
POSITION OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS IN HARYANA

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Abstract:

Human rights have become one of the indicators for measuring good governance, development and democracy across the systems and governments in the contemporary world. Thus, human rights serve as a standard of conduct for all states regulating relationship with their citizens. Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, caste, class, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. Theoretical perspective of human rights has covered the four aspects such as claim, power, privilege and immunity enjoyable by all by virtue of their status as human beings.

In India, the term Human Rights defined under Section-2(d) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, "Human Rights" mean the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and .dignity of the individual guaranteed by the constitution or embodied in the international covenants' and enforceable by courts in India. The act to provide for the constitution of a National Human Rights Commission, State Human Rights Commission in States and Human Right Courts for better protection of human rights.

Besides constitutional provisions, the status of women in India has been subject to many great changes over the past few millennia. From equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. There is no doubt that we are in the midst of a great revolution in the history of women. The evidence is everywhere; the voice of women is increasingly heard in parliament, courts and in the streets. While women in the west had to fight for over a century to get some of their basic rights, like the right to vote, the constitution of India gave women equal rights with men from the beginning. Unfortunately, women in this country are mostly unaware of their rights because of illiteracy and the oppressive tradition. Names like Kalpana Chawla; the Indian born, who fought her way up into NASA and was the first woman in space, and Indira Gandhi: The Iron Woman of India was the Prime Minister of the Nation, Beauty Queens like Aishwarya Rai and Sushmita Sen, and Mother are not representatives of the condition of Indian women. In this chapter we analyze the rights of women with special reference to the Indian context that may bring forth a clear picture of the Haryanvi women and their rights.

Introduction

Despite the growth of education and the other notable changes that had taken place in society. Haryanvi women are still in darkness. Women are cradle of civilization. They occupy an important and vital place in the society. They are part and parcel of every family. Women should be protected and honoured in the society. In short their role in shaping the family and moulding the society cannot be minimized or underestimated. Ruled by the Indian National Congress, Haryana remained infamous for lawlessness state especially with regard to women. Their rights continued to be violated by the male dominated society.

As women were supposed to be and in some areas of India are still considered to be curse by some strata of society their birth not taken as a burden. So in the past times they were killed as soon as they were born. In some of the Rajput class of Rajasthan newly born girl child was dropped in a large bowl of milk and was killed. Today with the help of technology the sex of the unborn baby is determined and if it is a girl child then it is aborted down. In all this procedure women do not have any say they have to do according to the wish of their husband even if she does not want to abort. Feticide and Infanticide is often blamed on illiteracy. But this does not seem to hold true in Haryana. The district with poor literacy levels have reported the highest sex ratio and child sex ratio in the state as per the early results of census 2011. Mewat district, which is the most backward areas of the state, has reported the worst literacy rate at 56.1% but has the highest sex ratio of 906 females per 1000 males in Haryana at the same time. In the 0-6 age group too, the district, dominated by the Meo community, has topped the chart with 903 girls per 1000 boys. The sex ratio has increased in the state from 861 females per 1000 males in 2001 to 877 females per 1000 males in 2011, but Haryana has reported the worst child sex ratio of 830 girls per 1000 boys in the country.

Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years) of neighboring states with Haryana

Haryana	Punjab	Delhi	Rajasthan	Himachal Pradesh
830	846	865	882	906

Rape

Raping and group raping occur everywhere in India and abroad as well. This proves that women are the weaker section in society. In India, according to the official records, around 1000 women get raped every year, who generally belonged to dalit group in habited areas. In several area of UP, Bihar and even in Delhi, frequent reports are published about the women's rape.

Police personnel are also involved in raping and the guilty official get transferred or suspended. One Sarita Devi of Rohtak was raped by police officer. Special security official of Governor was also caught for the rape.

Girls students are target of sexual abuses including rape and molestation by their teachers. The Haryana Government had decided to constitute special surveillance committees to monitor instances of sexual harassment in school and other educational institutions following such reports. In early February 2006, the Haryana Government suspended seven school staff including two accused teachers and the Principal of Government Senior Secondary School in Durjanpur in Jind District. 17 school girls of class VIII and IX were raped for eight months by the accused teachers. The incident came to light when one of the girls studying in class IX got pregnant and told her parents about the rape. Two other girls who also got pregnant were forcibly got abortions done by the teachers. The teacher had reportedly approached the family and offered them Rs. 1.5 lakh to get the child aborted in another case.

Dowry

In 1961, the Government of India passed the dowry Prohibition Act making the dowry demands in wedding arrangements illegal. However; many cases of dowry-related domestic violence, suicides and murders have been reported. In 1985, the Dowry Prohibition (Maintenance of lists of presents to the bride and bridegroom) rules were framed. According to these rules, a signed list of presents given at the time of the marriage to the bride and the bridegroom should be maintained. The offence relating to dowry is non-bailable. The number of dowry cases registered in Haryana reflects the fears in the mind of parents. According to SP, Hisar, an average of six cases are registered every month in the district. The fear of dowry cases is driving parents to disown their sons before their marriage as a precautionary measure should marital bliss turn in to nightmare.

Child Marriage

Child marriage has been traditionally prevalent in India and continues to this day. Historically young girls would live with their parents till they reached puberty in the past, the child widows were condemned to a life of great agony, shaving heads, living in isolation, and shunned by the society. Although child marriage was outlawed in 1860, it is still a common practice.

In July 17, 2010, A Mahapanchayat at Meham Chaubisi Chabutra in Rohtak discussed the lowering of marriage age for a girl from a legally prescribed 18 years to 17 years. The Mahapanchayat was attended by 600 representatives of various khaps of all castes and communities. They felt that lower marriageable age would help prevent young couples ' from eloping. That is, they would be married off by their parents even before they were mature enough to choose someone as their life partner and think of eloping.

But lowering the marriage age brought some *problems* such as increased birth rate, poor health of women due to repeated child bearing and high mortality rate of women and children. Mewat district of Haryana has a high rate of early marriages. It is very rare to see a boy or girl unmarried above the age of 20 years.

Trafficking

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act was, passed in 1956. However, many cases of trafficking of young girls and women have been reported. These women are either forced into prostitution, domestic work or child labour. According to CMO, Jhajjar, decrease in girl children, tendency to have more sons, regional mechanism has triggered many social and cultural problems. Brides are being brought from other states but many run away. The crime rate has gone up too. The increasing crime in turn is "discouraging" them from having a girl child many claimed during interview. Due to increasing imbalance in sex ratio, Haryana was turned in to "bride bazaar" of India where women trafficked from other state such as Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Maharashtra etc. were sold. Haryana had very low sex ratio which was 877 per 1000 males as per the 2011 census and thereby increasing the demand for women. The price of the women in the market is usually ranged from Rs. 4000 to Rs. 30,000 but depended on factors like virginity, skin colour, age and the number of times the woman had been sold before. Such bride could be resold or shared with unmarried brothers if she gave birth to a male heir. A NGO, Shakti Vahini that fight trafficking, reportedly rescued more than 150 minor girls in the last four years.

Honour Killing

Honour killing have been reported in northern regions of India, mainly in the Indian states of Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, as a result of people marrying without their family's acceptance, and sometimes for marrying outside their caste or religion. In contrast, honour killings are rare to non-existent in South India and the western Indian states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. In some other parts of India, notably West Bengal, honour killings ceased about a century ago, largely due to the activism and influence of reformists such as Vivekananda, Ramakrishna, Vidyasagar and Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Among Rajputs, marriages with members of other castes can provoke the killing of the married couple and immediate family members. This form of honour killing is attributed to Rajput culture and traditional views on the perceived "purity" of a lineage. The Indian state of Punjab is notorious for honour killings. Haryana also is known for incidents of honour killing. In a landmark judgement in March 2010, Kamal district court ordered the execution of the five perpetrators of an honour killing, and imprisoning for life the khap (local caste-based council) head who ordered the killings of Manoj Banwala (23) and Babli (19), a man and woman of the same clan who eloped and married in June 2007. Despite having been given police protection on court orders, they were kidnapped; their mutilated bodies were found a week later in an irrigation canal.

In 1990 the National Commission for Women set up a statutory body in order to address the issues of honor killing among some ethnic groups in North India. This body reviewed constitutional, legal and other provisions as well as challenge women face. The NCW's activism has contributed significantly towards the reduction of honour killings in rural areas of North India. According to Pakistani activists Hina Jilani and Eman M. Ahmed, 'Indian women are considerably better protected against honour killings by Indian law and government than Pakistani women, and they have suggested that governments of Countries affected by honor killings use Indian law as a model in order to prevent honor killings in their respective societies. In June 2010, scrutinizing the increasing number of honour killings, the Supreme Court of India issued notices to the Central Government and six states, including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan to take preventive measures against honour killings. Alarmed by the raise of honour killings, the Government brought a bill in the Monsoon Session of Parliament July 2010 to provide for deterrent punishment for 'honour killings.

Women Rights and Police

There have been incidents when women have attempted suicide outside police stations, setting themselves ablaze, alleging harassment at the hand of erring cops. However, for Haryana, ill-famed for its dubious record on human rights violation, this comes as a welcome initiative, especially to protect women rights. The State police have been instructed not to arrest any women during late evening hours or at night. The women will not be summoned to police stations in the state at night. The move is an attempt to do away with any possibilities that could lead to exploitation or harassment of women by state cops under the garb of investigation. Women suspects would be questioned during day time and produced in the court the same day in case they are placed under arrest. The presence of women cops in police stations at the time of interrogation of women suspects will also be essential. State cops have been advised to deal with cases relating to women sensitively. Haryana, grappling a skewed sex ratio, has alarming human rights violations, with many left unregistered. In the last three year, an alarming over 9,000 cases of such violations have been reported from Haryana, a sizable number on women right violations. Data available with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) reveals that a majority of the cases are of police brutality, inaction or misuse of power, discrimination against women and those concerning minorities. There are several times when women, summoned to police stations, get to face harsh and un-parliamentary language by investigating cops, it goes unreported and needs to be checked firmly.

Officials feel many of the incidents of women harassment at Police stations stem at the cutting-edge level where training could play a crucial role. The need for involvement women, even those not donning the khakhi, in policing activities was strongly felt as a measure that could reform the rot, both internally and externally. With that in mind, a new scheme to involve women in rural areas to help check crimes against their peers was launched last year in Haryana. The state police constituted a special group of five "socially aware" village women which could play a vital role in preventing atrocities and crimes against women, including domestic violence, rape, kidnapping, dowry and murder.

The women were to act as a strong feedback mechanism to help check crime against fair sex from all quarters, including the police. Certain villages in district of Rohtak, Jhajjar, Kamal, Panipat and Sonapat are in process of being covered under this scheme. To prevent misuse of authority, it was also decided that these women groups will be involved in the investigations of women related as well.

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