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US ELECTION



RSS AND SECULARISM



FDI IN INDIA



INDIAN EDUCATION &
ORAL TRADITION



SLAVERY OF WOMEN



EMPOWERING
TRIBAL PEOPLE

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*Sahara Liberation Struggle
Indian Derecognition*

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Human Rights through Distance Mode

Dr. A. Singaravel* and Dr. M. Selvam*

The United Nations Organisation (UNO) was created for the maintenance of international peace and security, development of friendly relations among the nations, achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems and promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom for all without distinction of race, sex, language or religion. Around 18 specialised agencies are recognised by UNO to engage programmes. Among them UNESCO is an important agency, which has the prime responsibility of protecting human rights in education, scientific and cultural fields. The world peace body UNO recognised the UNESCO in December 14, 1946 as an agency. It is concerned with a broad range of programmes and activities in the field of education. During the last few decades there has been some progress concerning human rights. The UN General Assembly approved the universal declaration of human rights in Dec 10, 1948. To promote the human rights, all the countries have been observing Dec 10th as human rights day every year.

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Education at present is recognised as a fundamental human rights as well as an indispensable factor in the social and economic development. In spite of the various programmes to promote the percentage of the literacy rate, at least half of the world's population at present can not read and write. Therefore, UNESCO attaches great importance to the imparting of education to children as well as adults. Our country operating within the frame work of the UN charter, implements various programmes to promote the basic and higher education.

In each and every country, the national and regional and sub regional level educational institutions function to promote education as a basic human right. For this purpose, the Central and State governments have sanctioned financial assistance and help to the every individual for the award of scholarship, fellowship, organised workshop and training programmes for the strengthening of respect for human rights. To promote the educational rights UN has decided to proclaim the ten-year period beginning January 1, 1995 as the decade for human rights education. Human rights education is a

Origin of Distance Education

In view of the fact stated above, UGC constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. D. S. Kothari which recommended instituting correspondence/ open education in our country. On date there are seven state level open universities and one national level open university (IGNOU). Besides, 50 conventional universities are also offering many courses through correspondence/open system.

Distance Education - Cause of Human Rights

Education is a powerful tool for empowering the people to realise the rights of the individual. It helps them to develop self-confidence. The rural and backward class people suffer due to inequality of opportunity in education. Because of illiteracy many of people are not aware of their basic rights as a human being. If they are given greater educational opportunity through distance/open education mode using mass media, no doubt, all citizens of India may understand the human rights. In distance mode only, every home becomes a learning centre. After introduction of distance/ open mode of education all sections of society like women, backward people have enrolled and utilised the right of attainment of education.

Distance mode is an avenue through which educationists plan and develop and introduce of social issues like human rights. In short, without much financial commitment many needbased courses can be introduced for the benefit of those needy who missed the benefits of formal system.

An Appeal

Planners of distance mode have to introduce diploma and degree level courses on human rights atleast on the middle of the human rights decade. This will no doubt help many people to understand the human rights.

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