



Lesson: 4

Courage in the struggle for Human Rights

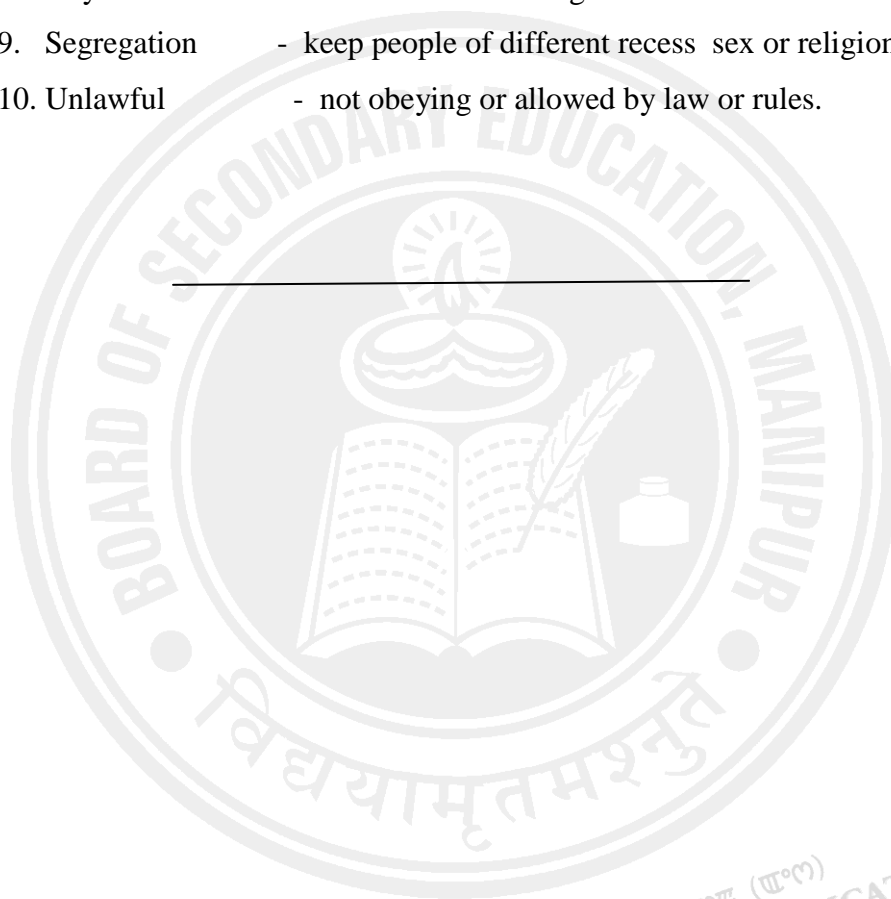
NOTES:

SUMMARY:

The lesson is about those courageous men and women who had struggled hard to prevent the violation of human rights and the resultant erosion in the dignity of life of man on earth. Two separate incidents have been cited here one involving Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and the other Rosa Parks who both had stood up against unjust and unfair rules/laws that deprived a particular section of people of their dignity and basic human rights. The first incident happened while Gandhi was in South Africa. He had boarded a train to Pretoria with a first class ticket but he was informed later to move to the van compartment because he cannot travel together with a white passenger even though he had a first class ticket. When Gandhi refused to go voluntarily he was thrown out with his suitcase on to the station platform. The second incident happened in an American town called Montgomery in December, 1955 to a black woman named Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks was an ordinary, law abiding citizen who after a long day work at a dressmaker's shop on that day just wanted to rest her feet and she was relieved when she found many vacant seats on the bus she was going home. But during those days not all laws and rules were fair and one such rule was that every time a white passenger climbed into a bus, black passenger have to give up their seats, get off the bus and go round to the back door. They could get on the bus again and travel as standing passengers. On that particular day Rosa Parks refused to get up because she feels that the rule was unfair and unfair rules ought not to be in the rule book. She was arrested and sent to jail. The black people of Montgomery decided to fight for Rosa Parks and boycotted the buses. The bus company lost millions of dollars because without black passengers buses ran almost empty. Rosa Parks was tried in a court of law and the court ordered her to pay fine which she refused and appeal to the Supreme Court. The Judges of the Supreme Court laid down that segregation was unlawful in public transport services as it was against the law of the country. Americans called Rosa Parks Mother of the Black Civil Rights Movement.

A. Word Meanings:

1. Human rights - basic rights which belong to all people such as freedom.
2. Vitals - essential for life .
3. Courageous - brave, having courage.
4. Dignity - the quality of being worthy of respect.
5. Vacant - empty.
6. Curses - using an offensive word or phrases to express anger or annoyance.
7. Arrest - seize someone and take them into custody.
8. Boycott - refuse to have dealings with
9. Segregation - keep people of different recess sex or religion separate.
10. Unlawful - not obeying or allowed by law or rules.



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