



**On Equality**

**Equal right to vote**

**Other kinds  
of equality**



**Recognising  
dignity**

**Equality in Indian  
democracy**

**Issues of equality in  
other democracies**

## CHALLENGE OF DEMOCRACY



## ON EQUALITY

- India is a democracy. In the **CLASS VI BOOK**, we looked at the key elements of a democratic government. These include **PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**,



# DEMOCRACY FOR ALL

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EQUITY



The resolution of  
**CONFLICT, AND EQUALITY  
AND JUSTICE.**

**EQUALITY** is a key  
feature of democracy  
and influences all  
aspects of its  
functioning.



In this chapter you will read more about **EQUALITY** – what it is, why it is important in a democracy, and whether or not everyone is equal in India. **LET'S BEGIN BY LOOKING AT KANTA'S STORY.**

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Isn't it good Suja that we can all vote as equal citizens of our country? Even Jain Saheb is standing in the line with us!

Yes!



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Go on, Kanta – It's your turn now.

I will vote for the candidate who has promised to bring pipe water to our area.

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Abdul Rehman  
Artisan

Shabnam Bano  
Housewife



Gracy Laleng  
Consultant



Isaac Laleng  
Government officer



Ruksana Mirza  
Media person



Yog Raj  
Unemployed



Ashok Jain  
Industrialist

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Afterwards...

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At home...

Here have some of this –  
you'll feel better. And  
when I get back in the  
evening, we'll go to the  
hospital, okay?



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It's no wonder that Gudia  
falls ill often...the *basti*  
is never cleaned!



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Just few more minutes, Beti.

Jain Madam and Jain Saheb may stand in line to vote, but they never have to do it when their children are sick...

Do you think Kanta has enough reason to doubt whether she really is equal? List three reasons from the story above that might make her feel like this.



## EQUAL RIGHT TO VOTE

- When voting, Kanta recognizes her employer **ASHOK JAIN** and **CHOTTE LAL**.
- India is democratic country and **RICH, POOR, EVERY RELIGION** can vote.
- It is called **UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE**.

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# CAME TO VOTE

KANTA



ASHOK JAIN

CHOTTE LAL



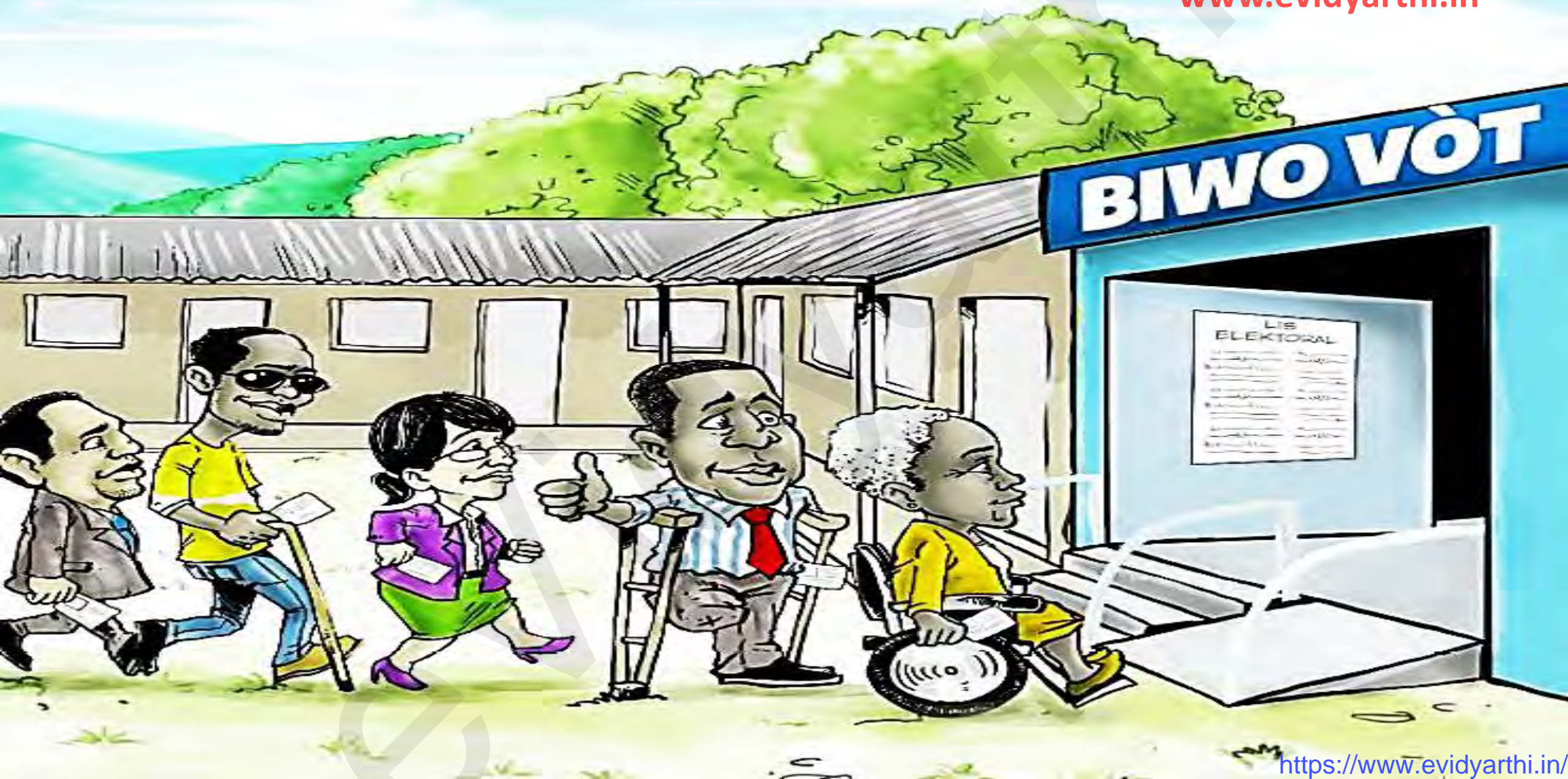


## Universal Adult Suffrage



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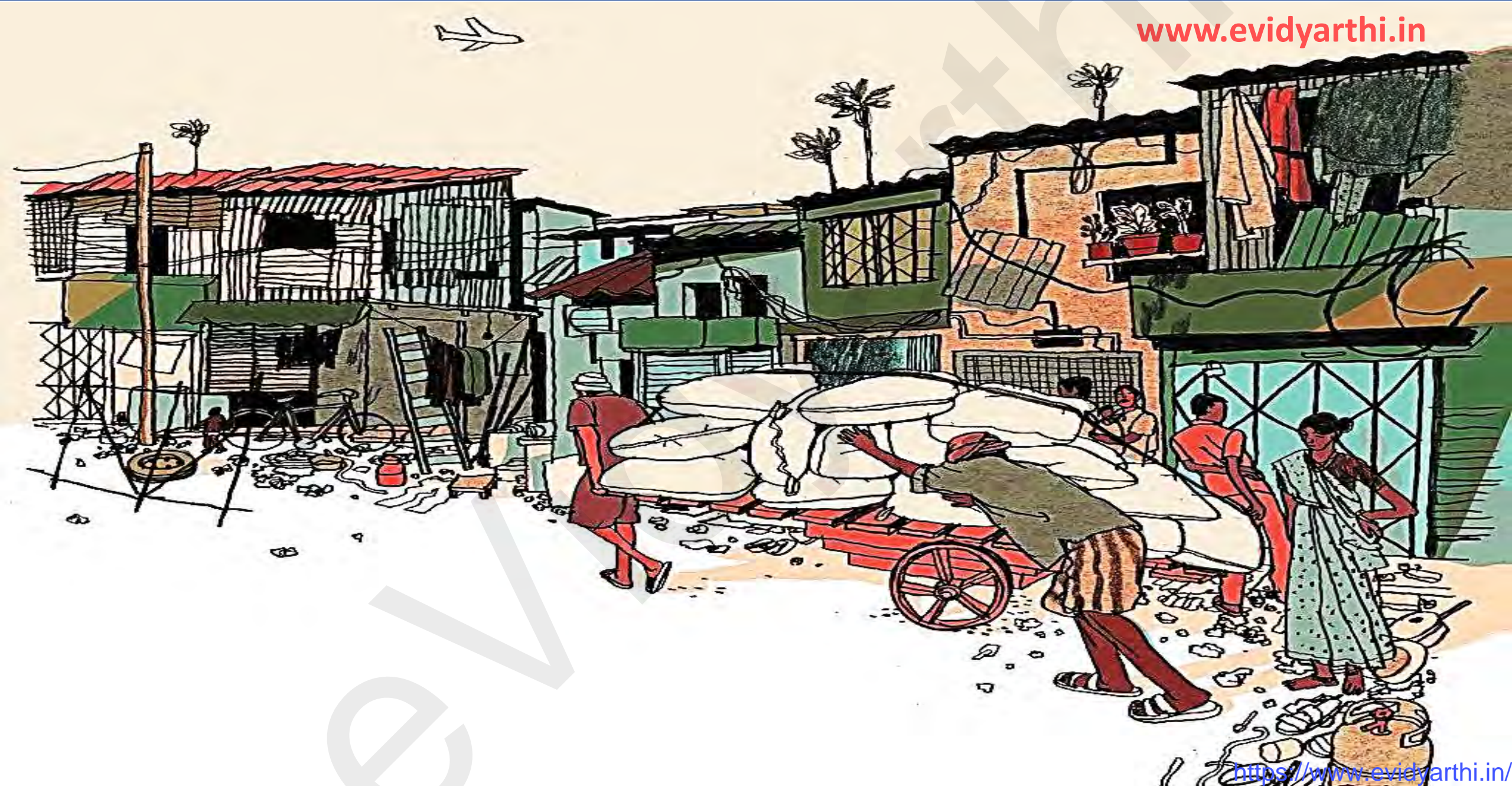


- **KANTA** is excited and happy for getting the **EQUALITY TO VOTE**.
- But sometimes she is unsure?
- She lives in slum with a drain behind her house,



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her daughter is sick but she can not take a day off.

➤ She is a domestic worker, she has to stand in the line for hours in **GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL.**



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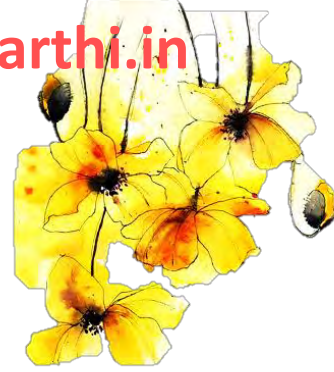
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## OTHER KINDS OF EQUALITY

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- She lives in **DEMOCRATIC** country India, where everyone is **EQUAL** but her working condition are far from equal.
- LETS EXPLORE FEW STORIES BASED ON REAL LIFE.





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Equality

Equity

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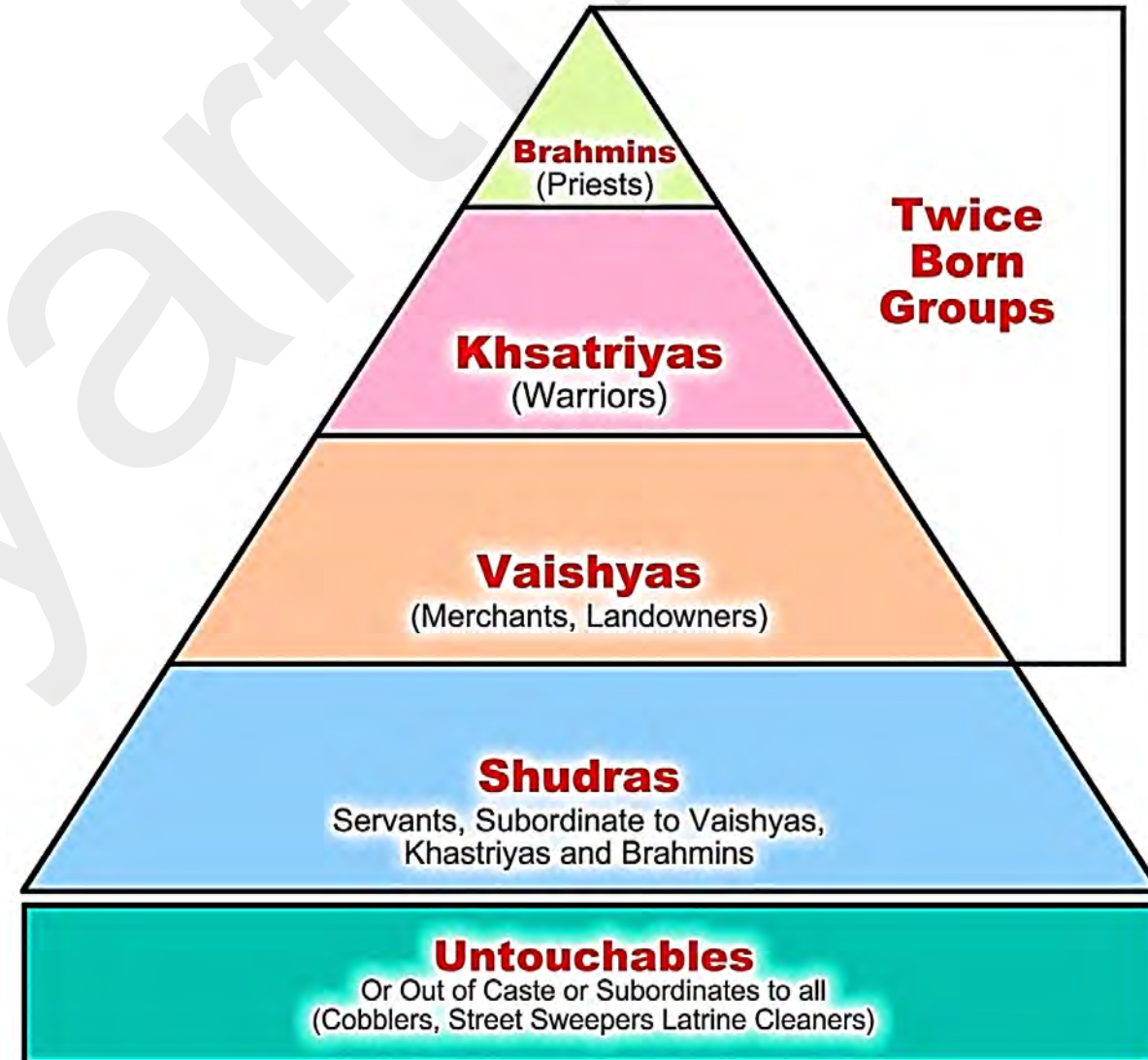
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➤ Common forms of **INEQUALITY** is **CASTE SYSTEM**, people think that urban Indians are no longer believe in **CASTE SYSTEM** but you will experience that they know how important this issue is.



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- LETS READ A STORY ABOUT A DALIT CHILD ATTENDING SCHOOL.
- Dalit - it is a term use to address people as so called **LOWER CASTE**. Means broken (always discriminated)



## SCHOOL



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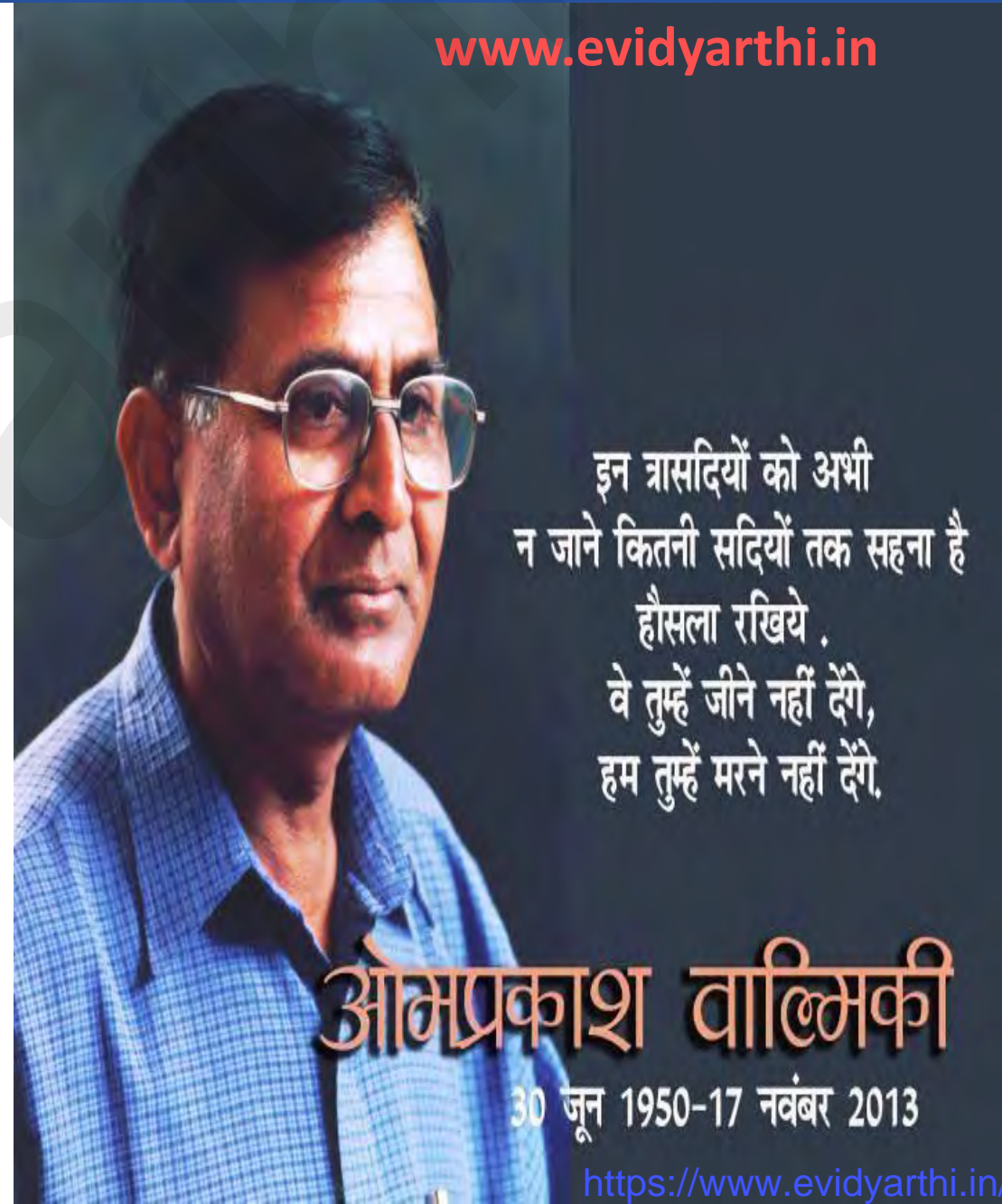


➤ **OMPRAKASH VALMIKI** [1956–2013] a famous Dalit writer writes about one of his life incident [autobiography] named as **JOOOTHAN**.

➤ He writes, "I had to sit far away from the class, sometimes beat up **WITHOUT REASON**."



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इन त्रासदियों को अभी  
न जाने कितनी सदियों तक सहना है  
हौसला रखिये .  
वे तुम्हें जीने नहीं देंगे,  
हम तुम्हें मरने नहीं देंगे.

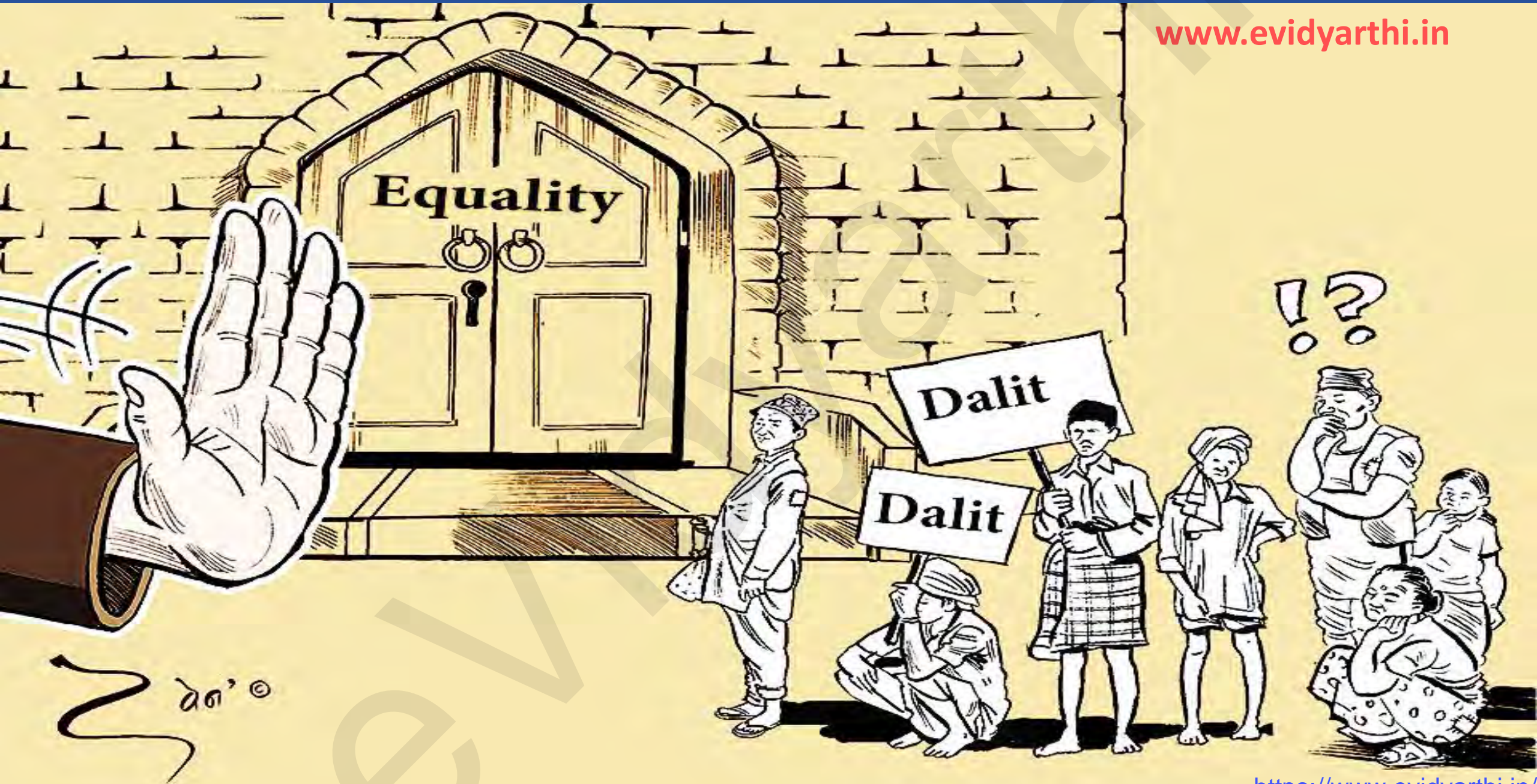
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हिन्दी दलित साहित्य की  
एक विशिष्ट उपलब्धि के रूप में  
व्यापक रूप से स्वीकृत आत्मकथात्मक कृति

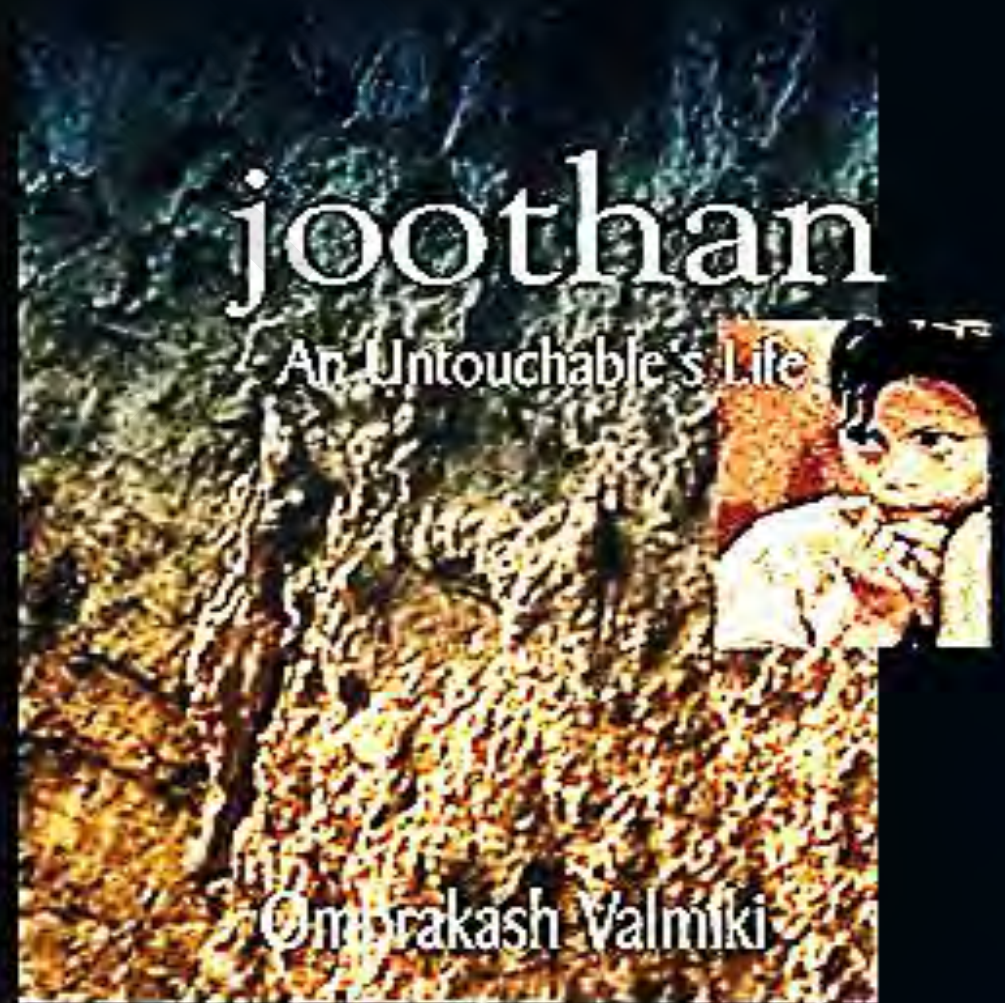


ओमप्रकाश वाल्मीकि

जूथान  
दूसरा खंड



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Translated from the Hindi by  
Arun Prabha Mukherjee

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- Even the **HEADMASTER** asked **OMPRAKASH** to clean the playground and school.
- Even he was covered in dust. [even the dust gone in his mouth. The whole class was **STUDYING** and I was **SWEEPING**.

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➤ He **COULDN'T EVEN DRINK A GLASS OF WATER** as the headmaster was watching him. [he sweep for **COUPLE OF DAY** like this] this came to an end when his father saw him sweep.




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➤ He said **LOUDLY** -You are a teacher so I am leaving now. But remember he will study so will others.

**Second story**

➤ **THIS STORY IS BASED ON TRUE EVENTS IN INDIA'S LARGEST CITIES.**





It is about **MR.** and **MRS. ANSARI** who were looking for an apartment in the city.

➤ They visited a property dealer, they even finalized the first apartment.



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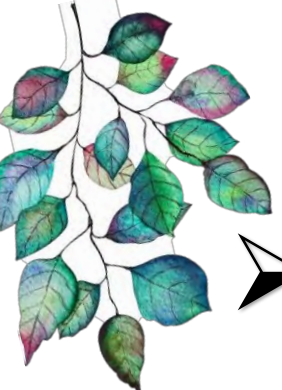
➤ Problem came when the **LANDLADY** found out their names, made an excuse that she will not give her house to **NON-VEGETARIANS.**



- But dealer and **ANSARIS** knew that non-vegetarians live here as they can smell a fish cooking in **NEIGHBOURHOOD**.
- The same incident happened everywhere. It took them **1 MONTH** to get an apartment.



## RECOGNISING DIGNITY



➤ The **ANSARIS** and **OMPRAKASH** both are being treated **UNEQUALLY** on the basis of differences of **CASTE** and **RELIGION**.



➤ When people are treated unequally their dignity is **VIOLATED**.





- By picking on him and making him **SWEEP** the school because of his caste.
- His **SCHOOLMATES AND TEACHER** hurt his dignity badly, made him feel less than equal. He didn't get the potential to fight this equality only when his father came as a **RESCUER**.





➤ The **ANSARI'S DIGNITY** was also hurt when no one was giving them house property, suggested to change their names but it was against their **SELF DIGNITY**.

➤ Both deserve **RESPECT** and **DIGNITY** as anyone else.



## EQUALITY IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY

- Many people's dignity have been compromised but now there are several that work to treat people with **DIGNITY**.
- Provisions of the constitution
  1. Everyone is **EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW** from president to **KANTA**.





**RIGHT TO EQUALITY IS GIVEN IN UNDER  
ARTICLE 14-18 IN THE INDIAN  
CONSTITUTION.**

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**ARTICLE-14.** Equality before law.

**ARTICLE-15.** Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.






**ARTICLE-16.** Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

**ARTICLE-17.** Abolish untouchability.

**ARTICLE-18.** Abolish of Title.





2. No person should be discriminated against on the basis of their **RELIGION, RACE, CASTE, PLACE OF BIRTH, FEMALE OR MALE.**

3. Every person has access to all public places including **HOTELS, SHOPS, MARKETS** etc.



# PUBLIC FACILITIES

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# SCHOOL



# HEALTHCARE CENTRE



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT



# SAFE DRINKING WATER



**4. UNTOUCHABILITY** has been abolished.

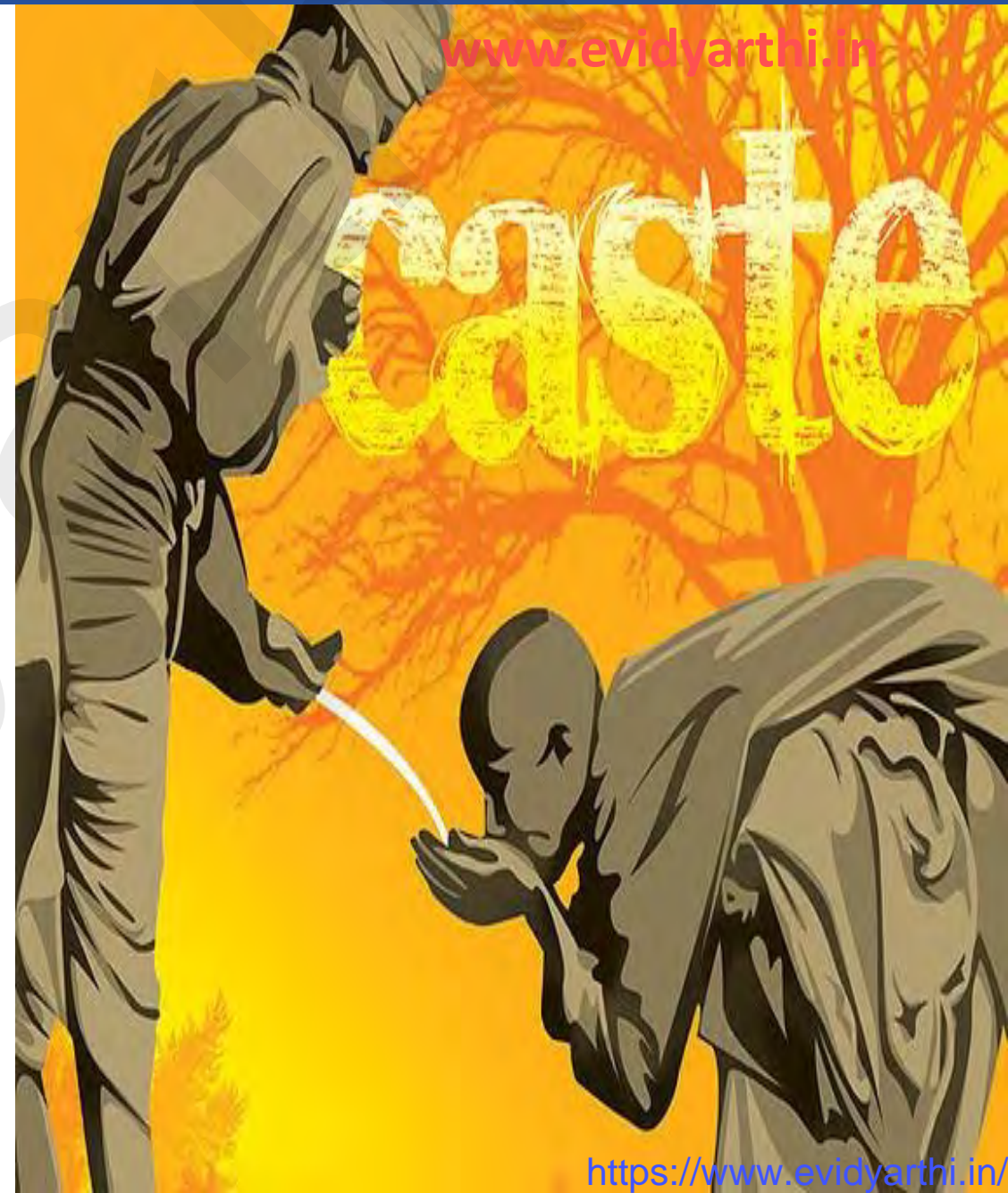
- Government provided equality first through laws and second through **PROGRAMS AND SCHEMES** to help disadvantaged communities.





## **VARIOUS FORM OF DISCRIMINATION DONE IN INDIA.**

- **Prohibited from eating with other caste members,**
- **Separate glasses for Dalits in village tea stalls,**





- Prohibited from entering into **VILLAGE TEMPLES,**
- No access to **VILLAGE'S COMMON / PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND RESOURCES** (wells, ponds, temples, etc.),



➤ **SEGREGATION**  
(separate  
seating area) of  
**DALIT CHILDREN**  
in schools,





## ARTICLE 17

“Untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of “Untouchability” shall be an offence **PUNISHABLE** in accordance with law.”



For example :-

➤ Midday meal scheme

**TAMILNADU** was the first state in India to introduce this scheme.

➤ In **2001** supreme court asked all state government to begin this scheme in every government school within **6 MONTHS.**

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- **POOR CHILDREN** started coming schools regularly by getting attracted to this scheme.
- This was also helpful to reduce caste prejudices by allowing every children to **EAT TOGETHER.**



# DAILY ATTENDING SCHOOLS

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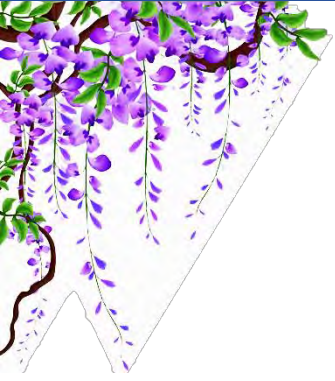


# TOGETHERNESS

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- Even in many places **DALIT WOMEN** were hired to cook meals.
- Attitudes change very slowly persons are aware of **DISCRIMINATIONAL LAW** but they continue to treat people unequally.



# DALIT WOMEN

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- It open gates for women On the basis of **RELIGION, ECONOMIC STATUS, DISABILITY.**
- Establishing equality in a democratic society is a continuous struggle.



## ISSUES OF EQUALITY IN OTHER DEMOCRACIES

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- India is the only **DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY** in which there is inequality and where the struggle for **EQUALITY CONTINUES** to exist. In US, **AFRICAN-AMERICANS** bought from **AFRICA**, their ancestors were slaves.

Even a movement in late **1950'S** was done to provide rights to African-Americans.

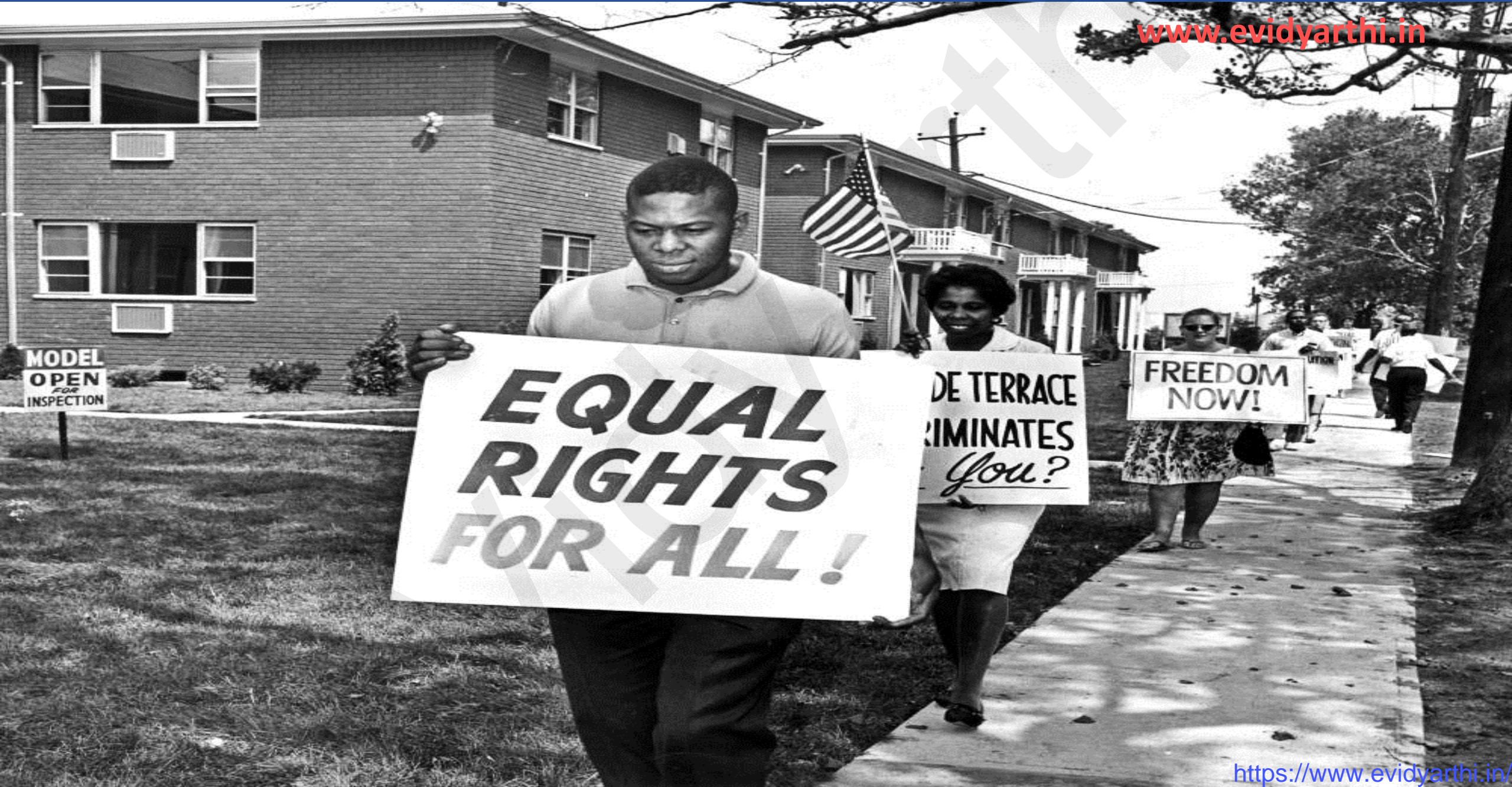
**FOR EXAMPLE : –**

They had to sit in the back of the bus or else have to give up their seat to a white.



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**1950'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MOVEMENT**

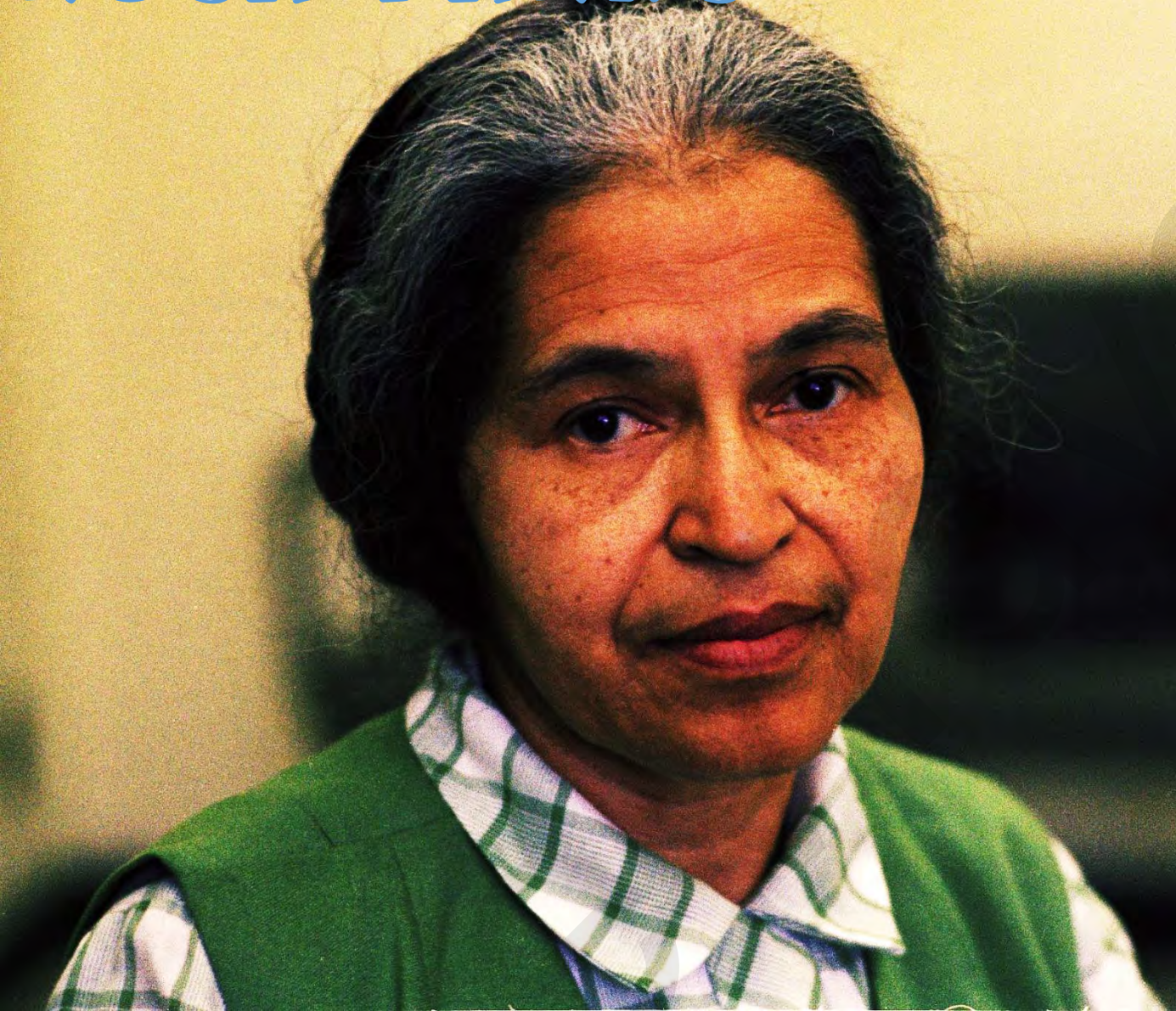
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- **ROSA PARKS [1913-2005]** was an African American, refuse to give up her seat on **1 DEC 1955**.
- Unequal ways to treating them was came to be known as civil right move. **CIVIL RIGHT ACT of 1964** prohibited discrimination on the **BASIS OF RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONAL** origin.



# ROSA PARKS



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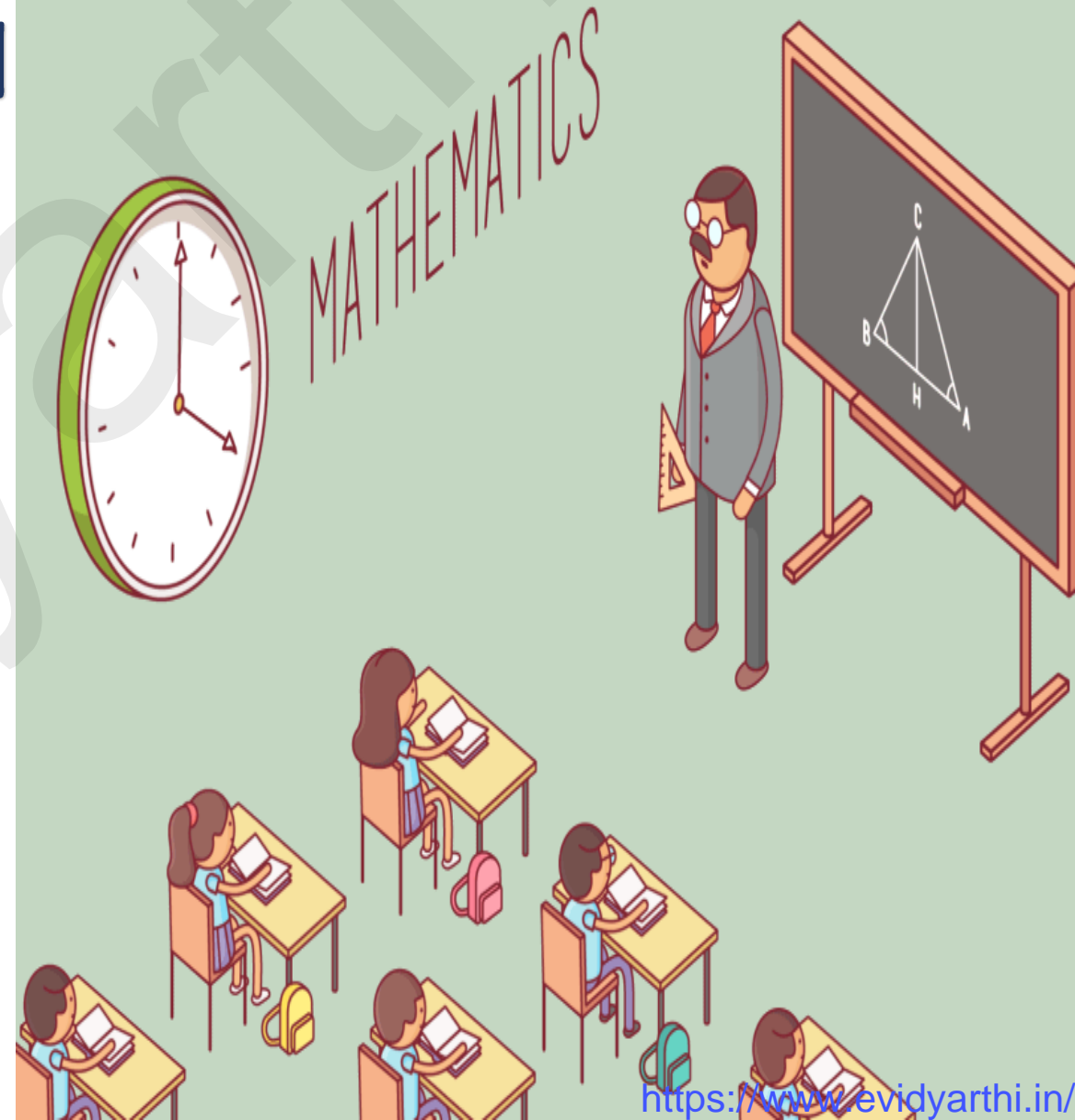
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➤ **AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILDREN** continue to be amongst the poorest in the country, they can't afford private **SCHOOLS LIKE WHITE.**

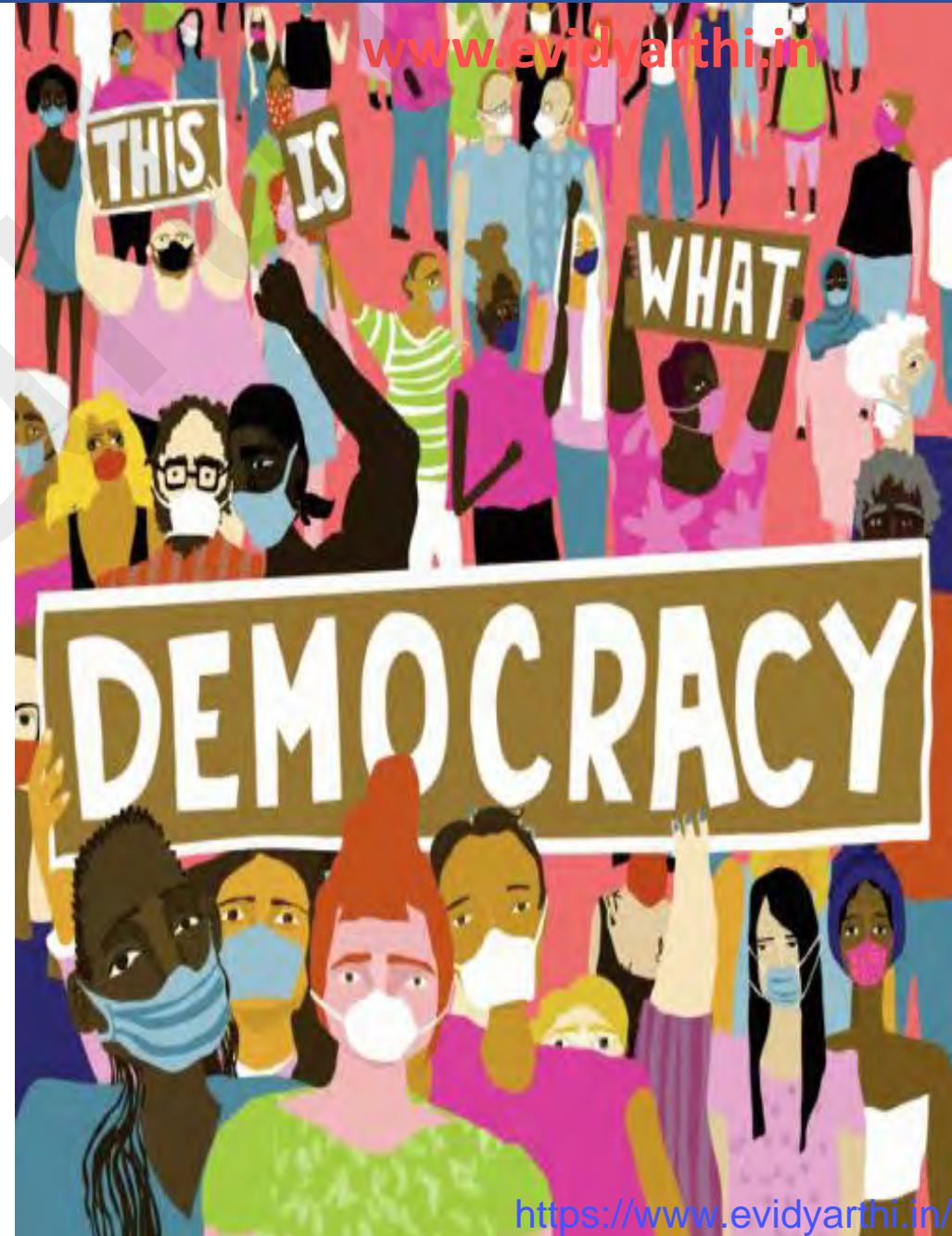


# AFRO-AMERICAN WITH HARDSHIP



## CHALLENGE OF DEMOCRACY

- No country can be described as the best, it always has some **LOOPHOLES** in it.
- Individuals always needed greater **RECOGNITION**. They want to be equal, to be dignified.





➤ You will read further in this book that how this **ISSUE OF EQUALITY** affects various aspects of our daily lives in democratic India.

