Economic Social and Cultural Rights
by Asbjorn Eide

Book Description

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993, reaffirmed the indivisible and interdependent nature of all human rights. Yet, the category of economic, social and cultural rights remains a subject of debate and controversy.

The highly successful first edition of this book was the first comprehensive textbook on internationally recognized economic, social and cultural rights. While focusing on this category of rights, it also analysed their relationships to other human rights, civil and political rights in particular.

This second, revised edition updates and revises the first, and supplements it with a number of new chapters. These include chapters on the domestic realization of economic and social rights, on the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on economic and social rights in the European Union as well as on multinational enterprises and economic, social and cultural rights. Furthermore, a number of chapters have been written by new authors, such as the chapters on the right to health, on human rights and protection of the environment, on women and on international development finance institutions. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments ix
Abbreviations xi
Contributors xv
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: A Universal Challenge 3
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as Human Rights 9
Economic and Social Rights as Legal Rights 29
The Protection of Economic and Social Rights in Domestic Legal Systems 55
Cultural Rights: A Social Science Perspective 85
The Right of Self-Determination 111
The Rights to Development 119
The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living Including the Right to 133
The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regards legislation as an indispensable means for realising the rights which is unlikely to be limited by resource constraints. The enacting of anti-discrimination provisions and the establishment of enforceable rights with judicial remedies within national legal systems are considered to be appropriate means. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights permits such restrictions, provided they are proportionate and reasonable.

Right to family life. Main articles: Children’s rights, Fathers’ rights, Mothers’ rights, and Reproductive rights. Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Citizens of modern states enjoy a number of rights. Civil and political rights shape individuals’ interactions with states’ legal and political systems. Economic, social, and cultural rights, on the other hand, address freedoms often exercised in private life. Examples include access to sufficient food, education, health care, and employment.

Soviet-bloc states emphasized economic and social rights, arguing that economically disenfranchised citizens would be unlikely to participate fully in a political life. Further, socialist governments refused to give up state power, which guarantees of civil and political rights require. Western states, led by the United States, gave primacy to civil and political rights.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Covenant in general The ICESCR aims to ensure the protection of economic, social and cultural rights including: the right to self-determination of all peoples (article 1); the right to non-discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (article 2); the equal right of. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has in its General Comment 144 extensively elaborated on what the right to health encompasses and States parties’ obligations under article 12. What follows is a brief overview of what the Committee has established in relation to the right to health.