

Equality

Equality is the pillar of democracy. The concept of equality got popular in 18th century after the French revolution and the American war of Independence. In 19th and 20th century it gained much popularity and proclaim. In present age, the concept of equality has been almost accepted by all the states.

Meaning of Equality

In common usage equality means equal income, equal distribution of money and no discrimination should be made on the basis of one's intelligence, ability, education and commitment etc. But this is not the correct meaning of equality. Equality means to remove wide disparities in the society, to end special privileges, to give equal opportunities on the basis of ability and to make provisions to fulfill the basic needs of individuals.

According to Laski

“Equality does not mean that identity of treatment and the sameness of rewards. If a bricklayer gets the same reward as a mathematician or a scientist, the purpose of the society will be defeated. Equality, therefore, means first of all the absence of special privileges and in the second place it means that adequate opportunities are laid upon to all.”

Characteristics of equality

- Absence of special rights
- Equal opportunities for development
- Fulfillment of minimum needs
- Absence of class divisions
- Discrimination on relevant grounds

Various Dimensions Of Equality

- Legal dimension of equality
- Political dimension of equality
- Social dimension of equality
- Economic dimension of equality

Legal dimension of equality

The concept of legal equality confirms that all the citizens in the state are equal in the eyes of the law. Law and judiciary will not discriminate on the basis of wealth, colour, caste, creed or sex.

Provisions of legal dimensions

- Equality before law
- Equal protection of law
- Provisions of equal law

- Equal rights to all
- Equal opportunities in public appointments
- Special provisions for the weaker section of society
- Prohibition of discriminations
- Absence of special privileges rational basis of discrimination

Political dimension of equality

Political equality means that all the citizens of the state are provided equal political rights. Citizens should be given rights to participate in the affairs of the state

Characteristics of political equality

- Right to vote
- Right to contest the election
- Right to hold public office
- Right to appeal
- Right to criticise the government
- Right to form the political parties

Social dimension of equality

Social equality means no discrimination on the basis of caste, colour, creed, sex and religion etc.

Characteristics of social equality

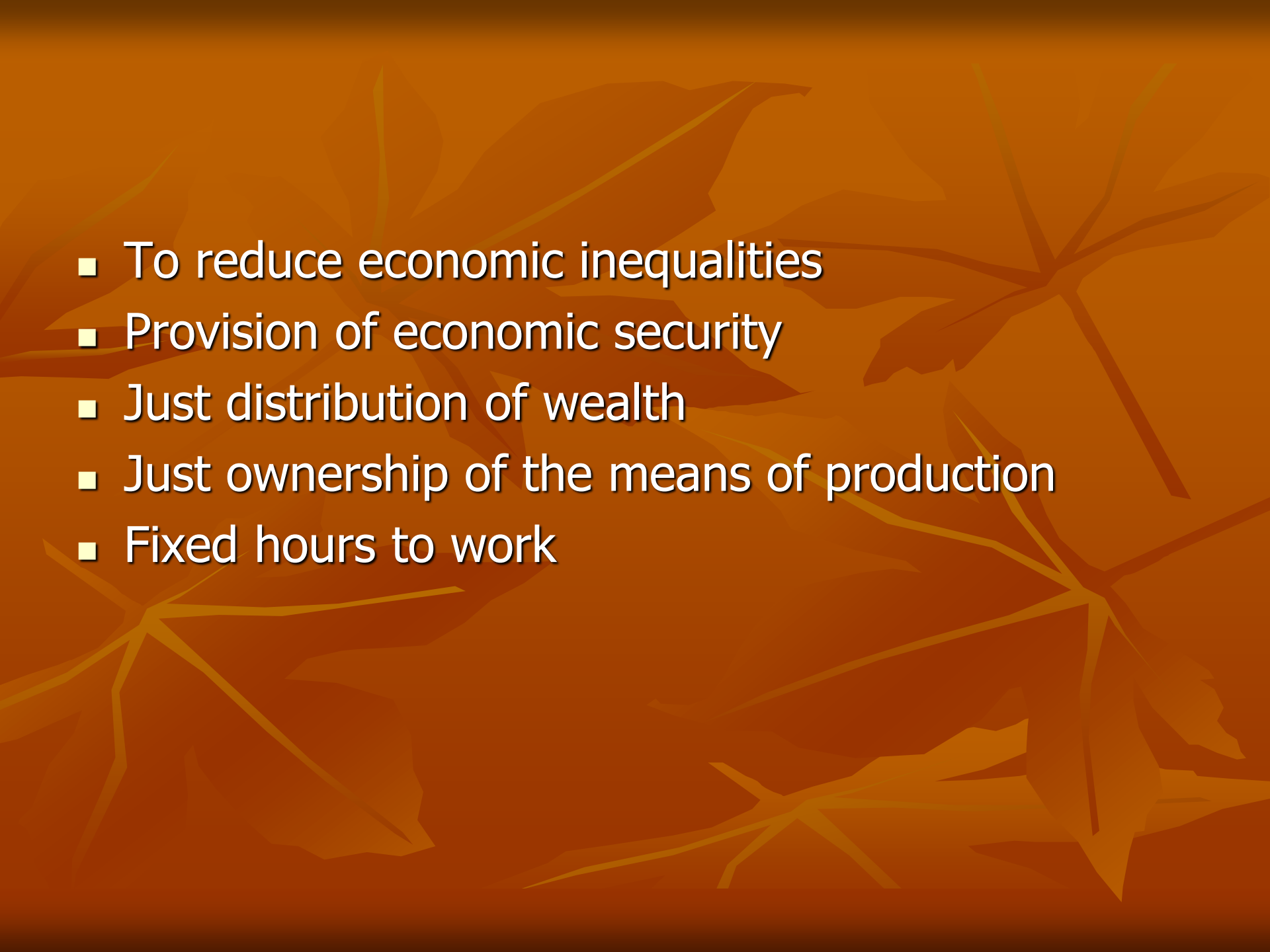
- Absence of special privileges
- Prohibition of discriminations
- Free access to public places
- No discrimination on the basis of gender
- Equality of opportunities in public employment
- Provision of protective discriminations

Economic dimensions of equality

Economic equality does not mean equal distribution of money. Economic equality means every person should have equal chances to earn his livelihood. Man's fundamental needs should be fulfilled and distribution of money should be fair.

Different aspects of economic equality

- Equal opportunities to earn livelihood
- Equal wages for the same job
- Fulfillment of basic needs

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- To reduce economic inequalities
 - Provision of economic security
 - Just distribution of wealth
 - Just ownership of the means of production
 - Fixed hours to work

Relationship between liberty and equality

- Liberty and equality opposite to each other
- Nature has created all men equal
- Economic freedom and equality are equal
- Competent individuals fail to show their competency
- Principal of equal freedom is wrong

Liberty and equality are not opposite to each other

- Purpose of both is same
- For the enjoyment of freedom equality is needed
- For civil liberty, equality before law is must
- For political freedom equal opportunities are needed
- Liberty and equality are pillars of democracy
- Both have developed side by side

Relationship between economic equality and political liberty

- It is impossible for a poor man to make proper use of his right to vote
- A poor man comes under the influence of greediness
- Non use of vote by a poor man
- A poor man can not contest elections
- Poverty are to be a good leader, both are opposite to each other
- Political parties are under the control of rich people
- Press is an instrument of the rich
- No attention is paid to the petition of a poor person

History support this

Conclusion

After reading above we can conclude that equality means ending special rights and providing equal chances to all the citizens. There is a close relationship between liberty and equality. They are complementary to each other. There is also a close relationship between political liberty and economic equality. Political equality is just a fraud in the absence of economic quality.

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