CHAPTER – EQUALITY

Q1 What is Universal Adult Franchise?

Ans: When in a democratic setup all adults irrespective of their religion, their educational standards, casts they belong to or whether they are rich or poor are allowed to vote is called Universal Adult Franchise.

Q2 What idea does the Universal Adult Franchise promote?

Ans: The idea that the Universal Adult Franchise promotes is the idea of equality because it states that every adult in the country, irrespective of their wealth and communities she/he belongs to, has one vote.

Q3 On what basis are the people of our country discriminated against?

Ans: People are discriminated against on the basis of caste, religion, gender, levels of education, wealth etc.

Q4 What do you mean by the term Dalit?

Ans: Dalit is a term that the so called lower castes use to address themselves. Dalit means broken and by using this word, lower castes are pointing how they were, and continue to be, seriously discriminated against.

Q5 Who is OmPrakash Valmiki? What is the name of his autobiography?

Ans. OmPrakash Valmiki is a famous dalit writer. The name of his autobiography is Joothan.

Q6 Explain how OmPrakash Valmiki was discriminated against when he was a child.

Ans: OmPrakash Valmiki in his autobiography writes that he always had to sit away from others in the class and that too on the floor.

Sometimes he was beaten up by other students without any reason.

When he was in class IV he was asked by his headmaster to sweep the school and the playground.

Q7 Who were Ansaris and how were they discriminated against?

Ans: Mrs. and Mr. Ansari was a muslim couple that was looking out for a flat on rent in a city.

They had money so paying the rent was no problem for them. But the landlords on discovering their names were not ready to give them their flats.

Finally, the property dealer suggested them to change their names and call themselves as Mrs. and Mr. Kumar.
But Ansaris were reluctant to do this as their dignity was being violated in such an act.

Q8 Define dignity.
Ans: It refers to thinking of oneself and other persons as worthy of respect.

Q9 When does the dignity of individuals get violated?
Ans: When persons are treated unequally, their dignity is violated.

Q10 What is constitution? What does it state about equality?
Ans: Constitution is a document that lays down the basic rules and regulations for the people and the government in a country to follow.

The Indian constitution recognizes every person as equal. It means that every individual in our country, including males and females, persons from all castes, religions, tribes, educational and economic backgrounds are recognized as equal.

Q11. Which provisions have been included in the constitution to promote equality in our country?
Ans: There are four provisions included in the constitution to promote equality in our country:

1. Every person is equal before the law. Every person from the president of the country to a domestic worker has to follow and obey the same laws.
2. No person can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, race, caste, place of birth or whether they are male or female.
3. Every person has access to all public places including shops, hotels, parks etc.
4. Untouchability has been abolished.

Q12. What are the two ways in which the government has tried to implement the equality that is guaranteed in the constitution?
Ans: 1. Through laws: There are several laws in India that protect every person’s right to be treated equally.
2. Through government programmes and schemes: These schemes are setup to improve the lives of people who have been treated unequally for several years.

Q13. What makes Mid Day Meal Scheme a successful scheme?
Ans: Mid Day Meal scheme is a programme introduced in all government elementary schools to provide children with cooked food. This scheme has many positive effects such as:

1. More poor children have started enrolling and regularly attending the schools.
2. Teachers reported that earlier children would often go home for lunch and then not return to school. But, now with the mid day meal being provided in the school, there attendance has approved.

3. This program has also helped to reduce caste prejudices because both lower and upper cast children in the school eat this meal together.

4. Dalit women have got the employment opportunities as they have been employed to cook the meal.

5. This program has also helped to reduce the hunger of the students who often came to school but could not concentrate because their stomachs were empty.

Q14. Are the govt. schemes completely successful in establishing equality in the country?

While the govt. programmes play an important role in increasing equality of opportunity, there is much that still needs to be done.

While the mid day meal scheme has helped increase the enrolment and attendance of poor children in school, there continues to be big difference in our country between the schools that the rich attend and those that poor attend.

Even today there are several schools in our country in which dalit children are discriminated against. They are forced into unequal situations where their dignity is not respected.

Q15. What was civil rights movement?

Ans: A movement that began in USA in 1950’s in which African American people demanded equal rights and an end to racial discrimination.

As a result of this movement, the civil rights act of 1964 was passed, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion or national origin.

Q16 Who are African-Americans?

Ans: They are the inhabitants of United States of America, whose ancestors were the slaves who were brought over from Africa.