

In this lesson, we will study about the basic values of democracy such as liberty, equality and social justice.

Some issues were raised with the beginning of man's social life. The institution of State has been originated and developed as the other institutions of society in order to solve these issues. The four elements of State are Population, Area, Government and Sovereignty. In which sovereignty is a very important element. It makes the State paramount or supreme in internal matters and independent in external matters in taking decisions. This sovereignty restricts the freedom of an individual partly or fully. Since man is a rational animal by nature, he aspires for freedom.

Meaning of Freedom : Many political scientists have tried to clarify the meaning of liberty. Clarifying the normal meaning of liberty it can be said that it is the freedom of behavior without harming any person. In the words of Prof. Laski, "meaning of liberty is an establishment of such an atmosphere in which a person can get the opportunities of his own development." Thus, liberty is one type of atmosphere; it is a positive power which provides the opportunities for the development of the person. It allows the individuals to behave as they wish or desire. But it does not mean uncontrolled freedom. As a member of society and a citizen of State he cannot behave licentiously. Thus, we can say the freedom of behaviour within limitations is liberty.

Liberty (Positive and Negative):

According to political scientists there are two aspects of liberty (a) negative and (b) positive.

(a) Negative Liberty : Some social scientist believe that there are two aspects of individual's life. The first is the personal and private life of individual. The State should not interfere in this life. Because others are not harmed by such life.

(b) Positive Liberty : On thinking of a positive aspect of liberty, it is found that it is necessary to have commodious to do what is to be done as an individual. A person can enjoy various pleasures of life. Liberty which nourishes the comprehensive development of individuality of a person who has suitability to make his life leisure is the positive independence.

Types of liberty : To understand the meaning of liberty at length, it is necessary to understand various types of liberty, which are as follows :

(1) Natural Liberty : The meaning of natural liberty is that a man enjoys a right to freedom since his birth. The philosophers like John Lock and J. J. Rousseau have clarified the natural life in their Theories of Social Contract. According to them a person enjoys a right to freedom in this natural life. Thus an individual enjoys a right to freedom naturally i.e. since birth. This concept has strengthened the idea, that society or State can not take away the right to freedom of a person.

(2) Moral Liberty : Since man is an rational animal. So he should have some freedom to behave with discretion. By this freedom a person gets a right of determining good or bad. Political scientists,

individualists and anarchists vindicate this matter. These philosophers believe that a person should have freedom to prevent immoral behavior and to raise voice against it.

(3) Social and Civic Liberty : As a member of society and citizen of the State a person has some freedom. Social scientists have classified this social and citizen independence into four sub-categories.

- (1) Individual and Civic Liberty :** The philosopher like John Stuart Mill believes that a person should get freedom in his personal life. According to this concept a person should get basic freedom about how a person should live? What to eat? What to drink? How should dressup ? Which religion should be followed? Society or State should not interfere in these matters.

A person gets civic freedom under a legal protection and as member of the State civic liberty to the person: (a) protects the person against misbehavior of others. (b) protects against the unjust actions of Government. These freedoms are given against the State. However, the State can put some limits in this freedom. If this freedom is improper, a person can ask for review from court and protection under right to constitutional remedies.

- (2) Political Liberty :** Political liberty provides an opportunity to a person to take part in the administrative activities of the State in which he lives. By such public partnership a citizen can take part in the formation of the public policy by his own ideas. Political liberty incarnates democracy. This freedom includes a right to vote, candidature in elections, propaganda for party and candidates of his own choice, support or oppose the Government.
- (3) National Liberty :** Every group of people aspire to have a national unity and to have freedom of its management on the grounds of various reasons such as religion, language, emotional unity. With this the nations which are not independent have right to fight for their independence. They can become Nation-State by getting independence. In fact the liberties we have discussed earlier can flourish only in an independent Nation-State.
- (4) Economic Liberty :** Economic liberty includes the matters of satisfying economic requirement of a person and his family. It includes the right of a person such as right to work, right to get proper salary, right to collect property and its disposal and formation of union for his own profession. Political and civic liberty becomes meaningless without the economic liberty.

Why liberty is necessary?

The philosophers have thought at length about why independence is necessary for mankind? According to these philosophers, liberty is the best value, it is an aim in itself. A man can get happiness and satisfaction only by freedom. So many nations fought for freedom against foreign rulers. The comprehensive development of individual is possible only in free atmosphere. It is necessary to have liberty for search of truth, scientific investigations and formation of equitable society.

Social and political concept of liberty

A man by nature is a social animal. There is no meaning of freedom without group or society. Hence, a man as a citizen of State, should enjoy the freedom with certain limits and proper standards so that others can also enjoy the freedom.

When we think of the political concept of liberty, it is found that as member of State a citizen has certain freedoms against this State which are also protected by the State itself. Hence, a citizen should experience these freedoms by abiding in limitations of law of State.

Relationship between liberty and law

As we considered further, a man is a social animal. Accomplishment of a persons' liberty is possible only in his social life. Social life demands management. The State has been established and developed for this management. State has evolved laws for administration. As a member of the State a citizen can enjoy the freedom only within the limitations of law. By abiding laws a person himself can experience freedom and can also get others to experience freedom.

The individualists have concerned and raised voice against these limitations of law of State that the State should control minimum. Individualists say that State should constitute laws with the consent of people. thus, law and order is necessary for protection and growth of freedom of individual.

Equality

A concept of equality along with liberty is also important for democracy. With the independence, equality was also emphasized in the great revolutions of the world like, French revolution, American freedom struggle and Bolshevik revolution of Russia and also emphasized equality along with liberty. A right to equality has been incorporated in the Fundamental Rights of Constitution of India and Directive Principles of the State Policy.

Meaning of Equality

Different social scientists have tried to define the meaning of equality. According to Prof. Laski, meaning of equality is that there should not be any groups having any special rights and all should get proper opportunities for development. In simple words, equality is such a condition in which every person living in society can achieve his excellence. For this some basic conditions and situations must be ensured. The following points get clarified by this definition of equality.

- (1) There is some similarity in all human beings also. He is different from animals i.e. man is a discerning animal.
- (2) It is also the meaning of equality that all get equal opportunity for development.
- (3) "Equal behaviour with all in similar circumstances" should be the rule. However, it does not mean mechanical equality. A separate arrangement of seats in the train or bus for women and physically handicapped is not a violation of equality.

Positive and Negative Equality

From the definition of equality we get two aspects of equality i.e. Positive equality and Negative equality. Positive equality is one which provides equal opportunities to individual for his development without any discrimination. Positive equality is coherent with the concept of justice. For example, system of reservation given in Constitution of India to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in government jobs is the positive equality. Where as, the meaning of negative equality is that the government can constitute the prohibitive laws to prevent accumulation of property and land in the hands of few people. Such prohibitive system is meant for the principle of equality.

Types of Equality :

The social scientists have described the following types of equality :

(1) Natural Equality : The nature has made all men equal. Hence they cannot be discriminated on the grounds of race, color, caste, birth or religion. This is the meaning of natural equality. Political philosophers like Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau have supported the concept of natural equality.

Natural equality means that there is no difference between man and man, but these natural differences should not be the basis of social discrimination.

(2) Social Equality : As a member of the society all the people get some fundamental rights equally. This is the meaning of social equality. In order to establish social equality the Constitution of India declares that the practice of untouchability is an offence . In U.S.A., the system of slavery has been abolished by law, and the black people have been given equal rights. Women have got a right to equality after the long struggle in the most of the countries of the world. Many great leaders like, Rajarammohan Ray, Gandhiji and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar have tried for social equality in India. Education is an important means for bringing social equality.

(3) Political Equality : An equality of opportunity to the citizens of the State to take part in formation of decisions and public works or public matters of State is a political equality. Citizens can express their views in the public matters by their right to freedom of speech and expression. They have right to equality of an opportunity on the base of equal qualification in the services of State, to do candidature, voting by universal adult suffrage. In that case he embodies the political equality. Democracy can give such equality additionally. Dr. Rajendra Prasad the first President of India said, “Now all are Kings and all are subjects.”

(4) Economic Equality : The meaning of economic equality is the condition which can satisfy basic requirements to the persons adequately. The freedom to join the economic system of the country and equal right to all to get adequate economic standard of life by that system expresses the meaning of economy equality. The State constitutes the laws to prevent economic centralization to achieve an economic equality and it is emphasized that community property is used for prosperity of all. In the words of Prof. Laski, ‘economic equality does not mean equality of income or equality of behavior.’ Finally economic equality is a process of leveling to certain rights.’ Law of land to one who cultivates, and the land creating Act and laws of adequate wages to the laborers in India are the efforts of economic equality.

(5) Legal Equality : Legal equality was demanded against outrages of feudalism in 18th Century. It talks about ‘equality before law’ and ‘equal protection of law’. Rich or poor all are equal by law. Equality of law does not mean that to have equal laws for every people, law permits intelligible difference. For example, a State constitutes laws by considering interest of laborers, farmers, children, women and old. Rule of law is the base of legal equality. Legal equality has also relationship with equal opportunity to get justice from court and neutrality of courts.

(6) International Equality : According to International Law, all states are equal. In practice U.S.A. is a super power. But for membership of the United Nations (UN), the principle of equality of sovereignty is accepted. Every State has equal representation in the General Assembly of the United Nations. Each member State can cast only one vote in it.

Relationship between Equality and Liberty

Social scientists are not unanimous about relationship between equality and liberty. Some believe that equality and liberty are opposite to each others. While others believe that equality and liberty are supplementary to each other. According to those who believe equality and liberty are opposite concepts, there should be some restrictions over equality; and restrictions are against the concept of liberty.

Some social scientists believe that liberty and equality are not opposite to each other. According to them, privileges are created without equality, which is against the principle of liberty. They also believe that there is no meaning of political equality in the absence of economic requirements.

Thus, equality and liberty are supplementary to each other. Both are necessary for development of individual. However, efforts of bringing equality at the cost of liberty is in vain. The experience of communist countries has proved it.

Social Justice

Spirit of justice has been seen from ancient time. Hence, the contemplation for justice is found in most of the countries of the world from the ancient times. 'Social, economic and political justice' have been incorporated in the Preamble of the Constitution of independent India. Right to equality is incorporated in the Fundamental Rights. It is also insisted to establish social justice in Directive Principles of the State Policy. Judiciary has also delivered some important judgments regarding this.

Besides, the modern philosopher of principle of justice, John Rawls, has called more partiality for deprived classes of society by laws of State is justice. India has accepted the policy of special protection for that positive equality seats are reserved in local government, Legislative Assembly and Parliament for the backward class of society, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. Now free and compulsory education to the children of 6 to 14 years of age is accepted as Fundamental Rights. The steps are being taken not only for protection to women but also for making them self-reliant. 33% seats are reserved for women in Panchayatiraj and Urban Local Governments under 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. These reserved seats for women are extended from 33% to 50% from the year 2015, in Gujarat.

It is also recommended in the report of Sachar Committee for special care for welfare of backward people of Muslim and Christian minorities. Social justice committee of Panchayatiraj in Gujarat village area is working for doing justice to depressed class. Amendments have been made in Panchayatiraj for protection of interests of tribal groups with enforcement of recommendations of Dilipsingh Bhuriya Committee.

Thus, it is being concerned to deliver the social justice to all the needy people of the society in India. a lot of work in this field is remaining.

EXERCISES

1. Answer the following questions :

- (1) What is liberty? Discuss the types of liberty.
- (2) Explain why the liberty is necessary? And explain social and political concept of liberty.
- (3) What is the meaning of equality? Discuss the types of equality.

2. Write short notes :

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| (1) Types of Equality. | (2) Relationship between liberty and law. |
| (3) Positive and Negative aspects of Liberty. | (4) Positive and Negative Equality. |
| (5) Relationship between Equality and Liberty. | |

3. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences :

- (1) What is called the positive liberty?
- (2) What is called the negative liberty?
- (3) What is called the natural liberty?
- (4) What is moral liberty?
- (5) What is called the political liberty?
- (6) What is economic equality?
- (7) What is called the political equality?
- (8) What do you mean by legal equality?
- (9) What is inter-nations equality?

4. Write answer against the box selecting correct option :

- (1) How many aspects of liberty are there? ☐
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Six.
- (2) How many aspects of equality are there? ☐
(a) Three (b) five (c) seven (d) two.
- (3) In which revolution equality was emphasized? ☐
(a) Islamic Revolution of Iran (b) French Revolution
(c) Afghan Revolution (d) ISIS
- (4) In which year women reservation has been made 50% from 33% in Gujarat? ☐
(a) 2000 (b) 2010 (c) 2012 (d) 2015
- (5) Against with system of outrages legal equality was demanded? ☐
(a) System of feudalism (b) System of slavery
(c) System of Sati (d) System of Taliban

Activity

- Arrange discussion on Liberty and Equality.

