

DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

The Directive Principles constitute a very comprehensive social, economic and political programme for a modern and welfare state. These principles emphasises that the State shall try to promote welfare of people by providing them basic facilities like shelter, food and clothing.

Directive Principles of State Policy – Classification

Indian Constitution has not originally classified DPSPs but on the basis of their content and direction, they are usually classified into three types-

- **Socialistic Principles,**
- **Gandhian Principles** and,
- **Liberal-Intellectual Principles.**

The details of the three types of DPSPs are given below:

DPSP – Socialistic Principles	
Definition: They are the principles that aim at providing social and economic justice and set the path towards the welfare state. Under various articles, they direct the state to:	
Article 38	Promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order through justice—social, economic and political—and to minimise inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities
Article 39	Secure citizens: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens• Equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good• Prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production• Equal pay for equal work for men and women• Preservation of the health and strength of workers and children against forcible abuse• Opportunities for the healthy development of children
Article 39A	Promote equal justice and free legal aid to the poor
Article 41	In cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, secure citizens: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Right to work• Right to education• Right to public assistance,
Article 42	Make provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief
Article 43	Secure a living wage, a decent standard of living and social and cultural opportunities for all workers
Article 43A	Take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries
Article 47	Raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and to improve public health

DPSP – Gandhian Principles

Definition: These principles are based on Gandhian ideology used to represent the programme of reconstruction enunciated by Gandhi during the national movement. Under various articles, they direct the state to:

Article 40	Organise village panchayats and endow them with necessary powers and authority to enable them to function as units of self-government
Article 43	Promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operation basis in rural areas
Article 43B	Promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of co-operative societies
Article 46	Promote the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections of the society and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation
Article 47	Prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health
Article 48	Prohibit the slaughter of cows, calves and other milch and draught cattle and to improve their breeds

DPSP –Liberal-Intellectual Principles

Definition: These principles reflect the ideology of liberalism. Under various articles, they direct the state to:

Article 44	Secure for all citizens a uniform civil code throughout the country
Article 45	Provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years
Article 48	Organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines
Article 49	Protect monuments, places and objects of artistic or historic interest which are declared to be of national importance
Article 50	Separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State
Article 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote international peace and security and maintain just and honourable relations between nations • Foster respect for international law and treaty obligations • Encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration

42nd Amendment Act, 1976 added four new Directive Principles in the list:

Sl No.	Article	New DPSPs
1	Article 39	To secure opportunities for the healthy development of children
2	Article 39A	To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor
3	Article 43A	To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries
4	Article 48A	To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife

Criticism of Directive Principles of State Policy

As a point of debate, the following reasons are stated for the criticism of Directive Principles of State Policy:

1. It has no legal force
2. It is illogically arranged
3. It is conservative in nature
4. It may produce constitutional conflict between centre and state