

Meaning of Human Rights

Human beings are rational beings. They by virtue of their being human possess certain basic and inalienable rights which are commonly known as human rights.

Human rights are defined as all those rights which are essential for the protection and maintenance of dignity of individuals and create conditions in which every human being can develop his personality to the fullest extent may be termed as human rights.

Human rights become operative with the birth of an individual.

Human rights being the birth right are inherent in all the individuals irrespective of their caste, religion, sex and nationality.

Human rights are also sometimes referred a to as fundamental rights, basic rights, inherent rights, natural rights and birth rights.

Today, the concept of human rights includes civil and political rights or public liberties, economic, social and cultural needs. As said, it is the state's responsibility to protect and promote human rights. It is also the duty of the state to create conditions for peaceful existence which enable human rights to be enjoyed by every individual in that state.

International Human Rights

- To know what are the moral responsibilities and obligations of the multinational corporations operating in the host countries, let us discuss with the framework of rights ethics. Common minimal rights are to be followed to smoothen the transactions when the engineers and employers of MNCs have to interact at official, social, economic and sometimes political levels. At international level, the organizations are expected to adopt the minimum levels of
 - (a) values, such as mutual support, loyalty, and reciprocity,
 - (b) the negative duty of refraining from harmful actions such as violence and fraud, and
 - (c) basic fairness and practical justice in case of conflicts.

The ten international rights to be taken care of, in this context are:

1. Right of freedom of physical movement of people
2. Right of ownership of properties
3. Freedom from torture
4. Right to fair trial on the products
5. Freedom from discrimination on the basis of race or sex. If such discrimination against women or minorities is prevalent in the host country, the MNC will be compelled to accept. MNCs may opt to quit that country if the human rights violations are severe.
6. Physical security. Use of safety gadgets have to be supplied to the workers even if the laws of the host country do not suggest such measures.
7. Freedom of speech and forming association
8. Right to have a minimum education
9. Right to political participation
10. Right to live and exist (i.e., coexistence). The individual liberty and sanctity of the human life are to be respected by all societies.

• **Technology Transfer**

- It is a process of moving technology to a new setting and implementing it there.
- Technology includes hardware (machines and installations) and the techniques (technical, organizational, and managerial skills and procedures).
- It may mean moving the technology applications from laboratory to the field/factory or from one country to another.
- This transfer is effected by governments, organizations, universities, and MNCs.

Appropriate Technology

- Identification, transfer, and implementation of most suitable technology for a set of new situations, is called appropriate technology.
- Factors such as economic, social, and engineering constraints are the causes for the modification of technology. Depending on the availability of resources, physical conditions (such as temperature, humidity, salinity, geographical location, isolated land area, and availability of water), capital opportunity costs, and the human value system (social acceptability) which includes their traditions, beliefs, and religion, the appropriateness is to be determined.
- For example, small farmers in our country prefer to own and use the power tillers, rather than the high-powered tractors or sophisticated harvesting machines. On the other hand, the latest technological device, the cell phones and wireless local loop phones have found their way into remote villages and hamlets, than the landline telephone connections. Large aquaculture farms should not make the existing fishermen jobless in their own village.
- The term appropriate is value based and it should ensure fulfillment of the human needs and protection of the environment.