

Discrimination-Inequality, Stereotypes and Prejudice

F. Long-answer questions:

1. What is prejudice? Explain in Indian context.
2. Diversity and discrimination are not the same. Explain discrimination as it exists in the Indian society.
3. Discuss the steps taken by the Indian government to safeguard the interest of the exploited in terms of class, gender, caste and religion.
4. Explain how caste system forms a basis for discrimination.
5. Why do you think we need to appreciate diversity?
6. How does gender discrimination affect the girl child?

Solutions

F. Long-answer questions:

1. Prejudice is a negative opinion about people and things without knowing all the facts we develop them regarding the dark skin of south Indians, the accent of Punjabi and Biharis etc.
2. The examples of discrimination in Indian society are discrimination against women at workplaces and at home; some look down upon rag pickers and shoo those away; people with HIV are kept away from others for no reason; many clubs have restrictive membership policies, etc.

- 3.** The steps are - providing a quota system to the backward classes for jobs and seats in \public and private educational institutions. Further, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 prevents atrocities against member of the Dalit community and other backward castes.
- 4.** Caste system which is an ancient practice in India divides people into groups called Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and shudra based on their occupation. Shudras are termed Scheduled Castes and salits today and they struggle for equality and their rights
- 5.** Diversity adds variety and enjoyment to our life. It gives us a chance to live with people who may be quite different. We learn to recognise the different characteristics of each individual, appreciate the differences and learn other's culture, ideologies traditions, etc.
- 6.** Gender discrimination affects the girl child through social evils such as female foeticide or infanticide, dowry system, patriarchal system and child marriage which have a dreadful effect on the girl child's growth, health, education, and thus her entire life.