

# GENDER, RELIGION & CASTE

- Public/Private division  
↑ females  
↓ male vale log  
↑i santhy a

⇒ sexual division of Labour: A system in which all work inside the home is either done by the women of the family or organised by them through the domestic helpers.

→ The result of this division of labour is that although women constitute half of the humanity, their role in public life, especially politics is minimal in most societies.

→ women were not given right to vote.

• Feminist: A woman or man who believes in equal rights and opportunity for women and men.

• The agitations demanded:

- ① enhancing political and legal status
- ② improved education and career opportunity

→ Participation of women in Scandinavian countries is high.

Q. What are the various reasons due to which women suffered disadvantage and discrimination?

① Proper education is not provided to the girls.

② Work of women is not valued.

↳ The equal remuneration Act 1976 → provided equal wage should be paid to equal work.

③ Boy is to girl ratio (sex ratio) in this ratio girls are lesser in number than boys.

④ Domestic violence.

## women's political Representation

read pg 34 & 35.

## RELIGION, COMMUNALISM & POLITICS

• Gandhiji used to say that religion can never be separated from politics.

→ He believed that politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion.

• Human rights group argued that most of the victims of communal riots in country are people from religious minorities.

• Women's movements had argued that FAMILY LAW of all religions discriminate against women.

• Family laws: those laws that deal with family related matter such as marriage, divorce, adoption etc.

⇒ These political acts are not wrong as long as they treat every religion equally.

⇒ People should be able to express in politics their needs, interests & demands as a member of a religious community.

⇒ Communalism:

[Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.] → Def<sup>n</sup>

→ This happens when beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religion

communal mind:

① People belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one country.

② The followers of a particular religion must belong in one community.

Different forms of communal politics:

1] everyday life: These routinely involve the stereotypes we tend to make for a religious community. Eg: all muslims go to madras for studies, every muslim wear Burkha.

2] A communal mindset often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community. Eg: Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

3] political mobilisation on religious lines: This involves use of sacred symbols, religious leaders, emotional appeal and plain fear in order to unite.

4] sometimes communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.

## SECULAR STATE

Q. What do you understand by secularism? What makes India a secular state?

Ans: Secularism is an ideology that says that government should not make any religion as official language.

steps:

- 1] There is no official religion
- 2] all individuals and communities have freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion.
- 3] prohibition of discrimination on ground level.
- 4] state can intervene in the matter of religion in order to ensure equality within religion.

## { CASTE & POLITICS }

\* Caste inequalities

• All societies had some kind of social inequality and some social division of labour  $\xrightarrow{\text{EXTREME}}$  caste system.

⇒ Urbanisation: shift of population from rural to urban areas.

⇒ Occupational mobility: shift from one occupation to other.

[when new generation does something diff than their ancestors].

⇒ Caste hierarchy: a ladder like formation in which all the caste groups are placed from highest to lowest.

⇒ literacy & education.

⇒ constitutional changes.

# Caste and Politics

## caste in politics

- when parties choose candidates in elections they keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes to win.
- Political parties and candidates in elections make appeal to caste sentiment to muster support.
- UAF and the principle of one-person-one-vote compelled political leaders to gear up to the task of mobilising and securing support.
- No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste.
- Many political parties may put candidates from same caste.
- The ruling party frequently lose elections in our country.

## politics in caste

- Each caste group tries to become bigger by incorporating within it neighbouring caste which were earlier excluded.
- Various caste groups are required to enter into coalition to enter in a dialogue or negotiation.

### New kind of caste groups

backward class

forward class

+ve → SC, ST, OCB get better access to decision making.

-ve → politics based on caste identity alone is not healthy.

Bahujan samaj party

↓  
dalit + muslims

→ extra NIS