

Chapter-16

Citizenship

Revision Notes

1. Citizenship refers to the collective political identity of individuals of the state who enjoy some certain rights also.
2. A citizen is entitled to abide by the laws of a particular country in which one enjoys the rights as a citizen.
3. Equality of rights and status is one of the basic rights of citizenship.
4. An ideal citizen can be referred to possess the qualities to be educated, aware of rights and duties, to have a high gravity in character as well as to be loyal to the country.
5. In a democratic setup, the citizens enjoy the political rights also, i.e. right to vote, to contest elections, to form political parties and to hold public offices, etc.
6. The women's movement and the dalit movement was held in our country and their purpose is to change public opinion by drawing attention to their needs as well as to influence government policy to ensure them equal rights and opportunities.
7. Every citizen is entitled to perform some certain duties also associated with the rights, i.e. obedience of law, loyalty towards the state, cooperation with the public servants and payment of taxes, etc.
8. A natural born citizen is the one who either born in the country or if one's parents are the citizens of a particular country.
9. One of the rights granted to citizens in our country, and in many others, is freedom of movement. This right is of particular importance for workers. Labour tends to migrate in search of jobs when opportunities are not available near their homes.
10. The citizenship of a country can be acquired by marriages, appointment as a government official, acquisition of a territory and purchases of immovable property, etc.
11. The right to protest is an aspect of the freedom of expression guaranteed to citizens in our Constitution, provided protest does not harm the life or property of other people or the State. Citizens are free to try and influence public opinion and government policy by forming groups, holding demonstrations, using the media, appealing to political parties, or by approaching the courts.

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12. A basic principle of democracy is that such disputes should be settled by negotiation and discussion rather than force. This is one of the obligations of citizenship.
 13. Awareness about the condition of the urban poor is growing among governments, N.G.O's and other agencies, and among the slum-dwellers themselves. For instance, a national policy on urban street vendors was framed in January 2004.
 14. The rights and obligations of citizens are listed in the Constitution. There is also a provision that the state should not discriminate against citizens on the grounds of race/caste/sex/place of birth, or any of them. The rights of religious and linguistic minorities are also protected.
 15. A good citizenship may be hindered by in differences, poverty, narrow growing and lack of education, etc.
 16. Global citizenship makes the work easier to deal with the problems to extend across national boundaries and to need cooperative actions of the states on the issues of migrants, stateless people as well as to ensure basic rights and protection, etc.