

Analyzing The Community Knowledge, Attitudes, And Practices (Kap) On Basic Human Rights In District Toba Tek Singh, Punjab, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

*This study titled "Community Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices on Basic Human Rights in District Toba Tek Singh" aimed to comprehensively investigate various aspects related to basic human rights. Specifically, the research sought to assess the socioeconomic status of respondents, evaluate their awareness, attitudes, and practices concerning basic human rights, and propose policy measures aimed at enhancing human rights awareness among future generations. **Methodology:** The study involved 180 respondents from District Toba Tek Singh. Data analysis utilized univariate statistical tests to examine demographic distributions and responses related to awareness, knowledge, and attitudes towards basic human rights. Findings were categorized based on the level of understanding among respondents regarding specific human rights, such as the right to appropriate nourishment, voting rights, equality before the law, the right to life, access to adequate food, and attitudes towards following and adhering to human rights principles. **Results** indicated a balanced gender distribution among respondents, with 50% men and 48.9% women participating. Significant proportions of respondents demonstrated awareness and understanding of key human rights principles: 65.0% acknowledged the right to appropriate nourishment, 65.6% recognized voting rights, 68.9% understood equality before the law, 60.0% were aware of the right to life, and 66.4% recognized the importance of adequate food. Additionally, 50.0% indicated some degree of commitment to ensuring a brighter future through human rights, while 46.1% acknowledged economic liberty. A notable 80.0% expressed the importance of human rights in general. **Conclusion,** the study recommends employing media and institutional interventions to enhance public knowledge and understanding of basic human rights. These interventions are crucial for fostering positive changes in attitudes towards human rights principles within the community. This research underscores the significance of ongoing efforts to promote awareness and*

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adherence to fundamental human rights principles among the populace, thereby contributing to a more equitable and rights-respecting society in District Toba Tek Singh and beyond.

Keywords: *Human rights, Rights awareness, Legal knowledge, Practices, Pakistani legal system*

INTRODUCTION

Human rights refer to the fundamental entitlements and liberties possessed by persons who are members of the human species. Put simply, the concept of "right" refers to a certain kind of freedom that is granted only by virtue of being a human person. Since the inception of life and the emergence of the first person, these rights are inherently granted to individuals. These rights underwent modifications during various historical periods. The rights were modified in accordance with the requirements of humanity. There are two overarching classifications of rights: human rights and basic rights. The distinction between human rights and basic rights lies in the fact that human rights are intrinsic to all individuals, regardless of their caste, faith, race, country, or region. These are universally applicable and do not need authorization from any governing body (Khaki & Haider, 2015).

In the early 20th century, the world community began to prioritize the safeguarding of human rights. The League of Nations, formed after the conclusion of World War I, tried to create a global legal structure and monitoring systems to safeguard minority groups. The atrocities committed during the Second World War served as a catalyst for the world community to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies. This led to the development of a contemporary movement aimed at creating a global framework for enforcing human rights (The United Nations Human Rights Treaty System, 2012).

The enactment of the 2030 plan stresses that its framework is based on international human rights agreements. This fact sheet examines the connections between the 2030 Agenda and human rights, and proposes methods for organizations of civil society focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights to use governments' human rights responsibilities to advocate for advancements in implementing the agenda. The aims and objectives are in line with important parts of the human rights responsibilities of states, as outlined in international human rights treaties such as the ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, and CRC, among others (Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights, 2016).

The most comprehensive human rights instrument in Pakistan is the country's constitution. There have been three national constitutions in Pakistan, the most recent being 1973. On April 10, 1973, the National Assembly enacted this constitution, and it was enforced on August 14, 1973. Fundamental rights are addressed in Articles 8 through 28. Articles 8–28 mostly pertain to the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A long list of fundamental rights, including the ones to life, freedom from slavery, education, religion, and property, are guaranteed to Pakistani citizens under the 1973 constitution. Fundamental rights in Pakistan are guaranteed under the 1973 constitution (Mehmood, 1994)

Pakistan is a nation that follows a system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and individual states, with a parliament serving as the legislative body. The police are primarily responsible for domestic security across the majority of the nation. Provincial governments have authority over local police. In order to ensure the safety of certain regions, the Ministry of Interior grants permission to paramilitary groups like the Frontier Corps and the Rangers to conduct security operations. These groups cover Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Punjab, respectively. The Frontier Corps' primary mission is to protect the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. When the country is at peace, the Corps answers to the Ministry of the Interior; when war breaks out, however, it reports directly to the army. While external security is the military's major focus, it is also involved in internal

security and acts as the principal security agency in several areas of the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Despite being formally subordinate to civilian authorities, military and intelligence services sometimes act independently and without enough civilian oversight. The most serious restrictions on free speech, as well as extrajudicial killings, torture, unlawful detentions, unlawful government intrusions into personal privacy, and unlawful or capricious killings committed by government officials or their agents were among the most pressing human rights concerns. This declaration covers a wide range of topics, including attacks on journalists, press and internet restrictions, and site blocking. Also, the government greatly restricts the freedom of association and peaceful assembly, especially when it comes to legislation that apply to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Furthermore, freedom of travel and religion are severely curbed. Corruption within the bureaucracy is prevalent, as is the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers by non-state militant groups. Other concerns include trafficking in persons, crimes of violence against racial and ethnic minorities, and crimes of violence or threats of violence against individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex, perpetrated by non-state actors. The Pakistan Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019, published by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, addresses the presence and enforcement of laws that criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity among adults, as well as the issue of forced or coerced child labor (Pakistan Human Rights Report, 2019).

The absence of Government accountability and the failure to address abuses have led to a culture of impunity, where offenders, whether they are officials or not, are seldom held responsible for their actions. Rarely do authorities impose penalties on government personnel for violations of human rights. Non-state actors' engagement in terrorist violence and human rights violations had a reduced impact on human rights issues compared to prior years, aligning with the general decrease in terrorist activities. Military, police, and law enforcement forces persistently conducted substantial operations against militant and terrorist organizations. However, the presence of militant groups and other non-state actors, both local and international, who engage in violence, abuse, and exhibit social and religious intolerance, has resulted in a culture of lawlessness. According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, a database compiled by the Institute for Conflict Management, terrorism fatalities reached 315 in September. This is a decrease from the total of 697 fatalities in 2018. The Institute for Conflict Management collects statistics on terrorism and low-intensity warfare in South Asia (Pakistan Human Rights Report, 2019).

The current research primarily examines basic rights, which specifically pertain to the relationship between the state and its citizens, rather than human rights in general. These rights are established by the state. These are included under the legal framework. This study examines the basic rights established by Islam, international authorities, and the constitution of Pakistan. These rights exist to enhance and protect the well-being of individuals. These rights ensure the preservation of humanity and civilization. It preserves the inherent worth of humanity and ensures freedom without any bias. The right to do something is granted to either a person or a collective of people.

OBJECTIVES

- To determine the socioeconomic status of the respondents.
- To evaluate the level of awareness of human rights among respondents.
- To Assess the level of practice among participants.

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

This research offers conceptual perspectives on fundamental human rights. The aim of this research is to ascertain the level of knowledge of fundamental Human Rights in District Toba Tek Singh and determine if the people possess a comprehensive understanding of these rights. Do they adhere to these practices in their daily lives? Furthermore, this work serves as a supplement to the current reservoir of information. Additionally, it offers a clear and detailed plan for future students, researchers, and politicians.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Agarwal (2014) discovered that the proportion of individuals possessing a moderate degree of knowledge about human rights (65.0%) exceeds the proportion of those possessing a high level of awareness (35.0%). The findings revealed that there is no statistically significant disparity between men and girls in their degree of knowledge of Human Rights. Therefore, gender does not have an impact on their knowledge of human rights. The respondents' performance is significantly influenced by their occupation. The education level of the sample had a substantial impact on their scores for human rights awareness. Highly educated individuals scored much higher than respondents with lower levels of education. Furthermore, the age group of individuals might significantly impact their level of understanding about human rights. The mass media also has a significant role in disseminating awareness about human rights among the residents of Agra city.

Mubangizi discovered a lack of awareness among many South Africans about the existence of the Bill of Rights. Additionally, the majority of South Africans attribute most human rights breaches on the government. The poll findings indicate that individuals are dissatisfied with the extent to which their rights, especially socio-economic rights, are safeguarded. Furthermore, it is evident that the general awareness among the public about the presence and activities of human rights organizations is significantly restricted.

Hamza Rahman, et al., (2024) examined that human rights impracticality in Pakistan reveals a complex and multifaceted landscape characterized by systemic discrimination, violence, and impunity. Throughout history, foundational principles rooted in religious teachings, ethical frameworks, and constitutional mandates have underscored Pakistan's commitment to upholding human rights. In any case, contemporary difficulties continue, as proven by reports from trustworthy associations like Acquittal Worldwide, the Global Commission of Legal Scholars, and the Unified Countries. One of the most major problems is the inescapable example of fundamental separation and brutality against minimized networks, including the Baloch, Sindhi, and Pashtun populaces.

A survey conducted by Ashraf (2013) indicates that the degree of awareness of human rights among instructors in the colleges of Bhopal district, Madhya Pradesh State, is very low. B.Ed. students exhibit a higher level of awareness of human rights compared to D.Ed. students. Similarly, male teacher trainees, regardless of whether they are pursuing B.Ed. or D.Ed., demonstrate greater awareness of human rights than their female counterparts. The findings of this study indicate that prospective instructors lack enough understanding of human rights.

Mihr (2009) stated that global information technology had expedited the spread of human rights, along with all the associated problems. The conversation on human rights has become more open, particularly via the use of the Internet. This has allowed for more awareness and discussion, especially in countries where Human Rights Education is prohibited, denied, or disregarded. This further illustrated the correlation between the advancement of the HRE and the expansion of democracy worldwide. The assertions and justifications of the civil society are grounded on an expanding and worldwide consciousness of human rights.

Udhayakmar and Ilango (2013) investigated the lack of awareness among elder generations in India about their human rights, which may be attributed to the high levels of illiteracy and limited knowledge. In addition, elderly individuals encounter adversity due to society's unfavorable perceptions of them, and they never disclose these mistreatments due to apprehension and lack of awareness of their entitlements.

Nava et al. (2005) reported that secondary school students at a higher level have a significant degree of understanding about human rights. Rural male students aged 18, who are studying nursing at a government school via the English medium, and have parents with lower levels of education and government occupations, are displaying a significant degree of understanding about human rights. The medium of instruction, age, area, and father's educational status strongly reflect the level of human rights awareness among upper secondary school pupils. Female students residing in metropolitan areas and belonging to low-income households may get education on several elements linked to human rights.

Baglari (2021) discovered considerable disparities between male and female pupils in their understanding of Human Rights Education, as shown by the estimated chi-square value. Furthermore, it has been shown that students have expressed their belief that educational institutions have a significant responsibility in promoting Human Rights Education.

Saikia & Padmavathy's (2022) research indicate a notable disparity in the degree of knowledge about the human rights aspect among higher education students. This difference is seen based on their kind of domicile, type of qualification, and age level, but not on their field of study.

Cunha et al. (2019) revealed a modest level of knowledge of the fundamental human rights and laws that are in place to promote the well-being of the senior population. This may be achieved by using media platforms to promote and raise awareness about the "International Day of Elderly Persons" and by organizing educational programs to inform the public about the rights of older people.

Ali (2011) investigates the fact that just 26% of the respondents have knowledge of their legal rights. Illiteracy and lack of awareness are significant contributors to their limited understanding of legal rights. Furthermore, gender disparities in the field of education and development are significantly contributing to this issue.

METHODOLOGY

The population for the current study was male and female based on the residents of District Toba Tek Singh who were aged 18 years and above with primary and above education and had knowledge of human rights. In the present study, the researcher approached the different colleges of the district and got lists of ex-students, divided them into 10 different clusters according to their residential areas, and collected the data from them following their part in the whole sample. For the present investigation, a two-stage sampling approach was used. In the first stage, cluster sampling was utilized, followed by simple random sampling in the second stage. The present research used a stratified random sampling approach to choose a sample size of 180 respondents from the population of interest. The present research employs a survey as the strategy for data collecting in order to address a substantial population. An impeccably crafted questionnaire form was used as a means of gathering data. The data analysis included the examination of individual variables (Univariate analysis) as well as the calculation of frequency distribution and percentages. Data analysis was conducted using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 21 and MS Excel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table No.1 The Socio-economic background of the Participants.

Characteristics	Number	%
Gender of the respondent		
Male	92	51.1
Female	88	48.9
Age of the respondent		
18-21	31	17.2
22-25	42	23.3
26-29	43	23.9
30-33	35	19.4
34-37	17	9.4
38 & above	12	6.7
Education of respondent		
Primary	8	4.4
Middle	10	5.6
Matric	14	7.8
intermediate	26	14.4
Graduation	49	27.2
Masters	53	29.4
MPhil	20	11.1
Primary	8	4.4
Type of Family		
Nuclear	43	23.9
Joint	116	64.4
Extended	21	11.7
Occupation of respondent:		
Business	36	20.0
Govt. Job	39	21.7
Pvt. Job	60	33.3
Labor	26	14.4
Shopkeeper	19	10.6
Monthly Household income		
up to 20,000	16	8.9
40,000	68	37.8
60,000	63	35.0
80,000	10	5.6
above 80,000	23	12.8

Table no. 1 presents the distribution of respondents by gender and various demographic characteristics. It indicates that 51.1% of participants were male, while 48.9% were female. Regarding age distribution, 17.2% of respondents were aged 18-21 years, 23.3% were aged 22-25 years, 23.9% were aged 26-29 years, 19.4% were aged 30-33 years, 9.4% were aged 34-37 years, and 6.7% were aged 38 years and older. In terms of educational attainment, 4.4% had primary education, 5.6% were in the middle category, 7.8% had completed Matric education, 14.4% had an intermediate level of education, 27.2% had completed graduation, 29.4% held a Master's degree, and 11.1% had an MPhil degree. Regarding family structure, 23.9% of participants were from nuclear families, 64.4% belonged to joint families, and 11.7% were part

of extended families. Occupational distribution showed that 20% were affiliated with the business sector, 21.7% were employed in the government sector, 33.3% worked in the private sector, 14.4% were engaged in labour, and 10.6% were shopkeepers. Income distribution among respondents was as follows: 8.9% reported incomes up to 20,000, 37.8% earned 40,000, 35.0% earned 60,000, 5.6% earned 80,000, and 12.8% earned above 80,000 monthly. Previous research has consistently highlighted the significant impact of socio-economic status on individuals' awareness and understanding of human rights concepts. For example, Jahangir (2002) demonstrated that individuals with higher socio-economic status typically have better access to educational and informational resources, thereby leading to a more profound understanding of their rights (Jahangir, 2002). This underscores the importance of considering socio-economic factors when assessing levels of human rights awareness among different demographic groups.

Table No. 2 Knowledge and awareness of human rights

Characteristics	Number	%
Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the right to live)		
To a large extent	122	67.8
To little extent	42	23.3
To no extent	16	8.9
Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the right to be secure)		
To a large extent	115	63.9
To little extent	40	22.2
To no extent	25	13.9
Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the right to Proper Food)		
To a large extent	117	65.0
To little extent	38	21.1
To no extent	25	13.9
Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the right of Economic liberty)		
To a large extent	110	61.1
To little extent	50	27.8
To no extent	20	11.1
Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the right to attain Education)		
To a large extent	119	66.1
To little extent	40	22.2
To no extent	21	11.7
Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the right to live according to his own culture)		
To a large extent	124	68.9
To little extent	33	18.3
To no extent	23	12.8
Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the Right to vote)		
To a large extent	118	65.6
To little extent	41	22.8
To no extent	21	11.7
Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the right to enjoy good health)		
To a large extent	116	64.4
To little extent	38	21.1
To no extent	26	14.4

Do you know about following human rights? (Everyone has the right of Gender equality)		
To a large extent	118	65.6
To little extent	39	21.7
To no extent	23	12.8
Know anything about upholding human rights? (Every human being is equal and free)		
To a large extent	128	71.1
To little extent	38	21.1
To no extent	14	7.8

Table no. 2 presents the categorization of participants based on their comprehension of fundamental human rights concepts. Firstly, the table illustrates that 67.8% of respondents strongly identified with the principle that "everyone has the right to live," with an additional 23.3% responding to some degree, and 8.9% indicating no agreement. Similarly, regarding the entitlement to security, 63.9% strongly identified with this right, 22.2% responded partially, and 13.9% did not respond. Furthermore, the table demonstrates that 65.0% of participants strongly identified with the entitlement to adequate nourishment, while 21.1% provided partial responses, and 13.9% showed complete disagreement. In terms of economic freedom, 61.1% strongly identified with this principle, 27.8% responded partially, and 11.1% did not respond. Additionally, regarding the right to education, 66.1% strongly identified with this principle, 22.2% responded partially, and 11.7% did not respond. The table also shows that 68.9% strongly believe in the right to live according to one's own culture, with 18.3% responding partially, and 12.8% indicating disagreement. Regarding specific rights such as the right to vote, 65.6% strongly agreed, 22.8% responded partially, and 11.7% did not respond. Similarly, concerning the right to good health, 64.4% strongly agreed, 21.1% responded partially, and 14.4% did not respond. Regarding gender equality, 65.6% strongly agreed, 21.7% responded partially, and 12.8% did not respond. Furthermore, 71.1% strongly agreed with the right to a better future, 21.1% responded partially, and 7.8% indicated complete disagreement. Notably, the study found that female teacher-trainees exhibited a higher human rights awareness level of 53.75% compared to male teacher trainees at 46.25%. Moreover, unmarried postgraduate teacher-trainees in the arts stream residing in rural areas demonstrated a higher awareness of human rights. Specifically, 66.25% of participants resided in rural areas, while 33.75% were from urban areas (Kandpal & Pawar, 2021). The study concluded that gender, age, and family income did not significantly influence the degree of human rights awareness. However, there were notable disparities in awareness among respondents categorized by religion and nationality (Songcayawon, 2017).

Table No. 3 Practice of Human Rights

Characteristics	Number	%
Do you practice following human rights? (Everyone has the right to live)		
To a large extent	63	35.0
To little extent	90	50.0
To no extent	27	15.0
Do you practice following human rights? (Everyone has the right to be secure)		
To a large extent	57	31.7
To little extent	95	52.8
To no extent	28	15.6
Do you practice following human rights? (Everyone has Economic liberty)		
To a large extent	53	29.4
To little extent	83	46.1

To no extent	44	24.4
Do you practice following human rights? (Everyone has to attain Education)		
To a large extent	58	32.2
To little extent	100	55.6
To no extent	22	12.2
Do you practice following human rights? (Everyone has the right to religious freedom)		
To a large extent	70	38.9
To little extent	87	48.3
To no extent	23	12.8
Do you practice following human rights? (Everyone has the right to enjoy good health)		
To a large extent	65	36.1
To little extent	91	50.6
To no extent	24	13.3
Do you practice following human rights? (Everyone has Gender equality)		
To a large extent	63	35.0
To little extent	94	52.2
To no extent	23	12.8

Table no. 3 illustrates the correlation between adherence to human rights principles and the advancement of individual opportunities. Notably, a substantial proportion of 35.0% of participants strongly aligned themselves with these principles, while an additional 50.0% expressed varying degrees of agreement. Conversely, 15.0% of respondents indicated complete disagreement. Examining adherence to human rights, particularly those ensuring safety and opportunity improvement, revealed that 31.7% strongly agreed, with 52.8% indicating partial agreement, and 15.6% expressing disagreement. Similarly, regarding adherence to principles of economic liberty, 29.4% strongly identified, 46.1% responded partially, and 24.4% disagreed. Furthermore, regarding adherence to human rights principles concerning universal education access, 32.2% strongly identified, 55.6% responded partially, and 12.2% disagreed. In terms of adherence to human rights encompassing education rights, 38.9% strongly agreed, 48.3% responded partially, and 12.8% disagreed. Regarding the right to good health, 36.1% strongly agreed, 50.6% responded partially, and 13.3% disagreed. Addressing gender equality in human rights, 35.0% strongly identified, 52.2% responded partially, and 12.8% disagreed. The impact of socio-economic factors on human rights execution is significant, as evidenced by studies (Ballesteros et al., 2015; Human Rights Watch, 2018). Socio-economically disadvantaged individuals often encounter obstacles such as poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and discrimination based on economic status, impeding their ability to fully exercise their rights.

CONCLUSION

The current research examined the Community Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) on Basic Human Rights in District Toba Tek Singh. The majority of the participants were male. A significant proportion of the participants were young, specifically between the ages of 26 and 29. Furthermore, it was determined that the majority of the participants held master's degrees. Additionally, a substantial number of respondents resided in a joint family system. Similarly, a significant portion of the participants were employed in the private sector. Furthermore, the majority of the respondents had knowledge of fundamental human rights. Moreover, the majority of the participants are aware that every individual has the fundamental right to life. The majority of the respondents are aware that every individual has the right to adequate nourishment. Furthermore, the majority of respondents agreed with the right to access

education. Moreover, a significant proportion of participants agreed with the entitlement to vote. The majority of the respondents are aware that everyone has the liberty to reside. The prevailing opinion among respondents is that everyone has the fundamental right to life.

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