RIGHT TO EDUCATION: A study on tribal women of rural area of West Bengal

ABSTRACT

Education is the key indicator of social development and escalation of mankind. In the initial phase of Human Rights studies, Political, Social and Economic rights were main constituents but afterwards right to development as well as right to education, right to health etc. are also important fields of human rights research. Education is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights (UDHR, 1948). It promotes individual freedom and empowerment and yields important development benefits. Yet millions of women remain deprived of educational opportunities. Education is a landmark of women empowerment of the tribal community because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to tackle their traditional role and change their life. It is an important tool to change the socio-economic scenario of a community; so that we cannot neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. India is going to achieve the position of a superpower, a developed country by 2020; however, still the growth of tribal women’s education in rural areas is very slow. Till now a large number of tribal women of our country are illiterate, weak, backward and exploited. Education also brings a reduction in disparities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family. Education also increases equalities and brings social integrity. Today, the female literacy levels according to Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% where the male literacy rate is over 80%. Scheduled Tribe population are deprived in the sphere of human rights and their right to education has been underprivileged in India even after 77 years of independency but this population has been occupied 8.2% of total population (Census of India, 2011). The literacy rate of ST males is 68.5% whereas 49.4% for ST women in India. The socio-economic situation is very deprived especially the Scheduled Tribe women are facing problems due to their educational backwardness. Right to education Act, 2009 came across the India from April, 2010. This research on Right to education: a study on tribal women of rural area of West Bengal; an initiative has been formatted to promote education as human rights and escalate the situation of education among ST women of rural West Bengal.