

## 4.1 Human Rights in India

Human Rights India is an issue complicated by the country's large size & population, widespread poverty, lack of proper education & its diverse culture, even though being the world's largest sovereign, secular, democratic republic.

The constitution of India provides for fundamental rights, which include freedom of religion. Clauses also provide for freedom of speech, as well as separation of executive and judiciary and freedom of movement within the country and abroad. The country also has an independent judiciary and well as bodies to look into issues of Human Rights.

The 2016 report of human rights watch accepts the above-mentioned faculties but goes to state that India has "serious human rights concerns. Civil society groups face harassment and government critics face intimidation and lawsuits. Free speech has come under attack both from the state and by interest groups. Muslim and Christian minorities accuse authorities of not doing enough to protect their rights. but in the recent years , more emphasis is given to minority rights & freedom of speech. The government is yet to repeal laws that grant public officials and security forces immunity from **prosecution for abuses**.

The Asian Centre for human rights estimated that from 2002 to 2008, over four people per day died while in police custody, with "hundreds" of those deaths being due to police use of torture.

According to a report written by the institute of correctional administration in Punjab, up to 50% of police officers in the country have used physical or mental abuse on prisoners.

Instances of torture, such as through a lack of sanitation, space, or water have been documented in west Bengal as well

### Child sexual abuse in India

India is home to the largest number of sexually abused children in the world. About 53% of children have been subjected to some form of sexual abuse. In 2012, India introduced the protection of children from sexual offences act (pocso) to deal with cases of child sexual abuse.

However, it took two years to record the first cases under the law and there are huge gaps in its implementation with the conviction rate under the act being only 2.4%.it is argued that the prevalence is driven by reluctance to expose relatives, who are often the abusers.

As a result, more than 50% of adults who were abused surveyed wanted the matter to stay within the family and only 17% wanted harsh punishments for offenders.

India has the highest number of people living in conditions of slavery, 18.3 million, three times more than the next highest nation.

Most of those in India living in slavery are in bonded labour,[19] where a person pledges himself or herself against a loan. Debt bondage can be passed on from generation to generation, with children required to pay off their parents' debt.

India has the largest number of child labourers under the age of 14 in the world with an estimated 12.6 million children engaged in hazardous occupations.

### **Human trafficking in India and child trafficking in India**

Human trafficking is a \$8 million illegal business in India. Around 10,000 Nepali women are brought to India annually for commercial sexual exploitation.[24] each year 20,000–25,000 women and children are trafficked from Bangladesh.[25]

Communal conflicts between religious groups (mostly between Hindus and Muslims) have been prevalent in India since around the time of its independence from British rule. Among the oldest incidences of communal violence in India was the Moplah rebellion, when militant Islamists massacred Hindus in Kerala. Communal riots took place during the partition of India between Hindus/Sikhs and Muslims where large numbers of people were killed in large-scale violence.