

**Emergence, Value, and Significance of
Fundamental Duties of the Citizen of India:
Upholding Civic Responsibilities for a Stronger Nation**

Bikash Naskar

Assistant Professor

Dept. Political Science

Mahitosh Nandy Mahavidyalaya, Jangipara, Hooghly

MEANING & DEFINITION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

- The Fundamental Duties are an integral part of the Indian Constitution, reflecting the essence of citizenship.
- People must perform different kinds of duties in daily life namely duties towards their family, workplace, and ultimately modern state.
- The Fundamental Duties can be defined as the moral obligations of all citizens to help promote a spirit of patriotism and to uphold the unity of India. In other words, fundamental duty means moral obligation and commitment to someone or something.
- Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties are inter-related. If someone performs his or her duties properly, it signifies that the basic rights of others are safeguarded and vice-versa.
- If a person fulfils of his or her duties then he or she must be in a moral position to get his/her basic rights. Therefore, no one can enjoy rights without performing their duties.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND..

- The Fundamental duty was not included in the constitution of India when it began.
- The Swaran Singh Committee appointed by the Congress Party for a review of the Constitution had recommended that certain Fundamental Duties and obligations which every citizen owed the nation should be included in the Constitution.
- The Fundamental duties were included in the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976.
- It incorporated the fundamental Duties by inserting a new article 51A below article 51 which belongs to part IV-A
- The recommendations were passed in 1976 and came into effect on 3rd January 1977
- Originally ten in number but one added by the 86th amendment act, in 2002.
- The inclusion of Fundamental Duties brought our Constitution in line with article 29 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with provisions in several modern Constitutions of other countries like Japan, China, and the USSR.

EMERGENCE & EVOLUTION

- Pre-Independence era: Before India gained independence in 1947, the concept of Fundamental Duties did not exist in the Indian legal framework. The focus was primarily on securing Fundamental Rights for citizens, as outlined in the Government of India Act, 1935, and later in the Constitution of India.
- Post-Independence Period: After independence, the Constitution of India, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, enshrined several Fundamental Rights for its citizens in Part III. But did not initially include any provisions regarding Fundamental Duties.
- The idea of incorporating Fundamental Duties into the Constitution was first suggested by K. Santhanam Committee in 1961. The Committee recommended the inclusion of certain duties to promote a sense of discipline, unity, and social responsibility among citizens.
- In subsequent years, several committees and commissions highlighted the importance of incorporating Fundamental Duties into the Constitution.

Continue..

- The Swaran Singh Committee, appointed in 1976, recommended the inclusion of Fundamental Duties to promote national integration and the spirit of patriotism.
- The emergence of Fundamental Duties was influenced by the principles outlined in the Preamble of the Constitution, which emphasizes justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- These duties sought to balance individual rights with societal responsibilities, fostering a sense of collective welfare and nationhood.
- They represent a proactive approach towards citizenship, promoting active participation in nation-building and social cohesion.

Fundamental Duties of the Citizen of India (Art. 51A)

- to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem: Citizens are obligated to respect the Constitution, the national flag, and the national anthem.
- To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom: Citizens are expected to honor the sacrifices made by freedom fighters and work towards the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India: Citizens must defend the nation against any threat to its sovereignty and integrity.
- to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so: Citizens may be required to serve in the defence forces or contribute to national service in times of need.

Continue..

- to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women:
- to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture: Citizens should respect and preserve the diverse cultural heritage of India.
- to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures: Citizens have a duty to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.
- to develop the scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform: Citizens should promote scientific thinking, humanism, and a spirit of inquiry.

Continue..

- **to safeguard public property and to abjure violence:** Citizens must protect public property and refrain from engaging in violence or acts of terrorism.
- **to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement:** Citizens are encouraged to pursue excellence in their personal and professional lives.
- **Who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years:** Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring the education of their children.

Value & Significance

- **Patriotism:** Fundamental Duties instill a deep sense of patriotism and love for the country, fostering a strong bond between citizens and the nation.
- **Social Responsibility:** Citizens are encouraged to contribute to the welfare of society, promoting inclusivity and collective well-being.
- **Environmental Consciousness:** The duties highlight the importance of environmental preservation and sustainable development, promoting responsible stewardship of natural resources.
- **Ethical Conduct:** Upholding integrity, honesty, and ethical values in all aspects of life is emphasized, fostering a culture of integrity and trust.
- The Fundamental Duties serve as a moral and ethical guideline for citizens, reminding them of their responsibilities towards society and the nation.
- Upholding these duties fosters a sense of unity, discipline, and commitment among citizens, contributing to the overall development and progress of the nation.
- They complement the Fundamental Rights and together form the foundation of a just and democratic society.

Challenges & Way Forwards

- Non-justiciable in nature.
- Despite their significance, awareness and adherence to Fundamental Duties remain relatively low among the general population.
- Challenges include lack of awareness, enforcement mechanisms, and cultural barriers.
- Education and awareness campaigns, integration into school curricula, and community engagement programs can help promote greater understanding and compliance with Fundamental Duties.

Concluding Remarks

- In conclusion, the Fundamental Duties of India is a vital component of citizenship, emphasizing the importance of responsible and ethical behaviour.
- Upholding these duties is not only a legal obligation but also a moral imperative for every citizen, contributing to the collective welfare and progress of the nation.
- Let us pledge to fulfill our duties towards the nation with dedication and commitment, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for India.

Question & Answer

Thank You