

A citizen of a country is an individual recognized under the custom or law as being a legal member of a sovereign nation or allegiance to a government in exchange for its protection, whether at home or abroad. A citizen is one of the dominant pillars of the country. They are entitled to enjoy all the legal rights and privileges granted by a state to the people encompassing its constituency and are obligated to obey its laws and to attain his or her duties as called upon. We are all a citizen of our country and retain several rights and responsibilities towards our community, state, and country.

Each citizen has a responsibility to make his or her community a decent place to inhabit. When you are a responsible citizen, it implies that you know your duty adequately and will volunteer for numerous things that are required by the community or the society in general.

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

A responsible citizen abides by all the law and order of the country. They are entitled to exercise all the fundamental rights and duties, such as casting a vote, paying government taxes and protecting the country from corruption. Being a good and responsible citizen of the country, one must engage in activities or assist in tackling issues such as keeping the environment clean, raising money for charities, conserving electricity, water, and natural resources, or protecting public properties, etc.

Every state or country provides its citizens with some fundamental civil rights such as personal rights, religious rights, social rights, moral rights, economic rights, and political rights, etc. A right is a liberty that is protected by the state, such as the right to free speech and religion.

Rights are given to the citizens for their individual moral, material or personality development and growth in social life. Responsibility is a moral duty that one should perform, such as recycling, preserving culture and heritage, etc. Voting is both a right and a responsibility.

INDIAN CONSTITUTION PROVIDES SIX FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO THEIR CITIZENS, WHICH ARE:

- ❖ Right to Equality (*Article 14 – Article 18*)
- ❖ Right to Religion (*Articles 25 – Article 28*)
- ❖ Right against Exploitation (*Articles 23 – Article 24*)
- ❖ Right to Culture and Education (*Articles 29 – Article 30*)
- ❖ Right to Freedom (*Articles 19 – Article 22*)
- ❖ Right to Constitutional Remedies (*Article 32*)

To completely enjoy the rights, citizens must perform their responsibilities towards the country in a decent manner because the rights and responsibilities of an individual are inter-related to each other. If we have rights, we must have their corresponding responsibilities too. Rights and duties of each citizen preserved in the Indian Constitution are very valuable and inter-related considering the prosperity of the country.

RESPONSIBLE INDIAN CITIZEN

In the Constitution of India book published and accepted by the first parliament of India on 26th of January 1950, under Article 51A, it's been duly pointed out that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India –

- ✚ *To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;*
- ✚ *To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;*
- ✚ *To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India*
- ✚ *To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;*
- ✚ *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;*
- ✚ *To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;*
- ✚ *To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;*
- ✚ *To safeguard public property and to abjure violence;*
- ✚ *To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;*
- ✚ *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 to fourteen years?*

The constitution book delineates every responsibility and duty that an Indian citizen is expected to abide by. As a citizen of the country, we are morally and legally required to perform our duties furnished by the government. They can be civic duties or moral duties which cannot be enforced legally upon the citizens even by the courts.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES AND FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

The Indian Constitution provides different sections of Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of the State Policy to regulate the conduct of citizens among each other, and the state's conduct with the citizens. These different segments of the Indian Constitution provide a rule book of rights, duties, and guidelines for citizens' behavior and conduct along with the parameters with which the government has to keep itself fully aligned while making laws.

- The Fundamental Rights are defined as the basic human rights of all citizens. Part III of the Indian Constitution contains all the fundamental rights applicable to all the individuals irrespective of race, religion, caste, creed or gender or place of birth. All these rights are enforceable by the courts, subject to specific restrictions. The basic idea behind formulating these Fundamental Rights is to protect the liberty of citizens and to maintain the social democracy of the country based on the factors of equality in society.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ARE RIGHT TO EQUALITY, RIGHT TO FREEDOM, RIGHT AGAINST EXPLOITATION, RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS, RIGHT TO CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDIES AND RIGHT TO PRIVACY.

- The Directive Principles of State Policy serves as guidelines for the government to incorporate while framing the laws. These principles are enshrined in Part IV of the Indian Constitution set forth the fundamental guidelines for the State to apply in framing, enacting and passing laws establishing a social, economic democratic nation.
- The Fundamental Duties have been defined as the moral obligations of all the citizens to help promote the welfare of the country and to uphold the unity of the nation. These duties are set out in Part IVA of the Indian Constitution concerning the individuals and the nation. Just like the Directive Principles, these duties represent guidelines that the citizens should obey for the welfare of a democratic nation.

The Directive Principles of State Policy have been used to lay down the guidelines and principles to achieve social equality, economic equality, and educational upliftment. The relationship between the Fundamental Rights, Duties and Directive Principles can be understood as a method for attaining the national peace, security, and welfare.

In the landmark judgment of the *Kesavananda Bharati case*, the Apex Court had showcased the assisting and supplementing nature of the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles. The Apex Court had referred to the Fundamental Duties as an element to justify the Constitutional principles of laws and policies aiming to elevate the objects laid out under the section of Fundamental Duties. These Duties have been referred to as an imperative part of all citizens' conduct.

The inter-relationship between the Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy is politically valuable in the constitutional context. While rights and duties lay down the principles for citizens to behave and act in society, the directive principles are the guidelines for the State to create and enact laws for the welfare of the nation. These principles lay down different guidelines for different sections of society securing social and economic freedom.

Being a citizen of India, some of the moral responsibilities and duties mentioned in the constitution are: *We must respect the National Flag and National Anthem, obey the laws of our country, protect the power, unity and integrity of the country, safeguard public property, pay our taxes with honesty promptly, protect and preserve cultural heritage sites, protect, preserve and improve the natural environment, we must guard the country and maintain the spirit of a common brotherhood, we must respect, value and follow all the noble ideals used in the national struggle for freedom, etc.* Inclusion of such commitments to the Constitution is important for the progress, peace, and prosperity of the country.

Authored By

Mr. Jyotirmoy Banerjee

*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law,
Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur*