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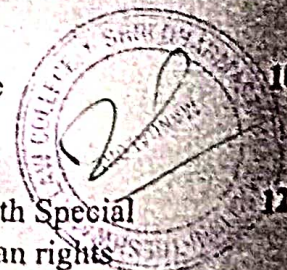
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## The Role of International Human Rights & 21st Century Challenges

Sofia Khatun\* and Deepa Rani Salian \*\*

### Abstract

Human rights are universal rights declared by the UN charter, which is required to be followed by all countries and be made available to all citizens irrespective of the kind of government or their cultural laws. However, it is seen that the modern context of authoritarianism and right-winged government including the theocratic states, have shown instances where human rights are violated by those nations. The rights are civil, political, social, economic and cultural, which are stated by the UN convention of human rights. The political and civil rights that are present in the contents of a particular country the right to life, the right to form assembly and the right to have a fair and equal trial before consists of the law. The economic rights that are available to citizens constitute the right to have free education, social security, along with the cultural right of forming family without any intervention from the government. It is also seen that the authoritarianism, repression and corruption are three aspects that reduce the following about human rights and lead to its violation in society. It is seen that the UN intervention in the authoritarian states, the theocratic states and the right-winged government helps in curtailing the occurrences about human rights violation. UN convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the core treaty imposed by the UN. Since its adoption in 1979, it has been approved and implemented in over 180 countries. Apart from the law formulated by the UN American Convention of Human Rights was adopted in the USA in 1969. Children rights is another concerned human rights and purpose of the laws to provide basic rights to the children. Security and protection of the rights of the individual and his free access

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to justice are key constituents of the walk of a civilized society. Its emphasis is more in a democratic setup, based on rule of law where safeguarding human rights and assuring dignity of the individual is the responsibility of the state. Infringed enjoyment of human rights would just remain the defensive umbrella of the organised and viable instrument are made for redressal of complaints identifying with human rights. This article envisages over the international covenants on human right and its significance with the interest to make human right a viable reality in 21st century.

**Key words:** - Human Rights, Human Trafficking, Challenges, Corruption, Human security

### Introduction

International human rights are an attempt to lay down a few regulations or laws that would be common to all human beings on the planet. However, it is also noted that the challenges of the 21st century lie in the blatant failure of its achievement throughout the world. The countries that are still a monarchy often subjugate the freedom of thought and expression of the public. In the same way, the countries that are theocracy are often found to subjugate the rights of women. The cultural differences also pave the way to curtail human rights in several situations like a natural disaster or civil war. The goal in regards to the international convention about human rights is to reduce the exploitation or torture of the citizens by any state in a globalised world after the Second World War. Underdeveloped countries are facing most of the threat of human trafficking due to economic issues. Poor economic condition is working as a factor in those countries to involve some people in human trafficking. While, civil war, terrorism, natural disasters have become the cause of people smuggling from one nation to another.

The universal declaration about human rights had occurred in the United Nations on 10th December 1948, which stated that every individual needs to have right to life, equality before the law, freedom of expression, rights to social security, work and education. The role about human rights is mainly to foster universal values in all the nations of the world and agree upon the fact that the human rights be available to citizens irrespective of the small differences in legal regulations between one country and another. The assignment covers the general section corresponding to the universal declaration of human rights, women and human rights as well as children rights. Furthermore, the assignment sheds light on human trafficking, gender politics, authoritarianism, and approaches to mitigate global challenges to human rights in the 21st century.

## Universal Declaration of Human Rights

### International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The international covenant on political and civil rights or ICCPR is a mutual treaty made by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI) on 16th December 1966, and it came in to force on 23rd March 1976 in regards to Article 49 from the covenant<sup>1</sup>. The covenant has given the commitment to all parties to have their respective political and civil rights, which included the right to life, freedom to practice any religion, freedom to form assembly, electoral rights and the rights of a fair trial<sup>2</sup>. The covenant was ratified by 113 parties along with six more signatures without any type of ratification.

The right to life indicated that under no circumstances, the right to life of an individual would be compromised by society<sup>3</sup>. For example, if common offences are made prisoners by a criminal organisation, then the state would be bound to save the common citizens as much as possible, and never compromise the lives of citizens for catching the criminals. In the same way, the right to practice any religion indicated that the countries would mainly provide permission to every individual to practice their own faith and religion<sup>4</sup>. The next right is the electoral rights, and the freedom to form assembly, which means that people have the power to accumulate in groups and choose their own political leader for the benefits of society.

The rights of a fair trial indicate that every individual will be considered as equal in the eyes of the law, and under legal proceedings, no individual can be favoured more by the legal system of the land<sup>5</sup>. It has also been found that even criminals have the right to keep a lawyer, and expect fair proceedings, and not being charged with the problem unless they are proven to be guilty of the particular offence.

1. Ohchr.org. 2020. OHCHR | International Covenant On Civil And Political Rights [online]. Available at: <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/iccpr.aspx>> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

2. Ohchr.org. 2020. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/doc/publication/units/volume%20999/volume-999-4-14668-cccpr.pdf>> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

3. Kumbhakar, K., Sanghera, J. and Pattnaik, B., 2015. Trafficking and prostitution: inconsistent perspectives on migration, sex work, and human rights. Routledge.

4. Alkhi, A. and Stacey, H., 2017. Teacher education and human rights. Routledge.

5. Martin, A., 2008. Human rights: a very short introduction. OUP Oxford.

### International Covenant on Social, Cultural and Economic Rights

The United Nations General Assembly on 16th December, 1966 incorporated ICESCR for mutual treaty by the GA, Resolution 2200A (XXI), and it also came into force from the 3rd January 1976<sup>6</sup>. It is also committed that the parties work towards the gaining of social, cultural and economic rights or ESCR of the non-self-governing as well as trust individuals and territories. It includes labour rights, right to health and education, as well as the right to an adequate standard of living<sup>7</sup>. It is also stated that according to the provision made in January 2020, the covenant consisted of 110 parties, which included four countries, along with the United States, which has not certified the government.

The labour rights include the right to specific working hours, the right to take leaves, and form trade union for stating the employees' demands in a transparent and legal manner<sup>8</sup>. The right to health and education indicates that the healthcare of individual people is required to be free, and the education rights mean that school education is also required to be free for every individual<sup>9</sup>. The right to a proper living standard means that even though there is a freedom to acquire wealth in society, every individual including the poorest section of the society needs to have the availability of basic needs.

The right to a proper living standard also denotes the right to employment against the amount of education an individual has studied in the state<sup>10</sup>. For example, an individual can be graduated from the university due to the right to education, but the failure to provide jobs to individuals by the government does not satisfy the right to get a proper living standard for the individual. Article 10 of the covenant ensures that every individual of adult age has the right to marry and form a family, and the state cannot

6. Ohchr.org. 2020. OHCHR | International Covenant On Economic, Social And Cultural Rights. [online]. Available at: <<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

7. Pwescr.org. 2020. [online]. Available at: <[http://www.pwescr.org/PWESCR\\_Handbook\\_on\\_ESCR.pdf](http://www.pwescr.org/PWESCR_Handbook_on_ESCR.pdf)> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

8. Schabas, W.A., 2015. The European convention on human rights: a commentary. Oxford University Press.

9. Gould, B.J. and Lazarus, L. eds., 2019. Security and human rights. Bloomsbury Publishing.

10. Merry, S.B., 2016. The seductions of quantification: Measuring human rights, gender violence, and sex trafficking. University of Chicago Press.

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put restrictions on individuals in terms of marriage<sup>11</sup>. The Article 15 of the covenant ensures the right to participate in cultural life, and enjoy the benefits of scientific progress, and also, to benefit from the material rights for any kind of scientific discovery created.

**Women and Human Rights**  
**International Law and Policy**

There are various international and regional instruments to the human rights issues of the gender-related dimensions. Among these, the most comprehensive treaty is the UN convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This law was adopted in the year of 1979<sup>12</sup>. This law refers that women have the right to be free from any instances of discrimination and sets out key principles to protect this right. It acts on the quality between both men and women by making sure that women have equal access to as well as have equivalent opportunities in education, health and many more. CEDAW is the only law that covers the reproductive rights of women and approved by 180 states of UN.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is the law issued by the United Nations General Assembly on 18th December, 1979. This becomes an international treaty on 3rd September 1981 as until then 12 countries approved this law. Approximately 100 nations have agreed to be bound to the provisions of this law by the year of 1989<sup>13</sup>. This treaty plays an important part to bring females into the focus of human rights issues. This law sets out three important aspects; reaffirming the faith of fundamental human rights, dignity and worth of human person and equal rights of men and women. This policy refers to the definition of equality and how it can be practised. The important aspect of this law is that along with establishing an

international bill of rights it also sets out agendas for ensuring the rights.

The American Convention of Human Rights was adopted at the Inter-American Specialised Conference on Human Rights in 1969. Article 4, Right To Life, capital punishment cannot be imposed upon any pregnant women. Article 6 of this law, Freedom of Slavery, sets out no person should be the subject of slavery and ensures such practice is prohibited and also the slave trade and traffic in the women<sup>14</sup>. Article 17 of this law, Rights of the Family, also refers that the rights of marrying and raising a family should be recognised.

The Arab Charter on the Human Rights was planned on May 22 in 2004 and entered into force on March 15 in 2008. The law is based on the noble Islamic religion and other divine religion's eternal principles of fraternity, equality as well as tolerance among humans. The Article 2 of this law sets out people irrespective of gender have the freedom of choosing political system and can pursue economic, cultural and social development. This law also sets out men and women both have the right to national sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the Article 3 of this law refers that women have the equivalent in terms of human dignity, obligations and rights within the positive discrimination framework by the Islamic Shariah and other laws and by applicable laws and legal instruments<sup>15</sup>. Every state party is pledged to take all possible requirements for establishing equal opportunities between men and women. The Article 7 of this law sets out that death penalty is not applicable for pregnant women before the child birth or to a nursing mother who has not completed two years after giving birth so the primary consideration in both the cases is infant. Article 33 of the law sets out that women have equal rights in marriage and in finding a family based on the rules and conditions of marriage. Protection of women and the prohibition of any sorts of violence towards them. The Article 34 refers that there should not be any discrimination towards women on their rights of training, employment as well as job protection.

**International Norms and Standards**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted by the

11 World Health Organization, 2018. WHO meeting on ethical, legal, human rights and social accountability implications of self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health, 12-14 March 2018, Brocher Foundation, Hermance, Switzerland; summary report (No. WHO/FWC/18.30). World Health Organization.

12 U.n.wa.org. 2020. The Human Rights Of Women. [online] Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/resources/human-rights-women> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

13 U.n.wa.org. 2020. OHCHR | Convention On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women. [online] Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

14 Cidh.org. 2020. Basic Documents - American Convention. [online] Available at: <http://www.cidh.org/Basicos/English/Basic3.American%20Convention.htm> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

15 Who.int. 2020. [online] Available at: <https://www.who.int/hhr/Arab%20Charter.pdf> [Accessed 26 June 2020].



United Nation's General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 1989 and entered into force in 1990 as per Article 49. Children need utmost care from the family and family is the appropriate place for the growth and environment of the family thus it needs proper protection and assistance to take good care of the responsibilities<sup>16</sup>. Article 1 of this law outlines that every human being who is under 18 years old. The law focuses on the four aspects of the rights of the children: Firstly, children can participate in decisions that may affect them, secondly children must be protected against discrimination, neglect and exploitation, thirdly prevention of harmful actions towards children and lastly prohibition of a child's basic needs. The law reflects on the special concern against the rights of children that includes various aspects; firstly the right to freedom from sexual exploitation, secondly child labour, thirdly education fourthly children in armed conflict and lastly children within the context of criminal law.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions addressed the issues of Child labour. The International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention (ILO 138) specifies that the minimum age of employment is mainly 15 years although it is different in Western Countries as they mainly specify the minimum age of 14 years. For the employment under the case of health hazards, the minimum age is 18 years as per the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999) of ILO 182<sup>17</sup>. The members who ratify this policy are responsible for taking immediate measures to secure the elimination and prohibition of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency. The Article 3 of this law explains what the term the worst forms of child labour by pointing out the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, labour (forced or compulsory), recruitment of children for using them in armed conflict. The standard restricts any use and offering of children for prostitution or any work related to pornography and pornographic performances. It also restricts the associated of children in illicit activities such as making and trafficking of drugs as per the relevant international treaties. The worst forms of child labour also include health, safety and morals of children.

There is law for sexual exploitation, the Optimal Protocol to the

Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography which entered into force 18th January, 2002<sup>18</sup>. There are certain acts such as sexual exploitation of child, transferring the organs of child for making profit or engaging the children in the forced labour and every state party is responsible for punishing people who commit such offences towards children.

The league of Arab States, Arab Charter of Human Rights', Article 17 refers each state party have the responsibility to ensure a child who committed any offence must have the right to special legal system for the minors for all stages of investigation, trial, and sentence enforcement along with special treatment based on the age, protection of the dignity and facilitation of the rehabilitation, reintegration and enabling a child to play beneficial role for community<sup>19</sup>. Article 29 of this standard reflects on the responsibilities of state parties based on the domestic laws of nationality for allowing a child to take the nationality of his or her mother although the entire choice is depended on the child. As per Article 33, it is the responsibility of state parties for the assurance of protection, endurance, well-being and development of a child in an enriched environment of freedom and dignity.

#### Human Trafficking and smuggling of people

Human trafficking is the phenomenon that deals with recruitment and movement of humans for various forms of exploitation like slavery or organ removal, sexual exploitation. The victims of such practice can be both children and adults irrespective of genders by using threat or force, power, deception and fraudulent schemes<sup>20</sup>. Human trafficking happens within a country and also across the borders. As per United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), human trafficking is an act of specific means for exploitation.

- 16 Ohchr.org. 2020. OHCHR | Optional Protocol To The Convention On The Rights Of The Child. [online] Available at: <<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>> [Accessed 26 June 2020].
- 17 Unodc.org. 2020. Convention C182 - Worst Forms Of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) [online] Available at: <[https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P1210-NSTRUMENT\\_ID%3A312327-](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P1210-NSTRUMENT_ID%3A312327-)> [Accessed 26 June 2020].
- 18 Ohchr.org. 2020. OHCHR | Optional Protocol To The Convention On The Rights Of The Child. [online] Available at: <<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>> [Accessed 26 June 2020].
- 19 Magliveras, K. and Naldi, G., 2016. The Arab Court of Human Rights: A Study in Impotence. *Revue québécoise de droit international/Quebec Journal of International Law/Revista quebequense de derecho internacional*, 29(2), pp.147-172.
- 20 Unodc.org. 2020. Human Trafficking And Migrant Smuggling. [online] Available at: <<https://www.unodc.org/ej/en/secondary/human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling.html>> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

The global report of UNODC on human trafficking exposes the new form of slavery in the 21st century by evaluating data of 155 countries across the world. As per the data, the most prevalent mean of human trafficking is sexual exploitation that amounts to 79 per cent of cases of sexual exploitation. The victims of such exploitation are mostly girls and women. On the other hand, the data regarding the trafficker's gender has shown that majority of the traffickers are women. Women engaged in such practice is norm in some parts of the world. The second most means of human trafficking is forced labour that amounts to 18 per cent of the overall cases of human trafficking<sup>21</sup>. This data can be misleading as the detection and reporting of forced labour is less as compared to sexual exploitation. The 20 per cent of the trafficking victims are children across the world. But, the rate is the majority in parts of Africa and the Mekong region.

The main forms of trafficking in persons are intra-regional and domestic trafficking. The first international agreement, the United Nations Protocol against Trafficking in Persons came in force in 2003. The implementation of this protocol increased from 54 to 125 out of 155 in past few years among the member states. Although there are many countries who do not have proper legal instruments or any political will.

The officials of UNODC pointed out that the data provides a moderate understanding of moderate slave markets also shows the negligence of UN. The pull of data is impressed and wrongly defined and lacks reliability. As per the reports and data manipulation, UNODC estimates that the situation is declining but it cannot be proved due to lack of precise data as many governments impeding the activity of UNODC<sup>22</sup>. Therefore, the organisation asked governments and social scientists to enhance collecting and sharing process of information as the issue cannot be resolved if there is a huge crisis of knowledge. The main challenge of modern human trafficking is many governments are still living in denial. The intensity of denial further increases when there is any issue of reporting on or prosecuting cases of human trafficking.



Figure 1. Major Parts of the world smuggling transits and destinations

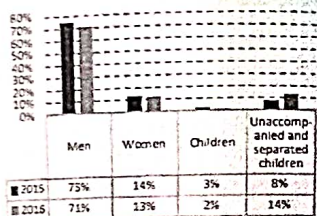
As per the UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, people or migrant smuggling is an act of directly or indirectly obtaining for financial or any other material benefit of unethical entry of a person into a state party of which the person does not qualify for national or permanent resident. The challenge relies on the fact that there are no proper statistics on the migrant smuggling in every year. As per the evidence, nearly 2.5 million people were smuggled for financial benefits that amount to US\$ 5.5-7 billion in 2016<sup>23</sup>. The amount is similar to the humanitarian aid globally by the USA and the countries of European Union. This data is not entirely true as it shows only the known part of such practice.



<sup>21</sup> United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. 2020. Global Report On Trafficking In Persons. [online] Available at: <<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>> [Accessed 26 June 2020].  
<sup>22</sup> United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. 2020. United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime. [online] Available at: <<https://www.unodc.org/>> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

<sup>23</sup> Unodc.org. 2020. [online] Available at: <[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glosom/GLOSOM\\_2018\\_web\\_small.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glosom/GLOSOM_2018_web_small.pdf)> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

Share of arrivals in Italy along the Central Mediterranean route by age and sex, 2015-2016



Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Figure 2. Number of arrivals based on age and sex

Majority of the smuggled people are mostly young men and also unaccompanied children. But it is different in parts of South-East Asia where women are the majority of the smuggled people. The composition of gender, in this case, is mainly influenced by the circumstances that drive their mobility. There are many families among the smuggled Syrian migrants who are mostly escaped from the armed conflict, has fewer reports among the other groups of smuggled migrants. The practice causes the risk of lives of these people as the data refers that 58 per cent of the migrants are drawn while travelling through sea routes, 19 per cent of the deaths of smuggled migrants is mainly due to harsh conditions and illness<sup>24</sup>. They are often indulged into other crimes such as violence, extortion, kidnapping, rape or human trafficking in persons. The challenge remains on the degree of the institutional control over such routes as well as the reception of migrants in transition and destination countries.

**Gender, Politics and State Development**

The Gender Development Index (GDI) finds out the gaps of development accomplishments considering the inequalities between women and men in basic aspects of human development such as health, knowledge and the standards of living<sup>25</sup>.

24. Refugees, U., 2020. Syria Emergency. [online] UNHCR. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html> [Accessed 26 June 2020].  
 25. Human Development Reports. [online] Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-development-index-gdi> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

Gender Development Index (GDI)

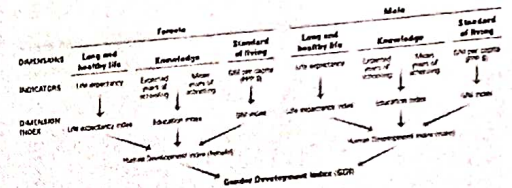


Figure 3. Gender Development Index (GDI)

The data of the GDI shows how much women are still remaining behind their male counterparts and how many of them need to catch up based on their three aspects. The challenge is that the data of recent times is nowhere to be found. As per the data of 2016, the cause of death due to communicable disease among female aged at 15-34 was 42.5 per cent<sup>26</sup>. But, the data was only 22.7 per cent for male of same age group<sup>27</sup>. This gap reflects the lack of development between men and women.

In case of economic opportunities, the employment services for women and men or the percentage of both male and female employees across the world is 45.2<sup>28</sup>. The data is from the year 2020 reflects that the availability of this data on employment of majority of the nations is available.

The World Bank has taken the initiative to take help of politics for development. This is useful in harnessing Transparency and Citizen Engagement as there are the core aspects that can solve the failure of

26. Databank.worldbank.org. 2020. Gender Statistics | Databank. [online] Available at: [https://databank.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DTHL.COMM.1534.FE.ZS?ids=2ddc971b&report\\_name=Gender\\_Indicators\\_Report&popularity=series](https://databank.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DTHL.COMM.1534.FE.ZS?ids=2ddc971b&report_name=Gender_Indicators_Report&popularity=series) [Accessed 26 June 2020].  
 27. Databank.worldbank.org. 2020. Gender Statistics | Databank. [online] Available at: [https://databank.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DTHL.COMM.1534.MA.ZS?ids=2ddc971b&report\\_name=Gender\\_Indicators\\_Report&popularity=series](https://databank.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.DTHL.COMM.1534.MA.ZS?ids=2ddc971b&report_name=Gender_Indicators_Report&popularity=series) [Accessed 26 June 2020].  
 28. Databank.worldbank.org. 2020. Gender Statistics | Databank. [online] Available at: [https://databank.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.SRV.EMPL.MA.ZS?ids=2ddc971b&report\\_name=Gender\\_Indicators\\_Report&popularity=series](https://databank.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.SRV.EMPL.MA.ZS?ids=2ddc971b&report_name=Gender_Indicators_Report&popularity=series) [Accessed 26 June 2020].



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governments by forming the function of political markets. In the 21st century, besides queuing on the voting booths, people are coming on street and taking help of technological advancements to choose, sanction as well as pressure the powerful leaders in the government". But this is a nuanced way of engagement can be within same formal institutional context as well as across the various sets of political values that range from autocracy to democracy. The development of policies becomes unhealthy when the leaders are chosen based on their prohibition of private benefits instead of public opinion that leads to many of the government failures.

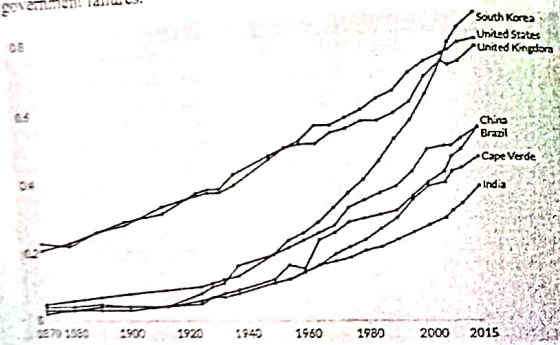


Figure 4. Historical Index of Human Development

The development of states can be measured by the Human Development Index (HDI). The differences in the data differ hugely as the higher values can be seen in North America, Europe, Japan and Oceania and the lower values can be seen in central Africa. As per the historical index of human development (1870 to 2015), South Korea has scored highest score as per the three dimensions of a long and healthy life, being conversant as well as decent standard of living.

29 World Bank. 2020. Making Politics Work For Development: Harnessing Transparency And Citizen Engagement. [online] Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/publication/making-politics-work-for-development> [Accessed 26 June 2020].

### Authoritarianism, Repression and Corruption

#### Authoritarianism

Authoritarianism is a kind of government, which is characterised by powerful central power with limitations in terms of political freedom<sup>30</sup>. The political scientists have shared their opinions about different kinds of authoritarian government, where the authoritarian regimes might either be oligarchic, and autocratic, and it is also based on the rule of military or party. The human rights are compromised to a huge extent in the authoritarian society because the power mainly lies in the central government, and not in the hands of people in that kind of a regime, which mainly results in curtailing of freedom and human rights of individuals.

The countries in the 21st century that can be considered as having authoritarian regimes are North Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Spain, Norway or Sweden. The countries like Hungary and Switzerland have authoritarian democracy, which means it is a democracy of the elites, and common people cannot have any participation in the democracy<sup>31</sup>. Every authoritarian regime is found to curtail human rights like the civil rights of forming assembly, and the right to expression. It is because there is limited political pluralism in an authoritarian regime, which has constraints of political parties, legislature and interest groups.

In an authoritarian regime, the political legitimacy is based on emotion towards the identification of the present regime, minimising political mobilisation, and suppression of anti-regime activities<sup>32</sup>. Also, the authoritarian regimes have lesser executive powers, and it is quite vague. So, the freedom of expression for the normal public is affected as the public are not provided with the freedom to criticise the ruler, the regime or the government. The political party is generally one-party system, and it also suppresses any movement that is against the regime.

30 Mehta, R.L., Cerdó, J., Burdmann, E.A., Tonelli, M., Garcia-Garcia, G., Jha, V., Susantiphong, P., Roeco, M., Vanholder, R., Sever, M.S. and Cruz, D., 2015. International Society of Nephrology's Oby25 initiative for acute kidney injury (zero preventable deaths by 2025): a human rights case for nephrology. *The Lancet*, 385(9987), pp.2616-2643.

31 Claeys, P., 2015. Human rights and the food sovereignty movement: Reclaiming control. Routledge.

32 Degener, T., 2016. Disability in a human rights context. *Laws*, 5(3), p.35.

Repression

One of the challenges in the 21st century that had created a violation of human rights is the repression, or more commonly, which is known as political repression. Political repression mainly indicates a method by which certain groups, phenomenon, or movement is suppressed in the society even though the state is a democracy, or every human being is given their rights to form assembly or freedom of expression. For example, the repression by different states constitutes police brutality, surveillance abuse, involuntary settlement, imprisonment, lustration and genocide in a society. The violent actions that take place as a part of forced disappearance of activities are done by political activists, general population and dissidents.

The 21st century has often observed such violations about human rights due to repression like altering the citizenship rights of specific people in a nation and forcing them to leave the land against a small sum of money. The violation about human rights due to lustration is forcing specific people like the people of a specific community, or a religion to face more punishment before the law, and use genocide to reduce their spread in the society. For example, the police brutality on the black population in the UK along with the punishment given to the communist leaders in many parts of the world is examples of lustration.

Corruption

Corruption is a kind of dishonesty or criminal offence that is undertaken by an organisation or an individual who is entrusted with authority, takes negative benefit or abuses that particular power for the sake of individual gain. Corruption constitutes different types of activities like embezzlement or bribery, and also it involves different practices that are legal in several countries. Political corruption occurs in a state when the bureaucracy or a person in the governmental authority uses his or her power negatively for personal financial gain. It is quite common in countries that are authoritarian or have an authoritarian democracy.

According to the United Nations charter of human rights, it has been

33 Levy, B.S. and Patz, J.A., 2015. Climate change, human rights, and social justice. *Annals of global health*, 8(3), pp.310-322.  
34 Struethers, A.E., 2015. Human rights education: Educating about, through and for human rights. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 19(1), pp.53-73.  
35 Schunter, O., 2016. Towards a new treaty on business and human rights. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 1(1), pp.41-67.

found that every individual citizen needs to be equal before the law, and needs to have a fair trial in court for any offence committed. However, due to the presence of corruption, it is found that criminals are often framed, and the actual offender escapes due to the power of money. Corruption occurs mainly for private gain, and so, the government employees have the leverage to set any offender free after taking some amount of money.

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Global challenges in today's society are many, which are related to the problems like terrorism, theocracy and authoritarian regimes in different states. The problem is also with the differences in culture, which might be against the human rights that are mentioned by the UN charter. For example, freedom of expression might be a human right, however, in an authoritarian regime, or a monarchy, expressing or criticising the government and its method of ruling is a crime. In the same way, in a theocratic country, criticising the main official religion of the land is considered as a crime, and a punishable offence, which hampers the human rights of the citizens.

The problems of lustration under the right-wing government in many countries are also a problem that leads to the violation of human rights. For example, the right-wing government generally comes to power by pleasing the majority community in a particular nation, and its motto is suppressing the minority in order to get support from the majority. Hence, minorities are suppressed, which often includes genocide and police brutality. The right-wing government in the United States are against Asian minorities because it is believed that they are taking away the jobs, which actually belongs to white Americans. Hence, the police brutality on the Asian people is quite higher than the white Americans.

36 Ramasastry, A., 2015. Corporate social responsibility versus business and human rights: Bridging the gap between responsibility and accountability. *Journal of Human Rights*, 14(2), pp.237-259.  
37 Salomon, M.E., 2015. Of austerity, human rights and international institutions. *European Law Journal*, 21(4), pp.521-545.  
38 Hafner-Burton, E.M., Mansfield, E.D. and Pevehouse, J.C., 2015. Human rights institutions, sovereignty costs and democratization. *British Journal of Political Science*, 45(1), pp.1-27.



The globalisation is also bringing the problems of religious fundamentalism in a theocratic society. Generally, in liberal secular states, religion is considered as an aspect of personal belief of the society, which has no formal relationship with the government or legal regulations<sup>39</sup>. On the other hand, the problems in theocratic states are related to the law that the public is not allowed to criticise or make any opinion, which is against the overall main official religion of the state<sup>40</sup>. It is seen that the people practising other religions in places like Saudi Arabia, Iran or Oman often faces violation about human rights from the authority, and they are not allowed to take leave or practice their own religions on several occasions.

Generally, in the third world countries, it has often been observed that corruption plays an important part in the overall system of government. It has been found that corruption damages the UN convention about human rights in relation to fair trial and equality before the law<sup>41</sup>. It has been found that corruption makes the wealthier population to buy justice, and gain extra privilege before the law with money, which makes economically backward sections of the society, suffer due to lack of justice in the society.

The global challenges are possible to be addressed by means of giving power to the UN charter to intervene in any state irrespective of the kind of regime or regulations in case the human rights are violated<sup>42</sup>. It has been found that UN intervention helps in resolving several issues that influence the violation of human rights to be more precise. As a whole, the UN commission establishment in different authoritarian and democratic states help in curtailing the violations. It is also found that the states that are authoritarian, and right-winged are required to be closely monitored by the UN in order to reduce the violation of human rights.

39. Ienca, M. and Andorno, R., 2017. Towards new human rights in the age of neuroscience and neurotechnology. *Life Sciences, Society and Policy*, 13(1), pp.1-27.

40. Cele, W.M., 2015. Mind the gap: State capacity and the implementation of human rights treaties. *International Organization*, pp.405-441.

41. Buzeta, L., 2015. Human rights and sustainable development obligations in EU free trade agreements. In *Global Governance through Trade*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

42. Von Steen, J., 2016. Making promises, keeping promises: democracy, ratification and compliance in international human rights law. *British Journal of Political Science*, 46(3), p.655.

## Conclusion

It is concluded from the assignment that the UN charter had established regulations on human rights on 10th December 1948, which claimed that there must be certain civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights that are common to all nations. This had led to the formulation of human rights like the right to life, freedom of expression, and equality before the law. Along with that, it has also been seen that the right to form a family, women and children rights including labour rights that justified maternity leaves for women are human rights that are required to be followed in all nations.

However, it has been found that most of the human rights violations had occurred in the 21st century due to challenges like authoritarian states, suppression of internal violence and reports along with the corrupted government in the third-world countries. It has been found that such problems are possible to be curtailed if there is a regulation for managing the human rights violation, and a provision for UN intervention in the nations that are accused of violating human rights. Also, special monitoring is required to be implemented on authoritarian regimes, and the places having the right-wing government to check if any violation of human right takes place. We have had enough Declaration, Convention and Covenants on human rights. The focal point is that these covenants are only tools of limited utility and the real thrust for achievement of human rights has to come from the government and the people themselves. From the Far East toward the western demography there has been inconsistent counteraction of torment to human race. We have visualised our grand old lady the universal declaration on human right have incomplete framework in protecting human rights of vulnerable groups all over the world. The first is to protect and empower vulnerable groups by eliminating violence and discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity. Secondly the declaration needs to be reinvigorating in the matters of human trafficking and people smuggling. This criminal activity which is infringing fundamental right of human being need to address at the highest level by every nation so to improve the effectiveness of the domestic human rights architecture. Everyone in this society is born free with equal dignity and rights to preserve the same is the responsible of every human being. Our only hope is that government and civil society will work together to articulate vision of human right.

In order to implement the protection about human rights by the UN charter in all nations, it should be made universal, and every nation

should be forced to allow UN intervention in regards to violation of human rights. In case the nation does not comply, the nation should be boycotted in business by other nations that are connected with the UN in order to build international pressure. In order to reduce the challenges about human rights violations in the 21st century, the monitoring of authoritarian regimes and the regimes having the right-winged governments should be done. The theocratic states should also be monitored closely for violation of human rights.

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