

Chapter 5 - Democratic Rights

1. Which of the following is not an instance of an exercise of a fundamental right?

- a. Workers from Bihar go to Punjab to work on the farms
- b. Christian missions set up a chain of missionary schools
- c. Men and women government employees get the same salary
- d. Parents' property is inherited by their children

Answer.

- d. Parents' property is inherited by their children

2. Which of the following freedoms is not available to an Indian citizen?

- a. Freedom to criticise the government
- b. Freedom to participate in armed revolution
- c. Freedom to start a movement to change the government
- d. Freedom to oppose the central values of the Constitution

Answer.

- b. Freedom to participate in armed revolution

3. Which of the following rights is available under the Indian Constitution?

- a. Right to work
- b. Right to an adequate livelihood
- c. Right to protect one's culture
- d. Right to privacy

Answer.

- c. Right to protect one's culture

4. Name the Fundamental Right under which each of the following rights falls:

- a. Freedom to propagate one's religion
- b. Right to life
- c. Abolition of untouchability
- d. Ban on bonded labour

Answer.

- a. Right to Freedom of Religion
- b. Right to Freedom
- c. Right to Equality
- d. Right against Exploitation

5. Which of these statements about the relationship between democracy and rights is more valid? Give reasons for your preference.

- a. Every country that is a democracy gives rights to its citizens.
- b. Every country that gives rights to its citizens is a democracy.
- c. Giving rights is good, but it is not necessary for a democracy.

Answer.

a. Every country that is a democracy gives rights to its citizens as the basic characteristic of being a democratic country is to focus on its citizens and work for their welfare. However, the country that gives rights to its citizens may or may not be democratic.

6. Are these restrictions on the right to freedom justified? Give reasons for your answer.

- a. Indian citizens need permission to visit some border areas of the country for reasons of security.
- b. Outsiders are not allowed to buy property in some areas to protect the interest of the local population.
- c. The government bans the publication of a book that can go against the ruling party in the next elections.

Answer.

- a. Yes, it is justified as even though the right to travel to any part of the country is a fundamental right there are some reasonable restrictions. These restrictions are applied to secure the interests of different communities of the country and also to maintain law and order.
- b. Yes, this is justified as the intention is to secure the cultural and linguistic rights of certain sections of the community.
- c. No, it is not justified as it curtails an individual's fundamental right of freedom where he/she can express his opinions. Freedom of speech and expression empowers people to exhibit their thoughts.

7. Manoj went to a college to apply for admission into an MBA course. The clerk refused to take his application and said "You, the son of a sweeper, wish to be a manager! Has anyone done this job in your community? Go to the municipality office and apply for a sweeper's position". Which of Manoj's fundamental rights are being violated in this instance? Spell these out in a letter from Manoj to the district collector.

Answer.

Manoj's fundamental right to equality has been violated. Right to equality confers right to get employment regardless of caste, gender, religion. The other right that has been violated is right to freedom as this right confers freedom to the individual to seek job and that is his/her personal liberty.

8. When Madhurima went to the property registration office, the exercises Registrar told her, "You can't write your name as Madhurima Banerjee d/o A. K. Banerjee. You are married, so you must give your husband's name. Your husband's surname is Rao. So your name should be changed to Madhurima Rao." She did not agree. She said "If my husband's name has not changed after marriage, why should mine?" In your opinion who is right in this dispute? And why?

Answer.

Madhurima is right. The registrar is violating her right to freedom. The question of choosing a surname of her husband's or her father is totally Madhurima's discretion. By questioning her to adapt to her husband's surname, the registrar violated her right to choose and her right to privacy.

