

Human right violations in India

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ABSTRACT

Human rights violations against India's 250-300 million untouchables, it is evident that the Afro-Americans suffered slavery for some centuries. The Jews suffered holocaust and martyrdom for some time, but Dalits have been suffering humiliation, loss of respect, dignity, culture and above all, unspeakable horror of the caste system for the last three thousand years of human history. The world communities must assume responsibility in bringing total justice to the Dalits who have been systematically deprived of their respect, dignity, culture and rights by the upper caste people of India. What is amazing that even after 55 years of India's independence, and as India is signatory to many international agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the "Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination," and even though untouchability was abolished by India's constitution in 1950, there is no difference in the lives of India's Dalits as their fundamental human rights are violated on a daily basis. India has been called the "world's largest democracy." It is merely "A democracy of the few for the few and by the few" and is probably the largest violators of human right acts in human history. What is worse to notice is that untouchables cannot fetch a bucket of water from the village well or socialize in village tea stalls or cafes, as their touch pollutes everything. Therefore, this paper aims to emphasis on human right violations against India's dalits.

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The Government of India have set up a forum for redressal of human rights violations by constituting the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and provided for the setting up of State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The Constitution of India has provisions and guarantees for safeguarding almost the entire gamut of civil and political rights. Directive Principles of State Policy further require the States to ensure the promotion and protection of social, cultural and economic rights, particularly of the weaker sections of the society, so as to bring about a just and equitable social order, leading to an overall improvement in the quality of life for all sections of the society. The civil and criminal laws of our country have also in-built mechanism to safeguard the rights of the individuals and provide special protection to the most vulnerable sections of the society.

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Human rights education and training:

A National Action Plan for Human Rights Education, adopted by the Government of India, envisages promotion and awareness of human rights to all sections of the society. Specific target groups have been identified such as schools, colleges and universities. Government officials, armed forces, prison officials and law officers are also sensitised to the protection of human rights. The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken various initiatives for the spread of human rights education; such as _ Human Rights courses have been introduced as a part of the training for the Border Security Force and the Central Reserve Police Force. Human Rights courses have also been introduced as a part of the training at the National Police Academy and Police Training Colleges.

Transparency and commitment to human rights:

The Government have cooperated fully with various human rights agencies functioning under United Nations (UN) and have been responding in an appropriate manner to specific complaints of alleged human rights violations. The Government have also, in their obligation under International Convention, been sending information and replies to specific issues and questions received from various rapporteurs of the UN High Commission for