

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

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. 😞
M F

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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 or 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 be 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.

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Hereditary occupational division

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

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

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

※ 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 ☹️??
 - ∴ Other factors also matters.
- 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.

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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.