

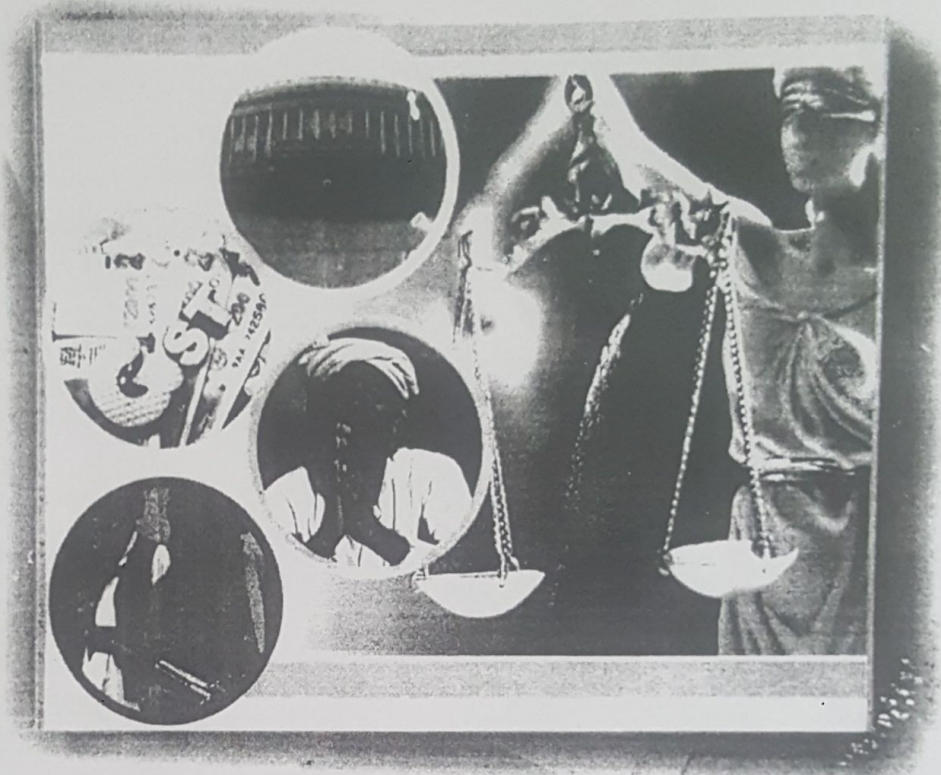


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RESEARCH FRONT

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Social and Economic Justice- Past, Present and Future

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SOCIAL, JUSTICE AND WOMEN

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Concept of Social Justice

The term justice in the Preamble embraces three distinct forms – social, economic and political, secured through various provisions of fundamental rights and directive principles. Social Justice denotes the equal treatment of all citizens without any social distinction based on caste, colour, race, religion, sex and so on. It means absence of privileges being extended to any particular section of the society, and improvement in the conditions of backward classes (SCs, STs, OBSs) and women.

Features of Social Justice

The idea of giving justice to each person involves his due continue to be an important part of our present day understanding of justice. However, our understanding of what is due to a person has changed from the time to time. Today, our understanding of what is just and understanding of what is due to each person as a human being are closely linked. Emmanuel Kant, A German Philosopher denotes that human beings possess dignity, If each and every person is granted dignity, then the result shows that they have the opportunity to develop their talents and pursue their chosen goals. Justice requires that we give due and equal consideration to all individuals

1) Equal treatment for Equals

For the above feature, different principles are seen put forward such as principle of treating equals equally which can be also defined as one should get all the rights equally as well as they should be not discriminated on the basis of gender, caste, group, race, etc. and they be appreciated and judged on basis of their talent, work and not by their caste or race.

2) Proportionate Justice

The another principle after equal treatment is Proportionate justice. At a instance, it is possible to make one feel that giving equally justice to all is unjust in some of the conditions as all may not pursue the same talent or same work and skills. So for justice in society, the principle of equal treatment is needed to be well balanced with proportionate justice.

The above concept of social justice is equally applicable to men and women. But does this really happen?

After independence, attempts were made for the upliftment of women. Fundamental Rights Article 14c states, "The state shall not deny to any person equality before law...." Article 14 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, caste, sex or race. Under Article 39(d), the state is urged to provide with equal pay for equal work to both men and women. In spite of various attempts cited above, the present position of women is not satisfactory. Hence, it is thought now that mere equality is not enough for women that they should be empowered.

As equal rights are decreased for women, it is obvious that development among them will be decreased. Also after a certain changed period this is carried upto now. Recognizing the above queries about women, many of the governmental schemes were organized which had the motive to spread gender equality. This schemes showed noticeable progress but it was unable to reduce the distance between men and women.