

## Class 10 Civics – Chapter 3: Gender, Religion, and Caste

### ◆ Overview

This chapter explores how **social divisions based on gender, religion, and caste** affect democracy in India. These divisions are natural in society, but **when expressed politically**, they can be either healthy or harmful.

### 1. Gender and Politics

#### ◆ What is Gender Division?

- Gender division refers to **unequal roles and expectations assigned to men and women**.
- It is **socially constructed**, not biological.
- Seen in almost every society but is **often ignored in politics**.

#### ◆ Public vs Private Work

- Society expects women to handle **household work**, while men are associated with **paid work outside the home**.
- Ironically, **men dominate professions like hotel cooks and tailors**, though these are house-related jobs.
- **Women do most domestic tasks**, but their work is **unpaid and unrecognized**.



 Add: (Fig. 1 - Time Use Survey showing women's unpaid labor)

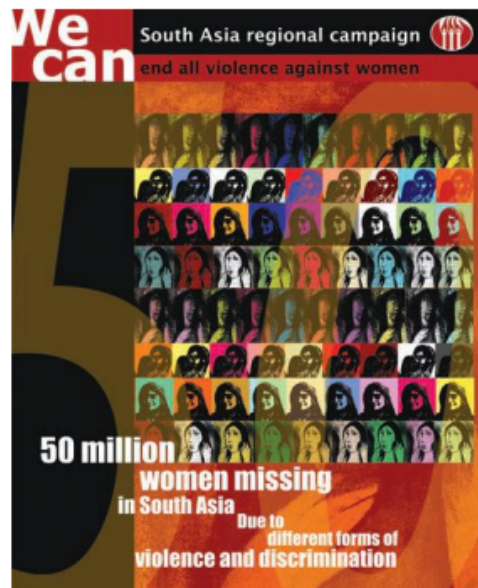
#### ◆ Women's Struggles for Equality

- **Feminist movements** began demanding **equal rights**—in education, law, jobs, and family life.

- Women now enter professions like doctors, engineers, and professors.
- **But in many societies, including India**, women's public participation is still low due to **patriarchy** (male-dominated system).

### ◆ Disadvantages Women Face in India

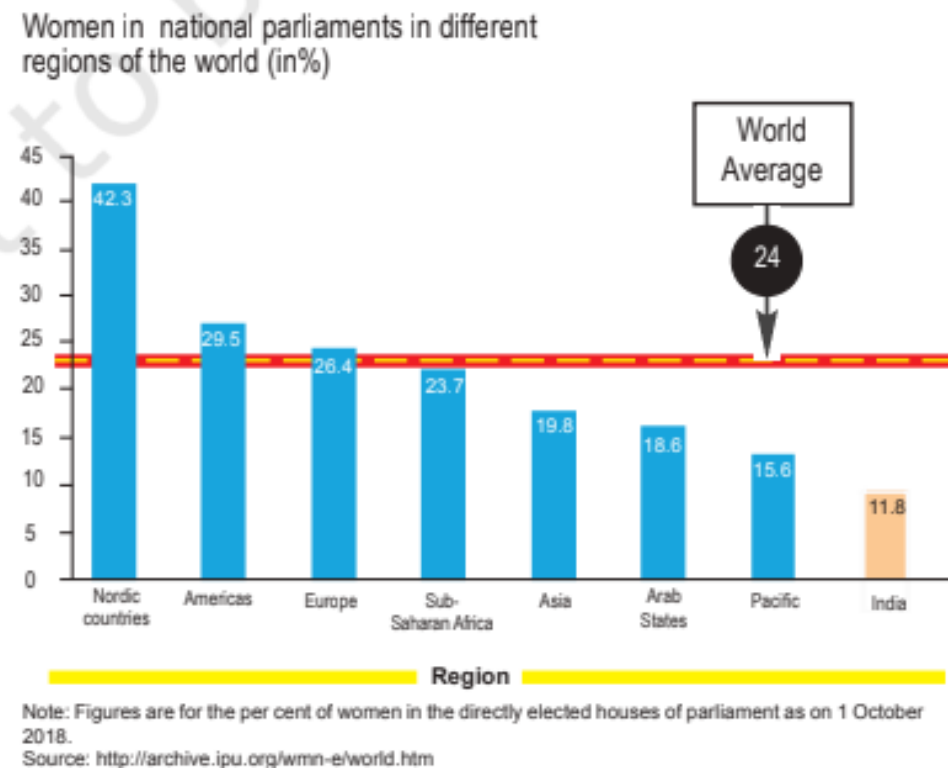
1. **Lower literacy rate** (54% for women vs 76% for men)
2. **Dropout rate higher among girls**
3. **Paid less for same work** (despite Equal Remuneration Act, 1976)
4. **Sex-selective abortions** → Child sex ratio fell below **900 in some states**
5. **Violence and harassment**, even in urban homes



✦ Add: (Fig. 3 - Poster on women's rights)

### ◆ Political Representation of Women

- In **Lok Sabha (2019)**: only **14.36%** members are women
- In **State Assemblies**: less than **5%**
- Much below global average (Nordic countries: ~45%)



♥ Add: (Fig. 4 - Graph of global women participation in parliament)

### ✓ Success Story:

- **Panchayati Raj:** 1/3rd of seats in local governments reserved for women.
- Over **10 lakh women** now hold public office at local levels.

## 🌿 2. Religion, Communalism, and Politics

### ◆ Religion and Politics – A Complex Relation

- Religion can play a **positive role** in politics if it promotes **ethical values**.
- But it turns dangerous when used for **domination** or **discrimination**.

### ◆ What is Communalism?

Communalism is when religion is used in a **divisive, exclusive, and political** way.

Forms of Communalism:

1. **Everyday beliefs:** Superiority of one's religion
2. **Majoritarianism:** Majority imposes views on minorities
3. **Political mobilization:** Using religious identity to gain votes
4. **Communal violence:** Riots, killings

♥ Example: Partition riots in 1947; other post-Independence communal incidents.

### ◆ What is a Secular State?

A **secular state** does not favor any religion. India's Constitution ensures:

1. **No official religion**
2. **Freedom to practice any religion**
3. **Prohibition of religious discrimination**
4. **State can intervene to protect equality**

✦ *Example:* Ban on untouchability; reform of family laws for women's rights

### 🧬 3. Caste and Politics

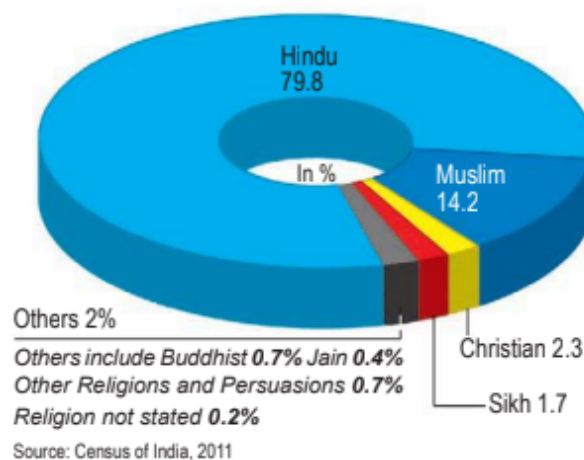
#### ◆ What is Caste Division?

- Unique to India.
- Based on **birth, occupation, and ritual purity**.
- Historically justified **inequality and exclusion**.

#### ◆ Caste Inequality in Modern India

- **SCs (Dalits):** Faced untouchability.
- **STs (Adivasis):** Lived in isolation.
- **OBCs:** Economically and socially backward.

Population of different religious communities in India, 2011



✦ Add: (Fig. 5 - Pie chart of population by religion & caste)

Though caste system has weakened due to:

- **Urbanization**
- **Education**
- **Economic mobility**

➡ But caste still influences **marriages, social status, and economic inequality**.

#### ◆ Caste in Politics

How Caste Affects Politics:

- Parties **nominate candidates** based on caste composition.

- Campaigns appeal to **caste identities**.
- Some parties are **caste-based**.

How Politics Affects Caste:

- **New caste groups** formed (like 'backward' castes)
- **Coalitions across castes**
- Marginalized castes **gain political power** (SC/ST/OBC leaders)

⚠ Danger: Over-focus on caste can divide society and ignore real issues like poverty and corruption.



## CBSE Question Trends

Question Type	Frequently Asked Topics
1 mark	Define secularism / caste hierarchy / patriarchy
3 marks	Forms of communalism, gender inequality examples
5 marks	Role of caste in politics; women's political representation
MCQs	Child sex ratio, secular provisions, caste-based data