

## DIVERSITY AND DISCRIMINATION

### Textbook Intext Questions

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1. Below are some statements on people living in rural and urban areas. Tick mark those that you agree with:  
**On Rural People**

- (a) More than 50% of all Indians live in villages.
- (b) Villagers do not care about their health. They are full of superstition.
- (c) People in villages are backward and lazy. They do not like to work.
- (d) In peak harvesting and plantation season, families spend 12 to 14 hours working in the fields.
- (e) Villagers are dirty and not hygienic.

**On Urban People**

- (a) Life in the city is easy. People here are spoilt and lazy.
- (b) In cities families spend very little time with each other.
- (c) People in towns only care about money, not about people.
- (d) Living in a city is expensive. A large part of people's earnings is spent on rent and transport.
- (e) City people cannot be trusted, they are cunning and corrupt.

**Sol. On Rural People:**

- (a) ✓ (b) x (c) x (d) ✓ (e) ✓

**On Urban People:**

- (a) x (b) ✓ (c) ✓ (d) ✓ (e) x

2. Look again at the statement that you believed to be true about rural and urban life in India. Do you have a prejudice against rural or urban people? Find out if this is shared by others and discuss the reasons why people have these prejudices.

**Sol. On Rural People:**

- (a) More than 50% of all Indians, live in villages.

It is not a prejudice but the government has given approximate figures which show that more than 50% of all Indians live in the villages.

- (b) Villagers do not care about their health. They are full of superstition.

Now a days villagers care about their health and go to the health centres, if they are sick.

- (c) In peak harvesting and plantation seasons, families spend 12 to 14 hours working in the fields.

It is true and not a prejudice.

- (d) Villagers are dirty and not hygienic.

It is not a prejudice. It is true because most of the villagers work in the fields from morning to till evening and get dirty. They are not dirty but the kind of work that they do make them dirty.

**On Urban People:**

- (c) Living in a city is expensive. A large part of people's earnings is spent on rent and transport.

It is true that people have to rent a house and also they travel long distances to reach their place of work.

3. Can you list some of the prejudices that you have noticed around you. How do they affect the ways in which people treat each other?

**Sol.** 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.

We can be prejudiced about many things: people's religious beliefs, the colour of their skin, the region they come from, the accent they speak in, the clothes they wear etc. Often, our prejudices about others are so strong that we don't want to form friendships with them. At times, we may even act in ways that hurt them.

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1. Arrange the statements given below in these two sections according to what you think is appropriate for the section.

They are well behaved.

They are soft spoken and gentle.

They are physically strong.

They are naughty.

They are good at dance and painting.

They don't cry.

They are rowdy.

They are good at sport.

They are good at cooking.

They are emotional.

Sol.

Girls	Boys
1. They are well behaved.	1. They are physically strong.
2. They are soft spoken and gentle.	2. They are naughty.
3. They are good at dance and painting.	3. They don't cry.
4. They are good at cooking.	4. They are rowdy.
5. They are emotional	5. They are good at sport.

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1. Discuss what these children are saying about stereotypes regarding them and why.

Sol. (i) People say all sorts of things; because the child is lame. This makes them sad and sore. The children are saying all sort of things about stereotypes because they cannot walk or run like them.  
 (ii) You look so .... so different, because the child is in a wheelchair and he is not a normal boy. He cannot walk or run or play the others. They want to find out more about his feelings help him.  
 (iii) Is her mind okay? The child is wobbly while -walking. It is their curiosity to know if her mind is normal and can study and work like a normal child.

2. Do you think children with special needs should be a part of regular schools or study in a separate school? Give reasons for your answer.

Sol. The children with special needs should study in a separate school because they may be sad and pathetic when they see normal children playing and shouting. It hurts their sentiments. Also they cannot take part in the various school functions like the sports and cultural programme.

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1. Do girls possess these qualities at birth or do they learn such behaviour from others? What do you think about girls who are not soft and gentle and those who are naughty?

**Sol.** The girls are soft and gentle by nature. They are taught good manners, behaviour and etiquettes by their parents. All the people are not the same, the nature of a person is different. Some are quite and gentle and others are naughty.

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## Page No. 19

**1. What is the difference between discrimination and stereo types?**

**Sol.** **Discrimination** happens when people act on their prejudices or stereotypes. If you do something to put other people down, if you stop them from liking part in certain activities and taking up jobs, or stop them from living it. certain neighbour-hoods, 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, you are discriminating against them. When we fix people into one image we create a stereotype.

When people say that those who belong to a particular country, religion, sex, race or economic background are "stingy", "lazy", "criminal" or "dumb," they are using stereotypes. They are stingy and generous people everywhere, in every country, in every religion, in every group whether rich or poor, male or female. And just because some people are like that it is not fair to think that everyone will be the same.

Stereotypes stop us from looking at each person as a unique individual with his or her own special qualities and skills that are different from others-

**2. How do you think a person who is discriminated against might feel?**

**Sol.** The person who is discriminated against will feel humiliated. He will lose his self-respect. It is a derogatory and an inhumane practice and person does not want to mix with others. He feels neglected.

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## Page No. 21

**1. Despite the children offering money the cartmen refused them. Why?**

**Sol.** Although the children offered money, the cartmen refused to carry them because they belonged to the mahar community, which was treated as untouchables in the Bombay Presidency.

**2. How did people at the station discriminate against Dr. Ambedkar and his brothers?**

**Sol.** When station master knew that they belonged to the mahar community, he was stunned. His face underwent a sudden change. He was over-powered by a feeling of repulsion. He went away to his room and we stood where we were. Fifteen to twenty minutes elapsed the sun was almost setting.

After half an hour the station master returned and asked us what we proposed to do. We said that if a bullock-cart on hire we could go to Koregaon. However the people around had also come to know that they belonged to mahar community and no one was prepared to suffer being polluted and to demean himself carrying passengers of the untouchable classes. We were prepared to pay double the fare but we found that money did not work. The station master, who was negotiating on our behalf, stood silent, not knowing what to do.

**3. How do you think Dr. Ambedkar felt as a child, when he saw, the stationmaster's reaction to his statement that they were Mahars?**

**Sol.** Dr. Ambedkar was a little boy and he could not understand the meaning of untouchability. His tender heart must have been hurt, when he saw signs of repulsion on station master's face. He failed to understand why station master was behaving in such a manner.

**4. Have you ever experience prejudice or witnessed an incident of discrimination? How did this make you feel?**

**Sol.** On the basis of above question, do yourself.

**5. In addition to the lower castes being discriminated against, there are also various other communities that are subject to discrimination.**

**Can you think of a few other examples of discrimination?**

**Discuss the ways in which persons with special needs might be subject to discrimination.**

**Sol.** The people of the lower castes had to face discrimination from the society in various ways.

(i) Their children could not attend the same school.

(ii) They were not allowed to draw water from the public wells.

(iii) They could not enter the temples.

(iv) People refused to give their houses on rent, to people of lower castes.

(v) The boys refused to play with boys of lower castes.

## Textbook Questions

**1. Match the following statements in a way that challenges stereotypes.**

(a) The surgeons were sitting down to lunch when one of them made a call on the mobile phone.	1. suffers from chronic asthma.
(b) The boy who won the drawing competition went to the dias	2. to become an astronaut which she did
(c) One of the fastest athletes in the world	3. to speak with her daughter who had just returned from school.
(d) She was not that well-off but had a dream	4. on a wheelchair to collect his prize.

**Sol.** (a)-3; (b)-4; (c)—1; (d)—2.

**2. How can the stereotype that girls are a burden on their parents affect the life of a daughter? Imagine this situation and list at least five different effects that this stereotype can have on the way daughters get treated in the house.**

**Sol.** When the stereotype people think that daughter are a burden on the parents, it affects the life of the girl child in the following ways:

(i) From the birth till their marriage, girls are treated as temporary members of their family,-

(ii) They are not given good opportunity to go to school.

(iii) They are not treated equally as comparison with boys.

(iv) They are not given nutritional food by the parents.

(v) They do not get proper medical care and attention, when they fall ill.

**3. What does the Constitution say with regard to equality? Why do you think it is important for all people to be equal?**

**Sol.** The writers of the Constitution also said that respect for diversity was a significant element in ensuring equality. They felt that people must have the freedom to follow their religion, speak their language, celebrate their festivals and express themselves freely. They said that no one language, religion or festival should become compulsory for all to follow.

They said that the government must treat all religions equally.

4. Sometimes people make prejudiced comments in our presence. We are often not in a position to do anything about this because it is difficult to say- something right then and there. Divide the class into groups and each group discuss what they could do in one of the following situations:
- (a) A friend begins to tease a classmate because he is poor.
  - (b) You are watching TV with your family and one of them makes a prejudicial comment about a particular religious community.
  - (c) Children in your class refuse to share their food with a particular person because they think she is dirty.
  - (d) Someone tells you a joke that makes fun of a community because of their accent.
  - (e) Some boys make remarks about girls not being able to play games as well as them.
- Discuss in class what the different groups have suggested for the above situations, and also talk about the problems that can come up when raising the issue.

**Sol.** Do with the help of your subject teacher and discuss with your friends in class-room.