

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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**ASTER**

Publishing

London \* New York \* New Delhi

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First Published 2021

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ASTER Publishing  
London, New York, New Delhi  
E-mail : asterpublishing@gmail.com

in association with  
Apple Books, India  
E-mail : applebookspd@gmail.com

### **British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data**

A catalogue record for this is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-93-92007-00-2

Typeset by SR Digitals, New Delhi  
Printed in India at Trident Enterprises, Noida.  
Printed on paper from sustainable resources.

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# 1

## UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

— *Ms. Urvashi Sharma &  
Dr. Bhavesh H. Bharad*

### 1.1 Introduction:

The ever-developing and dynamic existence of science makes the technology reach new avenues of development. Any development in any area or field of life will have a direct or indirect affect in the life of a human being. So is the case of linkage between science and technology and human rights. The link can be traced back to around 18<sup>th</sup> Century with the French Declaration of human rights coming into picture.

Then the advent of the most important human rights document of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is the UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights), the origin was due to the far-reaching effects of World War II and thus need of the hour was the peace and security of the world as a whole and the individual countries together. Article 27 of UDHR provides for the right of scientific development coinciding with Article 15 of the ICESR. The Human Beings are allowed to enjoy the benefits of the development of science and attached ancillary developments and also the States and Governments should encourage as well as make environment and provide facilities to develop the same.

## 2 Understanding the Concept of Science, Technology ...

Article 27 of the UDHR includes the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits." The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications is included in the ICESCR in Article 15(1)(b). The full provision reads as follows:

1. *"The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone:
  - i. The purpose is that every person should be able to take part in the cultural life for the overall development of social being.
  - ii. Each human being has the right to get the access and enjoy and reap the benefits of the scientific developments that have taken place in the society for their own development.
  - iii. The moral rights of any scientific development should always be protected for the benefit of the author or the developer as it cannot be transferred to any other person but the original author.*
2. *The conservation and the dissemination of the scientific development of a particular author are to be guarded by the State Parties.*
3. *State parties are also given the role of considering this dissemination as a necessary freedom.*
4. *It is in the benefit of every State Party to encourage the International cooperation and contracts in the scientific development sector as it encourages the development and benefits."*

"The most comprehensive provision on the right to health is included in Article 12 ICESCR. This provision reads as follows:

1. It is the duty and a responsibility on the shoulders of the State Parties to realise that the attainment of the physical, mental and overall health is utmost important.
2. In order to achieve the full realization of this right:
  1. *Continuous efforts for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and the overall development of health standards of children.*