

HUMAN RIGHTS: AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION (1991). By S.L.Bhalla. Docta Shelf, Delhi. Pp. 2371. Price Rs. 220.

AT THE end of the Second World War the people of UN reaffirmed "faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of human persons" and agreed that one of the major purposes of the organisation would be to achieve cooperation in promoting and encouraging human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

It is well known that framers of the charter were quite aware of the conceptual problems relating to interpretation and practical difficulties in implementing its human rights provisions in a world full of contradictions. Even at that time some of the prominent members of the organisation had under their sway non-self-governing territories where people were subjected to deprivations and denied elementary human rights. A few members were holding citadels of power and authority in their respective states through suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Yet none of them expressed dissent in including human rights provisions in the charter. The probable reason for this is that such provisions were considered to be harmless, and there was hardly any possibility of their being implemented in the realities of international politics.

In this book under review<sup>1</sup> the author has ably and effectively expressed the weaknesses in the machinery for implementation of human rights provisions of the charter. He has closely analysed and examined the UN prescriptions and practices for the past 40 years including the machinery set up for implementation by the world organisation. He has ably stated that notwithstanding the success achieved by the organisation in keeping the "question of human rights in the focus of world publicity", much needs to be done for realisation of freedoms and dignity to individual human beings.<sup>2</sup>

The author has surveyed the working of regional organisations for implementation of human rights programmes, particularly of Europe and Latin America. He has also studied in depth the composition of decision making bodies of International Labour Organisation and tripartite character of this body. He has suggested the setting up of an International Human Rights Organisation (IHRO) as a specialised agency of UN. The administrative structure and processual scheme for decision making suggested, closely follows the European model (structural) and ILO (processual). Under this new dispensation he hopes the implementation machinery would work effectively in the future. This suggestion of the author has to be viewed in the light of his own sound conclusion that "universal standard of

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1. S.L.Bhalla. *Human Rights : An Institutional Framework for Implementation* (1991).

2. *Id.* at 71.

observance of human rights is not realizable as complete assimilation and uniformity in all parts of the world can never be reached.<sup>3</sup>

On the whole the book is well documented, critical and informative. Students of international human rights jurisprudence will find this work interesting and useful.

*D.N.Saraf\**

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3. *Id.* at 114.

\* Manager, Legal Services, Consumer Education and Research Society, Ahmedabad. Formerly Professor and Head of the Department of Law, University of Jammu.