 18 alludes to the privileges of women, children, and persons belonging to religious and linguistic minorities. Article 20 makes reference to the privileges of the indigenous people and the commitment of the international community to their economic and social well-being and their enjoyment of the fruits of sustainable development. Article 21 takes care of the rights of the child. The rights of the disabled persons are recognized in Article 22. While Article 23 makes relevance the rights of the refugees and the displaced person.

This understanding helps to formulate appropriate strategies to eliminate such discrimination and measures to achieve equality between men and women. Despite this, women have always endured violations of their fundamental freedoms for an incredible duration, and the realization of women's human rights has not always been given priority. The lack of women's empowerment is considered an important factor in this situation and therefore requires social and economic protection. Women's empowerment is an important determinant of economic well-being, social status and political power. Fortunately, people are increasingly worried about correcting this situation on a global scale.

### **Development**

Development refers to the growth, adaptation, and change that occur in a lifetime. In all stages of human life, development is a continuous process. By the end of the 20th century, even in India, we could see changes in developmental planning and its methods. The social emotional process that affects development refers to the changes in personal interaction with

others, changes in emotions and personality. It includes education, knowledge, health, longevity, and most importantly, environmental protection. With the expansion of the concept of human development today, we know that establishing a social order characterized by human development requires many prerequisites. The concept of social development is recent. Before that, economic growth or gross national product was used as the only criterion for measuring development. In quite a few cases, these potentials and abilities are still disorganized, undervalued and unused. Development is essentially a favourable atmosphere for ordinary people, enabling them to develop and expand their abilities. The foundation of human development is universal in acknowledging everyone's life propositions.

### **Conclusion**

Empowerment must be a process of resolving all sources of power and power structure. Through empowerment, women will gain access to the economic social, political power and participation in decision-making. This process must be carried out at both the individual and collective level. Women must be organized and must be recognized as a political force. Collective struggle has a profound impact on their lives, so it has become the main strategy for achieving empowerment. Although women's organizations are extremely important, they need broad support from society. The development of human rights has been continuing for quite a long time to accomplish a definitive objective of living with poise and for enabling empowering women and children. But in order to gain this we must work hard, and this goal must be realized in all societies. The government will have to work hard to exploring gender issues and promote this policy in order to provide opportunities for women. The human rights enforcement mechanism is very complicated.

The government enacts laws to protect its citizens. As part of the implementation of the Constitution, both the state and central governments have formulated specific plans for implementation in addition to providing certain facilities, the government also enacts laws to ensure that specific steps are taken to eliminate inequalities in the system. However, there are still some challenges in realizing the human rights of marginalized and in particular women. Local struggles need to be linked to large-scale political and economic forces. The government must respond and be willing to facilitate and accelerate the empowerment process. The struggle at the grassroots level needs to be linked to the country's initiatives to achieve the desired goal of women's empowerment. To achieve its goals, a positive attitude, commitment and support from the government is needed. In the context of the above-mentioned circumstances, it has been proposed that not only legislative measures but obligations on part of individuals as well as community, will help promote equality by ensuring equal basic social, and economic rights so that women can appreciate a noble life.

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