



Human Rights and the role of Civil Society- Reality or Myth

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Abstract: Central idea of this paper is to form alertness that in Reality the Civil Society has not taken up the required responsibility & it is a myth that civil society is working to promote and protect Human Rights. The role of civil society in promotion and protection of human rights is of fundamental value and it is undeniable that every human being living on the earth is responsible for protecting and promotion of Human Rights, but in today's Scenario it has become fashionable term to discuss, confront, condemn, but not work and implement upon. It is observed that in most of the cases un-educated person's rights are humiliated and exploited by the educated therefore efforts should be made to create awareness about the respect for other people's rights and concept of Human Rights from childhood education. This step now can make at least future generation as warriors of Human Rights.

Key words: childhood education, civil Society, human rights

Introduction

The role of civil society in promotion and protection of human rights is of fundamental value and it is undeniable that every human being living on the earth is responsible for protecting and promotion of Human Rights.

In today's Scenario Human rights protection and promotion is seen as work of social activists, it has become fashionable term to discuss about in forums, confront upon in news channels, condemn violations in media for publicity, but members of civil society are not ready to take lead to work and protect the cause of Human Rights. In a Country where the population has touched 120 crores, handful of activists are expected to take up the protection and promotion of Human rights of children, women, and other discriminated, any incident which happens in our neighbourhood gets

highlighted only if it is levered by social activists.

The Civil Society is actually playing a negative role, it is discouraging the activists to work for the cause, it is very clear from the words of *Un Secretary General while addressing civil society "Civil society actors (activists) must be able to do their work freely, independently, safe from fear, retaliation or intimidation. This requires collective action to denounce reprisals and defend free voices and protect those targeted"*. These opening remarks accentuate that State and Citizens are posing a serious and vulnerable environment for the activists.

UN Human Rights Deputy, Flavia Pansieri at a discussion on the promotion and protection of civil society space said *"Civil society actors around the world face risks ranging from threats and intimidation to horrible reprisals, even killings"*, She also said the condition are



worst where "NGO who is prohibited from receiving funding, and whistleblower who is imprisoned for revealing corruption, and many cases activists are killed". We must work to protect civil society activists from such practices,"

In this state of affairs imagine if activists give up their role due to threats faced by them, is it not that human rights stand bare waiting for someone to cover it, instead of saying human rights standing bare we can say that such situation uncovers the dark and immature face of the Society which is standing helpless.

It is observed that in most of the cases un-educated person's rights are humiliated and exploited by the educated therefore efforts should be made to create awareness about the respect for other people's rights and concept of Human Rights from childhood education. This step now can make at least future generation as warriors of Human Rights and make Earth a better place to live in..

The Central idea of this paper is to form alertness that in Reality the Civil Society has not taken up the required responsibility and only activists are struggling hard to stand for the cause & it is a myth that civil society is working to promote and protect Human Rights.

Context for example: An Activist who has been working Since 1996 in AP to Rescue the Women and Children from SEX Trafficking has given the figures which are alarming that, In India alone, over 200 thousand women and children are inducted into the flesh trade every year. The state of Andhra Pradesh is one of the largest suppliers of women and children for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. One of every four victims rescued from prostitution is a

child, and 60% of these children are HIV positive.

Tragic Part of the Context: The Tragic Part of the context, *activist expresses* that she has rescued more than 5000 women and children from sex trafficking but the civil society is not even geared up to accept the rescued women and children and rehabilitate them.

It shows that civil society has miserably failed to take up the role as protector of human rights, it also implies that these lakhs of victims are one among from the neighbourhood, It is sad fact that worst human rights violations are taking place with the silent consent of the wide majority of civil society. It is not wrong to say many of us are responsible for violation of human rights with our greed and secret lust.

The other side of the context illuminates that many women, children, Dalits, tribal communities, religious minorities, people with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities stay marginalised and continue to suffer discrimination because of the government's failure to train public and also officials in stopping discriminatory behaviour.

The mind-set of the civil society has to transform massively. Public Attitudes should undergo makeover, as William James said "*The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his thinking and attitudes*".

Respect for women, Love for children, Compassion for vulnerable are the three basic qualities to be implanted in humans, I am sure that the human



rights violation cases will come down drastically.

The immediate necessity is to bring awareness among the civil society through the art and media that protection and promotion of human rights starts from family. There are apparent evidences that those who speak of Human rights are violating the human rights of family members and dear ones.

The real role to be performed by Civil Society:

If human rights need to have genuine meaning, they must be correlated to public involvement, and this participation should be preceded by empowerment of the people. A sense of empowerment necessitates a sense of dignity, self-worth and the ability to ask questions with a spirit of legal entitlements and political consciousness based on rights.

A process of political empowerment and a sense of rights empower citizens to participate in the public sphere. The splendour of human rights has to be maintained with nobility and glory. There cannot be any wearing down of values, deterioration of quality or any cobwebs in the procedure.

It is about Training a citizen sufficiently armed to defend his/her rights and respect others rights. The aim should be to achieve the empowerment which entails the participation of individuals in the definition of their rights and freedoms.

Beyond its role of monitoring respect for human rights, laws and their constitutionality, safeguarding the physical security of person, safeguarding

the lawful property, safeguarding public properties, elements that are central in the protection and empowerment, civil society has a role to play as:

A force of proposal of new social values that respect human dignity, physical security of person, freedoms and responsibilities, as every right implies its collar: a duty;

A force of change by mobilizing people; a force for generating ideas with the support of experts and researchers; A catalyst for new practices on the ground that give its work as a social pillar, strength and legitimacy.

Within this context, particularly in societies under transition, civil society cannot act alone and should support the establishment of national institutions for the protection of human rights and extend hand to the activists who act as mediation bodies. These institutions can fully play their role only if they enjoy the strong collaboration with civil society. NGO and National institutions should be the place though which the voice of society can be carried and the constraints facing the State can be expressed.

Conclusion:

It is sad fact that worst human rights violations takes place with the silent consent of the wide majority. The best safeguard of human rights lies in the positive role of the Media publicity which generates public awareness and builds up an alert and vigilant public opinion.

It is important to make each and every person literate just not in order to make them educated and capable of earning but also recognize their rights towards themselves and each other. An educated person only can stand for his/her right



which empowers the individual to both recognize human rights abuses and to commit to their prevention and strengthening of respect for human rights. It is now a global responsible of every person and the government to promote such education and hence promote human rights.

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