

# GENDER, RELIGION AND CASTE (communalism and politics)

Class X political science

## Communal division

- **This division is not as universal as gender but religious diversity is fairly widespread in the world today.**
- **Even when most of the people belong to the same religion there can be serious differences about the way people practice that religion.**
- **Unlike gender differences the religious differences are often expressed in the field of politics.**

## Relationship between religion and politics.

- **Ideas ideas and values drawn from different religions can and perhaps should play a role in politics.**
- **People should be able to express in politics their needs, interests and demands as a member of a religious community.**
- **Those who hold political power should sometimes be able to regulate the practice of religion so as to prevent discrimination and operation.**

## The problem of communalism.

- **The problem begins when religion is seen as the basis of the nation.**
- **The problem becomes more acute when religion is expressed in politics in exclusive and partisan terms, when one religion and his followers are pitted against another.**
- **State power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest.**

## Basic thoughts of communalism.

- **Communal politics is based on the idea that religion is the principal basis of social community.**
- **The followers of a particular religion must belong to one community.**
- **People who follow different religions cannot belong to the same social community.**
- **In its extreme form communalism leads to the belief that people belonging to different religions cannot live as equal citizens within one Nation. Either one of them has to dominate the rest or they have to form different nation.**

# Flaws

- **People of one religion do not have the same interests and aspirations in every contexts.**
- **Any attempt to bring all followers of one religion together in context other than religion is bound to suppress many voices within that community.**

## Different forms of communalism.

- **The most common expression of communalism is in everyday belief. These routinely involve religious prejudices, stereotypes of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions.**
- **A communal mind often leads to a quest for political dominance of one's own religious community.**
- **Political mobilisation on religious lines is another frequent form of communalism.**
- **Sometimes communalism takes its most ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.**

# Homework

- 1. What is communal politics? Discuss.**
- 2. What are the core beliefs of communalism?**
- 3. Read the topic.**