

Struggle for Equality

Q1. What do you think is meant by the expression 'power over the ballot box'? Discuss.

Ans. Power over the ballot box, signifies the power of the common people who are availing the right to vote in every election.

They are the real power of any country, who are driving the government and the working of the system without any second thoughts.

Q2. What issue is the Tawa Matsya Sangh (TMS) fighting for?

Ans. The Tawa Matsya Sangh is a federation of Fisherworker's cooperatives. It is an organisation fighting for the rights of the displaced forest dwellers of the Satpura forest in Madhya Pradesh.

Q3. Why did the villagers set up Tawa Matsya Sangh?

Ans. In 1994, the government gave the rights for fishing in the Tawa reservoir to private contractors. These contractors drove the local people away and got cheap labour from outside. The contractors began to threaten the villagers, who did not want to leave, by bringing in hoodlums. The villagers stood united and set up an organization to protect their rights.

Q4. Do you think that the large-scale participation of villagers has contributed to the success of the TMS? Write two lines on why you think so.

Ans. Yes, large-scale participation of villagers has contributed to the success of the TMS. Villagers organised rallies and a chakka jam (road blockade), demanding their right to continue fishing for their livelihood. In response to their protests, the government created a committee to assess the issue.

Q9. What role does the Constitution play in people's struggles for equality?

Ans. Constitution plays a significant role in the people's struggle for equality. It ensures freedom and fair treatment. In the eye of constitution everyone is equal. No one has precedence over another. It ensures that every person must get equal rights under the law. It makes sure that every one has access to the basic and fundamental rights.