

CBSE Class –VII
Social Science NCERT Solution
Chapter 1 (Political Science)
On Equality

Q1: In a democracy why is universal adult franchise important?

Ans: Universal adult franchise is a very important aspect of democratic societies as:

- It promotes the idea of equality.
- It means that all adult (those who are 18 and above) citizens have the right to vote irrespective of their caste, religion, gender, and social and economic backgrounds. By voting, the citizens participate in creating their government.
- It makes the government more accountable towards people.

Q2: Re-read the box on Article 15 and state two ways in which this Article addresses inequality?

Ans:

- It states all citizens can go to public places like shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment, etc. They cannot be stopped to enter these public places based on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or gender.
- It specifically mentions that any citizen irrespective of his or her background can use wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public.

Q3: In what ways was Omprakash Valmiki's experience similar to that of the Ansaris?

Ans: The experiences of Omprakash Valmiki and the Ansaris were similar.

- Both of them suffered unequal treatment and were discriminated at individual level because they belonged to different castes or religions. In both cases, the dignity of the persons was not respected.
- Both these incidents also show that though the law enforces equality, such inequalities exist within our society.

Q4: 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 every citizen is entitled to all the constitutional rights and freedom without being discriminated on the basis of caste, religion, race, place of birth, or gender.

It is a founding aspect of democracy. It ensures that the government will take care of the needs of all the citizens and fulfill them. It safeguards the interests of people and ensures that all persons have access to all public resources.

Q5: The Government of India passed the Disabilities Act in 1995. This law states that 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.

Look at the photograph and think about the boy who is being carried down the stairs. Do you think the above law is being implemented in his case? What needs to be done to make the building more accessible for him? How would his being carried down the stairs affect his dignity as well as his safety?

Ans: No, the Disabilities Act is not being followed here. This is also a violation of Article 15 because physically disabled persons should be able to access public places. Buildings must have proper ramps, guidelines and other accessibility measures. The way the boy is being carried down the stairs affects his dignity. Moreover, the method is unsafe. It affects his dignity because every time he has to depend on others for mobility.

Carrying the wheel chair as shown in figure is dangerous. An imbalance can cause physical injury to the boy. This "charity based" approach has a negative impact on boy's mind and reduces his sense of independence.

It is important such needs be addressed through 'rights-based' approach i.e. all persons believe that they have equal share of the public resources. The government should ensure that disabled people are able to access public resources with ease.