

Education And Human Rights

Professor Syed Ali Naqi

“E DUCATION” as defined in the First World Conference on Muslim Education held in Makka, Saudi Arabia in 1977, “is the balanced growth of the total personality of man.” What is meant by the term ‘Human Right’? Human Right is the term we often use to signify the rights of human beings in this world in connection with family, society, country and the world at large. So it is closely inter connected with the social, religious, economic, cultural, political spheres of human life. Like all other animals of the universe a man is an animal because he is a living organism but he is a human being which he is to justify on earth. A man is born pure but he commits sins and crimes. It is natural on the part of a man sometimes to become corrupt, but if from his childhood he is trained in such a manner as to determine between right and wrong, truth and falsehood and realize his real status on earth then only he can know about the human rights. It is education that teaches a man from his childhood certain disciplines that guide him to realize his rights and to know the method to use those rights. There are certain innate values that every individual possesses but these values are to be development and it is education alone that can help develop these values. Proper education can train the sensibilities of the child in order to develop properly the values that help him understand himself and thus realize the duties and

responsibilities. It is the relationship between man and man that determines the rights. This human relationship is the basis of human rights.

Education And Human Rights

Education is the means through which a man can have the realization of his self that ultimately leads to the realization of the Human Rights. Of all the creatures on earth only man has been given certain independence which ultimately leads to the use of the Rights. Rights does not mean the right to do anything he likes. He is to obey the norms of the society he lives in, he is to obey certain political, economic disciplines of the state he belongs to. So a man has certain limitations. This limitation in fact does not put any barrier to his free thinking and freedom of right rather it disciplines his total being. Human Rights means a man has the full right to speak the truth to have full justice, to have the right of maintaining his own religion, he has the right to have education, right of security in the society. It is the responsibility of the state to guarantee these rights and it is the responsibility of the society to ensure these rights.

Religion As The Basis Of Human Rights

Unless a man is well aware of his values he can never assert his human rights because he will not know what are his rights and responsibilities.

There are certain innate faculties in every individual which he is to develop by inculcating his sensibilities through education. Truth, justice, piety, love all these qualities are not man made, rather these are God gifted and are ingrained in the souls of every individual when we look into a child. Every child has a sense of truth, love, justice and piety but gradually improper education and wrong training leads him to do injustice, cruelty, impiety and to lie. Religion is a discipline. Religious values are ingrained in training. It is only education that trains an individual in such a manner that he understands through his senses what is right and what is wrong. Religious connection has a justifiable basis. The spiritual entity in a human being cannot be considered as a social or political product, it is an inherent reality.

This reality is not an individually unique thing. Every individual has basically the same spiritual consciousness with intellect, imagination, intelligence and feelings and the same innate consciousness of supreme values such as truth and justice. So Human Rights is not a social or a political product as it is propounded by the secularists scholars rather it is an innate reality. It is the ‘Trust’ that Adam, the first man on earth accepted from Allah when he was given the power to assess his own ability. As the Quran says that Adami was taught the ‘Names’. It

means the knowledge that was infused into Adam by God through which Adam could accept the ‘Trust’ and could say the names of everything. So religion is the basis of Human Rights and it is education from the religious point of view that can alone train a man to understand the real truth of everything and thus could be aware of his rights and responsibilities on earth. An educated man could alone realize human rights and could know the right method of using these rights. An individual who is educated from the religious point of view could understand how much independence he is given by God. Human Rights does not mean the license to do anything a man likes. Rather it means the balanced rights or rights to be used in a balanced way in respect of other individual living in the society.

As against religious views the so called secularists have a different rather a materialistic view point about Human Rights. They contend that for man the world is an end in itself and so a man has liberty to do anything. The concept of liberty in a modern secularist world does vary from man to man. So the concept of Human Rights vary and naturally it leads to confusion among people leading to struggle among people, between nations. Unless value consciousness is there a man is subject to commit errors and to subject to selfishness.