actively engage with community organizations and build meaningful relationships which meet both community needs and business objectives – and address key social concerns.

Today community involvement can take the form of charitable donations, gifts in kind, employee volunteering initiatives and staff secondments. Yet many companies are also now developing sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships with community and voluntary organizations working in a variety of fields – including education, regeneration, employment and homelessness.

Corporate social responsibility and community involvement initiative are increasingly having significant impact. Aside from generating considerable public goodwill, evidence shows that Corporate Social Responsibility can also companies to build links with public policy makers, motivate and involve employees, build corporate reputation and enhance competitiveness.

In short, CSR is now seen as key part of mainstream business practice. A variety of terms are used – sometimes interchangeable – to talk about corporate social responsibility (CSR) : business ethics, corporate citizenship, corporate accountability, sustainability. Corporate social responsibility can be defined as "achieving commercial success in ways that honour ethical values and respect people, communities, and the natural environment." It is also said that CSR means addressing the legal, ethical, commercial and other expectations society has for business, and making decision that fairly balance the claims of all key stakeholders. In its simplest terms it is : "what you do, how you do it, and when and what you say."

In this sense, CSR is viewed as a comprehensive set of policies, practices and programs that are integrated into operations, supply chains, and decision-making processes throughout the company – wherever the company does business – and includes responsibility for current and past actions as well as future impacts. The issues that represent a company's CSR focus vary by business, by size, by sector and even by geographic region. In its broadest categories, CSR typically includes issues related to : business ethics, community investment, environment, governance, human rights, marketplace and workplace.

_____

ARTICLE ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

By
—**K. MOHANRAJ**, L.L.M.
Hyderabad, A.P.

Human rights are the birthrights of every human being and they form an integral part of the socio-cultural fabric of mankind all over the world. But they are vulnerable to abuse and violation. It is the duty of the nations to protect and sustain these rights by constitutional measures. The situation in most of the third-world countries is quite disturbing. The economically weaker segments of population suffer much in their daily lives. This is due to flagrant violation of human rights by many groups. People having an influence and people belonging to higher castes are the culprits. They indulge in such violations because they are powerful in one way or the other. They have muscle power, money power and support from other powerful sections in the society. Indian

constitution gives its citizens all the basic human rights. It has also provisions to protect the same by democratic means. The architects of our constitution believed that socio-economic growth is possible only if human rights are safeguarded.

In spite of all the safeguards, India witnesses violations of human rights. As a result the poor and those belonging to the so-called low castes suffer much. Individuals should be protected from the violation of human rights. The Government should also take steps to create favourable societal conditions in which individuals may develop their maximum potentiality.

Meaning : Human rights are the fundamental rights, which are essential for man to lead a dignified life. They are defined as those rights and freedoms which are a must for all human beings. They include all rights that should be enjoyed by every individual irrespective of class, gender, age, caste, religion, language, creed, status, and beliefs. Human rights include rights to life, rights to adequate food, rights to shelter, rights to clothes, rights to pollution free air, rights to noise free surroundings, rights to have safe drinking water, rights to vote, rights to participate in all social, economic and political activities, rights to embrace any religion, rights to speak and the like. The fundamental rights of all human beings are the rights to life. It includes almost all rights listed out above. Human rights should be enjoyed by every member of the human family. Hence, they are absolute, universal and inalienable. No power on earth can deprive an individual of his/her rights.

Human Rights Violation The denial of human rights and fundamental freedom to any individual or group of individuals is the cause for both individual and political tragedies and creates conditions for social and political unrest, sowing the seeds of violence and conflict within and between societies and nations.

In a multicultural and multilingual society like ours, conflicts and discriminations have become a day to day affair. Political violence is on the rise inhibiting the smooth functioning of democracy. Terrorism creates the environment of fear through indiscriminate acts of violence, threat, kidnapping and killings. These violations include breach of civil and political rights, discrimination against minority, women and weaker sections of society like scheduled caste and scheduled tribes, arbitrary arrest, torture and death of suspected culprits under police custody, religious violence, child labour, ethnic killing and kidnapping for ransom and the list of violence goes on. (Pandey, 2005).

The historical background of human rights can be traced even from the Vedic times, Babylonian Laws, Magna Carta, Virginia Bill of Rights and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man. During the World Wars, several nations suffered serious set backs and human sufferings and miseries taught the humanity of the world the importance of basic human rights. In the Greek period, there was no concept of human rights as it was then considered natural to have fundamental social difference among people. Natural inequality was forwarded for justifying social political inequalities. For this reason slavery was justified as a natural and just institution.

The concept of human rights started developing in the thirteenth century. In 1215, the concept of human rights first came into existence, when the rebellion of feudal bottoms against *King John* of England brought about the proclamation of Magna Carta. The other important events in the history of human rights—are Habeas Corpus Act and French Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen in 1715. Human right is the product of the liberal political thought of post seventeenth century. The Habeas Corpus Act (1674), American Declaration of Independence (1746), American Bill of Rights (1791), French

Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen (1789) influenced a lot the principles of human rights and liberties. The middle age dominated by monarchy, the Roman Catholic System of Church, Government or jurisdiction of the Pope and feudalistic society was not favourable for human rights and their employment as well. Most of the vocabulary of human rights today is inherited from the eighteenth century Europe. Another milestone in the genealogy of human rights is abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1825. The United States abolished slavery in 1850. In 1945 the Charter of the United Nations in support of human rights set up a Human Rights Commission. It was followed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948. In this sequence, the Decade 1995-2004 has been declared the Human Rights Decade (Malhotra, 2005). The year 1958 was observed as international year of human rights. Every year December 10 is observed as human rights day. (Malholtra et.al., 2005)

Natural Rights Human rights, possessed by all human beings, are generally called Fundamental Rights or Natural Rights or Rights of Man. They are not the gifts of a State or a Government. Hence they cannot be withdrawn by authorities. But human rights, based on considerations of justice, are natural, immutable and inalienable, which no force can take them away. In the past, it was considered natural to have fundamental differences. Inequality was justified as natural. The varna system was a proof of this.

State Permitted Rights Another group argues that human rights are not above the state. Hence the rights permitted in the constitution or the rule of law should be respected and the rights permitted in the institutions are the real human rights. Hence, certain rights can be easily enjoyed and certain other rights can not be enjoyed easily. They have only relative claim. Thus, human rights are classified into negative rights and positive rights.

Negative Rights or Concrete Rights Some rights are negative in the sense that they are aiming at allowing a person not to have to do something or in prohibiting the state from doing something to someone, such as torturing someone. Civil and Political rights are generally considered negative rights. They are for freedom of people from all social and political suppressions. (Shinde, 2005).

Positive Rights or Abstract Rights Economic and Social Rights are treated as positive rights or abstract rights. Positive rights include provisions for safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, fresh air to breath, good shelter to live and all facilities to maintain a good standard of living. Such rights require huge resources for their fulfilment. Hence, positive rights can not make absolute claims on resources, but only relative claims as resources are only limited in any country. (Kanmony, 2005).

_____

ARTICLE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN : AN OVERVIEW

By
—**K. MOHANRAJ**, L.L.M.
Hyderabad, A.P.

The Declaration on Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defines Violence Against Women as "any act of Domestic violence against women that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or