

Sohaib-047

Human rights are the first casualty in any conflict.

Outline

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In any type of conflict, human rights are the first victim. Due to the lack of protection by the state, human rights are violated. However, the implementation of certain measures can help in its protection.

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"The first casualty when war comes is truth." - Hiram Johnson. This quote expresses that whenever any conflict such as war broke out, misinformation and propaganda become the first victim. Media is used to spread hatred and to put blindfolds on people to hide truth from them. ~~that~~ ^{which} result in violating their ~~human~~ right of information. Similarly, human rights are the first and foremost victims when a conflict emerges either physical or verbal. The causes behind these violations is political instability and inequality having tough surveillance and control of people ~~behind~~ by the state. Lack of justice with enforced displacement and humanitarian crisis also violate the basic rights. Moreover, repression of activists and technology misuse are also a grave factor behind these violations. There are number of impacts of these violation including rise in extremism, injustice, poverty with

negative effect on mental health. Loss of culture and community, and ~~culture~~ illegal detentions and breach of privacy are other impacts of it. These rights can be protected by implementation of rules and regulation including non-proliferation of weapons, economic inclusivity and protection of human right activists. In any type of conflict, human rights are the first victim. Due to the lack of protection by the state, human rights are violated. However, the implementation of certain measures can help in its protection.

Human rights are the basic rights that belong to every person in the world. The world is full of ongoing conflicts which results in breach of these rights. These rights ~~can~~ have many forms such as right to live, right to vote, right to freedom of speech, economic rights etc that are promised by the

state to its citizens ~~by~~. The agreement of a social contract between people and government obligates the state to protect these rights. However, when a conflict emerges at a civilian or government level these basic rights of human are the first one to be breached. In modern world, redressal of these human rights to achieve long lasting peace is the need of the hour.

There are several causes among which one of the major cause is political instability and inequality. The political structure that is rickety does not have a strong support of its citizens that fails to protect the rights of its citizens. The government with no backing of its citizens tend to become authoritarian and abuse its power. One example of it is South Korea and North Korea, with former having highly inclusive economic institutions where people enjoy their rights while latter having highly

extractive economic institution where people are stripped of from their rights. (Daron Acemoglu, Why Nations Fail, 2012). Thus weak political structure results in violations against human rights.

Political instability and inequality further leads to insecurity for the state which results in surveillance and control of its own citizen. To avoid any type of uprising or protest, state ensures check and balances by controlling its people behaviour. For this purpose, different types of tools are used and methods are implemented. These methods and tools helps government and security agencies to hack data results in targeting of human rights.egasus is a software that is especially used for such purposes in which human right defenders and civilian society is targeted unlawfully by hacking their data. (Amnesty.org, Demand an end to targeted surveillance, July 21) Hence, it shows that

how surveillance and control affects human rights.

In accordance with surveillance and control, there is another factor that is detrimental to human rights is lack of justice. A state where autocracy becomes a norm and there is no respect for the mandate of people, injustice emerges. When justice is not served, arbitrary deprivation of life and other unlawful activities become a norm in that society. According to the 2022 country reports by Human Rights Practices by US department of state in 2022, significant human rights violation took place in Pakistan including unlawful killings, forced disappearance, torture and cases of cruel, degrading treatment by government agents, arbitrary detention, and political prisoners etc. All these unlawful crimes tend to have a negative effects on the lives of citizens.

When a society is suffering

From unfairness and injustice, forced displacement and humanitarian crisis become inevitable. Humans are forced to face migration from one area to the other during the time of casualty. When conflicts emerge between two states, the people of that area where war happens face humanitarian crisis and had to leave that area to save their lives. According to the United Nations, 1.7 million people or about 75% of people of Gaza population are internally displaced. This displacement has led to several crisis such as food, sanitation and health issues. This shows that how a conflict can result in forced displacement and humanitarian crisis.

During humanitarian crisis, the role of activists is essential but they are also not immune to violation of their rights. Repression of activists exists due to the fear of state that the people

might demand their rights with the help of activists. Often times the government with weak mandate and having extractive institutions start repression against the activists of that country. Repression occurs due to the demand from the government which the government is unable to fulfill. When Felix Tshisekedi became a president for the second time of Democratic Republic of Congo, country witnessed a surge in activities that were unlawful against activists. (Sarah Jackson, DR Congo's arrest of activists, February 2024). Thus, it shows how one of the major violation of human rights is repression against activists.

Misuse of technology to suppress activists and citizens to violate their human rights is now becoming a common practice. The technology with the passage of time is becoming more and more dangerous because of its negative use by the people, state

media, government or non-state actors. During the time of conflict, media is used to spread negative propoganda which tend to create bundle of lies and impede the truth.

In particular, deepfake technology is used by people to target other people by making their fake voices and images generated through Artificial intelligence. Hence, this misuse of technology shows us how technology is used to violate rights of people.

Besides these causes of human right violations, these violation have also negative impact on humans. These are several impacts on lives of people, chief among which stands is rise in extremism.

Fanaticism is becoming one of the major problem in the modern world with two types of people that are either far-left or far right. People tend to become extremist when their rights are undermined.

by the state or the people around them. These extremists set a goal for themselves that could be motivated by ethnicity, racial or religious supremacy.

In the past decade, the number of attacks by far-right perpetrators quadrupled as they demand their rights to be fulfilled by the government of the United States. (Seth Jones, The Rise of Far-Right, November 2018)

However, it shows how rise in extremism is an impact of human right violation.

Not only rise in extremism, another major impact of human rights violation is rise in injustice. It was also one of the main cause, although it is also one of the major impact that rise due to the violations against basic rights of human. Societies that are inclusive in nature both politically and economically respects rule of law and justice in these

societies is timely served but if the institutions become extractive rule of law disappears. Justice in Pakistan is an exaggerated notion because the administration of justice system is controlled by the hybrid elites for their vested interest and also due to extreme violations against lower class rights. (Ali Hassan, Injustice and Pakistan, August 2023) It shows us how rise in injustice became inevitable due to human rights violation.

Rise in injustice led to number of challenges for the lower class of any state one of which is rise in poverty. When resources are not properly allocated for the upbringing of the society, it led to number of problems and increased poverty. This violation of human right for their economic resource impacts financial situation of people. Due to unequal resources, trade sanctions, the allocation

of aid, conflicts, political violence, and repression, level of poverty and living conditions of a country can be influenced. Human right violations can aggravate condition of poverty and the living conditions of the poorer segments of society which in turn can constrain growth and development. (Nicholas Apergis, How do HR violations affect poverty, May 2020). Thus, one may state that the impact of human right violation is increase in poverty.

Rise in poverty and people facing economic hardships also have impact on their mental health. This negative impact on mental health can also be due to the human sufferings which is ultimately violation of ~~it~~ human rights. Individuals with mental health issues are often facing or have faced human right violations once in their lifetime at family, society, employment or government level.

Limited mobility rights have harmed psychiatric patients, low income individuals and minorities that were at risk of self-harm or mental health deterioration.

(Rabab Ahmed, Mental distress and HR violations, Jan 2021). It shows how one of the impact of human right violation can be mental health.

Mental illness due to such violations can also result in loss of community and culture for individual. Long-term consequences due to these violations result in loss of societies and their culture which is also a most adverse impact one can face. People are often denied their rights because of the ethnicity, religion or culture they belong to and specially during the period of conflict communities and cultures specifically of minorities are attacked. "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity" (Nelson Mandela, Long Walk

to Freedom, 1994). Therefore, loss of community and culture is one of the severe impact of rights violation.

Other than the impacts discussed above, one impact and implication of human rights is illegal detention of people. When the justice system is weak, such factors become norms and state structure become autocratic. In a conflict, one side which is winning starts illegal detentions of the people of losing side. These illegal detentions are clear violations of basic rights of people and also international law. After the start of Israel-Gaza war, almost 270 Palestinian are detained without any charge shows that how Israel is clearly violating human right violations against Palestinian people (Maziar Motamendi, Tailed without charge, November 2023). All this shows that how illegal detentions are a negative impact of violations against citizen rights.

To maintain its strong hold, state uses other methods that impacts human rights along with illegal detention of people, one of which is breach in privacy. Privacy of a person is undermined by the government to protect its interest and avoid any uprising. In this modern era, many tools and methods are used. During cold-war era, the Stasi in East Germany used wiretapping, intercepting mail and even planting bugs in people's homes. This invasion of privacy instilled sense of fear and mistrust in society.

These implications of human right violation on human life can be protected during a conflict by implementing several factors. The most important measure that can be taken against these violations is implementation of Human rights rules and regulations.

International and local bodies have come up with different policies and law that should be implemented to protect human lives during conflict at any cost. These policies are usually regulated by the governments of that country so it can secure lives of its people. In his letter in 1809 to Republicans of Washington County Thomas Jefferson stated that "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction is the first and only object of good government." It shows that how implementation of rules and regulation by good governance can protect human lives.

By not only implementing these rules and regulations but also other policies such as non-proliferation of weapons can protect people lives. During war time, weapons are the most destructive for any society or

country. Non-proliferation of weapons is a measure to control arms race in the world so that the world can remain safe from the vast destruction. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty signed in 1968 was an agreement in which major nuclear and non-nuclear powers pledged their contribution in stemming the spread of nuclear technology. Hence, non-proliferation of weapons can protect human lives.

Non-proliferation of weapons can provide life security but not financial security which can be only provided if states provides financial ~~security~~^{inclusivity} for all. Financial inclusivity is created through institutions when all citizens stand equal. Financial inclusivity not only allocate proper resource to the people but it also grows the economy

and brings prosperity. Inclusive economic institutions create incentives for everyone to invest and innovate, including those who are initially disadvantaged. (Daron Acemoglu, Why Nations Fail, 2012). Financial inclusivity for all can protect human rights economically.

If country becomes financial inclusive and start protecting its human rights activists, it will help its citizen rights very effectively. In a conflict, human right activists are on the frontline to help the victims of that conflict so protecting them will automatically protect human rights. These human right defenders collect data and empower victims to assess justice, and foster dialogue and mediate between state and communities. The UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Human Rights Defenders in 1998 to protect rights of people

who are involved in protecting human rights. Through this step, the state can protect its citizens.

In a nutshell, this discussion shows us how human rights are violated during the conflict which can have several negative impacts on the lives of people. If human rights are protected one can achieve autonomy ~~is~~ politically, socially and economically and can help its country to grow. But if the state fails to protect these rights due to instability and lack of justice it will have negative consequences that will stay long-term for both the people and the state.

It can increase extremism in country or it can increase poverty rate. However, implementing Human Rights Rule and Regulations and providing protection against ill elements of society, the state can protect its people.