



Theories of Identity in Human Rights and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Thoughts



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239.	Human Rights & Educaiotn in the Indian Constitution <i>Shaikh Mubina Abdul Aziz</i>	507
240.	Ambedlkar Thoughts on Realities of Women's Status and Human Rights <i>Dr. Sanjivani Akarte</i>	509
241.	Human Rights (UDHR) and Indian Constitution <i>Miss. Mane Sandhya Jaysing</i>	511
242.	Indian Constitution and Human Rights <i>Mr. Amar Bondre</i>	513
243.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Views on Women's Rights <i>Dr. Kundan Ajabrao Alone</i>	515
244.	Immortality of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's thought About Education Democracy Philosophy and Reigion <i>Sangita Rahupatrao Bihade</i>	517
245.	Expatriate Experience&Identity Crisis in Jhumpa Lahiri's 'The Namesake' <i>Subodh N. Chinchole</i>	519
246.	Realities of Women Status and Human Rights <i>Dr. Jyoti Sadar</i>	521
247.	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar A Genius and Versatile Persoanality In Indian Society <i>Prof. Vandana R. Khakre</i>	523
248.	Labour's Rights in India <i>Dr. Rajesh M. Deshmukh</i>	525
249.	Human Rights and Realities of Women's Status <i>Prof. Shalini Katole/ Akshay A. Katole</i>	527
250.	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar 's Economic Thoughts and 21st century <i>Assit. Prof. K. S. Fulzele</i>	529
251.	Indian Constitution and Human Rights <i>Chadrashekhar Ingole</i>	531
252.	Pragmatism of Human Right From Feminine Perspectives : Expectations and Experience <i>Dr. Vijaykumar Shrikrushna Chowbe</i>	533
253.	Indian Constitution and Development-Oriented Human Rights: <i>Surrendra G. Thakur</i>	535
254.	Theories of Identity In Human Rights : A special Reference a Globalization <i>Prof. Jadhavar B. D.</i>	537
255.	Thories of Identity in Human Rights <i>Prof. More M. B. / Prof. Phalke B. B.</i>	539
256.	Right of Education to Achieve Social Justice <i>Dr. Balkrushna P. Adhau</i>	541
257.	Quest for Identify: A study of Manju Kapur's Difficuilt Daughters <i>Barure Ahilya Bharatrao</i>	543
258.	Realities of Women's Status And Human Rights <i>Sow. Ayodhya D.Pawal (Kakade)</i>	545
259.	Dalit And Human Rights Under the Indian <i>Chincholi Basawaraj</i>	547
260.	Real Status of Women and Human Rights <i>Dr. Manjula B. Chincholi</i>	549

Realities of Women's Status And Human Rights

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Introduction:-

Recognition of women's rights as human rights is a revolutionary notion. A woman's human rights framework equips women with a way to define, analyse & articulate their experiences of violence, degradation & marginality. The idea of women's human rights was a framework for women to articulate and collaborate around broad & similar concerns about the status of women. It also provided women with a way to elaborate on the most pressing human rights issues specific to particular political, geographic, economic & cultural contexts.

The human rights of women & of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral & indivisible part of universal human rights, Vienna Declaration (1993).

During the UN Decade for women (1976-1985), women from many geographical, racial, religious, cultural, & class backgrounds took up organizing to improve the status of women.

In the words of Nehru it is stated that, "I have been of the opinion that nations progress depends on the position of women. The fall of India from her high status was partly at least due to the deterioration of the status & position of women in India." The United Nation - Sponsored women's conferences, which took place in Mexico city in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980 & Nairobi in 1985 were convened to evaluate the status of women & to formulate strategies for women's advancement. The International conferences on population & development in Cairo in 1994, women's reproductive rights were explicitly recognized as human rights.

Objectives:-

- 1) To study the status of women & human rights.
- 2) To understand the women's role in decision making in the family in concern with human right.

Hypothesis:-

Violence of women have significantly impact on the status of women.

The Indian women's position in the society further deteriorated during the medieval period. Females fall prey to violence before they are born. When expectant parents abort their unborn daughters, hoping for sons at early age, before they are physically, mentally or emotionally mature. Women are victims of incest, rape and domestic violence that often lead to trauma, physical handicap or death. And rape is still being used as a weapon of war, a strategy used to subjugate & terrify entire communities.

Important Human Rights:-

- 1) The right to life.
- 2) The right to liberty & security.
- 3) The right to equal protection under the law.
- 4) The right to the highest attainable standard of physical & mental health.
- 5) The right of equality.
- 6) The right to be free from all forms of discriminations.
- 7) Right to earn.
- 8) Right of information.
- 9) Right to fight against domestic abuse & violence.
- 10) Right to fight against abuse & violence at work place.
- 11) Political rights.
- 12) Social rights.

The Government has also enacted specific laws to safeguard the interests of women & for up gradation of their status some of them may be noted here.

The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

Which prohibits polygamy, polyandry, & child marriage & concedes equal right to women to divorce & to remarry

The Hindu Succession Act, 1956

Which provides for women the right to parental property.

The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956

Which gives a childless women the right to adopt a child & to claim maintenance from the husband if she is divorced by him.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954

Which provides rights to women on par with men for inter caste marriage, love marriage & registered marriage. The Act has also fixed the minimum age of marriage at 21 for males & 18 for females.

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

Which declares the taking of dowry an unlawful activity & thereby prevents exploitation of women.

Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

Which provides payment of remuneration equal with men for work of equal value.

The Suppression of Immoral Traffic of Women & Girls Act, 1956

Which gives protection to women from being kidnapped & being compelled to become prostitutes.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971

Which legalizes abortion conceding the right of a women to go for abortion on the ground of physical & mental health.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1983

Which seeks to stop various types of crimes against women.

The Family Court Act, 1984

Which seeks to provide justice to women who get involved in family disputes.

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986

Which prohibits the vulgar presentation of women in the media such as—newspapers, cinema.T.V., ect.

The 73rd And 74th Constitution Amendment Acts, 1993

Which empower women and seek to secure greater participation of women at all the levels of the Panchayat System.

The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994

Which regulates investigation for sex determination of foetus.

The Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

Provides for more effective protection of the right of women guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected or incidental there with or incidental thereto. Males dominate females in every sphere every where in the world. As a result men enjoy a higher status, while women have been leading a discriminated life.

Conclusion:-

Improving the status of women may be the most effective measure to reduce the growth of population problem. The concept of women's human rights has opened the way for women around the world to ask hard question about the official inattention & general indifference to the widespread discrimination & violence that women experience everyday.

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