PREFACE

Human rights are those rights, which have inherent in a human person by virtue of his birth as a human being. These rights are highly essential to protect the dignity and worth of the human person and hence to be ensured by the State authorities. They are universal and therefore called Universal Human Rights. Human rights of women constitute the integral and indivisible part of Universal Human Rights.

The principle of equality before law and prohibition of discrimination constitutes the essence of rule of law and fundamental freedoms. Attainment of equality of status and protection of human rights of women are implicit in all the international instruments dealing with human rights.

After the Second World War the international community as a whole was concerned with the protection of human rights especially of women. The international instruments on human rights cast an obligation on the Member States to incorporate the norms into the domestic law.

This thesis is an attempt to explore the problems faced by Indian Women and to examine the ways in which the human rights of women could be better protected in the light of international movements with special reference to national legislation and judicial decisions.
The evolution of human rights from early period to Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 is traced in the first chapter. The second chapter deals with the evolution of human rights in India. The evolution of fundamental rights and directive principles and the role played by the Indian Judiciary in enforcing the human rights enumerated in various international instruments dealing with human rights are also dealt with in this chapter. The rights guaranteed to women under the various international documents have been dealt with in the third chapter.

It is noticed that the international documents have had their impact in India leading to creation of machinery for protection of human rights. Organised violations of women's rights such as prostitution, devadasi system, domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplaces, the evil of dowry, female infanticide etc. have been analysed in the light of existing laws and decisional jurisprudence in the fourth chapter. The fifth chapter analyses the decisions and consensus that emerged from the world conferences on women and their impact on the Indian Society and Judiciary. The constitutional provisions and legislative provisions protecting the rights of women have been critically examined in the sixth chapter. Chapter seven deals with various mechanisms evolved to protect the human rights of women. The eighth chapter contains conclusions and suggestions.
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