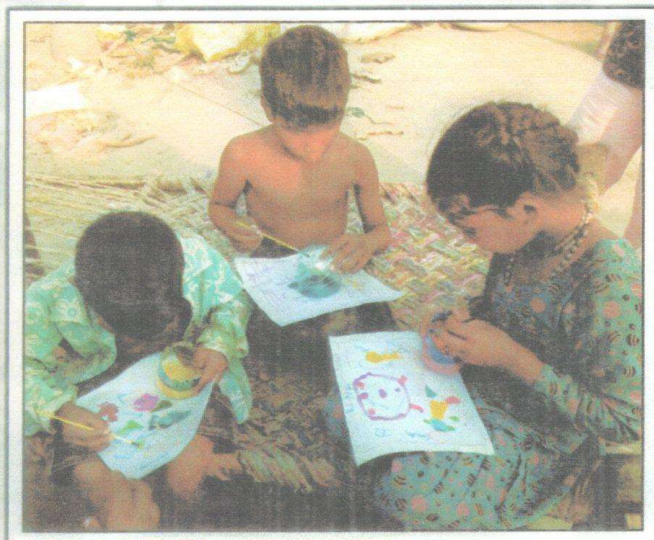


UNDERSTANDING
HUMAN RIGHTS
OF
MARGINALISED
CHILDREN
AND
WOMEN IN INDIA



Edited by
Dr. Anupma Kaushik

Understanding Human Rights of Marginalised Children and Women in India

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The constitution of India aims to establish a modern, developed, egalitarian, democratic welfare country where every citizen enjoys a good life with ample opportunities for personal growth and well-being. Hence the constitution guarantees various fundamental rights to its citizens in a democratic polity based on rule of law. However, due to widespread corruption and weak implementation of laws and schemes much of these rights remain on paper only, especially for marginalized sections of Indian society - who are people without 'right' connections. The situation worsens if these disadvantaged people happen to be children as they are very vulnerable to exploitation. They suffer physical and mental abuse and lack a safe and secure life with opportunities to progress in life. It is sad that after more than sixty years of democratic and welfare state India has been unable to provide its children with a dignified and healthy life. These children can be the biggest assets for the country given proper education and care. Hence the need to look into the reality of life of marginalized children through empirical studies. Thus the objective of this book is to find out the ground realities of human rights of children so as to suggest strategies to combat the situation. For the same empirical studies were conducted on child labourers, girl children, child beggars, disabled children, dalit children, children of women prisoners, orphan girls etc which this book presents before the world. There is another section of Indian society - women, which is marginalized despite having equal rights in the Constitution of India and despite existence of various laws to protect and empower women. While some women have definitely benefited from these provisions and have occupied highest positions in political system but for majority of poor and illiterate women life still remains a continuous struggle in a very traditional, patriarchal and feudal society. Customs and practices like female feticide, female infanticide, neglect, illiteracy, child marriage, dowry, repeated pregnancies, unattended child birth, wife battering, bride burning, honour killing, rape, molestation, eve teasing, denial of property etc are indicators of position of women in Indian society. Thus Indian society harbours a clear bias against women but the situation worsens if women happen to be poor, illiterate, single, low caste, rural or prisoners. Present work is an attempt at presenting before the world the political awareness of Muslim women and the condition of women under trials through empirical case studies.



Dr Anupma Kaushik is Head and Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Dr Harisingh Gour Central University, Sagar, M.P. Earlier she served as Associate Professor at Banasthali University, Rajasthan, India. Dr Kaushik has also served as Assistant Registrar at Central Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath Varanasi.

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