

A HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY MODEL FOR IMPLIMENTAION FOR YOUTH

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Abstract

All citizens are entitled to express their views. It requires a part in the creation of constructive spaces that promote mutual respect. By considering this worthy, the society provides more importance. Youth movements should be particularly focused on promotion and defence of human rights. A social work intervention model for protecting and promoting human rights has been evolved in this chapter. Social action is the method adopted for enhancing consciousness of human rights among the youth as it is an organized group. This group is used to solve problems through action. It is an organized effort to change or improve social and economic institutions, as distinguished from social work or social services. So advocacy is considered as the social action strategy to make youth as the agent to promote human rights and ensure youth representation to redress human rights violations in the community. The present study introduced an advocacy model for youth on human rights based on the activities of National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra.

Introduction

“Human rights are international moral and legal norms that spire to protect all people everywhere from severe political, legal and social abuses” [23]. It promotes an inspiring vision of a democratic, just, and prosperous world by establishing basic expectations for how individuals and organizations can treat others. They also inspire people to act to assert and protect their rights and others' rights[3]. Human rights education is a mechanism for achieving this unity and social justice advocacy. “It is important for sustainable development and contributes to the development of communication skills and informed critical thinking crucial to democracy”[2].

“The youth of every country are its valuable human resource and the future of a country [1]. Any idea of national development is just a myth without the active participation of youth in it. The youth are dynamic, passionate and inspired. Their bubbling enthusiasm has to be given direction and utilized. Their surplus energy has to be directed for welfare of the country. Proper guidance and direction can bring them in the forefront of national development. The youth who do this work are amazingly courageous and passionate” [17]. Witnessing and acting on issues and problems that need immediate attention helps to bring attention to issues and problems that need immediate attention [5]. It encompasses being engaged in the democratic process, where people feel

responsible for advancing and defending the interests of the general public[7]. Nonetheless, people must be educated about this mechanism to be able to participate. Thus, human advocacy can only occur through the acquisition of knowledge and skills [9].

Every person has the right to speak his or her point of view. We are committed to creating a place of shared respect in our classrooms. When the society recognizes this important, it gives greater weight to the considerations [15]. The youth-based United Nations are well aware of the growing involvement in the fundamental goals of the organization, including world peace and social justice, and will be conducting more innovative means to assist them. Anything you do to secure, defend, promote, or uphold human rights is crucial to youth movements that are committed to peace, reconciliation, violence prevention [18]. A primary goal of education is to help the young to realize their full potential and enhance their values of humanity. It facilitates constructive discussions of human rights concepts and solutions for the youth as well as well as presentation of human rights [16]. Developing emotional and academic skills and intellectual capabilities are just as critical[6]. In this context, brining human rights into culture is essential for sustainability. The present study analyses the role of youth and try to give an insight among youth to make them as advocate for human rights protection and promotion. The study revealed the effort of youth for protecting human rights and developed an advocacy frame for promotion of human rights.

Human Rights Advocacy Model for Youth

A social work intervention model for protecting and promoting human rights has been evolved in this chapter. Social action is the method adopted for enhancing consciousness of human rights among the youth as it is an organized group[8]. This group is used to solve problems through action. It is an organized effort to change or improve social and economic institutions, as distinguished from social work or social services. So advocacy is considered as the social action strategy to make youth as the agent to promote human rights and ensure youth representation to redress human rights violations in the community. The present study introduced an advocacy model for youth on human rights based on the activities of National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra.

The Human Rights Advocacy Model (HRAM) has two phases. The first phase meant for enlightening (initiating) the youth about human rights. An action orientation for promoting human rights has been suggested in the second phase of this advocacy

model. The activities of NSS and NYK were mainly concentrated to the development of inner self of youth with community services. Both these programmes were part of community based programmes and have direct contact with community and people. These two youth welfare programmes are envisaged as the way to intervene into the community for creating a violation free society and make youth as the agent for protecting and promoting human rights.

Preliminary Phase: Internalizing Youth with Human Rights

Disseminating human rights knowledge and values to youth by introducing human rights content in the training programmes of NSS and NYK is based on the action plan is the part of internalizing youth.

Vision: Establish a human rights friendly society by internalizing youth with human rights

Mission: To enhance human right awareness and make the youth to realize what their rights are, how they can ensure the protection of these rights, preparing the youth to identify human rights violations, and empower them to take actions against these, in order to create a culture in society that respects and supports the rights of each other

Target Group: Youth - NSS volunteers and NYK club members

Channel: National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangatham

Human Rights Content: The human rights content comprises of historical evolution of human rights, values and principles, types of human rights violations and its effect on individual and the community, various collective and substantive rights of the individual, group, or community and human rights protective mechanisms.

Activities:

Awareness classes for youth club members & NSS volunteers is a major activity for internalizing the youth with human rights. Seminars, lecture sessions, and workshops for program coordinators, NSS volunteers and NYK club members have to be conducted. Discussions and debates are other sources for creating awareness on human rights. Creating human rights volunteer brigade and Training for human rights volunteers is the most relevant activity of HRAM

Strategies: There are different strategies to internalize youth with human rights. Brainstorming encourages creativity and generates many ideas quickly. Dramatic techniques can enhance human rights learning such as street plays and puppet plays etc. Sometimes participants need a safe place to learn, removed from the outside world. So the field trips are essential for that. Cases studies can encourage analysis, critical thinking, problem solving and planning skills, as well as cooperation and team building. Amalgamation of human rights training with participatory appraisal on human rights issues in the community. Introducing audio aid and video modeling on human rights content has to be made as a strategy internalizing youth with human rights.

Second Phase: Human Rights Advocacy Model

The advocacy model encompasses with an action orientation for promoting human rights. Since the youth are a valuable and productive population of the country, making them the

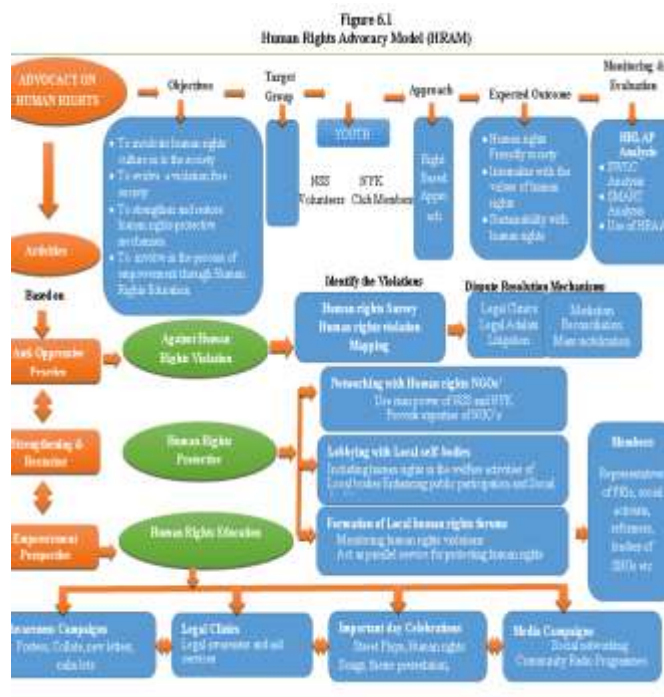
defenders of human rights is the major intention of this activity model. Mapping of human rights violations, organizing Adalats, networking and coalition, campaign through mass media, filing writ petitions and memorandums, lobbying for rights with authority. mobilizing resource for protecting human rights, are core action directed for the youth advocacy model. All these action orientation can incidentally became the intervention of NSS and NYK in the society. Individual and group centered action approach is designed for enhancing capacity of youth for their advocating human rights. The self-explanatory advocacy model has been presented in the figure 6.21

Vision: To enhance the youth initiative to promote human rights and create a human rights friendly society

Mission

- To inculcate human rights culture in to the society
- To evolve a violation free society
- To strengthen and restore human rights protective mechanism
- To involve in the process of empowerment through Human Rights Education

Right Based Approach: Youth have an active role in involvement of the process of implementing the activities for promoting human rights. The programmes are based on the need and welfare of the community and adopt community intervention strategies to resolve the violations. Identifying the root causes of deprivation and focus on those who have a stake in keeping people poor or power to change the situation. It also aims to incorporate knowledge and opinion of community people in the planning and management of the programmes and activities of human rights defenders.



Activities:

Anti-oppressive Practice: This is needed to reduce oppressive power structure, which requires skills at the macro and micro levels. Identify the human rights violations will be a major challenge of the youth in the community. Introducing dispute

resolution mechanism is also part of the anti- oppressive practice.

▪ **Identifying the violations:** Human rights surveys to identify the forms of human rights violations in the community: Mapping of human rights violations to find the trend and incidents of human rights violations. And problem tree analysis is used to analyse the cause effect relationship of human rights violations.

▪ **Dispute Resolution Mechanisms:** The advocacy model introduces some dispute resolution mechanisms for the community as legal clinics for providing legal aid service to the needy people in the community, legal Adalat for resolving the disputes prevailing in the community and litigation, to enhance the community people to take part in the legislative process in order to attain justice.

Strengthening and Restoration Perspective: The advocacy model has number of the activities for strengthening and restoring human rights mechanisms:

▪ **Networking with human rights NGOs':** Non-governmental organisations provide service to protect and promote human rights by using the man power of NSS volunteers and NYK club members in order to identifying the problems and implementing resolution strategies into the community. NGOs provide expertise to NSS volunteers and NYK club member by means of training and introducing monitoring practices.

▪ **Lobbying with Local self- bodies:** Including human rights in the welfare activities of Local bodies , enhancing public participation and social auditing

• **Formation of local human rights forums:** The advocacy model enhances the need for forming human rights forums in villages. It is essential for monitoring human rights violations and also act as parallel service provider for protecting human rights. It has to include representatives of PRIs, social activists, reformers, and leaders.

Empowerment Perspective: the emancipation of community through human rights education is the process of empowerment. Human rights education is the necessary pre-condition for sustainable development.

▪ **Awareness Campaigns:** Methods of inculcating human rights consciousness in the society is Developing posters, Collate, newsletters, pamphlets and audio visual aids to create human rights awareness among the community

▪ **Legal clinic:** Introducing legal clinics in the villages for providing legal awareness and legal aid services to mass.

▪ **Celebration of Important days:** To spread the message and enhance the importance of particular days especially human rights day, child rights day. Women days. Old age day etc. Street Plays, Human rights Songs, theme presentation, and dramatization are main strategies for the commemorations.

▪ **Media Campaign:** Use of media for creating human right awareness among the community. Introducing the programmes and messages on human rights through community radio, television channels and social networking sites.

Expected Out-Come:

- Human rights friendly society
- Internalize with the values of human rights
- Sustainability with human rights enrichment

Monitoring and Evaluation

Human rights advocacy model proposes the same techniques for monitoring and evaluation of the programmes proposed in the community. Developing an evaluation frame work for Human Rights Learning and Practice (HRLAP) analysis.

SWOC Analysis: It is an evaluation tool to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of the HRAM in the community with programmes of NSS and NYK

SMART Analysis: Monitoring of human rights advocacy model is the challenge of the organization. Activities in the HRAM are specific with concrete, detailed, well defined vision and mission. It has to be measurable with numbers, quantity and comparison; achievable by means of feasible and actionable effort of youth. The activities of the HRAM are also to be realistic and time bound.

Use of HRAAS: Human rights awareness and advocacy scale can be used for evaluating the human rights awareness and advocacy effort of community people to promote human rights.

The effective implementation of advocacy model for human rights protection and promotion helps the youth to think critically about the human rights issues in the society. The model mainly concentrates to make youth the defenders of human rights and assist them to maintain peace and harmony in the society.

Other Implications and Policy Recommendation for Human Rights Protection

The study recommended some more implication strategies for protecting and promoting human rights culture among youth through various government and non government organization. All these strategies were depicted here as follows;

- Human Rights Education (HRE) can act as a defence against human rights violation as negative relation between these two. It can change attitudes and behaviours and aim to provide an understanding of issues, can equip people with the skills to articulate their rights, and can communicate this knowledge to others. Hence there is an urgent need to impart human right education [9]. Human rights should be school, college and university curriculum. Self Help Groups, *Anganvadies*, and youth clubs can be made channels to promote human rights education [10]. The knowledge and skill on human rights can be imparted to its members and NGOs, Panchayath Raj Institutions (PRIs) [14] and local bodies can also take steps to create awareness about human rights among the marginalized groups. Human rights education should be made compulsory for the civil servants including police and other law enforcement personnel
- Human rights protective mechanisms should be viable and people friendly. Measures should be to improve the functioning of KSHRC. Its services should reach out to

the downstairs of the society[13]. Speedy and just trial system has to be developed. Legal aid service of KELSA has to be monitored. The services have to reach the right person at the right time. Appropriate and speedy implementations of the decisions of Lok Adalat should be made.

- Protection of Human Rights Acts 1993 has provision for human rights courts but the implementation of these courts is still on papers in Kerala. It helps to dispose the cases at the earliest and human rights violations can be reduced.
- Community based human rights protection forums should be organised at grass root level. This can be constituted at panchayath level with due representation of villages leaders, social workers, elected representatives as part of dispute resolution and grievance redressal mechanisms.
- The initiative of Voluntary organisations has to be enriched with the activities and networking to reach people of all walks of life. The campaign and networking need to be aimed at strengthening and reinforcing monitoring, interventions and rehabilitation. It has also been aiming at various measures and policy changes to ensure human rights.
- Introduce human rights in the training programmes of Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). Conducted special programmes for youth volunteer through KILA and State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD)
- The concept of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) has to be implemented in the all developmental policies and programmes. People's participation in policy making is essential for democratic good governance. Authority should be transparent and accountable to its citizen.
- The programmes of NSS with the content on human rights especially in regular as well as special camping activities. Special lecture session can be arranged on human rights during the camps for ensuring the relevance of human rights protection and also the cases of human rights violations can be identified. The sessions can be held on collective rights of peoples, gender justice, right to environment and health, consumer rights, social and economic rights and Motor vehicle Act etc. The NSS volunteers should take efforts for disseminating knowledge on human rights in the adopted Villages. Create human rights protection as motto of NSS and implement it into the action plan of the yearly programmes.
- Protection of human rights has to be added in the agenda of NYK. Human Rights training programmes is essential to NYK club members to enrich them with the knowledge and skills for handling human rights issues.
- Combined effort of NSS and NYK can create a violation free society. NSS volunteers have to take part in activities of NYK and vice versa. It leads to develop a socialized way to protect the rights of themselves and others

- Media advocacy on human rights leads to spreading awareness among the community. Use of community radio, television and other audio visual aid can help to propagate knowledge on human rights.
- Litigation is a way to protect the rights of the people. Citizens have to reach out to the legislative process. Citizen friendly legal service has to develop. Speedy trial and resolution mechanism has to be adopted. Make people free from fear on
- law providing authority such as police and court.

Conclusion

The youth involvement in the process for protecting and promoting human rights has been highlighted in the study. The action orientation for human rights among youth were inserted through the internalizing them with the human rights culture. The study revealed that human rights awareness of youth and their effort to promote and protect human rights protection were interrelated to each other because awareness can influence their advocacy effort. Human rights based approach is needed in the implementation of youth welfare policies and programmes because youth is considered agent for progressive social change. An advocacy model for youth has been evolved on the basis of the activities on youth welfare policies and programmes in India, especially the programmes because the activities of NSS and NYK is for the well-being of youth with their involvement in the process of community development.

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