

Chapter – 02 Political Science

Diversity and Discrimination

- **Difference and Prejudice:**

- (i) All 8 major religions are practiced in India which has over 1,600 languages.
- (ii) Sometimes, people with very strange and unfamiliar ideas meet us.
- (iii) Differences in people exist on various grounds.
- (iv) These differences lead to prejudice. Prejudice means to judge other people negatively or see them as inferior.

- **Creating Stereotype:**

- (i) As children grow up, boys and girls are taught to do certain types of tasks.
- (ii) These are based on certain types of stereotype images. It means to fix people into one particular image.

- **Inequality and Discrimination:**

- (i) Discrimination happens when people act on their prejudices or stereotypes.
- (ii) Discrimination can take place because of several reasons.
- (iii) Groups of people who may speak a certain language, follow a particular religion, live in specific regions, etc. may be discriminated against as their customs or practices may be seen as inferior.
- (iv) People may suffer discrimination on economic or social grounds. Tribal, some religious groups and even particular regions are discriminated against for one or more of these reasons.

- **On Being Discriminated Against:**

- (i) People are engaged in certain types of occupations. Certain kinds of jobs are more valued than others.
- (ii) Caste rules were set which did not allow the so called untouchables to take on work, other than what they were meant to do.
- (iii) Dr Ambedkar suffered discrimination when he was only of nine years in school.
- (iv) He emerged as the pioneer of rights of Dalits. He believed the Dalits must fight against caste system.

- **Striving for Equality:**

- (i) The struggle for freedom against British rule also strived for equality.
- (ii) Dalits, women, tribals and peasants have fought for long ending inequality.
- (iii) After Independence, the framers of the Indian Constitution aimed for ending inequality.
- (iv) People were allowed freedom to follow their religion, speak their language, celebrate their festivals and expose themselves freely.
- (v) To guarantee equality, India became a secular state.