Civics
Unit-2

Dear Students

Warm Greetings, now we are going to learn about

Achieving Equality

Introduction

The society that we live in comprises people from various social groups who are different in many ways. Since we believe in 'Unity in Diversity', we should have been livingpeacefully with one another irrespective of those differences. Often, we see that diversity is not accepted, and people harbour attitudes of hostility towards those who are 'different' from them. They form opinions about the other groups and this often leads to tension in the society. Such 'opinions' are often 'prejudiced'

Prejudice

Prejudice means to judge other people in a negative or inferior manner, without knowing much about them. It happens when people have false belief and ideas.

$$Prejudice \rightarrow Pre + Judge$$

The word 'prejudice' refers to prejudgement.

Prejudices can be based on many things like people's religious beliefs, the region they come from, the colour of their skin, their accent or the clothes they wear.

The types of prejudice are,

- Gender prejudice,
- Racial prejudice,
- Class prejudice,
- Disability prejudice and so on.

For example, urban people are more civilised than rural people in attitudes and behaviour, is one such prejudice.

Causes for Prejudice

Some common social factors that contributes to the rise of prejudice are

1. Socialization
2. Conforming behaviours
3. Economic benefits
4. Authoritarian personality
5. Ethno–centrism
6. Group closure
7. Conflicts

Stereotypes

- When prejudice gets stronger, it develops into a stereotype.
- Stereotype is a false view or idea about something.
- For example, girls are not good at sports. Stereotype is learned at a very early age, and children grow to have very strong ideas or opinions about things, groups or ideologies.
- As children grow up, the lines of like and hate for other things, people, cultures, beliefs, languages become sharper.

Example

- Ragu was hit in his eye with a soft ball and to everyone's surprise, he started to cry. The others started to laugh at him; Mani felt sad for him but started laughing along with others. Now we understand that when we fix people in our image, we create a stereotype.
- In the above example, we have a general opinion that girls cry and boys don't cry. When Ragu cried out of pain, others laughed at him.
- Gender-based stereotypes are often portrayed in films, advertisements and TV serials.
- Almost all the advertisements related to detergents, washing machines, dish washers and others show a woman as the main lead or user of that product.
- On the other hand, all the stunts shown in a bike advertisement is performed by ferocious looking men.