

Rock Gold Academy, Shamli

Class 7 S.st Civics

Chapter 11

Struggling for Equality

Question 1. What does the Indian Constitution recognise? What does it state?

Answer:

1. The Indian constitution recognises all Indians as equal before the law.
2. It states that no person can be discriminated against because of his religion, sex, caste or whether he is rich or poor.
3. All adults in India have the equal right to vote during elections.

Question 2. State the main reasons why people do not have equality.

Answer:

- Poverty.
- Lack of resources.
- Discrimination on the basis of religion, caste and sex.
- Lack of dignity and respect for certain communities.

Question 3. How do some people fight for removal of inequality in the society?

Answer:

- Throughout the world—in every community, village, city and town, there are some people who are known and respected because of their fight for equality.
- These people stood up against the act of discrimination that they faced or which they witnessed.
- They are respected because they treat all persons with dignity and are therefore trusted.
- They are called upon to resolve issues in the community.

Question 4. What leads to displacement of people and communities?

Answer: There are many reasons which displace people and communities for example:

- When dams are built or forests are declared sanctuaries, thousands of people are displaced.
- Villages uprooted and people have to start afresh.
- In urban areas, when bastis of poor people are relocated outside the cities.
- Their work, children's schooling gets disrupted due to distance.
- This displacement has become a widespread problem. People or different organisations usually come together to fight against this. For example Tawa Matsya Sangh.

LONG ANSWER

Question 1. How was Tawa Matsya Sangh formed?

Answer: Formation of Tawa Matsya Sangh

- The Tawa dam began to be built in 1958 and was completed in 1978.
- It submerged large areas of forest and agricultural land.
- The forest dwellers were left with nothing.
- Some of the displaced people settled around the reservoir.
- They apart from their meagre farms found a livelihood in fishing.
- They earned very little.
- In 1994 the government gave the rights for fishing in the Tawa reservoir to private contractors.
- These contractors drove the local people away and got cheap labour from outside.
- They began to threaten the villagers, who did not want to leave, by bringing in hoodlums.
- The villagers stood united and decided to set up an organisation and do something to protect their rights. Thus, the Tawa Matsya Sangh was formed.

Question 2. How did Tawa Matsya Sangh achieve its goal of fishing right?

Answer: Achievement of Goal of Fishing Right:

The newly formed Tawa Matsya Sangh (TMS) organised a Chakka jam (road blockade), demanding their right to continue fishing for their livelihood.

- In response to their protests, the government created a committee.
- The committee recommended that fishing rights be granted to the villagers for their livelihood.
- A five-year lease agreement was signed.
- With the TMS taking over, the fishworkers were able to increase their earnings substantially because they set up the cooperative which buys the catch from them at a fair price.
- The cooperative arranges to transport and sell this in markets where they get a good price.
- They have now begun to earn more.
- The TMS has also begun giving the fishworkers loans for repair and for buying new nets.

Question 3. Give an account of the Indian Constitution as a living document.

Answer: The Indian Constitution as a Living Document

- The foundation of all movements for justice and inspiration and for all the poetry and songs on equality is the recognition of equality among people. ‘
- The Indian Constitution recognises the equality of all persons.
- Movements and struggles for equality in India continuously refer to the Indian constitution to make their point about equality and justice for all.
- The fishworkers in the Tawa Matsya Sangh (TMS) hope that the provisions of the Constitution will become a reality through their participation in this movement.
- By constantly referring to the Constitution, they use it as a ‘living document’ i.e., something that has real meaning in our lives.

Struggling for Equality

Exercises

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. The people in India are treated in an unfair manner on the grounds of poverty, lack of resources, cast, religion, gender, and physical attributes.
2. Landless labourers and small farmers are often forced to concede to the unfair demands of moneylenders and traders.
3. The efforts of women are considered to be of less value than that of men.
4. Nelson Mandela fought against the racial discrimination in South Africa.
5. Martin Luther led the civil rights movement in the USA.

B. Match column A with column B.

Column A

1. Tawa Matsya Sangh
2. building of dams
3. Tawa
4. Constitution of India
5. Scheduled Castes

Column B

- a) marginalized section of the society **5**
- b) inspiration for the people to fight for their rights **- 2 4**
- c) fishermen's cooperative **- 1**
- d) displacement of people **- 2**
- e) tributary of the Narmada **- 3**

C. State whether the following statements are true or false.

1. In India, no individual is treated in an unfair manner. **T**
2. The equal status of the people in India has been hampered due to the privatization of services. **T**
3. The fight of the people against inequality does not inspire others to fight against injustice in the society. **F**
4. The setting up of the Tawa Matsya Sangh enabled the fishermen to fish in the Tawa reservoirs. **F**
5. The dam over the Tawa River was completed in 1978. **T**

Worksheet

A. Fill in the blanks.

1. _____ fought against the racial discrimination of black people in South Africa.
2. Martin Luther King Jr. led the civil rights movement in the _____.
3. The Tawa Matsya Sangh is a fishermen's cooperative that operates in _____.

B. State whether the following statements are true or false.

1. The Tawa Matsya Sangh protested against the orders of the government by organizing rallies and chakka jams.
2. Equality is the foundation of a democracy.
3. When the government builds a dam, the people who live in that area are uprooted.

C. Match the following.

Column A

1. Tawa Matsya Sangh
2. Inequality
3. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Column B

- a) civil rights movement
- b) fishermen's cooperative
- c) unfair treatment