



Cover Page



HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA

Dr. Mrs. Anjali Gaidhane

Associate Professor and HOD

Department of Political Science, Hislop College

Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

Abstract

Argentina is grappling with persistent human rights problems against prisoners, police abuse, endemic violence against women and health related problem of women. Restrictions on abortions till now and difficulty accessing reproductive health services remain a serious concern. But what also needs to be acknowledged is the fact that Argentina has made commendable progress in protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights, legalizing abortion and prosecuting officials for abuses committed during the past. This research paper takes

A detailed profile of human right status in Argentina, the problems of Human Rights Violation and the steps taken by the government to address them.

Keywords: Argentina, Human rights, Abortion, Violation, Government.

Introduction

Brief History of Argentina

Longstanding human rights problems persist in Argentina that include police abuse, poor prison conditions, and endemic violence against women. Restrictions on abortion and difficulty accessing reproductive health services remain serious concerns. The Dirty War is the name used by the military junta or civic-military dictatorship of Argentina for the period of state terrorism in Argentina from 1976 to 1983.

Argentina has been a colony of Spain and during this course of time, Spain utilized Argentina for their economic growth and development by introducing the labor system which exploited the people of Argentina by Spanish Elites. In the colonial era, the Spanish entered Argentina in 1502 and eventually they took control of the entire wealth of Argentina in labor and resources like gold and silver. The economic policies and distribution of goods and services by Spanish elites were such that the locals residing in Argentina had to buy goods at heavily inflated prices and on the other hand, people who were rich and belonging to the elite class could exploit cheap labor easily. This led to the rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer. Colonial Period lasted from 1530-1810. Inspired by the ideas of age of enlightenment and American and French Revolutions, Independence became a great concern for Argentina. The Argentine War of Independence was fought from 1810 to 1818 by Argentine patriotic forces under Manuel Belgrano, Juan José Castelli and José de San Martín against royalist forces loyal to the Spanish crown. On July 9, 1816, an assembly declared full independence with provisions for a national constitution. Even after the achievement of independence, several revolutions and battles took place from inner groups of Argentina. After a long struggle, Argentina somehow managed to achieve peace and began witnessing growth and development in the economy, technology, literacy, and also in GDP. Food production, industrialization, free and secular education, lead to an increase in the growth of GDP and economy which improved the public conditions of Argentina. In the meantime, Argentina also became the largest exporter of wheat and beef which also played an important role in boosting their economy. (Wikipedia).

The last phase of the history of Argentina is the History of Modern Argentina which began from 1880 till the present. Argentina has been struggling with violation of human rights.

Human Rights Violation in Argentina

Among all these, violations of Human Rights took place in great numbers, especially those of common people and the basic rights of the people like the right to life and the right to necessities were violated because of colonialism, revolutions, struggles, and wars that Argentina has gone through. According to the World Reports of 2019,20 and 2021 by Human Rights Watch in Argentina, longstanding human rights problems like police abuse, worse conditions of prisons, and violence against women in various forms are a great matter of concern for Argentina. People in Argentina, especially women and the female population are facing difficulty due to restrictions in abortion and a difficult condition of accessing reproductive health services is also a big issue. (World Report, 2021)

Even the violation of Freedom of Expression was found to exist as more than 400 local and international journalists demanded accreditation for International Summits in Argentina during 2017 and 2018. Profiles of journalists who demanded



Cover Page



DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2021/10.08.94>

accreditation were classified into 2 types: Ideological Profiles and Political Profiles. As per the reports by the media, those journalists were denied access to such summits and events who did not meet political criteria. Argentina also noticed a breach in rights when it came to judicial independence when it came to justice as courts kept delaying. Though many criminal courts were constructed for the speedy justice process for the people, the main purpose of justice filled as many judges' posts remained vacant. (World Report,2021)

Indigenous rights were also affected negatively which deals with providing access to people like justice, land, education, and basic healthcare services as the Argentina government fails to implement for the protection of such rights for indigenous people. Women, Girls, and Children's Rights were also affected badly. (World Report, 2021)

Sexual and domestic violence along with rising in the killing of females in great numbers took a rapid increase during the lockdown of COVID-19. Despite strict laws for the safety of women and girls, unpunished killing becomes a serious concern and as per the reports of the National Registry of Femicides, 268 femicides were reported and out of it, only 7 got punished in 2019. Severe unsanitary condition was reported in Formosa during covid times and violation of human rights ranging from abuse, isolation and free speech. (Human rights Watch,21) According to official data, every four hours a girl aged under 15 gives birth in Argentina. Most are forced to carry to term pregnancies that are the result of sexual violence.

Fear, lack of education about human rights among people, poverty, are among the most common cause for violations of human rights. What is commendable is that steps have been taken by Argentinian Government for the Security of Human Rights of the People.

Steps taken by the Government to curb Human Rights Violations

In December 2020, the Congress took a historic step by decriminalizing and legalizing abortion within the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. After that, abortions are permitted where the pregnancy poses a risk to the life or health of the pregnant person or is the result of rape. The Thousand Days Programme, to strengthen comprehensive care for women and children in the first years of life, was unanimously approved by the Senate in December. Argentina continues to make significant progress protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights and prosecuting officials for abuses committed during the country's last military dictatorship (1976-1983), although trials have experienced delays. Though it is highly successful in securing the majority of the rights for the citizens like LGBTQ rights and other basic rights, it still needs to work on the punishment criteria of the people who violate the human rights of others. The establishment of the Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CLS) in Argentina has proven helpful because it involves debates and research in policies about security. Democratic Security Agreement (ASD) was formed in 2009 which brings both social and political actors together to promote efficient solutions and also the perspective to respect the rights of the citizens.

The setup of security institutions, bringing up new laws, and strict punishments for the violations of the laws also have gone a long way in protecting the security of the citizens' human rights. Granting of the rights by the Argentina governments and recognizing the human rights and their importance also helped in the security of the human rights of the citizens. It can be predicted that Argentina will be able to reduce violation of human rights if stringent measures regarding human rights are ensured by the government and citizens nexus in the future.

References

- Wikipedia (https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Argentina)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argentine_War_of_Independence
- HumanRightsWatch(<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/argentina#:~:text=Longstanding%20human%20rights%20problems%20in,and%20endemic%20violence%20against%20women.&text=As%20of%20October%202020%2C%20Argentina,imposed%20a%20mandatory%2C%20nationwide%20lockdown.>)
- (<https://www.un.org/press/en/2010/hrct716.doc.htm>) <https://sur.conectas.org/en/current-agenda-security-human-rights-argentina/>
- World Report 2021: Argentina, Human Reports Watch <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/argentina>
- Argentina: Abusive Covid 19 Measures in Northern Province March 26,2021 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/26/argentina-abusive-covid-19-measures-northern-province>
- <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/americas/argentina/report-argentina/>