

CHAPTER - XII

FREEDOM

The word liberty is derived from the Latin word “liber” which means “freedom”.

THE 2 DIMENSION OF LIBERTY

- Liberty means the absence of constraints/central
- It also means to develop the potential and creativity of a person.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIBERTY

- Political liberty
- National liberty
- Economic liberty
- Civil liberty
- Natural liberty

POLITICAL LIBERTY

- Political liberty is the freedom of an individual to live as a citizen.
- It is positive in nature.
- It consist of the liberty for right to vote, to contest in election, to hold public offices, freedom to participate in the political process and making political decision.

ECONOMIC LIBERTY

- Economic Liberty means those right that are engaged by a person by consuming his livelihood.
- Political liberty and civil liberty became meaningless in the absence of economic liberty.

CIVIL LIBERTY

- Civil liberty mean the freedom guaranteed to us by the state.
- It include freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religions, freedom of life and property, freedom of assembly, freedom to seek constitutional remedies in the case of the freedom is violated.

NATIONAL LIBERTY

National liberty means freedom of the people from foreign domination.

NATURAL LIBERTY

- The concept of natural liberty contributed by the famous philosopher Rousseau.
- Natural liberty means complete freedom from interference.
- The advocates of this kind of liberty says that man is free by nature.

Safeguards of Liberty

- Democracy
- Independent judiciary
- Rule of law
- Decentralisation of power
- Economic liberty

Harm Principle

- Harm principle was developed by John Stuart Mill.
- 'On liberty' is the book written by J.S. Mill.
- He distinguished human activities as two 'self regarding action' and 'others regarding action'.

Self Regarding Action

The consequences of an action done by a person affect that person itself is called self regarding action.

Other Regarding Action

The consequences of an action done by a person, which also affect other person in the society is called other regarding action.

Gandhi's View

Gandhi's opinion on liberty is self rule. Swaraj is the word used by Gandhi to indicate liberty.

Liberty, in the Opinion of Subash Chandra Bose

Subash Chandra Bose says that liberty means, the liberty of all section of the society as the freedom of all individuals as well as the society, freedom for rich as well as poor, freedom for men as well as women, freedom of all individual and classes.

Aung San Suu Kyi – Freedom from fear

Nelson Mandela – Long walk to Freedom

Deep Mehta – Water

J.S. Will – On liberty

Positive and Negative Liberty

Negative Liberty

This is an area in which no external authority can interfere and non-interference in which the individual can express himself or herself.

Positive Liberty

It is the freedom of an individual to develop his or her capabilities and talent.

Freedom of Expression

- There are several incident of denying of freedom of expression in different countries of the world.
- It may ban books, plays and films, writing books, staring play, exhibiting films, etc. are example of freedom of expression.
- Freedom of expression is a fundamental right.
- This is to protect the freedom of expression of people from those who restrict it.
- Voltair's statement is worthwhile in this context. "I disapprove of what you say but I will defend to death your right to say it".

Liberalism

- The word liberalism is originated from the Latin word 'liberals' which means free man.
- The political ideology of liberalism which emerged in the 19th century, considers freedom as a very important and essential thing.
- Liberalism gives prime importance to the freedom of individuals.
- The liberals defended the right of a person to hold and express one's opinion and belief.
- As far as liberals are concerned, family, society and community have no value in themselves.
- J.S. Mill, T.H. Green and Ranade are the exponents of modern liberalism.

Two Aspects of Freedom

1. Absence of external contacts
2. Condition of the people to develop their abilities

If there exist two aspects in a society, we call it a free society. In a free society all individuals have the atmosphere to develop their abilities. There will be only minimum social constraints.

Aubrey Menon - Ramayana Retold

Salman Rushdie - The Satanic Verse

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