
HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS ETHICS.

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Abstract:

In the last several decades a diverse movement has emerged that seeks to extend the accountability for human rights beyond governments and states, to businesses. Though the view that business has human rights responsibilities has attracted a great deal of positive attention, this view continues to face many reservations and unresolved questions.

Business ethicists have responded in a twofold manner. First, they have tried to formulate the general terms or frameworks within which the discussion might best proceed.

Keyword: - Human rights, Business ethics, Economic development.

Introduction:

The expression 'human rights' is relatively new having come into everyday parlance only since World War II and the founding of the United Nations in 1945. However, the idea of human rights is as old as the history of human civilization.¹ The 'rights of man' have been the concern of civilization from time immemorial. These 'rights of man' had a place in almost all the ancient civilizations of the world. In the Babylonian laws,² the seeds of international law may be traced in the reign of La of Lianas, Sargon of Akkad and Hammurabi of Babylon. The Assyrian laws in the reign of Ithala Parashar and in the Hittite laws in the reign of King Terpenes provided for the protection of the rights of man. In India, from the macro cosmic universal order of the Vedic period to microcosmic self-controlled order of the classical Hindu law proper, and the deterrence based stage of punishment and more or less formal dispute processing (vivipara) in the post-classical system and in China, the jurisprudence of Lao-Tzu and confusions, protected rights of the people. the great Roman Jurist, tells us that the Great stoics, developed, on the basis of what we now consider as basic human rights, an authentic 'natural law theory', prescribing inviolability of these rights. In Greco-Roman and medieval times, the 'natural law doctrine' taught mainly duties, as distinguished from the rights of 'man'. Moreover, as is evident, in the writings of the great scholars like Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas, the doctrine recognized the legitimacy of slavery and in so doing, excluded perhaps the central most ideas of human rights as they are understood today, the ideas of freedom on liberty and equality. In addition, the Inca and Aztec codes of conduct and justice and the Iroquois Constitution were native American sources that existed well before the 18th century. The Term 'natural rights' eventually fell into disfavour, but the concept of "Universal rights" took root, Great philosophers such as Thomas Paine, John Stuart Mill and Henry David Thoreau expanded the concept. Thoreau is perhaps the first philosopher known to have used the term, 'human rights' in his treatise civil disobedience. This work has been extremely useful



as people like Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Gandhi.

ETHICS:

The word 'ethics' comes from the Greek word 'ethos', meaning character or custom. Oxford dictionary explains 'ethics' as the science of morals in human conduct; moral philosophy, moral principles, rules of conduct. According to a philosophy professor Robert C. Solomon (1984), "The etymology of ethics suggests its basic concerns individual character, including what it means to be 'a good person,' and the social rules that govern and limit our conduct, especially the ultimate rules concerning right and wrong, which we call morality."

The word Ethics provides a base for deciding right and wrong. It encircles those types of moral principles and values, which should be followed, by the person, organization, society or the country. Those are for the benefit of the society and so these are acceptable to it.

Inter-relation between Human rights And Business Ethics:

Business ethic emerged as a result of the abuse of human rights and because of the need for corporate organisation to be more ethical and humane in doing business. This has come to the fore front in recent time with the media keeping a constant look out for corporate organisations that abuse or refuse to up hold their social responsibilities in any way. As a result of this organisations now pay more attention to business ethic education and training in order to meet this ever-growing ethical responsibility. The growth and development of businesses worldwide has brought about an increase in the standard of living but on the other hand it has resulted in the abuse of workers in many parts of the world.

Corporate social responsibility has entered a new phase in which the responsibility of business has to be clearly defined. According to Andrew chapman and Scott Jerib there are growing expectation that corporation should do everything their powers to promote universal human rights standards even in conflict situation where governance structure has broken down.

Research Methodology:

The present study deals with an economical analysis of Human rights and Business ethics. this study proposes the role of human rights and business ethics in economic development. the principal objective of the present study is to study the aspects of various human rights and business ethics in contribution to the economic development of any sector or an individual. For the sampling of research, the multistage sampling method is applied. The samples for study were selected from various businessman in different sectors applying the concept of business ethics and human rights in value to scale the business operations. The Primary data through questionnaires and interview method. Primary data was collected through questionnaires from 150 individuals out of which 85 were businessman from various sectors implementing the concept of human rights and business ethics in their field. 21 personal interviews were taken for this study. The field survey was conducted recently in 2022 – 2023.

- What is the role of human rights in economic development?
- Human rights add value to the agenda for development by drawing attention to the accountability to respect, protect, promote and fulfil all human rights of all people. It, in turn, contributes to the human rights-based approach to development.



- What is the role of Business Ethics in Economic development?
- Businesses can increase sales or increase their reputation because of their ethical behaviour. The goal of a business is not just to earn profit; to be successful in the long run, business organizations need to be ethical in dealing with customers, employees, investors, the community, and society.

GROUP	HOW THEY INFLUENCE OR ARE IMPACTED BY BUSINESS OPERATORS.	THE BUSINESS CASE FOR RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.
Customers	Evolving customer expectations can motivate businesses to take responsibility for how their operations affect others.	Businesses risk losing customers and customer loyalty if they don't keep pace with their expectations.
Communities	Business operations can affect the livelihood of communities worldwide, for example, through environmental impacts or deprivation of land and resources.	Businesses cultivate respectful and beneficial relationships when they show respect for communities, such as by consulting with community organizations or generating employment opportunities through development.
Workers	Business operations and decisions impact workers through their day-to-day working conditions and relationships with other employees and management.	Businesses that take steps to improve working conditions can effectively boost employee satisfaction and overall productivity, which leads to more collective success.
Investors	Investors rely on comprehensive company data to steer their investment decisions, which can fluctuate if a business is responsible for or associated with negative human rights impacts.	Businesses may compromise investor interests if they're associated with or connected to negative human rights impacts, which increase their overall risk profile.

Human rights and due diligence :

In order to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their adverse human rights impacts, business enterprises should carry out human rights due diligence. The process should include assessing actual and potential human rights impacts, integrating and acting upon the findings, tracking responses, and communicating how impacts are addressed.

Human rights due diligence:

- Should cover adverse human rights impacts that the business enterprise may cause or contribute to through its own activities, or which may be directly linked to its operations, products or services by its business relationships
- Will vary in complexity with the size of the business enterprise, the risk of severe



human rights impacts, and the nature and context of its operations

- c. Should be ongoing, recognizing that the human rights risks may change over time as the business enterprise's operations and operating context evolve.

References:

- Aaronson contends that 'as of December 2011, less than 1% of the world's some 80,000 multinationals have actually adopted human rights policies, performed impact assessments or tracked performance, devised means to ensure that they do not undermine human rights, or developed means to remedy human rights problems. Aaronson, Susan A, 'How Policy Makers Can Help Firms Get Rights Right.' (http://www.gwu.edu/~iiep/events/Boell_GPs_FinalCopy.pdf Google Scholar (accessed 22 June 2015).
- Seppala, Nina, 'Business and the International Human Rights Regime: A Comparison of UN Initiatives' (2009) 87 Journal of Business Ethics 404 CrossRefGoogle Scholar.
- Given the significant number of essays and books on business and human rights over the past 20 or 30 years, it is possible to consider only a small portion of this discussion. This article focuses on contributions by those academics with interests in the normative ethics of business. However, it also gives significant attention to the work of John Ruggie, UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, whose work has drawn considerable attention to business and human rights. Accordingly, I interpret 'business ethicist' in a broad fashion in this article.
- Ruggie, John, 'Protect, Respect and Remedy: A Framework for Business and Human Rights', A/HRC/8/5 (7 April 2008)Google Scholar, para 10.

