

Seminar on Human Rights Issues: Right to Liberty; Equality; Rights of
Women; Social, Economic & Cultural Rights

Organized by

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Sponsored by

National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi

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The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences organized a one day seminar on Human Rights Issues: Right to Liberty; Equality; Rights of Women; Social, Economic & Cultural Rights sponsored by National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, on November 5, 2012.

The seminar started with inaugural session followed by four technical sessions on Human Rights issues. Prof. Nirupama Prakash introduced the theme and highlighted the relevance and importance of human rights among engineering students and the role NHRC plays in spreading human rights awareness. Prof. Ravi Prakash, Vice Chancellor, JUIT, in his welcome address threw light on various Human Rights violations across the globe and discussed the need of protection of Human Rights in a progressive world. Dr. Y. Medury, COO, Jaypee Education System, in his keynote address raised the issue of Human Rights violations and the Human Rights of women and children. Brig. (Retd.) Balbir Singh, Director JUIT, discussed the importance of Human Rights and told how human rights of women are protected at the University.

Dr. S.K Jain, Senior Research Officer (Training), NHRC in his address raised the need of protecting Human Rights for women at home by portraying the grim situation of treatment and discrimination females face at home.

The resource persons Prof. Reicha Tanwar, North Region Coordinator, UGC Scheme on Capacity Building for Women Managers in Higher Education & Director, Women Studies Research Center, Kurukshetra University, Prof. O.P.Chauhan, Chairman, Department of Law, HPU, Shimla, Prof. Trisha Sharma, Guest faculty, Department of Law, HPU, Shimla, briefly introduced their themes of technical sessions.

Technical Session I: Rights of Women

Prof. Reicha Tanwar in a very interactive session raised the issues related to women especially in rural India. She discussed the reasons for violation of Human Rights of women. She pointed out the lack of education and awareness among women, female foeticide, Khap Panchayat, honour killings and social structure as some of the components associated with Human Rights violations. Further, she highlighted that India has maximum number of laws to protect human rights but at the same time maximum Human Rights violations happen in India.

In her discussion of protecting Human Rights of women, she emphasised the need and importance of preserving Human Rights of women. Further, she advocated the need of educating women, bringing necessary changes in social fabric to protect their rights in more effective way. In the end, she answered the questions raised by the audience.

Technical Session 2: Rights to Liberty

Prof. O.P. Chauhan stated that liberty is the greatest possession of an individual. He explained the constitutional perspective regarding liberty and explained up to what extent the right to liberty has been given an importance in the constitution of India.

He also talked about the inclusion of liberty in the Preamble of Indian Constitution. While explaining this point he highlighted the importance given to a common man in it.

He highlighted the importance of liberty for an individual by stating that it is the only right the Constitution provides for the citizens of Indian and Non-citizens equally. Further he emphasised the role and importance of Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles to safeguard the Right to Liberty of an individual. To make audience understand the concept of liberty, he further gave the

example of Euthanasia. The questions raised by the audience were answered at the end of the session.

Technical Session 3: Rights to Equality

Mrs. Trisha Sharma began her session by explaining the principles of natural justice. She raised the issues pertaining to “Nature of Basic Rights” and emphasised on “Equality before Law” and “Equal Protection of all Laws”. She also focused on the importance of Right to Education, equal distribution of natural resources and environment protection to protect the Rights of Equality of an individual. She advocated the fair trial for an individual in the court of law irrespective of his status and class.

She emphasised the role of fundamental duties in protecting the rights of others and insisted that common man should be educated and he should protect his rights himself rather than relying on others.

Technical Session 4: Social, Economic & Cultural Rights

Advocate Vandana Kuthiala discussed and explained issues related to Social, Economic and Cultural Rights. She specifically focused on how these rights influence women. By taking the example of Malala Yousafzai, She encouraged women to stand for their rights. She also emphasised on the subject of values being taught at school and college level.

In the end of the session questions put by the audience were answered. Dr. Tanu Sharma from Department of HSS compered the inaugural session.

In the end Mr Puneet Bhushan Sood on behalf of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and University gave vote of thanks to all the resource persons. He specifically thanked NHRC and Dr. S.K. Jain for their cooperation, sponsorship and participation.