



HINDUSTHAN COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Autonomous Institution – Affiliated to Bharathiar University

Approved by AICTE and Government of Tamilnadu Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade

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Hindusthan Gardens, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore-641 028.

Ph: 0422 4440555, e-mail: hicas@hindusthan.net, website: www.hicas.ac.in



DEPARTMENT OF COSTUME DESIGN & FASHION

HUMAN RIGHTS-UNIT III

1. Human Rights for Target Population

Target population refers to **specific vulnerable groups** that require special protection due to discrimination, marginalisation or social disadvantage.

These groups need **focused human rights policies, laws, and welfare schemes** to ensure equality and dignity.

Major Target Groups

1. Women**
2. Children**
3. Scheduled Castes (SCs)**
4. Scheduled Tribes (STs)**
5. Minorities**
6. Persons with Disabilities**
7. Elderly persons**
8. LGBTQ+ persons**
9. Workers, Migrant labourers**
10. Victims of violence, trafficking, disasters**

Why Target Groups Need Human Rights Protection

- * Discrimination based on gender, caste, religion, or disability
- * Economic and educational disadvantages
- * Social stigma and exclusion
- * Violence, exploitation or abuse

- * Limited access to justice systems
- * Lack of political representation
- * Unequal access to healthcare and social services

Key Rights for Target Population

- * Right to equality and non-discrimination
- * Right to dignity and personal liberty
- * Right to education, health, and livelihood
- * Protection from violence, exploitation, and trafficking
- * Right to social security
- * Special reservation, schemes, and welfare measures

2. National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

National Human Rights Institutions are independent bodies established to **protect, promote and monitor human rights**.

In India, the major NHRIs include:

1. **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**
2. **State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs)**
3. **National Commission for Women (NCW)**
4. **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**
5. **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), National Commission for STs (NCST)**
6. **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)**

(Only those asked in the syllabus are explained below)

3. Tamil Nadu State Human Rights Commission (TNSHRC)

Establishment**

* Formed under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**.

* Tamil Nadu was the **first state in India** to establish its own Human Rights Commission (1997).

Composition**

* **Chairperson**: Must be a retired Chief Justice of a High Court.

* **Members**:

* One serving or retired High Court Judge

* One serving or retired District Judge

* Two members with knowledge of human rights (including one woman)

Functions**

* Inquire into complaints of **human rights violations**.

* Visit **jails, detention centres**, and inspect conditions.

* Review **safeguards** provided under the Constitution and laws.

* Promote **human rights awareness** through education and campaigns.

* Encourage **NGOs and civil society** to work in human rights.

Powers**

* Same powers as a civil court:

* Summon witnesses

* Call for documents

* Record statements

* Recommend action against officials, including compensation to victims.

Types of Cases Handled**

* Police excess and custodial violence

* Violation of SC/ST rights

* Women/child rights violations

* Denial of basic services

* Prisoner rights issues

4. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

Establishment**

* Set up in **1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act**.

* Independent and autonomous body.

Composition**

* **Chairperson**: Retired Chief Justice of India.

* **Members**:

* Retired Supreme Court Judge

* Retired High Court Chief Justice

* Two experts in human rights

* Chairpersons of National Commissions for Women, Minorities, SCs, STs as ex-officio members.

Functions**

* Investigates complaints of human rights violations by public authorities.

* Conducts **suo motu** inquiries (on its own).

* Inspects jails and detention centers.

* Promotes human rights literacy in schools, colleges, police training.

* Advises government on human rights policies and treaties.

* Reviews constitutional and legal safeguards.

Powers**

* Civil court powers for inquiry.

* Recommends compensation, prosecution, or disciplinary action.

* Can intervene in court cases involving HR issues.

Limitations**

* Recommendations are **not legally binding**.

* Cannot investigate cases older than **one year**.

* Cannot act on private disputes unless State negligence is involved.

5. National Commission for Women (NCW)**

Establishment**

* Created in **1992** under the **National Commission for Women Act**.

Objective**

To protect women from discrimination and violence and promote women's empowerment.

Functions**

* Monitor and review **laws related to women**.

* Investigate complaints of:

* Dowry harassment

* Domestic violence

* Sexual harassment

* Trafficking

* Denial of property rights

* Conduct research and awareness programs.

* Visit jails and remand homes for women prisoners.

* Recommend amendments to laws such as IPC, CrPC, etc.

Powers**

* Summon persons, examine evidence, and conduct public hearings.

* Coordinate with police to ensure safety of women.

6. National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**

Establishment**

* Formed in **1992**, under the **National Commission for Minorities Act (1992)**.

Minority Communities Recognised (India)**

1. Muslims

2. Christians

3. Sikhs

4. Buddhists

5. Parsis

6. Jains

Functions**

- * Safeguard **religious, cultural, linguistic rights** of minorities.
- * Investigate complaints of:
 - * Discrimination
 - * Communal violence
 - * Denial of freedom to practice religion
- * Monitor minority development schemes.
- * Promote communal harmony and national integration.
- * Advise government on minority welfare policies.

Powers**

- * Similar to civil court powers for inquiries.
- * Can summon officials and demand reports.

National Human Rights Institutions play a crucial role in:

- * Protecting vulnerable groups
- * Ensuring justice and equality
- * Monitoring human rights violations
- * Advising governments to strengthen human rights laws

They act as **watchdogs**, ensuring dignity and protection for all citizens, especially targeted populations.