

Equality



Equality is one of the pillars of Indian democracy.


Points to be remember

- The CIVIL RIGHTS ACT of 1964 prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion or national origin.
- Equality is the soul of Indian democracy.
- The Midday meal scheme is one of the various steps – of the government in this direction.
- Dalit means broken. Dalits belong to the unprivileged class.
- This scheme has helped increase the enrolment and attendance of poor children in the school.
- Universal Adult Franchise gives political equality to the people but it does not ensure social and economic equality.

Key words

Equality, Democracy, Civil Right, Caste system, Dalit, Dignity, Constitution, Movement

Define the term-----

- **Dalit-** It means broken.
 - **Dignity---** Thinking of oneself and other persons as worthy of respect.
 - **Universal Adult Franchise-** The Right to vote given to all adult above the age of 18 years.
 - **Equality-** Equality is the soul of Indian Democracy.
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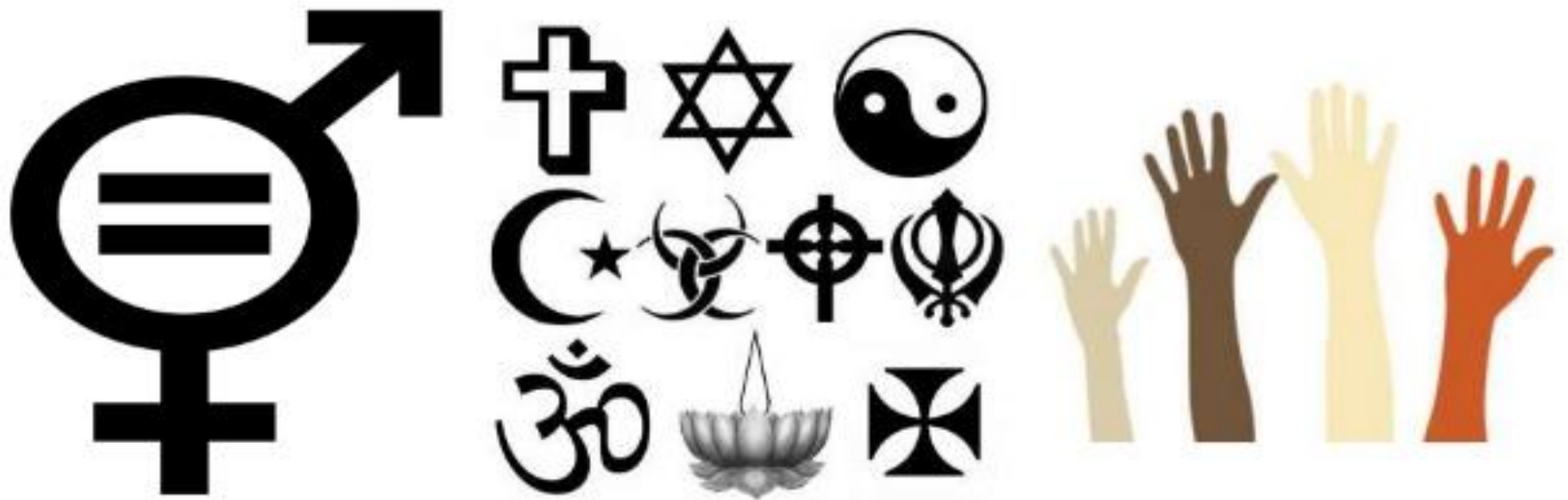
WHAT IS EQUALITY?

- Equality in simple words means '*sameness*'
- The sameness may be in quality or quantity

EQUALITY IN CONTEXT TO PS



- Politically, equality refers to sameness in the availability and exercise of rights, opportunities and choices.
- Hence in PS, the term equality is directly related to fundamental rights.



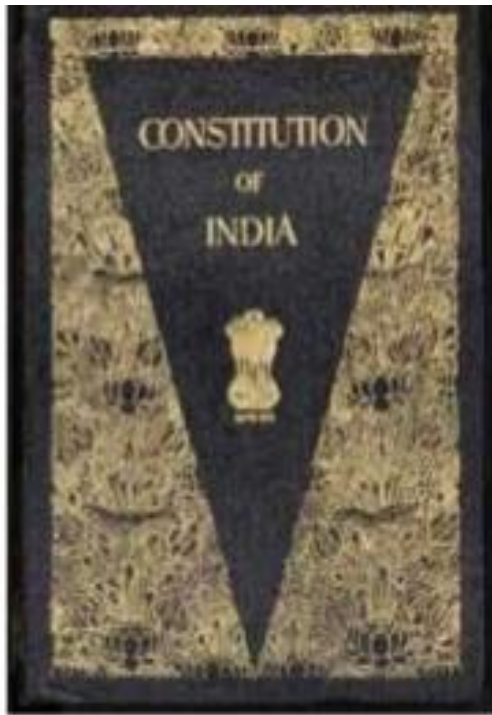
Equality implies the availability of similar rights and privileges



The Indian Constitution recognises every person as equal. Every individual in the country, including male or female from all caste, religion, tribes, education and economic background are recognised as equal. In our country there are laws to protect people from discrimination and ill-treatment.



Ambedkar was the chief architect of our constitution. It is because of him that our constitution covers a wide range of civil liberties including the freedom of religion and the abolition of untouchability.



Important provisions in the Constitution on Equality: Article 15

1. Every person is equal before law.
2. No person can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, race, caste and gender.
3. Every person has access to all public places including play ground, shop, market, hotels. All person can use public wells, roads and bathing ghats.
4. Untouchability is abolished.

In order to implement the equality that is guaranteed in constitution, the government has taken two important steps:



1. Formation of laws – Forming laws that protect every person's right to be treated equally.
2. Schemes – Govt. has launched various programmes to help disadvantaged communities. These schemes are to ensure greater opportunity for people who have been treated unequally for several centuries.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme



Mid-day meal scheme refers to the programme introduced in all government elementary schools to provide children with cooked lunch.



Tamil Nadu was the first state to start mid-day meal in schools.

In 2001, the Supreme court instructed all states to implement mid-day meal scheme in their schools.

Mid-day meal had many positive effects. They are :

1. More poor children began enrolling and regularly attending school.
2. This programme helped reduce caste prejudice because both lower and upper caste children in the school eat this meal together.
3. This programme also provided food and nutrition to children of poor families who were not able to provide healthy nutrition to their children.



Civil Rights Movement in America



African-Americans were treated unequally in the US. For example, when travelling by bus, they either had to sit at the back of the bus or get up from their seat whenever a white person wished to sit.



Civil Rights Movement in America started in late 1950, to push for equal right for African-Americans and to end racial discrimination.



On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a 42 year old African-American woman boarded the bus to go home from work. On that day, Rosa Parks initiated a new era in the American quest for freedom and equality.



The Civil Rights Act came into being in 1964 that prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion or national origin.

Disabilities Act 1995:

This law states that person with disabilities have equal rights and government should make possible their full participation in society. The govt. Has to provide free education and integrate children with disabilities into mainstream schools.

The law also states that all public places including buildings, schools, shopping malls, etc should be accessible and provided with ramps.



Universal Adult Franchise:



This is a very important aspect of democratic societies. It means that all adults (those who are 18 or above) citizens have the right to vote irrespective of their social or economic backgrounds.

THANK YOU