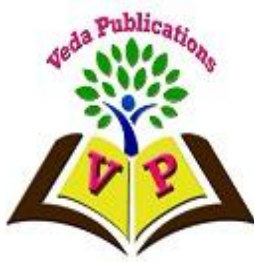


PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF STUDENT RIGHTS IN INDIA: NEED OF EDUCATION & THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT



The issue of Human rights is very important in line with global citizenship, the world over. Observance of human rights is very essential and vital for every society to live in peace, harmony and brotherhood. Human rights apply to all age groups; children have the same general human rights as adults. A safe childhood is a human right. Across the world, children are denied their human rights. The present paper discusses the need of education and the role of teachers in the promotion and protection of Students' rights in India.

Keywords: *Human Rights, Children, Education, Teacher.*

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INTRODUCTION

“Give me liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely

According to conscience, above all liberties”-----JOHN MILTON

Student's rights are fundamental freedom and the inherent rights of all human beings below the age of 18. These rights apply to every child, irrespective of the race, color, sex, creed, or other status. The essential message is equality of opportunity. All children should have the same rights and should be given the same opportunity to enjoy an adequate standard of living. Human rights apply to all age groups; children have the same general human rights as adults. A safe childhood is a human right. Across the world, children are denied their human rights. Childhood forms the foundation of human life. Ensuring child rights is the first step, towards ensuring human rights. Child rights and its accordance is the pillar for national construction, a brighter tomorrow.

The human rights are universal and inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. Human rights are universal, meaning that no one has to earn or deserve human rights. The universality comes about from the realization that everyone is born with and possesses the same rights regardless of race, country, colour, and gender, religious, cultural or ethnic background. Human rights are inalienable in the sense that they can never be taken away from an individual. By virtue of born as a human being one cannot lose these rights. Thus, no person may be divested of his or her human rights save under clearly defied legal situations. Indivisibility means, one cannot be denied a right because one decides that it is less important or non-essential.

The human rights are interdependent because all rights: political, civil, social, cultural and economic, are of equal importance and none can be fully enjoyed without others. Human rights are interdependent in that, all human rights are part of a Complementary framework because each human right entails and depends on other human rights. The concern for 'Human Rights' has assumed global dimension on the adoption of a Universal Declaration on Human Right (UDHR) on 10th December ,1948, by the United Nations General Assembly declaring "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" and "everyone is entitled to rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind". Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings irrespective of their nationality, place of residence, sex, religion, race colour, language. Promotion and protection of human rights ensures prevalence of freedom, justice, peace and order in the society. It ensures that every human being fulfills a quality, life based equality , dignity, respect and concern. Te slogan of the United Nations is 'Dignity and Justice for all of us'. On 16.12.1996 the General Assembly of the United Nations also adopted the "International covenant on Civil and Political Rights" and the 'International Covenant on Economic, Social and cultural Rights" to which India is a signatory.

IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

The aim of human rights education curriculum could enhance knowledge and understanding of human rights, respect, solidarity, and responsibility, develop awareness of how human rights can be translated into social reality as developing skills for protecting human rights. The most important one is inculcating values and attitudes of human rights in students resulting in the promotion and protection of the rights. Human rights education also tries to promote appreciation for human rights as a fundamental ethical and legal basis of society and teach the value of human rights enforcement. Human rights education also fosters the attitude and members of the society. Effective human rights education not only provides knowledge about human rights and the mechanism that protects them, but also develop the skills needed to promote, defend and apply human rights in daily life.

“We work to promote to free,equal access to quality education

For all children – from early learning to secondary education”

Human rights education sheds light on the important protections achieved by human rights, and documents the tragic outcome when the ideal was largely absent or abandoned. Thus, human rights education is important in as far as it contributes to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses by providing persons with knowledge, skills and understanding and by developing their attitudes and behaviors to empower them to contribute to the building and promotion of a universal culture of human rights.

In this sense, Human Rights Education contributes to the long term prevention of human rights abuses and violent conflicts, the promotion of equality and sustainable development and enhancement of participating in decision making process within a democratic system. In this respect one can say that human rights education facilitates peace and development. Human rights education also aims to provide knowledge to students and citizens to engage with controversial social and political issues. It provides multicultural and historical perspectives on the universal struggle for justice and dignity. Human rights education helps to develop the communication skills and informed critical thinking essential to a democracy.

VIOLATIONS OF STUDENTS RIGHTS AT SCHOOL AND HOME

“Hardworking and honest good students are need and necessity to
built the nation great” Rajaji

All children need protection because of their social, economic, or even geographical location; some children are more vulnerable than others and need special attention. The boy child is as much a victim of abuse physical and emotional as the girl child remains more vulnerable because of her lower status in society as a whole. Boys are victims of sexual abuse. Child abuse is not a phenomenon of a particular class or a community. It occurs across socio-economic, religious cultural, racial, and ethnic groups. Research by various groups in the past have clearly brought forth some of the following child violation issues occurred at school and home e.g. corporal punishment and examination stress and Domestic Violence.

EXAMINATION STRESS

India’s education system has made the world inquisitive of the brains we produce. Strict discipline along with a competitive examination system has been the way to success. All parents want to put their children into schools that produce good results. The pressures of cut throat competition, rising expectations from our children and students, good results being the main stake for the reputation of school or a teacher and inability to help children cope with all this has led to increasing depression amongst students, leading to growing number of student suicides. The brains are dying and if we do not open our eyes to this reality now, we may lose out on a whole generation of bright young people very soon. The schools will have to make the first move and also perhaps start counseling the parents along with children.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is physical, psychological, or emotional abuse that occurs in or around the home between family or household members. Domestic violence includes all forms of abuse results from conflicts or misunderstandings that take place at home.

ROLE OF TEACHERS IN PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

“Delivering quality education in safe and supportive
child-friendly learning environments”

A teacher's role in the life of an individual is crucial and a good teacher occupies a very significant place in the minds of young students. After parents, it is the teacher who influences a child most, and contributes to the shaping of his or her personality. A teacher can take following steps to protect child rights Students are those rights, such as civil, constitutional, and consumer rights, which regulate students rights and freedoms and allows students to make use of their educational investment. These include such things as the right to free speech and association, to equality, autonomy, safety and privacy.

PROVIDING CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT

A teacher should create child friendly environment in school. Spare the rod and save childhood, should be the slogan and message for children. All teachers can help in creating and strengthening a protective environment around children. Check dropout rate a teacher should follow up on girls who drop out or attend irregularly to ensure it does not continue.

KEEN OBSERVER

A teacher should be a keen observer because observations are important as they alone will help to assess the growth and progress of a child. The goal of plan international education work is that every child completes equality, inclusive education that covers atleast learning, primary and secondary education. This strategy sets out how plan international can make the greatest contribution to all children realizing their right to inclusive, quality education.

A GOOD COUNSELOR

A school must have a trained counselor to help both the children and their parents guardians. A teacher should help the child express her\his problem either through drawing and painting or by writing a story or simply talking to the school counselor\social worker or to a friend in the class.

CONCLUSION

Education, as a tool to protect rights helps to promote the welfare of the society. The basic values of the society can be achieved through it. Everyone in society has a duty to protect children and their rights, including children themselves. Parents, teachers, community, members, local leaders, religious leaders, doctors, members of parliament, and

even the president all play a role in protecting children. The family especially parents and guardians have the primary responsibility to raise children and ensure their safety. The issue of Human rights is very important in line with global citizenship, the world over. Observance of human rights is very essential and vital for every society to live in peace, harmony and brotherhood. With the Co-operation or all sections of society, political parties leaders, lawyers, social workers, NGO'S teachers, print as well as electronic media, it is possible to protect the human rights of the citizens, particularly, the downtrodden and the neglected. It is also possible when each individual respects the life of other as his own and when each thinks the dignity of the other is as important as his own. Therefore, a human right culture has to be developed in each component society.

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