
UNIT 2 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, RIGHTS AND SECURITY

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2.1 INTRODUCTON

Human development, human rights and human security constitute the ingredients that can make humanity contended and secure. Human development creates entitlements, and capabilities in people to lead a good life. Human rights create support for people and enables them to get access to entitlements and capabilities. Human security creates a right to people for basic entitlements for survival and a basic minimum standard of living. If people are appropriately empowered, these rights, entitlements and capabilities can be well realised, benefiting the society, especially the poor, marginalised, disadvantaged, and exploited. It is therefore necessary to examine these concepts and the interdependence among them so that policies and programmes for human upliftment and security can be created.

The difference between ‘a right’ and ‘a human right; may be noted here:

A right can be defined as ‘a right, if and only if, society has a right to protect its enjoyment and redress its violation.’ A human right is ‘a human right, if and only if, being a human being is a sufficient reason or condition for possessing the right’. For example ‘right to food’ is a human right as all beings need it for living as human beings. Human rights are succinctly explained in the ‘Action Aid’ publication (2004) as follows: “All the human beings have the right to live with dignity at all times, regardless of their legal, social, or political status. Human rights are not gifts to be bestowed at the whims and fancies of anyone, nor a privilege, an act of grace or charity. Equity and justice are at the heart of all human rights. Living with dignity and without fear are basic human needs. It includes adequate decent food, water and health, freedom from slavery, fair treatment under the law, a shelter etc. These basic human needs and values are at the foundation of universal ideas of human rights.”

Aims and Objectives

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- trace the evolution of human rights, including in India.
- bring out the significance of human development for developing countries like India.
- analyse the interdependence among the above concepts to get an integrated view.

2.2 EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights have been evolving historically over 300 years. Some important milestones in this development include the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679, which guaranteed individual freedom and safety against arbitrary arrest and punishment. The 1689 Bill of Rights codified rule of law, right to vote, individual liberty and judicial guarantees. The 1776 US Declaration of Independence offered right to life, and the 1789 French Declaration of the Right of Man and the Citizen covered extended sovereignty; government, general will of the people, equality before law, accountability, right to resist oppression and right to property, security, freedom of conscience, and of opinion. In the 1920s, the League of Nations enforced its mission as one to create cooperation between nations and guarantee peace and security. But the concept of human rights as a universal declaration came after the horrific experiences of the fascist killings during the Second World War. Human rights principles were written in the United Nations Charter. Later in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly which asserted 'a combination of civil, political, economic, social, cultural rights'. There were also declarations on rights of women and children, war-affected people etc. In 1976 with the adoption and entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, Civil Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICPR) the Universal Declaration of 1948 was strengthened. After this there were several notifications covering security, cooperation, against torture, against racial discrimination, right to intervention by the UN, rights to the minorities, elimination of discrimination against women and rights of child.

The UN General Assembly adopted the important Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986, which includes the Rights of Food, Education and Health. Most significant declaration after the 1948 Declaration was the 'Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action' adopted in 1993 by the World Conference of Human Rights, upholding human rights stating that 'human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthrights of all human beings, their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of governments' (Part I, Para1). It can be concluded that globally human relations stand tall upholding freedom and democracy, notwithstanding violations in some parts and states.

Human Rights Evolution in Stages

One can identify different stages in the development of human rights. In the first stage there was philosophical interpretation by social theorists. For example, the theory of natural law by John Locke states that man has natural rights and in this state of nature men are free and equal. Rousseau gave his social contract theory. Second stage is the one where it slowly developed into a practice of enjoying rights. Demands for rights during the French Revolution, gave expression and birth of practice of rights.

The third stage is from the 1948 when Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations making human rights global rights. The rights that were first demanded were civil and political rights, therefore called the first generation rights. The second generation rights covered the rights to work, income, food, health etc., Human rights instruments came in the form of treaties and resolutions. These became the standards to judge the practice of human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is one such important standard. But with the emergence of the Cold War and the rivalry between the USA and the USSR, the development of human rights movement got derailed. During the 1970s there was a progressive shift to rights practice. In 1980s, several human rights against practices like discrimination against women, against torture, etc., were institutionalised. From 1990s onwards, with the Cold War having ended, human rights have come to centre stage once again. This trend is likely to continue with more and more democratic countries emerging, taking the human relations practices more seriously and sincerely.

Human Rights Global Scenario

Human rights occupy a very important position internationally. Almost all countries respect human rights and have incorporated human rights in their domestic legislation. However, at the level of actual observation and practice, there have been several instances of violations of human rights. The Amnesty International brings out every year a large number of cases of human rights violations. There are also organisations like Human Rights Watch which monitor the field of human rights and disseminate the information.

It is also pointed out that almost one fifth of the world's population is affected by poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, and uncertainty is sufficient ground for considering that the economic/cultural/social rights of these persons are being denied on a massive scale. Yet, on the whole, development agencies have been slow to explore ways of bringing these concerns to the United Nations human rights framework.

There have been many cases of genocide, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, exploitation of women, sectarian conflicts, freedom struggles in several countries, like the (then) Yugoslavia comprising of Serbia (especially Kosovo), Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro; Rwanda; and East Timor, and other parts of the world and for a long time. These instances have violated human rights in large scale and underline the importance of concerted effort that needs to be made to protect human rights. Further as time passes and with greater awareness spreading, the concept and ideas of human rights is getting serious attention and it can be hoped that in future human rights will receive due attention all over the world. In this context, the passing of the 'Responsibility to Protect' or R2P affirms that states must adhere to protecting the rights of their citizens.

Human Rights in India

After independence in 1947, India has been a supporter of human rights. The Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution assure Rights to Equality, Freedom, Against Exploitation, Freedom of Religion, Cultural and Educational Rights, and Right to Constitutional Remedies. There are several principles in the Directive Principles of State Policy that offer guidelines to the government on policies to help poor, women, marginalised sections and the disadvantaged. India has a vibrant judiciary with a strong inter-linked network of courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court.

India has also been dealing with human rights violations through an institutional framework.

The National Human Rights Commission, set up under the Human Relations Act 1993, is an autonomous statutory body. It can enquire into human relations violations including by a public servant. It can review constitutional, statutory and international safeguards for the protection of human rights. When it receives complaints of human rights violations, it makes enquiries and recommends to concerned authorities for appropriate action like prosecution, grant of interim relief, and referring to High Courts and the Supreme Court. There are also similar commissions at the state level. There are also district courts acting on human rights violations. In 1992, the government set up National Commission for Women. There is also the National Commission for Minorities covering Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, and Zoroastrians. There is an extensive legal frame work for women and children for the protection of their rights.

However in spite of various measures discussed above, when it comes to implementation, the record in the human rights front in India is not so good. We read about reports of rights violations of women, children, minorities, Dalits, tribals and others. The record is also poor in the reporting of human rights violations to appropriate bodies and agencies. As far as the judiciary is concerned, it is heavily overburdened with pending cases. There are over 24 million cases pending in various courts in the country. There is also the criticism that in judiciary, especially at lower courts, corruption is rampant.

In the case of women, with declining sex ratio (more males), dowry extortion, sexual harassment and domestic violence, much more strong and serious action is to be undertaken. Similarly child labour, though declining, is still significant. There are also still cases of bonded labour, and exploitation of rural labour. There is still inadequate attention paid to unorganised labour who constitute over 90% of the total workforce.

Indian records in ensuring the Right to Food, Right to education and Right to Health have also not been impressive. It can be concluded that though there is a comprehensive human rights institutional framework in India, there is still a lot more to be done, especially in the sphere of implementation of the various provisions of the human rights legislation and policy.

2.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Human Development Report (HDR) 1994 speaks of sustainable human development which means that the goal for development should be the betterment of human beings. This implies that growth should come with equity and sustainability. Development is a comprehensive process directed towards the full realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Right to Development is an important human right and an integral part of fundamental freedoms. The concept of human development overlaps significantly with sustainable human development and therefore can be used interchangeably assuming the inclusion of sustainability in the concept of human development.

Paul Streeten (1999) brings out the significance of human development when he says in the Foreword to Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq's work (Reflections on Human Development) that human development is blessed six times as it confers six important benefits. These are:

1. Human development is an end in itself, because it ensures a contented and efficient manpower.
2. Human development is a means to higher productivity, because it ensures educated, productive and high quality manpower.

3. It slows down human reproduction by lowering desired family size. Educated parents prefer to have a small and happy family.
4. Good for physical environment. As people get educated, they become more aware of environment and support more trees and forests.
5. Human development reduces poverty, as educated and skilled get employed. It also promotes a healthy civil society and democracy. There is also greater social stability and awareness of sustainability in human development.
6. Human development also has a political appeal, because it may reduce civil disturbances and increase political stability.

Streeten compliments Dr.Haq for strengthening human development by adding the dimension of security, shifting the concept away from military/national security to human security. According to Dr.Haq there are four essential components of Human Development. These are briefly narrated below:

1. Equity: Benefits of development must be shared equitably by all sections. In actual practice, in a country like India, the challenge of exclusion is yet to be overcome successfully. India's Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plans have the aim of achieving inclusive development as their main goal.
2. Sustainability: Development has to be sustained without loss of environment and ecology, and without undue cost on the future generation. It also signifies resort to renewable sources as much as possible.
3. Productivity: Productivity is the secret of acceleration in economic growth and development. There must be optimum utilisation of resources with maximum output from the given resources.
4. Empowerment: Empowerment refers to equipping people to play their expected role in development. In the context of a developing country like India, this means enabling the weaker sections of the society, especially the poor, women and child labour and other disadvantaged sections of the society.

Dr.Haq supplements the above components with a suggestion of four ways of creating desirable links between economic growth and human development. These are:

1. Creation of social infrastructure in the community that reaches the target sections like poor and needy. This involves emphasis on large investment in education, health and creation of skills etc. Countries like Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, China, and Malaysia are good examples where they have gained pace in development by investing substantial resources in education, health etc.
2. More equitable distribution of income and assets: Poverty reduction very much depends on access to resources and opportunities. Measures that shift resources to the needy and deserving and check conspicuous consumption can be of great help to achieve equitable distribution. For example, progressive taxation within limits can help in achieving such goals like equitable distribution.
3. Well structured social expenditure: Such expenditures like public expenditure are mostly by governments. The private sector can also chip in wherever possible.

Expenditures on schools, universities, hospitals and public works are some good illustrations of desirable public expenditure.

4. Empowerment, especially of women: Empowering village leaders and women in taking decisions and implementing them in the field of development can ensure people's participation in development. Other poor, marginalised, and disadvantaged sections must also be empowered by seeking their participation and helping them with credit and other facilities. Discrimination against women must also be ended and they must be supported by the government.

The significance of human development was realized fully when Dr.Haq suggested that HDR should be published annually, monitoring the progress on the human development front and also exploring one new policy issue every year in the HDR. Thus every year the HDR will have details and statistics of progress on the global human development including ranking of countries in human development and informed discussions on a new policy issue in the area of human development. For example, the 1990 HDR gave details on how people are faring in that year and also suggested, after discussions, a judicious mix of market efficiency and social compassion. The 1991 HDR focussed on financing human development. The 1992 HDR discussed international dimensions of human development. According Dr.Haq, the HDR is having a significant impact on the human development front. The impact included a global search for a new development paradigm and special attention to developing countries and to HDR providing an index of social progress.

To promote global human development, Dr.Haq suggested a “new framework of development cooperation” commenting on development aid to developing countries as poor and inadequate. Dr Haq suggested a larger disbursement of aid as percentage of GDP of developed countries. As remarked by Robert Frost in the Epilogue of the book ‘Reflections on Human Development’, human development is more challenging and the only viable option in the future.

To measure human development economists have developed measures called Human Development Indices (HDI). These measure the percentages of literacy, availability of health and sanitation, drinking water etc for the population. These are given a score and the human development of each country is rated. Further a Gender Development Index (GDI) that measures the empowerment and benefits that a state gives to women has also been developed. A true development of a country is when it goes up in the HDI and GDI.

2.4 STATUS OF HUMAN SECURITY

Human security aims at safeguarding the vital core of all human lives from critical pervasive threats in a way consistent with long term fulfillment. Human security is the safeguard against threats in life like poverty, job-insecurity, food insecurity, environmental degradation etc., which can cause severe damage and hinder human development.

Human security means safety from some chronic threats like hunger, disease, and repressions. It can also mean protection of people from sudden and harmful disruptions in the pattern of daily life – whether in home, in job, or in communities. Such threats can exist at all levels of development.

Dr.Haq states that human security necessitates action in five areas:

1. Development: Action to maintain sustainability, equity, social security, employment etc., which influence the pace and process of development.
2. Military: Human security here would demand reduction or capping of military expenditure on arms and redistribute resources for economic development benefiting common people.
3. North-South interdependence: The developed North and the developing South can have mutually beneficial relationship with each other benefiting all countries.
4. Institutional: These refer to measures like restructuring institutions like the IMF, World Bank, and the UN to enable them to plan their activities to empower poor countries and ensure security and environment.
5. Building a global civil society based on grassroots participation, dynamic democracy in place of authoritarian rule.

Status of Human Security in India

In India human security is of great value as we face several complex threats. In India poverty is chronic and effects a large section of the population. Policies for social change and economic betterment of the poor and excluded are weak and their implementation is poor. There is wide scale illiteracy, malnutrition and poor health, lack of skills among youth, intelligence failures, political confrontations, evil of dowry, youth frustration and so on. Besides this, India has unresolved disputes with its neighbours and so on. All these threats are complex and of large magnitude and need strong human security measures and their effective implementation.

India is making a valiant effort to strengthen and ensure human security by several path breaking attempts. In the field of food security the Government of India has proposed a Food Security Act. This Act will ensure food to poor people below the poverty line at affordable rates and in reasonably adequate quantities. There are however controversies as to how to demarcate the poverty line, and activists have argued for a universal public distribution system for food security. This is because the Below Poverty Line has been shown to be arbitrary and many people in the Above Poverty Line are also very vulnerable. In the field of employment, the government has already enacted the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme which guarantees work to rural poor for 100 days in a year per household. In the field of social security, the government has passed enactment for social security for the benefit of poor unorganised workers who constitute an overwhelming majority of the work force. Special insurance scheme for poor are also being implemented. The government is working on a giant project of issuing unique identity cards for common people which will facilitate the poor to get access to credit, ration etc. The government is also trying to popularise micro-finance to benefit the poor. In the Five Year Plans the government is now emphasising inclusive development.

However, in spite of these measures, the status of human security in India is still inadequate. Factors like resource constraints, poor implementation, leakages, and corruption in developmental schemes, are adversely affecting the measures of human security. It is necessary for the Government of India and state governments to consolidate the various

measures and coordinate among governments and with the civil society so that human security in India is strengthened.

Status of Human Security at the Global Level

At global level there are a number of measures that have been taken to promote human security. The Millennium Development Goals aim at raising the lot of poor people in developing countries by asking Developed countries to give 0.05% of their GDP for assistance for this purpose. In trade also there is a demand that the World Trade Organization (WTO) work for more favourable terms of trade for poor and developing countries. Earlier attempts at improving the living conditions through international efforts did produce some good results. For example in 1960, about 70% of humanity was living in abysmal conditions, but this percentage came down to 32% in 1992. But there are still glaring inequalities within and between countries which demand strong international actions to strengthen food security and development. Globalization has increased inequality and many people in the middle classes have also suffered because of inequality and jobless growth brought about by globalization.

There are also challenges like terrorism, wars, ethnic conflicts, environmental degradation and climatic changes, which are threatening human security in the developed and developing countries. These will have to be tackled with concerted and well coordinated international actions to enforce human security benefiting the entire mankind. Fostering democracy can also be of great help because it is only in a democratic environment can human security flourish with people's participation, entitlements, and capabilities ensuring social welfare and human well being.

2.5 INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN SECURITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The interrelationship between human rights and human security on the one hand and human rights and human development on the other are similar because, as stated earlier, human security shares the 'conceptual space' of human development.

A human rights based approach integrates the whole human rights system covering the norms, standards, and principles of human rights system into the developmental process of policy making, planning and implementing development projects leading to equitable development including human development and human security. Human rights include the Right to Development. Such development stimulated by human rights can be enriching and benefiting the poor, marginalised, and disadvantaged. Similarly human rights can also enable people to enjoy security sanctified by rights like the Right to Food Security.

A human rights-based development covers the following elements:

- a) express linkage to rights b) accountability c) empowerment
- d) participation e) non-discrimination and attention to vulnerable groups.

Right to development, among others, ensures development desired by people. Rights demand accountability from institutions concerned with development. Human rights also demand adequate empowerment of development institutions as well as the potential beneficiaries who are people. Participation from people who will be the beneficiaries enriches the development process. And the principles governing rights to equitable

development demand that benefits of such development percolate down to all without any discrimination and must reach especially to the vulnerable groups like the poor, and disadvantaged people.

The United Nations Development programme (UNDP) also highlights the nature of interdependent relationship between human rights and human development (and human security), but suggests that human rights concerns must enter into the national legislation of individual countries. It also states that human development and human rights are mutually reinforcing.

It should be noted that the Right to Development itself is a human right and reflects the relationship between human rights and human development. Its components –Right to Food, Right to Education, and Rights to Health, are linked to human security also. Thus human rights play a similar role under human security as in human development. India is now seriously attempting to implement human rights that are closely connected to human development and human security.

Human Security and Human Rights

Human rights directly influences human security in the sense that both are concerned with identifying a set of universal concerns like poverty and violence which are threats and which need to be dealt with to help common people to face such threats. It should be noted that in this context, human security does not extend to all rights and freedoms but only to threats like economic security especially food security, basic school education and public health, which are considered to be very basic or core threats to human existence against which there must be human security.

2.6 INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN HUMAN SECURITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

According to Sabina Alkire, ‘human security shares conceptual space’ of human development; this is likewise people-centered and multidimensional and is defined in the space of human choices and freedoms. For example, food security promotes both human security and human development. Both human security and human development deal with education and training to ensure entitlement based on capabilities for enlightenment and better living. Both assume several rights and freedoms like empowerment.

But human development is considered to be a broader concept dealing with various developmental aspects of a person’s individual development whereas human security is confined to basic essentials for life. Human development is also much more long term as development itself is a long term phenomenon unlike human security which is concerned with immediate aspects of earning, working and living. Again, human development is driven by a more holistic objective like sound development of a person’s personality in terms of all round development. Human development thus captures the ‘aspirations of any society whether rich or chronically poor’.

In scope too there is difference. The aim of human development is the flourishing of people’s lives in their homes and society and expansion of valuable choices. In contrast, human security is more limited in scope, more concerned with the immediate requirements of life. But both deal with the development of the poor and weak. Human security is also concerned with preventive aspects of development like prevention of AIDS, small pox etc.

Further as indicted by the terms themselves, human development is more concerned with 'equitable growth'; human security focuses more on human safety and protection from threats and calamities like recession, natural calamities, national emergencies etc. This is different than mere focus on growth and high Gross Domestic product (GDP) as that does not bring development for all in an equitable way and in fact can lead to widening inequality and disparity and thus social conflict.

Human security and human development are essential for good life, though human development is a broader concept dealing with development of a person's faculties and long term positive development while human security deals with protecting a person from hunger, poverty and unemployment, disasters etc. Thus both concepts serve the needs of people and both contribute to good life for people.

2.7 INTERDEPENDENCE AND SUGGESTED AREAS OF ACTION

There is a deep and close interdependence among the concepts of human security, human development and human rights. All these concepts are people-centered and are complementary to each other. For example, the Right to Development of the human rights system has component rights of Right to Food, Right to Education and Right to Health. These rights are closely connected to both human security and human development. Right to Food and Right to Public Health can help protect poor and safeguard their position to a significant extent. Similarly, Right to Education and facilities for poor for higher and technical education can strengthen human development. Thus all the three concepts are harmoniously interrelated and interdependent mutually reinforcing each other.

According to Ellen Seidensticker, human security is a relatively newer concept, not yet developed like the human rights. Therefore, 'hitching' human security concerns onto human rights vocabulary can enrich both. But human security has not necessarily been coupled to obligations. Human rights framework is more basic and more fundamental.

Developing human security can reduce excessive state discretion that justifies suppression of human rights. It would be difficult for the state to neglect human rights in the name of national security. Similarly the discretion in dealing with the social/economic rights can also be moderated. Human security can also help in restoring conflicts between different human rights and help in balancing first generation (civil/political) rights and second generation (social/economic) rights.

Human rights also help in strengthening human security and human development. Right to development covering Right to Food, Right to Education and Right to Health, promote other aspects of human security and human development, both in short term, say relieving hunger and acute poverty and in long term raising general health and capabilities strengthening human development in that process.

Suggested Areas of Action

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993) states that "The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the solemn commitment of all States to fulfill their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law. In this framework, enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the

full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of the governments.” (Human Rights—the new consensus, 1994). All concerned must put pressure on their governments to give human rights their top priority.

Among the three concepts of Human Security, Human Development, and Human Rights, the last one is the oldest, original and most significant concept for the benefit of mankind. In fact effective national and international actions are possible only under human rights based development. Human Rights, when asserted, motivate people to demand such rights to be implemented. When people combine them, they get empowered and implementation is achieved. But it is necessary that people are educated in human rights, on the imperatives of human security, and the desirability of human development and are motivated to assert their rights and articulate their demands. The following areas need attention for the better realisation of human rights, human security and human development.

One very important area is the implementation of the various schemes, measures and policies to uphold human rights. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, United Nations Secretary-General, reiterated this aspect in the opening address at the World Conference of Human Rights at Geneva in 1993. He said, “Everyday we see how discredited human rights and the United Nations itself would be, in the eyes of the world, if declarations, covenants, charters, conventions, and treaties that we draft in order to protect human rights remained theoretical or were constantly violated. Human rights should therefore be covered by effective mechanisms and procedures to guarantee and protect them and to provide sanctions” In countries like India implementation has been the crux of the matter. We have an elaborate human rights mechanism but implementation has remained much desired. On the contrary, the prevailing environment of corruption has made matters worst. Special efforts are needed in this direction.

The promotion and practice of democracy needs to be encouraged internationally. As stated by Boutros-Ghali, “there is the imperative of democratization....Only democracy, within States and within the community of States, can truly guarantee democracy. It is through democracy that individual and collective rights, the rights of the peoples and the rights of persons, are reconciled. It is through democracy that the rights of States and the right of the community of States are reconciled.” India has been able to manage human rights and development in a most heterogeneous society only because of democracy. The Human Security Report 2009-10 has pointed out that a study undertaken in 2005 of conflicts in the world during 1946-2003 shows that conflicts per annum has come down from an average of 6 per annum in 1950s to less than one now . This has been due to a number of factors like demise of colonialism, end of Cold War, increase in global economic interdependence, increase in international trade and rise in foreign direct investment (FDI), and increase in the growth of democracies. The increase in the democratic countries has been from 29% to 58% of all countries during the period of study. However the world is now facing two colossal problems of violence and war on terrorism, says the study. All the above facts point out to the need of encouraging democracy in the world and democratic practices in the settlement of disputes and conflicts.

The role of civil society, especially of the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in human rights education and development should be fully grasped and optimised. “NGOs

have a major role to play in applying the principles of accountability, transparency, and participation in implementing RTD (Right to Development). They can monitor programmes and deliver services, even replacing the existing bureaucratic channels of administration. They may also play an advocacy role as well as engage in grass root mobilisation and organisation of beneficiaries to participate in decision-making.

The role of NGOs must not be limited to national actions. The concept of international civil society is increasingly gaining ground and NGOs may be very effective in an international advocacy role as well as in the facilitation of the delivery of international services” (CDHR-2004, p.62). The NGOs are already contributing significantly to issues such as ‘food, shelter, women, children, indigenous people, health, labor, refugees, religion, education, racism and discrimination, development and the environment and similar areas’. In India the role of NGOs in education, advocacy and development is now well realised. What is needed is more empowerment of them on the human rights front.

It is necessary that all countries respect human rights. There has been a criticism that human rights are a ‘western’ concept, not applicable to non-western countries like Islamic countries, countries like China etc. This criticism is not valid. The Vienna Declaration was adopted by representatives of 171 countries where no vote was required. Consensus had been reached. Nearly every member state of the United Nations, constituting about 99% of the world population of all sections, was represented. It is necessary therefore to insist on respect for and commitment to the human rights.

It is also necessary to involve business community and trade unions in the promotion and propagation of human rights. Business must include human rights, human security and human development as a part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) and must respect and promote human rights. Trade unions can act as watchdogs of the human rights and must expose the human right violations.

Globalisation is the prevailing paradigm in many countries of the world, especially of the developed world as well as large developing countries like India and China. The impact of this globalisation deserves to be studied seriously from the point of view of human security, human development and human rights. While it has led to a favourable impact on business and the economy which have been growing at a rapid pace, there have been adverse effects on the poor, unorganised workers and marginalised sections of the society. It has led to the ‘digital divide’ creating sharp inequalities and to adverse impact in the labour market leading to ‘jobless growth’ or growth with poor quality jobs in the informal or unorganised sector. Compounding the adverse effects is the persistent inflation, which has been affecting common people due to the rise of essential commodities leading to ‘food inflation’. Globalisation and associated developments have led to an environment of corruption, inflation, inequalities and social exclusion of the masses. All these developments have led to a depressed social environment affecting adversely the human rights, human security, and human development.

The human rights of the extremely poor, marginalised, and disadvantaged sections of the society seem to be getting ignored, as businessmen and other richer sections getting richer while poorer sections continue to suffer more. Human security aspects in terms of inadequate food supply for the poor workers confined to low paying jobs and poor standards of public health are also a matter of concern. Rising costs of higher education, steeply rising costs of housing, and high cost of medicare are adversely affecting human development. It is therefore necessary to examine the human security, human development

and human rights aspects in India under the prevailing environment of globalisation and the difficult socio-economic situation and take adequate steps to uphold and promote the human rights and human development of common people. Thus upholding human rights, respecting human security and promoting human development must be the collective responsibility of all the stakeholders of humanity including governments, NGOs, business, unions, academics and others concerned to make lives of people safe, secure and contended.

2.8 SUMMARY

Human security, human development and human rights are Gandhian concepts though not explicitly stated by him. Together their applications can ensure the well being of people including the poor, weak, marginalised and disadvantaged. Human rights constitute the support for the people for a secure life. Human security ensures that minimum basic essentials of life. Human development is a broader concept involving entitlements and capabilities, and not only secures life, but also good life. Human development has a great significance for good life.

The issue of interdependence among human security, human development and human rights has been discussed. Human security and human development are related closely, and human rights influence both of them. Human Rights advocacy to promote human security and human development has also been discussed. It is pointed out that human security and human development share conceptual space with each other and therefore, closely related. Human security deals more with the individual threats faced by people and also more basic threats like hunger, illiteracy, poor health etc. Human development is a broader concept dealing with high levels of human development like higher education, more productive health etc. Human rights approach promotes human security and human development. For example Right to development addresses both human security and human development issues.

Lastly, the three concepts are considered together, influencing each other. It is pointed out that all these concepts are people- oriented and complementary to each other. Human rights received high attention first and human security concept is a recent one. Some areas that need attention include giving importance to better implementation, promotion of democracy, advocacy for the human rights, important roles to be played by NGOs and stakeholders like business. Attention to these areas will enable us to achieve better quality life as was envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi.

2.9 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Trace the evolution of human rights with special reference to India.
2. Discuss the human rights practice at the global level.
3. Discuss the interdependence between human security and human development.
4. How can human rights be strengthened resulting in a better promotion and advocacy of human security and human development?
5. Write short notes on:
 - a) The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- b) The 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
- c) Human Development Reports (HDRs)
- d) Human Rights evolution in stages
- e) Dr.Mahbub-ul-Haq's contribution to the concepts of human development and human security.

SUGGESTED READINGS

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