



VIOLATION OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS IN TRIPURA AND ROLE OF EDUCATION

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Abstract

Women constitute almost half of the world population. However, their enjoyment of rights equally with that of men is far satisfactory. Gender differences, customs, traditions, social attitudes etc. are mainly responsible for inequality between men and women. Every individuals of the society have equal rights to live, enjoy to equality and to live peacefully in the society .General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10th December 1948. This declaration provides that all men and women are entitled to civil, political, social, and cultural rights without any discrimination. The constitution of India also guarantees the equality of rights of men and women. However, in the sphere of women's human rights in India, there exists a wide gulf between theory and practice. The women in India in general and Tripura in particular very often have to face discrimination, injustice and dishonor. Though women in India have been given more rights as compared to men, even then the condition of women in India is miserable. The paper will focus on the human rights of women in Tripura and that how all the fundamental rights given to the women are being violated in Tripura, by focusing on the various crimes done against them. This paper also makes an attempt to find out the role of education in promotion and protection of Women Human Rights.

Keywords: *Human Rights, Violation, Women Human Rights, Human Rights Education.*

Introduction: Human rights belong to individuals by virtue of being human, encompassing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and freedoms, and based on the notion of personal human dignity and worth. Most of the basic ideas and norms of human rights existing now adopted as Universal Declaration of Human Rights by United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The constitution of India also guarantees the equality of rights of men and

women. According to article 14 – “The State shall not deny to any person equality before law or the equal protection of laws within the territory of India”. And Article 15 states – “State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them”. But today, it seems that there is a wide gulf between theory and practice. The women in India have always been considered subordinate to men. Though the articles contained in the constitution mandates equality and non – discrimination on the grounds of sex, women is always discriminated and dishonored in Indian society. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women as **"any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"** In 1999, the General Assembly designated November 25 every year to be celebrated as the International Day for the elimination of Violence against Women. . The phenomenon of Human Rights Violation is increasing day by day in India. In Tripura, lots of cases pertaining to Human Rights Violation have been taken place due to different factors. So, there is an urgent need to study the particular phenomenon from different angles.

Objectives: The objectives of the paper are as follows-

1. To examine the trends of different forms of violations of women in Tripura.
2. To study the major causes behind these violations in Tripura.
3. To study the role of education in promotion and protection of human rights.
4. To provide suggestions for prevention of violation of Women Human Rights in Tripura.

Methodology: The paper is primarily based on secondary data sources collected from various journals, magazines, periodicals, internet, Statistical Handbook etc. Hence, the analysis and discussion of this paper is made on the basis of the collected information. Moreover some personal observation and opinions are added in this paper.

Rationale of the study: There is an urgent need to discuss the rights of the women separately as women represents more than half the population of India, yet she is discriminated and violated in every sphere of her life. Only women are a prey to crimes such as rape, dowry, bride burning, sexual harassment, selling and importation, prostitution and trafficking etc. These types of incidence are increasing day by day and become a common phenomenon. In Tripura, lots of cases pertaining to Human Rights Violation have been taken place due to different factors. Without protection and promotion of human rights we cannot expect an

empowered and balanced society. So, it is very necessary to undertake such kind of study in particular phenomenon from different dimensions.

Literature Review: Ahuja (1998) and Visaria (1999) had conducted studies on ‘domestic violence’ within marital relationship in Gujrat and found that illiterate women face more violence than literate women. Relationship between abusive behavior and level of education has been found to be statistically significant (Visaria 1999). The forms of violence commonly found by Ahuja (1998) were slapping, kicking, tearing hair, pushing and pulling, hitting with an object, attempting to strangle and threatening. Forms of psychological abuse were also found to exist, for instance, verbal abuse, sarcastic remarks in the presence of outsiders, imposing severe restrictions on freedom of movement, totally ignoring the wife in decision-making processes, making frequent complaints against her to her parents, friends, neighbours, and kin much to the embarrassment of the wife. Some of the reasons given by the women were financial matters, behaviour with in-laws, back-biting, talking to any male without the liking of the husband, asking for money, preventing him from drinking and husbands personality traits. Some of the worse forms of violence have been reported by Visaria in her study (1999), for instance, beating with sticks or iron rod, knives, utensils, blades and ladles, throwing women against objects or bashing their heads against the walls, burning of breasts and vagina. In addition, sexual assaults in the form of both hitting women in the vagina by kicking or forcing her into sexual intercourse were reported by nearly 10% of the women.

In an investigation done by Vimochana, (a Bangalore based NGO), the category of dowry deaths in a technical sense only include those cases that had been booked by the police under the relevant sections of law. The accident cases that have been closed for want of evidence however are largely due to stove-bursts or kitchen accidents (Menon; 1999). There are rarely any eyewitnesses who are prepared to give evidence against the murderers as the crime is committed within the four walls of a home and those who are present inside are those who are committing the crime. According to Menon (1999), the large number of these deaths is an indication that the law is not a sufficient deterrent for those who commit these crimes.

A survey conducted by Sakshi, a Delhi based NGO, in a few major cities reported that 65 per cent of women lawyers interviewed were always or often subjected to, or had observed, verbal or physical sexual harassment from other lawyers. The harassment would take various forms according to the survey. They include use of stereo-typed role characterization, sexual innuendo, devaluation of women’s work, use of obscene or vulgar language, and comments on appearances and character. In a survey done by National Commission for Women of 1200

women, nearly 50 per cent complained of gender discrimination and physical and mental harassment at work. While 40 per cent of the women said they “usually ignored” such provocation, 3.54 per cent said they reported these to their supervisors, 7.8 per cent to their colleagues and 1.24 per cent to the police. About 10 per cent said that they protested against Such behavior while 9 per cent said they warned the offenders. At least 20.17 per cent of the respondents said that no investigation was done on their complaints while 1.5 per cent said police harassed them again instead of making the enquiry. A majority of the respondents 84.97 % were not aware of the Supreme Court judgment given in August 1997, for specific protection of women from sexual harassment at work (Bhatnagar.R., August 19, 1998)

Realising the selling and reselling of girls had reached rampant proportions, a Deoli based NGO, ‘Women’s Rights Committee Against Atrocity’ conducted a survey in Sandla and Bhanvarthala villages in Tonk District of Rajasthan and came up with some disturbing conclusions. Of the 517 households surveyed, the survival rate of marriages in the backward classes during the last five years was less than 50 per cent and in some cases as high as 70 per cent (Rashme Sehgal, The Sunday Review, June 13th 1999, Pg 3). *Nata* exists also in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. It is the practise of the sale of the women to men in return for a handsome price. The largest beneficiary is the father of the girl who uses her to gain a neat sum. Closely connected to the issue of sale and resale of women is the custom of child marriage. Unless a boy is committed to child marriage, he cannot indulge in *nata*. Men are prepared to pawn their goats, cows and buffaloes and in well-to-do households, even gold and silver to get a woman. In all these transactions the woman is never in the picture - she accepts the deal as part of her womanhood (Chandrasekhar, 1996). Some acts of eve-teasing mentioned by girl students interviewed are; indecent remarks, singing obscene songs, hitting, touching or pinching in crowded places, snatching dupatta and in some cases even forced kissing, mailing anonymous love letters and exhibiting male genital in front of women. (Ashraf, 1997).

Discussion:

Women Rights in India:

1. Right to equality
2. Right to education
3. Right to live with dignity
4. Right to liberty
5. Right to politics

6. Right to property
7. Right to equal opportunity for employment
8. Right to free choice of profession
9. Right to livelihood
10. Right to work in equitable condition
11. Right to get equal wages for equal work
12. Right to protection from gender discrimination
13. Right to social protection in the eventuality of retirement, old age and sickness
14. Right to protection from inhuman treatment
15. Right to protection of health
16. Right to privacy in terms of personal life, family, residence, correspondence etc. and
17. Right to protection from society, state and family system.

Violation of Human Rights in general:

- Violation of “Right to Equality” and “Right to Protection against Gender Discrimination”: Discrimination against the girl child starts the moment she enters into the mother’s womb. The child is exposed to gender differences since birth and in recent times even before birth, in the form of sex – determination tests leading to foeticide and female infanticide. The home, which is supposed to be the most secure place, is where women are most exposed to violence. Thus the very important ‘right to life’ is denied to women. The World Human Rights Conference in Vienna” first recognized gender – based violence as a human rights violation in 1993. The same was declared by „United Nations Declaration „in 1993.
- Violation of “Right to Education” :Education is considered as means of development of personality and awareness. Education is one of the most important human rights but the position of women’s education is not at all satisfactory in India. They are confined to certain professions and in many cases to serve as wives and daughters. Despite in the improvement in the literacy rate, yet there continues to be a huge gap between the literacy level of men and women. Due to large percentage of uneducated women in India, they are not even aware of their basic human rights and can never fight for them.
- Violation of “Political Right”: The political status of women in India is very unsatisfactory, particularly their representation in higher political institutions – Parliament and provincial Legislation which reveals great under – representation which hampers their

effective role in influencing the government initiatives and policies regarding women's welfare and development.

- Violation of "Right To Property": In most of the Indian families, women do not own property in their own names and do not get share of parental property. Due to weak enforcement of laws protecting them, women continue to have little access to land and property. In fact, some of the laws discriminate against women, when it comes to land and property rights.
- Violation of "Right To Protection Of Health": According to the World Bank report, malnutrition is the major cause of female infertility. The presence of excessive malnutrition among female children as compared to male children is basically due to differences in the intra – family allocation of food between the male and female children.
- Violation of "Right to Equal Opportunity for Employment and "Right to get Equal Wages for Equal Work" : The employment of the women in agriculture, traditional industries and in sizeable section of new industries is declining at a very fast rate. The reason is that the adoption of new technological changes requires new skill, knowledge and training. And women in India, who constitute a large share of world's illiterate lacks such skills and knowledge. Studies have also showed that for the same task, women are paid less than the males. Thus, Indian labour market is adverse to women workers. It shows that, the role of women in large scale industries and technology based businesses is very limited. But even in the small- scale industries their participation is very low. Only 10.11% of the micro and small enterprises are owned by women today. Statistics show that only 15% of the senior management posts are held by the women. In agriculture where women comprise of the majority of agricultural laborers, the average wage of women on an average is 30 – 50 % less than that of men.
- Violation of "Right to Live With Dignity": Eve Teasing And Sexual Abuse: Eve teasing is an act of terror that violates a woman's body, space and self – respect. It is one of the many ways through which a woman is systematically made to feel inferior, weak and afraid. Whether it is an obscene word whispered into a woman's ear, offensive remarks on her appearance, any intrusive way of touching any part of women's body, a gesture which is perceived and intended to be vulgar, all these acts represent a violation of woman's person and her bodily integrity.

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The abuses that lead to violation of women human rights are categorized as-

1. *Physical abuse* such as such as slapping, beating, arm twisting, stabbing, strangling, burning, choking, kicking, threats with an object or weapon, and murder. It also includes traditional practices harmful to women such as female genital mutilation and wife inheritance (the practice of passing a widow, and her property, to her dead husband's brother).
2. *Psychological abuse* such as behavior that is intended to intimidate and persecute, and takes the form of threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation.
3. *Sexual abuse* includes coerced sex through threats, intimidation or physical force, forcing unwanted sexual acts or forcing sex with others. Trafficking in women and girls for forced labor and sexual exploitation is another type of gender-based abuse that harms women and girls.
4. *Economic abuse* includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment, etc.

➤ ***The trends of different forms of violations of women in Tripura:***

I. ***Rapes:*** Rape is one of the major forms of Human Rights violation of women in Tripura. The incidence of rape is occurred in different situations that leads insecurity to women. The crime of rape is committed forcibly without compromising the willingness of women. The incidence have been taking place by the security personnel belonging to the army, police force, terrorists and other peoples of the society.

Here are some recent incidents of crime against women in the state: Two tribal women were gang-raped at Satchand in South Tripura while a young woman was beaten up on the streets of Satchand along with her lover and made to wear a garland of shoes and brooms. In West Tripura district, a young house wife was stripped and beaten up by some village rsatRangapaniain Bishalgarh.

In keeping with the trend of rising crime against minor girls across the country, a five-year-old girl was raped by a 70-year-old man in Agartala and another five-year-old was raped and then murdered at Chelagang in Gomati district.

The numbers of incidences of rape are 165, 210,336,320 258 and 202 in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively in Tripura.

II. ***Kidnapping or abduction:*** Human Rights Violation is also occurred due to Kidnapping and abduction. It is also a forcibly committed crime against his/ her will. The sort of kidnapping activities are occurring due to monetary purpose, personal dispute, riots, selling of girls to indulge them prostitute profession etc.

Available data shows the rapid increasing trend of kidnapping and abduction in Tripura. It is recorded 120 in 2012.

III. ***Dowry Death:*** It is again a burning issue relating to the violation of women rights which is occurring due to monetary and property purpose, extra marital affairs etc.

The trend of incidence of dowry death is also significant in Tripura which is evident from data for the years 2012 (87).

IV: ***Molestation:*** Sexual assaults or molestation also stands as a human rights violation against women by the criminal group and or armed force group especially in the interior villages of Tripura. The report, which warned that this figure is increasing by the day, disclosed: "A total 700 odd cases of crimes against women were reported in Tripura from April 2011 to March 2012 but between April 2012 and March 2013, the figure raised to 817, including rape of minor girls and sexual abuse." This year so far as many as 56 crimes were reported in the state.

V: Torture: Women are victims of tortures on various grounds. It is the result of both physical and psychological abuse. Torture may be of different forms like mental punishment, electric shock, cigarette burns, pulling out of figure nails, imprisoned women in dark rooms etc. In Tripura, the numbers of women torture are 1,147 in 2012.

VI. Forced Prostitution: Forced prostitution or other kinds of commercial exploitation by male partners or parents is another form of violence against women. Destitute families, unable to support their children, often hire out or sell their children, who may then be forced into prostitution. Very often the young girl is sent as a domestic worker, in which case she may be physically and sexually exploited by her employers.

VII. Sex-selective abortions, female infanticide and differential access to food and medical care: In societies where a higher value is placed on sons, discrimination towards female children can take extreme forms such as sex-selective abortions and female infanticide. Girls in many developing countries receive less nourishment than boys, and they are more likely to suffer mental or physical disability or even die, as a result of poor nutrition. Less access to health care also exacerbates the much higher mortality rate among girls.

VIII. Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence includes violence against women and girls by an intimate partner, including a cohabiting partner, and by other family members, whether this violence occurs within or beyond the confines of the home. While recognizing that other forms of violence are equally worthy of attention, this Digest does not cover the violence inflicted on women by strangers outside the home – in public places such as streets, workplaces or in custody, or in situations of civil conflict or war.

Violence against women in tripura: Women faced various atrocities and violence. On 18 December 2006, Chief Minister Manik Sarkar stated before the State Assembly that altogether 1,144 cases of violence against women were registered in various police stations of the State during the last three years. In the same period, 489 rape cases along with 34 cases of child-rape were also recorded. From January to September 2006 alone, 194 rape cases were registered across the State. Of these, 11 victims were children. Since January to July 2006 alone, 37 women were killed for dowry, while 263 dowry-related incidents were reported to the police.

However, the conviction rate was very low. Of the 81 rape cases registered with the police in 2003 only in 22 cases accused were convicted by the trial court while 69 others were acquitted. Likewise, in 2005 altogether 115 rape cases were registered by the police. But only

32 accused were convicted and 83 persons acquitted by the trial court. In 2006 till August, about 60 accused persons were acquitted by the trial court.

The security forces were responsible for sexual abuses. On the night of 9 February 2006, three tribal women including a pregnant woman were allegedly gang raped and at least two girls were molested by personnel of 36th battalion Assam Rifles led by Capt. S. Tanwar and naik subedar, Ashok Kumar at Sachindraroazapara in Dhalai district during a search operation. The pregnant woman suffered a miscarriage and had to be admitted to north district hospital. On 15 February 2006, two of the three rape victims recorded their statements before the Chief Judicial Magistrate confirming the assault by the jawans.

Ruling CPM activists also committed rape. On 6 March 2006, Parungmala Tripura was allegedly gang raped by three CPM members identified as Agon Tripura, Sushil Tripura and Beijya Tripura inside her house in Vishnupur village in Sabroom sub-division of South Tripura. When the victim's mother Padmabati and her husband Dhani Kumar Tripura rushed to rescue her, they were mercilessly beaten up. Dhani Kumar Tripura died on the spot.

Table 1: INCIDENCE OF CRIME COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN IN TRIPURA.

CRIME HEAD	INCIDENCE OF CRIMES					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Rape	165	210	336	320	285	202
Kidnapping &Abduction						120
Dowry Death						87
Molestation						817
Torture						1,147
Eve-testing						

Source: Statistical Hand Book, Tripura 2010&2012

CRIME HEAD	INCIDENCE OF CRIMES		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15

Rape	108	107	86
Rape and Murder	00	02	01
Gang Rape	11	14	13
Child Rape	83	79	61
Baby rape	27	39	33
Kidnapping	104	124	82
Bride murder	20	15	17

Source: Statistical Hand Book, Tripura 2012&2015

1. **Causes of human rights violation of women in tripura:** Violence against women occurs in every country among all social, cultural, economic, and religious groups. At the societal level, violence against women is most common within cultures where gender roles are strictly defined and enforced; where masculinity is closely associated with toughness, male honor, or dominance; where punishment of women and children is accepted. There are lots of causes responsible for violation of women in Tripura. Some major causes are stated below-

A. **Ethnic conflict:** Ethnic conflict contributes a lot to the violation of women in Tripura.

B. **Human rights violations by the activities by security forces:**

The armed force activities are also in fueling to violation of women especially in rural areas. The security forces have indulged in extra judicial execution, custodial deaths, torture and rapes.

C. **Insurgency of Armed Opposition Groups (AOG) :**

In our concern for the violence that takes place daily in Tripura, here is a sample of the typical but atrocious news that comes out of the region due to the insurgency of the terrorist, militant Christian groups that act in the area. These groups, in their promotion of Christianity, continue to kill thousands of local people in their attempt to ban all Hindu practices and convert everyone into Christians.

D. **Witch Hunting:** The widespread practice of “witch hunting” continuing in Tripura, lots of incidence concerning witch hunting are being taken place in Tripura.

E. **Internal Displacement:** It is also one of the major causes regarding women violation in Tripura due to the insurgent activities and ethnic conflicts.

F. **Dowry:** Incidence of dowry leads to women violation to some extent. However, over the past few years there have been increased reports of dowry related cases in the state.

Role of Education in promotion and protection of Human Rights: The mandate for human rights education is unequivocal: you have a human right to know your rights. The Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) exhorts "every individual and every organ of society" to "strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms." Article 30 of the UDHR declares that one goal of education should be "the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms." A comprehensive education in human rights consists of two components: Knowledge and information on human rights and the mechanisms that protect these inalienable rights. It is important that education also impart the skills needed to promote, defend and apply human rights in daily life. The need of promoting and protecting all human rights is important in order to secure full and universal enjoyment of these rights cannot be fulfilled without mass awareness and sensitivity of human rights issues. Human Rights Education promotes democratic principles. It examines human rights issues without bias and from diverse perspectives through a variety of educational practices. Human Rights Education helps to develop the communication skills and informed critical thinking essential to a democracy. It provides multicultural and historical perspectives on the universal struggle for justice and dignity. Human Rights Education engages the heart as well as the mind. It challenges students to ask what human rights mean to them personally and encourages them to translate caring into informed, nonviolent action. Human Rights Education affirms the interdependence of the human family. It promotes understanding of the complex global forces that create abuses, as well as the ways in which abuses can be abolished and avoided. Article 51A (1) of Indian Constitution 1950, imposes a duty on all citizens to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform. The effective discharge of this duty will require Human Rights Education to give people enhanced awareness and greater openness. Some of the landmark legislations that seek to enhance and protect the economic and social status of women are as follows:

1. Minimum Wages Act of 1948
2. Plantation Labour Act of 1951
3. Factories Act of 1952
4. Hindu Succession Act of 1956
5. Maternity Benefits Act of 1961
6. The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961
7. Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1966

8. Equal Remuneration Act of 1976
9. Sati Prevention Act, 1987
10. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
11. The Domestic Violence Act, 2005
12. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (prevention, prohibition and redressal) Act, 2013

Suggestions: A more cooperative relationship between governments and civil society should be built to combat violence against women. An integrated, multidisciplinary approach with lawyers, psychologists, social workers, doctors and others working together to gain a holistic understanding of each particular case and the needs of the individual is the best option.

1. Strengthening women's initiative of different women organizations addressing violation against women issues as well as by individual survivors of violence.
2. To train law enforcers and medical and legal professionals who come in contact with those experiencing violence to understand gender violence, to appreciate the trauma of those suffering and to take proper evidence for criminal proceedings.
3. Academia and research organizations should address the chronic lack of statistics on domestic violence that acts as a barrier to policy change on this issue. The lack of adequate data and documentation about violence against women, and domestic violence in particular, reinforces governments' silence. In the absence of concrete data, governments have been able to deny the fact of, and their responsibility to address, such violence.
4. There is a need to involve the bureaucracy in the sensitization process and to facilitate political will to look at the problem of violence.
5. Education of the youth is important. Schools can work with local communities to deliver anti-violence education. Curricula that teach non-violence, conflict resolution, human rights and gender issues should be included in elementary and secondary schools, universities, professional colleges, and other training settings.
6. There is a need for societal responsibility, especially male responsibility, to mitigate violence against women. The society has to understand the cost associated with VAW and the fact that women have as much of a right to a happy and violence-free life as anyone else.

7. Training on gender issues and on professional counseling methodologies. There is a need to ensure culturally appropriate services for women who are victims and survivors of violence.
8. There has been a strong call from NGOs and women's rights advocates towards the establishment of State Commissions for Women in all the north eastern states.

Conclusion:

We can conclude with proved conviction that widespread violation of women's human rights has become a matter of serious concern. The social condition is not conducive for the protection of women's human rights and that the protective laws make little meaning in the lives of majority of women. The problems of Human Rights Violations are a worldwide phenomenon and almost all the countries are facing the grim situations of violations. The violation of women has been increasing day by day in India as well as NER and Tripura. Only legislation and law enforcement agencies cannot prevent the incident of crime against women. There is need of social awakening and change in the attitude of masses, so that due respect and equal status is given to women. It is a time when the women need to be given her due. This awakening can be brought by education campaign among youth making them aware of existing social evils and the means to eradicate same. So, Government and Non Government Organizations, citizens should undertake proper steps for reducing and prevention of Human Rights Violation of women in Tripura. All this could go a long way in ensuring a violence- free life for women.

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