



Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties: A Review

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Abstract:

The Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties represent sections of the Constitution of India that prescribe the fundamental obligations of the State^o to its citizens and the duties of the citizens to the State. Those sections comprise a constitutional bill of rights guideline for government policy-making and the behavior and conduct of citizens developed between 1947 and 1949 by the Constituent Assembly of India. Credit for the remarkable success of India in establishing itself as a Republic in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges goes the Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, and Fundamental Duties. The first and foremost task of a government is to protect the basic rights of its citizens to life, liberty, property, freedom of religious belief and practice, and freedom of association. If that is lacking, economic and social justice will fail. The rights, principles, and duties have provided the stability and balance needed for the Indian ship of state to sail safely through treacherous waters.

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Introduction:

The Fundamental Rights (embodied in Part III of the constitution) guarantee civil liberties such that all Indians can lead their lives in peace as citizens of India. The six fundamental rights include the right to equality, right to freedom, right against exploitation, right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights and right to constitutional remedies.

Those include individual rights common to most liberal democracies, incorporated in the fundamental law of the land, enforceable in a court of law. Violations of those rights result in punishments as prescribed in the Indian Penal Code, subject to discretion of the judiciary. Neither absolute nor immune from constitutional amendments, the rights have been aimed at overturning the inequalities of pre-independence social practices. Specifically, they resulted in abolishment of untouchability and prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. They forbid human trafficking and unfree labour. They protect cultural and