

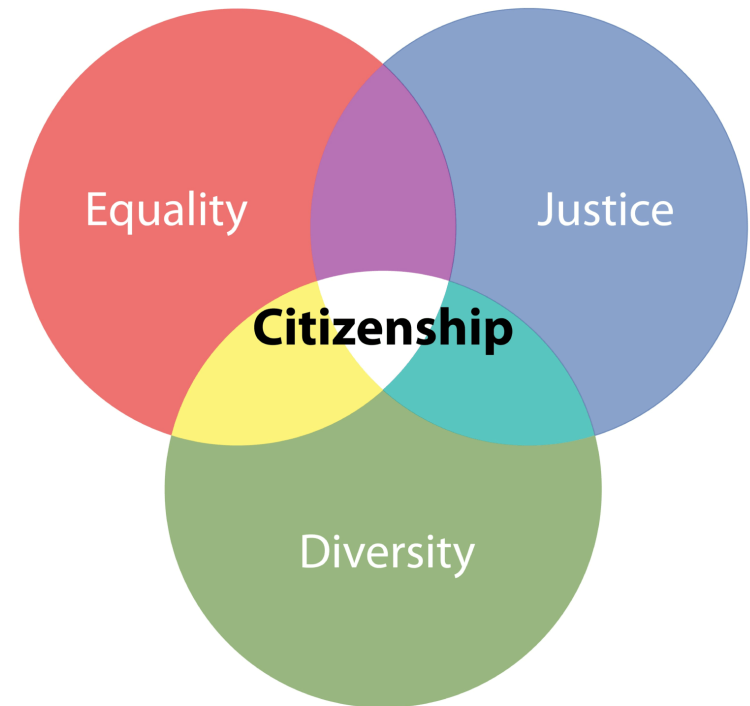
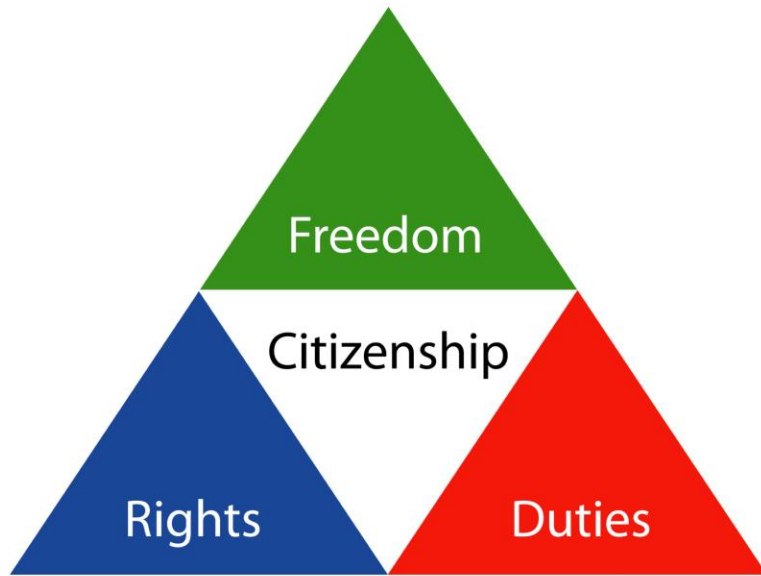
# Lecture 11:

## Environmental Rights and Justice - II

Course: Environment and Politics in India

# Citizenship and the Environment

# Citizenship



# Citizenship

- ❑ Moving beyond the LEGAL-FORMAL framework (Rights, Duties, Entitlements, Claims...) to understand citizenship
- ❑ CRUCIAL elements of Citizenship: Equality and Integration.  
Benefits should become UNIVERSAL and EGALITARIAN.

## Questions:

- WHO are 'citizens'? WHO are excluded?
- What is the process of INCLUSION/EXCLUSION?
- What is the NATURE of citizenship? Legal? Participation in decision-making?
- How does a citizen PARTICIPATE?
- Relationship between INDIVIDUALS and the larger political/cultural COMMUNITY?
- What are the RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES of a citizen?

# Historical Development of 'Citizenship'

## CONCEPTS:

- CIVIC REPUBLICANISM ('Common good', 'Public spirit', 'Political Participation'). Explicitly PUBLIC and POLITICAL.
- LIBERAL INDIVIDUALISM. Passive citizenship (Liberty, Individual Rights, Private Interests)

## 19<sup>th</sup> century:

Tensions between CIVIC REPUBLICANISM and LIBERAL INDIVIDUALISM.

- Emergence of citizens as individuals with PRIVATE and CONFLICTING interests (rather than common interests).
- Individual rights, individual mobility, tensions over mobility.
- Emergence of an all-encompassing 'national political community'.

# Historical Development of 'Citizenship'

T.H. Marshall's idea UNIVERSAL citizenship:

- Civil Rights: Individual freedom (speech/movement/property), freedom to own property, equality before the law
- Political Rights: Right to vote/hold public office/stand for office.
- Social Rights: Right to a basic minimum social status (good/housing/education).

REMOVING inequalities of ETHNICITY/CLASS/CASTE/GENDER.

ENSURING integration.

# Environmental 'Citizenship'

WHO is an environmental citizen?

- Environmentally informed and aware
- Having environmental concern
- Exhibiting environmentally responsible behaviour

Key 'value' underpinning environmental citizenship?

- Justice between humans. NOT concern for the environment for its own sake.
- Rights (to a livable ecological space) and responsibilities (to reduce 'ecological footprint'),
- Involves BOTH private and public action.

# Environmental 'Citizenship'

MAIN characteristics of the environmental citizen:

- Believes that environmental sustainability is a *common good* that *will not* be achieved by the pursuit of *individual self-interest* alone
- Along with self-interest, is moved by other motivations
- Believes that ethical and moral knowledge is as important as techno-scientific knowledge
- Believes that other people's environmental rights engender environmental responsibilities
- Believes that these responsibilities are due not only to one's neighbours or fellow-nationals but also to distant strangers (distant in space and even in time)
- Has an awareness that private environment-related actions can have public environment-related impacts



# Environmental 'Citizenship'

MAJOR ideas:

- Finite and Diminishing environmental resource.
- Common good: Notion of a commonly owned/managed space necessary for survival.
- Environment as a common-pool resource available to ALL.
- Need to reduce DISTANCE between 'US' and CONSEQUENCES of our actions. Will not happen NATURALLY, has to be ACTIVELY put in place through strategies and practices.

*"...MORAL and POLITICAL rights and responsibilities of agents in a democratic community, defined in terms of their obligations to other humans"*

COMBINATION of CIVIC REPUBLICANISM and COSMOPOLITANISM

# Environmental 'Citizenship'

## Cosmopolitanism

- Multiracial/non-homogenous
- Feeling 'at home' in a number of countries
- 'Citizen of the *cosmos*'/Universe
- Relationship between cosmopolitanism and environmental citizenship?
  - Environmental problems have NO 'national' boundaries
  - Environmental citizenship requires care for PUBLIC LIFE, and a comfort level/empathy with the 'OTHER'

# Environmental 'Citizenship'

TRADITIONAL citizenship versus ENVIRONMENTAL citizenship:

- Traditional citizenship: RECIPROCAL relationship between rights and duties. Lack of responsibility -> Curtailing of rights.

VERTICAL relationship between citizens and the STATE.

- Environmental citizenship: Less clear-cut relationship.

HORIZONTAL relationship between fellow-citizens.

Relationship between rights and duties: LESS about the rights and duties of citizens vis-à-vis the government, MORE about the rights and duties of citizens vis-à-vis each other.