

Social Science

(Social and Political Life) (Chapter - 6) (Confronting Marginalisation)
(Class - 8)

Question 1:

List two Fundamental Rights in the Constitution that Dalits can draw upon to insist that they be treated with dignity and as equals. Re-read the Fundamental Rights listed on page 14 to help you answer this question.

Answer 1:

Two Fundamental Rights that Dalits can draw upon to insist that they be treated with dignity and as equals are: Right to Equality and the Right to Freedom.

Question 2:

Re-read the story on Rathnam as well as the provisions of the 1989 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Now list one reason why you think he used this law to file a complaint.

Answer 2:

Rathnam used the 1989 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to file a complaint because on his refusal to perform a degrading ritual, the Dalit man was ostracized from his community, his hut set on fire and he was forced to move out of his village. These were all atrocities committed on a caste bias and humiliation forced down upon the Dalits. The 1989 Act lists modes of humiliation, actions dispossessing Dalits and Adivasis of their meagre resources and crimes against Dalit and tribal women as crimes.

Question 3:

Why do Adivasi activists, including C.K. Janu, believe that Adivasis can also use this 1989 Act to fight against dispossession? Is there anything specific in the provisions of the Act that allows her to believe this?

Answer 3:

Adivasi activists including C.K. Janu believe that Adivasis can also use this 1989 Act to fight against dispossession because there is a specific provision in the Act for stating “actions that dispossess Dalits and Adivasis” of their modest resources or forcing them into performing slave labour, are criminal offences. Thus, the Act bears provisions to punish those who wrongfully occupy or cultivate any land allotted to or owned by a member of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

Question 4:

The poems and the song in this Unit allow you to see the range of ways in which individuals and communities express their opinions, their anger and their sorrow. In class, do the following two exercises:

- (a) Bring to class a poem that discusses a social issue. Share this with your classmates. Work in small groups with two or more poems to discuss their meaning as well as what the poet is trying to communicate.
- (b) Identify a marginalised community in your locality. Write a poem, or song, or draw a poster etc. to express your feelings as a member of this community.

Answer 4:

This is an activity work. So, do yourself.

❖ Intext Question Pg-77

Question 1:

State one reason why you think reservations play an important role in providing social justice to Dalits and Adivasis?

Answer:

Most important reason for reserving the dalits and adivasis is that dalits and adivasis in our society always treated as

untouchable. Also, if there is no reservation then the children of adivasis will not be able to study as they cannot pass the entrance exam of any school.

❖ Intext Question Pg-79

Question 1:

In your opinion does the force put on Rathnam to perform this ritual violate his Fundamental Rights?

Answer:

Yes, according to me the force put on Rathnam to perform the ritual of washing the feet of priest who had come from other village violate his fundamental rights as he and his family were not allowed to go to the temples where people belong to upper caste visit.

Question 2:

Why do you think that Dalit families were afraid of angering the powerful castes?

Answer:

In my opinion, the Dalit families were afraid of angering the powerful castes as most of them worked in the field of powerful castes and the Dalits belong to the socio-economically poor section of the society and were of meager resources also.

❖ Intext Question Pg- 80**Question 1:**

Can you list two different provisions in the 1989 Act?

Answer:

Two different provisions in the 1989 Act are as follows:

- (a) This law was introduced to prevent atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- (b) This law is formed to free Indian society from blind and irrational adherence to traditional beliefs and to establish a bias-free society.

Question 2:

Look up the glossary and write in your own words what you understand by the term ‘morally reprehensible’.

Answer:

‘Moral reprehensible’ relates to an act which violates the societal beliefs regarding to all the norms of decency and dignity. It generally relates itself to a hideous and repugnant act which always violates the values that are accepted by the society.

❖ Intext Question Pg- 81**Question 1:**

What do you understand by manual scavenging?

Answer:

Manual scavenging is a caste-based occupation involving the removal of untreated human excreta from bucket toilets or pit latrines, that has been officially abolished by law in India as a dehumanizing practice. It involves moving the excreta, using brooms and tin plates, into baskets, which the workers carry to disposal locations sometimes several kilometers away.

Question 2:

Re-read the list of Fundamental Rights provided on page 14 and list two rights that this practice violates?

Answer:

Two rights that this practice violates are as follows:

- (a) Right to Equality.
- (b) Right to freedom of religion.

Question 3:

Why did the Safai Karamchari Andolan file a PIL in 2003?

Answer:

Safai Karamchari Andolan filed a PIL in 2003 because they wanted the manual scavenging to get banned.

Question 4:

What did they complain about in their petition?

Answer:

They complained in their petition that the manual scavenging which is known as inhuman job is still in existence. As per them it violates the fundamental rights against exploitation.

Question 5:

What did the Supreme Court do on hearing their case in 2005?

Answer:

Supreme Court noticed that the numbers of manual scavengers are rising at an alarming rate. Hence, he ordered every department/ministry of union and state government to file an affidavit to a senior officer who would take personal responsibility for verifying the things mentioned in the affidavit within six months.