



Continuous issue-10 | January - May 2015

## HUMAN RIGHTS – IN CONTEXT WITH CARBON CREDIT

### 1. HUMAN RIGHTS

**Human rights** are moral principles that set out certain standards of human behavior, and are regularly protected as legal rights in national and international law. They are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, gender or nation, colour, religion, language or any other status. We all are equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. They are fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being. Human rights are thus conceived as universal (applicable everywhere) and egalitarian (the same for everyone). Human Rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the form of treaties and customary international law. The concept of human rights is based on the belief that every human being is entitled to enjoy his/her rights without discrimination. Human rights are inherent in all human beings by virtue of their humanity alone, they can't be purchased or granted and it is applicable to all.

#### History

Although idea of human rights existed in human history, they are different than the modern concept of human rights. The most commonly held view is that concept of human rights evolved in the West, and that while earlier cultures had important ethical concepts, they generally lacked a concept of human rights. For example, McIntyre argues there is no word for "right" in any language before 1400. This explains the thought human rights were part of human history, it was neither very active nor it covered all areas of human rights.

#### 16th–20th century

The earliest conceptualization of human rights is credited to ideas of natural rights in favor of equal rights to freedom of slavery for all humans regardless of race or religion.

In the 19th century, human rights became a central concern over the issue of slavery. Many groups and movements have achieved profound social changes over the course of the 20th century in the name of human rights. In Europe and North America Labour unions brought about laws granting workers the right to strike, establishing minimum work conditions and forbidding or regulating child labour. The woman's right movement succeeded in gaining for many women the right to vote. One of the most influential was Mahatma Gandhi's movement to free his native India from British rule.

The World Wars, and the huge losses of life and gross abuses of human rights, were a driving force behind the development of modern human rights development.

#### Classification

Human rights can be classified and organized in a number of different ways. At an international level the most common categorisation of human rights has been to split them into civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

The ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom and freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his civil and political rights, as well as his social, economic and cultural rights.

#### International protection

After World War II, there was increased concern for the social and legal protection of human rights as fundamental freedoms. The foundation of the United Nations and the provisions of the United Nations Charter provided a basis for a comprehensive system of international law and practise for the protection of human rights. Since then, international human rights law has been characterized by a linked system of conventions, treaties, organisations, and political bodies, rather than any single entity or set of laws.

### **United Nations Charter**

The provisions of the United Nations Charter provided a basis for the development of international human rights protection.

The United Nations shall promote: a) higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development; b) solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; c) international cultural and educational cooperation; d) universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

## **2. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **2.1 A Growing Environmental Problem**

One of the environmental threats our planet faces today is the potential for long-term changes in the Earth's climate and temperature patterns known as **global climate change**. Scientists estimate that as a result of global climate change, the Earth's average temperature could increase as much as six and one-half degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100. While this may not sound like much of an increase, if the temperature increase approaches the six and one-half degree mark, the Earth will be a much different place than we know it today. To gain an appreciation of how different the Earth could be, consider that during the last ice age, when our planet was on average only nine degrees Fahrenheit cooler, the area that is now New York City was under 1,000 feet of ice.

To prevent this sort of disruption to the many natural and human systems that everyone on our planet depends on, we must all work to control global climate change. Determining the potential causes of global climate change has been a long-term process that has involved the work of thousands of scientists around the world. An important step in this process was made in 1995 when over 2,500 scientists from around the world agreed for the first time that emissions of **greenhouse gases** from human activities have influenced the global climate. As a result, the question is no longer whether humans are altering the world's climate, but where, when, and by how much. The great importance of this scientific conclusion is that we now know that in order to prevent the onset of catastrophic changes to the Earth's climate, humans must reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases.

### **2.2 Consequences Of Global Climate Change**

Although climate change may result in some benefits such as extended growing seasons or more moderate temperatures in some areas, the overall effects are likely to be harmful. Sea-level rise, as a result of climate change, could lead to the loss of many coastal wetlands, and Entire Island Nations could disappear. Changes in the quality and availability of water resources could occur and worsen conflicts over water use. Healthy forests could be greatly reduced as the range of tree species shifts. Additionally, humans could suffer from increases in the spread of infectious diseases, heat-related deaths, and air pollution. Global climate change could potentially cause sea levels to rise as oceans warm and expand and as a result of ice cap and snow cover melting. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects a sea level increase of six inches to more than three feet by the year 2100. Even worse, many small-island nations with no high ground to retreat to could disappear altogether. The worldwide redistribution of disease vectors - the animals, insects, microorganisms and plants that transmit diseases - which is already upon us could increase due to global climate change. Many tropical diseases such as dengue fever, yellow fever, and malaria are beginning to be seen at higher latitudes and altitudes as warming occurs. This warming could potentially result in a greater number of people being exposed to these deadly diseases. Many ecosystems could have a difficult time adjusting to the rapid rate of climate change if the world does not reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Animals and plants that are excellent competitors under stable environmental conditions often cannot survive when their habitat is altered by rapid change. Instead, parasite species such as weeds, rodents, insects, bacteria and viruses will quickly reproduce and colonize disturbed environments. The recent population explosion of termites, cockroaches and mosquitoes in New Orleans and rodents in southern Africa are examples of this type of problem.

There are also likely to be significant economic and social costs as agriculture is forced to make painful adjustments in response to climate changes. Droughts, floods and storms could become more severe, and entire agricultural regions could become disrupted as rainfall and temperature patterns shift. It is unknown whether farmers and governments will be able to adopt new techniques and

management approaches that can deal with the negative impacts of climate change. It is also hard to predict how relationships between crops, pests, weeds, and livestock will evolve. The result could be an inability to provide adequate food resources to a growing world population. This could lead not only to higher food prices, but also to increased conflict throughout the world as people compete for resources in a very different global environment.

### **3. CARBON CREDIT**

#### **3.1 How are carbon credits created?**

Due to global warming threat, all countries are on an agreement to reduce the carbon generation. Every country would have a limit to produce or generate carbon through industries and vehicles. There would be some countries having heavy industrialization like China, India, US, Japan who cannot reduce the industries and hence the carbon generation. But, there would be some countries which don't have much industries and hence having less carbon generation and save credits from the Carbon Credit Body. This body will be giving a certificate for appropriate generation and saving credits.

Now, those who generate more carbon will have less credits and hence will fall short for getting the certificates. But they can obtain the credits from the countries who have more credits. (ie. Less carbon generation) in exchange of money. Carbon credits are tradable like financial securities.

#### **3.2 Kyoto Protocol**

The Kyoto Protocol ratified the carbon credit system, the carbon credit system allows the holder of the permit to emit one ton of carbon dioxide. Credits are given to countries and organizations that have reduced carbon emissions across industrialized nations. Every ton of emission reduced, a group or a country is awarded a credit. Countries or organizations can purchase these credits when they know their emission levels are going to be higher than the set norm. Parties that are tied to the Kyoto Protocol have assigned limits or amounts of emission. Emission trading allows the groups or countries to sell credits to countries that are over their targets. Typically in countries organizations assist them in reduction of emissions, by planting trees and plants, some organizations include this as an activity under their corporate social responsibility.

Three mechanisms have been made through which countries can acquire carbon credits; under Joint Implementation, developed countries can setup projects in developing countries to help them cut down their Carbon emissions. Under Clean Development Mechanism, developed countries can sponsor programmes for developing nations. The developed country is encouraged to reduce green house gas emissions. The developing country receives some benefits for assisting the developing nation. The third mechanism International Emission trading, countries can purchase credits when they are not able to reach their set target of emissions.

Acquiring and selling carbon credits has resulted in a new form of trading, carbon credit trading. The credit system is going to gain popularity as the emissions level are increasing constantly, buying and selling of credits is going to increase over as organizations and countries are joining the system.

### **4. Carbon Credit and Human Rights.**

The following human rights are often affected by global warming:

- **RIGHT TO LIFE:** Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life. The right to life is the essential right that a human being has the right not to be killed by another human being. The concept of a right to life is central to debates on the issues of abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia (mercy killing), self defense and war. Due to carbon emission and global warming chances of floods, droughts, land erosion, fatal diseases increases, which will claim lots of human lives.
- **RIGHT TO HEALTH :** This right includes good quality of life and hygienic working conditions. Clean environment is right of every human being. Due to heavy industrialisation more and more people are badly affected on their health. Many tropical diseases such as dengue fever, yellow fever, and malaria are beginning to be seen at higher latitudes and altitudes as warming occurs. This warming could potentially result in a greater number of people being exposed to these deadly diseases. Climate change will have many impacts on human health.
- **RIGHTS TO WATER :** The right to water has been recognized in a wide range through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water in sufficient, safe, accessible and affordable manner without discrimination. Due to industrialisation water gets contaminated. As the earth gets warmer, heat wave and shortages will make it difficult to access safe drinking

water.

- RIGHT TO FOOD : This right implies that sufficient food is available adequately as per individual's dietary needs. The right to food protects the rights of all human beings to be free from hunger and malnutrition. Due to carbon credit emission from industries there is lots of pollution in water and air, which affects the quality of agricultural produce. Regional food production is also likely to decline because of increased temperature, shift in rainfall patterns and accelerating erosion.
- RIGHT TO PROPERTY: This right gives everyone has the right to own property and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property. Due to ice caps melting because of global warming, sea levels are rising, more and more people living on island and coastal areas, have and will be deprived of their property
- RIGHT TO SHELTER AND HOUSING: This right implies that every individual has right to shelter and housing. When environmental degradation takes place, individuals and communities are compelled to live in unhealthy and hazardous conditions.
- ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS: There are two basic conceptions of environmental human rights in the current human rights system. The first is that the right to a healthy or adequate environment is itself a human right. The second conception is the idea that environmental human rights can be derived from other human rights, usually – the right to life, the right to health, etc.

The onset of various environmental issues, especially climate change due to carbon emission, has created potential conflicts between different human rights. Human rights ultimately require a working ecosystem and healthy environment. In the area of environmental rights, the responsibilities of multinational corporations, so far relatively unaddressed by human rights legislation, is of paramount consideration.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Climate Change will have significant impacts across the globe, it is vulnerable to risks such as disruptions to water supply, increase in the severity of storms, floods and droughts, coastal erosion, will have negative human health impacts.

Heavy industrialisation has resulted into more and more pollution and due to which lots of above mentioned 'Human Rights' are violated. More and more companies and countries should join 'Carbon Trading' because it is HUMAN which is the most important asset of the business, so if MANPOWER or HUMAN are not kept healthy and satisfied then other factors of production like MONEY, MARKET and MATERIAL are of no use. Carbon Credit will help in development of Organization and Society both hand in hand. Development of any Company is directly proportionate with 'Human Rights'. More the companies care about 'Human Rights' more will be growth and progress of the organization. This paper provides an overview of Kyoto Protocol, Carbon Trading and human rights. and describes how companies and countries can manage their energy resources to benefit Manpower and organization both. The human costs of climate change and carbon emission has directly threaten fundamental human rights.

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