



Diversity & Discrimination

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What is Diversity?

The vast range of things that we find in and around us is known as **diversity**.

For understanding diversity let us take an instance, say on our mother earth, there are different varieties of things such as plants, animals, rivers, trees, birds, flowers, etc.

Different types of Diversity-

- Cultural Diversity
- Geographical Diversity
- Religious diversity
- Racial Diversity/Gender
- Disability
- Age diversity

Map Activity



Example- of Geographical Diversity

- **Ladakh**
- Ladakh is situated in the northeastern mountainous part of Jammu & Kashmir. In this desert area, very little agriculture is possible. This is because the place does not receive abundant rainfall and is usually covered with snow. Even for drinking water, people have to depend on the melting water from the mountains in the summer months.



Example- of Geographical Diversity



- **Kerala**
- Kerala, a state on India's tropical Malabar Coast, has nearly 600km of Arabian Sea shoreline. It's known for its palm-lined beaches and backwaters, a network of canals.
- Inland are the Western Ghats, mountains whose slopes support tea, coffee and spice plantations as well as wildlife.





Religious Diversity





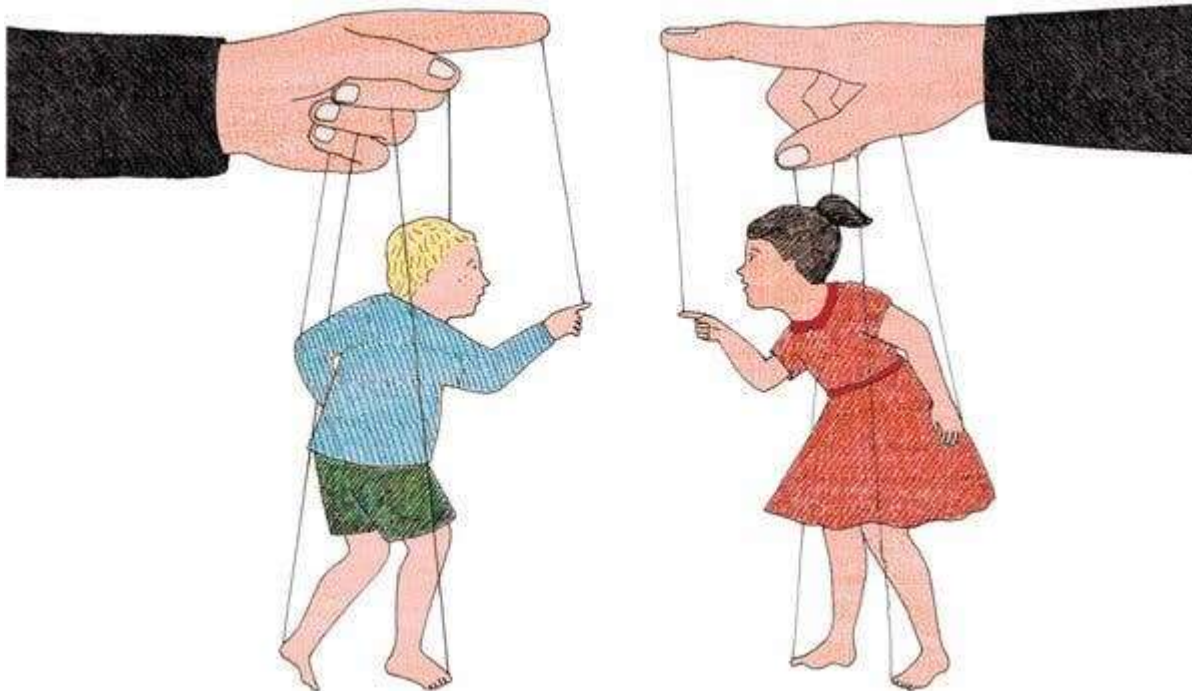
Understanding Diversity & Discrimination





What are Prejudices?

Prejudices refer to the practice of judging other people negatively or seeing them as inferior.





Understanding Prejudice

- We can be prejudiced about many things: people's religious beliefs, the colour of their skin, the region they come from, the accent they speak in, the clothes they wear etc. Often, our prejudices about others are so strong that we don't want to form friendships with them. At times, we may even act in ways that hurt them.



What are the main characteristics about which we are prejudiced?

- We can be prejudiced about many things:
 - i) People's religious beliefs
 - ii) The colour of their skin
 - iii) The region they came from
 - iv) The accent they speak in
 - v) The clothes they wear.
- Our prejudices about others are so strong that we do not want to form friendship with them. At times, we may even act in ways that hurt them.

Different forms of Prejudice



On Rural People

- ☐ More than 50% of all Indians live in villages.
- ☐ Villagers do not care about their health. They are full of superstition.
- ☐ People in villages are backward and do not like to use modern agricultural technology.
- ☐ In peak harvesting and plantation season, families spend 12 to 14 hours working in the fields.
- ☐ Villagers are forced to migrate to cities in search of work.

On Urban People

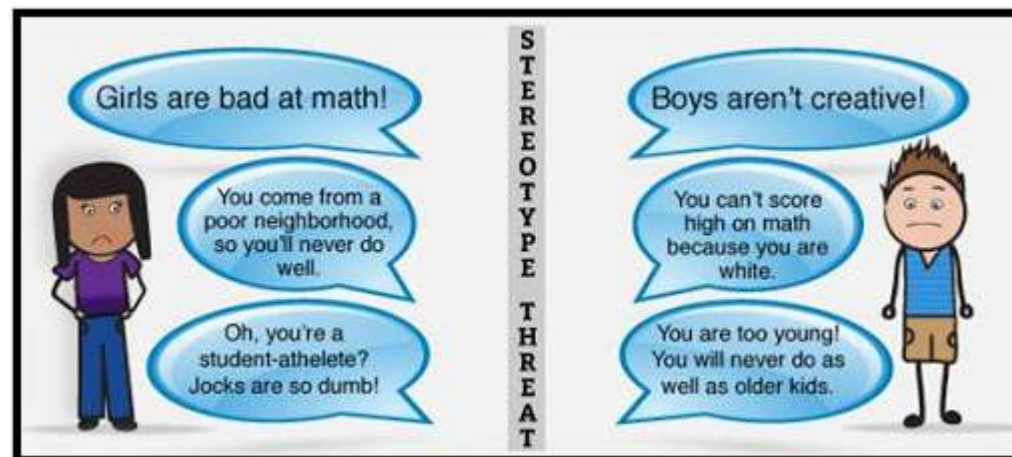
- ☐ Life in the city is easy. People here are spoilt and lazy.
- ☐ In cities families spend very little time with each other.
- ☐ People in cities only care about money, not about people.
- ☐ Living in a city is expensive. A large part of people's earnings is spent on rent and transport.
- ☐ City people cannot be trusted, they are cunning and corrupt.





What is Stereotype

- A stereotype is used to categorized a group of people. A term used to define all people of a certain belief into a mostly negative category that may only reflected a selected few of the racial demographics.
- Or
- Judging people negatively leads to the concept of Stereotype.



What is Stereotype

16 / Social and Political Life



Source: *Why are you afraid to hold my hand*, by Shelia Dhar

The children you see in the illustrations here were seen as 'disabled'. This term has been changed and now the term used is 'children with special needs'. Common stereotypes about them are given in large letters. Their own feelings and thoughts too are given.

Discuss what these children are saying about stereotypes regarding them and why.

Do you think children with special needs should be a part of regular schools or study in a separate school? Give reasons for your answer.



Creating Stereotype

All of us are familiar with gender differences. What does it mean to be a boy or a girl? Many of you would say, "We are born as boys and girls. It is a given. What is there to think about?" Let's see if this is the case.



Creating Stereotype-Activity

Arrange the statements given below in these two sections (Boys & Girls) , according to what you think is appropriate for the section.

- They are well behaved.**
- They are soft spoken and gentle.**
- They are physically strong .**
- They are naughty.**
- They are good at dance and painting.**
- They don't cry.**
- They are rowdy.**
- They are good at sport.**
- They are good at cooking.**
- They are emotional.**

Now check, who has put which statement where.

Find out and discuss people's reasons for doing this. Are the qualities you put in for boys something that boys are born with?



What is Discrimination

Discrimination happens when people act on their prejudices or stereotypes.

- If you do something to put other people down, if you stop them from taking part in certain activities and taking up jobs, or stop them from living in certain neighborhoods, prevent them from taking water from the same well or hand pump, or not allow them to drink tea in the same cups or glasses as others, you are discriminating against them..



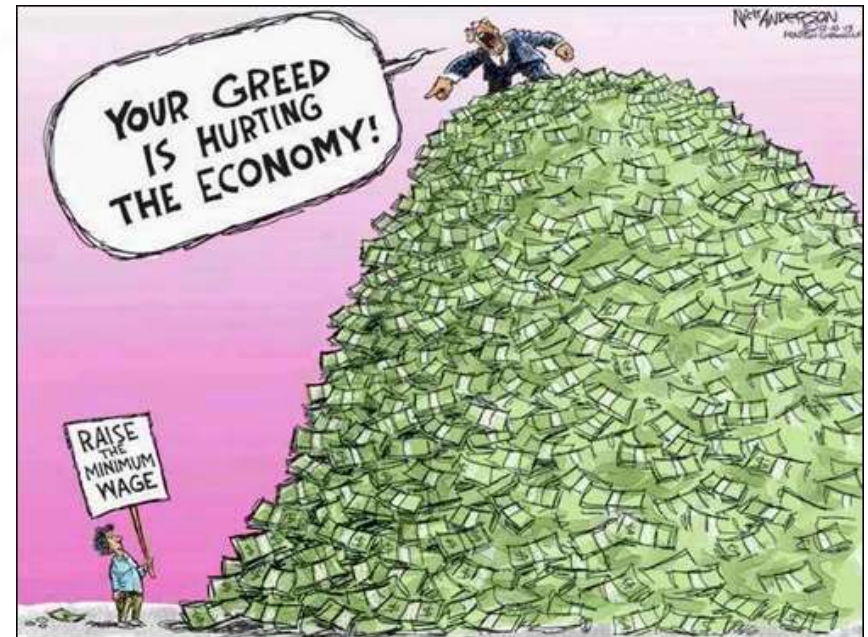
Discrimination and Inequality

There are different kinds of Inequalities leads towards discrimination:

1. Economic Inequality
2. Religious inequality
3. Casteism

Economic Inequality

- People who are poor do not have the resources or the money to meet their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.
- They experience discrimination in offices, in hospitals, schools etc., where they are treated badly because they are poor.





Different Kinds of Economic Inequality

- Some people may experience both kinds of discrimination. Like, they are poor and they belong to groups whose culture is not valued.
- Tribal, some religious groups and even particular regions, are discriminated against for one or more of these reasons. I





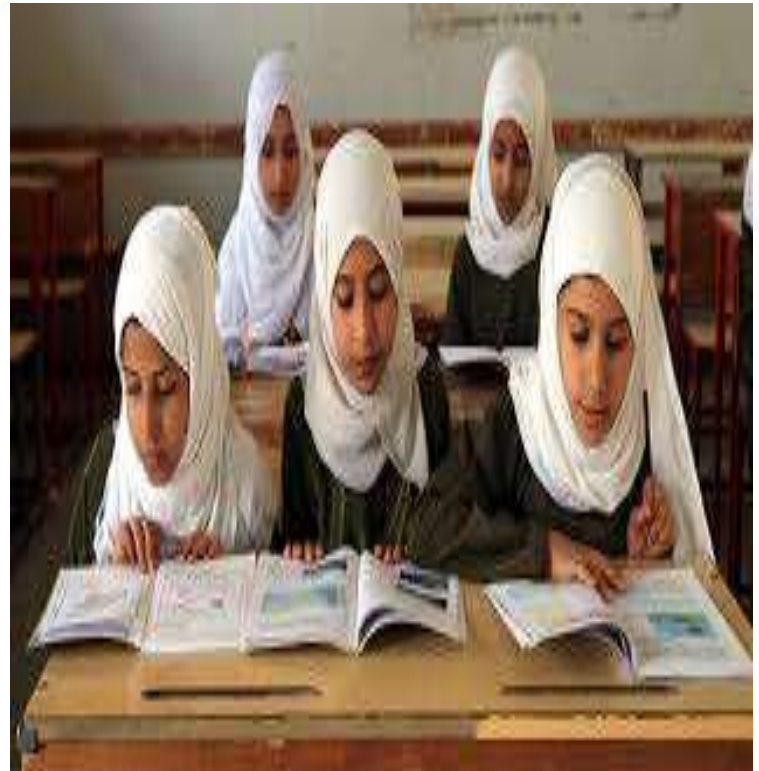
Different Kinds of Inequality

A common stereotype about Muslims is that they are not interested in educating girls and therefore do not send girls to school. However, studies have now shown that poverty amongst Muslims is an important reason why Muslim girls do not attend school or drop out from school after a few years.

Wherever effort has been made to reach education to the poor, there the Muslim community has shown an interest in sending their girls to school.

For example in the state of Kerala the distance between the school and the home is not much. There is a good government bus service that helps teachers reach schools in rural areas and over sixty per cent of the teachers are women. These factors have helped children from poorer families, including Muslim girls, attend school in much larger numbers.

In other states, where such efforts have not been made children from poorer families whether Muslim, tribal or so-called lower castes find it difficult to attend school. Therefore, poverty, not religion, is the cause for non-attendance of Muslim girls in school.





Caste System



Caste System

- However, certain kinds of work are valued more than others. Activities like cleaning, washing, cutting hair, picking garbage are seen as tasks that are of less value and people who do this work are seen as dirty or impure. This belief is an important aspect of the caste system.





Concept of - Untouchables

In the caste system, communities/ groups of people were placed in a sort of ladder where each caste was either above or below the other.

Those who placed themselves at the top of this ladder called themselves upper caste and saw themselves as superior.

The groups who were placed at the bottom of the ladder were seen as unworthy and called "untouchables".





Concept of - Untouchables

Few examples-

- Some groups were forced to pick garbage and remove dead animals from the village.
- they were not allowed to enter the homes of the upper castes or take water from the village well, or even enter temples.
- Their children could not sit next to children of other castes in school. Thus upper castes acted in ways, which did not give the so-called "untouchables" the same rights as they enjoyed.



Concept of - Untouchables

“ Life should be
GREAT rather
than **LONG**

BHARAT RATNA
DR. BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR





Concept of - Untouchables

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar,
one of the greatest leaders
of India, also faced caste-
based discrimination



Concept of - Untouchables

What is Mahar?

- Mahar is one of the backward classes which were treated as untouchables in the Bombay Presidency.

What kind of privation did Mahar caste suffer?

Mahar caste suffered the following kinds of privation:

- i) Mahars were very poor, they owned no land.
- ii) Children born to them also had to do the work their parents did.
- iii) Mahar castes had to be settled outside of the villages. They were not allowed into the village.



What do you mean by scheduled castes?

- Dalit is a term that people belonging to the so-called lower castes use to address themselves. They prefer this to 'untouchable'. Dalit means those who have been 'Broken'.
- This word according to Dalit shows how social prejudices and discriminations have broken the dalit people. The government refers to this group of people as scheduled castes (SCs).



What are the unfortunate situations of the Dalits?

- Dalits are those people who are engaged in the mean works like scavenging. These people face several unfortunate situations:
- These are as follows:
 - i) They are forced to pick garbage.
 - ii) They remove dead animals from the village.
 - iii) They are not allowed to enter at the homes of the upper castes.
 - iv) They cannot take water from the village well or hand pumps.

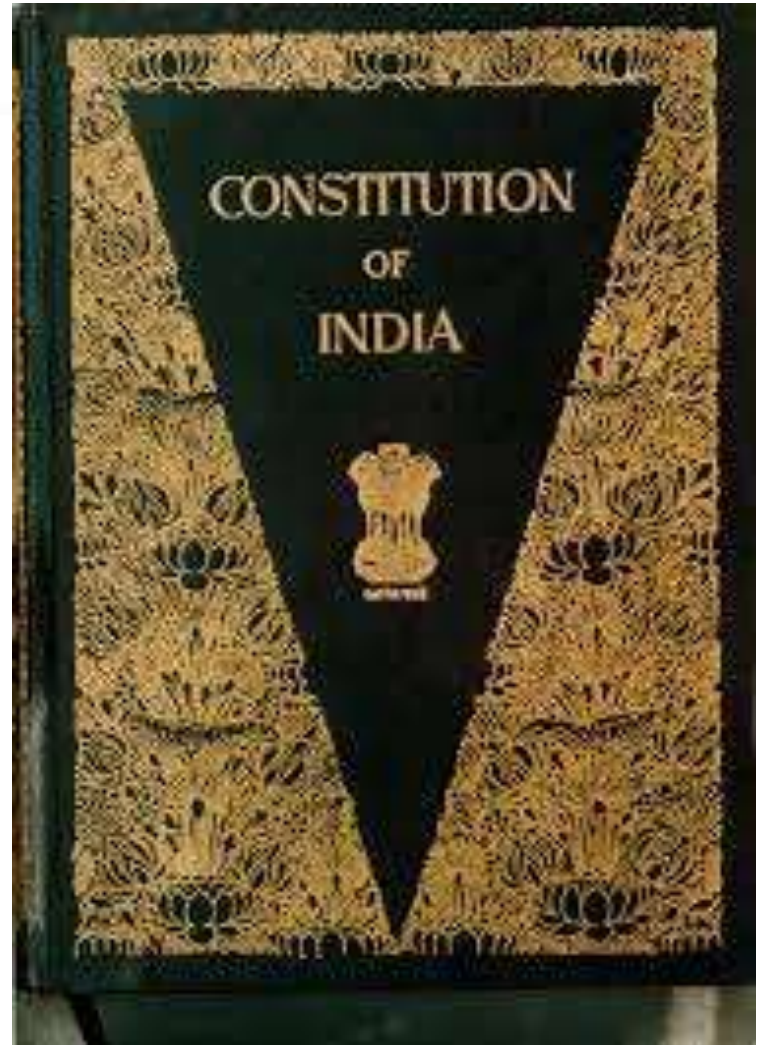


Striving for Equality

What is Constitution?

A body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed.

It is a book which enlist laws, rules , and regulations of a country.





Why India need a constitution

- When India became a nation in 1947 our leaders too were concerned about the different kinds of inequalities that existed. Those who wrote the Constitution of India, a document that laid out the rules by which the nation would function, were aware of the ways in which as a crime and has been legally abolished by law.
- People are free to choose the kind of work they wish to do. Government jobs are open to all people. In addition, the Constitution also placed responsibility on the government to take specific steps to realise this right to equality for poor and other such marginal communities.



What does our constitution say to us?

- The writers of the Constitution also said that respect for diversity was a significant element in ensuring equality.
- They felt that people must have the freedom to follow their religion, speak their language, celebrate their festivals and express themselves freely.
- They said that no, one language, religion or festival should become compulsory for all to follow. They said that the government must treat all religions equally.



How did India become a secular country?

People of different religions and faiths have the freedom to practice and follow their religion without any fear of discrimination.

This is seen as an important element of our unity; we all live together and respect one another. Therefore we can easily say that India is a secular country.



Preamble of Indian Constitution

PREAMBLE

WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** and to secure to all it's citizen

JUSTICE, social, economic and political
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity
and to promote among them all.
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of individual and the unity and integrity of the nation.

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY the twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do, **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION**

Activity





Thank You
Any Questions?
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