

Gender, Religion and Caste

Case Study Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low. For example, the percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has touched 14.36 per cent of its total strength for the first time in 2019. Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent. In this respect, India is among the bottom group of nations in the world. India is behind the averages for several developing countries of Africa and Latin America. In the government, cabinets are largely all-male even when a woman becomes the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister. One way to solve this problem is to make it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies. This is what the Panchayati Raj has done in India. One-third of seats in local government bodies in Panchayats and Municipalities are now reserved for women. Now, there are more than 10 lakh elected women representatives in rural and urban local bodies.

Q1. What was the share of elected women members in the State Assemblies in 2019?

- a. 6 per cent
- b. 5 per cent
- c. 14.36 per cent
- d. 15.36 per cent

Q 2. Since the Panchayati Raj has done in India, what is the proportion of seats reserved for women in local government bodies?

- a. One-fourth
- b. One-fifth
- c. One-third
- d. Half

Q3. How many elected women representatives are there in rural and urban local bodies?

- a. Less than 10 lakh
- b. More than 10 lakh



- c. 10 lakh
- d. None of the above

Q4. Why was the Panchayati Raj done in India?

- a. To remove exploitation and violence against women
- b. To have women in all areas of work
- c. To have more women as elected representatives
- d. To have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies

Q5. In which Constitutional institution have seats been reserved for women?

- a. Panchayats
- b. Municipalities
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of the above

Q6. From which of the developing countries the share of women legislators in India is behind?

- a. Latin America
- b. Africa
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of the above

Answers

- 1. (b)
- 2. (c)
- 3. (b)
- 4. (d)
- 5. (c)
- 6. (c)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The literacy rate among women is only 54 per cent as compared with 76 per cent among men. Similarly, a smaller proportion of girl students go for higher studies. Then we look at school results, girls perform equally or better than boys yet they drop out because



parents prefer to spend their resources on their boys education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughter.

Q1. In India why do girls drop out from their studies?

- a. In spite of doing well in their studies, Indian girls drop out from their studies because parents prefer to spend their resources only on their sons.
- b. In spite of doing well in their studies, Indian girls drop out from their studies because parents ask them to do jobs.
- c. In spite of doing well in their studies, Indian girls drop out from their studies because parents kill them.
- d. In spite of doing well in their studies, Indian girls drop out from their studies because parents start their home tuitions.

Q2. How much is the literacy rate of women in India?

- a. The literacy rate of women in India is 24%
- b. The literacy rate of women in India is 64%
- c. The literacy rate of women in India is 54%
- d. The literacy rate of women in India is 94%.

Q3. How much is the literacy rate of men in India?

- a. The literacy rate of men in India is 24%
- b. The literacy rate of men in India is 76%
- c. The literacy rate of men in India is 44%
- d. The literacy rate of men in India is 14%.

Q4. Who influence most to the women drop out from school early?

- a. Parents influence most to the women to drop out from school early.
- b. Environment influence most to the women to drop out from school early
- c. School influence most to the women to drop out from school early.
- d. Men influence most to the women to drop out

Q5. Why the literacy rate among women in India is low in comparison to their counterparts?

- a. Parents prefer to spend their resources for their sons' education.
- b. Parents force their daughters to do household works.
- c. More number of girl students go for higher studies.
- d. Parents prefer to have sons in many parts of India.



Q6. What are the ways in which women face disadvantages, discriminations and oppression?

- a. Literacy rate among women is still less than men.
- b. Lesser member of girl students go for higher
- c. There is less representation of women in elected bodies.
- d. All of the above

Answers

- 1. (a)
- 2. (c)
- 3. (b)
- 4. (a)
- 5. (a)
- 6. (d)

Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

Partly due to their efforts and partly due to other socio-economic changes, castes and caste system in modern India have undergone great changes. With economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and the weakening of the position of landlords in the villages, the old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down. Now, most of the times, in urban areas it does not matter much who is walking along next to us on a street or eating at the next table in a restaurant. The Constitution of India prohibited any caste- based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system. If a person who lived a century ago were to return to India, she would be greatly surprised at the change that has come about in the country. Yet caste has not disappeared from contemporary India. Some of the older aspects of caste have persisted. Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe. Untouchability has not ended completely, despite constitutional prohibition. Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages continue to be felt today. The caste groups that had access to education under the old system have done very well in acquiring modern education as well. Those groups that did not have access to education or were prohibited from acquiring it have naturally lagged behind. That is why there is a disproportionately large presence of upper caste' among

the urban middle classes in our country. Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.

Q1. What are the reasons behind breaking down of old notions of caste hierarchy?

Ans. The reasons are economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and weakening of the position of landlord in the villages.

Q2. Mention the changes undergone in castes and caste system in modern India.

Ans. The changes that have been undergone in castes and caste system in modern India are:

- (i) Caste hierarchy has been removed with economic development, large scale urbanisation, growth of literacy and education, etc.
- (ii) The Constitution of India prohibited any caste based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.

Q3. What are the older aspects of caste still persisting in India?

Ans. The following older aspects of caste are still persisting in India:

- (i) Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe.
- (ii) Untouchability has not ended completely despite of the constitutional prohibition.
- (iii) There is a disproportionately large presence of 'upper caste' among the urban middle classes.
- (iv) Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.