

Struggles for Equality

Q.1 What do you think is meant by the expression 'power over the ballot box'? Discuss.

Answer: Power over the ballot box, demonstrates the power of the common people who are taking availing of the right to vote in every election. They are the real power of any country, working without government and system without any other ideas.

Q.2 What issue Tawa Matsya Sangh fighting for?

Answer: In 1994, the government authorized private contractors to fish in the Tawa reservoir. These contractors drove away the local people and threatened the hoodies that they did not leave them. The villagers united and decided that it was time to establish an organization and do something to protect their rights. Thus, he formed the Tawa Matsya Union (TMS), which held rallies and protests demanding his right to continue fishing for his livelihood.

Q.3 Why did the villager set up this organization?

Answer: The villagers set up the issue to protect their livelihoods and their lands. He founded this organization with the additional purpose of highlighting the injustice done to him by the government.

Q.4 Do you think that the large-scale participation contributed to the success of the TMS? Write two lines on why you think so.

Answer: In response to the mass protests by TMS, the government formed a committee to assess the issue. The committee recommended that fishing rights be provided to villagers for their livelihood. In 1996, the Government of Madhya Pradesh decided to give the fishing rights of the reservoir to the people displaced by the Tawa Dam. A five-year lease agreement was signed two years later.

On 2 January 1997, people from 33 villages of Tawa started the New Year with the first catch. Fishers with TMS were able to significantly increase their income.

Thus it can be said that large scale participation by the people forced the government to review the situation in favor of the villagers as they struck a deal which would be beneficial for all parties

Q.5 What role does the Constitution play in peoples struggle equality?

Answer: Constitution plays a significant role in the people's struggle for equality. It ensures that there are freedom and fair treatment. In the eyes of the Constitution, everyone is the same. No one is superior to the other. This ensures that every person has equal rights under the law. This ensures that everyone has access to basic and fundamental rights.