

*Full Length Research*

## Human Rights, and Cultural impact on Indo-Iran Relations

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Human rights are the basic entitlements, bestowed upon each and every human being by virtue of birth. They are usually known as inalienable fundamental rights “to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being,” and which are “inherent in all human beings” regardless of their nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. Both Human Rights and Culture have played a decisive role to cement the Indo-Iran relations before and after independence. In Islamic society the Human Rights and culture are the basic standards of life and India is a secular country where all Human Rights are reserved for its citizens in the form of fundamental rights. After the dawn of Islamic revolution of Iran in 1979, under the auspicious leadership of Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeini, Iran is following the dogmas of Islam which are based on Peace, Love, Justice, brotherhood, unity, equality, freedom, fraternity, cooperation, morality, strong belief on Almighty and truthfulness, which lead Human Society to a happy and prosperous life where as India is a secular country in which all religions are treated equally. The impact of Human Rights and culture on Indo-Iran relations traced back to some hundred years ago. Human Rights and Cultural relationship between these two countries has a long beautiful past. The multidimensional contacts between these two countries have brought them very close to each other. The letters exchanged between Mughal Indians and Iranian Safavid rulers have a proof of deep ties, friendship and concord with each other's houses. Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once quoted that “Iranians were among the oldest people of the world and that the life and culture of India has been influenced a lot by Iranian Civilization and culture”.

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### INTRODUCTION

Human Rights and Cultural impact on Indo-Iran relations have deep connections. Human Rights can be defined as a set of rules and regulations that helps a man to live peaceful life in a society. Human rights are the basic claims and entitlements, bestowed upon each and every human being by virtue of birth. Human Rights are moral principles or norms, which describe certain standards of human behavior, and are regularly protected

as legal rights in both national and international law' as they are usually known as inalienable fundamental rights “to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being” and which are “inherent in all human beings” regardless of their nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. Human Rights may include freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution. Every person in

this world has its own rights like as right to life, liberty and equality in his society. Human rights are universal values and legal guarantees that serves and gives protection to all individuals and groups against actions and omissions primarily by the state agents that interfere with fundamental freedoms, entitlements and human dignity. Human right law obliges Governments (principally) and other duty bearers to do certain things prevent them from doing others. Human rights are (law) any basic right or freedom to which all human beings are entitled and in whose exercise a Government may not interfere (including rights to life and liberty as well as freedom of thought and expression and equality before the law).

In the context of Indian society M.K Gandhi highlighted the Human Rights as related to the concept of Sarvodaya which means "Universal upliftment of man" and also called J.L Nehru's concept of human rights was "an unbroken continuity between the most modern and the most ancient phases of Hindu thought extending over three thousand years".

Indian constitution also provides 6 fundamental rights to its citizens like as (i) Right to equality (ii) Right to freedom (iii) Cultural and educational rights (iv) Right against exploitation (v) Right to freedom of religion (vi) Right to Constitutional remedies. These all concepts are asked on the basis of international law of Human Rights. The objectives of Indo- Iran relations are discussed as under.

- 1) To understand and analyze the impact of Human Rights and Culture on Indo-Iran relations.
- 2) To understand and analyze the Human Rights and Culture between these two countries.
- 3) To understand and analyze the Islamic way of Human Rights and Indian Human Rights concept.

## METHODOLOGY

For the aim of paper both published and unpublished secondary data has been applied. The data on "Human Rights, and Cultural impact on Indo-Iran Relations" were also analyzed and examined. The data is collected from various Research Journals of Political Science, Social Science Books and Articles.

## DISCUSSION

### Impact of Human Rights and Culture on Indo-Iran relations

Indo Iran relations have deep roots tracing back to two hundred thousand years ago. Both countries share

border till the Independence of India and after that there became two different countries as Pakistan and India and Pakistan border still touches the Iranian border. Once Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Quoted that "Iranians were among the oldest people of the world and that the life and culture of India has been influenced a lot by Iranian civilization and culture" it is clear that both the countries have had close ties in the culture, architecture, literary and artistic fields.

**Human Rights in Iran:** After the dawn of Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979 under the auspicious leadership of Grand Ayatollah Rohullah Khomeini throw out 2500 hundred years Shah's dictatorship from Iran, Iran adopted the Islamic principles in the form of Velayati Faqhi and gives Human Rights a new status in the Iranian nation. On the other hand Indian society adopted the secular principles in which all the religions are treated equally. In Indian society the constitution provides the six fundamental rights to its citizens.

Iranian society is fully Islamic which is based on the doctrines of Velayati Faqhi (Islamic Shari 'at Law) in which there the Citizens to have to follow of it, like as among women's they are required to cover their hair and body in Iran and can be arrested for not doing so.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Granddaughter of Ayatollah Khomeini Zahra Eshraghi "discrimination in Iran is not in the constitution. As a women, if I want to get a passport to leave the country, have a surgery, even to breathe almost, I must have permission from my Husband"<sup>2</sup>

### Freedom and expression and Media in Iran

Under article 24 of the Iranian constitution. It forbids and prohibits "disclosure harmful to the principle of Islam" and "public interest" according to which, Human Rights watch provides "officials with ample opportunity to sensor, restrict and find offence".<sup>3</sup>

### Freedom of equality of religion

Under Article 12 of the Iranian constitution, it recognizes the freedom to all religions like as freedom of Jewish, Zoroastrians and Christian to perform their religious rites and ceremonies, and agrees non-Shia Muslims "full respect". Even if the Bahia faith is banned.<sup>4</sup> Iran stated that Bahia or their leadership are "an unorganized establishment as liked to foreigners, the Zionist in particular, "that threaten Iran".<sup>5</sup>

The Iranian Human Rights are derived from the Islamic Sharia's and it is not necessary that they are always in compliance with International norms of Human rights.

Under Iranian penal code, there are two types of punishments for criminals like as *Hudud* (fixed punishment) and *Qisas* (retribution/ penalty). These people who does crime is against state like as Alcohol,

consumption, adultery, burglary or petty theft, rebellions and against Islamic authority, apostasy and homosexual intercourse are falling under the *Hudud* category. Their punishments include death by hanging, stoning<sup>6</sup> or amputation or decapitation. Other victim crimes such as murder or rape can exercise a right to retribution (Qisas) or decide to accept "blood Money" (Diyah or Talian Law)

### Human Rights in India

In Indian context Human Rights were related to the concept of Sarvodaya means "Universal upliftment of man" as called by M.K Gandhi and also J.L Nehru's concept of human rights was "an unbroken continuity between the most modern and the most ancient phases of Hindu thought extending over three thousand years". The rights of man have been the concern of all civilizations from the time immemorial. "The concept of the rights of man and other fundamental rights was not unknown to the people of earlier periods" again M.K Gandhi said "I do not want to think in terms of the whole world. My patriotism includes the good of mankind in general. Therefore my service to India includes the services of Humanity" India constitution also provides 6 fundamental rights to its citizens like as (i) Right to equality (ii) Right to freedom (iii) Cultural and educational rights (iv) Right against exploitation (v) Right to freedom of religion (vi) Right to Constitutional remedies. These all concepts are asked on the basis of international law of Human Rights. Human Rights concept is very old in Indian society. These are the claims and demands of a person or a group of persons in a society which are accepted by the community or society as his basic norms of life. Human Rights are commonly bestowed upon each and every Individual by virtue of birth. These rights are like as all men, women and children are treated with respect to dignity, honor and status like as Human beings in our community or society, it is our birth right that all of us should be given equal attention and treatment and should not be discriminated on the basis of sex, religion, caste, color, gender or any other thing else.

### Cultural impact

Once Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Quoted that "Iranians were among the oldest people of the world and that the life and culture of India has been influenced a lot by Iranian civilization and culture" it is clear that both the countries have had close ties in the culture, architecture, literary and artistic fields. Both the countries have deep rooted cultural contacts even before the dawn of Islam and after that. During the reign of Ghori dynasty in India the Iran Architecture was its favorite feature. Qutab Minaret and Qovvat-ol-Islam Masjids are some great examples of it. Before it the archeological

findings of India are same to those of found at the Iranian plateau and Mesopotamia. Once Aurangzeb quoted "no nation is better than the Persians".

After the Independence of India, the cultural relations have always been friendly between the two countries. The high level official visits between these two countries have made their relations stronger than ever and get them closer to each other. Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, when visited Tehran along with his daughter Smt Indira Gandhi and said repeatedly in his speeches that it was his earnest desire to visit to Iran because the Indians have been influenced by the Persian civilization more than any other civilization of the world among all other nations of the world. The Persian soul came to India in the form of Taj Mahal, the great master piece of Persian art and architecture. Ronald Ferrier mentions "the growing importance of Agra", thus: "An indication of the rising power of the Mughals was the growing importance of Agra, which had become a great resort of merchants from Persia and out of India, and very much merchandise, silk and cloth and of precious stones both rubies and diamonds and pearls

### CONCLUSION

Human Rights and cultural impact on Indo- Iran relations have influenced both countries in past and present. Both the countries have some common features in their Human and cultural rights like as right to education, freedom of expression etc. and also both the countries have severe punishments for same type of crime. Both the countries are providing equal Human and cultural rights to their citizens. Their relations have deep roots and impact on each other's society and country.

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