

On Equality

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

Answer: In a democracy, the Universal Adult Franchise is important because of the following reasons:

1. Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Every adult irrespective of caste, creed, religion, region, sex, and the rich or poor background is allowed to vote. This is called a universal adult franchise.
2. The concept of the universal adult franchise is based on equality.
3. In a democracy every citizen is equal.

Q2. Re-read the box on Article 15 and state two ways in which the article address inequality?

Answer:

- Article 15 addresses inequality in terms of discrimination based on religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth etc.
- This also shows that the use of roads under public places such as wells, tanks, bathing ghats, full or partial government funds is not subject to discrimination based on the above criteria.

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

Answer: Omprakash Valmiki's experience was similar to that of Ansaris in the following ways:

- Both Omprakash Valmiki and Ansari were victims of discrimination. Omprakash was not allowed to sit with other students in the class and was made to sweep in school and playgrounds only because he was a Dalit.
- Similarly, the Ansaris were not given a flat in an area where people of other religion other than them lived. When the landlady came to know about her name, she refused to rent the house. In both cases, a person's dignity is violated.

Q4. What do you understand by the term "all personnel are equal before the law"? Why do you think it is important in a democracy?

Answer: 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. The government has to provide free education and integrate children with disabilities into mainstream schools. This law also states that all public spaces including buildings, school etc. should be accessible and provided with ramps.

Look at the photograph and think about the boy who is being carried with the stair. Do you think that the law stated above is being implemented in this regard? What needs to be done to make the building accessible?



Answer: It is clear that the boy in the picture is handicapped. According to the disabled Act 1995, the building should have been accessible to him. But the law here is not being implemented here. In fact, it can be quite dangerous for security personnel to be taken down the stairs in this way. Furthermore, his dignity is being hurt because he is made to feel inferior here. It should be sent to a court of law