

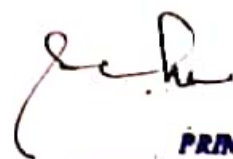
PROJECT REPORT

Title: Human Rights Movements in India

Human rights movement in India got its germination during the Emergency Rule during 1975–1977 and developed during the post Emergency period. Two major trends were marked by Civil liberties concerns and the rights based perspectives. In the last 35 years, the human rights movement has been enriched by collective wisdom emerging from the tribal movement, peasant struggles, environmental movement, women's liberation movement, child rights movement, dalit movement and struggles of the differently abled persons. The state and the mainstream institutions have had love hate relationships with different types of human rights movements at different phases of history.

In India, the last quarter of the 20th century has been witness to a growing recognition of the place and relevance of human rights due to pressure from various social movements. It is axiomatic that this interest in human rights is rooted in the denial of life and liberty that was a pervasive aspect of the emergency (1975–77). The mass arrests of the leaders of the opposition and the targeted apprehension of those who could present a challenge to an authoritarian state are some of the dominant images that have survived. The involuntary disappearance of Rajan in Kerala is more than a symbol of the excesses of unbridled power. Forced evictions carried out in Delhi in what is known as 'Turkman Gate' conjures up visions of large-scale razing of dwellings of those without economic clout, and of their displacement into what were the outlying areas of the city. The catastrophic programme of barbaric mass sterilisation is an indelible part of emergency memory. The civil liberties movement was a product of the emergency. Arbitrary detention, custodial violence, prisons and the use of the judicial process were on the agenda of the civil liberties movement. For past three decades, peasant movements, tribal movements, dalit movements, backward caste movements, women's movements, working class movements,


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