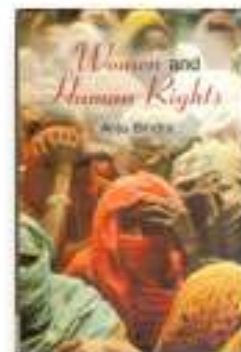


**BOOK REVIEW**

**TITLE: WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**AUTHOR: ANJU BINDRA**

Publication Year: 2007



**By Prof. Tarannum Vahid Attar**

K. M.E Society's G.M.Momin Women's College,

Bhiwandi

The Title of this book, Women and Human Rights might be taken innocently to indicate its contents: a set of lectures given by women on the rights of women, on the failure to achieve those rights, and on the reasons and remedies for those failures.

Contents of the book are divided into twelve chapters.

Chapter one to four presenting an overview of how often human rights, and along with them women's rights are violated. It argues that in the area of women's rights as human rights there is the least amount of resonance, especially in the countries of South Asia, and that this lack of resonance has prevented the effective implementation of rights. It also raises rich variety of points with respect to the weaknesses of liberalism, and the power of feminism to reinvigorate liberal democracy.

Chapter five to eight explores the issue that planning and development of the built environment is a very powerful process because of its influence on key aspects of everyday life, in which women's human rights, such as their access to resources, employment, housing, welfare and political participation, are frequently abused.

Chapter nine to twelve insist on the incorporation of universally accepted norm to prioritize the rights of women over those of the traditionally defined community. It identifies the fact that the most significant barrier to women's rights in India is a hostile state that is not actually interested in giving them any rights. Also the lack of implementation of laws by the state law and order machinery and the gender bias pervasive in the judiciary at all levels is also responsible. It also emphasizes the human rights perspective of self-determination.

The book raises many questions which cross the boundaries between liberalism and difference feminism, and between liberal and radical feminist responses to the problems identified. . It discusses the distinctive role of sexuality and sexual difference in the construction of female oppression. It also insists that any ethical system that is to avoid oppressing women must be capable of permitting women the dignity to express their sexuality in accordance with their own self definitions and self understandings.

It also describes the lack of attention to Women's human rights and civil liberties at all levels, outlines what has been done so far to articulate and defined them.

However, it might imply that women's rights are not simply the extension of the agreed rights of men to all members of the community. In other words, the 'lived in' experience of being female results in a distinctive account of the nature of rights and the applicability of the language of rights to the status of women as equally valuable social, political, and economic agents.

I strongly agree with author and feel that, Women, therefore, might be expected to give a distinctive critique of the theory of rights that depends on their difference from men.

I definitely recommend this book to others.

**About Author:** Anju Bindra is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, University of Mumbai. She has worked with a number of international and local organizations in the areas of human rights, including women's rights. Presently she is Secretary of the Center for Constitutional Rights in Hyderabad and a consultant to the women's programmes of the Inter-Indian Institutes of Human Rights.