

EQUALITY

- Greek age and medieval era is considered as age of privilege and inequality. However, concept of equality emerged from the modern age in the following forms:-
- **Formal Equality(Foundational equality)** which includes the following:-
- **(1)Moral equality:- Hobbes** said that each and everyone is rational and looking for self reservation. **John Locke** also said that natural rights life liberty and property is available for every individual.
- **(2)Political and legal equality:- Bentham** propounded the principle of one person one vote which becomes the foundation of political equality. He also believe in the concept of rule of law and that is legal equality.

EQUALITY OF OUTCOME OR

Ph : 01135521496

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RESULT

- Moral, legal, and political equality is also known as **formal equality** which emphasize over equality in terms of common rules and procedures.
- Marxist believe in equality of outcome. And they want to maintain equal condition or same circumstances for everyone.
- Marxist said that this is only possible through the destruction of capitalism. For Marxist **political** and **legal equality** become meaningless in absence of **economic equality**.
- Real equality is present in communist societies. Marxian thinker **Milovan Djilas** wrote **New Class** (1959) and he said that Marxist society also became bureaucratic where there was no **rule of proletariat** instead there was **rule over proletariat**.

ECONOMIC EQUALITY

- **EQUALITY OF WHAT?**
- (1) **Equality of Welfare**
- Utilitarians generally argue that the project of **distributional equality** amounts to the **distribution of welfare**. 'Welfare' here is primarily understood in two ways.
- According to the classical utilitarian thinking, as espoused by Jeremy Bentham welfare refers to the **happiness** which is understood as the **net balance of pleasure over pain** that the individual experiences.
- According to this view, in assessing how well-off someone is in life, we should look at how happy he or she is, that is; at the net balance of **pleasure over pain** in his/her life. In more recent writings, however, welfare is identified with desire or preference-satisfaction; people have more or less welfare, and so have better or worse lives in fundamental sense.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

- Equality of opportunity is a middle path between formal equality and equality of outcome.
- The **resourcist** view of equality or '**resource egalitarianism**' is most expressly identified with the views of **John Rawls, Ronald Dworkin** and **Eric Rakowski**.
- Equality of resources, Dworkin maintains, holds that a distributional scheme treats people as equals 'when it distributes or transfers so that no further transfer would leave their shares of the total resources more equal'.
- But one needs to know when precisely equality of resources is likely to be achieved. Dworkin suggests a two-staged process: (1) **the ambition-sensitive auction**, and (2) **the insurance scheme**.
- An ambition-sensitive auction needs to be balanced by an insurance scheme **that takes care of natural, undeserved inequalities**.

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RAWLS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

- Rawls believe in the concept of equality of opportunity and he wants to distribute the **primary goods** for ensuring equality. There are two types of primary goods:-
(a)**Natural**- health, intelligence. (b)**Social**- Liberty, rights, opportunity, income, wealth and self-respect.
- Rawls says that **liberty should not be curtailed** for obtaining of equality instead liberty is helpful for realizing the goal of equality.
- Rawls believe in meritocratic society where efficiency and talent is equally recognized apart from the equality.

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DWORKIN AND EQUALITY OF

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RESOURCES

- For Dworkin, equality of opportunity stands for equality of resources. Dworkin includes the following concepts in order to defending equality of resources:-
- **(a) Auction:-** It denotes the **fairness** involved in the distribution of resources and the people are given the equal opportunity to avail the resources.
- **(b) Envy test:-** Each and everyone is free to choose their **preferences**, this shows the different ambitions of the person which lacks envy.
- **(c) Luck:-** He said that individual are given the equal preferences for opting the goods but luck also works.

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- There are two types of luck
- **(a) Option Luck:-** It is result of choice of individual.
- **(b) Brute Luck:-** It is not choice of individual but it emerge due to adverse physical condition. Some person met with accident is an example of brute luck.
- **(d) Insurance:-** The person born with natural handicaps or physically challenge face the disadvantage in case of equal opportunity too. Therefore, for **compensating** natural disadvantage Dworkin supports the insurance policy.

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EQUALITY OF CAPABILITIES

- In contrast to the resource approach, **Sen** proposes the notion of well-being understood in terms of **function**. Reading is a function vital to leading a valuable life. However, Sen does not argue that social; policy should be concerned with function.
- Social policy, according to Sen, should instead focus on capabilities. A capability is the ability to achieve a certain sort of function.
- For example, **literacy is capability**, while **reading is a function** . In a society where people are illiterate, a state should actively promote people's ability to read, i.e. literacy.

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- **Amartya Sen** wrote a book '**Development as a freedom**'. He criticized the distribution of social goods on the name of equality of opportunity. And he said that enhancement of capabilities is more important than distribution of social goods.
- **Internal conditions**:- health, skill, education etc. is important for realising the capability of human being
- **External conditions**:- democracy, liberty.non-democratic government
- Development of capabilities means '**promotion of functions**'. Conversion of capability into function is essential
- **Availability of options or choice** is essential for development of capability.

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COMPLEX EQUALITY

- **Michael Walzer** gives currency to the idea of complex equality. Walzer identifies the single most important metric of equality- **welfare, resources, or capability**.
- We harp more on the **principles of distribution** and less on what meaning we attribute to goods. The **same goods have different meaning** in different societies. There is no single set of basic goods which could be **universally** conceived of and given the same value.
- Every set of goods constitutes a distinct distributive sphere within which only certain criteria of distribution are appropriate.
- **Resources within families are not distributed as wages; political offices in a democracy ought not to be distributed among relatives.**

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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

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- For addressing deep rooted inequality, equality of opportunity is not sufficient. Thus, affirmative action is preferred in USA. It is also known as **protective discrimination** or **reverse discrimination**.
- Affirmative action is a formal effort to provide increased employment and educational opportunities for disadvantaged groups. They are following justification for providing affirmative action:-
 - (a) Proportionate equality
 - (b) Compensation
 - (c) Empowerment
- Indian constitution incorporates the principle of affirmative action in the various parts of constitution.

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EQUALITY AND DIFFERENCE

- Liberals believe in the **universal** concept of equality. Marxist also try to project universal concept of equality.
- But communitarians raise their objection against the universal idea of equality and Walzer in his book **Sphere of Justice(1983)** said that **plurality** and **diversity** is associated with equality.
- Feminist also demanded the differential treatment. **Merrian Young** propounded the concept of **differentiated citizenship**.
- Multiculturalist like **Kymlicka** identified three forms of group differentiated rights (a)Self-government right (b)Polyethnic right (c)Special representation right.

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- **(a) Self-government right:-** Creating federal structure and recognizing autonomy and cultural rights of minorities.
- **(b) Polyethnic right:-** This right is specifically address the problem of immigrant communities like Muslim girls in France and Britain have asked for exemption from the school dress.
- **(c) Special representation rights:-** It is demanded by ethnic as well as non-ethnic groups too like poor, disabled and women.

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LIBERTY AND EQUALITY

- The father of political science Aristotle said that inequality is natural and equality is neither **necessary** nor **desirable**.
- **Liberty is Primary**
- Liberty evolve in the modern age due to development of individualism and liberalism. Liberals and neo-liberals believe that liberty is utmost important and the demand of equality destroy the aspiration of liberty. Therefore, liberty and equality are anti-thetical.
- **Equality is more important**
- Rousseau is a first scholar who is a propounder of modern concept of equality. Marxist are influenced by Rousseau and they said that equality is basic precondition for enjoyment of liberty.

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COMPLEMENTARY

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- Totalitarianism will develop in absence of liberty. And the absolute power of state becomes **inimical** to the liberty and choice of individual.
- In a communist regime like China and North Korea, liberty is suppressed on the name of realisation of equality.
- Liberty without equality **will inculcate the principle of survival of the fittest** and liberty will become privilege of few. It means idea of **Lord Acton** and **Nozick** is incorrect.
- The contemporary thinkers like Rawls, Amartya Sen, Abhijeet Bannerjee said that both are complementary.

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