

Chapter-8 Confronting Marginalisation

1. *List two Fundamental Rights in the Constitution that Dalits can draw upon to insist that they be treated with dignity and as equals. Re-read the Fundamental Rights listed on page 14 to help you answer this question.*

Two fundamentals that dalits can draw upon to insist that they be treated equal are:

- i. Right to equality*
 - ii. Cultural and Educational Rights.*
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2. *Re-read the story on Rathnam as well as the provisions of the 1989 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Now list one reason why you think he used this law to file a complaint. Rathnam used this law to file the case as this law protects dalits and tribals for ill treatment they face in everyday life. This law also separates various levels of crimes against backwards.*
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3. *Why do Adivasis activists, including C.K. Janu, believe that Adivasis can also use this 1989 Act to fight against dispossession? Is there anything specific in the provisions of Act that allows her to believe this?*

Adivasis activists including C.K. Janu believe that adivasis can also use 1989 act to fight against dispossession due to the following reasons:-

- i. This laws defends and gives adivasi the right to occupy the land that was traditionally theirs.*
 - ii. Land belonging to the tribals could not be bought by or sold to non-ativasis. The specification in this law is that it guarantees the right of tribal people to re-posses their land.*
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- *Extra Questions:-*

1. Name the policy that promotes justice?

Government of India has put a number of policies and schemes in place in order to provide various types of justice to the marginalized sections of the society namely Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims. Reservation policy is one such policy that promotes social justice.

2. When was the atrocities act passed?

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was passed in 1989.

3. Name a Bhakt saint who criticised Casteism?

Saint Kabir was the one who criticized casteism.

4. What does the Article 15 of the Constitution state?

The Article 15 of the Constitution states that no citizen of India shall be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

5. What does the Article 17 of the Constitution state?

The Article 17 of the Constitution states that the practice of untouchability has been abolished. It means that no one shall henceforth prevent Dalits from educating themselves, entering temples, using public facilities, etc. Untouchability is a punishable crime now, it is wrong to practice untouchability and a democratic government will not tolerate the offence.

6. Why does the Scheduled Caste Act of 1989 contain a long list of crime?

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 contains a long list of crimes because the Adivasi

people were subjected to unleashing violence by powerful castes in the 1970s and 1980s. Hence they successfully organized themselves and demanded new laws that would list the various sorts of violence against Dalits and prescribe astringent actions for those who indulge in them.

7. Define Reservation.

Reservation refers to a number of laws which reserve seats in education and employment for Dalits and Adivasis including other backward classes of the society.
