

## Division of Labour: Home and Outside

»» Natural and unchangeable - based on societal expectations and stereotypes.

### Women

### Men

»» ~~Housework and bringing up children~~

»» Working outside and earning income

»» Work inside home:

- cooking
- cleaning
- washing clothes
- tailoring, etc.

»» Work outside home:

Can do everything that pays them

(also does cooking and tailoring outside - most chefs and tailors are men)

»» Expected to do housework  
Can work outside as an "addition"

»» Can do housework, but only when paid

»» Work not valued and recognized

»» Work is valued and recognized, considered the "breadwinner"

## EVEN ~~WOMEN~~ WORK OUTSIDE

1. ~~Rural~~ areas - fetch water, collect fuel, work in fields
2. Urban areas - Poor women: domestic helpers  
- Middle-class women: offices

»» Majority of women:  
Paid work + Domestic labour  
↓ yet  
not valued / recognized

Minimal role for women in public life

- Politics
  - »» Earlier, only men were allowed to participate in public affairs, vote and contest for public offices
  - »» Gradually, women got equal political rights like voting.

Feminist Movements

- »» Agitations for women demanding:
  - Enhanced political and legal status
  - Improved educational and career opportunities
- »» Aimed: Equality for women in personal and family life

The Changes We Observe Now

- »» Improved role of women in public life
- »» Women are now seen working as
  - scientists      • engineers      • managers
  - doctors          • lawyers        • teachersand MANY more... (earlier considered not suitable for women)
- »» Many parts of world, like Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland), participation of women in public life is high.

- >>> However, in India, women still lag behind.
- >>> India still has a male-dominated, PATRIARCHIAL Society.
- >>> Women face disadvantage, discrimination and oppression in various ways.

### CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN

#### 1. Literacy rate

- Men - 76%
  - Women - (only) 54%
- } lesser than men

Many places → boys preferred for higher education, not girls.

#### 2. Paid work

- Highly paid and valued jobs - less women
- Indian woman - works 1 hour more than men (per day) ↓↓ (average)

Yet, this work is not paid → ∴ not valued.

#### 3. Equal Wages? - No!

- Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (equal wages for equal work)
- Most areas of work (sports, cinema, factories, fields etc) → WOMEN ARE PAID LESS, even if they do same work as men

#### 4. Sex-selectiveness

- Sons preferred over daughters
- girls aborted before born



decline in child sex ratio (no. of girls per thousand boys)

↳ 919 (avg. in India)

Many states - below 850 or even below 800

rarely above 900

## 5. Safety

- harassment
  - exploitation
  - domestic violence
- } faced by women, especially urban areas

## WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

» Multiple feminist, women movements  
One conclusion - women's problems won't get attention unless they control power

↓  
To ensure this - women must become elected representatives.

### India - Proportion of Women in Legislature

» LOW  
» Example - 2019 Lok Sabha  
14.36% of total women  
(first time - else, it used to be even lower)

- State Assemblies  
less than 5% of share

» Average women in national parliaments (world)  
- 24% → India is BELOW AVG.

» Way to solve this - Make it legally binding to have fair proportion

↓  
Already done by Panchayati Raj

- » 1/3rd seats reserved for women in local govt
- » Now, more than 10 lakh elected women in both rural and urban local bodies

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»» Demands for similar reservations rose for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.



2023 - Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam  
(Women's Reservation Act) passed

- Give 33% reserved seats for women in
  - Lok Sabha
  - State Legislative Assemblies
  - Delhi Assembly

This shows that:

1. Gender division must be expressed in politics
2. Even disadvantaged groups can do benefit when social divisions become a political issue.

## RELIGION, COMMUNALISM AND POLITICS

Religious differences and politics

- »» Religious diversity is widespread and even India has ~~a~~ followers of different religions.
- »» Unlike gender differences, religious differences are often expressed in politics.

1. Gandhi's view

Politics must be guided by ethics drawn from religion (as moral values, not faith)

2. Human Rights Groups

Demanded govt. to protect religious minorities and prevent communal riots.

3 Women's Movement  
All religions discriminate against women, so, they demanded laws to make them more equitable.

»» These instances involve relationship between religion and politics, but they are not wrong.

»» People, as a member of a religious community, must be able to express:

1. Needs
2. Interests
3. Demands

} to avoid discrimination or oppression

### Communalism

When religion becomes a PROBLEM in Politics

1. Beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions

2. Demands of one religion are formed in opposition to another

3. State power is used to dominate one religious group over other

4. One religion's followers are pitted against another

This is COMMUNAL POLITICS - Idea that religions is the principal basis of social community.

# The Thought Process of Communalism

1. Community One religion, One community  
Followers of one religion is one community, different religions form different communities
2. Differences (considered):  
Those in same communities are irrelevant and are compulsory in different communities
3. Commonalities (considered):  
Strong and united if <sup>within</sup> same religion, superficial and immaterial in different religions.
4. Extreme form  
"People belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens and either has to dominate."

## Forms of Communalism in Politics

1. Everyday beliefs
  - Religious prejudices
  - Stereotypes
  - Belief of religious superiority

} common, but unnoticed
2. Desires
  - Majority community - wants majoritarian dominance of ~~an~~ their religion
  - Minority community - wants separate political unit

### 3. Political mobilisation

- Sacred symbols
- Religious leaders
- Emotional appeal
- Plain fear

} used to bring followers of one religion to vote

### 4. Most ugly form - Violence

- Communal riots
- massacres
- Partition

(India - Pakistan post-Independence)

## Secular State

### Constitutional Provisions

1. No official religion (no special status)
2. Freedom to
  - Profess
  - Practice
  - Propagate} any religion
3. No religious discrimination
4. Equality within religious communities

### Need to combat communalism

- » Not threat to some people, it is threat for the very idea of India - democracy
- » Constitution is not sufficient, prejudices and propaganda must be controlled.

## CASTE AND POLITICS

- » Aspects - Gender - positive
- (social divisions in politics) Religion - negative
- Caste - both positive and negative

# Caste inequalities

Caste System - extreme form

- »» Same caste groups expected to:
  - form separate social communities
  - practice same / similar ~~opp~~ occupations
  - marry within same caste
  - not eat with people of other caste
- »» Based on exclusion and discrimination  
Eg - Untouchability

»» Leaders and reformers

- Jotiba Phule
  - Gandhiji
  - B. R. Ambedkar
  - Periyar Ramaswami Naicker
- } worked to form a society with no caste inequalities



System has changed (efforts of leaders, socio-economic changes)

»» Caste Hierarchy breaking down due to:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| FACTORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• economic development</li><li>• urbanization</li><li>• growth of literacy, education</li><li>• occupational mobility</li><li>• weakening positions of landlords</li></ul> |
|---------|--|

»» Constitution - prohibited caste discrimination

⇓ But

Older aspects still prevail

1. Most people marry within their own caste

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2. Untouchability is not ended completely
  3. Uneducated groups during past lag behind in present
  4. Caste is still linked to economic status

## Caste in Politics

- »» One caste = one community ~~belief~~  
 Same caste = Same interests
- beliefs (Same as "religion" borne out by experience)

## Forms of Casteism in Politics

1. Candidates choosed
  - »» Parties choose candidates from different castes to win support of all groups
  - »» Govt. is formed of different caste representatives
2. Favourism
  - »» Some parties favour some castes to make appeals during elections
3. Universal Adult Franchise (1 person, 1 vote)
  - »» Compelled leaders to secure support from even backward classes (and to cater to their needs)

Considerations (are elections really only about caste? No!)

1. No constituency has a majority of one caste - so parties need support of more than one caste to win.

2. No party wins votes of all voters from one caste or community - just majority in some cases.
  3. Voting candidates may or may not depend on caste.
  4. Ruling party, MP, MLA frequently lose elections - which means castes' preferences are not frozen.
- »» Attachment to parties > caste
  - »» Interests different (rich and poor, men and women, Interests > caste etc.)
  - »» Performance of govt. > caste
  - »» Leaders' ratings > caste

### Politics in caste

- »» Politics also influences caste system
- »» Caste is politicised

### Forms of politics in caste

1. Each caste group wants to grow bigger by incorporating different excluded castes
2. Various caste groups require coalition with other castes, leading to negotiations
3. New kinds of • caste groups came up.

»»»

## Advantages - Reform

1. Disadvantaged communities get power
2. Many demands to end caste discrimination are made
3. Demands for more:
  - dignity
  - land
  - resources
  - opportunities

} for all caste groups

## Disadvantages

1. Caste ~~is~~ identity not good in democracy
2. Diverts attention from issues like
  - poverty
  - development
  - corruption
3. Leads to tensions, conflicts, violence

} which are way more important to focus on