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HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S EXPLOITATION

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Abstract:

In this paper attempt has been made to point out the various ways of women's exploitation. It also points out how human rights help to solve the exploitation of women. There are various ways of women's exploitation such as domestic violence, exploitation for dowry, sexual exploitation, physical exploitation, feticide and so on.

KEY WORDS:

Domestic violence, exploitation for dowry, sexual exploitation, physical exploitation, feticide, molestation, humiliation.

INTRODUCTION

Human Rights are the rights inherent to all human equally entitled to all human beings, whatever our nationality, sex, color, religion, language or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all inter-related, interdependent and indivisible. All human rights are indivisible, whether they are civil or political rights such as right to life, equality before the law and freedom of expression. All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and related. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching practice, worship and observance. These rights are based on the concept that every man and woman, irrespective of caste, creed, color, race and nationality is born with certain fundamental rights such as right to live, freedom, speech, justice etc. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which UN adopted on 10th Dec. 1948 enumerates some of these basic rights of man.

About Human Rights M. K. Gandhi says, "You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty". Where Franklin D. Roosevelt says, "If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationship – the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace". The concept of Human Rights is an international one. Broadly speaking, human rights are those rights which are inherited in our nature and without which we cannot live as a human being. Every human being is in need of rights to develop his personalities, otherwise a man cannot prosper. They are the basic to civilized existence, are conceived primarily as protection against the tyranny of the majority even in a democracy because the ultimate hope for those rights lies in the democratic process. Human rights are such type of rights which are bestowed to human being without any discrimination. According to sec 2 (1) (d) of protection of Human Rights Acts 1993, 'human rights' means the rights related to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the constitution. Indian Constitution has bestowed fundamental rights, legal rights to all Indian. In the last sixty years of India too much reformation regarding human rights took place in India. Rights to Education, Rights to Information and so on. All the rights to human being are guaranteed by the

entire world. Although we are living in the 21st century, still injustice is seen at many places. Human rights have given equal rights to men and women both. The Indian Constitution has accepted the same.

Jimmy Carter says, so far as human rights of woman is concerned, ancient Indian ideology tells us that 'woman' is treated with great dignity and honor of 'Mata' or 'Devi' or is worshipped like Goddess Saraswati. But even though she has been denied some of the fundamental rights many inhuman practices are developed to ill-treat the women such as early marriage, dowry system, Sati System and so on. Their rights are snatched. They are harassed and exploited in various ways. Women are treated as inferior or subordinate to man but this is not fair. If we go back to the history, we come to know that many women falls a prey to the exploitation and destruction. They were treated worst than the domestic animals. They were identified only by their husband name or the daughter of someone. It was just like "Man for the field, and woman for the hearth". The women remain invisible since a long time. Although geographically men and women share the same space, they live in different worlds. The mere fact that "women hold up half the sky" does not appear to give them a position of dignity and equality. Since many years women have made great stride in many fields with noteworthy progress. Too much inequality is seen in many fields like education, political, economic, social and cultural spheres.

Women's Exploitation:

Indian woman is a topic of research. If we go back to the history, we come to know that women's exploitation commenced from after Vedic period. Under patriarchal system women's suffering started. Women were due respected. As far as at globe level the pictures and examples of women's exploitation are seen. In the same way situation in India is also seen. If we go back to ancient India, it is seen that Manusmriti did not allow the women right to life. A woman has been considered as a machine of procreation and to manage only children and home. In short we can say that women were considered to be an inferior to men. In the past women were deprived of many rights. Principle of inequality devoid of legal rights, lack of scientific approach and so on. As far as human culture is developed, woman's status deteriorated. Women were respected but their rights were snatched away. Later on the process of exploitation took place. If we try to find out the root of exploitation, it is deeply rooted in Indian theology. In Manusmrit, women are kept under obstruction. Early marriage, Sati- system, Devdasi, such systems were existed in those days and women were deprived of their rights.

Year 2001 has been declared as Women Empowerment Year. Every year we celebrate 8th March as a Women's Day but the condition of women is not still progressive. Women's exploitation is still at large. In the Survey of Indian Medical Association, it is seen that in India that every year more than 50 lakhs female foeticide take place. As per the census of 2011, there are 925 women in proportion of 1000 men. Women literacy ratio is 75.48%. Indian women are facing injustice since a long time. The legal safeguards are supplied for Indian women against domestic violence. Violence against women manifests like dowry harassment, domestic violence. Rape, molestation, kidnapping, cruelty to women, other forms of murder like female foeticide. But now this is the right time for women to know their right. The present era brings many women movement for the upliftment and liberation of women.

VARIOUS WAYS OF EXPLOITATION:

Preferably, women in India are harassed in the following ways.

1) Domestic Violence:

The circumstances responsible for the domestic violence is patriarchal system and the mentality aroused in it. The origin of domestic violence is from various trivial issues like dowries, wife's sexual infidelities, her negligence of domestic duties, her dis-obedience of her husband's dictates, talking to other person, coming late at home are the considered legitimate causes for wife-beating. It is observed that mental violence is more stronger than physical violence. In the survey of National Women Commission of 2003 indicates that 19% highly educated women are beaten by their counterparts. In rural areas nearly about 43% of women falls a prey to domestic oppression. In India domestic violence is mostly found in the states like Bihar, Rajasthan, U.P. and northern states having proportion 65 and 45 respectively. The special law The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence has been enacted. According to National Crimes Bureau Report (2002), 1.5 lakh crimes against women are registered annually, out of which nearly 50000 are concerned with domestic violence.

The term used to describe exploding problem of violence within our home is Domestic violence. This violence is towards someone who, we are in a relationship with, be at a wife, mother, daughter, or anyone. This violence has a tendency to explode in various forms such as physical, sexual or emotional. The greed for dowry, desire for a male child and alcoholism of the spouse are major factors of domestic violence

against women in rural areas.

According to United Nation Population Fund Report (UNPFR), nearly about 2/3 of married women are victims of domestic violence. In India, nearly about 60% of women suffer from domestic violence. The government of India passed a Domestic Violence Bill, 2001, "To protect the rights of women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".

2) Exploitation for Dowry:

Dowry system is indeed a curse to Indian society. It is a shameful tradition and a big blot on Indian culture. We worship women as Durga, Laxmi and Saraswati, but exploit them in marriage. Dowry system has made marriage a business in Indian society. After marriage some daughter-in-laws are harassed by the mother-in-laws. They are humiliated beyond limit. This system is responsible for the plight of women.

In India we see that due to poverty and misery, many parents cannot perform the marriage of their daughters due to dowry system. Dowry is nothing but the gift given to their daughter at the time of marriage. But after all, this system is the worst one, unaffordable to the common people. Dowry related domestic violence, suicides and murder cases is the routine of the days. Everyday such news are published in the newspapers. In 1961, the Dowry Prohibition Act is passed, which indicates accepting dowry is illegal. Other various ways of women's exploitations are as- Bride burning, genital mutilation, rape, murder, acid attack and so on. We see that many brides commit suicide due to dowry.

3) Sexual Exploitation:

In this era of globalization and information technology, tremendous progress is taking place across the globe. Women are not lagging behind to men. They are entering in each and every field. They work at private, government and semi-government offices. But their sexual harassment is at large. Forcibly they are attracted for illegal business. Consequently, they are exploited. Women victims of sexual harassment are reluctant to even admit this because of social stigma. In 1997, Supreme Court has passed a judgment in this case, the court started guidelines declared under Act 141. Several amendments are brought in the offence of rape punishable u/s 376 of I.P.C. namely 376- A to 376 D, after a landmark judgment of Supreme Court in 1995.

4) Physical Exploitation:

Physical exploitation is also one of the forms of exploitation which is prevalent in our Indian society. In some family, unnecessarily or due to the lust of money or wealth, brides are physically exploited. It includes physical aggression, such as blows of varying intensity, burning by putting kerosene or petrol on her body, hangings, sexual abuse and rape, insulting with abusive words, filthy words, humiliation at each and every moment, emotional threats, and coercion. All such activities include in physical exploitation. Government has laid some laws against physical exploitation of women but stringent action doesn't seem to take place. Women who are subjected to such physical exploitation should be provided with access to the mechanisms of justice and to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered. Government should inform women of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanism.

5) Feticide:

Feticide is one of the burning issue in India. The practice of female feticide and abortion is increasing day by day. Today, due to advance technology like amniocentesis and ultrasound used for detecting sex of the fetus. If female child is found, it is aborted. As per I.P.C. 312, abortion of pregnant woman is strictly prohibited.

Women are the victims of discrimination, social prejudices, physical abuse and domestic violence. Female feticide is the shocking facts and it is committed not only in illiterate and poor but also by educated people in the cities too. This is one of the major social problems in India. Discrimination against women and a preference for a son have promoted. Survey made it clear that ten million female fetuses have been illegally aborted in India. The government passed Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act in 1994, pointing out that sex selective abortion is illegal. It is punishable under section 302 of the I.P.C. and having imprisonment upto three years and onethousand rupees fine. It is the urgent need of increasing awareness of this issue. Aamir Khan devoted an episode of his show 'Satyamev Jayate'. As per the 2011 census, the child sex ratio in Maharashtra has dropped to 883 girls against 1000 boys. In the last

year, action has been taken against many doctors for violating the Act. It occurs in many parts of India. Such type of act is considered to be a crime by law and the increase in awareness among the people, they have become cautious about revealing facts to investigators. As per Indian Constitution Act 312 one who instigates woman for feticide is having three years of imprisonment. Even though the ratio of such act is increasing not only in rural areas but in city life also. It is seen that laws regarding human rights are not followed strictly.

CONCLUSION:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscious and religion. Human Rights has given equal rights to both, man and woman. In our India women have rights in existence but the implementation regarding the same is not strictly followed. There should be a gender equality in our Indian society. The Indian Constitution has accepted the same. Women are considered to be inferior to men and hence, they are not provided with proper rights, instead, they are harassed and exploited in many ways. Many laws are laid against the violation and exploitation but not implemented properly. Hence women in India must be conscious of it and fight against boldly and bravely until they get the protection. Proper implementation of human rights is the need of the time. Women must be made conscious of their rights against harassment and exploitation. Sexual violence and domestic violence must be stopped to maintain peace in the world.

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