

CHAPTER - 3

Gender, Religion and Caste

A system in which all work inside the home is either done by woman of the family or organised by them through the domestic helper.

Gender and politics

Public / Private division

Boys and Girls are brought up to believe that the main responsibility is house work and bringing up children.

Women's political representation

In India, proportion of women in legislature has been very low.

In villages, women fetch water, collect fuel and work in fields.

In percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has reduced 14-16.7% of its total strength of first time in 2019.

In urban areas poor women work as domestic helpers in middle class homes, while middle class ones work in offices. One - third of seats in local govt. bodies in Panchayat and municipalities are now reserved for women.

- The result of this division of this labour is that, although, women constitute half of the community, their role in public life, especially in politics is minimal in society.
- Political representation of gender division and political mobilisation question helped to improve women's role in public life.

* Patriarchy

* Feminist

Q.1 Mention different aspects in which women are discriminated against in India.

Q.2 How did women achieved gender equality?

~~Q.2~~

Ans-1 . It is believed that women's ~~are~~ main responsibility is housework and bringing up children, whereas, men do all the work outside the home.

- It is ~~not that~~ In ^{some} society, a girl child is said to be a curse to born.
- They are paid less wages in any job, as compared to men.
- Literacy rate of women are less than men.
- They get less education opportunity.

Q.3 Mention the provisions that constitute India into Secular country.

Ans → i) There is no official religion for the Indian state.

ii) The Constitution provides to all individuals and communities the freedom to profess, practice and ~~prop~~ propagate any religion, or not to follow any.

iii) The constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.

iv) India is a diverse country with various religions, still it is united.

★ Communalism in Politics:

- Gandhi ji wanted that Moral values of religion to be put in politics.

- Reflected in routine beliefs, such as

o Religious prejudices

o Stereotypes

o feeling of superiority

- Mobilization on communal lines.

- Formation of communal party

- Use of religious symbol

- Political dominance

- Emotional appeal and fear

- Communal violence

- Discrimination

★ Secular State

- Neutrality in religion

- Freedom of religion

- Prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.

- Separation of church and state

★ Caste and Politics:

★ Caste inequalities :

Q.1 What are the basis of communalism?

Ans. Communalism is based on the idea that religion is the ^{principal} basis of social community. It involves thinking like:

- i) ~~Ans~~ The followers of a particular religion must follow or belong to one community with the same fundamental rights.
- ii) It follows that people who follow different religions cannot belong to same community.
- iii) If followers of different religions have some commonalities, these are superficial & imp immaterial. Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict.
- iv) In its extreme form communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation.

★ Caste and Politics

★ Caste inequalities:

- Unlike Cender and religion, caste is division is ~~special in India~~ special in India.
- Members of 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.
- With economic development, large scale urbanization, growth of literacy and education, occupational mobility and weakening of position of landlords in ~~villages~~ villages, the notion of caste hierarchy are breaking down.

★ Caste in politics:

- Candidates are chosen, keeping in mind caste composition of the electorate.
- Ruling party give place to representatives of different caste.
- Parties and candidates appeal to caste sentiments to ^{courage} muster support.
- Universal adult franchise and principles of one person, vote vote and ~~one~~ compels leaders to mobilize all caste electorate.

★ Politics in caste:

- Politics brings caste system and caste identities into political arena.
- Each caste group may join other caste or sub-castes to form a bigger group.
- Various caste groups may join a coalition and thus give way to dialog and negotiations.
- New kind of caste group can be formed as backwards or forwards.

Q.1 How has women participation been increased in Indian politics? Give a comparative ~~ata~~ analysis of early and modern period.

Q.2 Prove by giving example that it is not politics that gets caste ridden, but it is the caste that gets politicized.

Q.3 Caste politic system & politics in India can't be seperated. Justify.

Q.4 In what ways women's life role improved in ~~social~~ public life?

Q.5 How is casteism harmful to democratic

ideals?

Q.6 Examine the impact of caste system on Indian democratic govt. system. List out any 2 major ^{ways} to eradicate the effect of caste system.

Ans-1) Women participation has increased in Indian politics from the ancient times. The same can be analysed from the brief comparison:-

Early Period (1947-1980s) -

- Minimal representation (2-3% in Parliament)
- Limited to urban, upper caste women.
- Patriarchal norms restricted entry.

Modern Period (1990s-present) -

- Increased representation (12-14% in Parliament)
- More women in prominent positions
- Expanded participation in rural areas and lower castes.
- Affirmative action policies and social changes contributed to growth.

Ans-2) Example:- Gijfay communities community's demand for reservation benefits in 2008.

- Caste identity was leveraged to mobilize support and pressure the government.
- Existing caste identity was politicized to achieve a

specific goal

- Shows how caste ~~and~~ can be used as a political tool, rather than politics creating caste divisions.

Caste gets politicized, not the other way around.

Ans-3 → Caste system and politics in India are intertwined because:

- Caste influences voting patterns.
- parties exploit caste for votes
- Reservations are caste-based.
- Identity politics is caste-driven.
- Power concentrated in dominant castes.
- Caste violence is politically motivated

Caste and politics are deeply entangled, making separations challenging.

Ans-4 → Women's role in public life has proved significant in :-

- Leadership
 - Policy-making
 - Social change
 - Education and awareness
 - Economic growth
 - Representation and voice
 - Inspiring future generations
- Women had made a positive impact, challenging

gender norms and creating a more inclusive society.

Ans 5) Casteism harms democratic ideals by :

- Denying equal access and opportunities.
- Perpetuating discrimination and exclusion.
- Reinforcing social hierarchies.
- Concentrating power in dominant castes.
- Creating social divisions.
- Undermining equality, justice, and fairness.

Casteism contradicts democratic principles, perpetuating social injustice.

Ans 6) Impact of Caste system on Indian democracy :

- hampers equal representation
- perpetuates inequalities
- creates divisions

Two ways to eradicate its effects :

- education and awareness
- Policy reforms and implementations

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These measures can promote inclusivity and equity in Indian democracy.