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## GLOBALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS:

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### Introduction:

Human being is social by nature and it lived in society. The formation of society differ themselves from the other species of the nature. The society leads a systematic life with some rules and regulations. The concept of rights, liberty, power, authority etc. gradually evolved in the society as the time passes. The rights are those essential conditions of life without which man cannot be at his best. The rights are innate and inherent in all individuals irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, sex, etc. since the rights are integrally and inextricably interwoven with human beings, consequently, these are called human rights.

Though the international concept of human rights has its origin in the twentieth century yet the western idea of rights can be traced back to the ancient Greek period. Plato, Aristotle was the champions of natural rights. The exponents of social contract theory Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau developed the ideas of right to life, individual liberty and freedom as well as the concept of general will. In the middle ages the notions of supernaturalism and absolute monarchy were prevalent which restricted the rights of man. Man became a mere onlooker whose destiny was controlled both by ecclesiastical masters and the monarch together. Since liberalism stood as a reaction to the authoritarianism and absolutism of both the church and monarchy, therefore, it emphasized on freedom of man in all spheres of life. It worked on the principle of *laissez faire* where state considered as necessary evil. It minimizes the state function and maximizes individual liberty and restricted state interference on individuals. The concept of free market and open competition prevailed. However the Marxists oppose the notion and argued that rights are possible only in a communist society.

The period of 1914 to 1945, witnessed two world wars and considered the period as an age of catastrophe. The period also witnessed the war against fascism, colonialism, racism, oppression and discrimination that the conceptualization and articulation of human rights in its present form took place. However in 1945 the United Nations Organization came into existence to save the mankind from the scourge of war and maintaining world peace and its general assembly adopted the universal declaration of human rights on 10 December 1948 and provided "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" (Art.1)

The evolution of these rights can be conceptualizing into three generations rights. The first generations of human rights include the civil and political rights i.e. right to life, freedom of speech, equality before law, right to religion, right to vote etc. The second generation human rights evolved after the Second World War and provide social, economic and cultural security. It includes right to employment in just and favorable conditions, right to food, social security etc. The third generations' rights are basically "collective development" in nature and it laid importance on groups rather than individual. These include right to self determination, special provisions or rights for community and religion and deals with environment. Thus, human rights are those inherent and inalienable rights which are due to an individual by virtue of his/her being a human. It based on the assumptions that human beings are born equal in dignity and rights.

## **Violation of human rights:**

Though the issue of human rights has gained importance all over but humanity is caught in a whirlpool of problems, which lead to blatant violations of human rights. The objective of the universal declaration of human rights still remains a utopia. The violations of human rights not only caused due to war, civil war, ethnic conflicts, genocide, terrorism, migration, sexual and domestic violence, child labor, religious fundamentalism etc. but absolute poverty, hunger, ill-health, ill-nutrition and impact of globalization also violates the human rights.

Science and technology have brought comforts for man and improved the conditions of livelihood but at the same time it has also led to negative developments with several problems to mankind. The inventions of sophisticated and WMD (Weapons of Mass Destructions) including the nuclear weapons has put the entire mankind under a constant threat that has endangered even the survival of human species. Now –a-day’s violence and state sponsored terrorism are quite common in regional, national and international areas.

## **Violation of human rights: North-East India:**

The North-East India connected with the rest of the country with the chicken’s neck corridor notably ethnically and linguistically different from the other parts of the country. In this region several armed factions operate. Some groups call for a separate state, others for autonomy while some extreme groups demand nothing but complete independence. There are existing territorial conflicts within Northeastern states, including between Manipur and Nagaland, Assam and Nagaland, Meghalaya and Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. These are often based on historical border disputes and differing ethnic, tribal or cultural affinities. There are many extremist groups in this region like ULFA, NDFB, KNLA, KPLT, NSCN (IM), NSCN (K), PREPAK, NLFT, ANVC, UNLF and many more. Human rights violation took place in this region since the inception of insurgency and counter insurgency operations. The Indian forces in the area are frequently traced to form immunity granted to the security forces under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. The act has been criticized by Human Rights Watch as a “tool of state abuse, oppression and discrimination”. The security forces were responsible for serious human rights violations including arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, rape and extrajudicial killings. The ethnic conflict in this region is another source of human rights violations. Violence broke out between Bodo tribes and Muslim migrants’ settlers in the Kokrajhar district of Assam on July 20, 2012, leaving at least 45 people dead and many displaced. According to Human Rights Watch, the violence has lead to a strict curfew, and the police being given “shoot at sight” orders for curfew violations. The victims are mostly women suffering from sexual harassment and rape. Moreover, most of the rapes go unreported due to fear of social stigma or to avoid retaliation from the force. A report on the violation of human rights by the security forces in the seven states of the northeast is devastating. Prepared by a member of Narmada Bachao Andolon, Baroda, another of the Saheli, Delhi, the report has shattered the myth of what goes in the name of law and order in the region. The two members say “generations of military suppression have taken a heavy tool on the people’s lives, live lihoods, and attitudes and in fact the very concept of “normalcy of life”. The report says that the main roads are often nothing more than a series of check posts where locals are subjected to harassment of identifications, questioning and even detention without being furnished any reason.

The struggle for greater democratic and civil rights has consistently been dealt with as “law and order problems” to be solved by an ever increasing deployment of the security personnel.

## **Impact of Globalization : Violation of Human Rights**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is engulfed by the phenomenon of globalization. Globalization simply means free trade without barriers. The world rapidly being turned into an integrated whole via international trade, internationalization of production and financial market and the internationalization of consumer-culture, promoted by an increasingly networked global telecommunication systems. It allows free flows of goods and capital, which would usher in economic growth and development. However, the industrialized countries of Europe and North America themselves are resorting to protectionist measures and formation of

regional trade blocs. Thus, consumer goods produced in industrialized countries could have unrestricted entry in developing countries; goods produced, for instance, in India cannot have the same unrestricted access in North America and Europe.

Trade between the West and countries in the non-Western world may destroy subsistence agriculture, co-opting third world farmers into production for the international market-place, while their societies are made dependent on imported foods. Local artisan production can be wrecked by inter-national competition, causing more unemployment than the new employment produced by international investment.

Free market economy sets the goal of more production at less cost and more profits; glossed over in this approach is the human face and day-to-day problems faced by the common people. Such an approach not only ignores human rights aspect but further widens the gap between the rich and the poor and aggravates, what Peter Drucker calls, social crisis.

Richard Barnett of the institute of policy studies describes globalization in terms of four increasing webs of global commercial activity: global cultural bazaar, the global shopping mall, the global financial network and the global workplace. The globalization and market oriented economic reform helped transnational companies shift their manufacturing units to developing countries. Because of more people are crossing borders in search of jobs and in most conditions people are forced to work in inhuman conditions for lower wages. The transnational companies (TNC) are the spearheads of globalization and home become the dominant economic and political force in the world economy. Increasing competition and pressure on TNC to increase profits leads to a relentless search for cheap labour market. Many of the companies from developed and newly industrialized countries (NIC) have shifted their manufacturing and service industries to developing countries.[For e.g., a large number of computer software in Bangalore, India, at less than one fifth of price in other countries.] But work moves the less developed countries; the shift does not automatically bring western level of employment and prosperity to the host countries. The western countries are increasingly using their view of HR concept as a yardstick to judge developing countries and to deal with economic and trade relations to extend development assistance. At the same time globalization intensifies impoverishment by increasing poverty, insecurity, fragmentation of society and thus violates human rights and human disunity of millions of people.

The Human Development Report 1997 provides asserting evidence of how globalization and systematic violation of human rights go hand in hand. Its statistics provide gloomy confirmation of the fact that many countries are worse off today than they were one, 10 or 30 years ago and that the global distribution of income is the worst it has been for at least three decades. The reports indicates that in 1997 30 developing countries have registered a decline in their 'human development index' a construct based on life expectancy, literacy and income more than in any other year since the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) began publishing its annual reports in 1990.

The preamble of the Declaration of the Rights to Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986 describes 'development as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process that aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in their fair distribution of resulting benefits.' It was further maintained that the right to development is the right of individuals, groups and people to participate in, which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. But these so called development models not compatible with human rights standards. As a result of the globalization process, more negative results are visible now. Global integration of structure, processes, and ideologies produce injustice, oppression, exploitation and mal-development in society. The systematic integration of forces that are dominant in the globalization process intensifies human rights violations.

Globalization has its winners and losers. With the expansion of trade, market, foreign investment, developing countries have seen the gaps among themselves widen. The imperative to liberalize has demanded a shrinking of state involvement in national life, producing a wave of privatization, cutting jobs, slashing health, education and food subsidies etc. affecting the poor people in the society. In many cases, liberalization has been accompanied by greater inequality and people are left trapped in utter poverty. It ultimately causes increased impoverishment, social disparities and violation of human rights.

Globalization in Indian context has also witnessed the violation of human rights. In June 1991, India initiated the new economic policy by devaluation the macro policy change to liberalize its economy, sought Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to cut down subsidies, and opted for free-trade and market based policies. Thus, India began its experiment with the forces of globalization, beginning in 1991. One

significant development has been better annual economic growth ranging between five percent and seven percent.

Indian markets are flooded with consumer goods. Foreign made colour TVs, cellular phones and various models of cars-German, French, South Korean, Italian cosmetics, textiles, ready-made cloths, shoes, etc. have flooded the market. Food joints such as Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), Pizza hut, MacDonald's have their restaurants and food shops in all over India. Pepsi and Coke have captured soft drinks market. The Indian companies have vanished.

The arrival of TNCs has increased rental and market value of real-estate many folds depending on the site and the areas of metropolitan cities. On the other hand city like Delhi itself continues to experience acute shortage of power and water supply. States like Bihar, U.P, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan continue to be worse state in terms of power and water supply. Prices of electronics goods like TV, mobile phones, computers, refrigerators of various makes, which are now easily available, have come down, while the prices of essential commodities of day to day needs such as vegetables, food grains, edible oils, etc, have gone up. Invitations of FDI create a situation where backward regions get more backward and the rich get richer through earning incomes and commanding the mode of goods they would like to consume. We should keep in mind that it is the responsibility of the government to protect human rights of the people. Otherwise the suicide of the farmers, selling of their children to fight against poverty would be continued. The labours have been forced to work in 3Ds condition such as dangerous, dirty and degradation.

International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 6 to 15 emphasize on the right to work, the right to just and favourable conditions of work, the right to form and join trade unions, the right to social security and above all the right to adequate standard of living including food and shelter. Similarly the Constitution of India has spelled out these rights and the directive principles of state policy have directed the state to secure a social order for the promotion and welfare of the people. The government should not surrender its economic resources to private entrepreneurs, especially the TNCs adopting the policy of creating SEZ (Special Economic Zone).

### **Conclusion:**

Human rights are not derived from some understanding of human nature; instead they are the articulation of aspirations immanent in a culture. As ideals, human rights define the community within which people want to live, but have their roots in the community in which they in fact live. It is more a social ideals than a legal claim. But violations of human rights are one of the most worrying problems of our times for the entire world civilization. To protect these rights, beyond the state machinery the NGOs and Civil Society should play an important role. There must be an universal education policy from the grass root level to conceptualize the problem of violation of human rights for all.

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