



# Role of Education in Putting Human Rights into Practice

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## ABSTRACT

Education has been recognized through varying degrees of conviction, as a vital element for individual development and for self-fulfillment of the society. It is considered as an important instrument of social mobility, equality and empowerment both at individual and collective level. Through proper education citizens will come to know about all the values like self determination, justices, dignity of life, public welfare, living together with harmony and in this way they will learn to adjust themselves adequately in the society. Proper education will make them more aware about their rights and duties and will help in guiding individual in case any of his rights is being violated. Human right is one of the most basic and fundamental right without which one cannot survive in the society. Human rights are common to all human beings, whatever nation, religion, race, status he belongs to. Every person is equally entitled to human right without any discrimination. Destruction and suffering has led mankind to think that the human rights awareness is necessary. The first step in this regard has been taken by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights set standard of human rights for all the human beings. Education plays an important role in putting human rights into practice by proper understanding of rights granted in the Indian constitution, like Article 14, Article 15, Article 16, Article 19, Article 23, Article 25, Article 28, Article 30, Article 41, Article 45 and Article 46. The present paper briefly talks about The Right to Education Act 2009 and how the education helps in putting the human rights into practice.

**Key words:-** Education, Human Rights, Universal Declaration of Human Right, Right to Education Act 2009, Human Right Education.

## INTRODUCTION

Education as always been recognized, though with varying degrees of conviction, as a vital elements of individual self fulfillment and development of society. It is considered as important instrument of social mobility, equality and empowerment both at the individual and collective levels as such, imperative for the development of society in a meaningful way.

Emphasizing the importance of Education, more than two thousand years back, **Chanakya** had said “That Mother and Father are enemies who do not give education to their children.” In recent past **Nelson Mandela**, the living legend once said “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”



Nothing is as important as the education, to make the life meaningful. Good education is the passport to a comfortable life. Through education the citizens shall know all the values like self- determination, tolerance, understanding, empathy, justice, dignity of life, public welfare, honesty, equality, sanctity of life, living together with harmony etc, and this way they will learn to adjust themselves in the society. Education will make them more aware about their rights and duties and the importance of rights and duties. An educated person know very well that what are his duties towards our country, towards our neighbor, towards our community, and how one should behave in democratic set up, where others also have equal rights.

Education is the first prerequisite for promotion of awareness about human rights and for development of positive attitude towards human rights. Without education we cannot even think about human rights. An educated person is more conscious of his rights and duties as well as the rights and duties of others.

## **HUMAN RIGHT**

Human right is right belonging to each and every person and right which is not conferred by any governmental authority. The word “human rights” is derived from latin word “homo” meaning man and homongous means belonging to man. Human rights are right to which every person is entitled by virtue of being a human. The right to life, liberty, and security of person are the human right. Human right is to most basic and fundamental right without which one cannot survive in the society. It cannot be denied irrespective of race, gender or any other background.

Human rights define our quality and ways of life. We have to remain alerts, active and committed to make them a reality for all people in the world. This is possible only when we are aware about human rights, and when we understand what the meaning of human rights is.

Human Right is right belonging to each and every person and right which is not conferred by any governmental authority. Laski defined “Human rights are necessary conditions of social life without which no one could become his best, to be himself holds good till date. Human rights sometimes called as fundamental rights or basic rights or natural rights”.

Broadly speaking human rights may be regarded as those fundamental and inalienable rights which are essential for life as human being. Human rights are the rights which are possessed by every human being irrespective of his or her nationality, race, religion, sex, etc. simply because he or she is a human being. Human rights are those rights that every individual must have by virtue of being a member of the society. They are based on demand for a life in which the inherent dignity of human being aspires for respect, protection and dignity. Human rights are innate individual and are of an intrinsic factor in the quality of human persons. Human rights can be defined as those basic rights, which are inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as a human being. Fundamental freedoms and human rights help us to develop and use our intelligence, qualities, talents and conscience to satisfy our mundane and spiritual needs by the respect of human rights. We protect the inherent dignity and in return receive respect and affection nonetheless; the denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms not only results in personal tragedy but also creates conditions for social and political unrest sowing the seeds of violence and conflict. The respect for human rights and human dignity is the foundation of freedom, justice, fraternity and peace in the world. Human rights are universal and are applicable to all without



discrimination Human Rights are something called 'Natural Rights', 'Basic Rights', and 'Fundamental rights'. A civilized country must respect and recognize them. The legal education should protect them. They are those rights which are considered indivisible, interdependent and inalienable, and without which a person, "ceases to be human". For all human rights, states must have both the political will and the means to ensure their realization and they must have in place honest legislative, administrative and institutional mechanisms required to achieve that aim.

There have been three generations of human rights. The first generations was a legacy of the French revolution, are called blue rights and gave civil and political rights to humanity. The second generations were a legacy of the socialist revolutions and independence movements they are called red rights, and have given economic, social and political rights to humanity. The third generation is called green rights and speaks of the right to development, right to peace and the right to cultural solidarity.

Human rights are entitlements due to every man, woman and child because they are human. They include rights pertaining to the security of the person, including the right not to be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law; the right not to be tortured or subjected to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; and the right not to be held in slavery or servitude. They are non-derogable rights; their violation can never be justified, even by a state of national emergency. Human rights also include civil and political rights, among them the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the right to freedom of movement; and the right to take part in the government of one's own country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. There are also economic, social and cultural rights to which everyone is entitled. These include basic survival right to food, shelter, health care, and social services; the right to work; the right to education and the right to participate in the cultural life of one's community. The premise of current international law is that these rights are inherent in the human person; they are not given to people by the state, and the state cannot deprive people of their rights. The reality of course is that throughout history, people have had to fight to win their rights, because power holders are rarely magnanimous in granting them.

Destruction and suffering caused by Second World War led the mankind to think that the awareness and protection of human rights through the world is necessary. The first step by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948 by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights cannot be ignored because it is the standard of human rights for all human beings.

Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world (**Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948**) **Article 1** of the declaration provides that all the human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights they are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood whereas **Article 2** announces that Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person



belongs, whether it is independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty. In 1948 the United Nations wrote the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** that established International standards to help nations educate their citizens about the rights and freedoms they are entitled to, in their daily lives. Despite these efforts human rights violations still occur around the world.

Education is the first prerequisite for promotion of awareness about human rights and for development of positive attitude towards human rights. Without education we cannot even think about human rights. An educated person is more conscious of his rights and duties as well as the rights and duties of others .education increases the degree of participation in the social life once education becomes compulsory and the more people are educated they shall be conscious of their rights and will not allow themselves to be exploited by others.

### **HUMAN RIGHT EDUCATION**

Human Right Education can be defined as education, training and information aiming at building a universal culture of human rights through the sharing of knowledge, importing of skills and molding of attitudes directed to:

1. The strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom.
2. The full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity.
3. The promotion of understanding, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among all nations, indigenous peoples and racial, national, ethical, religious and linguistic groups.
4. The building and maintenance of peace.
5. The promotion of people-centered sustainable development and social justice.

All education is expected to be liberal. It should free us from the shackles of ignorance, prejudice, and unfounded belief. If we are incapable of achieving the good life, it is due to faults in our inward being, to the darkness in us. The process of education is the slow conquering of this darkness. To lead us from darkness to light, to free us from every kind of domination except that of reason, is the aim of education (**University Education Commission 1948-1949**)

Education is the most effective and efficient mechanisms for the advancement of human beings. Education enlarges, enriches and improves and prepares the individuals for the future .Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is as essential as it is said that a man without education is no more than an animal that cannot fight for his rights. Indeed education emancipates the human beings and leads to liberation from all sorts of ignorance. It is a fact that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century success of a nation depends upon the education of its citizens. 21<sup>st</sup> century is known as century of Knowledge. The quality of a nation depends upon the quality of its citizens' education; this is the reason why both at national and international levels efforts are being made to educate more and more people so that the development of the society is possible and ultimately the development of all human beings. Education is the best medium with the help of which we can impart the knowledge of human rights and make the people aware of their rights, Education is imparted for making people aware of their rights and duties as well as the rights and duties of others is known as **Human Rights Education**. Teaching students how to respect and protect rights is teaching for human rights, it is the human rights education which may raise awareness about the human rights and protect from any kind of discrimination. In fact human rights education helps to make all human



beings **Human Rights Literate**. This is possible if proper education is provided to all children of the schools. **Professor Daulat Singh Kothari** rightly said that “the role of education is to improve the material standard of the people and to enrich the quality of life besides knowledge and skills education should be also concerned with the inner contents of our lives, with ideals and idealism and strengthening of the spirit .we need a balance between three overlapping divisions of education (at all levels) which may perhaps be described as; tactical, strategic, and humanistic. The first refers to theoretical and practical knowledge of immediate and short term utility, the second to knowledge of life -long utility and value, and the third relates to quality and meaning of life.” Whereas, Dr. Radhakrishnan regarded education as second birth, when a person is educated he does not remain the same person as he was born. Education eradicates savagery and makes innocence as attributes. Now question arises, Education by whom? The answer is by teachers, Therefore role of teachers is also very important. In fact teachers are the backbone of the whole education system.

### **ROLE OF EDUCATION IN STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN RIGHT:**

1. Education plays a significant role for strengthening and protection of human rights.
2. Education is an important tool in spreading awareness, information, assimilation, creation and dissemination of knowledge.
3. It plays a crucial role at every stage for the strengthening and protection of human rights.

### **Right to Education Act, 2009**

This act makes education a fundamental right. A Human right based approach of education ensures that quality education is being provided to every child that would respect and promote his individual rights. The act however have the following loopholes, the act does not speak about rights of children with disability, what special provision school should have for these children education. The act mentions about public private partnership, which would lead to commercialization of education. It speaks only about education up to 14 years of age, what about after that.

### **Need and importance of human rights Education in India**

Human rights are necessary for peace development and democracy. In India number of cases of human rights violation has been pointed out like trafficking, exploitations violations, caste related issues. There is a proper need for the promotion and protection of human rights to avoid human rights violation. Education imparts necessary skills for the promotion and protection of human rights education.

### **ROLE OF TEACHERS-**

A teacher is an agent appointed to develop citizenship who can live successfully in the culture of the country. (Courtis Stuart A) A unique feature of Indian tradition is the undiluted respect and devotion for the teachers or GURU. GURU literally means one who deserves and commands honor or Gaurav. In the word GURU, ‘GU’ stands for darkness and ‘RU’ stands for removal of darkness .Therefore GURU is the one who dispels darkness of ignorance. In other words a GURU is a person who shows the right path to students. The teacher helps students to develop a new outlook on life and a new kind of being. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the role of teachers has changed, due to the pressure of globalization and other changes in the society. Now society expects more from teachers. Now, a teacher is to not only instruct the students, but also inspire and motivates them. The role of a





teacher is to shape the minds of younger generation to prepare them for the upcoming challenges in their personal and professional life. **John Dewey** rightly said "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." A teacher is inseparable from the education system. No system of education can rise higher than the teachers. Teachers play a very important role in making students aware about their rights as human being. All the teachers especially of schools have to be provided training about the contents and pedagogy of human rights and it can be done by the teacher educators. If a nation wants quality education it must have quality schools. The quality of schools depend primary upon the quality of teachers .teachers need to be educated, oriented and equipped properly to play their role most effectively.

In India due to lack of education, people are not aware about their rights and duties. Even they are not in a position to know their fundamental rights guaranteed in the Indian constitution, so it is the responsibility of teachers that they must make students aware about the following fundamental rights given in our constitution., so that they can claim their rights.

1. **Article 14** "The state shall not deny to any person equality before law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
2. **Article 15 (Clause2)** "The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race. Caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them."
3. **Article 16** provides for equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.
4. **Article 17** abolishes Untouchability.
5. **Article 19** guarantees freedom of speech, freedom to assemble peacefully without arms, to form associations or unions, to move throughout the territory of India, to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India, to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
6. **Article 20** provides that no person shall be convicted for any offence except the violation of a law in force, no person shall be punished for the same offence more than once, and no person shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.
7. **Article 21** guarantees that no person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
8. **Article 21A** provides for free and compulsory education to children of the age of six to fourteen years.
9. **Article 22** provides that the person shall be informed of the grounds of his arrest, he shall have legal practitioner of his choice and that he must be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours of his arrest
10. **Article 23** prohibits traffic in human beings and forced labor.
11. **Article 24** prohibits employing children below the age of 14 in any hazardous employment.
12. **Article 25** prohibits freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion, subject to public order, morality and order.
13. **Article 26** provides freedom to manage religious affairs.



14. **Article 29** states that citizens having a distinct language, script or culture shall have right to conserve the same and no citizen will be denied admission into educational institution maintained by state on the ground of religion, race, caste, language etc

15. **Article 32** gives a right to every individual to move the Supreme Court directly in case of violation of his fundamental rights.

Fundamental rights are different from legal rights the legal rights are protected and enforced by ordinary law, on the contrary fundamental right is protected and guaranteed by the constitution. The knowledge of these articles will make the students' more aware about their rights; they can fight for their rights, if they know their rights. 'Know your human right' is the message addressed by the United Nations to the citizens of all countries, because a big majority of people today are not aware of their rights as human beings.

## CONCLUSION

Education is the source of all achievements throughout the journey of one's life. It makes the man know the worth of him as well as others. The harsh truth of society is that an uneducated person in this 21st century cannot survive and even if he somehow survives, then he will always be surrounded with insults and abuse. On the other hand educated person is in a better position than uneducated; because when he is aware from his rights and duties then he will not be easily exploited. Education broadens the horizon of understanding. The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education. The spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) is to be inculcated in the students of schools. The most important function of education at any level is to develop the personality of the individual. An educated person knows it very well that, what are his duties towards our country, towards our neighbor, towards our community and how one should behave in democratic setup, where others also have equal rights. Education is the first prerequisite for promotion of awareness about human rights and for development of positive attitude towards human rights. Teacher of a school can make students aware about the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Indian constitution so that the future citizens of the country can claim their rights and respect the rights of others.

## SUGGESTIONS

- Programme should be developed to train people about human right through non formal and informal manner also.
- In formal setting human rights must be taught in the mother tongue of students so that they could have better understanding.
- Universities and colleges must be provided with funds to start specific courses on human rights education.
- Value like culture and social difference should be included at school level, proper integration of human rights subjects like language and environmental studies must be taught.
- Poems, moral stories which include human right values must be ensured in the syllabus.
- Clarifying the concept of religious freedom and religious tolerance must be ensured.



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