

CHAPTER

1

INTRODUCTION

FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

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1.1. Introduction

The protection and promotion of human rights is one of the essence of good governance, national building and national unity. The issues related to human rights violations have been highlighted and discussed at international conferences as well at meetings in local level. There have widespread news story echoing several cases of human rights violations every day in newspapers, Television, the Internet. Human Rights are the birth right, inherent in all individuals, irrespective of their caste, religion, sex and nationality. They cannot be taken away from any individual through coercion actions. It is susceptible for exploitation of one's right. Human Rights are violated in several ways. Human rights are such that requires consistent assessment in order to maintain a peaceful environment for every individual to lead a dignified life. Human rights are worthy of pursuit and desirable in nature. So, what are Human rights? What is their significance in the contemporary society? No doubt, media uphold the virtue of human rights but how far media plays a role of human rights crusader? What is its significance in protection and restoration of human rights? It is a high time to study and analyze the relationship between media and human rights. In a simple language of Merriem-Webster, human rights refer to a wide variety of values and capabilities reflecting the diversity of human circumstances and history. It is universal in nature, applying to all human beings everywhere, and as fundamental, referring to essential or basic human needs.

According to United Nations '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'. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible, universal and inalienable. Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary

international law, general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

According to National Human Rights Commission and Under Section 2 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (hereafter referred to as 'the Act'), "human rights" means the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed under the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India. "International Covenants" means the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the 16th December 1966.

Durga Das Basu defines human rights as those minimal rights, which every individual are entitled against the State or other public authority by virtue of his being a member of human family, irrespective of any other consideration ('Human Rights in Constitutional Law' 1994). Democracy cannot be established unless those certain minimum rights are not guaranteed to every member of the society. The Indian Constitution begins with its Preamble, which mentions these essential individual rights as 'freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship' and Part III of the Constitution assures these against all the authorities of the State (Basu, 2010).

Human rights are commonly understood as "inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being". Human rights are thus conceived as universal (applicable everywhere) and egalitarian (the same for everyone). These rights may exist as natural rights or as legal rights, in both national and international law. The Declaration proclaims economic, social and cultural rights in addition to political, civil liberties and freedom for the people of the world. These rights are considered the foundation of freedom, peace and justice in the world.

Human rights constitute a variable category and the list of human rights has been modified and continues to modify in changing historical circumstances. All the

recent declarations of human rights include not only individual rights or freedoms but also the so-called social rights and powers. Human rights have been classified historically in terms of the notion of three “generations” of human rights. The first generation of civil and political rights, associated with the Enlightenment and the English, American and French revolutions, includes the rights to life and liberty and the rights to freedom of speech and worship. The second generation of economic, social, and cultural rights, associated with revolts against the predations of unregulated capitalism from the mid-19th century, includes the right to work and the right to education. The traditional distinction has been made between civil and political rights (i.e., liberty- oriented rights) on the other hand, economic, social, and cultural rights (i.e. security- oriented rights). Lately, new concepts of rights have developed which are known as the third generation. The third generation of solidarity rights, associated with the political and economic aspirations of developing and newly decolonized countries after World War II, and are concerned with rights of groups and peoples rather than of individuals, includes the collective rights to political self-determination and economic development.

1.2 A Brief Historical Background

From time immemorial, history has been the mute spectator of the evolution of the concept of human rights. The Babylonian Laws, which is called Hammurabi’s codes, Assyrian laws, Hittiti laws, the Dharm of the Vedic period, the jurisprudence of Lao-Tse and Confucius in China, all the world’s major religions have a humanist perspective that supports human rights despite the differences in the contents but their basic goal is same. A few Greek and Roman philosophers recognized the idea of natural rights. Plato (427-348 B.C) was one of the earliest writers to believe and advocate a universal standard of ethical conduct.

However, prior to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the protection of human rights was dependent upon the provisions of the national laws. Human rights law mainly refers to the obligations of states to individuals within their jurisdiction. The purpose of human rights law is to ensure that individuals are

protected from the excesses of states and governments. It obliges a state to refrain from causing harm to its own nationals or other persons within its territorial jurisdiction. Thus, a State is not free to treat its nationals as it pleases despite the fact that it is sovereign. The proclamation of the rights of the man against the state issued by the Institute of International Law in 1929 may be regarded as the first attempt towards the universalization of human rights (Agarwal, H.O, Human Rights. P.13-14).

Kazmi, Fareed (1987) states that it should be recognized that true respect for human rights is nothing less than a way of life.

The turmoil brought by the World War II demanded an immediate need for the establishment of peace and security throughout the world. It proved to be an inevitable cause for the restoration of the freedom and rights of the people. The United Nations proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948 containing the universal code of human rights may be regarded as the first attempt towards the promotion, protection and universalization of human rights. The first and foremost role played by United Nations is that of human rights consciousness among the people.

1.3 Indian Context

The Preamble to the Indian Constitution, Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles reflects the basic principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Fundamental Rights in Indian Constitution guarantees Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression under Article 19 cannot be fully enjoyed unless a citizen is educated and is conscious of his individualistic dignity. These rights are fundamental to every human being but still there are violations to these rights, which create a need for some authority to regulate such issues. Besides these constitutional provisions several laws have been enacted with a bearing on protection and promotion of human rights in the country. Some of the important laws are- the Protection of Civil Rights Act (1955); Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (1956); Dowry Prohibition Act (1961); Bonded Labour (System) Abolition Act (1976); Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (1986);

Juvenile Justice Act (1986); The National Commission for Women Act (1990); The National Commission for Minorities Act (1992) and the Protection of Human Rights Act (1937). (Dev, Arjun; Dev Indira Arjun & Das, Gupta (ed.), Human Rights: A source Book, 1996)

In India, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was set up in 1993, headed by the Chairperson who has been the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It is an autonomous body to inquire into complaints of human rights violations, review safeguards provided for the protection of human rights and recommended measures for their effective implementation.

However, despite these constitutional, legal and institutional safeguards, having a parliamentary democratic structure of governance, an independent judiciary, a free press and competitive party system, the human rights violations are taking place at various levels and in various forms. The Commission has set up elaborate machinery and procedures, country oriented or thematic compliance by States with international human rights law and to investigate alleged violations of human rights. The scope and relevance of human rights to the society and its people have widened and their violation also continues unabated. The Commission is empowered to look into violation of human rights and take suitable action. The commission has accorded priority to issues: protection of human rights in areas of terrorism and insurgency, systematic reform in public administration and criminal justice, custodial rape and torture, condition of the jails and jail inmates etc. Issues like child labour, Gender inequality, female infanticide, selling of girl child, dowry, harassment at workplace, rape, violence and torture against women and custodial deaths have become an everyday affair. The situation is alarming and human rights violation is a serious matter, which needs immediate action. The need of the hour is to educate the bureaucracy, the police force, the judiciary, and the protectors of human rights about proper ways of executing their functions. Besides these, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 should be amended to ensure financial autonomy of the National and State Human Rights Commission and to bring the human rights violations by paramilitary forces under NHRC's purview.

According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) human development Report, the nature of violations ranges from the socio-economic deprivations to custodial deaths, torture and rapes, disappearance, illegal detention and other police excesses, terrorist/naxality killings, excessive use of force by the para-military forces in terrorist prone areas, pathetic condition of prisoners in jails, long trial delays, atrocities on women, children, SC/STs and other marginal groups, degradation of physical environment, displacement of persons due to construction of river dams and large-scale building projects and so on.

Human Rights are the rights that have been inherent with us the day we are born. Human rights, being the birth right, inherent in all individuals irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, sex and nationality brought about the notion of protection of one's right. They are the birth right that cannot be taken away from an individual through coercion actions. It is susceptible for exploitation of human rights and with the passage of time; human rights have been violated in several ways. The scope and relevance of human rights to the society and its people has widened and their violation also continues unabated.

The National Human Rights Commission believes that media is a key ally in promotion and protection of human rights and to spread human rights literacy among different sections of the society through publications, the media, seminars and other available means. Mass media is media, which is intended for a large audience. It may be in the form of broadcast media, as in the case of television and radio, or print media, like newspapers and magazines and the new media such as the Internet. Media, along with human rights activists educates people about their natural rights and lends their voices for the victims of human rights abuse. Human rights are international norms that help to protect all people everywhere from severe political, legal, and social abuses. Education and training of the vulnerable groups, particularly the women and children and those engaged in improving their cause are the need of the hour. Effort should also be made to expedite the judicial process by increasing the number of judges in court, reducing the number court holidays and adopting modern techniques of court management. One of the important breakthrough step taken by the government in

restoring human rights is enforcement of Right to Information as a human right. Now, RTI is considered as a basic right of every citizen. Another important step taken is the proposal of Right to Education as a Fundamental Right. RTE aims to impart education for all by 2010.

National Human Rights Commission reports suggest that out of 2560 police encounters cases only 16 was chosen for compensation for violation of human rights of which 8 are still pending. In a recent survey, it was found that the 2560 cases of encounter 1224 cases are categorized as fake encounters, and the NHRC has ordered for compensation of a few lakhs in only 16 cases and takes 10 to 12 years to get justice from national body like NHRC. This figure explains the severity of human rights violations in our country. (Vittal, N. Corruption in Governance: Role of the Central Vigilance Commission” Talk delivered in J. N. U. Academic Staff College, 5-3-2001, New Delhi, p.1) In Manipur alone there have been 1,528 victims of fake encounters in Manipur since 1979.

NHRC-India releases its 2011 report for Second Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights in the Country. The report says in Civil and political rights "The Armed Forces Special Powers Act remains in force in Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern States, conferring an impunity that often leads to the violation of human rights. 35% of the complaints to the NHRC annually are against the police. 9% of the complaints to the NHRC in 2010-11 were on inaction by officials or their abuse of power, confirming that laws are often not implemented or ignored. Jails are overcrowded and unhygienic, disease rampant and treatment poor. 67% of prisoners are under trial, either unable to raise bail or confined far longer than they should be because of the huge backlog of cases. 56,383 cases were pending in the Supreme Court at the end of October 2011. At the end of 2010, 4.2 million cases were pending in High Courts, and almost 28 million in subordinate courts. In Economic, social and cultural rights, a massive public distribution system have not assured the right to food because malnutrition is endemic. The National Advisory Council has recommended that legal entitlements to subsidized food grains be extended to at least 75% of the population. The current National Family Health Survey reports that "the

percentage of children under age five years who are underweight is almost 20 times as high in India as would be expected in a healthy, well-nourished population and is almost twice as high as the average percentage of underweight children in sub-Saharan African countries."

Under Armed Forces/Para-Military Forces, 3 cases from Manipur have been filed. In the year 1995-1996, Alleged killing of civilians in Ukhrul town, Manipur, in cross firing between 20 Assam Rifles and NSCN, death of Allen Kuki of Kholjang Village, Manipur, in custody of the armed forces. In 2002-2003, kidnapping and killing of Harsinglhun Changsan by personnel of 32 Rashtriya Rifles under Case No. 19591/96-97/NHRC.

The NHRC has been organizing its camp sittings in different parts of the country, including the States of UP, Bihar, Bengaluru (for four southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu), Odisha, Gujarat, Assam, Meghalaya and Chhatisgarh, with the objective of disposing of pending cases concerning a particular State by considering the take of senior government officers and sensitize them about the importance of human rights issues, meet the local NGOs to get an insight of issues and problems being faced by the people. Of late, NHRC held its camp sitting for three days at Imphal, a delegation of the Commission headed by Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan. The Commission initiated due proceedings of 46 cases of unjustified killings including fake encounters happened in Manipur during the past few years. The NHRC has recommended monetary relief of Rs.32 lakh for violation of human rights in six cases of deaths in police/security forces action and the Commission will take up a sou motto case with regards to the lack of accessibility to meet Irom Sharmila, recommend CBI enquiry on the plights of Loktak Lake and District Hospital Churachandpur and also demanded a report from the state government on Ravina and Sanjit within one month.

Manipur State Commission for Women (MSCW) constituted in 2006, to safeguard the interests of women and their development. The Commission is equipped with special power of a civil court for speedy trial.

1.4 Human Right Issues in Media

As far as the coverage of human rights in India is concerned, the 1975 Emergency served as a turning point for large sections of the press. It helped in bringing issues of human rights to the common agenda of mass movements and political parties with different ideologies. It also highlighted the need for conscious public scrutiny of governmental institutions. As a result, the post-Emergency period saw the emergence of more vigorous, investigative style of newsgathering and writing. The period saw greater press coverage of human rights issues and the condition of marginalized social groups.

The right to equality, freedom of speech and personal liberty, protection against arrest and detention in certain cases, freedom to manage religious affairs, prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour, rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions have been publicized by the media in order to implement stringent laws to avoid any form of violations of these basic rights. It is high time media gives wide attention and publicity to the human rights violations.

The role of media in creating awareness about human rights goes beyond reporting such incidents. Media provides a favorable environment, makes the people's minds and opinion and develop attitude. Media is a powerful instrument and has the potential in strengthening human rights movements if it is fully utilized. Media coverage of human rights issues has not been very satisfactory. Media has to go a long way in making human rights as a regular subject for reporting, analyzing and interpreting.

The first media were the print media. In the late-eighteenth-century England, Edmund Burke reputedly coined the term media as a 'fourth-estate' to refer to the political power influenced by the press, equal with other three 'estates' of power in the British realm: Lords, Church and Commons. (McQuail D 2010)

J. S. Anand, Former Chief Justice of India and Ex-Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission addressed on "human rights, freedom of press and role of media" in Jammu on 5th April 2004 said "Freedom of expression, one of the most basic human rights, however, is not an end in itself, it is the means to

attaining of a society in which rule of law runs supreme and where human dignity and other human rights are respected.”

Human rights education is being provided to general public through mass media such as radio, Television, magazines and newspapers and the Internet. All India Radio aims at emphasizing human rights through various forms of programmes. Interviews with the victims of human right violation are conducted, followed by the response of the government official on the issue.

Media-centric theory talks about mass media as a main force in social change, propelled by developments in communication technology. It gives much more emphasis to the specific media content and the possible significances of the different kinds of media including print, audiovisual, interactive, etc.). Socio-centric theory essentially views the media as a deliberation of political and economic forces. (McQuail, D. 2010). The press has been very active in keeping the public informed of the negligence of human rights on the part of governments. Print media can be exploited to create awareness regarding human rights among the masses, as there is increase in literacy level in our country so as the number of daily newspapers and periodicals increases in time.

Films are one of the most popular media and often helped in exposing human rights violations. Such films should be exhibited in schools, colleges and non-governmental organizations forum. Therefore, this medium needs to be exploited to the fullest for education of human rights.

Dissemination of information and taking it to the masses to mould public opinion is the essential duty of the Media. As a developing country, the range of human rights issue requiring media intervention is particularly wide with a marked social content. As a result of these actions by the press, the judiciary as well as the National Human Rights Commission was set up to give relief to numerous victims for violations of their human rights. At the same time information about the real achievements of government is as important for the citizen's discharge of civic and political responsibilities as news about the failure of government's policies and projects. It is right of the public to know. The duty of media is to expose deception, secrecy and corruption and to maintain good governance.

Media have to play a very proactive and dynamic role in developing awareness of people on human rights and developing appropriate attitude to implement human rights concepts. Media messages should develop individual awareness about the ways and means by which human rights can be interpreted into social and political reality. It should also focus on encouraging people to perform their roles as citizens. The media will be a part of the struggle for human rights, not because of the decision of editor or journalist, but because the media will become the voice of every citizen struggling for human rights. The right guaranteed is not merely the individual right of the proprietor of the newspaper, or the editor or the journalist to print and publish the newspaper. It includes within its capacious content the collective right of the community; the right of citizens to read and to be informed.

Supreme Court of India has ruled that freedom of Press is implicit in the guarantee of freedom of 'speech and expression' and, therefore, freedom of Press, by judicial interpretation, can now be regarded as one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India. Indeed, as no freedom is absolute and has to be subject to reasonable restrictions, the freedom of Press also is subject to reasonable restrictions and regulations.

1.5 Statement of the Problem

The idea of human rights is bound up with the idea of human dignity. Chief justice of India, J. S. Verma rightly stated, "Human dignity is the quintessence of human rights. (The New Universe of Human Rights, p.3) Dignity can no longer survive where human beings are humiliated. Human rights have been legally granted to every citizen of all countries around the world. The underlying ideas of such rights, which are fundamental to human dignity, are that these rights be respected in the treatment of all men, women and children (Manohar Prabhakar, Sanjeev Bhanawat, 2004).

The Press and Electronic media of Manipur covers news story on human rights abuse. Some of the dominant scenes of human rights violations include the state actors such as the oppressive power of Indian Armed Forces against the armed

opposition groups which most of the time fall prey to the civilians; violations of women's rights and rights of the child includes Women & child trafficking; Rights of backward classes; bandhs and blockade that hampers normalcy in the state; violation of civil and political rights; Abuses by the Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) includes killings, Abduction for Extortion, curtailing Freedom of Press; information on Right to Education and Right to Health in Manipur.

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said, "Press freedom is the corner stone of human rights. It holds governments responsible for their acts and serves a warning to all that impunity is an illusion." Human Rights will continue to violate if the media works under the clouds of fear and inhibition. Media is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy and it needs to operate with courage and purpose. In a democratic society free media can be a powerful instrument to tackle violation of human rights. Editors and journalist should report stories on human rights violation without any fear and inhibition keeping in mind such evil practices must be wiped away before the society becomes paralyzed. Media is considered as the 'catalyst for social change. It is a high time to operate media without biasness and threat from both state and non-state actors and act as a vigilant to the society.

In Manipur the freedom of press is at stake. A human rights watch report notes that journalists and human rights activists have been arrested for reporting on human rights abuses. Editors and journalists working in an environment where the friction between homegrown insurgency and government is a big issue, their lives are at risk and have to work under immense pressure and threats. Despite freedom of press is limited, it tries the sustain itself and perform its function unquestioningly. There are many instances of the limitations of freedom of press in the state.

In one instance, the AOGs targeted the media persons and pressurize them to become their mouthpiece. In Manipur, media personnel had to work under constant threat from different armed opposition groups. Various civic organizations condemned to the act of the police said that the body is against

subjugating the freedom of expression of media thereby suppressing the right to information of the masses.

In another case, ten journalists were killed in Manipur so far. Recently, an armed group allegedly threatened media personnel after many publication houses did not publish a media release of the group in public interest. On 22 July 2010, journalists in Manipur staged a sit-in protest to close down all newspapers publications indefinitely to protest against the threat to the life of a reporter of the Sangai Express.

Media in Manipur highlighted these core issues to the central and state governments and act as a vehicle to speed up the probe against cases of human rights violations. 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 constant check and raises up these issues before the government to take up stringent steps on tackling this menace.

For instance, the BT road fake encounter case in Imphal involving Manipur Police Commandos on 23 July 2010 is a clear example. The media and members of civil society hear the grievances of their family members. Now, with the intervention of CBI, the case is still under investigation, recently submitted its charge sheet against nine police personnel, including officers in the case.

The crime against women is on the rise in the state. The National Crime Records Bureau data for 2012 released in 2013 shows a very ugly picture for Manipuri women. According to the official data, Manipur ranked 2nd in violent crime rates. The official report clearly indicates that crimes against women in Manipur are showing a significant increase in almost all categories. Under the IPC, which includes violent crimes like rape, molestation, kidnapping and abduction, there has been a steady increase every year. According to a study conducted by the 'International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), 58 per cent of women consider domestic violence normal.

1.6 Review of Literature

A literature review is an account of what has been published on a subject by accredited scholars and researchers and helps new scholars for endeavor further study and research on the existing findings or look in to new perspectives of the topic. The purpose is to offer an overview of significant literature published on a topic.

Dwivedi, H. (2014) focuses on Qualitative research is based on the measurement or amount. It is applicable to phenomenon that can be expressed in terms of quantity. On the other hand, qualitative research, on the other hand, is concerned with qualitative phenomenon, i.e., phenomenon relating to or involving quality or kind. It also incorporates analytical research where the facts or information, which are already available material are analyzed and critically evaluate.

Rakesh Mohan (2013) in the present volume consists of collated vital information on police and human rights, including policing and human rights unfriendly police; combating human rights violations; police atrocities and human rights; and human rights and judiciary. The author opines that in developing countries, especially in India, despite many reformative measures top to bottom entire police force is brutal and corrupt. In the name of ensuring law and order they abuse the established standards.

Pandey G. P (2013) recounted the history and development of Press in the North-East 'Seven Sisters' and Sikkim, by studying the developments on the basis of distinct geographical and administration entities.

Amit Kumar (2012) sights key concepts and covers the theoretical foundations and meanings of human rights and social welfare from a range of perspectives. The text has been worked out with a view to making various aspects of human rights accessible to the large body of personnel involved in various sectors i.e., education, policy formulation, social, administration and planning and development to enrich the human rights programme as the basis for promoting awareness of current issues and controversies relating of human rights.

A. O. Aggrawal (2011) intended to deal with different issues related to the implementation machinery of the two Covenants- Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights and Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It opens with an introduction wherein a brief historical survey has been made for the promotion and protection of human rights since the establishment of the United Nations. It deals with the various steps, which a State is required to take for the furtherance of the cause of human rights, and discusses the role of National Human Rights Commission. Certain basic documents relevant to the study have been produced in the book so as to make the study valuable to the readers desiring a precise acquaintance with the subject.

D. P. Khanna and Gert W. Kueck (2011) represented the papers that was presented on a workshop conducted by The Society for Peace, Security and Development Studies in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Foundation which undertake an in-depth analysis of the needs of the future and the imperatives of democracy by analyst of different disciplines with a view to making concrete suggestions pertaining to ways and means of promoting democratic culture. The narratives focuses mainly on human rights revolution, human rights and terrorism, contribution of democracy and human rights in conflict resolution and its preceding stages like conflict prevention, conflict settlement and conflict management.

Surya NarainYadav and Indu Baghel (2011) made a serious effort to emphasize the role of social workers, media and literature in the protection and promotion of human rights all over the world. The authors examine the relationship between international human rights and social work. This book not only deals with the various definitions and dimensions of human rights, but also conducted a critical study of the United Nations International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

Jagmohan Mishra (2011) intends to highlight the very contemporary issues including torture and its patterns and victims; causes and concerns related to custodial violence, police atrocities and judicial measures and disappearances. The author suggests measures for curbing torture and provides standards and actions of torture.

D. D Basu (2010) incorporates all amendments to the Constitution and contains exclusive materials, figures and charts not included in any publication so far on the subject. It traces the constitutional history of India since the Government of India Act, 1935; analyses the provisions of the present Constitution and explains the inter-relation between its diverse contents. This book is indispensable for journalist, scholars, politicians, statesmen, administrative authorities and universities students.

Dennis McQuail (2010) emphasis different kinds of theory of mass communication, media as an organisation, influence of sources and media influence on audience.

ShashiK.Sharma, Paramjit S. Jaswal and Devendra Singh (2010) urges that academia should engage in critical analysis of the role of various organs of the states like commission and other state machinery which are responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights. This book is a compilation of various articles that presented in a seminar on human rights. The topics includes newly emerging themes such as Right to Education, Right to Information, right to development and environment, women's rights, child rights, rights of indigenous peoples, human rights in prisons, role of judiciary and so on.

Rajkumar Manisana Singh (2009) concentrates wholly to the rights of the child. Being a former Chairperson of the Assam Human Rights Commission, he had dealt with a few cases for violation of human rights of the children within or outside the precinct of the school.

Deepti Priya Mehrotra (2009) gives a detailed accounts of Irom Sharmila and problems encountered by the people in a hard-hitting crossfire of militants and security forces.

Mohammad Shabbir (2008) comprises of various articles that covers diverse aspects of challenges of human rights in India including accessibility of women in governance through empowerment by reservation; Domestic violence which is an aberration in women's Human Rights; Good governance, human rights and the rights of Minorities; Social Justice and Empowerment from Ambedkar's Perspective; Quest for women empowerment under 73rd Constitutional

Amendment Act and its implementation and looks into the statistical analysis of crimes against women, children, incest and foeticide.

Sujata Dutta Hazarika (2008) puts together essays with diverse methodologies and multiple interpretations of discourse of peace in the context of North East India. This volume aims to take the 'peace in dialogue' programme a step forward by responding to the needs of the political context offered by India-North-East relations to address diverse issues and urge the need to sustain such engagement while identifying new approaches to peace building and introducing new ways of thinking about conflict through a critical reflection on contemporary understandings of democracy, diplomacy, mediation and dialogue.

V. K. Rao (2008) put forward remedies for the improvement of media by adopting variety of policies. Some of the vital remedies adopted by the media in an attempt to improve their functioning and to gain public confidence include correction of errors, Advisory boards, Ombudsmen, investigative reporting, code of ethics, self-criticisms. It is to note that improvement of media solely depends on themselves. Neither government nor public can mend the working and purpose of media. In this book, the author states that Media are converging.

D. R. Jatava (2007) unfolds the hidden aspects of violation of human rights such as crimes and cruelties which no organization, no judicial activism and no political governance can stop, because it is inbuilt or inherent in them from the many inbuilt systems and ideologies in Indian Society. The book highlights the main inflicting problems that give birth to human rights violations such as Alienation, Caste, Communalism, Corruption, Dowry and Discrimination, Poverty, Naxalism, Regionalism, Power and Politics.

Duncan Bloy (2007) stresses on the contemporary topics such as privacy and confidentiality, Defamation, Contempt of Court, Reporting Restrictions, Freedom of Expression and recent statutory and Case Law developments. He further looks in to the fundamental principle of journalism, that reporter are under a professional duty to protect their sources of information and maintain privacy and confidentiality (p.101).

Jaya Chakarvarty (2007) comes in two volumes, which sets on the valuation aspect of Mass Media and Women's Development. Modern communication can be a great force for women's emancipation if it is utilized for promoting a critical consciousness on the women's questions. She analyses the impact of the two revolutionary media-radio and television, on women in India, how women are portray on media and the relationship between women and media and use of television for development of women. Chakarvarty gives some insights on how media can play a positive role in restoring self-esteem to women. The present volume highlights the evaluation aspect of Mass Media and Women's Development.

Sally Engle Merry (2007) in her study of human rights and gender violence-investigates developments in international law on gender justice, local activism by women's groups in various countries as well as the resistance such groups face within their own communities. Using various insightful case studies, the book examines the deep roots that gender violence has in cultural and religious belief systems.

Upendra Baxi (2007) presents a critique of the approaches towards a theory of human rights proposed by Amartya Sen and his emphasis on the ethical, as opposed to the juridical nature of such rights. Sen describes the notion of a theory of human rights variously. He calls it Theory of Human Rights (TOHR) and Theory About Human Rights (TAHR). TOHR attends primarily to the ethical and TAHR to the juridico-political sphere. Sen further writes human rights, as known today, constitute a whole series of 'imperfect obligations'.

Yogesh Kumar Singh, Ruchika Nath (2007) describes Quantitative descriptive research uses quantitative methods to describe what is, describing, recording, analyzing, and interpreting conditions that exist. It involves some types of comparison or contrast and attempts to discover relationships between existing non-manipulated variables.

Pramod Mishra (2006) discusses the process of periodic human rights reporting to international bodies has come to be seen as a constructive and potentially rewarding means by which governments can seek to achieve of objectives. The

purposes of human rights reporting can be identified in a more or less chronological order, which corresponds, to the period from ratification of a treaty through to the period from ratification of a treaty through to the consideration of the report by the international monitoring body.

Bhattacharya, K. D (2006) asserts that study of secondary data is used to help in decision-making and drawing conclusions.

S. C Joshi (2006) stresses the role of NGOs in protection and promotion of human rights and has a great rapport with the public as they have their grassroots contacts and it effectively identify human rights violations, articulate them and seek redress from National Human Rights Commission. But one underlying problem is that they become vocal and active in pursuing a specific agenda and go into hibernation thereafter. He observed that most of these organizations have suffered splits and strayed into different fields.

D. V. R Murthy (2005) focuses the editor's role is declining in the paper and he is no more the decision maker. The deteriorating role of editor has an effect on the newspapers directly in the area of upholding newspaper ethics'.

Jagdish Chakarvarty (2005) stresses on the ethics or set standards for reporting in media to avoid prejudices, biasness and propaganda. He also emphasized that journalists can do better when they work without undue pressure either from outside or inside the newsroom as they have a responsibility to deliver the news with objectivity. It is essential that journalists need to develop sources that represent the diversity of thought, feeling, and experience of the people they serve.

JhonK. Thomas (2005), a renowned scholar in the field of anthropology and social science who has devoted his services to protect the rights of tribals. This book tracks down the social status of tribals, their ethnicity and racial conflicts, alienation of tribal land and many other issues that marginalize them. It also deals with social disabilities of tribals, their rights and welfare programmes for tribal development. It also suggests ways and means to empower and awaken tribals and to bring them to the forefront of the society.

Mohammad Shabbir (2005) contains articles of renowned scholars from diverse disciplines on various aspects of human rights and it has been published under the auspices of Dr. Ambedkar Chair of Legal Studies and Research, Department of Law, Aligarh Muslim University. The first chapter of the book opens with an article written by Kapil Sibal on *Law, the constitution, Weaker Sections, Women, Minorities, Scheduled Castes and their Development* and he concludes by hoping that moving towards a new India where the principles of justice as fairness resonates through every section of society.

Minnie Vaid & Irom Sharmila (2013) writes on Irom Sharmila and about the state of Manipur where effects of Armed Forces Special Power Act are effecting the normal lives of people.

N. Sanajaoba (2005) consists of two volumes. The first volume introduces the articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution on 10th December, 1948. The book entails the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the formation of National Human Rights Commission and elucidates the functions and powers of the Commission. It also established a clear-cut procedure on how an individual can file a complaint of violations of human rights. The second volume emphasize on the recent developments in human rights issues, including the Declaration on the Right to Development, Social Progress and development, UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution on HIV/AIDS.

S. N. Chaudhary (2005) consists of papers presented at an international conference organized by Barkatullah University, Bhopal, analyze the interface between human rights and poverty, with particular reference to India. They address a wide range of issues pertaining to be situation of human rights and poverty among different social group in different states of the country.

Upendra Baxi (2005) seeks to decipher the future of protean forms of social action assembled, by convention, under a portal named 'human rights'. 'Human rights' constitute not just multitude of normative orderings but also distinct realms of human experience. In this book he described the troubled relationship between human sufferings and human rights.

Kanta Rehman (2004) writes that NGOs performs a very important role in the protection of human rights at the local, national and international levels and it contributes significantly to the United Nations Human Rights Programme. He writes NGOs in developing countries need for greater integration leading to the development of linkages between human rights activists, educationists and jurists as individuals or in organized groups because there is little opportunity for exchange of experiences, information sharing and solidarity building among themselves.

Manohar Prabhakar and Sanjeev Bhanawat (2004) on Human Rights and Media intends to focus attention on the role of media in mobilizing public opinion by spreading awareness of human rights, policies and highlighting violations. The book provides pragmatic suggestions about ways to improve or enhance media coverage of human rights. First, improving coverage of human rights by teaching better journalism, especially in newly democratized countries with strong memories of recent abuses and it is a real need to establish a tradition of human rights journalism. Secondly, citing their names can certainly protect human rights leaders.

D.N. Gupta & Chandrachur Singh (2003) discusses the concept of human rights having a deep bearing on individuals dignity, peaceful and honorable living. It is indeed the strong human urge to attain its fundamental right and for this, constitutional and revolutionary methods have been in operation since long time.

Gopal Bhargava (2003) emphasizes on various aspects of democratic governance including the democracy and human development; ICTs and human rights; and impact of ICTs on Democracy. He stresses on the promotion of human rights through Millennium Development Goals comprising eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, Gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

V.T. Patil (2003) intends to show concern on the situation of human rights in South Asian countries. The people share many socio-economic and political

problems such as poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, unequal treatment of women, violence against women, pollution, exploitation of child labour and religious fundamentalism. Human rights organizations in South Asia have recently taken steps to cooperate in addressing these human rights issues.

Kimberly A. Neuendorf (2002) focuses to the centrality of content analysis to communication research and elevates the standards for content analysis. The book is combined with strong scientific approach and methodological standards with a practical approach that both academics and industry professionals will find useful like that of message units and sampling, measurement techniques, measures of obtaining results and ways of reporting. This book also has Five Resources, which provide the reader guides to message archives and comparisons of text analysis computer programs such as VBpro, CATPAC, and DIRECTION 5.0 etc.

Richard Keeble (1994) focuses on the journalism ethics, investigative journalism, news reporting, feature writing and sourcing the news and art of interviewing.

Arun Ray Mohapatra (2001) stresses on the functioning of the National Human Rights Commission of India monitoring an important aspect of India's democratic governance towards ensuring accountability and transparency in the exercise of state power, particularly its coercive authority. The author highlighted pro-active role of NHRC on the question of the obnoxious prevention detention provision of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and its recent attempts to review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, The Disturbed Areas Act, and Reforms of the Prisons and Police, as well as the colonial laws still governing these institutions have also elicited widespread sympathetic interest in the concerns of the NHRC.

D. P. Khanna (2001) dwelt on the violations and violators of human rights on the Indian context. The state terrorism, precautions against misuse of powers by police and para-military forces, need to remove the death penalty as it militates against right to life, human rights of prisoners, social equality and rights of the backward classes including SC, ST & OBCs, rights of women and violence against them; right of the child & child labour and the rights of disabled have been carefully dealt with at length.

J. K. Singh (2001) stressed on the point 'Man's right to knowledge and free use thereof is the central concern of a responsible mass communication. The kinds of freedom we are trying to keep are Freedom to know, Freedom to tell, Freedom to find out. Freedom to know is a social right. Freedom to tell is the 'freedom of the press' and the Freedom to find out belongs to all people, but especially delegated to the mass media. The best defense for freedom today, in mass media, is responsibility. He also stresses on the power, class and the media and further stresses on media imperialism.

Jyotsana Mishra (2000) advocates the raising awareness of the issue of violence against women, and educating boys and men to view women as valuable partners in life, in the development of a society and in attainment of peace are just as important as taking legal steps to protect women's human rights. She also emphasize on kinds of violence against women including domestic violence, dowry-related violence, rape, prostitution and trafficking, custodial violence, violence against women in situations of armed conflict. The book also highlights series of women's rights and how the international community is working on the protection and safeguarding of women's rights.

N. Sanajaoba (2000) examines the new parameters of Indian constitutionalism that could lead to paradigm shift. It considers human rights situation in both peacekeeping and conflict period. The book examines special repressive laws that have been enacted in the North East India such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA).

Chiranjivi J Nirmal (1999) is a compilation of articles based on human rights. In an article *Situating Human Rights in the Media* written by N.V. Anandraman the articles analyzes the role of media in human rights reporting. He examines the news articles of various vernacular dailies in Tamil Nadu and the English newspapers the Hindu and Indian Express, which play a vital role in promoting human rights. He found some dailies carries soft news rather than hard news covering human rights violations. However, most dailies bring out articles and editorials that uphold human rights.

Jayant Parikh (1998) looks at Asian media into a new perspective. He hopes that the scenario will change if we can raise our own journalistic standards and our press, especially if our news agencies are allowed to function in an atmosphere of freedom. The new technology will improve the transmission of files from our news agencies and in modernizing the production of all our newspapers, including the provincial dailies. He further emphasis on the development of investigative wing in newspaper agencies. He criticized the general trend yet very disturbing in newspapers whose proprietors in a number of cases have appropriated for themselves the role of Editors.

George A Hough (1998) elaborates the news writing techniques, appropriate ways to put quotes and attributions.

Rahul Mudgal (1998) asserts that there is thin line drawn between news and truth. Both are not same and have to be distinguished. The function of news is to signalize an event, the function of truth is to bring light the hidden facts, to set them into relation with each other, and make a picture of reality on which one can act.

K. S. Pandhy and R. N. Sahu (1997) made an attempt to discuss the origin and growth of the Indian Press, Its role and responsibility as a communicator, its freedom, and measures adopted by the authorities ' executive, legislature, judiciary ' to suppress it. The importance of the Press Council in ensuring Press freedom is also highlighted.

P. C. Sinha (1997) is a handbook on the United Nations and its written documents on major human rights issues. United Nations has come a long way in facilitating global governance since its inception on June 26, 1945 as the international body. The book highlights various aspects of laws govern on the issues of human rights.

Norberto Bobbio (1996) asserts that the critical problem facing in today's times is not finding fundamental principles for human rights, but that of protecting them and also emphasize that this problem is not philosophical but legal and political.

Kazmi, Fareed (1987) states that it should be recognized that true respect for human rights is nothing less than a way of life. This book attempts to demystify the numerous myths that have been woven around the concept of Human Rights.

Though the concept is highly contentious, yet it has been consistently projected in simplistic terms, so that to the general consciousness it has come to mean merely the protection and promotion of political and civil rights, with economic rights thrown in between.

In an article 'Human Rights in India: An Overview by Rakesh Pal Kaushik and Mrs. Kusum Lata Kaushik (2011) published in Orient Journal of Law and Social Sciences, the authors give an overview aspects of human rights in India, its framework and nature of violations and the reasons behind violations. The authors give concrete suggestions on how we can uphold our rights. Education and training of the vulnerable groups, particularly the women and children and those engaged in ameliorating their cause are the need of the hour.

In the Memorandum on Extrajudicial, Arbitrary or Summary Executions in Manipur submitted by the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights in Manipur and the UN (2011), a coalition of human rights organizations and individuals from Manipur, to the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions during his mission to India, describes killings indigenous persons and groups that are in violation of international human rights or humanitarian law occurring in Manipur, India. The memorandum elaborates on the political context of the armed conflict prevailing in Manipur for the past over three decades.

In the 2ND Cycle Universal Periodic Review Human Rights Council of the United Nations on India (2011) Status of Human Rights in Manipur stresses on International human rights and humanitarian laws obligations, Human Rights violations in Manipur, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Manipur, Specific Cases of Development Processes in Manipur and Indigenous Peoples and Recommendations. The report says India continues to declare the non-state organizations of Manipur demanding the right to self-determination as 'terrorist' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Also points out the development projects of the Government are destructive and unsustainable. For instance, Oil exploration in Manipur.(Joint Stakeholders' Report 2011)

In a research paper written by N. Vijaylakshmi Brara (2008), Shillong based social activist, *'Women in Peace: But Are They in Dialogue? A Case Study of Manipur'* starts with an excerpt written by Chitra Padmanabhan from the website called pitara.com about very an interesting factual history of role of super moms in peace building process in different parts of the world. This includes a case story *India-Grandmothers against Drugs*. It is none other but a group of women or *Meira Paibis* in India's Northeastern state of Manipur and they have come together to guard their villages at night. They do not want to see their kids end up taking drugs and their husbands end up being an alcoholic. She also pointed out the pessimistic future role of *Meira Paibis* as they have merely become agitationists.

In an article published in the Indian Journal of Political Science, *Mediated Rights: Media, Women and Human Rights in India* by J. Prabhash (2005) emphasize that media in a democratic polity has failed to act as a pedagogue of freedom as it could hardly maintain a clinical indifference in reflecting social reality and also failed to act as a progenitor of social change as far as women are concerned. Further, it stopped short of interrogating the structural deficiencies and weaknesses of the system.

In another article *Political Empowerment of Women In Indian Legislature: A Study* by D. Syamala Devi and G. Lakshmi (2005) from The Indian Journal of Political Science, the authors stresses on the political empowerment of women in Indian Legislature with special reference to their involvement in decision-making process and focuses on their under-representation in ministerial positions.

1.7 Objectives

1. To study and scrutinize the role of media in promotion of human rights in Manipur.
2. To examine the presentation of news on human right issues.
3. To analyze the approaches and consequences of media coverage of human right violations.
4. To evaluate the role of media in educating the people about human rights.
5. To examine human rights violation incidents by State and Non-state actors.
6. To understand the relationship between media and other stakeholders of democracy on pursuit of human rights.

1.8 Significance of the Study

All forms of media these days seem to be flooded with human rights issues and debates. When we say human rights, they refer to those rights, which are inherent to all human beings irrespective of caste, color, sex, nationality, religion, ethnic origin, language or any other factor. Some of the human rights include right to freedom from torture, freedom from slavery, right to security, education, work, marry, and right to equality before the law. The degree of Human Rights violations differs from place to place, depending on the one's cultural setting. But in general, any form of suppression and oppression of person/persons is a violation of human rights.

Manipur, one of the seven States of North-Eastern India also known as 'a jeweled land' for its natural beauty and rich culture has been in turmoil and unrest ever since the separatist movement which began in the 1960s. There have been series of human rights violation in the State due the activities and policies of State and Non-state actors. Human rights violations occur when actions by state (or non-state) actors abuse, ignore, or deny basic human rights (including civil, political, cultural, social, and economic rights). Furthermore, violations of human rights can occur when any state or non-state actor breaches any part of the UDHR treaty or other international human rights or humanitarian law. The active participation of

media in reporting human rights abuses in Manipur and its tremendous attempt on protection of people's rights in the state is considered to be one of the most imperative tools on tackling Human rights violations. In efforts to eliminate violations of human rights, building awareness and protesting inhumane treatment has often led to calls for action and sometimes improved conditions. Apparently, the pressure of both the state actors and non-state actors makes the lives of civilians at stake. The press as the fourth estate in a democracy has a greater responsibility to play constructive role. Newspapers make an immeasurable contribution to spreading human rights awareness in the state. The headlines of every newspapers in the state are dominated mostly by the news of human rights violations relating to civil and political rights, extortions, extra-judicial killings, bandhs and blockades, trafficking in humans, especially vulnerable women and children, kidnapping etc.

1.9 Plan of Research

The research study is organized in the following chapters-

Chapter One- Framework of the Study

The first chapter of the study covered conceptual theme and the rationale of the study. Review of literature, objectives, Need and significance of the study are mentioned in this chapter.

Chapter Two – Human Rights and Manipur

The second chapter dwelled on the human rights status in Manipur, role of media, Non-Governmental Organisations and other stakeholders who are working on human rights issues.

Chapter Three- Patterns of Coverage of Human Rights Issues

In this chapter the patterns of newspaper coverage on human rights issues in Manipur are studied with following methodology- Library Research, Interview and Content Analysis.

Chapter Four- Ideological References and Factors of Human Rights Coverage

Analysis and interpretation of the primary data is interpreted with the help of appropriate statistical tools and qualitative approach.

Chapter Five- Findings, conclusions and Suggestions

In this chapter the findings of the study, conclusion and suggestions are arranged.

1.10 Definitions of Technical Terms

1.10.1 Media –Media is a means of mass communication that reaches or influence people widely and used to reach the vast majority of general public simultaneously. Media includes both print media such as newspapers, magazines, pamphlets and other forms of publications; films; electronic media such as radio and television, recorded music, and the Internet. (McQuail D 2010)

1.10.2 Newspapers –A newspaper is a scheduled publication containing news of current events, informative articles, diverse features, editorials, and advertising. It is inexpensive and considered to be one of the cheapest sources of knowledge. It may be general or special interest, and may be published daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly. A paper that is printed and distributed daily or weekly and contains news, articles of views and opinion, features, and advertising. (Merriam Webster.com)

1.10.3 Coverage – News coverage is the covering of news, views, politics, economic activity, weather, sports, current affairs, issues and events. The coverage of newspapers in Manipur on issues related to human rights violations and promotion is the focus area of the study.

1.10.4 Human Rights –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. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination.

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, right to privacy, home and correspondence, right to own property, freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, freedom from thought, conscience and religion and freedom of movement. Political rights are right to vote, right to be elected at genuine elections, right to take part in the conduct of public affairs.

Economic, social and cultural rights includes right to adequate food, clothing, housing and adequate standard of living, and freedom from hunger, right to work, right to social security, right to physical and mental health and right to education.

1.10.5 State Actors – A state actor is a person who is acting on behalf of a governmental body i.e. police, administrators. These institutions can take a number of forms- The State, smaller government and government entities (including unofficial and/or traditional governance entities), militia groups, political parties, religious groups and structure and more.

1.10.6 Non- State Actors –According to dictionary of Social Sciences, Non-state actors are categorized as entities that (i) participating or acting in the sphere of international relations; organizations with sufficient power to influence and cause change in politics which are (ii) not belonging to or existing as a state-structure or established institution of a state; are not holding the characteristics of this, these being legal sovereignty and some measures of control over a countries people and territories.

According to Oxford dictionary, non-state actor is an individual or organization that has significant political influence but is not allied with any particular country or state.

According to Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, 'non-state actor' is not clearly defined and it includes a wide range of different actors, from those whose actions and impact on the right to life includes the affecting civilians. Non-state actors including persons, groups or associations, may take advantage of weak state machinery or work together with state agents.

The concept of 'non-state actors' refers to a wide range of development actors-other than the governments.

Types of Non- State Actors: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Multinational Corporations (MNCs), the International Media; Religious Groups

Violent non-state actors: Armed groups, including groups such as insurgent groups of the North-East Indian States, International terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and other Criminal organizations

Non-state actors have become vital for opinion building in international forum and actively participate in a number of multilateral processes, such as the Human Rights Council. Non-State actors are not allied to any particular country or state. International Organizations also rely on non-state actors, particularly NGOs in the form of implementing partners in the national context. An example of the crucial role non-state actors can play in peace building.