

## **A comparative study on Perception of Human rights between male and female students at the undergraduate level.**

**Dishnara Begum**

Research Scholar, Dept. of Education, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong

**Article History:** Received: 11 January 2021; Revised: 12 February 2021; Accepted: 27 March 2021; Published online: 23 May 2021

### **Abstract**

Human rights are inherent to all human beings. These are worldwide. Gender equality is at the very heart of human rights and United Nations values. After independence Indian women empowering themselves in an accelerating range, they are joining their male counterparts in politics, economy, business, law etc. but it does not mean the emancipation of Indian women or the enjoyment of human rights by Indian women in general. Most Indian women are still waiting for equality, and many are forced to live what may be considered subhuman lives (Murtaza, 2012). Therefore in the present study to know the views of male and female in relation to their human rights an attempt has been made to study, the perception of male and female students towards Human rights at the undergraduate level. For the study, descriptive survey method was adopted. Data has been collected using a self-structured questionnaire. From the findings, it is noticed that Perception of Human rights differs between male and female students.

**Keywords:** Comparative, Study, Perception, Human rights, male, female, undergraduate.

### **Introduction**

In human rights, Education is itself a fundamental right. Education helps people to understand value and also protect human rights. A vital outcome of human rights education is empowerment, a course of action through which people and communities increase the control of their own lives and the decisions that affect them. All human rights are indissoluble whether they are civil rights, political rights, economic rights, social rights, or cultural rights. The perception of human rights is the natural significance of man's aspiration to maintain a happy personal and social life based on common sacrifice, sharing, caring, and respecting an individual's dignity. They are about living a life free from fear, harassment, or discrimination.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a document that acts as a global road map for freedom and equality – shielding the rights of every individual, universally. It was adopted by United Nations on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948, in comeback to the barbarous acts which outraged the conscience of mankind during the Second World War. Its adoption recognized human rights to be the foundation for freedom, justice, and peace. UDHR was a breakthrough and a revolution in international relations and has remained a continuing source of inspiration since 1948. It is a living document in United Nations practice, by now part of international customary law.

**Human rights Education:** Education is equally a human right in itself and furthers a crucial means of realizing human rights. Education for human rights helps people feel the significance of human rights, internalize human rights values and assimilate them into the way they live. Together with the general human right to education, the requirements concerning the goals of education and the freedom of educational choice, as laid down in the education articles of the Human Rights conventions, from the standards for granting Human Rights in education. Education has been considered as a constitutional right of all children and adults irrespective of their gender, ethnic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic, or any other differences for all the member states of the United Nations. Human rights education is not something like consideration of abstract

ideas reflecting certain generous ideas. It is naturally to be adapted to the specific needs of every human being by providing one with norms, values and criteria to which one can refer to in the course of daily life (Choudhury, 2013).

### Significance of the problem

The idea of human rights has a universal frame of reference. It encompasses value for human dignity, rights, justice, tolerance, cooperation social responsibility, and respect for culture at diversity. Basic to human rights are the values of non-discrimination and equality which contribute to building a culture of peace in society. Human rights entitled equal sharing of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels and the abolition of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex. But unfortunately in male dominated society often ignores the rights of the women and for which reason the women remain a vulnerable section of the society.

Numerous challenges still there in terms of the recognition of women's human rights. The execution of legislation poses difficulties in the face of resource constraints and lack of gender-analysis in distribution and prioritization (*Women and Human Rights*, n.d.). Human rights are a major part of how people consideration with others at all levels in society, in the family, the community, in educational institutions, the workplace, in politics, and in international relations. When all the people of the world will understand and value human rights it will be easier to promote justice and the well-being of society.

Acquaintance on human rights can empower individuals and promote remedies for particular problems. Apposite adherence of human rights promotes the protection and well being of all people, including women and the weaker section of the society. Human rights shelter individuals and group against all evil practices and make sure dignity. It furthermore enables us to achieve on all round development on socio-economic, political, and sustainability. However, in the sphere of women's human rights in India, there exists an ample gap between theory and practice. Our society is a male dominated society where men are always assumed to be higher to society. The Indian Women have to face inequity, injustice and discredit. Though women in India have been given more rights as compared to men, even then the condition of women in India is miserable (Rao, 2017).

Since the founding of the United Nations, equality between men and women has been among the most fundamental guarantees of human rights. Theoretically it has given male and female equal human rights but practically in male dominated society it is not the same. Violence against women continues at a surprising rate. Gender- based discrimination persists in the place of work, housing, education, disaster relief, health care, and countless other areas. Admittance to righteousness continues to be hindered by a range of obstacles. For violating women's religion, tradition, and culture continue to be used as a rights in most of the cases (Farrior, 2009). In the 21<sup>st</sup> century also women are not enjoying their human rights fully. Therefore the researcher felt the need to study whether male and female perception regarding human rights is same or different?

### Objectives of the study

1. To compare the perception of male and female students towards human rights.
2. To study the value of human rights in everyday life according to their gender.

**Method of the present study:** In the present study, the investigator used the descriptive survey method. It is that procedure of investigation which attempts to explain and interpret what exists at present in form of circumstances, practices, processes, trends, attitudes, beliefs, etc.

**Sample:** In the present investigation a sample of 100 undergraduate students, 50 males, and 50 females have been selected using simple random sampling method. For selecting the sample from the population the investigator used lottery method.

**Tools used:** In the present study, the investigator has used a self-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire consist both closed and open ended questions.

### Data Analysis:

Data has been analyzed using a simple percentage method keeping in view the objectives of the study.

Questions	Male		Female	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Do you know what human rights are?	88%	12%	85%	15%
Is there any provision for safe guarding human rights in our constitution?	90%	10%	88%	12%
Do you think human rights are relevant in our everyday life?	70%	30%	40%	60%
Do you feel that as a human, your right has not been respected or violated?	40%	60%	75%	25%
Do you think human rights are important in our day-to-day life?	60%	40%	45%	55%
Do you think it is necessary to create social awareness regarding human right?	98%	2%	100%	0%
According to you, what are the most important human rights?	Economic rights, Political rights and Legal rights		Civil Rights, Social rights and Educational rights	

**Findings of the Study:** From the analysis of data, the following findings are found –

1. From the study, it has been found that 88% of male students have knowledge about human rights. Whether 85% of female students show the same.
2. 90% of the male and 88% of female students know that there is a provision in the Indian constitution for safeguarding human rights.
3. 70% of the male and only 40% of the female students acknowledged that human rights are relevant for them in everyday life.
4. From the study, it has been found that 40% of the male and 75% of the female students feel that their human rights have not been respected or violated.
5. 60% of male and 45% of female students think that human rights are important in our day-to-day life.
6. From the study, it has been found that 98% of the male and 100% of the female students think that there is a need to create social awareness regarding human rights.
7. From the study, it has been found that most of the male students have a view that Economic rights, Political rights, and Legal rights are the most important human rights for them. And for most of female student's Civil Rights, Social rights and Educational rights are most important.

### Suggestions

1. There is a strong need to create more awareness regarding human rights.
2. There is a need to include human rights as a part of the secondary and higher education curriculum.
3. There is a need to create more awareness regarding woman's rights.
4. Creating awareness in rural areas about human rights is the need of the hour.
5. There is a need to observe human rights day, and organize workshop, seminars regarding this.
6. Human rights clubs need to be established to address the issues of human rights in a convincing manner.

### Conclusion

Human rights are universal. They are the basic rights and freedom that belong to every human person in the world. According to article 15 of the Indian constitution, discrimination cannot be made among citizens on the grounds of religion, race, caste or sex. But in India women are still not enjoying their human rights properly, and this is we can assume from the present study on the basis of their perception towards human rights. A lot of schemes and policies have been taken by the government to protect women's rights. However, there is a need for proper implementation.

### References

1. Choudhury, T. (2013). Human Rights Education as a Means of Ensuring the Observance of Human Rights. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, 3(3). [www.ijsrp.org](http://www.ijsrp.org)
2. Farrior, S. (2009). Human rights advocacy on gender issues: Challenges and opportunities. In *Journal of Human Rights Practice* (Vol. 1, Issue 1, pp. 83–100). Oxford Academic. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhuman/hup002>
3. Murtaza, K. F. (2012). Women empowerment through higher education in Gilgit-Baltistan. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 2(9), 343–367. [http://ecommons.aku.edu/pakistan\\_ied\\_pdcn%5Cnhttp://ecommons.aku.edu/pakistan\\_ied\\_pdcn/28](http://ecommons.aku.edu/pakistan_ied_pdcn%5Cnhttp://ecommons.aku.edu/pakistan_ied_pdcn/28)
4. OHCHR. (2016). Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/Pages/WomenAndGenderEquality.aspx>
5. Patel, J. V. (2007). Human Rights Education. *Pragatishil Sikshan*, 8, 11-12.
6. Padmavathy, R. D. & Pallai, P. (2015). Human Rights Awareness of University Students: An Investigation. *International journal of Humanities and social science Invention*, 4 (4), 46-50
7. Rao, P. (2017). THE VIOLATION OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA. *Journal Homepage: 229 International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, 230, 2249–2496.
8. Singh, S. & Singh, H. (2015). Human rights awareness among B.ED. Students. *Vidya Publications* 4, 42-51.
9. *Women and Human Rights*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 12, 2021, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/beijing15/>