

HUMAN RIGHTS, WOMEN AND CHILDREN: A STUDY OF ARUNDHATI

ROY'S SELECTED WRITINGS

Dr. DURGA PRASAD DASH

Assistant Professor, School of Humanities, KIIT University, Kathajori Campus, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

ABSTRACT

Human rights have become an important issue in the contemporary world. The growing power of capitalist forces has stifled the voice of ordinary people in 21st century. In a world which is being threatened by rising cases of domestic violence and dowry deaths, racism, casteism, oppression, exploitation, poverty, subjugation of women, appalling number of child laborers, torture and genocide, the issue of Human rights has become a major concern of activists. There are thousand human rights violation cases in India which need to be raised at National and International level. Literature always acts as a great promoter of human rights. Arundhati Roy, the 1997 Booker prize winner and a prominent Indo-Anglian novelist, has forcefully raised the issue of human rights in her fictional and non-fictional writings. She has proved herself a great promoter of individual freedom and champion of this cause. The present paper purports to study Arundhati Roy's debut novel *The God of Small Things* (1997) and her famous political essay *Walking with the Comrades* (2010) to explore human rights violation in the cases of women and children. Ms. Roy fiercely denounces the denial of basic rights of individuals and blatant violation of human rights by state power and the new capitalist forces. As a global citizen she has always advocated for a strong global campaign for the protection of human rights.

KEYWORDS: Human Rights, Arundhati Roy, Women, Children