

CLASS VI

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DIVERSITY AND DISCRIMINATION

CHAPTER - 2



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There are eight major religions in the world. Every single one of them is practiced in India. We have more than 1600 languages that are people's mother tongues, and there are more than a hundred dance forms.



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Sometimes people who are 'different' from others are teased, laughed at or not included in a certain activity or group. We feel hurt, angry, helpless or sad when friends or others treat us in such ways.

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- **Difference And Prejudice**
- **Diversity Is Not Always Celebrated. Why ?**
 - ✓ **Prejudice**
- **Creating Stereotypes**
- **Inequality And Discrimination**
- **On Being Discriminated Against**
- **Striving For Equality**
- **Conclusion**



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❖ Difference and Prejudice

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❖ Difference and Prejudice

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- Differences can only be stated based on a comparison or categorization. Whereas prejudice is an unfavorable opinion or feeling, formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason.
- People are different in terms of living, eating, speaking, clothing and various other things.
- Differences are influenced by the geography and history of the place where we live.

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☐ Diversity is not always celebrated. Why ?

- People don't feel safe and secure with people who don't look, talk, dress or think like them.
- People also form certain attitudes and opinions about others who are not like them.

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❑ Prejudice

- Prejudice means to judge other people negatively or see them as inferior.
- **For example**, if we think English is the best language and other languages are not important, we are judging these other languages negatively. As a result, we might not respect people who speak languages other than English.

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- We can be prejudiced about many things such as about people's religious beliefs, the color of their skin, the region they come from, the accent they speak in, the clothes they wear etc.

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❖ Creating Stereotypes

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❖ Creating Stereotypes

- All of us are familiar with gender differences.
- As children grow up they start believing that boys do not cry so that even if a boy feels like crying he stops himself from doing so. He also believes that crying is a sign of weakness.

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- A “stereotype” is a generalization about a person or group of persons. We resort to prejudice by ascribing characteristics to a person based on a stereotype, without the knowledge of complete facts.
- Stereotypes affect all of us as they prevent us from doing certain things, that we might otherwise be good at.

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- It reduces an individual to a rigid image and does not consider the fact that human beings are complex and multidimensional with unique attributes. Stereotypes suggest that people or groups of people are the same, although they are quite different.
- **For example:** villagers as ignorant and superstitious, while people in cities as money-minded, lazy and cunning.

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❖ Inequality and discrimination

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❖ Inequality and discrimination

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- Discrimination happens when people act on their prejudices or stereotype.
- If one do something to put other people down, if he stop them from taking part in certain activities and taking up jobs, or stop them from living in certain neighborhoods, prevent them from taking water from the same well or hand pump, or not allow them to drink tea in the same cups or glasses as others, one is discriminating against them.

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- Discrimination can take place because of several reasons.
- People belonging to different can an aspect of diversity.
- However, this diversity can also be a source of discrimination.
- Groups of people who may speak a certain language, follow a particular religion, live in specific regions etc., may be discriminated against as their customs or practices may be seen as inferior.

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- Therefore, we can say that
Discrimination means treating a person unfairly especially on the grounds of race, religion, age or sex.
- Economic differences are not termed as diversity but as inequality.

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- People who are poor do not have the resources or the money to meet their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.
- They experience discrimination in offices, in hospitals, schools etc., where they are treated badly because they are poor.

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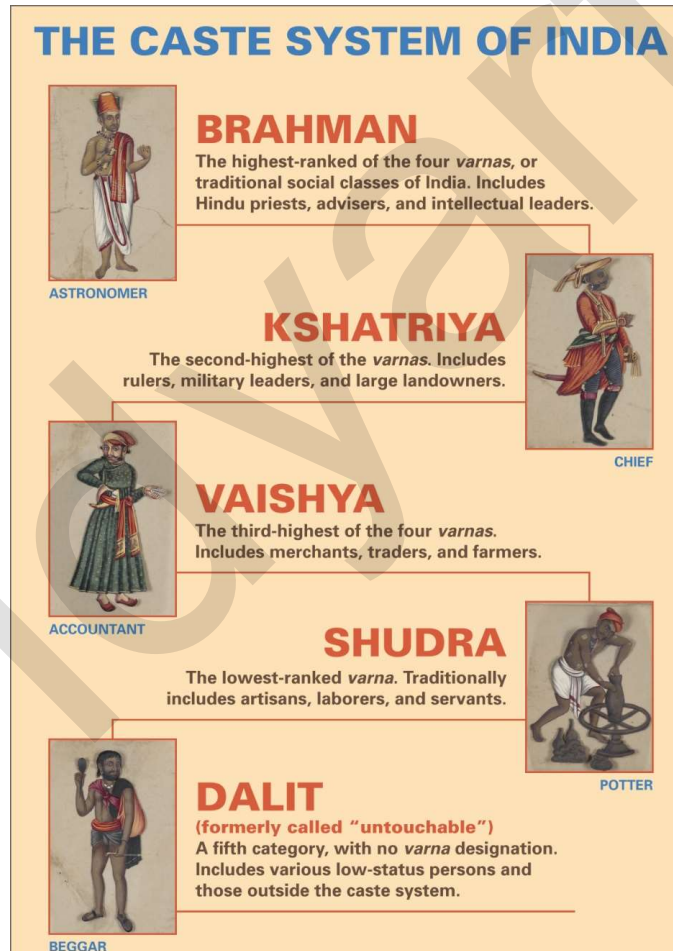
☐ Who are treated as both discriminated and unequally?

- Tribal, some religious groups and even particular regions, are discriminated against for one or more of these reasons.

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❑ On being discriminated against

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❑ On being discriminated against

- People are engaged in different kinds of work like teaching, carpentry, pottery, weaving, fishing, farming etc. to earn a livelihood.
- Activities like cleaning, washing, cutting hair, picking garbage are seen as tasks that are of less value and people who do this work are seen as dirty or impure.
- This belief is an important aspect of the caste system.

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- In the caste system, communities/ groups of people were placed in a sort of ladder where each caste was either above or below the other.
- Those who placed themselves at the top of this ladder called themselves upper caste and saw themselves as superior.

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- The groups who were placed at the bottom of the ladder were seen as unworthy and called "untouchables".

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Dalits

- Dalit is a term that people belonging to so-called lower castes use to address themselves.

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❖ Striving for Equality



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❖ Striving for Equality

- Struggle was started for freedom from British rule which included the large groups of people who not only fought against the British but also fought to be treated more equally.

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- Dalits organized themselves to enter temples.
- Women demanded that they should have as much a right to education as men did.
- Peasants and tribals fought to release themselves from the grasp of the moneylender and the high interest they were charged.

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□ Conclusion

- When India became a nation in 1947 our leaders too were concerned about the different kinds of inequalities that existed.
- Leaders set out a vision and goals in the Constitution to ensure that all the people of India were considered equal such as:

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- ✓ Untouchability is seen as a crime and has been legally abolished by law.
- ✓ Government jobs are open to all people.
- ✓ The writers of the Constitution also said that respect for diversity was a significant element in ensuring equality.

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- ✓ People have the freedom to follow their religion, speak their language, celebrate their festivals and express themselves freely.
- ✓ Therefore, India became a secular country where people of different religions and faiths have the freedom to practise and follow their religion without any fear of discrimination. This is seen as an important element of our unity – that we all live together and respect one other.