

CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER 03

Gender, Religion and Caste

NCERT SOLUTIONS

DISADVANTAGES FACED BY WOMEN

QUESTION 1

Mention different aspects of life in which women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India.

ANSWER

1. **Education:**
   Girls often have fewer chances to continue their studies. Some families spend more on boys' education.
2. **Paid work:**
   Women have a smaller share in highly paid and valued jobs. Their work is often undervalued.
3. **Unequal wages:**
   Women may receive lower pay than men for the same work, despite the principle of equal wages.
4. **Unpaid work:**
   Women do much of the housework and care work. This work often gets little recognition.
5. **Son preference:**
   Preference for sons can lead to sex-selective abortion and an unequal child sex ratio.
6. **Safety:**
   Women face harassment, exploitation and violence outside and inside the home.
7. **Political power:**
   Women have had low representation in Parliament, State assemblies and cabinets.

These disadvantages arise from unequal social roles and patriarchal attitudes.

FORMS OF COMMUNAL POLITICS

QUESTION 2

State different forms of communal politics with one example each.

ANSWER

1. Everyday beliefs and prejudices

People use stereotypes about religious communities or believe their own religion is superior.

Example: Treating every member of another religion as untrustworthy.

2. Demand for political dominance

A religious group tries to dominate State power. A minority may respond by demanding a separate political unit.

Example: Demanding that government serve only the majority religion.

3. Political mobilisation on religious lines

Leaders use religious symbols, religious leaders or emotional appeals to gather votes.

Example: Asking people to vote for a candidate only because of a shared religion.

4. Communal violence

Religious differences lead to riots, violence or massacres.

Example: The communal violence during Partition.

The first three examples illustrate the chapter's forms.

CONTINUING CASTE INEQUALITIES

QUESTION 3

State how caste inequalities are still continuing in India.

ANSWER

Caste inequality continues in several ways.

1. **Marriage:**
   Most people still marry within their own caste or tribe.

2. **Social treatment:**
   Caste prejudice and discrimination continue. Untouchability has not disappeared completely, although the Constitution prohibits it.

3. **Education:**
   Groups denied education in the past have had fewer opportunities. The effects of those disadvantages continue.

4. **Economic position:**
   Caste is still linked to access to land, resources and jobs.

5. **Poverty:**
   In the historical evidence given in the chapter, Dalits and Adivasis face a higher share of poverty. Upper castes are over-represented among the rich.

Important point:
Every caste includes rich and poor people. These are unequal patterns across groups, not a claim about every individual.

CASTE AND ELECTION RESULTS

QUESTION 4 State two reasons to say that caste alone cannot determine election results in India.

ANSWER

1. **A candidate needs support from several groups.**
   The chapter explains that a parliamentary constituency does not have a clear majority of one single caste. Candidates therefore need votes from more than one caste or community.

2. **People of one caste do not all vote alike.**
   No party wins all the votes of a caste. Voters also consider party loyalty, leaders, government performance and their own economic interests.
   Rich and poor people, or men and women, from the same caste may vote differently.

Conclusion: Caste matters, but it cannot by itself explain election results.

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