Is there a Relationship between Civil Political Rights and Socio-Economic Rights?

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The ability to claim ownership or legal possession over something is derived from the rights as enshrined in the constitution and other policies and regulations. Understandably, rights tend to imply to the social, legal, and the ethical principles of entitlement. They are the fundamental normative regulations regarding what is authorized or certified of people, owed to them in accordance with some of the legal systems, the social conventions among others. Rights enable one to enjoy and have privilege over something without interference from any external force. Rights can be classified as civil, economic, social, or political rights. They may include the right to freedom of expression, right to life, right to marry, as well as right privacy. Rights are essential and of great significance to humans alongside law and ethics. Therefore, this paper aims at discussing relationship between civil political rights and the socio-economic rights to enhance an understanding of the varying classes of rights.

Civil political rights entail the privileges that permit individuals to live in freedom and liberty. They protect people’s freedom from being infringed by states, social institutions or private persons and ensure a person’s ability to take part in the civil and political lifestyle of the society as well as the government without being discriminated or repressed (Cassesse 2016). Some of these rights among others include the right to life, right to security, right of equality before the law, the right to vote, right of self determination, and the right not to be tortured. On the other hand, socio-economic rights imply the human rights such as the rights to health, education, housing, and the right to adequate living standard. The social and political structures therefore play a crucial role towards enhancing and promoting developmental growth in a country. Notably, the human rights over the years have developed through history dating back from the times of cold war. According to Guerrero and Coronel (2012), a controversy has emerged between the civil and political rights versus the economic, social, and cultural rights.
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Through the cold war period for instance, the West based their argument on having prevalence on the civil and political rights whereas the Soviets claimed the significance of providing the economic and social rights. This led to the perception that some of the rights are considered of less significance to others. For example, several States and authorities perceive that the socio-economic rights should never be valued as ‘human rights’ while other authorities and states accord more significance to the civil alongside the political rights (Guerrero & Coronel 2012). The civil and political rights are said to require less resources in order to implement or be enforced unlike the socio-economic that rights require government resources and investment for them to be attained. Arguably, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) states that there exists a full recognition as well as an equal significance of each and every right implying that they are fundamental for each individual’s life.

Even though the socio-economic rights are compromised by critics, contradictions are always evident where the rights are analyzed. For instance, the rights to work and have property which belong to the economic class of rights are defended. As a result, however much there may be variances between the civil political rights and the socio-economic rights, there is no variance when it comes to the significance or status. In both instances, the government is charged with the responsibility of implementing the rights, alongside providing the necessary assurance for attainment of the rights of individuals. Despite the classification and nature given to human rights, they all pursue the same goal which is human dignity. They are universally recognized and accepted internationally by law regardless of the political interests. Both civil political rights as well as the socio-economic rights are related to the growth and development of nations as well as their societies (Mashele 2015). A state that guarantees the protection of all human rights has the potential of achieving development and meeting its goals and objectives as the individuals or citizens will be motivated to work and better their environment.
Therefore, civil political rights as well as the economic, social, and cultural rights are key fundamental hence each of the rights should be protected and provided for in equal measures. The right to work, the right to life, the freedom of expression and self determination are significant and ought not to be violated. Individuals should not be exposed to torture or any kind of mistreatment. A deprivation of any of the rights, results into under development causing instability in a nation. It is thus arguable that there is a relationship between the civil political rights and that of the socio-economic rights.
References

