

Class-X Civics Chapter -4 Gender, Religion and Caste

Introduction

- * Gender and Politics → Feminism →
 - Issues related to gender discrimination.
 - How it can be resolved.
- * Religion, Communalism and Politics. → Problems → Solution [Secularism]
- * Caste and Politics → Caste in Politics and Politics in Caste
- * Real life examples. 😊

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Gender and Politics

※ Problem of Considering Gender division as an natural and unchangeable. 😞??

※ Sex v/s Gender

※ Public / Private division → Sexual division of labour → Reduction of the role in Public life. 😞
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Society's Belief ?? 😞

- Women's work is not valued
- Men do perform works done by women, if paid. Ex: Cook

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• Gender issues were raised in politics → Demanding equality

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Feminist Movement

※ Political Expression of gender → upliftment of women.

→ Participation of women in public life is very high in Scandinavian Countries [Sweden, Norway, Finland]

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Discrimination against Women

- ※ Patriarchal Society 😞 → Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression.
- ※ Literacy rate : 54 percent among women, Compared to 76 among Men. Drop out Rate 😞??
- ※ Jobs : Women's proportion in high paid jobs. ↓ [Average working hour ↑]
- ※ Remuneration/Salary : Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 → But women are paid less than men.
- ※ Female foeticide : Parents Prefer to have son → Girl child aborted [Sex - Selective abortion]
- ※ Harassment, Exploitation, Domestic violence.

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Sex Ratio

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Women's Political Representation

⚡ Problems → Solution 😞?? = More women as elected representatives. 😊 → 😞??

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→ Legal provisions to have a fair proportion of women in elected bodies.
Panchayati Raj in India → $\frac{1}{3}$ Seats are reserved

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→ Demand for similar reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women.

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A Bill with this proposal has been pending in parliament.

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Proportion of women legislature ⬇️

- 12 Percent in Lok Sabha [2014]
- 5 Percent in State assemblies.
- World average 23.5 Percent.

Expression of gender division in the politics is good or not??
?? 😞 ??

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Religion, Communalism and Politics

- ※ Religion → Differences → Social division [It may be within same religion also].
- Unlike gender differences, the religious differences are often expressed in politics.
- ※ Gandhiji → Religion can never be separated from politics. [Ethics and Moral values].
- ※ Victims of communal riots → Religious minorities → Special steps to protect them.
- ※ Family Laws → Discriminate against women. → Demand for change.

※ Religion and Politics ※

→ Good or bad 😞??

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Communalism

※ Idea of Communalism ☹️??

→ Religion → Basis of Nation → follower of Same religion ☒ Different religion ☹️??

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Expressed in Politics

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One Community

☒ Different Community

※ State power is used to Establish domination of one religious group over the rest.

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• Their fundamental Interest are Same. [No Differences]

• Commonalities are Superficial and immaterial.

• Interest → Different & Conflicting

※ This belief is fundamentally flawed ?? ☹️??
→ How and Why ??

∴ They cannot live together, Either one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nation.

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Various forms which Communalism takes in Politics? 😊??

- * The most Common expression of Communalism → Religious prejudices, Stereotypes
Superiority of one religion over other.
- * Communal Mind → Political Domination through religion → Majoritarian dominance.
 - Minority → Separate political unit.
- * Political Mobilisation on religious line 😊?? → Use of sacred Symbols, religious leaders.
 - Special appeal to the interests on emotion.
- * Communalism → Communal violence, Riots and Massacre.
 - India and Pakistan partition.
 - post - Independence period → large Scale Communal Violence.

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Secular State

- ※ Communalism → Major challenge → Solution 😞^{??} → Secularism. 😊
- i. No official religion. → No Special status to any religion. (Reflected in several Constitutional Provisions)
- ii. Freedom to Profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.
- iii. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.
- iv. The Constitution allows the state to intervene in matters of religions Communities.
- ※ Secularism → Foundation of our Country. ✓/s ※ Communalism → threat to the Country.
- ∴ Communalism is needed to Combated. How?
- Secularism ⊕ Moral and Ideological change.

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Caste and Politics

[※ Gender → largely positive] [※ Religion → largely negative] [※ Caste → Positive and negative.]

※ Caste inequalities

→ Special to India → Passing down occupation → Caste System is extreme form of this.



Hereditary occupational division

※ Caste system → Exclusion and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups. Upliftment 😞??

→ Social Reformers ⊕ Socio-economic changes. ⊕ Constitutional Protection.

- Jotiba Phule
- Urbanisation, ① literacy & Education
- Gandhiji
- Occupational mobility.
- B.R Ambedkar

※ Traces of Caste System → Caste and its relation with economic status.

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Caste in politics

- ※ Communalism → Religion is the basis. ※ Castism → Caste is the basis. [and all that]
- Caste Can take various forms in politics : 😞??
- Mustering Support of a Specific Caste by giving Special attention to the Caste Composition of that Constituency. [Representative ticket distribution]
- Appeals to the Caste Sentiments to muster Support.
- One-person-one-vote → Compelled political leaders to muster political support of Castes which were treated as inferior and low.
- ※ This is far from true 😞??
- • No parliamentary Constituency in the country has a clear majority of single Caste.
- No party wins the votes of all the voters of a Caste or Community. [vote bank 😞??]
- Different parties may put the candidates from the same Caste.
- Ruling parties, MP's and MLA's too lose election.
- ※ Other factors also matters.

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Politics in Caste

※ Politics too influences the Caste system and Caste identities 😞??

→ It is not politics that gets Caste ridden, it is the Caste that gets politicised.

- Each Caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it neighbouring Castes or sub-Castes.

- Coalition among various Caste groups thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation.

- New kinds of Caste groups have come up.

→ 'Backward' and 'forward' Caste groups.

※ Relation between Caste and Politics. 😞??

Positive

- Disadvantaged Communities gets political attention.

- Dalits and OBC Castes got access to decision making.

Negative

- Divides the Society.

- It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty development and Corruption.