1. Find the roots of the equation $x + \frac{1}{x} = 3$

Sol:- Given equation is $x + \frac{1}{x} = 3$

Instead of taking LCM, multiply complete equation by x, we get

$$\left\{x + \frac{1}{x} = 3\right\} \times x$$

$$\Rightarrow x \times x + \frac{1}{x} \times x = 3 \times x \qquad \Rightarrow x^2 + 1 = 3x$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - 3x + 1 = 0$$

Compare it with $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, we get a = 1, b = -3, c = 1

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (-3)^2 - 4 \times 1 \times 1 = 9 - 4 = 5$$

∴ The given equation has real and distinct roots

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{D}}{2a} = \frac{-(-3)\pm\sqrt{5}}{2\times1} = \frac{3\pm\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

 $\therefore x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$ are required roots of given equation.

2. Find the roots of the equation $\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x-2} = 3$

Sol:- Given equation is $\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x-2} = 3$

Instead of taking LCM, multiply complete equation by x(x-2), we get

$$\left\{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x - 2} = 3\right\} \times x(x - 2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{x} \times x(x - 2) - \frac{1}{x - 2} \times x(x - 2) = 3 \times x(x - 2)$$

$$\Rightarrow (x - 2) - (x) = 3x^2 - 6x \qquad \Rightarrow 3x^2 - 6x + 2 = 0$$

Compare it with $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, we get a = 3, b = -6, c = 2

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (-6)^2 - 4 \times 3 \times 2 = 36 - 24 = 12$$

∴ The given equation has real and distinct roots

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{D}}{2a} = \frac{-(-6) \pm \sqrt{12}}{2 \times 3}$$
$$= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{2 \times 2 \times 3}}{6} = \frac{6 \pm 2\sqrt{3}}{6} = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{3}}{3}$$

 $\therefore x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{3}}{3}$ are required roots of given equation.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISCRIMINANT & NATURE OF ROOTS:

By quadratic formula $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$; $a \ne 0$ will have real roots if $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ or D > 0

Thus If $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ then the equation will have no real roots (It has imaginary roots which you will study in XI class)

Here three cases arise

Case I. If D > 0 then equation has two real & distinct roots, say

$$\alpha = \frac{-b + \sqrt{D}}{2a}$$
 and $\beta = \frac{-b - \sqrt{D}}{2a}$

Case II. If D = 0 then the equation has two real & equal roots, say *the quadratic equation is perfect square*.

$$\alpha = \frac{-b \pm 0}{2a} = \frac{-b}{2a} = \beta$$

Case III. If D < 0 then the equation has no real roots.

(Note: If only roots are mentioned then take $D \ge 0$)

Lets discuss some examples

3. Find the value of k for equation $3x^2 + kx + 4 = 0$ so that it has equal roots.

Sol:- Given equation is $3x^2 + kx + 4 = 0$

Compare it with $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, we get a = 3, b = k, c = 4

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (k)^2 - 4 \times 3 \times 4 = k^2 - 48$$
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Since the equation has equal roots.

$$\therefore D = 0 \implies k^2 - 48 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow k^2 = 48 \implies k = \pm \sqrt{48} = \pm 4\sqrt{3}$$

So $k = \pm 4\sqrt{3}$ is the required solution.

4. Find the value of k for equation kx(x-2) + 6 = 0 so that it has equal roots.

Sol:- Given equation is kx(x-2) + 6 = 0 $\Rightarrow kx^2 - 2kx + 6 = 0$

Compare it with $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, we get a = k, b = -2k, c = 6

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (-2k)^2 - 4 \times k \times 6 = 4k^2 - 24k$$

Since the equation has equal roots.

$$\therefore D = 0 \implies 4k^2 - 24k = 0 \implies 4k(k-6) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow$$
 Either $4k = 0$ or $k - 6 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow k = 0, 6$$
 {but $k \neq 0$ }

 $\therefore k = 6$ is the required solution.

EXERCISE

- **1.** Find the roots of the equation $x \frac{1}{x} = 3$
- **2.** Find the roots of the equation $\frac{1}{x+4} \frac{1}{x-7} = \frac{11}{30}$
- **3.** Find the value of k for equation $2x^2 + kx + 3 = 0$ so that it has equal roots.

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