Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Analyse John rawls’s concept of social justice in the Indian Context.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

John Rawls; justice as fairness; equal basic liberties; fair equality of opportunity; difference principle; affirmative action; social inequality; constitutional justice

Model Answer

Introduction

John Rawls's theory of justice as fairness seeks to establish principles for a just society, particularly protecting basic liberties and improving the position of the least advantaged.

Core Principles

- **Equal basic liberties:** Every individual should enjoy equal fundamental freedoms.
- **Fair equality of opportunity:** Social background should not determine access to education, employment and public positions.
- **Difference principle:** Socio-economic inequalities are acceptable only when they benefit the least advantaged.

Application to India

India's constitutional commitment to equality, liberty and social justice reflects similar concerns. Reservations for historically disadvantaged communities, welfare programmes and legal protections aim to address structural inequalities.

However, caste discrimination, gender disparities, unequal educational opportunities and regional poverty continue to restrict substantive equality. Effective implementation, quality public services and targeted support remain essential.

Rawls's approach also highlights the importance of designing institutions from an impartial perspective rather than privileging dominant groups.

Conclusion

Rawls's theory offers a valuable framework for inclusive development in India. Its principles support equal liberties, fair opportunities and policies that improve the lives of disadvantaged citizens while respecting constitutional rights.

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