Rights in Indian Constitution

In Indian Constitution the Rights of citizens are mentioned. Some Rights which are fundamental to our life are given a special status. They are our Fundamental Rights. Our preamble secures for all citizens equality, liberty and justice. Fundamental Rights put this promise into effect. They are an important basic feature of India’s constitution. The six Fundamental Rights are –

Right to Equality The government should not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws. It means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person’s status.

The government shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, caste, ethnicity, sex or place of birth. Every citizen shall have access to public places like shops, restaurants, hotels, and cinema halls. Similarly, there shall be no restriction with regard to the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads, playgrounds and places of public resorts maintained by government or dedicated to the use of general public.

All citizens have equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment or appointment to any position in the government.

The constitution mentions one extreme form of social discrimination, the practice of untouchability, and clearly directs the government to put an end to it. The constitution made it a punishable offence.

Right to Freedom The Indian Constitution has given all the citizens the right to-

1. Freedom of speech and expression
2. Assembly in a peaceful manner
3. Form associations and unions.
4. Move freely throughout the country.
5. Reside in any part of the country.
6. Practice any profession, or carry on any occupation, trade or business.

Right against Exploitation- The Constitution ensures that every citizen has a right not to be exploited. The Constitution mentions three specific evils and declares these illegal.

1. The Constitution prohibits “traffic in human beings”. Traffic here means selling and buying of human beings, usually women, for immoral purposes.
2. It prohibits forced labour or beggar in any form.
3. It prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below the age of fourteen to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work, such as railways and ports.

Right to Freedom of Religion- Every person has a right to profess, practice and propagate the religion he or she believes in. Every religious group or sect is free to manage its religious affairs. But it does not mean that a person has right to compel another person to convert into his religion by means of force, fraud, inducement or allurement.

Cultural and Educational Rights-The Constitution gives minorities the cultural and educational rights-

1. Any section of citizens with a distinct language or culture has a right to conserve it.
2. Admission to any educational institution maintained by government or receiving government can’t be denied to any citizen on the ground of religion or language.
3. All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

For securing these above mentioned right the Constitution has made provision of a right “Right to Constitutional Remedies”- It is also a Fundamental Right and makes other rights effective. It is possible that sometimes our rights may be violated by fellow citizens, private bodies or by the government. When any of our rights are violated we can seek remedy through courts. If it is a Fundamental Right we can directly approach the Supreme Court or the High Court of a state. Therefore, this right is called the heart and soul of our Constitution.