

Gender, Religion and caste

1 Mark Questions

1. Which one of the following social reformers fought against caste inequalities.

- (a) Periyar Ramaswami Naiker
- (b) Swami Dayanand Saraswati
- (c) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- (d) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

Ans. (a) Periyar Ramaswami Naiker

2. Which one of the following was the view of Mahatma Gandhi about religion ?

- (a) He was in favour of Hinduism.
- (b) He was an ardent supporter of Muslim Religion.
- (c) By religion, Gandhi meant for moral values that inform all religions.
- (d) He said that India should adopt Christianity.

Ans. (c) By religion, Gandhi meant for moral values that inform all religions.

3. Name any two political leaders who fought against caste inequalities.

- (a) Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil.
- (b) Mr. Nitesh Kumar and Mr. Narendra Modi.
- (c) Dr.S. Radhakrishnan and Shri Morarji Desai
- (d) Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar

Ans. (d) Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar

4. What is the average child sex ratio in India ?

- a) 923
- b) 926
- c) 935
- d) 933

Ans. (d) 933

5. Which one of the following refers to gender division ?

- (a) The hierarchical unequal roles assigned to man and woman by the society.
- (b) Biological difference between man and woman.
- (c) The ratio of male child and female child.
- (d) The division between male labourers and female labourers.

Ans. (a) The hierarchical unequal roles assigned to man and woman by the society.

6. Which one of the following is the basis of communal politics?

- (a) People of different religions may have the same interests.
- (b) People of different religions have different interests that involve conflicts.
- (c) People of different religions live in mutual co-operation.
- (d) People who follow different religions belong to the same social community.

Ans. (b) People of different religions have different interests that involve conflicts.

7. Name any two countries where women's participation in public life is very high.

- (a) Sri Lanka and Nepal
- (b) Pakistan and Bhutan
- (c) Sweden and Finland
- (d) South Africa and Maldives

Ans. (c) Sweden and Finland

8. What is the literacy rate among women and men respectively in India?

- (a) 54% and 76%
- (b) 46% and 51%
- (c) 76% and 85%
- (d) 37% and 54%

Ans. (a) 54% and 76%

9. Which one of the following is a form of communalism?

- (a) Communal Unity and integrity.
- (b) Communal fraternity.
- (c) Communal violence, riots and massacre.
- (d) Communal harmony.

Ans. (c) Communal violence, riots and massacre

10. Which one of the following refers to a feminist?

- (a) The female labourers
- (b) The employer who employs female workers
- (c) A woman who does not believe in equal rights for women.
- (d) A woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for woman and man

Ans. (d) A woman or a man who believes in equal rights and opportunities for woman and man

11. State the definition of Feminist.

Ans. A woman or a man who believe in equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

12. What is child sex ratio?

Ans. The number of girl children per 1000 boys.

13. What is sex ratio?

Ans. It is the number of females per thousand males in a country.

14. What is the percentage of women in Lok Sabha as recommended by women's Reservation Bill?

Ans. 33 percent.

15. What is caste Hierarchy?

Ans. It is a ladder like formation in which all the caste groups are placed from the highest to the lowest caste.

16. What does the concept of majoritarian dominance refers to?

Ans. It refers to the community belonging to a majority category takes the status of majoritarian dominance.

17. What equal wages act signifies?

Ans. The law provides that equal wages should be paid for equal job for both men and women.

18. Name any two laws that enacted by the Indian parliament for the welfare of women.

Ans. Special Marriage Act of 1955 and Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961.

19. Name the leaders who worked for the elimination of caste system?

Ans. Jotiba Phule, Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B. R. Ambedkar.

20. In which countries women are given high profile?

Ans. Scandinavian Countries- Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

21. What is the exact ratio of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in 2001?

Ans. Scheduled castes constitutes 16.2% and scheduled tribes 8.2%

22. What were Gandhi Ji's opinion regarding religion and politics?

Ans. According to Gandhi Ji religion can never be separated from politics.

23. Name the social evil that was opposed by Jotiba Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, Periyar Ramaswamy and Dr B. R. Ambedkar.

Ans. Caste System

24. Name any three kinds of social differences.

Ans. Gender, religion and caste are three kinds of social differences.

25. When is International Women's day celebrated?

Ans. It is celebrated on 8th march every year.

26. According to the census of India 2001, what is the literacy rate in India?

Ans. 65.38%

27. According to the census of India 2001, what is the literacy rate for men in India?

Ans. 75.85%

28. According to the census of India 2001, what is the literacy rate for women in India?

Ans. 54.16%

29. What is major religion of Nepal?

Ans. Hinduism

30. What are family laws?

Ans. Those laws that deal with family related matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance etc. In our Country different families law apply to followers of different religions.

31. Explain the factors responsible for low female literacy rate.

Ans. (1) Indian society is basically a patriarchal society where boys are given preference over the girls.

(2) The parents do not expense equally for both boys and girls. Boys are given more attention.

(3) It is a prevailing stereotype for women that even after getting well education, they have to do household jobs.

32. What do you mean by secular state ? Give any two provisions that make India a secular state ?

Ans. A nation or state which keeps itself equidistant from different religious issues, and does not give protection to a particular religion.

(1) India is a country of diverse religions. It was the religions on the basis of which India was divided. Unlike Pakistan Buddhism in Sri Lanka. Christianity in England.

(2) The constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess practice and propagate any religion.

33. In which country was the “Civil Rights Movement” Started? Name any leaders related to this movement? Why did he start this movement?

Ans. America, Martin Luther King.

The purpose of this movement was to give end to the racial discrimination being practiced against the Afro-Americans.

3 Mark Questions

1. What do you mean by gender division? How is it linked with division of Labour in most of the societies?

Ans. Gender division simply refers to the division of work between the men and the women. Some work especially the households such as cooking, washing, cleaning, etc. are exclusively meant for the women while the man have some other defined areas of work.

(1) The gender division between the men and women does not mean that men cannot do household works. They simply think that it is for women to attend the household works.

(2) The gender division also doesn't mean that women do not work outside their home.

2. Give three ill-effects of communalism in the society.

Ans. (1) A communal thought always tends to establish political dominance over particular religious community.

(2) The country weakens when political parties are formed and political activities are conducted on the communal lines.

(3) One of the most ugly face of communalism emerges out in the form of riots, violence and homicides.

3. Which factors are responsible for miserable and poor conditions of women in India? Explain.

Ans. (1) Sexual division of Labour.

(2) Illiteracy

- (3) Lack of Representation in politics.
- (4) Discrimination in Job.

4. Write two positive and two negative impacts each of caste-politics relation in India.

Ans. (1) Positive Impacts

- (i) Caste Politics relationship has helped people from Dalits and OBCs to gain better access to decision making.
- (ii) Now people are making voice for the end of discrimination against particular castes for more dignity and more access to land, other resources and opportunities.

(2) Negative Impacts

- (i) It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty, development and corruption. Sometimes a few underprivileged castes get more benefit while other underprivileged classes remain deprived.
- (ii) Sometimes it also disrupts social harmony.

5. Explain the political considerations of democracy.

Ans. 1. Elections should be held regularly and there should be more than one party in the elections.

2. Elections should be held on the basis of universal adult franchise, which means every adult member has the right to vote.

Citizens are participating in the political affairs of the government.

6. Explain the social considerations of democracy.

Ans. 1) Social democracy means there should be equality and unity among the society.

2) Everyone should have equal access to the resources of the society.

3) There should not be any discrimination on the basis of caste, race, gender or religion.

4) No religion or community is given any preference over other religions and communities.

7. Explain the economic considerations of democracy.

Ans. 1) Economic democracy means that every member enjoys, more or less, equal economic status.

2) This means that there should not be large gaps between the rich and the poor.

3) A society should not have a small very rich class and a large poor class.

4) It also means that the government undertakes extensive social welfare schemes and achieve universal literacy rate.

8. How have the feminist movements helped in improving women's conditions?

Ans. 1) Political expression of gender division and mobilization on this question helped to improve the women's role in public life.

2) Now women are working in different occupations such as scientists, doctors, engineering, lawyers, teachers which were not considered suitable for women.

3) In some parts of the world for example in Scandinavian countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland the participation of women in public life is very high.

9. What is casteism? How casteism in India different as compared to other society?

Ans. 1) Organisation of people into social groups for the purpose of marriage, work and diet is known as caste system.

2) The social structure of India is based upon the caste system.

3) All societies have some kind of social inequalities and some form of division of labor but the Indian caste system is an extreme form of division of labour based on birth.

10. What are the feminist Movements? What are their demands?

Ans. 1) These are the movements which are organized by various women organizations to create equality for women in personal and family life.

2) These feminist movements demand equal rights for women in all spheres of life.

3) These are agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women.

The agitations demanded in enhancing the political and legal status of women

11. What do you mean by sexual division of labour?

Ans. 1) Sexual division of labour refers to the division of work between men and women. Some works especially the household works such as cooking, tailoring, washing, cleaning etc are exclusively meant for women while the men have some other defined areas of work.

2) The sexual division of labour does not mean that men cannot do household works. They simply think that it is for women to attend the household work. When these jobs are paid, men are ready to take up those jobs for example most tailors and cooks in the hotel are men.

12. Explain the need for more representations for women as elected representation?

- Ans.** 1) In India the proportion of women in legislature has been very low.
2) For example the percentage of elected women numbers in the Lok Sabha has never reached even ten percent of its total strength.
3) Their share in the state assemblies is less than five percent.
4) Issues related to women's well-being or otherwise are not given adequate attention.
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13. How can we achieve the objective for more representation for women as elected representation?

- Ans.** 1) Seats must be reserved for women in elected bodies like the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, the State Assemblies, etc.
2) Emphasis should be given to enhance the literacy rate among women.
3) Political parties need to be convinced to reserve tickets for women contestants.
4) Only reserving seats for women in government jobs are not enough. It should be adequate and be implemented in strict sense.
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14. How is gender division understood in Indian society?

- Ans.** 1) Seats must be reserved for women in elected bodies like the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, the State Assemblies, etc.
2) Emphasis should be given to enhance the literacy rate among women.
3) Political parties need to be convinced to reserve tickets for women contestants.
4) Only reserving seats for women in government jobs are not enough. It should be adequate and be implemented in strict sense.
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15. How political mobilization on the question of gender equality helps to improve women's role in public life? Are they successful in achieving their objective?

- Ans.** 1) In these days women work as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, managers and teachers, which were earlier not considered suitable for them.
2) The status of women is increased in the society. Many laws are enacted by the government to make them more empowered.
3) Despite some improvements, ours is still a male dominated patriarchal society. Women still face disadvantaged, discrimination and oppression in various ways.
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16. What are the demands of women's organization?

- Ans.** 1) Reservation of at least one-third of seats in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.
2) Reservation of seats in state legislative assemblies.
3) Equal wages should be given to women.
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17. In what ways does gender division of labour in most families reflect that housework and bringing up children are the main responsibility of women?

Ans. 1) Women in most families, work inside the home.

2) They do work which include washing cooking, tailoring, caring for children etc.

3) These jobs are not paid work and there is hardly any recognition for such work.

4) Men are ready to do all such type of work outside the home if these are paid.

18. Explain the role played by women in public affairs.

Ans. 1) Women organizations have played an important role in improving the status of women.

2) Women now play a significant role in public affairs as MPs, MLAs, engineering, doctors, managers and teachers.

3) Women also play a very important role in handling the household works.

19. What is the basis of caste based politics? Explain.

Ans. 1) When candidates are chosen for a constituency the caste composition of the area is kept in mind and then candidates are nominated who can win the election.

2) Political parties make appeals to the caste sentiments of the electorate.

3) Caste has become an important factor of political parties.

20. Mention the negative aspects of caste in politics?

Ans. 1) Politics based on caste identity alone is not a healthy feature in a democracy.

2) It can divert attention from other pressing issues like poverty. Illiteracy, corruption etc.

3) Caste politics lead to tension and violence.

4) Chances of conflict between different social groups are more.

21. Is true that gender division is not based on biology but on social expectations and stereotypes? Explain.

Ans. 1) Boys and girls are brought up to believe that women should be good at household work and men should do all the work outside home.

2) Most of the jobs done by women at home remain unpaid and unrecognized.

3) Many women do work outside to supplement domestic income.

4) In rural areas they work in field and earn money for the family.

22. How religion can be used in politics in a positive manner?

Ans. 1) The religion can be used in politics in not dangerous as it seems to us. Ethnical values of each religion can play a major role in politics.

2) As a member of any religious community, people should express their political needs. The political leaders should regulate the practice of religion so that there should be no discrimination and oppression.

3) If all the religions are treated equally then these political acts are correct in any way. Therefore, religion can be used in politics in a positive manner.

23. Do you agree that caste alone cannot determine election results in India?

Ans. 1) It is not necessary that people of the same caste vote for the same political party. They have different demands and vote according to their choice. It means that no political party represents only one caste.

2) It does not happen that there are candidates from each caste. It might happen that all the candidates are from one caste and there are more than one candidate from one caste and no candidate from the other caste.

24. How does the Constitution of India ensures that India remains a secular state?

Ans. 1) There is no of official religion for the Indian state.

2) Constitution of India does not give a special status to any religious.

3) The constitution provides to all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion, or not to follow any.

4) The constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.

25. Describe the positive impact of casteism with regard to political expression.

Ans. 1) Caste and politics relationship has helped people from Dalits and OBCs to gain better access to decision making.

2) Now people are making voice for the end of discrimination based on caste lines.

3) They are now asking for more dignity and more access to land and other resources and opportunities.

26. Describe the negative impact of casteism with regard to political expression.

Ans. 1) Some political parties are known to favour some castes and are seen as their representatives. Sometimes it promotes social differences.

2) It can also divert attention from other issues like poverty, development and corruption.

3) Sometimes it also disrupts social harmony.

27. Is the association of political parties with social groups always bad? Give three arguments in support of your answer.

- Ans.** 1) The association of political parties with social groups is not always bad.
2) The association of political parties with weaker sections of the society is healthy for democracy.
3) Through political parties weaker sections get together to voice their opinion and get a chance for their development.
4) Some political parties grow out of social groups like, AIADMK, BSP and DMK.
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28. Give three reasons which have contributed to changes in caste and caste system in India.

- Ans.** 1) Many reformers like Mahatma Phule, Naikar, Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi fought to establish a society in which caste inequalities have no place.
2) Development of new cities, Industrialization, more job opportunities in new urban areas compelled people from all castes to live and work together. This has developed a liberal view relating to the notions of caste practices.
3) The constitution prohibited any caste based discrimination and laid the foundation of policies to reverse the injustices of caste system. Untouchability has been made a penal offence.
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29. 'Caste has not still disappeared from contemporary India'. Explain the statement with suitable arguments.

- Ans.** 1) Most people marry within their own caste or tribe.
2) Untouchability has not ended completely despite constitutional prohibition.
3) Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages continue to be felt today.
4) A large mass of low caste people still do not have access to education.
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30. What are the feminist Movements? What are their demands?

- Ans.** 1) These are the movements which are organized by various women organizations to create equality for women in personal and family life.
2) These feminist movement demand equal rights for women in all spheres of life.
3) These are agitations in different countries for the extension of voting rights to women.
4) The agitations demanded in enhancing the political and legal status of women.
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31. What were Gandhi ji's views regarding religion and politics?

- Ans.** 1) Gandhi Ji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics.
2) According to him religion was not any particular religion like Hinduism or Islam but moral values that form the basis of our religion.
3) He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.
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32. Why is the idea of communal politics fundamentally flawed?

Ans. 1) Most of these beliefs are fundamentally not true. People of one religion do not have the same interests and aspirations in most of the context.

2) Every individual has his and her own choices, roles, positions and identities.

3) There are many voices inside every community. All these voices have a right to be heard.

4) Therefore, any attempt to bring all followers of one religion together in context other than religion is bound to suppress many voices within that community.

33. In what ways does gender division of labour in most families reflect that housework and bringing up children are the main responsibility of women?

Ans. 1) Women in most families, work inside the home.

2) They do work which include washing cooking, tailoring, caring for children etc.

3) These jobs are not paid work and there is hardly any recognition for such work.

4) Men are ready to do all such type of work outside the home if these are paid.

34. What is feminist movement? What are the results of political expressions of gender divisions?

Ans. The feminist movement refers to the agitation demanding enhancing the political and legal status of movement.

(1) The gender issues or equality of men and women, as a result of feminist movement was raised in politics.

(2) The political expressions and political mobilization helped improve women's role in public life.

(3) As a result of the expression of gender division in politics many legislations were passed by which women were empowered in the social, economic and political fields.

35. Discuss any four facilities are given by the government to the backward classes.

Ans. (1) The people from the backward classes have been given reservation in the government jobs as per their proportion in the population.

(2) To give them fair representation in the Vidhan Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

(3) To help them move forward in the field of higher education. The seats have been reserved for them.

(4) The constitution also prohibits any type of caste discrimination.

36. Discuss any four steps taken by the government towards women empowerment and gender inequality.

Ans. (1) Women have less than 10% representation in the Indian legislature. In the State legislature their representation is even less than 5%.

(2) The provision of equal wages for women without any discrimination has been made under the Equal Wages Act.

(3) There is a tendency of female infanticide in many parts of the country.

Domestic violence against women, their exploitation etc. always have been the part of daily news. In this regards, the government has brought Domestic Violence Act which proves and effective steps.

5 Mark Questions

1. What is communalism? What are the major beliefs of communal people?

Ans. 1) Communalism is a situation when a particular community tries to promote its own interests at the cost of other communities.

2) Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.

3) The followers of a particular religion must belong to one community. There fundamental interests should be the same. Any difference that they may have, that is irrelevant.

4) Communalism also includes that people who follow different religions have some commonalties. These are superficial and immaterial. Their interests are bound to be different and involve a conflict.

5) Sometimes communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one nation.

2. In actual life democracy do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities explain by giving examples.

Ans. 1) In most of the democracies a small number of ultra rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and income.

2) The share of rich class is increases whereas those who are not at bottom of the society have been little to depend upon.

3) Even in India, the poor constitute a large proportion of our voters and no party will like to lose their votes. Yet democratically elected government does not appear to be as keen to address the question of poverty as is expected.

4) The situation is much worse in some other countries. In Bangladesh more than half of its population lives in poverty.

People in several poor countries are now dependent on the rich countries even for the food supplies

3. Examine the basic features of the caste system prevailing in India.

Ans. 1) The association of political parties with social groups is not always bad.

2) Associations of political parties with weaker section of society are healthy for democracy.

3) Through political parties weaker sections get together to voice their opinion and get a chance for their betterment.

4) Some political parties grow out of social groups, example DMK, AIADMK.

5) It is hierarchical occupational division of the society.

6) It has four main divisions- Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.

7) It is hereditary.

8) The members of the same caste group formed a social community that followed similar occupations, married within the caste and did not mingle with the other caste.

9) The caste system was based on exclusion of and discrimination against the 'out caste' groups that were subjected to inhuman practice of untouchability.

4. Assess the influences of politics on caste system.

Ans. 1) Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within its sub castes.

2) Various caste groups are required to enter into a coalition with other castes or communities.

3) New kinds of caste groups have entered politics like backward and forward castes.

4) Politics in caste has allowed many disadvantaged caste groups to demand their share of power.

5) Caste politics has helped the Dalits and OBCs to gain better access to decision making.

5. How Casteism is dangerous a democratic country?

Ans. 1) Casteism is actually against the basis principal of democracy that i.e., liberty, equality and fraternity.

2) Casteism gives encouragement to vote bank politics and because of which economic based issues are pushed back by the leaders of differ castes.

3) Casteism encourages interest of castes and is against national unity.

4) Casteism favours interests of one particular caste because of which interest of other castes are overlooked.

6. Is caste system is coming to an end? Explain.

Ans. Caste system has kept Indian society intact. But at present it is coming to an end because of following reasons:

- 1) Many social reform movements were started in 19th century like Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj etc. They preached against the caste system.
- 2) With the advent of means of transport and communication people begin to move from place to place in search of work and in new society. There they work with people of other castes. It leads to decline of another feature of keeping relations with one's own caste.
- 3) In the past religious education was given and it was confined only to higher three castes. But with the changing time religious education came to an end.
- 4) Every one begins to get modern education which led to the decline of discrimination.
- 5) Giving occupation to the child is one of the main features of caste system. But due to industrialization and modernization new occupations came into being. People begin to adopt new occupations which have led to the end of this feature of caste system.

7. Explain the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies.

- Ans.** 1) In the central legislature there are less than 10% of its total strength are women.
- 2) In the state legislature there are less than 5% of its total strength are women.
 - 3) In panchayat 1/3 seats are reserved for women.
 - 4) India is among the bottom group of nations in the world, in this respect.
 - 5) Women' organizations and activists have been demanding a similar reservation of at least 1/3 of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. But the bill to this effect has not been passed.

8. How does communalism threaten the Indian Democracy? Explain.

- Ans.** 1) Communalism involves religious prejudice, 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.
 - 3) Political mobilization on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism. In electoral politics, this often involves special appeal to the interests or emotions of votes of one religion in preference to others.
 - 4) Sometimes communalism in India takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.
 - 5) Communal prejudice and propaganda need to be countered in everyday life and religion based mobilization needs to be counted in the arena of politics.
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9. Explain the various forms that communalism takes in politics.

Ans. 1) In politics communalism leads to a tendency of dominance of one community over the other. For those belonging to the majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.

2) There is use of religious ideas and emotional appeals and plain fear in order to bring the followers of one religion together in political arena.

3) In electoral politics this often involves special appeal to the interests or emotions of voters of one religion in preference to another.

4) The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and beliefs in superiority of one's religion over the other religions.

5) Communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.

10. "The old notions of caste hierarchy are breaking down in India"-Support the answer statement with suitable examples.

Ans. 1) As per the old caste hierarchy Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras formed the ladder from top to bottom. Various socio-economic and political changes have almost broken down this hierarchy.

2) The main occupations of the Brahmins were to perform various religious rites. Now, one can see Brahmins in various other occupations. They are running shops and hotels.

3) Kshatriyas and Vaishyas are also working in many fields.

4) Shudras, who were once untouchables, are now politicians, Doctors, professors and they now hold various respectable posts in government and private sectors.

5) Urbanization and Education have brought a change in mind set of modern youths from all castes and they are living and working together.
