

6. Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties

In the last two chapters, we studied the fundamental rights guaranteed by our Constitution. We learnt what rights Indian citizens enjoy. We also learnt that our rights have judicial protection. We understood the importance of fundamental rights in our individual and public lives. With this background, we shall now understand what the Directive Principles of State Policy are.

Fundamental rights put restrictions on the power of the government. A few such restrictions upon the State are listed below.

- State shall not discriminate between and among citizens on the basis of caste, religion, race, language or sex.
- State shall not deny anybody equality before the law and equal protection of the law.
- No person shall be deprived of his life.
- State shall not impose any religious taxes.

The Constitution has given express instructions to the State about what policies it should undertake. This is in the nature of giving directives or guidelines about how to achieve the goals expressed in the Preamble. Hence they are called as Directive Principles of State Policy.

Why were the Directives included ?

When India won independence, we faced a great challenge of establishing order and carrying out smooth administration. Eradication of poverty, backwardness and illiteracy had to be urgently pursued. The task of nation building had to be undertaken. For this, new policies had to be drawn up, and their implementation had to be undertaken.

The goal of people's welfare had to be achieved. In short, India had to be transformed into a developed and progressive nation. The Constitution has specified the subjects to which the Union and State Governments should give priority in their policies for people's welfare through the Directive Principles of State Policy. Each Directive contains a subject for the State Policy. The makers of the Indian Constitution had realised that it would require a lot of resources if all these policies were to be implemented at the same time. That is the reason why they did not make the directives binding upon the State like the fundamental rights. They expected that States should implement them slowly and steadily.

Some important Directive Principles of State Policy :

- The State should secure adequate means of livelihood to all citizens without any gender discrimination.
- The State should secure equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- The State should secure the improvement of public health.
- The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wild-life of the country.
- The State shall protect all monuments of historic interest and national importance.
- The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, especially the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

- The State shall offer public assistance to citizens in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, etc.
- The State shall secure a uniform civil code applicable to the entire country.



Can you tell?

There is a directive to ensure 'equal pay for equal work.'

Which principles and ideals of the Constitution will be realised with this directive? Why does it happen that inspite of doing the same work, women are paid less than men?



Do this.

Apart from the above directives, there are others that specify what the State should do in order to bring about the welfare of the people. A few issues have been listed below. Find out the directive that is relevant in these contexts with the help of your teacher. For example, Foreign Policy : It should be the policy of the State to endeavour to secure the promotion of international peace and security.

- Girl's Education :
- Upbringing of children in a healthy and happy atmosphere :
- Improvement in agriculture :

Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights are two sides of the same coin. Due to Fundamental Rights, citizens get the most needed liberty, while Directive Principles of State Policy create an atmosphere conducive to the growth of democracy. Even though

we cannot go to the courts if a Directive is not implemented by the Government, we can put pressure on the Government in various ways to make a policy in order to meet these goals.

What else do you think the Government should do for students? Make a list of your demands. How would you convince others that your demands are just?

Which improvements will be possible with the following facilities offered by the Government?

- Public toilets
- Clean water supply
- Vaccination of children

Fundamental Duties

In a democracy, citizens have a dual responsibility. They should not only be vigilant that their rights are not unfairly restricted, but should also fulfil some duties and responsibilities. The Constitution has made several provisions through the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy for the people's welfare. The benefits of the various schemes of the Government cannot reach all people if they do not fulfil their Fundamental Duties. For example, the Government has implemented several projects under its Swachh Bharat Scheme, but people, too, need to change their habits that make public places dirty. In order that the Indian citizens become conscious of their responsibilities, Fundamental Duties were included in the Constitution. The Fundamental Duties of the Indian citizens are as follows :

- To abide by the Constitution and respect the National Flag and the National Anthem.



- To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom.
- To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- To defend the country, and to render national service when called upon to do so.
- To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood transcending diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
- To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
- To protect and improve the natural environment, and to have compassion for living creatures.
- To develop the scientific temper, humanism and spirit of inquiry and reform.
- To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.
- To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement.
- Every citizen of India who is a parent or guardian should provide opportunities of education to his or her child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years.



A boy scribbling on a historical structure



Hanging lemon, chillies




Damaging a public bus




A woman emptying a garbage can on the street

Which of the Fundamental Duties are not being followed in the situations above?







The river in our village does not look like a river at all! What an amount of plastic waste! Even if anybody tells me, I will never throw any waste in the river.




That is all right, but what to do about those deafening sounds?



People just don't seem to realise these things while celebrating festivals!



We should also be insistent on our responsibilities as citizens.



It is our duty to protect the resources and public property of our country.

- 
- 
- Let us start step by step... Let us make a few resolutions.
 - Let us tell girls and boys to go to school.
 - Let us use the different facilities in school responsibly.
 - Let us be proud of our country.
 - Let us participate in the festivals of different religions.
 - Let us celebrate them by avoiding pollution of the environment.
 - Let us use public facilities properly and take good care of the same.
 - Let us perform all the tasks that we have undertaken honestly, always striving for excellence.

Which duties are reflected in the dialogues above?
Is there a relationship between rights and duties?
What do you think happens when we follow our duties?

What do you think?

Girls and boys between the ages 6 and 14 have got the right to education. All the girls and boys in this age group should be in school. Yet many girls and boys are not able to go to school because of many reasons. They have to work to help their parents earn a living for the family. Do you think that it is unfair to such children to insist that they go to school?



Exercise

1. List the restrictions on the powers of the Government.

-
-
-

2. Say 'Yes' or 'No'.

- (1) The jobs advertised in the newspaper are for men and women both.
- (2) Men and women doing the same work in a factory get different wages.
- (3) Government implements various schemes for the improvement of public health.
- (4) The State shall protect all monuments of historic interest and national importance.

3. Tell why –

- (1) The State shall protect all monuments of historic interest.
- (2) A pension scheme is implemented for old people.
- (3) Free and compulsory education has been made available to children in the age group 6 to 14.

4. Say right or wrong. Correct and write the wrong ones.

- (1) Not to let the National Flag fall down on the ground.
- (2) To stand at attention while the National Anthem is playing.
- (3) To carve or paint our names on the walls of a historic place like a fort.

At the beginning of the Civics section, we got introduced to the goals and characteristic features of the Indian Constitution. We also considered the rights of the Indian citizens and the legal protection guaranteed to these rights by the Constitution. We understood the Directive Principles of State Policy and the Fundamental Duties of Indian citizens.

Next year, we shall study the administration of our country.



- (4) To give lesser wages to women than to men for the same work.
- (5) To keep public places clean.

5. Write about the following.

- (1) The Directive Principles of the Constitution enumerated in the textbook.
- (2) The provision of a uniform civil code for citizens in the Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution.
- (3) Why is it said that the Directive Principles and Fundamental Rights are two sides of the same coin?

6. What are the ways in which citizens can conserve the environment? Write with examples.

Activities

- (1) Education is our right. Form groups and discuss our duties in this respect.
- (2) The State shall protect all monuments of historic interest and national importance. This is one of the Directive Principles. Find out the efforts made by the State about the conservation and protection of forts and make a chart.
- (3) Gather information about the schemes implemented by the Government for children's health.



Timeline - From the 8th century to the 19th century

Review of Major Events

Read the sequence of events from the bottom upward.

