

CHAPTER 2

Understanding Secularism

❖ EXERCISES

Question 1:

List the different types of religious practices that you find in your neighbourhood. This could be different forms of prayer, worship of different gods, sacred sites, different kinds of religious music and singing, etc. Does this indicate freedom of religious practices?

Answer:

There are many practices that people practice in our neighbourhood like going to temples and Gurudwaras, Satsang, Reading Namaaz, Saying prayers and many more.

Yes, all these things clearly indicate that India is a secular country and the Constitution of India grants religious freedom and equality.

Question 2:

Will the government intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice infanticide? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

Yes, the government of our country will intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice infanticide. It can be justified on the basis of the following reasons:

(a) Murdering of an infant is not allowed or written in any religion. Every religion whether Hindu or Muslim whether Sikh or Christian all promote non-violence.

(b) No righteous man will support the system of sacrifice. It was promoted by superstitions and selfish religious leaders in ancient times.

Question 3:

Complete the following table:

Objective	Why is this important?	Example
(a) One religious community does not dominate another.		
(b) The state does not enforce any particular religious nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.		
(c) That some members do not dominate other members of the same religious community.		

Answer:

The answer of following table is discussed in the following points:

(a) Every religion or community honour our country's constitution and cause of it one community does not dominate other. Our constitution grants right to equality and right to freedom to all.

e.g.: If we look in U.S.A, in government schools every child has to begin their school day by reciting the 'Pledge of Allegiance'. This pledge includes the word 'under God'.

(b) Freedom to choose any religion is the Fundamental right of the citizens of India which is being provided by our constitution.

e.g.: There are many countries in the world like Saudi Arabia which is an Islamic state and here religious freedom is not allowed.

(c) Establishment of equality among different groups and communities is very important in a secular country like India.

e.g.: If we look the time before India became Republic than the upper caste Hindus believed in untouchability. The people belong to low castes were discriminated on the basis of the caste.

❖ Intext Question Pg-19

Question 1:

Re-read the introduction to this chapter. Why do you think retaliation is not the proper response to this problem? What would happen if different groups followed this path?

Answer:

In my opinion, retaliation is not at all a proper response to this problem because even if we retaliate towards it, the problem is nowhere going to suppress rather it will strengthen its roots more deeper which will create an even worse situation.

Hence, rather retaliating we must fight against this and demand for a law that would eliminate this problem forever.

In case if various groups started following this path than the complete world would turn out to be a discriminating system where the word 'Equality' would be erased and the minority sections present everywhere will suffer.

❖ Intext Question Pg-20

Question 1:

Discuss in class: Can there be different views within the same religion?

Answer:

Yes, there are different views that are followed even within the same religion.

Let us understand them with the help of some examples:

- (a) In the Hindu religion there are hundreds of deities worshipped by different people.
- (b) Similar is the case in Muslim community where there are Shiyas and Shunnis.
- (c) In Jains, there are Shwetambar and Digambar sects.

(d) While in Buddha Dharma, there are Hinayaans and Mahayaans.

❖ Intext Question Pg-22

Question 1:

In the above storyboard, discuss the answer given by the teacher.

Answer:

The answer given by the teacher in the above storyboard is according to the law of our country. As the celebration of the religious festivals within the schools would have been a violation of government's policy of treating every religion equally. According to our constitution government schools cannot promote any religion but this law is not applicable in the private schools.

❖ Intext Question Pg-23

Question 1:

Government schools often have students from different religious backgrounds. Read the three objectives of a secular State and write two sentences on why it is important that government schools do not promote any one religion?

Answer:

Government should not promote any one religion because:

(a) Since, in the constitution of our country there exist a word called 'Secularism' which gives freedom to every citizen to

possess the religion they want and government schools are strictly based on the constitution. Hence, if they do so they would be violating the constitution of our nation.

(b) If any school promote any certain religion it would be a sort of partiality with the students of other religion which will again violate the law of constitution which says that every citizen and their respective religion should be treated equally.

❖ Intext Question Pg-25

Question 1:

Can you think of a recent incident, from any part of India, in which the secular ideals of the Constitution were violated and persons were persecuted and killed because of their religious backgrounds?

Answer:

The recent example in which the secular ideals of the Constitution were violated and persons were persecuted and killed is the banning of beef by Indian government.

The government of our country should not have imposed the law on beef as it violates the religion of Muslims. This decision should be taken by the people whether they should eat or not because. Due to this law many people were killed as they were caught carrying beef with them.