

ABSTRACT

The present paper is a study based on the ongoing debate between the relativists and universalists in relation to the concept of international human rights. While we understand that the universalist approach to human rights has been globally accepted, a study is conducted critically evaluating whether the same would undermine cultures and traditions that has been practiced since ages. The culture appropriate behaviour that universalists seek to achieve is not possible without understanding the core values practiced in one's culture. While we understand this, we cannot undermine the abuse of human rights that are taking place around the globe and is unchecked and uncared for. The reason behind this is the justification provided by cultural relativists that it is a traditional practice and voicing against it amounts to disrespecting their culture. However, the excuse that states provide to not abide by the international human rights standard, doesn't come from a rational ground and certainly doesn't reflect the true nature of cultural relativism. The study seeks to find a harmonious coexistence between the two theories by broadening the aspect of universalism to incorporate within itself components of cultural relativism. The study therefore examines the arguments for and against both the schools of thought to attain a holistic picture with regard to achieving a solution for the protection of international human rights standards. The article also highlights the consequences of not finding a common ground of existence by highlighting the vulnerable sections of the society that faces human right abuses in the pretext of culture. To get an exhaustive picture and to understand the social perspective regarding cultures being violators of human rights, opinions and views of different sets of people are collected.

Keywords: Universalism, Cultural Relativism, Human Rights, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Female Genital Mutilation, Child Labour, Vulnerables