

NCERT Solutions For Class 7 Social Science (Civics)

CH 1 - On Equality

1. In a democracy why is universal adult franchise important?

Ans: The universal adult franchise is an important aspect in democratic societies because:

- (a) It promotes equality among its citizens.
- (b) It gives all adults (those who are 18 and above) citizens the right to vote irrespective of their caste, religion, gender, and social and economic backgrounds. Citizens create their own government by exercising voting rights.
- (c) It makes the government more accountable to the people of the country.

2. Re-Read the Box on Article 15 and State two Ways in Which this Article Addresses Inequality.

Ans: Two ways in which Article 15 addresses inequality is:

- (i) It states that all citizens can access public places like shops, public restaurants, hotels places of public entertainment, etc. No one can be denied entry based on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or gender.
- (ii) It explicitly says that all people, regardless of their background, are entitled to utilize wells, tanks, bathing ghats, highways, and public resorts that are maintained, in whole or in part, by State funds or are allocated to the general public's use.

3. What Do You Understand By the Term “All Persons are Equal Before the Law”? Why Do You Think It Is Important in a Democracy?

Ans: The term ‘all persons are equal before the law’ means that every citizen, irrespective of caste, religion, race, place of birth, or gender, is entitled to all constitutional rights and freedom without being discriminated against. It is a founding aspect of democracy that ensures that the government will take care of the needs of all the citizens of the country. It will safeguard the interests of people and ensure that all have access to public resources.

4. According to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, persons with disabilities have equal rights, and that the government should make possible their full participation in society. The government has to provide free education and integrate children with disabilities into mainstream schools. This law also states that all public places including buildings, schools, etc., should be accessible and provided with ramps.

Ans: No, the Disabilities Act is not being followed in the picture shown. This is a violation of Article 15 because as per the article, physically disabled persons should be able to access public places. Buildings must be accessible, and have proper ramps, and other required measures. The way the boy is being carried down the stairs is unsafe. Carrying the wheelchair might result in imbalance and cause physical injury to the boy. Moreover, it affects his dignity as he becomes dependent on others for mobility.

This “charity-based” approach will have a negative impact on the boy’s mind and will impact his sense of independence. It is important to address these needs and replace the charity model with a ‘rights-based’ approach i.e., all persons should have an equal share of use of the public resources. The government should ensure that people with disabilities are also able to access public resources with ease.