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Interventional approach for awareness creation among urban women

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Abstract

Feminism is a critical social movement that challenges and ultimately aims to breakdown, the patriarchal structures of society. It means different things to different people at different times and has many overlaps, for example, the suffrage movement and the right to inheritance have been central themes at different times. Women have been identified as key agents of sustainable development since times immemorial and women's equality and empowerment are seen as central to a more holistic approach for establishing new patterns and processes of sustainable development. Women account for nearly half of India's overall population. However, gender inequality and discrimination are the main characteristics of Indian society. They have been deprived of equal rights for centuries. Women, in general, are afflicted and their social conditions are deplorable. Women in our society have been the victims of humiliation, torture, and exploitation irrespective of the fact that they were also worshiped. A variety of social ills have resulted in the deprivation of women. In modern India, however, some improvement has taken place in the status of women. For improvement of women's status human rights awareness acts as a catalyst to effect of positive changes among urban women.

Keywords: Human rights awareness, urban human rights

Introduction

Women are becoming the majority in urban areas, and lots of people live in female-headed households. Women's experiences in urban areas vary depending on their scenario and profiles, e.g., age, living space—largely determined by wealth, education levels, household profile, and GSDRC Helpdesk Research Report responsibilities (e.g., head of the family, married or multi-generational households), and networks and health. Over the past decade, India has been close to the lowest of the global rankings, as far as woman's participation with inside the urban workforce is concerned.

Human rights confer the fundamental freedoms and basic liberties without which men, women, and children can't stay with respect and dignity. Basic to human rights are the values of non-discrimination and equality, which contribute to constructing a culture of peace in society. In the present study, an attempt has been made to investigate the human rights awareness of rural and urban women of the Samastipur district of Bihar

Knowledge of freedom and rights is taken into consideration as an essential device to assure admiration for the rights of all. Education must embody values along with peace, tolerance, and admiration for human dignity.

Human rights are fundamental rights everyone has by being human. They are inherent and inalienable in every person regardless of their status in any society. Human rights cannot be granted or withdrawn or suppressed. In the introduction to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, it was proclaimed as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. That every man or woman and each organ of society, preserving this declaration constantly in mind, shall attempt through teaching and education to promote respect for those rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition (UDHR: proclamation).

The declining urban woman labour participation rate in India fell to its lowest in November at 6.9 percent since the data was first computed in 2016. This trend is against expectations as urban women are more educated and there are better job opportunities in urban India, says the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Further, the women workforce suffered 13.9 percent of the job losses in April 2020.

“By November 2020, men recovered maximum of their lost jobs however women have been much less fortunate with 49 percent of the job losses by November were of women,” CMIE said Urban environments offer benefits for education in comparison to rural regions, but there are obstacles, particularly for women from poor urban households. Educating women is a low priority, mainly when help is needed in domestic chores or income generation (Chant & McIlwaine, 2016).

Urban environments offer educational benefits over rural areas, but there are obstacles, especially for girls from poor urban households. Educating girls is a low priority, especially when help is needed for household chores or income generation (Chant & McIlwaine, 2016). In slums, after-school studies are often limited by a lack of space, peace, light, and other infrastructure (Chant & McIlwaine, 2013). This reflects the persistent gaps in "human capital" (e.g., education, occupational skills, and training) in urban contexts. Gender-based violence is central to the analysis of women's economic empowerment, especially in urban areas, where gender norms may be challenged., 2013). This reflects persistent gaps in 'human capital' (e.g. education, vocational skills, and training) found in urban contexts. Gender-based violence is a core area of focus in analysing women's economic empowerment, and in urban settings, more particularly, where gender norms may be challenged. Reichlin and Shaw (2015) report that educated women are more likely to delay marriage and childbirth are healthier, typically hold more power in their homes, and have fewer children, which, in turn, tend to be healthier and better educated. Girls in urban areas tend to have a greater advantage than girls in rural areas. Urbanization can offer girls and women, educational opportunities as well as employment, which is unavailable in rural areas. In the present study, an attempt had been made to investigate with the following.

Objectives: 1) To measure the level of human rights awareness among urban women

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in the Samastipur district of Bihar because the selected district has block with low literacy rate, especially among rural women as compared to women in the municipal area. There are two rural blocks namely Pusa and Kalyanpur and two municipal areas namely Kashipur and Dharampur were selected randomly. From each selected block one hundred five (105) rural women and from each municipal area one hundred five (105) urban women were selected randomly, thus a total of four hundred and twenty (420) was the sample size for the present study.

This study primarily focused on urban women. A standardized Human Rights Awareness Test by Vishal Sood & Anand (2020) and developed interventional packages like poster, folder, video, and counselling sessions were provided to create awareness among urban women to empower them. The data were analysed and interpreted before and after the intervention z-test was used (Lal, *et al.*, 2015) ^[9] to compare the urban women with rural women.

$$z = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2 - \Delta}{\sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2_1}{n_1} + \frac{\sigma^2_2}{n_2}}}$$

\bar{x}_1 and \bar{x}_2 are the mean of the two samples, Δ is the hypothesized difference between the population means (here, we taken it 0), are the standard deviation of the two populations, and n_1 and n_2 are the sizes of the sample.

Results and Discussion

The data were analysed and interpreted before and after intervention of urban women. The mean score, standard deviation, and z-test were used for statistical analysis of the entire sample, were calculated to classify human rights awareness into different levels namely Extremely high, high, above average, average, below average, low and extremely low. Comparatively discussed between before introduction of intervention (pre-urban) package and after the introduction of intervention (post-urban) package in urban women.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to before and after intervention of urban women (N=210)

Sl. No.	Categories	Range	Before the intervention of Urban women		After the intervention of Urban women	
			Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Extremely High	98-100	0	0.00	0	0.00
2.	High	88-97	0	0.00	11	5.24
3.	Above average	77-87	0	0.00	121	57.62
4.	Average	63-76	60	28.57	73	34.75
5.	Below average	53-62	116	55.23	5	2.38
6.	Low	52-42	34	16.19	0.00	0.00
7.	Extremely Low	<41	0.00	0,00	0.00	0.00

The intriguing information in the Table 1 demonstrated the level of awareness of human rights among pre-urban (n=210) before intervention and post-urban (n=210) after the intervention in the Human Rights Awareness test. The awareness level of human rights among urban women before the introduction of intervention package, found to be a majority (55.23 percent) of urban women lay in 'Below Average', followed by 28.57 percent had an 'Average' Human-level awareness, Moreover, 16.19 percent of the urban women had a 'Low' level of awareness before intervention package was introduced, which was at the bottommost of the stratum classification

In context with post-urban women after intervention introduction of a package developed by us to improve Human

rights awareness, the data set revealed that the majority of urban women 57.62 percent lied in an 'Above average' level of awareness of human rights which was a way ahead of increment from initial 0 percent of 'Above Average' awareness among urban women after the intervention, followed by 34.75 percent of the post-rural women had an 'Average' level of awareness which was an increment from previous before intervention urban data. While 5.24 percent had developed an outstanding 'High' level of awareness of human rights after the intervention and only 2.38 percent of the urban women population was in the "Below Average" category.

Furthermore, the data indicated that after the introduction of the intervention package there was a significant rise in

awareness about human rights in urban women which increased the mean score of 58.88 before intervention (pre-

test) to after intervention with a mean score of 78.05.

Table 2: Comparison between Human Rights Awareness level among urban women respondents before and after the intervention, (N=210)

Z-test Comparison	Urban Pre	Urban Post
Mean	58.88	78.05
Known Variance	35.49	45.79
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
z	-30.8234	
z Critical one-tail	1.644854	
z Critical two-tail	1.959964	

Z-test (two sample tests for mean) was used to determine whether there was a significant difference between the mean values of the Human Rights Awareness level after the intervention (Table 2). After applying the test, the results in Table 2 indicated that there was a significant difference due to intervention as Human Rights Awareness level increased in mean from 58.88 to 78.05 with a 'Z' value of -30.82 which was found to be negatively significant at 1% level. Statistically concluding, the 'Z' value of -30.82, which denotes that statistically, impact of intervention was evident in the urban areas

Urban women had a significant impact due to the intervention package as in rural areas unit increase was 78.05-58.88=19.17 which was highly laudable. This also reveals that the prevalence of Human Rights Awareness level post-intervention among the urban women is much higher than before the intervention and the difference was found to be highly significant at 1 percent level

Table 3: Comparison of the effect of intervention package in urban women before and after intervention (N=210)

	Before intervention of Urban women	After intervention of Urban women
Mean	58.88	78.05
Standard Deviation	5.972033631	6.766549546
Observation	210	210
df (degree of freedom)	209	
Standard mean error	0.412109473	0.46693628
Kurtosis	-0.266699995	0.431255545
Skewness	-0.226357554	-0.612438794

This table reveals that, before intervention mean score of urban women was 58.88 with a standard deviation of 5.972033631 which increased to 78.05 with a standard deviation of 6.766549546 after the invention package was introduced, in both the case the no. of observations was the same 210 and the degree of freedom (df) was 209. The standard mean error in the case before intervention was 0.412109473 and after intervention was 0.46693628. Kurtosis value before the intervention of urban women was -0.266699995 and after intervention 0.431255545, Skewness value before intervention was -0.226357554 and after intervention -0.612438794.

Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that, the human rights awareness among urban women showed that the majority of the respondent's "awareness of human rights was observed to be average and below average" before intervention. The result showed that there is a significant difference of 32.55 percent increase in the mean before and after intervention in urban women in the human rights awareness test. Hence, the role of

the intervention package developed by experts was a major factor that affected and increased their awareness of human rights. Thus, concludes that people in urban areas could be aware about human rights through the help of experts and an effective intervention package. An increase in 'Human Rights Awareness' decreases domestic violence, therefore there is a strong need to develop their human rights awareness level through various programmes which will help them to understand the human dignity, values, and rights.

Future Scope

Urban women's participation in economic activities and awareness about human rights are although higher than rural women's, but it got stagnated in urban areas. Employment is concentrated in semi-skilled and unskilled jobs, while desirable professional jobs in urban areas are mostly undertaken by men, which is the need of the hour to be distributed among urban women also.

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Conflict of Interest

None

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