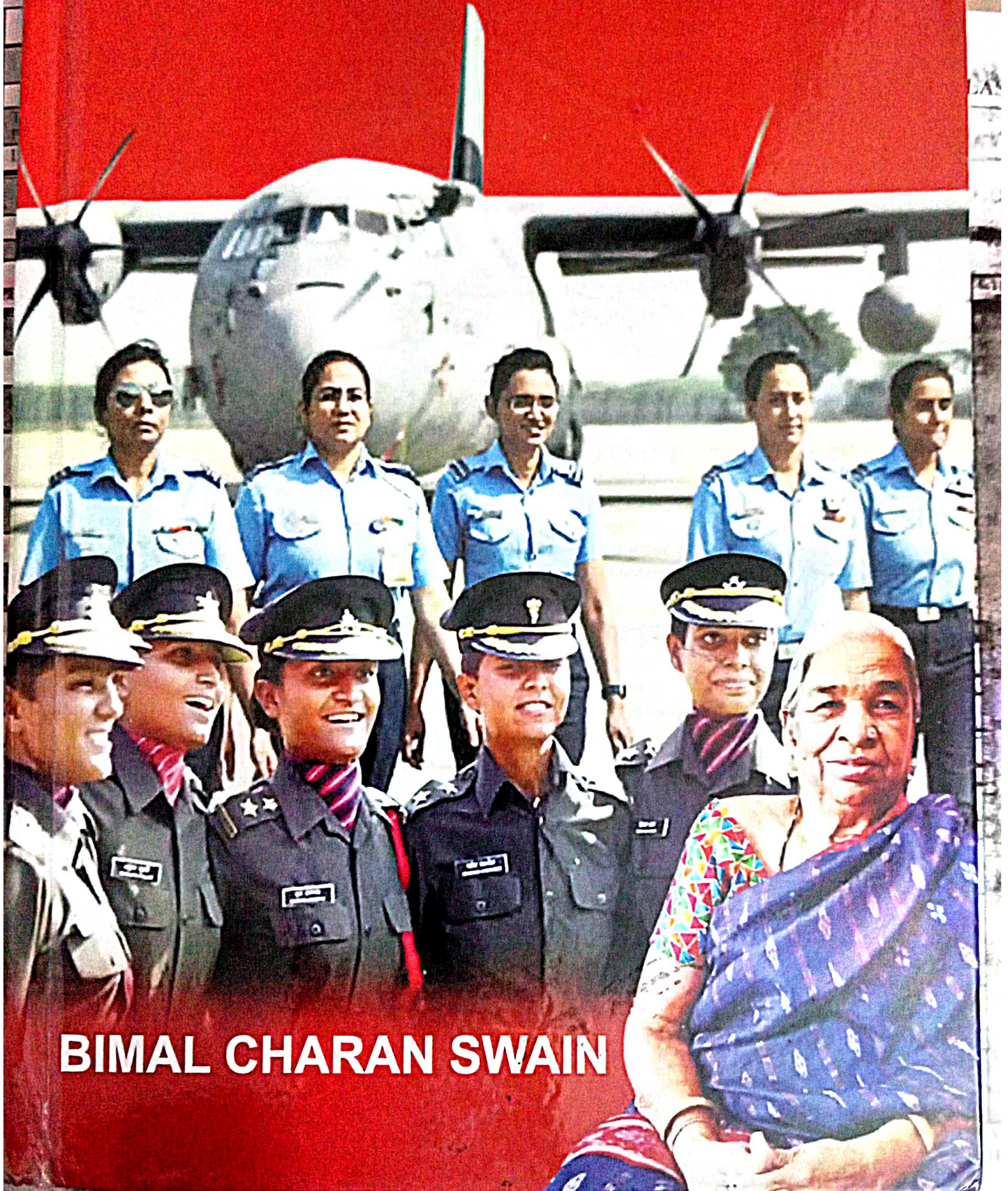


EDUCATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



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4648/21, 1st Floor, Ansari Road,

Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002.

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Education and Women Empowerment

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First Published 2022

ISBN: 978-93-91908-12-6

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Published in India by Prem Singh Bisht for Kunal Books and
printed at Trident Enterprises, Noida, U.P.

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>xiii</i>
1. Role of Education for Empowerment of Women - A Research Perspective	1
<i>Dr. Bimal Charan Swain & Dr. Rajalakshmi Das</i>	
✓ 2. Visualising Human Rights from a Feminist Perspective	13
<i>Dr. Sambit K Padhi & Subrat Kumar Padhi</i>	
3. Domestic Violence and Constitutional Rights of Indian Women: A Critical Analysis	24
<i>Dr. Naresh Rout</i>	
4. Work from Home: A Concept to Empower Women after COVID-19	37
<i>Dr. Binu Singh</i>	
5. Educating and Empowering Women by Making them Financially Literate	44
<i>Jyoti Prakash Rath</i>	
6. Shailabala Women's (Autonomous) College and Women Education in Odisha	50
<i>Prof. (Dr.) Surekha Sundari Swain</i>	
7. Role of Education for Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development	57
<i>Dr. Rajalakshmi Das</i>	
8. Role of Education for Empowerment of Tribal Women in Kandhamal District of Odisha	64
<i>Dr. Debendra Kumar Sethy & Sasmitarani Pradhan</i>	

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 9. Education as a Means of Achieving Gender Equality | 70 |
| <i>Dr. Pragyan Mohanty, Pranay Pandey &
Dr. Santosh Kumar Behera</i> | |
| 10. Role of Mother Teacher Association for Development of Tribal Girls Education in Ashram Schools | 77 |
| <i>Dr. Kartikeswar Roul</i> | |
| 11. Education: A Means for Empowering Rural Women | 89 |
| <i>Dr. Purna Chandra Behera</i> | |
| 12. Thoughts of Swami Vivekananda on Women Education | 95 |
| <i>Dr. Srutirupa Panda</i> | |
| 13. Role of Education for Gender Equality | 103 |
| <i>Dr. Dayasindhu Parida</i> | |
| 14. Life Skill Education: A Catalyst in Women Empowerment | 107 |
| <i>Sushree Shibane Dash</i> | |
| 15. Development of Independent Decision-Making Capacity- An Important Indicator of Empowerment of Rural Women | 114 |
| <i>Dr. Atal Bihari Tripathy & Subhashree Mishra</i> | |
| 16. Vocational Education and Women Empowerment | 122 |
| <i>Dr. Debendra Kumar Sethi & Dr. Bimal Charan Swain</i> | |
| 17. National Education Policy 2020 and Women Education | 129 |
| <i>Soumya Shubhadarshinee</i> | |
| 18. Women's Rights in India | 135 |
| <i>Bidulata Sahoo</i> | |
| 19. Status of Women in Indian Society | 141 |
| <i>Dr. Ajay Kumar Swain</i> | |
| 20. Gender Disparity in India | 147 |
| <i>Dr. Sajna Pattnaik</i> | |
| 21. Education - A Milestone of Women Empowerment | 152 |
| <i>Dr. Jagdish Singh</i> | |

22. Role of Twenty First Century Education in Women Empowerment	157
<i>Dr. Kotra Balayogi</i>	
23. Role of Education for Women Empowerment	162
<i>Ruma Gayen, Nibedita Pramanik & Rasmani Karmakar</i>	
24. Role of ICT for Empowerment of Women in India	173
<i>Priti Pragyan Ray</i>	
25. Role of ICT in Women Empowerment	177
<i>M. Mani & Dr. M. Mahendraprabhu</i>	
26. Education: A Milestone for Women Empowerment	181
<i>Smitashree Biswal</i>	
27. National Education Policy 2020 and Women Empowerment	186
<i>Mayabini Das</i>	
28. Role of Education for Gender Equality	192
<i>Soumya Mohanty</i>	
29. Role of ICT for Women Empowerment	198
<i>Suchitra Dash</i>	
30. Vocational Education and Women Empowerment	204
<i>Priyabrata Priyadarshi Behera</i>	
31. Social Media and Women Empowerment	208
<i>Tapaswini Mohapatra</i>	
32. Education and Women Empowerment	212
<i>Subhashree Nayak</i>	
33. Role of Education for Gender Equality	217
<i>Nibedita Agrawalla and Prasanta Mallick</i>	
34. Role of ICT for Empowerment of Women	223
<i>Pooja Puspita Priyadarshini</i>	
35. Education: A Milestone for Women Empowerment	229
<i>Ipsita Patri</i>	

36. Role of ICT for Empowerment of Women	233
<i>Shashwoti Mohapatra</i>	
37. Opinion of Teacher Trainees Towards Gender Equality: A Study in Elementary Teacher Education Institutions of Nagaon District, Assam	239
<i>Runjun Borah & Mayurakshi Goswami</i>	
38. Role of ICT for Empowerment of Women	242
<i>Suchismita Dash</i>	
39. Problems of Educated Women Unemployment in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal	246
<i>Susmita Mondal & Jugantar Mishra</i>	
40. Role of ICT in Women Empowerment	251
<i>Roshna Pradhan</i>	
41. Role of ICT in Women Empowerment	256
<i>Suvasmita Swain</i>	
Index	259

VISUALISING HUMAN RIGHTS FROM A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Sambit K Padhi & Subrat Kumar Padhi

Introduction

The struggle for human rights is a part of the human quest for collective happiness. Modern societies in all parts of the world have sought wealth and prosperity through the state. People everywhere have discovered that collective wealth or national prosperity alone do not secure collective happiness because human collectivity is comprised of human individuality. Human rights are the most fundamental rights of human beings. They define relationships between individuals and power structures, especially the State. Human rights delimit State power and, at the same time, require States to take positive measures ensuring an environment that enables all people to enjoy their human rights.

From a legal standpoint, human rights can be defined as the sum of individual and collective rights recognized by sovereign States and enshrined in their Constitutions and in international law. Since the Second World War, the United Nations has played a leading role in defining and advancing human rights, which until then had developed mainly within the nation State. As a result, human rights have been codified in various international and regional treaties and instruments that have been ratified by most countries, and represent today the only universally recognized value system.

Human rights cover all aspects of life. Their exercise enables women and men to shape and determine their own lives in liberty, equality and respect for human dignity. Human rights comprise civil and