

Women and Human Rights: Women's Human Rights violation with special reference to the state of Assam, India

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ABSTRACT

Human Rights, in general, refer to those rights which belong to any individual for being human. Women's have the human rights as because she is a human being. But women rights are violated in every phase of human history. Women rights are violating day by day around the world by various ways. Assam women's conditions are also not good in terms of their rights. Rape, dowry death, witch Hunting etc. are very often violence against women in Assam. According to the reports of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Assam ranks second in the acts of violence against women. In this paper an attempt has been made to draw attention of some human rights violation with special reference to the state of Assam, India.

Key Words:- Women, Human Rights, Violation, witch hunting, dowry, Assam.

INTRODUCTION

Human Rights are inherent and inalienable rights possessed by every human being irrespective nationality, race, religion, language, culture, sex etc. simply because a human being. These birth rights and fundamental freedoms allow us to fully develop and use our human qualities, intelligence, talents, conscience and to satisfy our physical, spiritual and other needs. Human rights are sometime called natural rights. As natural rights they are seen as belonging to men and women.

Women are part and parcel of our society. Indian ancient history is a rich heritage having no match in the other part of the world. In ancient Indian women enjoyed a significant role not only at home but in the society also. But slowly and gradually the status of women in the society degraded. The rights of a woman in society, to a great extent, are determined by the rights she enjoys. Violence against women are

perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. The status of a woman in modern society in a sort of a paradox. In theory men and women are equal. But in reality, women continue to experience a sense of deprivation, because of the inbuilt notions of patriarchy. At present women rights violation is a continuous system. The proposed paper seeks to the condition of women in terms of their "Human Rights". The aim of the study is to make the common people aware of women empowerment which is vital gender-based issue in the present.

METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data collected from books dealing with topics related to violence against women. Information are also gathered from the Internet.

The concept of women's Human Rights –

The term 'Women's human rights' is

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the product of an international movement to uplift the condition of women. During 1976-1985, women from different geographical, racial, religious cultural and class backgrounds took up organizing to improve the status of women. The United Nation sponsored women's conference, which took place in Mexico city in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985 were convened to examine the status of women and to formulate strategies for women's advancement. The concept of women's human rights have given opportunity to the women of the world to know the widespread inequality and violence that women facing every day.

The preamble of the Human Rights charter of the United Nations expressed the determination of member states "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of every human person, in the equal rights of men and women the 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". Our Indian constitution also provides basic human rights in spite of sex differences. Preamble, Fundamental Rights (Article 12-35 part- III), Directive principles of state policy (Article 36-51 part -IV) are all provide the basic human rights for the people of Indian. Though violation of human rights against women is a universal phenomenon even in the so called progressive societies.

Violation of Women's Human Rights –

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women defines the right of women to be free from discrimination and sets the core principles to protect this right. In the Fourth world conference on women in Beijing in September 1995, it was declared that "violence against women constitutes a violation of basic human rights and is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace". Even though, women rights are not well protected. Her rights are violating in every day. Various kinds of

women's human rights violation have prevailing till today. For instance –

Domestic Violence – women are more likely to be victimized by someone that they are intimate and close partner. The impact of Domestic Violence in the sphere of total violence against women can be understood through the example that 40-70 % of murders of women are committed by their husband or boyfriend. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women in most of the different parts of the world. Between 22 to 35 % of women who visit emergency rooms are in United States for that reason. Indian women are also suffering very same.

Rape – Rape can occur anywhere, even in the family, where it can take the form of material rape or incest. Rape is now become the common phenomena of our society.

Sexual Harassment – Sexual Harassment in the work place is a growing concern for women employers abuse their authority to seek sexual favours from their female co-workers. Sometimes promising promotions or other forms of career advancement or simply creating an untenable and hostile work environment. Women who refuse to give in to such unwanted sexual advances often run the risk of anything from demotion to dismissal.

Sexual assault with marriage – In many countries sexual assault by a husband on his wife is not considered to be a crime, a wife is expected to submit. It is thus very difficult in practice for a women to prove that sexual assault has occurred unless she can demonstrate serious injury.

Prostitution and trafficking – Many women are forced into prostitution either by their parents, husbands or boyfriends or as a result of the difficult economic and social conditions in which they find themselves. Since prostitution is illegal in many countries, it is difficult for prostitutes to come forward and ask for protection if they be-

come victims of rape or want to escape from brothels most women and girl children initially victimized by sexual traffickers have little inkling of what awaits them.

Son Preference – Son Preference affects women in many countries, particularly in Asia. It is consequences can be anything from foetal or female infanticide to neglect of the girl child over her brother in terms of such essential needs as nutrition, basic health care and education. In China and India, some women choose to terminate their pregnancies when expecting daughters but carry their pregnancies to term when expecting sons.

Dowry – related and early marriage – In India, an average of five women a day are burned in dowry – related disputes. Early marriage, especially without the consent of the girl is another form of human rights violation.

Mob violence – In 2010 Amnesty International reported that mob attacks against single women were taking place in Hassi Messaoud, Algeria. According to Amnesty International, “Some women have been sexually abused and were targeted not just because they are women, but because they are living alone and are economically independent”.

Witch Hunting – Witch hunting is a social menace which causes death of many innocent people. In such case an innocent person specially women is suspected to be the cause of all evils of a society such women are killed mercilessly in public.

Violence against women in situation of armed conflict – women in situation of armed conflict – Rape has been widely used as a weapon of war whenever armed conflict arise between different parties. It has been used all over the world as in Chirapas, Mexico, Rwanda, Kuwait, Haiti. Women and girl children are frequently victims of gang rape committed by soldiers from all sides of a conflict.

Violations of Women's Rights in India – It is very sad that even often various efforts at the national and international level, still the position of women termed as a second class citizens. The scenario of rural women of India and Assam are more worse than the urban women. The rural women silently accepted the violation of their rights due to the conservative family norms. In India a women is raped in every twenty two minutes and a bride burnt for dowry every fifty eight minutes. The Police registered cases of molestation of women, a figure that is about 85% higher than the number of rapes.

Women's human rights violation in North east India are increasing day by day. For instance – in most tribes, including the kukis if a woman does not have a son, inheritance is impossible. It leads to son preference. Among the Meetei Community in Manipur, polygamy is still practiced. Unmarried single woman is always considered as a additional burden of the family. The another ongoing severe violence is rape in Northeast India. The Indian security forces have been accused of perpetrating the vast majority of rapes in the region, throughout the course of the insurgency of Northeast India. The Armed Forces (special power) Act, 1958 has been imposed for several decades in North East India and the security forces are violating women's right in the form of rape. On 2 November 2012, Ms Irom Sharmila Chanu, a Manipuri woman will completed 12 years of hunger strike demanding the repeal of the Armed Forces (special power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA).

Violation of Women's Rights in Assam - In Assam the secenario of violation of women rights are highest. The state of Assam which was previously famous for insurgency, political instability and lack of infrastructure has off late, come to the fore-front for the various crimes against women. Like all other states, in the country, incidents of violence against women in the state of Assam have

been on a constant rise. According to the reports of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Assam ranks second in the acts of violence against women.

In February 2000, eleven years old Rupa Nath of Gogamukh Sonapur in Dhemaji District employed as domestic help in the house of Rudra Gogoi of Dhopalial gaon in Lakhimpur district was accused of stealing gold ornaments. she and her sister Oirabati Nath were taken to Ghilamara police station for interrogation. There they were severely beaten and manhandled. Again Rupa was handed over to Rudra Gogoi's elder brother who beat her "to get her to confess" unable to extract a confession by the police and Rudra Gogoi's family Rupa and her sister were again taken to Gogamukh police station for the second time where the girls were repeatedly raped. In the incident Rupa lost her consciousness and was left to die near a culvert while her sister was dragged of near her house.

A twelve year old girl in 2005 was allegedly raped by an Assam Rifles soldier in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.

In November 2007 at Guwahati 17 years old Adivasi girl was stripped and paraded during a protest March. In July, 2012 a minor girl was beaten up and molested by a mob on a busy G.S. Road, Guwahati. Very recently in January 2016, a girl was beaten up and molested by a mob on the busy Zoo Road Tiniali, Guwahati. In Assam in every minutes and in every seconds the basic woman rights are violated in somehow by her male counterpart. The rising crime graph of Assam, which is well above the national average, ought to be a matter of serious concern both for government and civil society. Murder, rape, extortion, kidnapping, robbery, theft etc. have registered a phenomenal increase and it raises a question before social scientists, why a once peaceful state, and one in which women used to hold a reserved position, should now be gripped by a situation of all pervasive crime, including those against the fairer sex. The ineffective law enforcing machinery apart, lowering of moral values, alcoholism, cross materialism and

lure of easy money etc are some of the factors behind it.

Summing up with suggestions

From the above discussions, it has been found that, there is a need to make all round attempt to educate people about the concept of women dignity and rights, to treat human being and individual and a person demanding respects and dignity. Thus there is a need for better protection through strong legislation and policy with proper implementation and reform in criminal justice system. Education and legal awareness widens women perspective, lays confidence to stand up to the oppressor and if need to be take recourse to the courts for redresses. Educational and economic independence of woman can play very important role in the realization and protection of her own rights. The whole society and women's intimates should take a further step to identify the contribution of women in the family as well as in the society. So, that woman may also enjoy her rights and a society based on equality, justice and human rights may be build. At last it may be said that women are also a part of the society and human being. Without women, society cannot be existed. Let a woman to live as a human being with ensuring the human rights.

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