

Abstract

Human Right is a birthright. According to United Nations Human Rights Council, Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. Every human being is all equally entitled to human rights without discrimination.

Media is a means of mass communication that reaches a large number of people simultaneously. It influences and moulds people's minds. Communication channels through which news, entertainment, education, data, or promotional messages are disseminated. Media includes both print and electronic means of communication such as Newspaper, Radio, Television, magazines and the Internet.

Human rights embrace civil and political rights, social, economic and cultural rights. Every human being has a right to lead a dignified life, right to liberty, and security, the right to privacy, safe houses, right to own property, freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, freedom of thought, conscience and religion and freedom of movement.

Media plays a role of watchdog in every modern society. Media in Manipur has been highlighting the core issues of human rights violations to the central and state governments and act as a vehicle to speed up the probe against cases of human rights abuses. With the active involvement by all the wings of media, NGOs, advocates and activists of civil society, the violations of human rights have been on the constant check and raises up these issues before the government to take up stringent steps on tackling this menace. Under the shadow of AFSPA violations of human rights are taking place. Trafficking of children and women are on the constant rise in the state.

The purpose of this research was to find out the role of newspapers in Manipur and to analyze its coverage on human rights issues has been an effective medium to create awareness to the general public of their rights and to look into the role of media in the implementation of government policies to tackle this issue.

The findings of the research are based on the newspapers content analysis and interview scheduled of respondents of editors and journalists working in Manipur. The major findings of the study are media, especially newspapers play a proactive role in Manipur, high coverage of human rights news articles and features are evident from quantitative analysis of variables such as frequency of terms, area/space of the news items, placement, sources and attributions and evaluation of responses of the interviews scheduled and qualitative analysis of the mentioned variables, ethical codes are followed while covering and presentation of human rights news and articles.