



CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN HUMAN RIGHTS WITH REFERENCE TO ISSUES UNDERTAKEN BY NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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ABSTRACT

“All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. This paper deals with contemporary issues in human rights with reference to issues undertaken by national human rights commission. It outlines the concept of human rights with reference to women human rights, minority rights and human rights in the private sphere. This paper makes a special note on human rights issues undertaken by National Human Rights Commission of India. This paper concludes with some interesting findings.

KEYWORDS: human rights, minority rights, economic co-operation

INTRODUCTION

“The concept of human rights is a product of historical development. It is closely associated with specific social, political and economic conditions and the specific history, culture and values of a particular country. Different historical stages have different human rights requirements. Countries at different development stages or with different historical traditions and cultural backgrounds also have different understanding and practice of human rights. Thus, one should not and cannot think the human rights standard and model of certain countries as the only proper ones and demand all other countries to comply with them. It is neither realistic nor workable to make international economic assistance or even international economic co-operation condition on them.”

“Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Government.” “All

human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.” As far as a norm has received international recognition, variations must not affect the essence of that norm: universal validity of human rights norms under the current state of international law, does not permit a denial of the universal character of the human rights laws.

When implementing human rights, within the context of the principle of universality, there is room for interpretation. The international community should define the scope or variations. This scope should be narrower as

far as what we may call core rights such as right to life, nondiscrimination, prohibition of torture or mistreatment, prohibition of arbitrary detention, prohibition of slavery are concerned. On the other hand, in case of derivative rights such as freedom of religion or conscience, freedom of assembly, the right to education states can have more room to interpret or, under certain circumstances, to derogate. Supervision of the implementation of human rights should be conducted by impartial, independent international bodies and not by individual states, as each state has its own particular views on fundamental rights and freedoms which are shaped by different historical developments.

EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Traditional liberal thinking on human rights can be traced back to the 1789 Universal Declaration of Human and Citizen's Rights. The Virginia Declaration of Rights of 1776 also reflects the same liberal thinking on human rights. The 1789 Declaration envisages human rights on an individual basis. Every individual possesses rights and freedoms which are opposable against the state. One of the main differences between the French and American systems of human rights is that the rights and freedoms are incorporated in the US constitution whereas in France they are protected by parliamentary action but not by the French constitution. Traditional human rights are also reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 as well as in the European Convention of Human Rights of 1953. Liberal human rights thinking was subject to criticism after the industrial revolution on the grounds that it did not cover economic rights. In response to such criticisms, the UN Convention of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights came into force in 1966. In the post-Cold War era, not only has the importance of human rights increased, but also its scope has been broadened. Human rights are no longer rights of the individual that are opposable only against the state, but they encompass rights which are opposable by the weak against the strong. Thus, women's rights, children's rights and rights of the disabled are firmly entrenched in the human rights system.

WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS

The Declaration adopted by the Vienna Conference on Human Rights contains extensive passages entitled Human Rights of Women and the Rights of the Disabled Person. There is a UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and another Convention on the Rights of the Child. These issues are systematically addressed by UN bodies and mechanism, such as the Commission on the Status of

Women the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the UN Development Fund for Women. A special rapporteur has been appointed on violence against women. The sub-commission of the Commission on Human Rights has created another special rapporteur on Traditional practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children. When one has a closer look at women's rights. There are three main questions regarding women's rights.

1. To eliminate violations of women's human rights. Such violations occur in the public and private sphere because the victim is a woman. The question involved here is how to combat and respond internationally to such violations.
2. To apply all human rights taking into account the particular needs of women. In other words, to broaden the scope of existing human rights so as to encompass women's rights. The first and foremost being the right of non-discrimination.
3. To create new rights for women. An example of such rights is the woman's right to health. The obligation of states in terms of human rights is not only to respect individual freedom and rights but also ensure access to rights.

States are expected, therefore, to take necessary steps to reduce the main preventable causes of women's mortality and morbidity. It is reported, for example, that every year some 500,000 women die from easily preventable causes related to uncontrolled fertility, complications of pregnancy and child birth. The World Health Organisation is carrying out intensive work in assisting states to take action to reduce risk factors regarding women's health. Another aspect of the woman's right to health is HIV infection. It is a fact that in many societies today, the population among which infection and AIDS are rising most rapidly is that of women of reproductive age.

The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 explained that: "HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, the transmission of which is sometimes a consequence of sexual violence, are having a devastating effect on women's health, particularly the health of adolescent girls and young women. They often do not have the power to insist on safe and responsible sex practices and have little access to information and services for prevention and treatment. Women, who represent half of all adults newly infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, have emphasised that social vulnerability and the unequal power relationship between women and men are obstacles to

safe sex, in their efforts to control the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The consequences of HIV/AIDS reach beyond women's health to their role as mothers and caregivers and their contribution to the economic support of their families. The social, developmental and health consequences of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases need to be seen from a gender perspective".

MINORITY RIGHTS

After the First World War, the rights of minorities were dealt with in bilateral agreements. Ethnic hostilities which emerged in the post-Cold War era, have attributed a new importance to the question of minority rights. However, this time minority rights were placed within the context of human rights. In every human rights document prepared after 1990, one can find a minority rights section. This however has not prevented a multitude of separate minority rights instruments being prepared in the international organisations. OSCE (CSCE) adopted in 1990 the Copenhagen Document; in 1991 the Geneva report on Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities; in 1992 the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Minority Rights; in 1994 the Council of Europe prepared a Framework Convention on the Rights of National Minorities. There are a number of other documents on minority rights in the pipeline.

The purpose of all these international instruments is to protect minorities against the state. However the zeal of certain countries in this field carries the risk of creating new minorities, fuelling ethnic nationalism and a new tribalism and thereby giving rise to new elements of instability and insecurity in international relations. It is also interesting to note that it is the very same countries who adamantly refuse to grant minority status to the foreign workers who have been living in their countries for three generations on the grounds that they have not acquired citizenship.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PRIVATE SPHERE

According to the classical liberal doctrine the human rights system intends primarily to protect the individual against the state. From this point of view they constitute limitations on the power of and create obligations only for the state. This classical reading of human rights is now increasingly scrutinized under the pressure of rapid and recent developments. First of all, today human rights are being violated more often by individuals and groups than states. Terrorist groups, racists and ethnic nationalists have become main perpetrators of human rights violations. This has brought the idea of human rights for all to the forefront. Indeed, if

human rights are recognised in relation to the state, they must also be recognised in relation to other persons or groups that violate them. If these rights are essentially inherent in human dignity, must they not be recognised and respected not only by states but by all?

Secondly, the broadening scope of human rights makes it difficult to retain separation of public and private spheres. Human rights are entering into the private law sphere and concern the relations between private persons. Complaints by women against their abusers, children against their parents, workers against their employers, victims of racism or terrorism against their attackers, cannot be left outside the human rights field as these rights have now been accepted as components of human rights.

Thirdly, the traditional places where human rights violations take place are being privatised on a large scale. Therefore, the protection provided in those places against the states should now equally apply to the privatised concerns. The most effective solution to this problem is to incorporate international human rights law into the domestic laws and recognise the right for the victims to bring their claims directly against the private body in the national courts.

On the other hand, the fact that there exist no direct remedies against alleged violators other than States at international level does not mean that private persons or bodies have no duties binding on them. A number of international conventions have created duties or obligations for private persons or groups. For example, the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide covers acts committed also by private individuals. Whether or not the perpetrators are government officials are irrelevant. The only criteria for the offence are their genocidal intent. It is accepted in international law that in cases of war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace, individuals can be held responsible at the international level. The Nuremberg Trials are a good example of this. Article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that: "Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any state, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein." Similarly, Article 17 of the European Convention on Human Rights states that: "Nothing in this convention may be interpreted as implying for any state, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at the destruction of the rights and freedoms set forth herein..."

Human Rights Issues Undertaken By National Human Rights Commission of India:

ABOLITION OF BONDED LABOUR

The Commission has been involved in the monitoring of the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act as per the directions of the Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 3922 of 1985 (PUCL v State of Tamil Nadu & Others). The Commission is presently monitoring the BLS (Abolition) Act by calling for information from the States on a quarterly basis on identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labour. In September 2000, the National Human Rights Commission constituted a Group of Experts to closely examine the matter and to prepare a report on the status, suggest methods of improving the existing schemes and make recommendations to effectively implement the laws for abolition of bonded labour system and other connected matters.

The Report of the Expert Group was submitted to the Supreme Court. The Report contained a status of the work relating to the abolition of the bonded labour system in the various States. It detailed the position of the various existing schemes and made several recommendations to amend the Act so as to make it more effective.

The National Human Rights Commission through its Special Rapporteurs has been interacting with the State Governments and with the Ministry of Labour to evolve suitable measures to eradicate the problem of bonded labour.

RIGHT TO FOOD

On 3rd December, 1996, the Commission took cognizance of a letter from Shri Chaturanan Mishra, the then Union Minister for Agriculture regarding starvation deaths due to the drought in Bolangir district of Orissa. On 23rd December, 1996, the Indian Council of Legal Aid and Advice and others filed a Writ Petition (Civil) No.42/97 before the Supreme Court of India under Article 32 of the Constitution, alleging that deaths by starvation continued to occur in certain districts of Orissa.

When the Writ Petition came up before the Supreme Court of India on 26th July, 1997, the Court directed as under:-

“In view of the fact that the National Human Rights Commission is seized of the matter and is expected to give its report after an enquiry made at the spot, it would be appropriate to await the report. Learned Counsel for the petitioner submitted that some interim directions are required to be given in the meantime. If that be so, the petitioner is permitted to approach the National Human Rights Commission with its suggestion.” Pursuant to the Orders of the Supreme Court, the Indian Council of Legal Aid and Advice filed a petition before the Commission on

1st September, 1997 making a number of suggestions in regard to interim relief to the affected population.

After due consideration of the matter, the Commission, on 17-02-1998, arrived at the view that some interim measures should be undertaken for an overall period of two years. The Commission also requested the Orissa State Government to constitute a Committee to examine all aspects of the Land Reform question in the KBK Districts. Further the Commission with the assistance of one of its Special Rapporteur has been regularly monitoring the progress of implementation of its directions.

Preventing Employment of Children by Government Servants: Amendment of Service Rules:

With a view to preventing employment of children below 14 years of age by Government servants, the Commission recommended that the relevant Service Rules governing the conduct of Central and State Government employees be amended to achieve this objective. The Union Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training), has informed the Commission that the Central Government has amended the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 as well as the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Except for the State of Manipur, all the States/UTs have also brought out the required amendments to the Conduct Rules of their employees.

The Commission intends to monitor the issue and see whether the Central and State Governments actually take action against those public servants who continue to employ children as domestic servants.

ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR

The National Human Rights Commission has been deeply concerned about the employment of child labour in the country as it leads to denial of the basic human rights of children guaranteed by the Constitution and the International Covenants. The Commission on ‘child labour has observed that – “No economic or social issue has been of such compelling concern to the Commission as the persistence, fifty years after Independence, of widespread child labour in our country. It prevails, despite articles 23,24,39(e) and (f), 41, 45 and 47 of the Constitution and despite the passing of various legislations on the subject between 1948 and 1986. It has defied the terms of six Conventions of the International Labour Organization to which India is a party and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in addition. Despite the announcement of a National Child Labour Policy in 1987, the subsequent constitution of a National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) and the undertaking of National

Child Labour Projects (NCLP) in an increasing number of areas of our country, the goal of ending child labour remains elusive, even in respect of the estimated two million children working in hazardous industries who were to be freed from such tyranny by the year 2000”.

The Commission focusing its attention on the following industries where from rampant reports of child labour was received. These interalia include the

- ❖ Bangle/glass industry
- ❖ Silk industry
- ❖ Lock industry
- ❖ Stone-Quarries
- ❖ Brick Kiln
- ❖ Diamond cutting
- ❖ Ship-breaking
- ❖ Construction-work
- ❖ Carpet-weaving

The Commission monitors the child labour situation in the country through its Special Rapporteurs, visits by members, sensitization programmes and workshops, launching projects, interaction with the industry associations and other concerned agencies, coordination with the State Governments and NGOs to ensure that adequate steps are taken to eradicate child labour.

The Commission believes that unless and until the reality of free and compulsory education for all upto the completion of the age of 14 years is realized, the problem of child labour shall continue. The Commission has involved the NGO sector in the non-formal education of child labourers and a number of such schools/training centres are functioning in the districts of the carpet belt. There has also been a distinct improvement in the level of awareness among the general public about child labour issues.

Rehabilitation of Marginalized and Destitute Women in Vrindavan:-

The Commission, since 2000, has been monitoring the implementation of its recommendations for the rehabilitation of marginalized and destitute women residing in Vrindavan. In this context, it had also directed the concerned officials of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to regularly apprise the Commission about the overall progress made towards improving the condition of destitute and marginalized women. In order to have first hand information about the status of marginalized and destitute women in Vrindavan, Members and senior officials of the Commission, have been visiting Vrindavan from time to time and reiterating Commission’s directions regarding grant of pension, accommodation, LPG

connections, ration cards, health care & sanitation, cremation fund, vocational training, social security cards and recreational facilities to the concerned officials so that expeditious action is taken on the matter.

Combating Sexual Harassment of Women at the Work Place:-

The Commission has taken a keen interest with regard to the implementation of the guidelines and norms prescribed by the Supreme Court on preventing and combating sexual harassment at the workplace (1997 VII AD S.C. 53), popularly known as the Vishaka guidelines. Due to its persistent perseverance and supervision, all the States and Union Territories have forwarded their compliance reports confirming thereby the constitution of complaints mechanism and the required amendments in the Conduct Rules for their employees.

Harassment of Women Passengers in Trains:-

The Commission has been deeply concerned about harassment of women passengers in trains. In order to find a solution, it held several meetings with the officials of the Ministry of Railways, Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and representatives of NGOs. In pursuance of the decisions taken in those meetings, the Ministry of Railways have made available FIR forms in Hindi, English and a few regional languages in trains. It has also incorporated a module on gender sensitisation in the training programmes for the Probationers of the Traffic and Security Department of the Railways. The Commission also recommended to the Ministry of Railways the following - (i) availability of FIR forms in all other regional languages, (ii) preparation and display of messages in the railway coaches, (iii) preparation and display of graphics and other publicity materials at the railway platforms, (iv) printing of the message on the back of the ticket saying that sexual harassment of women in trains is a crime, and (v) preparation of power point presentation that could be made in software for the television showing briefly the issue and its implications.

ABOLITION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

The Commission has been vigorously pursuing the need to end the degrading practice of manual scavenging in the country. It has taken up this matter at the highest echelons of the Central and State Governments through a series of interventions.

The Commission held a number of meetings with the State Governments. On the eve of Independence Day, 2002, the Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of India drawing his

attention towards the problem. As a result, the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech stressed the need to end the practice of Manual Scavenging. As a follow up of the Prime Minister's announcement, the Planning Commission has prepared a 'National Action Plan' for the Total Eradication of Manual Scavenging by 2007. Emphasis in this Action Plan is on -

- i) Proper identification of those engaged in manual scavenging
- ii) Enforcement of the prohibition law
- iii) Involvement of NGOs.
- iv) Better coordination at Central and State levels

According to information available with the Commission the following States have adopted the Central Act:-

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. The State of Punjab has adopted their own similar Act. States who claim themselves to be "Manual Scavenging Free" are: Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim; and States who have not yet adopted the Central Act are Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Manipur, Rajasthan, West Bengal.

The Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have not furnished the information.

Dalits Issues Including Atrocities Perpetrated on them:-

Deeply concerned by the discrimination and other human rights violations faced by the Scheduled Castes, the National Human Rights Commission has taken several initiatives to ameliorate their situation and protect their rights. They include the redressing of individual complaints; constitution of a Dalit Cell in 2003 headed by a Member of the Commission with the aim to monitor implementation of programmes; research studies on the socio-economic conditions of the Musahars, and the political and cultural status of dalit women in Haryana; and the preparation of a handbook on discrimination in order to sensitize teachers. The Commission requested Shri KB Saxena, IAS (Retd.), to conduct a study on the atrocities against the Scheduled Castes, which has been completed. The Commission proposes to mount an appropriate campaign in this regard.

Problems faced by Denotified and Nomadic Tribes:-

The communities designated as Denotified Tribes (DNT) and Nomadic Tribes (NT) of India were identified as "Criminal Tribes" (which included both castes

as well as tribes) in pre-independence India. Though the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 was annulled soon after independence, the police, as well as members of the public, frequently and most regrettably continue to treat persons belonging to these communities as "born criminals" and "habitual criminals". They, therefore, remain amongst the most discriminated and disadvantaged groups in the country.

Acting on a petition filed by eminent activist and author, Smt. Mahasvetadevi, President, Denotified and Nomadic Tribals Rights Action Group in May, 1998, the Commission convened a meeting of the Chief Secretaries and senior officers of the concerned States on 15 February, 2000 to deal the matter.

The recommendations included that a retired senior police officer of high reputation may be appointed in every state to watch the cases of atrocities against Denotified Tribes. The National Police Academy and other institutions imparting training to police officers be advised to reorient their syllabi and Habitual Offenders Act be repealed. The States were asked to report the action taken on the recommendations made. These included proper enumeration providing education, employment and other infrastructural facilities to them, and work out action plans for Denotified Tribes. The matter has been taken up with the State Governments, and is being pursued by the Commission.

RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED

The National Human Rights Commission is deeply concerned about the fact that people with disabilities face various forms of discrimination, social exclusion and marginalization. The Commission has therefore taken several initiatives to protect the rights of the disabled. Notably, the National Human Rights Commission has been redressing individual complaints from NGOs and others; the Commission reviewed relevant legislations and made recommendations for improvements thereon; it has successfully championed the need to enumerate the disabled in Census 2001. It has made recommendations to both Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of all States and Union territories requesting them to evolve a State Disability Policy and Plan of Action, to provide social security, employment opportunities, rehabilitation, and barrier-free infrastructure to benefit the disabled. In addition, the Commission has been taking steps to spread awareness of the rights of the disabled through publications, besides undertaking research studies. The Commission has been advocating the need for a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

RIGHT TO HEALTH

For the Commission it has been important to link the issue of health to that of human rights. When linked together, more can be done to advance human well-being than when health, and human rights, is considered in isolation. The Commission constituted a Core Advisory Group on Health, comprising of eminent medical experts with a request to prepare a plan of action for systemic improvements in the health delivery systems of the country. The Commission organized three major national consultations on maternal anemia, human rights and HIV/AIDS, and access to healthcare. Based on these consultations, detailed recommendations have been sent to the concerned authorities. Furthermore, the Commission has also been working on issues like sub-standard drugs and medical devices, illegal trade in human organs, emergency medical care, and fluorosis. In partnership with Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, between July to December 2004, the Commission is organizing five regional and one national public hearing on access to healthcare.

HIV/AIDS

Deeply concerned about the need to protect the human rights of those affected/infected by HIV/AIDS, the Commission has been redressing individual cases relating to discrimination faced by them. It has organized a national consultation on this issue and made recommendations to concerned authorities on issues like consent, testing, respect for confidentiality, protection of vulnerable groups, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, etc. It has also launched a multi-media campaign to disseminate information on human rights and HIV/AIDS to various target groups. A Member of the Commission has been designated to serve as the Focal Point on HIV/AIDS related matters.

Relief work for the Victims of 1999**Orissa Cyclone:-**

The Commission has been observing the system of providing relief by various Governmental and non-Governmental Organizations to the affected people of Orissa to ensure that relief reaches the deprived ones on a uniform basis. In the beginning, the Special Rapporteurs of National Human Rights Commission were directed to keep a watch on the system of dispensation of the relief measures to the affected people and send reports to the Commission on daily basis. The Commission considered the reports submitted by the Secretary General and the Special

Monitoring of Relief Measures Undertaken after Gujarat Earthquake 2001:-

The Commission took suo-motu cognizance of the calamity that arose from the devastating earthquake, which hit large areas in the State of Gujarat on 26th January, 2001. The Commission obtained a report from one of its Special Rapporteurs on the relief and rehabilitation measures being under taken so as to enable the Commission to take steps for issuing appropriate directions/guidelines to the concerned authorities. The Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission also visited the affected areas and submitted a report. The reports submitted by the Secretary General and the Special Rapporteur were considered by the Commission on 29.5.2001 and it gave certain directions and made recommendations for immediate attention and action by the concerned authorities in Gujarat and the Central Government.

In order to monitor closely the follow-up action taken by the State Governments to impact its directions, the Commission set up a Group consisting of Shri PGJ Nampoothiri, Special Rapporteur, National Human Rights Commission; Shri Gagan Sethi, Managing Trustee of Jan Vikas Trust; Smt. Annie Prasad, President of Kutch Mahila Sangathan and Prof. Anil Gupta, IIM, Ahmedabad. The Commission considers the reports sent by the Committee in its meetings held from time to time.

DISTRICT COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY

The Commission had mooted the idea of setting up of a district level setup to promote Police-Community relations and suggestions were invited from a number of Senior Police Officers. Shri Rajbir Deswal, then Superintendent of Police, Fatehbad informed the Commission that they had established an organization called "Fateh Dwaj", a registered organization to promote police-public relations with a membership of about 80 persons drawn from different walks of life. The Commission discussed the issue and the Kerala pattern of District Human Rights Authority, and recommended two measures to promote public confidence and means of redressed of the members of the public against increasing police incivility and high-handedness. The composition of the "District Police Complaints Authority" was as under

1. The Principal Judge of the District concerned - Chairman
2. The Collector of the District - Member
3. The Senior Superintendent of Police - Member

In-Charge of the District:-

The District Superintendent of Police shall be the ex-officio Member Secretary of the Committee. The functions of the Authority are to examine grievances of the public in the matter of rude and uncivil behavior towards the public, abuse of authority, misuse of power, wrongful arrests and detentions, custodial violence and to make appropriate recommendations to Government or the State or National Human Rights Commission. This system is in existence and is working in the State of Kerala.

As the approval of the High Courts of the concerned State Governments was required for the implementation of the proposal, Chief Justices of all High Courts and Chief Ministers/Administrators of States/UTs were addressed by the Commission to constitute a District Complaints Authority in each District. Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Orissa and UT of Lakshadweep reported to have constituted the District Complaints Authority. The matter is being pursued with the State Judiciaries and State Governments/Union Territory Administration

Population Policy – Development and Human Rights:-

In order to initiate a dialogue from the perspective of both development and human rights with regard to the implementation of effective population policies at the Centre and State levels as well as deliberate on the mechanisms to achieve this objective, the Commission in collaboration with the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the United Nations Population Fund organized a two-day Colloquium on 'Population Policy Development and Human Rights'. The Recommendations and Declaration that emerged from this Colloquium was adopted by the Commission and the same were sent to all the State Governments/Union Territories for compliance.

CONCLUSION

It could be seen clearly from the above discussion that human rights issues differ from place to place, situation to situation and country to country. The major contemporary human rights issues cover women rights, minority rights and human rights in the private sphere. The national human rights commission of India has given much important towards abolition of child labour rehabilitation of marginalized and destitute women in vrindavan ,combating sexual harassment of women at the work place ,harassment of women passengers in trains , abolition of manual scavenging , dalits issues including atrocities perpetrated on them , problems faced by denotified and nomadic tribes ,rights of the disabled ,right to health , HIV/AIDS, relief work for the victims of 1999 Orissa cyclone ,monitoring of relief measures undertaken after Gujarat earthquake 2001, district complaints authority and population policy- development and human rights

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