

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES OF THE INDIAN CITIZENS

Fundamental Duties of the citizens have also been enumerated for the Indian citizens By the **42nd Amendment of the Constitution**, adopted in **1976**. **Article 51 A** contained in **Part IV A** of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Duties. Fundamental Duties are **taken from the Constitution of Russia**.

The list of 11 Fundamental Duties under article 51-A to be obeyed by every Indian citizen is given in the table below:

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES
1. Abide by the Indian Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem
2. Cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom
3. Uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India
4. Defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so
5. Promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women
6. Value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture
7. Protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures
8. Develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform
9. Safeguard public property and to abjure violence
10. Strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement
11. Provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002

Criticism of Fundamental Duties:

- Some of them are difficult to be understood by common people.
- Criticized for being moral precepts, pious platitudes, vague and repetitive
- No need to be implemented as they all are performed by the people even if not included

- Their inclusion in Part IV-A after fundamental rights has reduced their value and significance.
- Some of the important points which were recommended by Swaran Singh committee were not included, such as
 - 1.** Parliament should impose penalty or punishment in case of non compliance of duties.
 - 2.** If punishment is imposed according to above clause, it cannot be called in question in any court on any ground.
 - 3.** Duty to pay taxes to be incorporated as fundamental duty.

Thus, finally it can be said that the government efforts cannot be successful unless citizens of the country generally participate in the decision making process of the government. Even the unstated duties like voting should be effectively discharged by the citizens. Public spirited people and politicians should come forward to take interest in local community problems. These duties are a constant reminder to us of the national goals as well as the basic norms of political order. They may inspire us to inculcate in ourselves a sense of social responsibility.