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## **Empowering India: Challenges and Imperatives in Integrating Human Rights**

### **Education for Social Transformation**

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#### **Abstract:**

Education helps assimilate and spread knowledge, making it a potent tool for human rights education worldwide. Teachers are crucial to the social inclusion of education for marginalized and depressed children in India. The Indian education system relies on instructors, who are essential to learning. Teachers help students understand human rights and live more humanely. Childhood has the greatest reciprocity, and they can become effective adults and socially responsible citizens. Students' social behaviour is heavily influenced by their teachers and their social surroundings. Human Rights Education may help instil human ideals in their attitudes and social behaviours. Teachers and students must embrace Human Rights education to achieve social cohesion and order. This article discusses the difficulties of cultivating and implementing human rights education in India. This article also advocates for human rights education for Indian students and instructors to improve their moral, physical, social, economic, and spiritual well-being.

**Keywords:** society, education, knowledge, human rights, human ideals, social behaviours, social well-being etc.

## **Introduction:**

We cannot survive as humans without our natural rights. Human rights and fundamental freedoms allow us to develop and use our knowledge, talents, conscience, and spiritual and other needs. They reflect humanity's growing desire for a life that respects and protects each person's dignity and worth. Oxford Word Power Dictionary (1993) calls human rights "the basic freedom that all people should have". Human rights are inherent to humans, not based on their legal system. Every person has the right to enjoy and have protected human rights. Thus, everyone has these rights. Some human rights are necessary for justice, but they are not justice. Human rights include universal suffrage in a democracy, but they are not democracy.

## **Human Rights in Indian Context**

Modern India is based on its constitution's democratic and socialist values. Human Rights as enumerated in the constitution as Fundamental Rights include equality before the law, prohibition of discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth, equal opportunity in public employment, abolition of untouchability, abolition of titles, protection from a conviction for offences, protection of life and personal liberty, and prohibition of trafficking in human beings and forced labour.

As fundamental liberties were denied under British control, modern human rights thought developed. In truth, the Indian freedom struggle began for civil, political, economic, cultural, and social rights. Constitution of India Bill-1895, Commonwealth of India Bill, Government of India Act 1935, and Principles of Panchsheel created the groundwork for human rights in free India. The 1950 constitution of Independent India was a turning point in Indian history. Indians' essential human rights come from the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, and Directive Principles of State Policy.

Human rights are intrinsic moral claims inherent in all humans by nature. These are important to ensure every person's dignity so he can develop and use his qualities and talents regardless of race, religion, nationality, language, sex, or other factors. These rights guarantee respect for others' rights. They facilitate mutual respect and coexistence. Denial of human rights

and fundamental freedoms is a personal sorrow and produces social and political turmoil that leads to violence and conflict inside and between nations.

Human rights are so vital that the international community considers them universal regardless of social, political, or economic status. No elite group owns human rights. Human Rights are the claims of individuals for conditions necessary to realize their innate characteristics as humans and to ensure the dignity of all humans, regardless of race, religion, nationality, language, sex, or other factors (Naseema, 2006). Human rights are inalienable since a person is human. No one grants these rights. These rights are inalienable because a free person cannot give them away or strengthen them. However, not all individual demands are human rights. The only claims important to personality development and recognized by society are rights. These rights may not be legally enforceable. Thus, we must distinguish between morally and universally accepted rights and legal rights established by the law-making process and judicially enforceable in a society.

Thus, all humans have human rights, regardless of nationality, sex, ethnicity, colour, religion, language, or other status. All people have human rights without prejudice. These rights are interdependent and indivisible. Treaties, customary international law, general principles, and other international legislation often express and safeguard universal human rights. Governments must act or refrain from specific actions to promote and defend human rights and basic freedoms of persons and groups under international human rights law.

### **Significance of Human Rights Education**

Human Rights Education is education, training, and information that promotes tolerance, gender, equality, and friendship among all nations, indigenous people, and society by sharing knowledge, imparting skills, and shaping attitudes to strengthen human rights and fundamental freedoms, develop the human personality and sense of dignity, and build a universal culture of human rights.

Human rights education promotes a global human rights culture by teaching skills, information, and attitudes. While human rights education is worldwide, it works best at the national and local levels. Human rights education helps international human rights law become

part of people's lives and nations' cultures. The 1993 Vienna Conference: A landmark in human rights education confirmed that education, training, and public awareness were necessary for community understanding, tolerance, and peace. Human rights education promotes equality, sustainable development, conflict prevention, and democratic engagement. It seeks to create a society that respects all human rights.

### **Human Rights Education in India**

India has a constitutional obligation under Article 51. India has signed the UNDHR and ratified the Civil and Political Rights Convention, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Convention, etc. Human Rights Education is a legal requirement in Indian democracy. The University Grants Commission (UGC) appointed Justice S.M. Sikri to lead a 1980 committee to promote human rights education in India. In its study, 'Human Rights Education at all levels', the group offered alternative techniques at different education levels. The group also said graduate students in science, commerce, medicine, and engineering should learn about human rights. The National Policy on Education (1986) also emphasized some Human Rights Education objectives.

Discussing Human Rights Education courses Justice Rao (2007) noted that current teachers and prospective teachers are rarely exposed to Human Rights Education theory or methods. Thus, the present Human Rights Education course is aimed at teaching professionals to help them develop the necessary information and mental attitude. He also claims that the content of Human Rights in social science subjects has not been properly taught, and most of those who teach Human Rights may not have received formal training because there is no appropriate module in teacher training. The commission developed Human Rights Education teacher training modules after trying to create a syllabus. The commission formed a Task Force of eminent academicians, school education experts, and legal experts to examine the Human Rights education scenario at school levels across the country and develop a blend of theoretical and practical knowledge. This exercise led the commission to create a Human Rights syllabus for teachers' training based on national and international developments.

Pathak (2007) confirmed that Human Rights Awareness is needed now. This empowers victims of Human Rights breaches to seek effective reparation and makes redress systems

efficient and Human Rights-friendly. Organizing human rights information into a single field of study is intended to encourage activism for the public good. Human rights concerns are diverse, making their study, understanding, and instruction difficult. The biggest challenge is limiting human rights education to one discipline. Human Rights Education cannot be contained within traditional bounds because it crosses typical fields taught in colleges and universities. The scope of the studies may need sponsoring and promoting independent Human Rights Education departments throughout time.

According to Sharma (2007), one of the main reasons the Human Rights Education program failed to impact the educational system was that it was not marketable and few students chose to study it. Additionally, Human Rights Education has been separated. The humanities and social sciences focus on society, whereas this curriculum is more law-focused. Human Rights Education should be taught at all levels, regardless of discipline. Human Rights Education must be part of elementary and higher education programs to promote Human Rights Awareness and ideals in young people.

### **Role of Awareness about Human Rights Education**

Human Rights Education is more important as conflicts and tensions rise. It promotes relating to others through human rights. It promotes inquiry, argumentation, decision-making, cooperation, evaluation, sharing, and values-based living. Human rights education helps us to critically evaluate our attitudes and behaviours and change them to promote human rights.

Human Rights Education reduces human rights violations and promotes a free, just, and peaceful society. It also prevents Human Rights abuses and invests in democracy. Children's early views, thoughts, and characters are always shaped by their environment. Human Rights Education in schools helps kids adopt human rights principles. Promoting and safeguarding all human rights to ensure full and universal enjoyment of these rights requires mass awareness and sensitivity to human rights issues. Only by knowing and embracing human rights can peace and prosperity be achieved. Only human rights education can ensure vigorous involvement.

Naseema (2006) called for Human Rights education. Human rights education can create awareness, guard against discrimination and unfair treatment, and provide democratic values and

freedom to individuals. It broadens global perspectives and understanding of worldwide society and community. It educates everyone about human rights. It protects human rights in a democratic, multicultural society where tolerance and patience are expected. Educating citizens about global issues and mutual understanding safeguards racial, ethnic, and religious rights in any country. Global citizenship is likely to be accepted worldwide to conserve human culture and democratic obligations. Human rights violations, social injustice, selfishness, and self-centeredness can be eliminated to eliminate war dread.

Narayan (2007) proposed that human rights education should be integrated into mainstream education and provided in local languages for effective implementation. Participatory learning approaches, interactive strategies, and student sharing of their own experiences can improve the process and promote universal human rights by utilizing the region's culture.

Education is a development indicator. It impacts every aspect of life. It's a positive process that helps a person overcome darkness, poverty, and unhappiness and achieve enlightenment, success, and happiness by developing his whole identity. That is achievable when education is essential for human rights realization and progress. Human rights education raises awareness of equality, inequality, slavery, and women's exploitation. It highlights advances in human rights protection to avoid discouragement when faced with human rights breaches. Education should help people realize their physical and intellectual strengths and apply them for the welfare of their community. Education also fosters openness, daring to question, and perseverance in solving problems by providing basic knowledge, attitudes, values, and abilities to start one's life. Human rights education must plant the seeds of human rights in young, susceptible minds. Education is essential to instilling peace, freedom, and social justice in children. Education has historically influenced social change. Devi (2007) states that all education sensitizes, humanizes, and elevates mankind in knowledge, awareness, freedom, and social responsibility.

Thus, Human Rights Education involves learning knowledge, and skills, and how to use them, as well as creating beliefs, attitudes, and behaviour that upholds Human Rights and defending and promoting them. It teaches Human Rights through practice. Education underpins

all other human rights. Individual independence and empowerment are promoted. Only if future teachers are aware of human rights and have a favourable attitude toward them can they effectively and democratically execute the right to education.

Education frees and empowers people, boosting societal growth and self-reliance. Society relies on it for economic growth, social stability, and political stability. Thus, education is becoming a global Fundamental Right and necessary for the practice of all human Rights. Everyone deserves an education. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, passed by the Indian Parliament, requires all children aged 6–14 to attend a neighbourhood school for primary education. This list includes children aged 6-18 who will receive elementary education. Every child over six who has not been admitted to a school or could not finish elementary school for any reason can be admitted to a class appropriate to their age under the Act. Age-appropriate entry allows the youngster to receive supplemental training or instruction to catch up to the class. Elementary education underpins all learning and growth. It gives them analytical skills, confidence, and goal-setting drive. Thus, it is crucial to national socioeconomic development. Any nation needs a robust elementary school-based education system to grow. Human Rights Education emphasises norms and values, which differ by society and often shape religion and culture. Human Rights Education is unique in special education. Prospective, not retrospective. It aims to change society. Human Rights are evolving as the world realizes that shared standards are needed to live together in peace and secure justice and fairness for the powerless, especially the persecuted.

## **Conclusion**

Education helps assimilate and spread knowledge, making it a potent tool for human rights education worldwide. Teachers are crucial to the social inclusion of education for marginalized and depressed children in India. The Indian education system relies on instructors, who are essential to learning. The country has about five million teachers at various school levels and a massive network of teacher education institutions to train them. The curricular framework for teacher preparation programs in the country encourages teachers to incorporate human rights themes into their school lessons. Teachers help students understand human rights and live more

humanely. Childhood has the greatest reciprocity, and they can become effective adults and socially responsible citizens.

Students' social behaviour is heavily influenced by their teachers and their social surroundings. Human Rights Education may help instil human ideals in their attitudes and social behaviours. Teachers and students must embrace Human Rights education to achieve social cohesion and order.

Human rights understanding among instructors is crucial for student moral, physical, social, economic, and spiritual growth. They improve material conditions in impoverished communities. Human rights education equips people to participate in development. It encourages sustainable development and social justice for the poor. It gives marginalized communities a political platform to recognize their constitutional rights and fight for their share of development benefits. Human Rights education emphasizes cultural tolerance and respect amongst religious and caste groups. This promotes social solidarity and order. So, it protects against exploitation and discrimination. Human rights education is crucial to creating societies that respect human rights. Teachers must develop and strengthen human rights awareness about education to create a democratic environment in schools and meet the educational needs of marginalized castes and communities in India.

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