



Question-1

Mention different aspects of life in which women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India.

Solution:

Family laws of all religions discriminate against women.

There are reports of various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women. Urban areas have become particularly unsafe for women.

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

For example, the percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never reached even 10 per cent of its total strength.

Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent. In this respect, India is among the bottom group of nations in the world.

Question-2

State different forms of communal politics with one example each.

Solution:

The most common expression of communalism is in everyday beliefs. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions. This is so common that we often fail to notice it, even when we believe in it.

A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. For those belonging to majority community, this takes the form of majoritarian dominance. For those belonging to the minority community, it can take the form of a desire to form a separate political unit.

Question-3

State how caste inequalities are still continuing in India.

Solution:

Caste has not disappeared from contemporary India. Some of the older aspects of caste have persisted. Even now most people marry within their own caste or tribe. Untouchability has not ended completely, despite constitutional prohibition. Effects of centuries of advantages and disadvantages continue to be felt today. The caste groups that had access to education under the old system have done very well in acquiring modern education as well. Those groups that did not have access to education or were prohibited from acquiring it have naturally lagged behind. That is why there is a disproportionately large presence of 'upper caste' among the urban middle classes in our country. Caste continues to be closely linked to economic status.

Question-4

State two reasons to say that caste alone cannot determine election results in India.

Solution:

When parties choose candidates in elections, they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes so as to muster necessary support to win elections. When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it. Universal adult franchise and the principle of one-person-one-vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing political support. It also brought new consciousness

among the people of castes that were hitherto treated as inferior and low.

Question-5

What is the status of women's representation in India's legislative bodies?

Solution:

In India, the proportion of women in legislature has been very low. For example, the percentage of elected women members in Lok Sabha has never reached even 10 per cent of its total strength. Their share in the state assemblies is less than 5 per cent. In this respect, India is among the bottom group of nations in the world. India is behind the averages for several developing countries of Africa and Latin America. In the government, cabinets are largely all-male even when a woman becomes the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister.

Question-6

Mention any two constitutional provisions that make India a secular state.

Solution:

There is no official religion for the Indian state. Unlike the status of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, that of Islam in Pakistan and that of Christianity in England, our Constitution does not give a special status to any religion.

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

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