



Class 10th – Civics

Gender, Religion and Caste

Full Chapter Explanation



**It's not our differences that divides us, it's our
inability to celebrate them that divides us**



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Democracy



Diversity



Differences



Social differences that can take the form of social divisions and inequalities.

Gender



Religion



Caste

Photo
nahi mili



What we are going to study in this chapter?

- **Gender and politics**
 - **Public/Private division**
 - **Women's Political Representation**
- **Religion, Communalism and politics**
 - **Communalism**
 - **Secular state**
- **Caste and politics**
 - **Caste inequalities**
 - **Caste in politics**
 - **Politics in caste**



Gender and Politics

Gender division



- The gender division tends to be understood as natural and unchangeable.
- However, it is not based on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes. 🤖

Sex

v/s

Gender

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Public/Private division



Sexual Division of Labour



- Boys and girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility of women is housework and bringing up children.
- A system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family, or organised by them through the domestic helpers.



Societal belief and reality



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Teacher

Farmer

Nurse





Sexual division of labour



- Women do all work inside the home such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring, looking after children, etc., and men do all the work outside the home.
- When these jobs are paid for, men are ready to take up these works.
- Women do some sort of paid work but along with that it is presumed that it is their responsibility to do domestic labour but their work is not valued and does not get recognition.



Impact



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Sexual division of labour

➔ Reduction of women's role in public life, especially politics. 🚗



- Earlier, only men were allowed to participate in public affairs, vote and contest for public offices.
- Gradually the gender issue was raised in politics.



Demanding equality



Feminist movements

- There were agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women.
- These agitations ***demanding enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and opportunities.***
- More radical women's movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well. 🚗



Advantage of Political expression of gender division and political mobilisation.



- Helped to improve women's role in public life.
- We now find women working as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers and college and university teachers which were earlier not considered suitable for women.
- In Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland, the participation of women in public life is very high.



Situation in our country?





Patriarchal Society

➔ Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways:



1. The literacy rate among women is only 54 percent compared with 76 percent among men. *And the dropout rate among girls is high because parents prefer to spend their resources for their 'boys' education rather than spending equally on their sons and daughters.*
2. The proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small. On an average an *Indian woman works one hour more than an average man every day.* Yet much of her work is not paid and therefore often not valued.



3. **The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976** provides that equal wages should be paid to equal work. *women are paid less than men, even when both do exactly the same work.*
4. In many parts of India parents prefer to have sons and find ways to have the girl child aborted before she is born.



Impact



Such sex-selective abortion led to a decline in child sex ratio (number of girl children per thousand boys) in the country to merely 919. As the map shows, this ratio has fallen below 850 or even 800 in some places.



5. There are reports of various kinds of *harassment, exploitation and violence against women.*



- Urban areas have become particularly unsafe for women.
- They are not safe even within their own home from beating, harassment and other forms of domestic violence.



Women's political representation

Problems



Solution



More women as elected representatives



Explain 



Challenges



- The proportion of women in legislature has been very low.
- The percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has touched 12 percent of its total strength for the first time in 2014.
- Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent.
- Women's participation is among the bottom group of nations in the world when compared for participation of the women in national parliament.
- Cabinets are largely all-male even when a woman becomes the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister.



Solution to the problem of women's political representation



1. One way to solve this problem is to make it legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies
 - One-third of seats in local government bodies - in panchayats and municipalities - are now reserved for women.
 - Now there are more than 10 lakh elected women representatives in rural and urban local bodies.



Question



- Women's organisations and activists have been demanding a similar reservation of at least one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women.
- A bill with this proposal has been pending before the Parliament for more than a decade.
- There is no consensus over this among all the political parties. The bill has not been passed.

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Gender division

➔ Shows that some form of social division needs to be expressed in politics.



Why



This shows that disadvantaged groups do benefit when social divisions become a political issue.



Do you think that women could have made the gains we noted above if their unequal treatment was not raised in the political domain?

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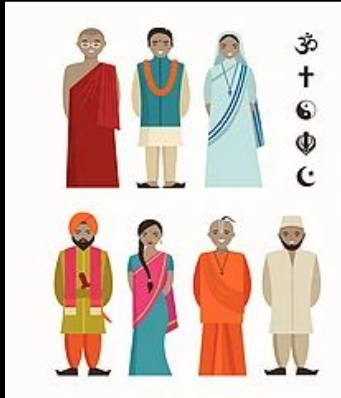
Religion, Communalism and Politics

Social division based on religion

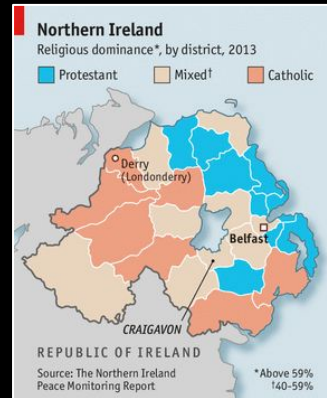


This division is not as universal as gender, but religious diversity is fairly widespread in the world today.

India



Northern Ireland



Unlike gender differences, the religious differences are often expressed in the field of politics.



Connection between religion and politics



1. Gandhiji used to say that *religion can never be separated from politics* 
 - By religion he does not mean any particular religion like Hinduism or Islam but moral values that inform all religions.
 - He believed that politics must be guided by **ethics** drawn from religion.
2. Human rights groups in our country have argued that most of the victims of communal riots in our country are people from religious minorities.



Explain 



They have demanded that the government take special steps to protect religious minorities.



3. Women's movement has argued that **FAMILY LAWS** of all religions discriminate against women.



∴ They have demanded that government should change these laws to make them more equitable.





Religion in Politics or Politics over Religion: Good or bad



- Ideas, ideals and values drawn from different religions can and perhaps should play a role in politics.
- Those who hold political power should sometimes be able to regulate the practice of religion so as to prevent discrimination and oppression.
- These political acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion equally.

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Communalism



Idea of communalism 🐙

Religion



As a basis of nation 🐙



People belonging to a same religion should form a nation and in the process the power of state is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest.



Question 🐙



Broad understanding of communalism

Communalism



- Religion is expressed in politics in exclusive and partisan terms, when one religion and its followers are pitted against another.
- Beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions.
- The demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another.



State power is used to achieve this

Communal politics

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Communalism



Communal politics



- The followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.
- Their fundamental interests are the same.
- It also follows that people who follow different religions cannot belong to the same social community.

Different religion 🇮🇳



Situation and understanding for different religion.



- If the followers of different religion have some **commonalities** these are **superficial and immaterial**.
- Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict.
- In its extreme form communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation.
- Either, one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nations.

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Communalism



This belief is fundamentally flawed.



- **People of one religion do not have the same interests and aspirations in every context.**
- **There are many voices inside every community. All these voices have a right to be heard.**



Any attempt to bring all followers of one religion together in context other than religion is bound to suppress many voices within that community.



Communalism can take various forms in politics?

1. The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. ➡



These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions.

2. A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.

Major Community



Communalism takes the form of
majoritarian dominance.

Minority Community



Communalism can takes the form
of ***desire to form a separate
political unit.***



Communalism can take various forms in politics?

3. **Political mobilisation** on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.



- This involves the **use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear** in order to bring the followers of one religion together in the political arena.
 - In electoral politics this often involves special appeal to the interests or emotions of voters of one religion in preference to others.
4. Sometimes communalism takes its most **ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.**
- India and Pakistan suffered some of the worst communal riots at the time of the Partition.
 - The post-Independence period has also seen Large scale communal violence.



Secular state

Communalism



Major challenge



Solution



Secularism

Secularism is reflected in several constitutional provisions of our constitution



Secularism refers to the separation of religion from the state. It means that the state should not discriminate among its citizens on the basis of religion. It should neither encourage nor discourage the followers of any religion.



Constitutional provisions in the Indian secularism which makes India a secular state:

1. There is **no official religion** for the Indian state



- Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, that of Islam in Pakistan and that of Christianity in England, our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.
2. The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities **freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.**



3. The Constitution ***prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.***
4. At the same time, the Constitution allows the ***state to intervene in the matters of religion in order to ensure equality*** within religious communities.
For example, it bans untouchability



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Secularism



- Is not just an ideology of some parties or persons.
- This idea constitutes one of the foundations of our country.

V/S

Communalism



- Communalism should not be seen as a threat to some people in India.
- It threatens the very idea of India.

∴ Communalism needs to be combated



How communalism can be combated?



- A secular Constitution like ours is necessary but not sufficient to combat communalism.
- Communal prejudices and propaganda ***need to be countered in everyday life and religion based mobilisation needs to be countered in the arena of politics.***



Caste and Politics

Expression of social division in politics



Gender → Positive

Religion → Negative

Caste → Both Positive and Negative

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Caste Inequalities



Unlike gender and religion, caste division is special to India. ➡

Explain



Societies

➡ Have social inequality and some form of division of labour



In most societies, Occupations are passed on from one generation to another.



Caste system is an extreme form of this. ➡

Hereditary occupational division

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Caste system as the extreme form of social division



- In Indian society, hereditary occupational division was sanctioned by rituals.
- Members of the same caste group were supposed to form a social community that practiced the same or similar occupation.
- Married within the caste group.
- Did not eat with members from other caste groups.



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Caste system

➡ Based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'outcaste' groups 🇮🇳

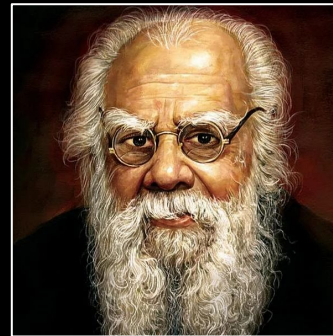
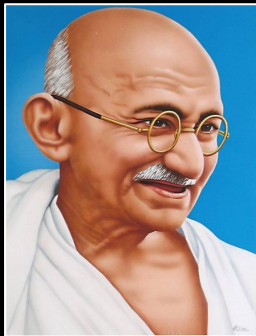
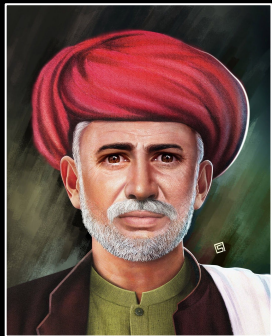


They were subjected to the inhuman practice of untouchability ➡

Upliftment



That is why political leaders and social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Gandhiji, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar Ramaswami Naicker advocated and worked to establish a society in which caste inequalities are absent.





Factors responsible for the breaking down of caste system



- Social reformers
- Socio- economic changes
- Constitutional changes



Explain





How the castes and caste system in modern india have undergone great changes due to socio-economic development?



- Economic development
- Large scale **URBANISATION**
- Growth of literacy and education
- **OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY**
- The weakening of the position of landlords in the villages
- The old notions of **CASTE HIERARCHY** are breaking down.

Constitution of India prohibited any caste-based discrimination and laid the foundations of policies to reverse the injustices of the caste system.



Caste system in contemporary india?



Not yet disappeared 



- Some of the older aspects of caste have persisted.
- Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe.
- Untouchability has not ended completely, despite constitutional prohibition,

Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status





Caste in Politics

Casteism

➡ Rooted in the belief that caste is the sole basis of social community.



- People belonging to the same caste belong to a natural social community and have the same interests which they do not share with anyone from another caste.
- Such a belief is not borne out by our experience.
- Caste is one aspect of our experience but it is not the only relevant or the most important aspect.



Caste can take various forms in politics



1. When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the **caste composition of the electorate** and nominate candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections.
 - When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and, tribes find a place in it.
2. Political parties and candidates in elections make **appeals to caste sentiment to muster support.**



- Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives.



3. **Universal Adult Franchise** and the principle of one-person-one-vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support.



- It also brought new consciousness among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.





Observation

➡ The focus on caste in politics can sometimes give an impression that elections are all about caste and nothing else.



Not always



1. *No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste*
 - So, every candidate and party needs to win the confidence of more than one caste and community to win elections.
2. *No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community.*
 - When people say that a caste is a '**vote bank**' of one party, it usually means that a large proportion of the voters from that caste vote for that party.



3. *Many political parties may put up candidates from the same caste.*



- Some voters have more than one candidate from their caste while many voters have no candidate from their caste.

4. *The ruling party and the sitting MP or MLA frequently lose elections in our country.*



- That could not have happened if all castes and communities were frozen in their political preferences.



Caste in politics



Conclusion



- While caste matters in electoral politics, so do many other factors.
- The voters have strong attachment to political parties which is often stronger than their attachment to their caste or community.
- People within the same caste or community have different interests depending on their economic condition.
- Rich and poor or men and women from the same caste often vote very differently.
- People's assessment of the performance of the government and the popularity rating of the leaders matter and are often decisive in elections.

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Politics in Caste



What caste does to politics

V/S

How politics influences the caste system and caste identities by bringing them into the political arena

Explain 



It is not politics that gets caste ridden, it is the caste that gets politicised.



Caste gets politicised in several ways



- Each caste group tries to become bigger by **incorporating within it neighbouring castes or sub-castes** which were earlier excluded from it.
- Various **caste groups are required to enter into a coalition** with other castes or communities and thus enter into a dialogue and negotiation.
- **New kinds of caste groups have come up in the political arena** like 'backward' and 'forward' caste groups.

Good or Bad





Caste plays different kinds of roles in politics.

Positive



- Expression of caste differences in politics gives many disadvantaged communities the space to demand their share of power.
- In this sense-caste politics has helped people from Dalits and OBC castes to gain better access to decision making.
- Several political and non-political organisations have been demanding and agitating for an end to discrimination against particular castes, for more dignity and more access to land, resources and opportunities.

Negative



- As in the case of religion, politics based on caste identity alone is not very healthy in a democracy.
- It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty, development and corruption.
- In some cases caste division leads to tensions, conflict and even violence.



Chapter Completed

STAY CONNECTED

KEEP LEARNING

TOGETHER
WE CAN

