

Diversity and Discrimination

Class 6 Social Science

Complete Study Notes

Learning Objectives

Students will understand the meaning of prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination, and equality. They will learn how unfair treatment affects individuals and society, explore the historical struggle against discrimination, understand the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and study how the Indian Constitution guarantees equal rights and opportunities for every citizen.

Introduction to Discrimination

Every person deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. However, people are sometimes judged unfairly because of their religion, caste, gender, language, appearance, or social background. Such unfair treatment is known as discrimination and creates inequality within society.

This chapter explains how prejudice and stereotypes lead to discrimination and why equality is one of the most important values in a democratic society.

Prejudice and Stereotypes

Prejudice means forming opinions about people without knowing the facts or understanding them properly. These opinions are often based on assumptions rather than reality.

Stereotypes are fixed ideas about a group of people. For example, believing that only boys can be brave or that girls should perform only household work are common stereotypes. Such beliefs prevent people from recognizing individual abilities and talents. Respecting every person's uniqueness helps create a more inclusive and fair society.

Discrimination and Social Inequality

When prejudice and stereotypes influence people's actions, they result in discrimination. Discrimination may deny individuals equal opportunities in education, employment, housing, or access to public places and services.

One of the most serious forms of discrimination in India was untouchability, which was linked to the caste system. Many communities, especially Dalits, faced social exclusion and unequal treatment for centuries. These practices created deep social inequalities and limited opportunities for millions of people.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Equality

A Lifelong Fight for Justice: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, devoted his life to fighting discrimination and promoting equal rights for all citizens. Having personally experienced caste-based discrimination during his childhood, he worked tirelessly to eliminate social inequality and secure justice for marginalized communities. His efforts continue to inspire the values of equality, dignity, and social justice in modern India.

Equality and Constitutional Rights

The Constitution of India guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. It abolished untouchability and declared it a punishable offence.

Every citizen has equal opportunities to study, work, practice their religion, preserve their culture, and participate in public life. These constitutional values help strengthen democracy and ensure justice for everyone.

Importance of Equality

Equality promotes respect, cooperation, and social harmony. It gives every individual the opportunity to develop their abilities without discrimination or fear. A society based on equality becomes more peaceful, inclusive, and progressive. Students should always respect others regardless of their background and actively oppose unfair discrimination in everyday life.

Practice Questions

1. What is prejudice?
2. What are stereotypes? Give one example.
3. What is discrimination?
4. What was untouchability?
5. How does the Constitution promote equality?

Answer Key

- **ANSWER 1:** Prejudice means forming unfair opinions about people without knowing the facts or understanding them properly.
- **ANSWER 2:** Stereotypes are fixed beliefs about a group of people. For example, believing that girls can only do household work is a stereotype.
- **ANSWER 3:** Discrimination is the unfair treatment of people based on religion, caste, gender, language, race, or other social differences.
- **ANSWER 4:** Untouchability was a social practice in which certain communities, especially Dalits, were treated as inferior and denied equal rights and opportunities.
- **ANSWER 5:** The Constitution promotes equality by guaranteeing equal rights, prohibiting discrimination, abolishing untouchability, and providing equal opportunities to all citizens.