

6th Social Science Lesson 8 Notes in English

8] Achieving Equality

Introduction:

- The society that we live in comprises people from various social groups who are different in many ways. Since we believe in '**Unity in Diversity**', we should have been living peacefully with one another irrespective of those differences.
- Often, we see that diversity is not accepted, and people harbour attitudes of hostility towards those who are '**different**' from them.
- They form opinions about the other groups and this often leads to tension in the society. Such '**opinions**' are often '**prejudiced**'.

Prejudice

- Prejudice means to judge other people in a negative or inferior manner, without knowing much about them. It happens when people have false belief and ideas.

Prejudice = Pre + Judge

- The word '**prejudice**' refers to **prejudgement**. Prejudices can be based on many things like people's religious beliefs, the region they come from, the colour of their skin, their accent or the clothes they wear.
- The types of prejudice are **gender prejudice, racial prejudice, class prejudice, disability prejudice and so on**.
- For example, urban people are more civilised than rural people in attitudes and behaviour, is one such prejudice.

Causes for Prejudice

Some common social factors that contributes to the rise of prejudice are

1. **Socialization**
2. **Conforming behaviours**
3. **Economic benefits**
4. **Authoritarian personality**
5. **Ethno-centrism**

6. Group closure

7. Conflicts

Stereotypes

- When prejudice gets stronger, it develops into a stereotype. Stereotype is a false view or idea about something.
- For example, girls are not good at sports. Stereotype is learned at a very early age, and children grow to have very strong ideas or opinions about things, groups or ideologies.
- As children grow up, the lines of like and hate for **other things, people, cultures, beliefs, languages become sharper.**

Inequality and Discrimination

- Inequality means difference in treatment. The different forms of inequalities such as caste inequality, religious inequality, race inequality or gender inequality give rise to discrimination.
- Discrimination can be defined as negative actions towards people. Discrimination can happen on the basis of **colour, class, religion, gender** etc.
- Treating dark-skinned people differently from fair-skinned people, giving more importance to people of higher than to those of lower caste and thinking boys are smarter than girls are all thoughts of discrimination.
- **Article 15(1)** of the Constitution states that the State shall not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.

Caste Discrimination

- Caste system is the most dominant reason for inequality and discrimination in India. In the beginning, the society was divided into different groups on the basis of occupation, known as Varnas.
- Many people in India have fought against caste oppression. The most prominent among them was **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**. He belonged to a such depressed family and suffered discrimination throughout his childhood.
- He fought actively for equality among the citizens of India.

Gender Discrimination

- Gender discrimination refers to health, education, economic and political inequalities between men and women in India.

- For example, A girl is not allowed to go to college after finishing her schooling. Similarly, most of the girls are not allowed to select a career of their choice rather they are forced into marriage.
- In some families, girls are not allowed to wear modern dresses while boys in such families often wear modern dresses.

Religious Discrimination

- Religious discrimination is unequal treatment of an individual or group based on their beliefs.
- Religious discrimination has been around for a long time. There have been problems between people of different religions for thousands of years.
- Some people are not allowed to enter in public places; especially the places of worship because they belong to another religion.
- Some religious people often end up in conflict with each other because of their rituals and way of life.

Socio-Economic Inequality

- In the socio-economic field, the benefits of growth have not been spread evenly. However, the income inequality is much higher than the inequality in human development.
- The low-income districts are associated with low industrial development, low agricultural productivity and low human development. Similarly, **the Districts with literacy rate are found to be with lower sex ratio.**

Remedial Measures for Abolishing Inequality and Discrimination

The remedial measures for abolishing inequality and discrimination in Indian society are as follows.

1. Wider access to quality basic services like healthcare and education for all.
2. Be aware of current gender bias.
3. Make women more visible in public life and institution to eradicate gender disparity.
4. Be open to learning about other religions.
5. Promoting community dining in the classroom may help the students to sit together without any bias of caste, religion or gender.
6. Socialise with people of all types outside home.
7. Effective implementation of laws.

Constitution of India and Equality

- A Constitution is a set of rules and regulations guiding the administration of a country. **Article 14** of the constitution of India provides equality before the law or equal protection within the territory of India and prohibits the unreasonable discrimination between persons.
- Our Constitution says ours is a land of diversity; therefore, equality has to be ensured for all. Two significant parameters to ensure equality in society are respecting diversity and ensuring freedom.
- The different kinds of freedom are freedom to follow their religion, speak their language, celebrate their festivals and express their views freely. The Constitution is a legal framework of rules and regulations by which a nation would function.
- Equality is where untouchability is seen as a crime. In India, as per the **Article 17** of the Indian Constitution, untouchability is totally abolished and its any form is forbidden.
- Even today, different types of discrimination are reported across the country. Women, peasants, tribes and people from lower social classes are still striving for equality in India.

More to Know:**End of Apartheid:**

After **27 years** in prison, former South African President, **Nelson Mandela, was freed in 1990** and successfully achieved the end of apartheid in South Africa, bringing peace to a racially divided country and leading the fight for human rights around the world.

Life of Ambedkar:

- He is popularly known as **Baba Saheb**.
- He was an Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer.
- He earned his **M.A. in 1915** and then obtained a D.Sc at the London School of Economics before being awarded **Ph.D by Columbia University in 1927**.

He served as the chairman of drafting committee of the constituent assembly and hence regarded as the father of Indian Constitution. He was independent **India's first Law Minister**. He was posthumously awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1990**.

The literacy rate and Sex Ratio in our Country:

Literacy rate – 2011 Census

High			Low		
S.No.	District Name	Percentage	S.No.	District Name	Percentage
1	Kanyakumari	91.75%	1	Dharmapuri	68.54%
2	Chennai	90.18%	2	Ariyalur	71.34%
3	Thoothukkudi	86.16%	3	Krishnagiri	71.46%
4	The Nilgiris	85.20%	4	Villupuram	71.88%

Source: Censusindia.gov.in

Sex Ratio – 2011 Census**Number of females per 1,000 males**

High			Low		
S.No.	District Name	Sex Ratio	S.No.	District Name	Sex Ratio
1	The Nilgiris	1041	1	Dharmapuri	946
2	Thanjavur	1031	2	Salem	954
3	Nagapattinam	1025	3	Krishnagiri	956
4	Thoothukkudi	1024	4	Ramanathapuram	977

Source: Censusindia.gov.in