

#### Chapter-2: DIVERSITY AND DISCRIMINATION Module-2

Concepts
Inequality and discrimination
On being discriminated against-Caste based discrimination
Striving for equality

#### **Inequality and Discrimination**

**Inequality** is the situation in which people are not equal on the basis of economic conditions and opportunities available to them.

**Discrimination** is the process of distinguishing one person from another on the basis of caste, religion, language, creed, color, economic condition is called discrimination.

Discrimination happens when people act on their prejudices or stereotypes.

We discriminate people from others by :

- i. Putting them down
- ii. Stopping them from participating in certain activities and taking up jobs
- iii. Stopping them from living in certain arears
- iv. Preventing them from taking water from the same well

#### Reasons responsible for discrimination

- i. Different languages
- ii. Different religions
- iii. Living in different regions
- iv. Different customs and practices
- v. Different economic backgrounds
- Major problems of the poor
- i. They cannot meet their basic needs.
- ii. They are discriminated in offices, hospitals, schools etc.
- iii. They are treated badly everywhere.

### Some forms of Discrimination



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#### Five Common Types of Discrimination

- Sex/Gender Discrimination
- DisabilityDiscrimination
- Age Discrimination
- Racial/Ethnic Discrimination
- Religious Discrimination

#### SDARR

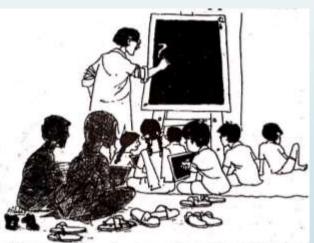
### Inequalities





# On being discriminated against-on the basis of caste

- Occupations teaching, carpentry, poetry, weaving, fishing, farming etc.
- Activities -cleaning, washing, cutting hair, picking garbage etc. are considered low or less value.
- Caste system communities/groups of people were divided into upper caste and lower caste (called untouchables – now called Dalits)
- **Dalit** Dalit means "broken". The government refers them as "Scheduled Caste (SC)"
- Caste rules Dalits are those people who are engaged in mean works like pick garbage or remove dead animals from the village.
- They are not allowed to enter the homes of upper castes. Not allowed to take water from the village well or enter temples.
  - Their children couldn't sit next to children of other caste in school



Being made to sit seperately in the classroom because of one's background is a form of discrimination.

## Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

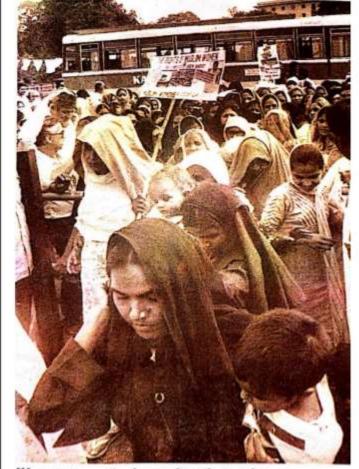
- Considered as the father of Indian Constitution.
- Best known leader of Dalits who
  fought for their rights
- He was born into Mahar caste which was considered as "untouchable"
- The story will help us know how he was discriminated against on the basis of caste.





## Striving for Equality

- Dalits, women, tribals and peasants fought against the inequalities they experienced in their lives.
- Many Dalits fought for gaining entry into temples.
- Women demanded right to Education as men did.
- Peasants and tribals fought for freedom from money lenders and from high rate of interests
- **Constitution** a document that laid out the rules by which the nation would function.



Women at a rally demanding their rights

## Ideals of the Constitution against inequality and discrimination

- Everyone has equal rights and opportunities.
- Untouchability has been legally abolished.
- Government jobs are open to all people.
- Freedom to follow any religion.
- Freedom to speak their own language
- /Freedom to celebrate their own festivals.

We have to strive for equality even today because

• Still inequalities and discrimination exists.

For this people will have to make efforts. Positive actions have to be done. Government has to make efforts and make rules to implement them.





The first page of the Constitution that clearly states that all Indians are entitled to equality of status and opportunity.

