

HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE NON - CITIZEN: LAW AND REALITY (2007). By Rathin Bandyopadhyay. Deep and Deep Publications Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. Pp. xlix + 582, Price Rs. 1450/-.

IN ABOUT seven decades since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, enormous literature has come out on various aspects of human rights. The last two decades witnessed a tremendous increase in the publication of books on human rights. But they were mostly a reproduction of the texts of international, regional or national legal documents on human rights. The contents are mostly repetitive and not novel in any respect. The implementation of human rights is seen hardly discussed in most of them.

The book under review discusses specifically on the human rights of non-citizen - law and reality, which deserves attention. The introduction gives the out line of the theme. The non-citizen is defined to include aliens, stateless persons, refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants and other undocumented immigrants. There are seven chapters apart from the introduction.

The book begins with the conceptual and legal development of the rights of non- citizen in global perspectives. The international scenario as well as the regional scenario in Europe, Africa, Asia and in countries like USA, Canada and Australia are discussed. However, the extent of implementation of the rights at different levels has not been examined. The international humanitarian law or the 'law of war' has been specifically excluded from the purview of the book. The status of internally displaced person as stateless persons has not been properly addressed.

In the national scenario, the genesis of human rights, glimpses of immigration and the conceptual and legal development of the rights of non-citizen in post-independent India have been examined. A critical and analytical study of the legal and protective measures relating to rights of non-citizen is lacking. The author has only attempted to make a literature review of the national laws and policies.

The role of the executive, legislature and judiciary including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) are discussed subsequently. The issues pertaining to implementation of the rights of non –citizen have not been examined. The constraints of NHRC in dealing with non-citizens' claims have not been drawn out.



The discussions on rights of non-citizen women and children are based on general laws and mostly in the Indian scenario. The book ends with a summing up of the preceding chapters.

This book would be helpful for beginners in the study of human rights of non-citizen. It could enlighten them about the existing disparities in the rights of citizen and non – citizen and lead them to an intensive study on the issue. The high price of the book is disproportionate with its contents, number of pages and style of production.

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