



Right to Life and Liberty' to Women

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Abstract: Life is so precious to every human being but to what extent human beings utilize life meaningfully is left to the discretion of every individual. People should realize the value and worth of life and accordingly live without harming anyone around them. However the tremendous progress made in the field of science and technology has paved for the emergence of materialism, luxury and madness for money. This in turn has led to the loss of all religious, moral and ethical human values in human beings. *Every human being, even the child in the womb, has the right to life directly from God and not from his parents, not from any society or human authority. Therefore, there is no man, no society, no human authority, no science, and no "indication" at all whether it is medical, eugenic, social, economic, or moral that may offer or give a valid judicial title for a direct deliberate disposal of an innocent human life...*

Key words: human beings, fundamental human rights,

Introduction

*I am not for Gay Rights
I am not for Women's Rights
I am not for Handicapped Rights
I am not for Elderly Rights
I am for Human Rights
'Living is an Ecstasy'- Emily Dickinson*

The above quotes and sayings are very true and are applicable to the life of all human beings. Of all the living species, humans are the noblest creatures created by the Divine Master with a gift of life. Life is so precious to every human being but to what extent human beings utilize life meaningfully is left to the discretion of every individual. People should realize the value and worth of life and accordingly live without harming anyone around them. However the tremendous progress made in the field of science and technology has paved for the emergence of materialism, luxury and madness for money. This in turn has led to the loss of

all religious, moral and ethical human values in human beings. People are leading unfair life in the process of making money; humans are depriving others of certain fundamental human rights to people around them. So the very problem of the Right to life and liberty is questioned.

Human Rights, the universal rights belongs to individuals by virtue of their being human, and encompasses civil, political, economic, social , and cultural rights and freedoms based on the notion of personal human dignity and worth. Conceptually derived from the 'theory of



natural law' and originating in Greco-Roman doctrines, the idea of human rights appears in some of the early Christian writers and works and is reflected in Magna Carta. Organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch promote human rights and denounce human –right abuses.

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The right to life is a moral principle based on the belief that a human being has the right to live and, in particular, should not be killed by another human being. The meaning of the word life includes the right to live in a fair and reasonable condition, right to livelihood by legal means and decent environment. This includes;

- The right to go abroad
- The right to privacy
- The right to shelter
- The right to education
- The right to freedom of mind and body
- The right to choose

So the right to life and liberty includes the freedom to live freely and happily according to the dreams, desires and aspirations of an individual. Section 7 of the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom** states that: everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of Fundamental Justice.

The 'right to life' does not mean a mere physical existence or the right to live a lifeless life. But it includes the right to live with human dignity and all that goes along with it namely the basic necessity of life, adequate nutrition, clothing, and shelter such as head over the lead and facilities for expressing oneself in diverse forms freely moving and mixing with fellow human beings.

"Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" is a well-known phrase in the United States Declaration of Independence. The phrase gives three examples of the "unalienable rights" which the Declaration says has been given to all human beings by their Creator, and for which governments are created to protect. But globalization has created such a negative impact on the women's standards of living that the very right to life is doubted. Despite developments made in the field of science and technology, women are still undergoing subjugation in the hands of men.

Women in ancient India were held in high esteem. Women were considered as a precious being but with the passage of time, the status of women was lowered. Money and muscle power dominated the societies. Women were regarded as a



source of misery during the Vedic period. In the later civilization women were not allowed to go schools. It was thought that the right place for women was in the home. Her main duty was to cook and fulfill all the household chores including menial jobs. They were considered only for reproduction and looking after children. Thus women have been deprived of their rightful place in society and exploitation and victimization of women has been going on in some form or other for centuries.

It is a shame that even after over sixty years of independence women are still exploited. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments have provided 33 percent reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj System. Women have now started demanding their rights. They want to work side by side with men and contribution towards the social, economic and political development of the society. Swami Vivekananda has rightly remarked, "It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing."

Rape, sexual harassment, molestation, eve-teasing, forced prostitution, etc are a common affair today. The crime graph against women is increasing at an alarming rate. The condition of an Indian widow is quite deplorable. At home, the woman's contribution towards home as a housewife is not recognized. Sexual harassment at work places is also a common affair. We can just go on describing the denial of 'rights to human and women', but that is not sufficient

because we have to think of the solutions to avoid this major problem. To overcome the denial of rights to women, education is reasonably a good indication of development and the right to every individual to education is one of the first provisions of the universal declaration on human rights.

To acquire a better quality of life, education is highly essential. Creating educational opportunities for girls and women is strongly emphasized and suggests one way eliminating the stereo typed image of women. Hence we as presenters would like to suggest some measures to protect 'Human and Women Rights'. Some of them are;

- Firstly every human should realize the essence and value of life.
- Respect one and others.
- Loving all humans, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, sex, and class.
- Practicing basic values like kindness, sympathy, and mercy.
- Avoiding biases and indifferences.
- Treating everyone equally.
- Respecting the feelings of others.
- Avoiding unnecessary interference in others' life.
- Reading articles and books on human and women's rights.
- Organizing awareness programmes in and outside the schools and colleges.
- Listening to wise counsels and of superiors and elderly people.
- Maintain good human relationships to bring peace, joy and happiness of all.



Conclusion

So live happily and let others live happily and enjoy liberty because it is your right- the human and women right- the rights of all. To protect human rights is to ensure that people receive some degree of decent, humane treatment. One cannot let their freedom of life be constrained. As Tagore had said in a different context, we are like bird twice born in the realm of freedom. Once when the bird is in its confined shell and then out of shell, it is in the freedom of unbounded sky. Today we are like that bird which flies out into the wider skies to newer heights and would not be willing to be caged. Our freedom is irreversible and we should not give it up.

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