



SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS OF WOMEN

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ABSTRACT:

60 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed a wide spectrum of human rights that every human being has – without discrimination. They include not only rights to freedom of expression and freedom from torture and ill-treatment, but also rights to education, to adequate housing and other economic, social rights. Socio-Economic rights/Development is a sub-theme of Human Rights and provides information relevant to women, their socio-economic rights and development. Socio-economic rights are a vital aspect of the human rights agenda for women. Without access to, for example, education, health, housing or water, other civil and political rights have limited meaning. Conflict and post-conflict situations create a significant challenge to women's ability to make gains in their economic stability. However, working to guarantee women their socio-economic rights in such contexts can be an avenue towards reconstruction and peace building. According India's constitution; Women are responsible for bearing children, yet they are malnourished and in poor health. Women are also overworked in the field and complete the all of the domestic work. Most Indian women are uneducated. Although the country's constitution says women have equal status to men, women are powerless and are mistreated inside and outside the home. This present study paper deals with rights of women significance, objectives, and current status of women in India.

KEYWORDS: Human Rights , socio-economic rights and development.

INTRODUCTION:

Socio-Economic rights/Development is a sub-theme of Human Rights and provides information relevant to women, their socio-economic rights and development. Socioeconomic rights are a vital aspect of the human rights agenda for women. Without access to, for example, education, health, housing or water, other civil and political rights have limited meaning. Conflict and post-conflict situations create a significant challenge to women's ability to make gains in their economic stability. 60 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed a wide spectrum of human rights that every human being has – without discrimination. They include not only rights to freedom of expression and freedom from torture and ill-treatment, but also rights to education, to adequate housing and other economic, social rights. Socio-Economic rights/Development is a sub-theme of Human Rights and provides information relevant to women, their socio-economic rights and development. Socio-economic rights are a vital aspect of the human rights agenda for women. Without access to, for example, education, health, housing or water, other civil and political rights have limited meaning. an avenue towards reconstruction and peace building.

Thirty years after the appropriation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), numerous young ladies still don't have equivalent chances to

acknowledge rights perceived by law. In numerous nations, ladies are not qualified for possess property or acquire land. Social avoidance, "respect" killings, female genital mutilation, dealing, confined versatility and early marriage among others, deny the privilege to wellbeing to ladies and young ladies and increment sickness and demise for the duration of the life-course.

We will not see sustainable progress unless we fix failures in health systems and society so that girls and women enjoy equal access to health information and services, education, employment and political positions.

II. WHY ARE THEY CALLED "RIGHTS"?

All the world's incredible religious and good customs, thinkers, and progressives, perceive that individuals have the right to live in opportunity, equity, nobility and financial security. The International Bill of Rights became out of these customs, and requires all legislatures to ensure their residents have human rights - common, political, social, social and monetary. Alluding to monetary, social and social issues as "rights" utilizes the lawful system created under global law, and gives people authentic cases against state and non-state on-screen characters for insurance and assurances.

During the Cold War and stream down monetary hypothesis, financial, social and social rights were every now and again mislabeled as "benefits," which means people had no essential cases to things like nourishment and sanctuary. After the Covenant came into power in 1976, 2 law around financial and social rights started to create and incredible advancement following the arrangement of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Financial and social rights require governments and other incredible entertainers to guarantee that individuals approach fundamental needs, and that individuals have a voice in choices influencing their prosperity. Neediness and treachery are neither unavoidable nor regular, however emerge from purposeful choices and arrangements, and the human rights lawful structure gives an approach to consider open authorities responsible for improvement strategies and needs.

The accompanying rundown gives only a couple of instances of ESCR infringement that are as of now being attempted in courts far and wide:

- Forcible expulsions
- Terminating a representative without cause
- Deliberate harming of a water supply
- Discrimination in access to therapeutic consideration, work, lodging, instruction and so forth.
- Banning associations
- Depriving offspring of sufficient sustenance and water
- Failing to give any essential level instruction
- Failing to give fundamental medicinal services offices
- Educational foundations in such poor condition that they are a hazard to security
- Housing in such poor condition that it is a hazard to security

III. NEED RIGHTS FOR WOMEN:

The informal slogan of the Decade of Women became "Women do two-thirds of the world's work, receive 10 percent of the world's income and own 1 percent of the means of production." For many women, unpaid work in and for the household takes up the majority of their working hours, with much less time spent in remunerative employment. Even when they participate in the labour market for paid employment, women still undertake the majority of the housework.

When women work outside the household, they earn, on average, far less than men. They are also more likely to work in more precarious forms of employment with low earnings, little financial security and few or no social benefits. Women not only earn less than men but also tend to own fewer assets. Smaller salaries and less control over household income constrain their ability to accumulate capital. Gender biases in property and inheritance laws and in other channels of acquiring assets also leave women and children at greater risk of poverty.

Paid employment for women does not automatically lead to better outcomes for children. Factors such as the amount of time women spend working outside the household, the conditions under which they are employed and who controls the income they generate determine how the work undertaken by women in the labour market affects their own wellbeing and that of children.

IV. SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS OF WOMEN:

Socio-economic rights are closely related to community and national development. The General Assembly has set out a right to development in the Declaration on the Right to Development (1986) defining this as "an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized." In this declaration governments emphasized that both human rights and development are mutually reinforcing and the right to development is critical in addressing the structural and systematic injustices in the world order.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1966), enumerates socio-economic rights as including, but not being limited to, the right to education, health, housing, food and water, work, social security, an adequate standard of living, a healthy environment, and the right to development. This treaty also notes that all socio-economic rights must be guaranteed without discrimination (article 2). Similarly, CEDAW deals with socio-economic rights through a non-discrimination lens that supports women's groups advocating for socio-economic rights as a means of eradicating discrimination based on gender.

Economic, social and cultural rights are a broad category of human rights guaranteed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other legally binding international and regional human rights treaties. Nearly every country in the world is party to a legally binding treaty that guarantees these rights. They include:

- Rights at Work, particularly just and fair conditions of employment, protection against forced or compulsory labour and the right to form and join trade unions;
- Right to Education, including ensuring that primary education is free and compulsory, that education is sufficiently available, accessible, acceptable and adapted to the individual;
- Cultural Rights of minorities and Indigenous Peoples;
- Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health, including the right to healthy living conditions and available, accessible, acceptable and quality health services;
- Right to Adequate Housing, including security of tenure, protection from forced eviction and access to affordable, habitable, well located and culturally adequate housing;
- Right to Food, including the right to freedom from hunger and access at all times to adequate nutritious food or the means to obtain it;
- Right to Water – the right to sufficient water and sanitation that is available, accessible (both physically and economically) and safe.

Women are not only having these rights but still so many socio-economic rights are there for women. Among them following rights also considerable;

- Women's reproductive rights
- Abduction of girls
- Child soldiers and armed conflict
- Poverty and Economy
- Education and Training
- Health
- Violence
- Decision Making
- Institutional Mechanisms
- Human Rights
- Media
- Environment

· The Girl-child

V . VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO DIGNITY AND LIFE:

SGBV and HIV/AIDS" Sexual violence", "gender-based violence" and "violence against women" are all terms that are used interchangeably."All three terms refer to violations of fundamental human rights that perpetuate sex-stereotyped roles, that deny human dignity and the self-determination of the individual and hamper human development. They refer to physical, sexual, and psychological harm that reinforces female subordination and perpetuate male power control". The CEDAW Committee has further defined Gender-Based violence as "violence that is directed at a person on the basis of gender or sex. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threat of such acts, coercion and other deprivation of liberty".

It is widely acknowledged, that most cases of sexual and gender-based violence involve a female victim and a male perpetrator, although the opposite is also possible. Most acts of Sexual and Gender based-violence against boys and men are also committed by male perpetrators. Sexual and Gender-based violence is a global human rights issue as it keeps occurring in all continents, cutting across all socio-economic classes, age group and ethnic groups.

The main forms and contexts of Sexual and Gender-based violence remains pervasive, yet each form has been the subject of international treaty provisions, resolutions of intergovernmental organisations, studies, or debate at national, regional and international level, thereby recognizing the nature of this violence as a rights issue.

Determining the extent of domestic violence in Uganda as elsewhere meets several challenges. Whilst the number of workshop reports and research analyses on the issue are often illustrated with the strength of powerful personal accounts, they often lack statistical data at regional and national levels to show, with accuracy, the actual extent of the problem. Evidence showing increase in cases of domestic violence can be found in specific reports, mini-surveys, media reports and articles addressing the issue. Whereas such evidence often shows the depth of seriousness of the problem and impact on women's physical and psychological well being, it fails to show the extent of the problem across the different regions, ethnic group, socio-economic sector of society and age group.

The final document of the 1993 United Nations World Conference on Human Rights stresses "the importance of working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, the elimination of all forms of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women, the elimination of gender bias in the administration of justice and the eradication of any conflicts which may arise between rights of women and the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism. Violations related to women's socio-economic rights the lack of socio-economic rights further constitutes in the cases of victims of conflict and/or domestic violence, the main impeachment to self-determination and the enjoyment of any other basic human rights.

Right of access and control over resources Lack of access to and control over resources by women in sub-Saharan Africa has been identified by numerous studies as the single recurrent cause of gender inequality across the African continent. As in many countries, land in Uganda is the most important factor of production and Ugandan women play a central role in the agricultural output. While women are responsible for 60 % of cash crop production and 80% of food crops, only 7 % of registered landowners in Uganda are women¹¹.

The statistics bluntly speak for themselves in terms of gender inequalities and economic related power inequalities at household level. These inequalities substantially limit the opportunity women would otherwise have to independently guarantee basic elements of their livelihood. Women's economic dependency

on their husbands or male counterpart not only limits their choices and access to their socio-economic rights but in situations of domestic violence and abuse seriously impairs the opportunity that women might have had to break free from the circle of violence and the imminent threat of HIV/AIDS

infection. Without property rights and economic power, women simply cannot afford to reach a safer environment.

The economic situation generated by this lack of economic independence is crucial to the invocation of rights and to finding immediate recourse and effective response to such problematic. Indeed, many local NGOs working with women's issues are in a situation in which the most effective "immediate" solution to offer is to direct women victims of domestic violence to income generating activities, as a way to break free and if so wished, to bring forward the case before justice.

Beyond women's immediate need to access income-generating activities, long term changes need to take place in the possibility of land co-ownership by both spouses and equal access and control to the fruits of labour.

VI. CONCLUSION:

Right of access to Education and Human Rights Education In 2000, the literacy rate of females as percentage of male in Uganda was 74 %.

The gross enrolment ratios of females as percentage of males were 88% for primary school for the years 1995-1999 and 60% for secondary school 1995-1999.

Progresses are thus visible in terms of increased enrolment statistics since the Government UPE (almost) free education for primary level. The substantial reduction in school fees essentially provides an effective response to the most important factor of female dropouts (76%) at primary level, the cost of school fees in 1995. However, at secondary level, the scenario changes as the factors for school dropouts substantially change. The school fees factor substantially reduces at secondary level down to 56% and is compensated by the increased pregnancy and early marriage factor of 30% which increases the total female. The gender gap therefore increases almost by four times from primary to secondary and increases even further in tertiary cycles. Although Ugandan Government through the 1.5 bonus points programme for the enrolment in tertiary education of women has attempted to address the problem of gender inequalities in education, at Makerere University, the result of this is limited to a minimal increase in female intake by an average of 2.5% in the years 1990-1993. Whereas the almost "free" primary school has certainly helped increase the number of girls' attendance, it does not ensure that such attendance is sustained through secondary cycles. This is mainly due to the fact that reduction of school fees alone cannot address fundamental gender inequalities in traditional settings whereby a girl's education, especially in rural areas is not understood as an immediate useful or meaningful investment to the livelihood of the family unit. A more attractive and immediate gain for poor households is bride price collected through early marriages of young daughters.

Thus girl child's future is more envisaged as synonymous to domestic life childbearing, rearing, cooking, subsistence, farming, scrubbing cleaning and other household chores an almost "inescapable destiny". Perhaps, this statement does reflect to a large extent the reality of destinies of thousands of girls in rural Uganda. However, the term almost is crucial as it provides a slight hope if only girls had access to knowledge about their rights would that incite them to choose a different type of "destiny"? Certainly the economic element is key for parents to afford education but even stronger can be the informed will to struggle for a different path in life. If Human Rights are not included in curricula, the likelihood of Women's Human Rights being explicitly mentioned is even scarcer. Despite several National Curricula, the commonly obtained response was that "curricula were already overcrowded"

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