

# 4. Gender, Religion and Caste

## EXERCISE

**Q.1. Mention four different aspects of life in which women are discriminated or disadvantaged in India.**

**Ans.**

- (i) Sexual division of labour at home as well as public places.
- (ii) Gender bias in distribution of income or remuneration.
- (iii) Gender bias in the share of patriarchal or ancestral property.
- (iv) In the field of education and right to information, expression and political representation.

**Q.2. State different forms of communal politics with one example each.**

**Ans. Forms of Communal Politics:**

- (i) Expression of communalism in daily beliefs – all unscientific or non-rational.
- (ii) Quest for political dominance.
- (iii) Political mobilisation on the religious lines viz. ideology messing – up religion (perception based) with politics.
- (iv) Communal riots.

**Q.3. State how caste inequalities are still continuing in India.**

**Ans.** Caste Inequalities are still continuing in India by the following ways:

- (i) Hereditary occupational division still practised in Andhra Pradesh.
- (ii) Marriages within the caste group viz. Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaisya as well as Sudra notions of caste hierarchy.
- (iii) Untouchability still prevails and practised in cryptic ways.
- (iv) Lower caste people are still disadvantaged due to their no access to literacy.

**Q.4. State two reasons to say that caste alone cannot determine election results in India.**

**Ans.**

- (i) No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste. Castes are scattered and does not accumulated in majority in any states of India.
- (ii) It is not essential that all people in a caste are unenlightened. Some among them, cast their votes in the nation's interest or for common good of all citizens.

**Q.5. What is the status of women's representation in Indian legislative bodies?**

**Ans.** Less than 10 % in Lok Sabha seats and less than 5% in Assembly seats.

Hence, the proportion of women in legislative bodies has been very low. Cabinets are also male dominated even when women become Chief Ministers, Prime Minister, the President and Speakers of the Lok Sabha.

**Q.6. Mention any two constitutional provisions that make India a Secular state.**

**Ans.** Following constitutional provisions make India a secular state:

- (i) The constitution gives for all individuals and communities freedom to profess, practise and propagate any religion or not to follow any.
- (ii) There is no such official religion in India. The constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.

**Q.7. When we speak of gender divisions, we usually refer to:**

- (i) Biological difference between men and women.
- (ii) Unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women.
- (iii) Unequal child sex ratio.
- (iv) Absence of voting rights for women in democracies.

**Ans.** (ii) Unequal roles assigned by the society to men and women.

**Q.8. In India, seats are reserved for women in:**

- (i) Lok Sabha
- (ii) State Legislative Assemblies.
- (iii) Cabinets.
- (iv) Panchayati Raj bodies.

**Ans.** (iv) Panchayati Raj bodies.

**Q.9. Consider the following statements on the meaning of communal politics. Communal politics is based on the belief that:**

- (i) One religion is superior to that of others.
- (ii) People belonging to different religions can live together happily as equal citizens.
- (iii) Followers of a particular religion constitute one community.



- (iv) State power cannot be used to establish the domination of one religious group over others.

Which of the statements is are correct?

- (a) A, B, C and D  
(b) A, B, and C  
(c) A and C  
(d) B and D.

Ans. (c) A and C

**Q.10. Which among the following statements about India's constitution is wrong? It:**

- (a) Prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion.  
(b) Gives official status to one religion.  
(c) Provides to all individuals freedom to profess any religion.  
(d) Ensures equality of citizens within religious communities.

Ans. (b) Gives official status to one religion.

**Q.11. Social divisions based on.....are peculiar to India.**

Ans. Social divisions based upon caste are peculiar to India.

**Q.12. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:**

List-I	List-II
1. A person who believes in equal rights and opportunities for women and men.	(a) Communalist
2. A person who says that religion is the principal basis of community.	(b) Feminist
3. A person who thinks that caste is the principal basis of community.	(c) Secularist
4. A person who does not discriminate others on the basis of religious beliefs.	(d) Castiest

	1	2	3	4
(a)	B	C	A	D
(b)	B	A	D	C
(c)	D	C	A	B
(d)	C	A	B	D

Ans. (b) B A D C

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the Correct options:

- A society that values man more and provides them power over woman .....  
(a) Feminist society  
(b) Socialist society  
(c) Patriarchal society  
(d) Communist society
- What did the data get by 2001 census indicate about the relationship between caste and economic status?  
(a) There is no rich people in the lower castes  
(b) Every caste has some rich and some poor people  
(c) Only upper castes have rich people  
(d) It can't be defined.
- A man or a woman who believes in equal rights as well as opportunities for woman and man:  
(a) Communist (b) Socialist  
(c) Feminist (d) Communalist

- Which of these was a social reformer?  
(a) Jyotiba Phule (b) B.R. Ambedkar  
(c) Gandhiji (d) All of them
- Among the following which countries show high participation of women in public life?  
(a) Sweden and Norway  
(b) Norway and Sri Lanka  
(c) Nepal and Finland  
(d) Sweden and South Africa
- The process of moving of people from rural areas to cities is called  
(a) Ruralisation (b) Urbanisation  
(c) Modernisation (d) Westernisation
- A distinguishing feature of communalism is:  
(a) Followers of a specific religion must belong to one community  
(b) Communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to various religions



can live as equal citizens within one nation

- (c) A communal mind does not lead to quest for political dominance of one's own religious community
- (d) A secular constitution is enough to combat communalism

**8. Process of shifting from one occupation to another occupation is called**

- (a) Occupational change
- (b) Occupational hierarchy
- (c) Occupational mobility
- (d) None of them

**9. What factor mostly plays decisive role in elections?**

- (a) Education of the candidate
- (b) Communities
- (c) Popularity rating of the leaders and government's performance
- (d) Gender

**10. Sexual division of labour shows that:**

- (a) Gender division emphasis division on the basis of nature of work
- (b) Division between men and women
- (c) Caste is the basis of gender division
- (d) Work determines the division between men and women

**11. Which statement is true for secularism a secular state?**

- (a) A secular state recognises every religion and shows due importance to every religion
- (b) It is based upon the idea that religion is the sole basis of social community
- (c) Secular state has its official religion
- (d) No official religion for the secular state.

**12. In which one of the following countries the participation of women in public life is much high?**

- (a) India
- (b) Sweden
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Pakistan

**13. Caste hierarchy means that:**

- (a) Shift from one occupation to another
- (b) A ladder like formation in which all the caste groups are put from the highest to the lowest castes
- (c) Religious equality

- (d) Communal harmony and peace upon the basis of caste.

**14. Which of the following is correct for the patriarchal society?**

- (a) Women dominated society
- (b) Male dominated society
- (c) Educated society
- (d) Cultured society

**15. In our society, gender division is based on:**

- (a) Biological difference between male and female.
- (b) Social expectations and stereotypes
- (c) The works performed by male and female
- (d) The responsibility borne by male and female

**16. In which of the following countries the very participation of women in public life is much low?**

- (a) Sweden
- (b) Denmark
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Norway

**17. In most families, women do all work inside the home, such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, tailoring etc., and men do all the work outside the home. It reflects:**

- (a) Technical division of labour
- (b) Hierarchical division of labour
- (c) Sexual division of the labour
- (d) None of these

**18. Laws concerning family matters like marriage, divorce, adoption etc., are called**

- (a) Family laws
- (b) Constitutional laws
- (c) Criminal laws
- (d) Civil laws

**19. Which one of the following is not a cause of communalism?**

- (a) Religion is assumed as the basis of the nation
- (b) When one religion is discriminated against other
- (c) State has no official religion
- (d) Demands of one religious group are made in opposition to another.

**Q7. Write a short note on the rights of Women as mentioned in Naya Kashmir Manifesto 1944.**

**Ans.** Naya Kashmir Manifesto was launched by National Conference in 1944 as a future plan for J&K. the document consists of various charters and Women's charter was an important one.

The aim of the Women's charter was to accord a woman just and rightful place in the society. A Woman was to act, therefore, as a responsible citizen and as such she was entitled to certain rights and privileges. These are:

***Political Rights:***

Right to vote at the age of 18 in all elections.

- a. Right to election to all elective bodies.
- b. Right to entry into all state services.
- c. Right of woman to consult their representatives in elected bodies concerning all matters of disputes.
- d. Provision for establishment of a special woman's department to solve their problems especially women from backward classes and fisher – woman and so on.

***Economic Rights:***

- a. Right to equal pay for equal work.
- b. Right to those benefits of social insurance to women industrial workers which were to be granted to male workers.
- c. Right to rest and vacations given to women equally with men.
- d. Right to protection granted to women against night work and unduly heavy work especially during pregnancy.
- e. Right to help and protection to all women in towns, villages, frontier areas and among nomadic tribes.