

CHAPTER - 2

OUR CONSTITUTION

In history you will study that how Indians were collaborated for independence against British Government and the movement was known by the name of struggle for independence. People from different background of India joined together for the struggle of independence. They went to prison together and they protested against the Britishers differently.

One of the most important examples of this struggle for independence is the incident of Jallianwalla bagh. In this massacre, peace-loving, unarmed people were fired at by an English-officer. Many people died in this incident. Men and women, Hindu-Muslim, Sikh and Christian all were united in the agitation against Britishers. Due to this, the feeling of patriotism rose high.



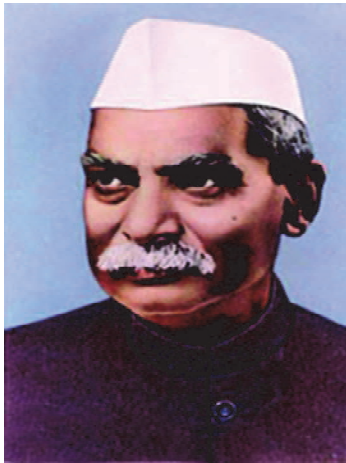
Movement for Independence

Formation of the Constituent Assembly:- We have learnt that during the British rule different people of different religion, language and province including males and females took part in the fight against Britishers. They wanted India to be a free country. People were also concerned about how Government would be established after the Britishers left the country.

Should we adopt autocracy or should we choose candidates from the masses to form a government? One more question arose who should have more power or authority - Prime Minister or President. Should women be given equal rights as men? Should the followers of all religion have equal rights. How would all the children get opportunity to be educated? We all know that in our country the problem of untouchability was there, how could we remove this problem? These types of questions were raised during Indian National Movement.

To solve this problem a group was elected and was known as 'constituent assembly'. In the constitution assembly there was 299 members from different parts of country.

The job of constituent assembly was to write constitution. Constitution is a collection in which the laws, the rights and the duties are written in such a manner that outline the system and social ideal values are written in it. In constituent assembly different issues were discussed thoroughly. This discussion extended for three years, and then only the constitution of India was formed. On 26th January 1950 constitution of India was amended and established.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Chairman of constituent assembly

1. During the Struggle of independence at Lahore Conference or Indian National Congress on 26th January 1929 passed a resolution for total Independence. To make this day an important day on 26th January 1950, the constitution was formed



Dr. Ambedkar
Chairman of Framing Committee

- to bring total Independence or Purna Swaraj.
2. In the constitution it has been said that before the adhering of constitution, within ten years, Children at the age of 14 years should be given compulsory free education. Discuss it with the teacher why this effort has not been successful yet?

Discuss:-

- 1) Why is the governance required by elected representatives?
- 2) Why should men and women be given equal rights ?
- 3) Why do we celebrate Republic day on 26th January ?

PREAMBLE OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

We the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens:

Justice, social, economic and political,
Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship,
Equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all.
Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation;

In our Constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this constitution.

1. With the help of teacher read the preamble.
2. Discuss, whether these aspects can be seen during the struggle for freedom?

Why do we need a Constitution: -

As it has been said earlier in the constitutional committee as - How Prime-Minister and President should be elected and what will be their work? How the legislative Assembly and Parliament should work? What will be the duties of the ministers as constituted by the constitutional committee?

And also it was important that Government should not misuse its power. For this Government should act or regulate according to the written constitution. If a citizen thinks that its rights was not fulfilled, by the government; then the people can seek help from the judiciary.

Few years later Municipality of Mumbai started removing slums and people staying at foot paths. About 50 thousand people were removed. The people residing in these slum took the matter to judiciary court and a case was registered. But afterwards their lawyer gave decision that until and unless a second option for their living is made they would not be shifted or removed. Supreme Court gave the decision that these slums should not be destroyed, if destroyed they should be given another place for their residence.

In this way we can see that how Supreme Court has restricted the government. So due to these rules and regulations, people of the nation of any religion, language and ideas have faith in this constitution. Because in that the equality to all is discussed. We all obey the rules and regulations. It promotes peace and integration. So due to the constitution we get an inspiration for building a better society.

Exercise

1. What do you understand by constitutional committee ? Why was this committee established ?
2. During which situation was the need of constitution required ?
3. What does the word 'Equality' mean in the preamble of the constitution ?
4. What was told about the education for children in the constitution?
5. Why was constitution of India established on 26th January 1950 ?
6. What problems would have arisen if the constitution was not formed ?
7. What will happen if there are no rules and regulation in the society ?
8. Write a brief note on national integrity?