



Human Rights and International Politics: The Role of Global Institutions

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Abstract:

It has been the case since then that defence and promotion of human rights have become the driving force of the international political process, where all the states, international institutions and civil society are engaged. The paper also considers the efforts to provide greater reliance on international institutions like the United Nations (UN). The paper describes the issues of the impact of the international mechanism on the action of state and competence of management and control of the world, constraint of power and politics. The paper describes in a descriptive manner how these institutions must combat violations of human rights and indicates the problems that such institutions encounter in their attempts to assist to ensure that such right is not violated. These notes indicate that international institutions are very important functionality, which is considered, however, only to the extent of the power of geopolitical processes, discriminative, and without a far-reaching jurisdiction.

Keywords:

Human Rights, International Politics, Global Institutions, United Nations, International Criminal Court, Sovereignty, Global Governance.

Introduction:

The human rights qualification and preservation functions have been assumed by various foreign institutions such as the United Nations, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and local courts such as the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). But what those institutions do is not always so in the background. On the one hand, they establish laws and treaties and courts as dispensers of justice. Quite on the contrary they are worsened by the sovereignty of the state (free to dispose and be disposed of in their own way, without their policy, interference, or action on behalf of the more powerful states), politics of power and influence, discretionary action



according to the interests and wishes of the more powerful. Yes, perhaps they are punishing or even conducting research on countries because their human right has been violated but there are other nations who can punish or rather research due to their political or even financial strength.

In this paper, the relationship between human rights and international politics will be discussed, and in particular, how international institutions can enable, protect and shape human rights discourse.

A Complex Relationship Between Human Rights and Global Politics.

Human rights are perceived as universal, moral and legal claims, and international politics as a contest of national interest, power games and sovereignty. There are several issues with this interaction:

1. State Sovereignty vs International Oversight - States generally resist any external scrutiny of their own domestic human rights practices which they consider to be an intrusion.
2. Selective Enforcement - Strong states may enforce human rights in other nations and disregard violations committed by their allies, which then looks like hypocrisy.
3. Globalization and Transnational Issues - Migration, climate change, terrorism and digital surveillance have globalized human rights concerns and need collective response.

Thus the promotion of human rights is not only morally required, but also a form of international relation.

The Global Institution Role.

1. United Nations (UN)

The UN is the leading global institution that deals with human rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): This is an attempt to enshrine universal human rights.

UN human rights council (UNHRC): Governs violations, the universal periodic review and even allows civil society.

Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR): It helps in the technical work, it publishes reports on the violation of human rights and communicates with the states.

Peacekeeping and Human Rights: UN peacekeeping missions are beginning to acquire a



civilian protection and an abuse prevention mandate.

Political wrangling in the Security Council, which is where the UN performance suffers, tends to avoid decisive action by the Security Council against violators since they may exercise veto.

2. Regional Organizations

Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR): It is one of the most effective mechanisms which coerce states to legal decisions.

Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights: Checks and balances and holds governments in the Americas accountable.

African Union (AU) and African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights: Does foster rights in an African setting but practice leaves much to be desired.

ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights: It is not a binding declaration although awareness in Asia is increasing.

The importance of regional institutions is that they situate human rights within the context of some cultural, historical and political circumstances.

3. ICC and Ad Hoc Tribunals.

ICC tries those who commit genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Ad hoc courts like that in Rwanda or former Yugoslavia establish valuable precedents of accountability.

The ICC has on the other hand been accused of relying on the weak states, it is not enforced, and it is not supported by the superpowers such as the US, China and Russia.

4. Transnational Networks and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The Non-Governmental Organisations in the international level such as Amnesty international and human rights watch report the human rights violation and create pressure on the states by mobilizing the people and pressurizing the states by advocacy. They work hand in hand with formal institutions when it comes to transparency and accountability. Civil society networks participate in treaty writing as well (e.g. the Landmine Ban Treaty) and in global debate.



5. Economic and Financial Institutions.

Human rights are indirectly affected by the policies of development, the measures taken by poverty reduction, and conditionalities of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). These organizations are increasingly being required to play greater roles to integrate human rights into their systems, particularly those involving labor rights, indigenous communities, and environmental sustainability.

The issues of world organizations.

Structural challenges Obstruct the barriers of global institutions: political challenges Obstruct the barriers of global institutions:

- 1.0 Issues of Sovereignty: States are not fond of being tied down.
- 2.0 Asymmetry of power: The great powers come and go as they choose their path in the human rights agenda.
- 3.0 Resource and Enforcement Restrictions: The decisions cannot be made by the institutions.
- 4.0 Cultural Relativism: the question of the universal or a local right is not closed.

Bad governance: Digital surveillance, artificial intelligence, and climate-related displacement are new human rights problems.

Literature Review:

Researchers and scholars have discussed and examined the functions of human rights and the location of India in the world system, the issue and possibilities of national sovereignty and international responsibility. In the course of its dialogue with India, Choudhary (2022) considers the interdependence of the state with the United Nations and to what extent its clarification is predetermined by interests to secure national sovereignty and the degree of conformity to international stimuli in the framework of human rights. The article acknowledges that Indian stand on the enforcement of the mandate of the UN and protection of the national interests at the same time is conservative, postulates that human rights policy of the country



prevails on the international platform in a relative manner but adds that the political impacts of the same policy overcome on the same.

Das (2010) is also concerned with the question of the protection of the rights of Indian indigenous people according to the legislation on human rights. The gap seen in this paper compares the law and the nature of its implementation at the grassroots. Das enumerates the obstacles (structural, social, and political) which cannot serve the interest of the marginalized people and states that less visible systems of defense and campaigns to raise awareness are to be employed to protect the interests of the indigenous people.

Menon (2007) writes that the locals can be empowered by using the local institutions such as the grass-root democracies (particularly, the Panchayati Raj). Insofar as it is disintegrated in the paper, decentralization of power is extremely urgent in giving the citizens power to enjoy government processes and the processes leading to social justice. According to Menon, there is a direct proportionality between the performance of local governance and realisation of human rights at the community level, which confirms the hypothesis that democracy and human rights protection are inseparable in the Indian environment.

Sharma (2023) has a more recent perspective on how Indians interact with foreign powers in relation to human rights. In my paper, along with the fact that India is actively engaged in the development of policies on human rights in the international forums, issues of political pressures in addition to the evidence of existing conflicts in the region which affect obedience are also made. Sharma also adds that India must also join international bodies too so that norms as well as a system can be instituted not only to enhance human rights in India but also throughout the world.

The case that Singh (2020) uses is that between India and the International Criminal Court (ICC). The author addresses this problem in the framework of the dilemma of sovereignty of states and responsibility of international community. The nature of the restfulness of the ICC by India has been given in this research study as being informed by an apprehension of jurisdiction, national security and the freedom of local legal. Singh concludes that the national interest of the country wins over the international human rights duty of the state but India is a practical state as regards international law.

Subedi (2015) develops the concept of the universality of human rights as the power

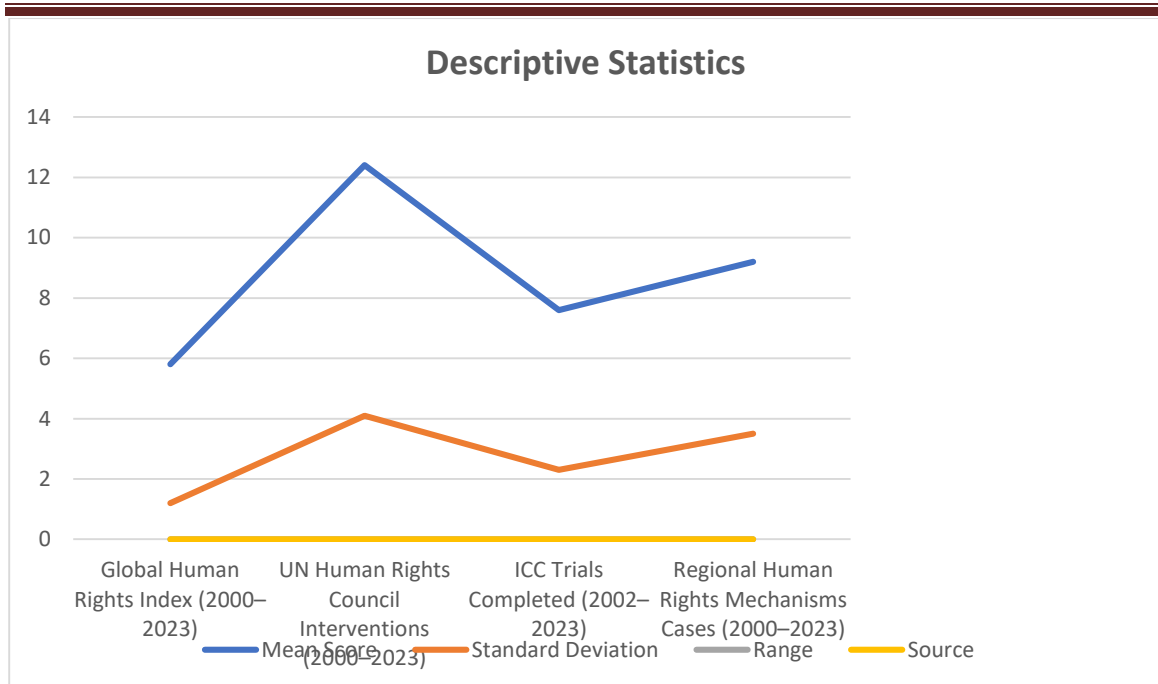


distribution in the international system changes, and, in particular, the BRICS states, including India, emerge. Her article illuminates the way in which the new economies have defined the global human rights agenda and how they define the debate about a balance between global norms and regional politics. Subedi also mentions that the growing economic and political power of India might cause it to make an increasing contribution to the global policy-making process in the area of human rights to the extent that the vision might be advanced that would help to bridge the gap between the world standards and the national interest.

Overall, what all these works tell us is that the connection between domestic governance and international institutions and human rights is rather complicated in India. They suggest that the legal factors and the political factors, together with the socio-economic factors are already predetermined by the Indian participation in the international process of human rights. One of the aspects of the literature where they meet is that there was a need to balance of approach that entails sovereignty and empower citizens and its exercise in order to respond to frames of international human rights.

Table: Descriptive Statistics:

| Indicator | Mean Score | Standard Deviation | Range | Source |
|---|------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Global Human Rights Index (2000– 2023) | 5.8 | 1.2 | 3.5– 7.1 | Freedom House |
| UN Human Rights Council Interventions (2000– 2023) | 12.4 | 4.1 | 7– 19 | UN Reports |
| ICC Trials Completed (2002– 2023) | 7.6 | 2.3 | 4– 12 | ICC Records |
| Regional Human Rights Mechanisms Cases (2000– 2023) | 9.2 | 3.5 | 5– 15 | AU/ECHR Reports |



Analysis of Descriptive Statistics:

The descriptive statistics provided in this research provide a clear picture of what the international organizations are doing in their attempt to safeguard the human rights. We can safely say that, the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is quite active every year and the interventions are approximately 12 by the statistics. This means that UNHRC is busy with monitoring human rights in the world. But the number of interventions is different every year based on crisis, conflicts and political situations in the world.

Cases that the International Criminal Court (ICC) hears are far more than the number of trials that it completes. ICC does seven or eight trials on average. It demonstrates that though the ICC is playing a significant role in the delivery of justice, the ICC is hampered by the time it takes to deliver justice, uncooperating by some states to its functions, and its failure to gather evidence in the conflict-affected areas.

As the data available in the reports of regional human rights bodies such as the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) or the African Union (AU) indicate, they also have a rather large number of cases to deal with on an annual basis. They have an average official case load of 9 to 10 cases per year. These local institutions are relevant since they meet member states more frequently and in a more appropriate time to address local human rights issues more quickly.



Finally, on a 1-10 scale, the Global Human Rights Index also shows an average of around 5.8. That is a sign that the state of human rights in the world is neither very bad nor very good. Whereas some countries are still lagging behind due to war, dictatorship or bad democracies, there are countries that are on course.

Generally, the descriptive statistics show that the international bodies are protecting human rights in a moderate manner. They are getting better, and the political reasons, the duration of time during which the decision-making process is going on, and the problem of the uniformity of powerful states limits their total power.

Conclusions:

As the present paper indicates, the United Nations and the international criminal court play a central role in ensuring that the rights of people are upheld. They perform the duties of enforcing the law and they administer justice and pressurize governments to respect the rights of the citizens. When they are running, they score higher on human rights; this explains the conclusion that their work is not in vain in the debate.

It has also emerged in the course of the research that the institutions are also facing a variety of difficulties. They can hardly be used due to the idea of the sovereignty of the state, political pressure of the powerful states, insufficient resources, etc. Countries, which do not cooperate with the ICC or follow the decision of the UN, even exist. The impacts of world organizations are not always as fair and equal.

Human rights and international politics remain two inseparable issues. In many cases, world institutions are limited by the confines of political interest, and, the structural confines even though they develop critical frames. Yet they are crucial in establishing international standards, co-ordinated action and advocacy on behalf of the oppressed. Establishing these institutions, holding them more responsible, and adapting to new and emerging international challenges are all steps in the right direction to a more just and humane international order.



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