

ON EQUALITY

A word cloud centered around the theme of gender equality. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with 'GENDER EQUALITY' and 'PAY GAP' being the most prominent. Other words include 'WOMEN'S RIGHTS', 'FAIR', 'PROGRESS', 'EMPLOYMENT', 'OPPORTUNITIES', 'UNDERSTANDING', 'SALARY', 'EQUAL RIGHTS', and 'EMPOWERMENT'. The colors are primarily shades of green, purple, and blue.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS  
GENDER EQUALITY  
PAY GAP  
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EMPOWERMENT

# Equality



**Equality** is  
one of the pillars  
of Indian  
democracy.



## **PREAMBLE** (An introduction)

**WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA** having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** and to secure to all its citizens

**JUSTICE**, social, economic and political  
**LIBERTY** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship  
**EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity  
and to promote among them all.  
**FRATERNITY** assuring the dignity of individual and the unity and integrity of the nation.

**IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY** the twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do, **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION**



Ambedkar was the chief architect of our constitution. It is because of him that our constitution covers a wide range of civil liberties including the freedom of religion and the abolition of untouchability.





The Indian Constitution recognises every person as equal. Every individual in the country, including male or female from all caste, religion, tribes, education and economic background are recognised as equal. In our country there are laws to protect people from discrimination and ill-treatment.



## Important provisions in the Constitution on Equality: Article 15

1. Every person is equal before law.
2. No person can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, race, caste and gender.
3. Every person has access to all public places including play ground, shop, market, hotels. All person can use public wells, roads and bathing ghats.
4. Untouchability is abolished.

## Universal Adult Franchise:



This is a very important aspect of democratic societies. It means that all adults (those who are 18 or above) citizens have the right to vote irrespective of their social or economic backgrounds.



In order to implement the equality that is guaranteed in constitution, the government has taken two important steps:



1. Formation of laws – Forming laws that protect every person's right to be treated equally.
2. Schemes – Govt. has launched various programmes to help disadvantaged communities. These schemes are to ensure greater opportunity for people who have been treated unequally for several centuries.



## Mid-Day Meal Scheme



Mid-day meal scheme refers to the programme introduced in all government elementary schools to provide children with cooked lunch.

Tamil Nadu was the first state to start mid-day meal in schools.



In 2001, the Supreme court instructed all states to implement mid-day meal scheme in their schools.

## Mid-day meal had many positive effects. They are :

1. More poor children began enrolling and regularly attending school.
2. This programme helped reduce caste prejudice because both lower and upper caste children in the school eat this meal together.
3. This programme also provided food and nutrition to children of poor families who were not able to provide healthy nutrition to their children.





## Civil Rights Movement in America



African-Americans were treated unequally in the US. For example, when travelling by bus, they either had to sit at the back of the bus or get up from their seat whenever a white person wished to sit.



Civil Rights Movement in America started in late 1950, to push for equal right for African-Americans and to end racial discrimination.



On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a 42 year old African-American woman boarded the bus to go home from work. On that day, Rosa Parks initiated a new era in the American quest for freedom and equality.



The Civil Rights Act came into being in 1964 that prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion or national origin.



## Disabilities Act 1995:

This law states that person with disabilities have equal rights and government should make possible their full participation in society. The govt. Has to provide free education and integrate children with disabilities into mainstream schools.

The law also states that all public places including buildings, schools, shopping malls, etc should be accessible and provided with ramps.

