



पुर्णता International School
Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul, Zundal

Grade VII
SOCIAL STUDIES
SAMPLE PLAN
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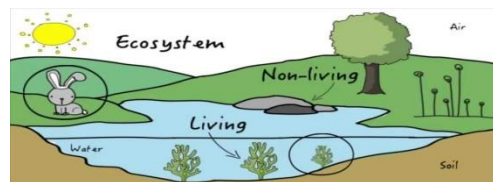
INDEX APRIL AND MAY

Subject	Lesson	
Geography	Chapter 1	
	Environment	
History	Chapter 1	
	Tracing changes Through A Thousand Years	
Civics	Chapter 1	
	On Equality	

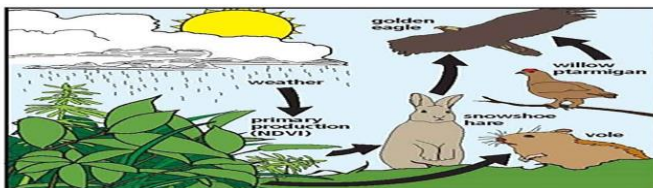
Natural Environment

- Land, water, air, plants and animals comprise the natural environment.
- Lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere are the four domains of the natural environment.
- The lithosphere is the solid crust or the outermost layer of the earth where we live. It contains landforms like mountains, plateaus, plains and valleys.
- The hydrosphere is the domain of water. It comprises water bodies like rivers, lakes, seas, oceans, etc.
- The atmosphere is the thin layer of air that surrounds the earth. It protects us from the harmful rays and scorching heat of the sun.
- The biosphere is a narrow zone of the earth where land, water and air interact with each other to support life.

What is Ecosystem?



- The relation between the living organisms as well as the relation between the organisms and their surrounding form the ecosystem.



There could be an ecosystem of large rainforest, grassland, desert, mountains,



Human Environment

- Human beings interact with the environment and modify it according to their needs.
- Early humans adapted themselves to their natural surroundings.
- With time, humans learnt to grow new things, domesticate animals and lead a settled life.
- The industrial revolution, transportation and information revolution made communication easier and speedy across the world.
- Man is destroying the environment through deforestation, industrialisation, etc.

The environment in our basic life support system. It provides the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the place where we live. Thus, the environment is the most important aspect of our life.

The natural environment consists of land, water, air, plants and animals. It refers to both biotic and abiotic conditions existing on the earth.

While biotic refers to the world of living organisms, such as plants and animals, abiotic refers to the world of non-living elements, such as land.

The human environment refers to the activities, creations and interactions among human beings.

Domains of environment—Lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere.

The lithosphere is the solid portion of the earth where we live. It is the domain that provides us forests, grasslands for grazing, land for agriculture and human settlements. It is where we find several minerals.

Hydrosphere refers to the water bodies like rivers, lakes, seas, oceans, etc. that exist on the earth.

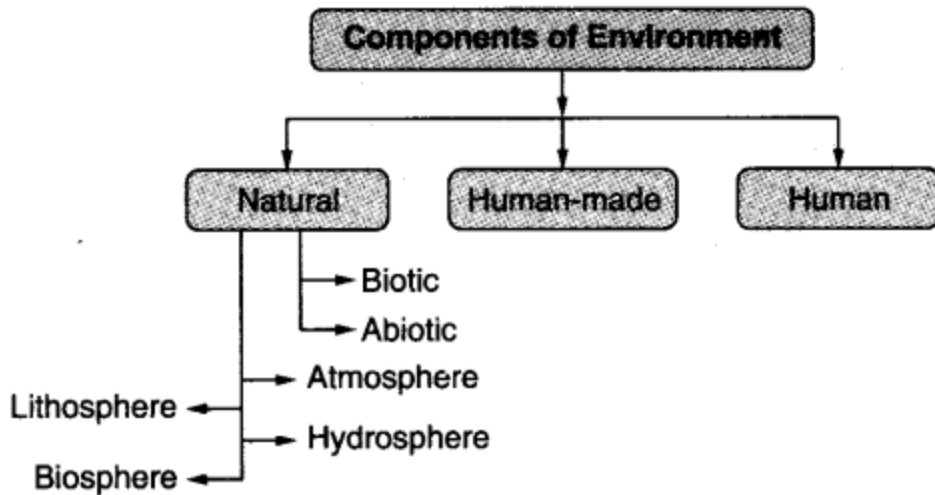
The atmosphere is the thin layer of air that surrounds the earth. It protects us from the harmful rays and scorching heat of the Sun. It consists of gases, dust and water vapour.

Biosphere or the living world is comprised of plant and animal life. It is a narrow zone of the earth where land, water and air interact with each other to support life.

The relation between the living organisms as well as the relation between the organisms and their surroundings form an ecosystem.

An ecosystem can be found in lakes, mountains, oceans, pond, etc.

Human beings modify the natural environment as per their needs.



Environment: The place, people, things and nature that surround any living organism is called the environment.

Biotic: It refers to the world of living organisms, such as plants and animals.

Abiotic: It refers to the world of non-living elements such as land.

Lithosphere: It is the solid crust or the hard top layer of the earth.

Hydrosphere: It refers to the water bodies like rivers, lakes, seas, oceans, etc. on the earth.

Atmosphere: It is the thin layer of air that surrounds the earth.

Ecosystem: The relation between the living organisms, as well as the relation between the organisms and their surroundings, form an ecosystem.

Barter system: A trade in which goods are exchanged without the use of money.

We hope the given Environment Class 7 Notes Social Science Geography Chapter 1 SST Pdf free download will help you. If you have any query regarding Environment Class 7 Geography Chapter 1 Notes, drop a comment below and we will get back to you at the earliest.



Multiple choice questions

1 Which is not a natural ecosystem?

(a) Desert

(b) **Aquarium**

(c) Forest.

2 Which is not a component of the human environment?

(a) **Land**

(b) Religion

(c) Community.

3 Which is a human-made environment?

(a) Mountain

(b) Sea

(c) **Road.**

4 Which is a threat to the environment?

(a) Growing plant

(b) **Growing population**

(c) Growing crops.



Match the following:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Biosphere | (a) blanket of air which surrounds the earth |
| 2. Atmosphere | (b) domain of water |
| 3. Hydrosphere | (c) gravitational force of the earth |
| 4. Environment | (d) our surroundings |
| | (e) the narrow zone where land, water, and air interact |

Answers 1- e , 2-a , 3- b , 4-d



Answer the following questions briefly.

1. What is an ecosystem?

Ans: All plants, animals and human beings depend on their immediate surroundings. They are also interdependent on each other. This relation between the living organisms as well as the relation between the organism and their surroundings form an ecosystem.

2. What do you mean by the natural environment?

Ans: The natural environment consists of land, water, air, plants and animals. Thus, the natural environment refers to both biotic (plants and animals) and abiotic (land) conditions that exist on the earth.

3. Which are the major components of the environment?

Ans The major components of the environment are—natural (land, air, water, living things), human-made (buildings, parks, bridges, roads, industries, monuments, etc.), and humans (individual, family, community, religion, educational, economic, etc).

4. Give four examples of a human-made environment.

Ans ;Four examples of human-made environments—buildings, parks, bridges, and roads.

5. What is the lithosphere?

Ans: The lithosphere is the solid crust or the hard top layer of the earth. It is made up of rocks and minerals and covered by a thin layer of soil. It is an irregular surface with various landforms such as mountains, plateaus, plains, valleys, etc.

6 Which are the two major components of the biotic environment?

Ans: Plants and animals are the two major components of a biotic environment,

7 What is the biosphere?

Ans: The biosphere is a narrow zone of the earth where land, water, and air interact with each other to support life. Thus, plant and animal kingdom together make biosphere, ie., the living world.

Give reasons:

1. Man modifies his environment

Ans: Man modifies his environment in the following ways:

- He cuts forests and clears land for agriculture, industries, and habitation.
- He tills land for agriculture.
- He uses the land to build buildings, roads, and railways.
- He uses water.
- He uses air for his survival.
- He sets up industries, factories, etc.
- He does numerous other activities for his life, making it comfortable.

2. Plants and animals depend on each other.

- **Ans :** Plants provide food to animals.
- They, in the form of forests, provide shelter to wildlife.
- Wildlife adds beauty to the forests.
- Animals provide manure to plants for growth.
- Animals also provide beauty to forests.
- Dead animals also provide humus content.
-

- Activity
- **Imagine an ideal environment where you would love to live. Draw the picture of your ideal environment.**

History : L.1

Tracing changes Through A Thousand Years

New and Old Terminologies

- Historical records exist in a variety of languages.
- The term Hindustan was coined by Minhaj-i-Siraj, a chronicler who wrote in Persian for areas around Punjab, Haryana,
- and the lands between the Ganga and the Yamuna.
- Babur used Hindustan to describe the flora and fauna and the culture of the inhabitants of the subcontinent.
- Fourteenth-century poet Amir Khusrau used the word, Hind.
- In Hindi, the term ‘pardesi’ was used to describe an alien. In Persian, it was called ‘ajjabi’.

Historians and their Sources

- The information about the medieval period is derived from two sources: Archaeological and Literary.
- Archaeological sources available to us include monuments, temples, coins, tombs, ornaments and paintings.
- Since paper became available in good quantum, a lot of written accounts in the form of chronicles, autobiographies,

farmaans and accounts of foreign travellers are available from this period in Persian and **New Social and Political Group**

- The study of the thousand years between 700 and 1750 is a huge challenge to historian largely because of the scale and variety of developments that occurred over the period.
- It was a period of great mobility. One such group of people was Rajputs. Other groups of warriors were Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Ahoms and Kayasthas.
- Throughout the period there was a gradual clearing of forests and the extension of agriculture. Challenges in their habitat forced many forest-dwellers to migrate.
- As society became more differentiated people were grouped into jatis or sub-castes and ranked on the basis of their backgrounds and their occupations.
- Ranks were not fixed permanently and varied according to the power, influence and resources controlled by the members of the jati.

- A major development of this period was the emergence of the idea of bhakti.
- The teachings of the Holy Quran was also brought to India in the seventh century.
- Followers of Islam were divided into two sub-sects—'Shias' and 'Sunnis'.
- At different moments in this period, new technologies made their appearance, like Persian wheel in irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving and firearms in combat. New foods and beverages also arrived in the subcontinent in this period.

Regions and Empires

- Large states like those of the Cholas, the Tughlaqs, or the Mughals encompassed many regions.
- A Sanskrit prashsti that praises Delhi Sultan Balban tells that he was the ruler of a vast empire that stretched from Bengal in the east to Ghazni in Afghanistan in the west and included all of South India (Dravida).
- There were considerable conflicts between various states.
- When the Mughal Empire declined in the 18th century, it led to the re-emergence of regional states.

Old and New Religions

- Religion was often closely associated with the social and economic organization of local communities.
- It was during the period that important changes occurred in religion. It included the worship of new deities, construction of temples by royalty and the growing importance of Brahmanas in the Hindu religion.
- Knowledge of Sanskrit helped Brahmins to earn respect.
- Islam was patronized by many rulers.

Historical Periods

- The British historians divided the history of India into three periods: Hindu, Muslim and British.
- Most historians look to economic and social factors to characterize the major elements of different moments of the past.
- The life of hunter-gatherers, early farmers and early empires were called early societies.
- The growth of imperial state formations, development of Hinduism and Islam as major religions and the arrival of
- European trading companies were called the medieval period.
- The last era was called the modern period which carried a sense of material progress and intellectual development.
- Prosperity during this period brought European trading companies to India.

Maps are the sources through which we can trace out the historical changes and contexts.

Cartographers were the skilled artists who recorded these chronological effects in Maps

The mode of presentation and the contexts vary through time. The maps of 1154 CE are not the same as the maps of the 1720s, e.g. one can see the maps given in NCERT Textbook on pages 1 and 2. Both the maps show the same location but with a lot of variations. Even the names of the places are spelt differently.

Historical records are available in different languages. Differences are also traced in the use of grammar and vocabulary, change in meaning also occurred over time, e.g., the term Minhaj-i Siraj's Hindustan constituted the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna. The term was used in a political sense for lands forming the parts of the dominions of the Delhi Sultan. South India was not included in this map. Hindustan is now 'India'.

Babur, in the early 16th century, used the term Hindustan in order to describe the geography, the fauna and the culture of the inhabitants of the subcontinent. Amir Khusrau used the term Hind in a similar sense in the 14th century.

Manuscripts collected from wealthy people, rulers, monasteries and temples were placed in libraries and archives. These manuscripts and documents helped the historians with several detailed information though it is difficult to use them.

As there was no printing press in those days scribes used to copy down manuscripts by hand. Hence they were somewhere not very legible. Some changes in words and sentences were also made, in fact not knowingly, in the manuscripts while copying. This brought the same manuscripts copied presented differently by different scribes. It poses a serious problem to determine which the original one was.

The authors used to revise their chronicles from time to time. Ziyauddin Barani, a 14th century author revised his chronicle for the first time in 1356 followed by another version two years later. In fact, the two versions differed from each other but as the original one was traceless, nobody could claim for the difference.

The period between 700 and 1750 was a phase of transition as a lot of developments took place. The Persian wheel in irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving and firearms in combat were some of the examples of developments.

The subcontinent saw new food like potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee.

The new technologies and crops came along with the migrants who also brought other ideas with them.

It was a period of economic, political, social and cultural changes and also of great Rajputs, i.e. Rajputs, one of the prominent communities were the group of warriors between the eighth and fourteenth centuries. They were the 'kshatriyas' by caste status. They included the rulers, chieftains, soldiers and commanders serving in the armies of the different monarchs all over the subcontinent. Extreme valour and a great sense of loyalty were the prominent qualities of this community. mobility.

Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Ahoms and Kayasthas (a caste of scribes and secretaries) were the other prominent classes of people

This period witnessed a gradual clearing of forests and the extension of agriculture. It caused changes in people's 'habitat' which forced many of the forest-dwellers to migrate.

Some others adopted tilling the land and became peasants and soon became part of large complex societies. They were also put under tax cover as per their status which gave rise to many jatis i.e. sub-castes.

The divisions of sub-castes were made on the basis of their backgrounds and occupations. Ranks were variable as per the change in power, influence and resources controlled by members of the jati. This status of the same jati varied from area to area.

Jatis had their own system of ruling. They framed rules and regulations in order to manage their own people. An assembly of elders called Jati Panchayat was responsible for enforcing the regulations

Jatis were bound to follow the rules of their villages. Villages constituted only one small unit of a state and were governed by a chieftain.

The subcontinent was divided into several regions which were ruled by empires of different dynasties. By 700 several regions developed their distinct geographical dimensions and their own cultural characteristics

During the period of 700 and 1750 (the thousand years of history that we are exploring or their knowledge of Sanskrit texts Brahmanas earned great respect in society. The new rulers were their patrons. here) there were significant developments in religious traditions.

The most significant development of the period was the rise of the idea of bhakti which also paved the rise of many new religions in the subcontinent.



Fill in the blanks:

- (a) Archives are places where..... are kept.
- (b)was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
- (c),,, and were some of the crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

Answer: (a) Manuscripts
(b) Ziyauddin Barani
(c) Potatoes, com, chillies, tea, coffee.



State whether true or false:

- We do not find inscriptions for the period after 700.
- The Maraihas asserted their political importance during this period.

- Forest-dwellers were sometimes pushed out of their lands with the spread of agricultural settlements.
- Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban controlled Assam, Manipur and Kashmir.

Answer: (a) False; (b) False; (c) True; (d) False



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was al-Idrisi?

Answer: al-Idrisi was an Arab cartographer

2 What sources do historians use for the study of a particular period of history?[V. Imp.]

Ans. The historians use sources like coins, inscriptions, architectures, and textual records for the study of a specific period.

3 What do you mean by archives?

Answer: Archives were the places where manuscripts were collected.

4. What were the new groups of people to be prominent at this age? [V. Imp.]

Answer: Rajputs, Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Ahoms, and Kayasthas were the groups which came to be prominent in this age. They availed most of the opportunities of society.

5 Who were the patrons?

Answer: Patrons were a group of rulers and rich class of people who provided protection and livelihood to the Brahmanas, artists, and poets.

6. What was the major development of this age?

Answer: The emergence of the idea of bhakti was the major development of this age.

7. How history was divided by historians during the middle of the nineteenth c

Ans he British historians divided the history of India into three periods—:P

- Hindu,
- Muslim and
- British.



Answer the following questions in brief

1 What does time mean for historians? How does it help them? [V. Imp.]

Answer: Time, for historians, doesn't mean just a passing of hours, days, or years. Instead, it reflects changes in social and economic organization, in the persistence and transformation of ideas and beliefs. In order to study historical developments historians divide the past into large segments. It makes the study convenient. The historians study different aspects of the specific period and then assess the comparative developments their impact on society and their contribution to the future generations.

2 What do you mean by pan-regional rule? What was its impact? [V. Imp.]

Pan-regional rule applies to the trend of extending the empire to the region beyond one's own state. With the decline of the Mughal Empire in the eighteenth century, many regional states emerged. Consequently, a chance of sharing different traditions in the realms of governance, economy, elite cultures, and languages was brightened. People knew a lot of new things, manners, etc, without losing their own culture and identity.

3 Trace out the major changes in society during 700 and 1750? What was its main reason? [V. Imp.]

Answer: A number of changes took place in society between 700 and 1750. This period traced the technological appearance of Persian wheel in irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving and firearms in combat. Potatoes, com, chilies, tea, and coffee were some of the new foods and beverages. These developments came with the arrival of the people who migrated to this land. As a result this period saw various changes in the economic, political, social and cultural life,

What was the change in the religion of the time? Trace out major developments? [V. Imp.]

Answer: The period between 700 and 1750 witnessed major changes in religion. It was seen prominently in Hinduism. The worship of new deities, the construction of temples by royalty, and the growing importance of Brahmanas, the priests, as dominant groups in society were some of the major developments.

The idea of bhakti emerged. Merchants and migrants brought the new teachings of the 'Quran', the holy book of the Muslims. A class of patrons emerged. They were the rulers who provided shelter and protection to the ulemas—the learned theologians and jurists. Muslims were divided into two groups—Shia and Sunni. Shia Muslims believed in Prophet Muhammad's authority while the Sunnis accepted the authority of the early leaders—Khalifas.

CIVICS L1

ON EQUALITY

Equality is a condition in which adequate opportunities are given to all. It is the soul of Indian democracy.

Equal Right to Vote

In a democratic country like India, adults, irrespective of their religion, caste education, status or place of birth, are given the right to vote under Universal Adult Franchise.

Does Equality Exist

- In reality, a difference exists between rich and poor.
- The caste system is also rigid.
- Dalits in India and minorities are denied the right to dignity and equality.

Equality in Indian Democracy

- The Indian Constitution recognizes every person as equal. However, it does not mean that inequality does not exist in India.
- Universal Adult Franchise gives political equality, not social and economic equality.
- Dignity is the thinking or state of being worthy of esteem or respect.
 - The dignity of an individual is violated on the basis of their caste, religion or gender.
 - The government has tried to implement equality first through laws and second through government programmes or schemes to help disadvantaged communities.
 - Everyone is equal before the law. There is no discrimination on the basis of caste, colour, religion, race, gender; everyone has access to all public places and untouchability has been abolished.
 - Programmes like the mid-day meal scheme have been launched to improve the attendance and enrolment ratio of children in schools.

Issues of Equality in other Democracies

In the USA also the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's restored the dignity of Afro-American based on colour

Equality is the soul of Indian democracy. It influences all aspects of its functioning.

In a democratic country like India, all adults irrespective of what religion they belong to, how much education they have had, what caste they are, or whether they are rich or poor are given the right to vote, which is called Universal Adult Franchise.

Kanta Devi is a domestic worker. She has gone to vote. She is standing in the queue and is waiting for her turn like others. She is happy that she is equal to all of the others because of each

of them lies one vote. It gives her a good feeling that even wealthy and influential persons are standing in the queue.

But the world beyond it is something else. In this world, there is no equality. When Kanta has to face the bitter reality of this world, she becomes sure that she is prey to social and economic inequality. She cannot compare herself with the members of her Saheb's family, where she works as domestic help.

The only guarantee of voting rights to all adult persons is not the solution of all the problems. There are many people like Kanta in our country who have the right to vote but whose daily living and working conditions are far from equality.

There are several kinds of inequalities that exist in our country. Just take the example of the caste system which has been in existence in India for centuries. This deeply- rooted evil has created divisions among people.

The lower caste people and Dalits are the exploited lot. They have always been discriminated against.

Dalit means broken. Dalits belong to the unprivileged class.

Omprakash Valmiki is a famous Dalit writer who writes about his bitter experience for being a Dalit in his autobiography, Jonathan. His headmaster tortured him greatly. He made him sweep the school and the playground. While other children in his class were studying he was sweeping. This was very much insulting for him.

The Ansaris were also exploited, people. They were not given a flat by the landlady simply because they belonged to other religion.

Both Omprakash Valmiki and the Ansaris are badly treated. Their dignity is hurt.

The Indian constitution recognises every person as equal. While earlier no law existed to protect people from discrimination, now there are several that work to see that people are treated with dignity and as equals.

Every person is equal before the law. What this means is that every person from the president of the country to a domestic help like Kanta has to obey the same laws.

No person can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, race, caste, place of birth etc.



VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1 What is Joothan about?

Answer: It is about the bitter experiences of growing up of a dalit boy

2 What suggestion was given to Ansaris by the property dealer?

Answer: They were suggested to change their names and call themselves Mr and Mrs kumar.

3 On what basis were the Ansaris treated unequally?

Ans. The Ansaris were treated unequally on the basis of religion..

4 What do you mean by 'dignity'? [V. Imp.]

Answer: Dignity means thinking of one self and others as worthy of self-respect.

5. What are the two ways in which the government has tried to implement the equality that guaranteed in the constitution?

Answer:

i) Through laws

(ii) Through government programmes or schemes to help unprivileged groups.

6 How did B.R. Ambedkar view self-respect?

Answer: B.R. Ambedkar viewed self-respect as the most vital factor in life, without which man was cipher.

7 What was the condition of the African-Americans in the United States of America prior to 1950s? [V. Imp.]

Answer: Prior to 1950's, the African-Americans were treated extremely unequally in the USA and denied equality through law.

What is known as the Civil Rights Movements? [V. Imp.]

Answer: A movement took place in the USA in the late 1950's to push for equal rights for African-Americans. This movement later came to be known as Civil Rights Movement.



SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Mention two different kinds of inequalities that exist in our country. Give examples. [V. Imp.]

Answer: Two different kinds of inequalities that exist in our country are—inequalities based on the caste system and that based on the religion.

Omprakash Valmiki was treated extremely unequally because he was a dalit. In school, The Ansaris were treated unequally on the basis differences of religion. They were looking to rent an

apartment in the city. They were about to take an apartment at the first sight. But the moment the land lady knew their names she declined to rent the house. is headmaster made him sweep the school and the playground.

2 Write a note on equality in Indian democracy. [V. Imp.]

Answer: The Indian constitution recognises all persons as equals. This means that every individual in the country irrespective of his/her caste, religion, educational and economic backgrounds is recognised as equal. Although, inequality still exists in the country, yet the principle of the equality of all persons is recognised. While earlier no law existed to protect people from discrimination and ill treatment now there are several that work to see that people are treated with dignity.

3. Write a brief note on the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Answer: The Civil Rights Act was passed in the year 1964. The Act prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion or national origin. It also stated that all schools would be open to African-American children and that they would no longer have to attend separate schools specially set up for them. However, a majority of African-Americans continue to be among the poorest in the country.



LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1 What are the provision made in the constitution for the recognition of equality? [V. Imp.]

Answer: The provisions made in the constitution for the recognition of equality are as follow:

- (a) Every person is equal before the law. What this means is that every person, from the President of India to a domestic worker like Kanta, has to obey the same laws.
- (b) No person can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, caste, race place of birth or whether they are male or female.
- (c) Every person has access to all public places including playgrounds, hotels, shops and markets. All persons can use publicly available wells, roads and bathing ghats.
- (d) Untouchability has been abolished.

2. How can you say that establishment of equality in society is a continuous struggle?

Answer: Inspite of several efforts made by the government inequalities still exist in our society. Even today low caste people are being discriminated against and treated unequally. The reason behind it is that people refuse to think of them as equal even though the law requires it.

This attitude of the people is so deeply rooted that it can not change all of a sudden. It will take a lot of time. Even though people are aware that discrimination is against the law, they continue to treat others unequally on the basis of caste and religion. People are also discriminated against on the basis of economic status, disability and gender.

Unless people believe that every person deserves to be treated equally and with dignity, the present attitude cannot be rooted out. Changing people's attitude is a very slow process and hence establishment of equality in society is a continuous struggle.