Progressive Education Society's

Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), Shivajinagar, Pune-05

MOOC Course - Human Rights- I

Subject Code - 23CpHrtP101

PG Part -I Credit -1

Lecture -1

Contents Covered in this PPT: Background and Introduction to Human Rights, Syllabus

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I) Basic Concept

a) Human Values: Dignity, Liberty, Equality, Justice, Unity in Diversity, Ethics and Morals

b) Meaning and significance of Human Rights Education

II) Perspectives of Rights and Duties

a) Rights: Inherent-Inalienable-Universal- Individual and Groups

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III) United Nations and Human Rights

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b) Provisions of the Charter of the United Nations

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Unit I- Basic Concept

> **Philosophical Foundation:** Philosophy deals with fundamental human problems such as existence, knowledge, values, reasons, mind, and language.

> **Impact on Law:** Law aims to regulate human relations, resolve conflicts, and promote peace, security, and orderly behaviour by drawing on critical tools from various fields of study.

> **Role of Values:** Values such as dignity, liberty, equality, justice, ethics, and morals directly impact the realisation, promotion, and protection of human rights.





A) Human Values & Their Significance

> **Definition & Function:** Values are subjective beliefs that motivate people to achieve goals, transcend time and territory, and regulate behavioural patterns.

> **Universal vs. Personal Values:** While individual values vary by experience, common basic values (life, liberty, security, kindness) foster a peaceful society and teach living with **unity in diversity**.

> **Core Motivational Values:** Psychologist Milton Rokeach notes that the value concept unifies the diverse interests of human behaviour sciences. Scholars identify ten primary human values, including *achievement, power, security, conformity, tradition, religion, benevolence, and universalism*.





Key Core Values - Dignity, Liberty & Equality

> Dignity:

- A relative, regulatory term prescribing ethical norms and standards where individuals must treat each other honestly without causing emotional, psychological, or physical harm.
- Article 1 of the UDHR affirms that all individuals are equal before the law and deserve respect without undermining others' dignity.

> Liberty:

- Rooted in political philosophy (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau); means humans are free to regulate their relations but remain responsible/duty-bound for their acts.
- Unchecked, indiscriminate exercise of liberty without duty brings world miseries; self-restraint is essential.

> Equality:

- *Formal Equality:* Treating all people under one category and applying law without distinction.
- *Substantive Reality:* Because of socio-economic, political, and cultural gaps, states must extend special concessions and facilities to disadvantaged groups to bring them to equal status.

Justice, Ethics, Morals & Unity in Diversity

> Justice:

Defined as righteousness and fair treatment on equitable grounds; Plato considered justice the highest value, requiring conditions for individuals to realise rights and discharge duties.

> Ethics and Morals:

- *Morals* concern an individual's character.
- *Ethics* focus on social systems and group codes of conduct (normative science differentiating right/ wrong).

> Unity in Diversity:

- Emphasises that people of diverse backgrounds must live like a single family under a single legal roof governed by a State.
- It reflects the ancient Indian ideal of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** ("the world is one family") to achieve a conflict-free society.

Meaning & Significance of Human Rights Education

> **Definition:** Defined in the UN Decade document for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) as "a lifelong process by which people at all levels of development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies."

> **Significance:** Imparting human rights education promotes democracy, rule of law, social justice, peace, security, and sustainable socio-economic development.

Objectives & Vital Models of Human Rights Education

> Core Objectives:

1. Promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
2. Foster understanding, tolerance, gender equality, and friendship among all nations, eliminating racial, ethnic, religious, and linguistic differences.

> Three Vital Operational Models:

1. **Values and Awareness Model:** Focuses on transmitting basic knowledge of human rights and integrating them into public educational curricula.
2. **Accountability Model:** Focuses on professional responsibilities to monitor human rights violations and advocate for public protection.
3. **Transformational Model:** Aims to empower individuals to recognise human rights abuses and prevent them.