

Chapter - 1 Civics

On Equality

- Equality is a condition in which adequate opportunities are given to all.
- **Equal Right to Vote:** In a democratic country like India, adults, irrespective of their religion, caste education, status or place of birth, are given the right to vote under Universal Adult Franchise.
- **Does Equality Exist:**
 - (i) In reality, difference exists between rich and poor.
 - (ii) Caste system is also rigid.
 - (iii) Dalits in India and minorities are denied the right to dignity and equality.
- **Equality in India Democracy:**
 - (i) The Indian Constitution recognizes every person as equal. However, it does not mean that inequality does not exist in India.
 - (ii) Fundamental provisions provide equality before the law and no discrimination on the basis of caste, colour, religion, race, gender; everyone has access to all public places and untouchability has been abolished.
 - (iii) The government has tried to implement equality first through laws and second through government programmes or schemes to help disadvantaged communities.
 - (iv) Programmes like mid-day meal scheme have been launched to improve the attendance and enrolment ratio of children in schools.
- **Issues of Equality in Other Democracies:** In USA also the Civil Rights Movement of 1960's restored the dignity of Afro-American based on colour.