

EQUALITY AND ITS APPLICATION

DR. SUDHAKAR JALLY
PG DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
UTKAL UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR

EQUALITY AND ITS APPLICATION

- The term equality means, the fact of being equal in rights, status, and advantages. By equality, we generally mean that all men are equal and all should be entitled to identity and income. Men are born and always continue as free and equal in respect of their rights. But in practical life, it is the fact that no men are similar in respect of physical or mental, capacity and temperament. Therefore, equality means the absence of unequal social privilege (special rights and advantages).
- Equality is a levelling process. The idea of equality has insisted that men are politically equal. It means all citizens are equal to take part in political life and exercise the franchise. Individuals should be equal before the law. Equality after all is a derivative value.

- Equality has no value in itself but is significant only for its effects. For example, utilitarianism holds that society should maximize its members' total happiness. The term equality means similar treatment.
- The idea of natural equality of all men was a dominant theme from the seventeenth century on. Thomas Hobbes took it for granted that in the state of nature, men are equal in right. John Locke argues that by nature men are equally free are subject only to natural law, and enjoy the same natural rights.

Kinds of Equality

A. Social Equality

Social equality is a state of affairs in which all people within a specific society or isolated group have the same status in certain respects. It includes freedom of speech, property rights, civil rights, and equal access to certain social goods and services. It means all citizens are entitled to enjoy equal status in society and are entitled to special privileges.

All citizens in India enjoy social equality. Untouchability has been abolished and its practice is forbidden. Racial discrimination should not be encouraged.

B. Civil Equality

- Civil Laws should treat all individuals equally. Equal treatment is given to all by the rule of law. There should not be any discrimination of superior and inferior, rich and poor, etc. Freedom of speech, press, assembly, and worship are central among the privileges and immunities claimed as civil equality.

C. Political Equality

- Political equality guarantees the enjoyment of similar political rights to all citizens. By political equality, we mean equal access of everyone to the avenues of political authority. Plato preached the political equality of both sexes. Aristotle believed that some men were slaves by nature. For Plato, some souls were not merely capable of higher development than others. The political egalitarianism was concerned with the equality of citizens.

D. Economic Equality

- Economic equality is closely related to political equality. By economic equality, we mean the provision of equal opportunities to all. It is known as instrumental value. Controversy arises over the extent to which government should also aim at greater social and economic equality through policies of collective social provision of public health education and redistribution of income or wealth.

E. Equality of opportunities and education

- Education is a thoroughly classical concept, which since the time of Socratics and Aristotle have never entirely disappeared in institutions of learning. By equal opportunity and education, we mean that all citizens be given equal opportunities by the state.
- The notion of equality began with a set of promises about freedom and rights of an individual. Therefore, in order to have a culture of equality/ universality, it would have to be based on values of equality.

THANK YOU