

ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY

Class VIII -Social Science

Confronting Marginalisation-Handout-1

In this chapter students will be able:

- Understand some of the ways in which the marginalised groups challenge existing inequalities
- List out the various provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India to abolish Marginalization.
- Look at how rights are translated into laws to protect the marginalised communities
- Identify the government's efforts to formulate policies to promote the access of these group to development.
- Gain a critical understanding of social and economic injustices

I. Invoking Fundamental rights

- The fundamental rights in the Indian constitution are powerful weapons that can be used against all forms of marginalisation.
- The Constitution lays down the principles that make our society and polity democratic.
- These rights are available to all Indians, equally
- Article 14 to 32 of the Indian Constitution protects all citizens from any sort of inequalities
Eg.
- **Article 15** of the Constitution notes that no citizen of India shall be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- **Article 17** of the Constitution states that untouchability has been abolished; this means is that no one can prevent Dalits from educating themselves, entering temples, using public facilities etc. It also means that it is wrong to practice untouchability and that this practice will not be tolerated by a democratic government. In fact, untouchability is a punishable crime now.
- **Right to Freedom of Religion(Article 25-28)** guarantees the freedom of conscience, the freedom to profess, practice, and propagate religion to all citizens.
- Cultural and educational rights (Article 29-30) reserve the **right** of any section of citizens to conserve their **culture**, language or script, and **right** of minorities to establish and administer **educational** institutions of their choice.

II Specific schemes and policies

- There are many specific policies and schemes created by the state and central governments for the marginalised in our country
- Free or subsidised hostels for students of Dalits and Adivasi communities
- Reservation for Dalits and Adivasis in education and government employment

- Scholarships
- Relaxation of cut off marks

III Laws for the marginalised

- **The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989-** An Act to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This new law has been made by considering the long standing needs of the Dalits

Punishment for offences of atrocities(Modes of humiliations)

- Forces a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe to drink or eat any inedible or obnoxious substance
 - Acts with intent to cause injury, insult or annoyance to any member of a Scheduled Caste, or a Scheduled Tribe by dumping excreta, waste matter, carcasses or any other obnoxious substance in his premises or neighbourhood;
 - Forcibly removes clothes from the person of a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe or parades him naked or with painted face or body or commits any similar act which is derogatory to human dignity
 - Wrongfully occupies or cultivates any land owned by, or allotted to, or notified by any competent authority to be allotted to, a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe or gets the land allotted to him transferred;
 - Wrongfully dispossesses a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe from his land or premises or interferes with the enjoyment of his rights over any land, premises or water
 - Assaults or uses force to any woman belonging to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe with intent to dishonour or outrage her modesty
 - If any of the offences are committed against a Dalit or Adivasi the concerned authorities should file a case, conduct proper investigation and take strict action against the culprits.
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