

India is a democratic country, in class VI we saw the key elements of a democratic Government. In this chapter we will learn more about “Equality “

- . What it is?
- . Why it is important in a democracy
- . Whether or not everyone is equal in India .

***EQUALITY IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY**

- . The Indian constitution recognizes every person as equal.
 - .No person can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion ,race, caste, place of birth or whether they are male or female.
- . Every person has access to all public places including playgrounds, hotels, shops and markets.
- . All persons can use publicly available wells, roads and bathing ghats.
- . Untouchability has been abolished.

***THE WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO IMPLEMENT THE EQUALITY THAT IS GUARANTEED IN THE CONSTITUTION**

.FIRST-Constitutional provisions

- A) Article 14,Equality before law-The state shall not deny any persons equality ,or equal protection of the laws within the territory of India
- B) Article 15, Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race ,caste ,sex, or place of birth.
- C) Article16, Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.
- D) Article 17, Abolition of untouchability

B) STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH EQUALITY

- 1) Some jobs have been reserved for weaker sections of the society
- 2) The mid-day meal scheme has been introduced in all government elementary schools which greatly helped in reducing caste prejudices because children of all castes take this meal together.
- 3) Women were given the equal rights to vote, equal share in the property of their parents, to impart education to girls various schools and colleges have been opened.

KEYWORDS-

1) UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE: Universal adult franchise means that all the adults who are 18 years of age and above have the right to vote irrespective of their social or economic backgrounds, caste, creed, religion or sex.

2) DIGNITY : Dignity refers to thinking of oneself and other persons as worthy of respect.

3) CONSTITUTION : Constitution is a written document that lays down the basic rules and regulations for people and the government in the country to follow .

4) CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT : A movement that began in USA in 1960s in which African-American people demanded equal rights and an end to racial discrimination is termed as civil rights movement.

5) DEMOCRACY : Democracy is the form of government of the people, by the people and for the people .

*KINDLY NOTE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWERS TO BE WRITTEN IN CLASSWORK COPY VERY NEATLY

I) ANSWER IN VERY SHORT

Q1) Which Article of the Indian constitution makes provisions to treat people equally and with dignity ?

ANS1) Article 15 of Indian constitution prohibits discrimination and inequality .Indian constitution gave provisions to treat people equally and with dignity.

Q2) What do you mean by dignity?

ANS2) Dignity refers to thinking of oneself and other person as worthy of respect.

Q3) On what basis the Ansari's were being treated unequally?

ANS3) Ansari's were being treated unequally on the basis of their caste .

Q4) What is the Constitution ?

ANS4) Constitution is a document that lays down the basic rules and regulations for people and the Government in the country to follow.

Q5) Who was Rosa Parks?

ANS5) Rosa Parks was an African-American woman.

II) ANSWER IN SHORT

Q1) In a democracy why is universal adult franchise important ?

ANS1) In a democracy , a universal adult franchise is important ,as it is based on the idea of equality. It states that every adult in a country irrespective of their wealth and the communities she/he belongs to has one vote.

Q2) In what ways was Om Prakash Valmiki's experience similar to that of the Ansari's?

ANS2) The dignity of both Om Prakash Valmiki and the Ansari's was violated because of the way in which they were treated .

2) Om Prakash Valmiki's schoolmates and teachers badly hurt his dignity and made him feel as if he was less than equal to all other students in the school.

3) The Ansari's dignity was also hurt when persons refused to leave their apartment to them .

4) Om Prakash and Ansari's do not deserve to be treated like this. They deserve the same respect and dignity as others.

Q3) Write a brief note on the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

ANS3) * The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion or National origin .

- It also stated that all schools would be open to African-American children and that they would no longer have to attend separate schools specially set up for them.

III) LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1) What do you understand by the term 'all persons are equal before the law"? Why do you think it is important in a democracy.

ANS1) By the term "all persons are equal before the law". We understand equality .

. Equality is important in a democracy because democracy is the Government of the people , by the people and for the people.

. Equality is the essence of democracy.

. If people are discriminated on the basis of caste , creed, religion, sex, property etc democracy will not survive .

Q2) What is a midday meal programme ? List three benefits of the programme.

ANS2) Midday meal scheme refers to the programme introduced in all Government elementary schools . It provides children with cooked lunch . This programme has many positive effects such as-

- 1) More poor children have begun enrolling and are regularly attending school.
- 2) It has reduced caste prejudices , because both lower and upper caste children in the school eat their meal together.
- 3) The midday meal programme also helps to reduce the hunger of poor student who often come to school and cannot concentrate because their stomach are empty.
