

Violation of Human Rights and Social Work Intervention: Scope and Challenges

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Abstract

Human Rights are natural and most important rights in the society, which should be compulsorily provided to each and every individual in the world, irrespective of their caste, colour, economic condition, religion, region, sex, gender or any other ground. Human rights are inherent by nature to all human being, regardless their nation, religion, caste or colour, but unfortunately, the real situation is not like this. The violation of the Human Rights of various groups and individuals on different grounds is found largely in the world. In many parts of the world; the social-economic, political, environment situations provided by the Governments not secure for human beings. In such circumstances, there is need to stop the violation of human rights of the common people. In this regards, Social Work Profession can play an important role to stop violation of the human rights of women, children, elderly, weaker sections, patients and minorities. The Descriptive research design is adopted by the researcher and primary and secondary data is used, as per the requirement. The primary data is collected from Sonapat, Ambala, Rewari and Sirsa District of Haryana through interview schedule and secondary data is taken from various websites, Government Departments, National Commission for Human Rights in India and other sources. In the present research paper, author explored the incidents of violation of human rights of the people and their causes. It has also tried to trace out the scope of social work intervention to stop violation of human rights and also find out the various areas, where social work can work in collaboration with other institutions and Departments, towards implementation of human rights in a real sense.

Keywords: Human Rights, Social Justice, Empowerment, Lok Adalat, Public Interest Litigation, Introduction, Marginalized sections, Riots, Gender, Human Trafficking.

Introduction

Human rights are natural and inherent rights, which are provided to every human beings irrespective of their state, colour, class, creed, religion, region or caste etc. Human rights are the progeny of natural rights, which are as old as human civilization. Human rights hold four basic characteristics, which would prove that how these are Human Rights. First; these are such rights, which are owned by all human being and only by human beings, second, these are enjoyed by all equally without any discrimination and privileges. Next; nobody is allowed any special status and particular position and forth one is these are recommended and accepted by global world. Therefore, it can be said that human rights are among the most important and necessary rights, which should be available for every human being in every situation.

Growth of Human Rights

Role of Cyrus Cylinder –539-530bc

Human rights have its root in before chariest centuries. The Cyruc the Great, successor of Babylonian cruel ruler, declared that the exiled slave may return their country and they would be provided religious and conscience freedom throughout the state. These are primitive symbols of beginning of human rights in the form of state documents in the world scenario.

Magna Carta-1215

It is a charter signed by great King John of England to establish a relationship between king of England and his subjects. It was first time, when it is declared that king would also be subject to the law and right of justice and free trail would made available equally to all citizens.

Bill of Rights- England

Bill of rights is set of various civil and political rights for the citizens of England. These rights include freedom to elect members of parliament, protection of rights of free speech and assemble for common interests. It was enacted in the bill that parliament, king or queen are not entitled to interfere with the law.

The U.S. Bill of Rights 1789

It was a comprehensive bill, which was included in the constitution of U.S.A. Bill provides freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, press and free trail. It is articulated that unreasonable search and seizure would not be allowed in any situation.

The Geneva Conventions –1864-1977

This is a series of conventions, which has taken place in Geneva from 1864 to 1977. The objective of the treaties was to protect civilians, refugees and shouldered from wounds, status of sickness and scratches of the wars. The operation is conducted under the logo of Red Cross and volunteers and staff of Red Cross was vital and resuscitative to inculcate relief during the war to civilians, prisoners and shouldered.

Women’s suffrage in New Zealand -1893

It was the first time in the world history of, which become milestone to make New Zealand first contrary in 1893, to allowed women cast their vote in parliamentary elections. This was done under the charismatic leadership of Kate Sheppard, a suffrage campaigner, to bring this historical moment in the human rights in world platform.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights1948

The United Nations; a worldwide accepted and authorized organization took first steps to bring

international document to ensure and protect human rights at global level. After a rigorous course of actions of two years, 81 meetings and 168 amendments with 1200 votes to pass the document, Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by United Nations on 10th December-1948. It was decided that it is the liability of the all member contraries to implement all 30 articles in their respective state and provide all necessary institutional, administrative, protective and judicial framework. The document is so important that United Nations has declared 10th December to observe as World Day of Human Rights.

Further, international treaties and conventions on social, political, cultural, economic rights are enacted to ensure human rights in universal and comprehensive way. Separate documents for human rights of children, women and human trafficking are also enacted and are being implemented throughout the world. Likewise; Indian constitution is influenced and flourished by human rights in the form of fundamental and many other rights as; social, economic, and political rights and directiveprinciples of state policy to guide government to provide administrative and legal safeguard to the different types of the rights of the citizens. All the natural rightsare included in the form of fundamental rights in the constitution, which serves such incidents, circumstances, and contentment to the people, to make them live a free and safe life. Though these rights are not absolute as human rights are. These can be suspended or absorbed in emergency situations. Nevertheless, these rights are very important to inculcate human rights in India. Though India has adopted all international conventions on human rights to implement in the country. However, an existence of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) may be observed in Indian constitution through various articles, which may be proclaimed as follows-

Table- 1.1 Similarities between UDHR and Human Rights in Indian Constitution

<p>Equality before law Indian Constitution provides equality before law in article no- 14 UDHR mention it in article no 7.</p> <p>Prohibition of discrimination Indian Constitution- Article no.15 (1) UDHR- Article no- Article no.07</p> <p>Equality of opportunities Indian Constitution- Article no.16 (1) UDHR- Article no- Article no.21 (2)</p> <p>Freedom of speech and expression Indian Constitution- Article no.19 (1) (a) UDHR- Article no- Article no.19</p> <p>Freedom of peaceful assembly Indian Constitution- Article no.19 (1) (b) UDHR- Article no- Article no.20 (1)</p> <p>Right to form association or union Indian Constitution- Article no.19 (1) (c) UDHR- Article no- Article no.23 (4)</p> <p>Freedom of movement within Border Indian Constitution- Article no.19 (1) (d)</p>	<p>Protection from slavery and forced labour Indian Constitution- Article no.23 UDHR- Article no- Article no.4</p> <p>Freedom of consciences and religion Indian Constitution- Article no.25 (1) UDHR- Article no- Article no.18</p> <p>Right against arbitrary arrest and detention Indian Constitution- Article no.22 UDHR- Article no- Article no.9</p> <p>Right to work, just and favourable working Conditions Indian Constitution- Article no.41 UDHR- Article no- Article no.23(1)</p> <p>Right to equal pay for equal work Indian Constitution- Article no.39(d) UDHR- Article no- Article no.23(2)</p> <p>Right to education Indian Constitution- Article no.21 (A), 41, 45 & 51 A(K) UDHR- Article no- Article no.26 (1)</p> <p>Right to just and favorable remuneration</p>
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<p>UDHR- Article no- Article no.13 (1) Protection in respect of conviction for offences Indian Constitution- Article no.20 (1) UDHR- Article no- Article no.11 (2) Protection of life and personal liberty Indian Constitution- Article no.21 UDHR- Article no- Article no.3</p>	<p>Indian Constitution- Article no.43 UDHR- Article no- Article no.23 (3) Right to rest and leisure Indian Constitution- Article no.43 UDHR- Article no- Article no.24 Right of a standard of living adequate for his family Indian Constitution- Article no.39 (a) & 47 UDHR- Article no- Article no.25 (1) Right to proper social order Indian Constitution- Article no.38 UDHR- Article no- Article no.28</p>
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It is found that which was decided under different articles of the UDHR to ensure human rights at international level by the United Nations, the draft committee of constitution of India was already working to draft all these important provisions for Indian Constitution. Therefore, it can be said that the institutionalization of protection of human rights in India is very strong, structured and durable.

Social Work and its Relevance in Protection of Human Rights

According to Edward C. Lindman, Social work is a profession based on humanitarian value. The main objective of social work is to ensure social welfare, human rights, and empowerment, enhance adjustment and capabilities in an individuals, groups and community. On the basis of recent developments which take place in 20th century in the literature of the social work profession, social work philosophy belief in the worth and dignity of an individual, belief on individual's freedom, inter-dependency between individual and society, multiplicity of causal factors, collective responsibility, recognition of concept of welfare state, belief in democratic value and positive change

Society is suffering from major social, economical, political, cultural and religious disorganizations. There is need of a such initiatives, which inculcate self confidence of bringing positive changes in the society. Need of positivity and confidence is an effective instrument to make free from such problems and brings enlightenment in the society. Collective efforts, cooperative actions and will power to bring changes in the society. On the basis of above, it may be strongly argued and practiced that social work plays an important role in protection of human rights.

Scope of the Study

The research study is conducted in urban and rural areas of Sonapat, Ambala, Rewari and Sirsa Districts of Haryana, among the women, girls, children, elderly, marginalized sections, minorities and other vulnerable sections of the society. Researcher has also tries to know about the various causal factors for violation of human rights and interrelations between various factors, responsible for violation of human rights in the community.

Research Design

In the present research study, descriptive research design is adopted by the researcher. Primary and secondary data is used, as per the requirement. The primary data is collected from Sonapat, Ambala, Rewari and Sirsa District of Haryana through interview schedule and secondary data is taken from various websites, Government Departments, National Commission for Human Rights in India and other sources.

Sample Size

Researcher has selected 150 respondents from rural and urban areas of Sonapat, Ambala, Rewari and Sirsa District of Haryana through stratified sampling method. Data was collected through interview schedule and observation methods and analyzed through average and percentage method.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the incidents of violation of Human Rights of various groups in the community.
2. To know the causal factors of violation of Human Rights.
3. To find out the areas of Social Work intervention in protection of the victims of the Violation of Human Rights.

Analysis and interpretation of the data

Table 1.02 Responses about Incidents of human rights violation on various socio-economic and other grounds

Sr. No.	Responses	Percentage of Responses
1	Human Rights violation of marginalized sections	72.00 %
2	Domestic violation	43.00 %
3	Violation of economic rights	49.20 %
4	Incidents of Rap	48.00 %
5	Violation of human rights of children	69.00 %
6	Lack of harmonious social environment	64.00 %
7	Human rights violation due to religious causes	15.36 %
8	Sex and gender based discrimination	79.00 %
9	Human trafficking	51.20 %
10	Violation of the human rights of the elderly	41.53 %

Major Findings and Intervention of Social Work with the Victims of Human Rights Violation

On the basis of the responses received from the people from urban and rural areas of Haryana, researcher found that the incidents of violation of human rights of various groups as; girls, poor people, old aged, women, handicapped, marginalized sections etc are very serious. The causes of the issue are not restricted to society, but other factors as; religion, political, region, caste, financial condition, sex and gender etc are major causes of violation of human rights. Researcher found that social work has very important role to protect human rights and address the issues and incidents related to violation of human rights. A brief description about the major findings of the study and scope of social work intervention is as follows-

Protection of Human Rights of Marginalized Community and Oppressed Groups

Marginalized groups are among the most vulnerable targets of violation of their human rights by some of the dominating, powerful and anti-social people. 72.00 percent respondents told that they have suffered various types of violation of their human rights by dominating groups in their village. They are deprived of their basic human rights related to life, shelter, security and property. But they are so vulnerable and helpless, that they are not able to confront them or raise the issue at proper platforms. Social Workers play their role to provide them education, provide legal assistance and awareness generation among these poor sections to make them independent and strong for such incidents in future.

To Establish Harmony and Cooperation in the Society

64.00 percent respondents replied that the environment, where they live, is not harmonious. They feel a sense of insecurity and lack of supportive environment. Only to guide legal help and punishment to the accused of violating somebody's human rights are not the solution to protect human rights, but such social orders and favorable environment should be created, where nobody dare to hurt others and all people live a life with mutual help and cooperation. Therefore, awareness sensitization programmes through personal visits, focus group discussion, use of print and electronic media, street play and other methods should be adopted by social worker to ensure this.

Working with Victims of Rap and Domestic Violence

48.00 percent respondents told that they have witnessed the rap incidents in their neighbourhood; village or soundings and 43.00 percent respondents are with the view that domestic violence is one of other major type of violation of human rights. Every day, we listen incidents of brutal raps, eve-teasing, molestation and domestic violence with women. Social Worker has an important role to provide counseling, advocacy and facilitate them to necessary service related to their economic, social, health, legal or other rights. He needs to work with the victims and their family members and do efforts to

make them firstly physically and mentally healthy through discussion, counseling, ventilation, advising and resource utilization; further facilitate legal assistance to them.

Role of Social Worker with Victims of Economic Rights

49.20 percent respondents reply that economic rights of the poor people are not safe in the society. Study found that violation of human rights related to economic and employment is very serious issue in the society. Unlawfully livelihood activities are seized, employment is illegally denied and wages are not paid properly. Here is the responsibility of the social workers should to provide assistance to the victims and approach to the accused. In case of tenacious accused, necessary advocacy and legal support should be guided to the victim.

Protection of Human Rights of the Children

69.00 percent respondents are with the view that children are among the most vulnerable and their human rights violation happens largely. Children are among the most immature and prone to violation of various type of human rights as; bad behaviour, deliberately malnourishment, deprivation from education, sexual abuse, bonded labour, organ smuggling etc. Around the world, human rights of children are brutally blasted off and their life is made abyss. Social worker has prime duty to help these minors, who are one of easiest targets of the accused of human rights violation. Social Worker should have strong institutional networking for counseling, advocacy, educational facility, health care services for them.

Help the Victims of Terrorists Attacks and Religious Riots

15.36 percent respondents told that religion riots are also some factors, which violate the human rights of the people. Terrorists attacks and religious riots bring a big lose to human life as well as property. Innocent people are killed, wounded dreadfully and their families are desterilized or disorganized without their any fault. Afterwards situation of incidents are very horrible. In these situations, social worker play his role as a facilitator, mediator, advocator, counselor, educator and many other ways to help the victims, assist medical teams, ensure food and shelter and work with police and judicial system to control the situation and provide relief to the victims.

Human Right, Sex Selective Elimination, Gender Issues and Social Work

UDHR declares in article number 2 that there should not be any discrimination on the basis of sex. But sex and gender are among top factors, suffers human rights violation. 79.00 percent respondents told that the human rights violation is more with women as compare to man. Female are victimized on education, social security, physical security, food, employment, violence and neglecting them at large level. Even right to life is snatched due to sex and they are killed in the womb. Apart from this, almost in all sectors, sex selective discrimination and gender issues are found. Social Worker should work with them to ensure

equality in the society. Home visits, counseling, focus group discussion, advocacy, awareness generation events and use of media platform should be incorporated by social worker to help them.

Protection from Human Trafficking

51.20 percent respondents told that human trafficking is another type of violation of human rights, where children, women and poor people are most vulnerable to the trafficking. Incidents related to human trafficking are done by big giants of criminal world. Illegal human organ selling, prostitution, child labour, child abuse and forceful marriage etc are commonly seen human trafficking crimes. Social worker has a big responsibility to work in coordination of health staff, police, judiciary and various welfare organizations working on rescue operations and sensitize community about this very serious issue.

Protection of Human Rights of Old Aged, Persons with Disability, Mental Retardation

41.53 percent respondents are with the view that elderly, PWD and mentally retired do suffer violation of their various types of basic human rights. Social work may help them through counsel the victims and their family, network with relevant institutions and health care and provide legal help to them.

• **Victims of Violation of Right to Education and Social Work**

1. Working with the family members
2. Advising, counseling, advocacy
3. Approach educational institute and other relevant resources to help the victims.

Role of Social Workers at Policy and Structural Level to Ensure Human Rights

1. Sit with policy makers and suggest necessary inputs and amendments in the current mechanism and institutional framework to ensure human rights in the society.
2. Take feedback and views of the community at the grass root level and convey these inputs to the top level.
3. Ensure interdisciplinary approach to tackle human rights violation and promote strong and collective actions so that the criminals and accused may be traced on time and victims may be rescued or protected timely.

Challenge before Social Work, while Working with Protection of Human Rights

Social work is one of important profession, which plays an important role to protect human rights in the society. But social work faces lot of challenges, while delivering the services in this area. Major challenges, faces by social worker are as follows-

Lack of Institutional Support

Social Workers don't have strong institutional help from police, judiciary or any other institution, who are pivotal in protecting human rights.

Lack of Awareness in Society

Society does not aware about the role of social work. Social workers are serving the society in each and every part of the nation but there is lack of information and awareness about them. Studies show that more than 85.00 percent people are not aware about social work and

his role in human rights protection. In these circumstances, it is difficult for professional to serve the society properly.

Lack of Effective Coordination and Networking with Necessary Institutional

In most of situations, protection of the victim of human rights violations is a team work. But there is not effective coordination between social workers and other serving institutions. Sometime process and formalities of conveying message to other institutions takes so much time that either victims is distressed completely or accused has run away, when rescue team reach to the victim with his team.

Lack of Government Attention towards Social Work

Government doesn't have much care towards this very important, dedicated and selfless profession and is not able to identify its significance to protect human rights.

Personal barriers of social workers

Social Workers also have some own limitations, which need to improve to work in human rights protection field.

Red-Tapism, Corruption and Dolorous Administrative System

Red-tapism, corruption and dolorous attitude of the system made the task of social work harder. Social work seeks almost zero support and cooperation from administration, police and judiciary, except in some critical cases, special incidents or institutional pressure. Media trails and public attentions of certain cases make the system active, otherwise, social worker are never supported by them.

Absence of Authority to Social Workers

Lack of authority to social worker is one of the major challenges. Authority provide a kind of license to help the people and warn or take strong action against accused, but lack of authority is one the major barrier in front of social worker to serve the society in human right protection.

Conclusion

The violation of human rights is found with all sections of the society, which can never be seen as a healthy signs for any noble and civilized society but the reality is that there is violation of the human rights all around the world, due to various socio-economic, political, religion and other causes. In such circumstances, Social Work has great potential to protect the victims of the violation of human rights. Social Work may assist, facilitate, advocate, and resolve the human rights issues in the form of a separate professional service and also in collaboration with various government Departments and welfare organizations.

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