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→ Class : 8th
→ Subject : Civics
→ Topic : Diversity

E) long - answer questions.

1). (Already done in the class)
2). Differences in appearance - dark-skinned / fair, height - tall / short, interests - sports / reading, religious beliefs - Hinduism / Christianity, dress - sari / salwar kameez, etc. are some examples of diversity in our daily life.

3). The location and environment of a place impact diversity by affecting the different ways of living in terms of dresses, food, customs, etc. For example, coastal areas like Kerala, Goa and West Bengal have a flourishing fish industry as plenty of fish is found in the water and hence fish is an important food in these areas.

⇒ Topic : Discrimination
⇒ Exercises

- A. 1. discrimination 2. stereotype
3. prejudice 4. gender bias
5. skin colour 6. fundamental rights

- B. 1. True 2. False
3. True 4. False
5. False

- C. 1. discrimination 2. stereotype
3. prejudice 4. gender bias

- D. 1. Discrimination 2. stereotype
3. unique qualities 4. prejudice

E. 1. Discrimination means to make a distinction between people on the basis of age, class, race, religion, gender, individual merit, etc. without regard to individual merit.

2. Stereotyping means to ignore the unique qualities of individuals and have a positive or negative opinion about people and things.

Prejudicing means to form certain negative or bad opinions about those who are not like us.

3. Two examples of stereotypes are: Boys are naughty and girls are gentle.

• Fair-skinned people are superior to dark-skinned people.

4. Racial discrimination is an act in which some races consider themselves

superior to others. In south Africa, racial discrimination gave birth to Apartheid.

5). Right to equality before law, prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

- Right to religious freedom
- Right against exploitation, prohibiting all forms of forced labour, child labour and trafficking of human beings.

F). 1). Prejudice is a negative or bad opinion about those who are not like us. Prejudice literally means 'prejudging'. We develop them regarding the dark skin of south Indians, the accent of Punjabis and Biharis, etc.

2). Diversity can be a source of discrimination. People who belong to a certain region, speak a certain language or follow a particular religion may be seen as inferior and discriminated against. However, diversity and discrimination are not the same. The examples of discrimination in Indian society are:

- People of lower castes, referred to as untouchables, are often not allowed to draw water from public wells, or to enter temples, schools, etc.
- Poor people often face discrimination

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wherever they go.
Women are often considered inferior to men and are discriminated against at workplaces and at home.

3. The Indian government has taken many steps to safeguard the interest of the exploited in terms of class, gender, caste and religion. Some of the steps are:
• providing a quota system to the backward classes for jobs and seats in public and private educational institutions.
• implementing the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 which prevents atrocities against members of the Dalit community and other backward classes.

4. The caste system, a traditional and unique feature of Indian society, developed due to discrimination based on the diversity of occupation. Under this system, people doing different kinds of work were placed in different castes, namely, Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras. The lower castes, also referred to as untouchables or Dalits, are not allowed to draw water from public wells, or

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to enter temples, schools, etc. They thus struggle for equality and their rights.

5. Diversity adds variety and enjoyment to our life. It gives us a chance to link with people who may be quite different. We learn to recognise the different characteristics of each individual, appreciate the differences and learn from each other's culture, ideologies, traditions, etc.

6. Gender discrimination affects the girl child through social evils such as female foeticide, or infanticide, dowry system, patriarchal system and child marriage. These have a dreadful effect on the girl child's growth, health, education, and thus her entire life.

⇒ Topic - Government

⇒ Exercises

- A) 1. monarchy
 2. legislature
 3. provides infrastructure
 4. union government
 5. democracy
 6. vote
 7. New Zealand

- B) 1. custodian of the Constitution
 2. set principles and codes
 3. a government survey on population-related information
 4. rule by king or queen
 5. people rule themselves through representatives

6. the body that administers
 7. discrimination against the Blacks by the Whites
 8. the right to vote

- C) 1. Laws
 2. local
 3. Nehal
 4. Freedom, equality
 5. suffragette

- D) 1. The functions of a government are:
- to build roads, hospitals, etc. and make arrangements for supplying electricity, water, etc. to the people.
 - to give good health services and education to the people.
 - to provide safety to the people.
 - to maintain law and order.
 - to protect the nation from attacks by other countries.
 - to maintain peaceful relations with

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2) other countries.
The main organs of a government in India are the legislative, executive and judiciary.

3) The key elements of democracy are freedom and equality.

4) No, democracy cannot be successful if there is discrimination between its citizens. This is because freedom and equality are the key elements of a democracy.

E) 1) Democracy provides equality and justice to all citizens. Men and women, rich and poor, all are treated equally. Anyone over 18 years of age can cast a vote regardless of caste, religion or gender. The judiciary, an organ of the democracy, ensures that all people obey the law. It punishes those who try to break the laws.

2) The type of government in which the power to rule rests in the hands of one person or a small group of people is called dictatorship. Such power is often obtained by force. There have been many revolts by the people against this form of governance. This is because absolute power lies with

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the dictator and those who do to criticize the government are severely punished. Also, people are given no freedom. For example, people's results overturned the military dictatorship in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya in early 2011.

3). Universal Adult Franchise also called universal adult suffrage means that all adult citizens of a country have the right to vote. In India, anyone more than 18 years of age has the right to vote. Two instances of Universal Adult Franchise are:

- Anti - Apartheid Struggle
- Suffragette Movement

- F). 1). This picture shows bilateral ties between India and another country.
- 2). It depicts India's maintenance of friendly relations with other countries.
- 3). This function comes under the union government.

Topic : Key Features of a Democratic Government

⇒ exercises

- A) 1. five years
- 3. equality
- 5. Gram Panchayat

- 2. Kaurey
- 4. B R Ambedkar
- 6. one who enjoys full legal rights in a country

- 7. to enforce laws
- B) 1. 13
- 3. citizens
- 5. opposition

- 8. Parliament
- 2. opposition
- 4. government

C) 1. A general election is that which is held every five years during which the government is in power. When a government does not perform well, and elections are held ~~as~~ again before its term of five years, it is called mid-term election.

2. The two types of democracy are direct and representative democracy. Direct democracy is a form of democracy in which people collectively make decisions for themselves, while in a representative democracy, the people elect representatives who take decisions on their behalf.

3. Media and Internet are two non-governmental bodies which can lay a check on the government.

- 4) Police and Army are two government appointed bodies which resolve conflicts.
- D) 1) Citizens have the power to hold the government ~~and~~ accountable for its actions. During its term of five years, if the government behaves irresponsibly, the citizens can express their opinions and criticisms on its policies in various forms of protest such as marches, rallies, signature campaigns, strikes, etc.
- 2) The media seeks public opinion and can force the government to change its decisions. The opposition party can raise a voice against government policies and decisions that they find to be against the interest of the common man. These are some ways in which checks and balances are incorporated into a democracy. This prevents a ruling party or the government from misusing its powers.
- 3) The Krishnarajgarh Dam in Karnataka and Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu are both on the same river. The cause of the dispute was over sharing of the waters at the downstream dam in Tamil Nadu could only be filled if

4) The water stream was released from the upper dam located in Karnataka. The government of India has done the following actions to overcome inequality:

- The constitution has reserved seats in Parliament, educational institutions, etc. in the form of quota.
- The Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Prohibition of Sex Selection Act, 1994, prevents sex discrimination before birth.

5) The Constitution also recognises the rights of the minority groups and gives them certain privileges. Since representatives are elected by the people, they are accountable for their actions to the people. Their policies should be in the interest of the people, else it might affect the peace and security of the country.

6) The judiciary of India is the protector of the constitutional laws of the country. The judicial system of India is stratified into various levels - the Supreme Court, which is followed by High Courts (at the state level), District Courts (at the district level) and Lok Adalats (at the village and panchayat level).