

Human Rights is One of the most Fundamental Issue Facing Humanity as well as the most sensitive and Controversial

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To deny the people their human rights
is to challenge their very humanity
~ Nelson Mandela

Today, America is the super power and known as land of free people. However, it has endured a years-long tumultuous journey of slavery, racial discrimination, economic exploitation, unjust taxation policies, and oppressive rule of Great Britain. Human rights is one of the basic and most important rights of everyone. Almost 1400 years ago, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized on human rights with the advent of Islam in Arab world. Similarly, ^{the} west has reiterated on these rights. Many international organizations, such

as Amnesty International, United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) have endorsed these rights. One of the most fundamental rights include the right to equality, right to liberty, right to free speech and right to education. Despite human rights being one of the most fundamental issue, yet global powers and stakeholders have made this issue the most sensitive and controversial.

^{emphasized} To start with, fundamental rights of human beings in the last sermon of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a prominent example in which he explained equality of everyone, religious freedom, human liberty with moral values, importance of education and many other human entitlements. Likewise, the west has also defined human rights as the basic right of everyone irrespective of race, color, religion, ethnicity or appearance. Everyone has right to live, speak, get education regardless of male or female. However, some of the global powers have wrongly portrayed these rights or misinterpreted them or politicized them for their vested interests.

Firstly, every human being is equal irrespective of his gender, color or race according to Article 26 of International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and article 25 of the constitution of Pakistan (1973). Yet, the right to equality has been transgressed in many areas of the world. A pertinent example is Rohingya muslims in Myanmar.

Millions of people living in Myanmar are considered sub-par because of their religion. They are denied right to live and displaced from their own houses. Similarly, **Uyghur muslims in China** are denied rights of citizenship. Another prominent example is **Palestinian citizens living under oppressive rule of Israel**. These citizens face discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and religion and denied the rights of equality. Majority of the international bodies have ^{heavily} criticized them but they have failed to protect these rights. Even America, the self-proclaimed guardian of human rights, has consistently supported Israel for its inhuman policies. This highlights how human rights are misinterpreted before world and portrayed as controversial issues. America itself is under this influence. Women empowerment is highly celebrated and endorsed in United States, yet there is no female president in his whole history. Similarly, racial discrimination is widely rejected, but there is only one elected Black president, Barak Obama, in American history. This indicates that ^{although} the right to equality is being one of the most fundamental issue, yet it is a controversial problem worldwide.

Secondly, freedom of expression is the fundamental right of every citizen according to **Article 19 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**. Yet, this issue is misinterpreted. Undoubtedly, free speech is essential right but it doesn't

permit ~~provide~~ unrestrained violation or degradation of someone's moral or religious values. The Blasphemy incident of France or hurt sentiments of 1.8 billion muslims across the world. Their political leaders deliberately allowed publications of caricatures of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In response, muslims boycotted French products worldwide. This incident highlighted how the basic fundamental right of free speech was sensitized internationally. Another pertinent example is **atrocities of Indian government in Kashmir**. They revoked article 370 and imposed heavy restrictions to ^{suppress} ~~prevent~~ free speech, such as internet blackout and cut off connectivity of Kashmiri population with the world. Likewise, media is a powerful platform for free speech that helps in strict accountability against injustices. However, ^{many} journalists also face suppression of their voices. For instance **murder of Saudi Journalist Jamal Khashogi in Saudi Consulate in Istanbul** is a prominent example of violation of this right. Hence, free speech is a universally accepted fundamental right, but stakeholders and global powers misinterpret and portray this issue as controversial and sensitive.

Thirdly, liberty is the right of every citizen, but this right is violated deliberately by the global powers. The right to liberty is universally accepted under **Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** and **International Covenant of civil and political rights (ICCPR)**. Yet, Transgression of these rights is still

present. Great Britain has always emphasized the right to liberty and self-determination, but France and Britain have ^{still} remained colonial powers for years. Britain has ruled over Indian-subcontinent for centuries and it has exercised discriminatory power over the impoverished population of India for many years. These ~~countries~~ ^{sub-continent is} are still under the colonial influence in many domains of ~~their~~ ^{its} life.

Another example is **America's War on Terror after 9/11**. It has fought 20-year long war in Afghanistan. Under the guise of anti-terrorism campaign, United States has killed many innocent civilian and deliberately violated their right to independence. Likewise, Indian government ensures heavy restrictions and military presence in Kashmir. It endeavors demographic shift in Kashmir to suppress their right to self-determination and liberty. In this way, global powers politicize this fundamental issue for their personal gains and portray liberty of citizens as a controversial problem.

Lastly, ^{the} right to education is basic right of every citizen regardless of male or female. **Article 9(A)** of the constitution of Pakistan provides right to free and compulsory education for every citizen. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has also emphasized the importance of education for both men and women. Yet, many areas of the world face inequalities. For instance, **women in Afghanistan are denied right to higher education**, especially after Taliban government.

Amnesty International, United Nations and even majority countries condemn this act, but Taliban government sensitize this issue and call it Sharia law of Islam. They shape this matter as sensitive and controversial issue before the world. Another prominent example is provincial disparities in Pakistan including urban-rural gaps in literacy rates of Pakistan. Many marginalized communities are denied right to free education, especially girls education. ^{Although} Most of the religions of world including Islam emphasize on women's education, yet, this fundamental right is facing controversy due to fallacious perception by the stakeholders.

To ensure human rights safety, they should be legally protected. Both national and international laws should be formulated and strictly implemented to ensure ^{protection of} fundamental rights of every citizen. The country's representatives should ~~support~~ ^{protect} these international laws and they should keep themselves away from such violations. The support of these controversial issues leave long-term consequences on the nation. Hence, global leaders and stakeholder should stop supporting illegal and immoral activities. Additionally, judiciary should be empowered and depoliticized to make independent and just decisions to protect fundamental rights of human beings.

To conclude, fundamental rights of human beings are the right to equality, liberty,

education and freedom of speech. Although Islam endorses these rights, and international bodies accept and protect them as universal rights, yet many stakeholders and global powers misinterpret and portray these rights as controversial and sensitive. Under the guise of discrimination on of religion, ethnicity, color or gender, these rights are violated worldwide. These illegal acts prevent societal progress and prosperity. The need of the hour is to study guidance of Holy Prophet (PBUH) that how his ruling transformed Makkah into a prosperous nation, and how everyone irrespective of their color, religion and socio-economic background lived unitedly. This guidance should be implemented today to ensure development of the nation.