

Q1. Critically trace the African American Struggle for equality and how many of them rose to highest office.

African American Struggle for Equality:  
Slavery has always existed even in pre-historic areas. In American colonies - earlier the 13 British colonies - the slavery began in 1619 when first slave ship into Virginia coast was documented. As south colonies were dependent on agriculture, they had vast land but the labour force was a major issue. Initially indentured servants and indigenous Indians were tried as servants but that did not prove as beneficial.

African Americans were best as for slavery as they were adapted to the temperate climate, hardworking, no place to return and were disunited.

1807 Thomas Jefferson abolished further import of slaves to the continent. But by 1810 already the slave population was about 4 million African American. This increasing population ignited sense of unity that threatened the white people.

Emancipation Proclamation: During Civil War in United States, among confederates and Union states, slavery was a major issue. As north colonies

were against it whereas south favoured slavery by all means. In 1863 Abraham Lincoln announced emancipation proclamation to all the slaves in south states. Those African American then joined the union forces and became their strength. 1865 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment To end the issue of slavery once and for all the slavery was banned in America. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment further defined citizenship and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave the right to vote with certain regulations.

### Effect of Amendments on African-Americans

As in 1787 it was decided that slavery issue will be further delayed to be discussed and later it was made a state issue these amendments ignited the white supremacists.

In citizenship African-Americans were not given much liberty whereas as per the strict mentioned regulations of the voting this right was not for Black peoples practice. They were not educated and did not have much wealth to be regular Tax payers.

### Slavery Codes:

The south dominated congress passed out several bills to limit the African American gatherings. White boys

were assigned to patrol post sunset to manage black curfew. And other codes were such as, right to read and write, right to pray without white priest, right to leave plantation without master's permission was were denounced.

### Struggle for Equality:

Post WWII the African American started demanding for equality in every sphere of life.

#### a) 1896 Plessy Vs Ferguson

Among such struggles was struggle of Plessy, a man of ~~str~~ color.

He filed a case against his conviction for sitting on an all white bus. Court held

You are an <sup>equal</sup> citizen but a separate citizen.

This declaration further proved as a base for segregation in every field of their life.

#### b) 1954 Black Vs Board of Education:

Parents of a child appealed in a Court to let their child attend a nearby white school that has more facilities than a faraway black school. Court ordered in favour but the governor of the state closed that school.

#### c) 1955 Rosa Park Case

An African American working women

from Alabama sit sat on an available white seat. She was taken to jail. As the Doctrine of Equal but Separate legalised the segregation in all fields of their lives and those who defy the rules were punished legally.

#### d) Montgomery Bus Boycott:

On Rosa Parks sentenced to jail people of Alabama striked and boycotted against all the buses which were following segregation.

This led to almost bankruptcy of the bus. Court held that segregation in buses was illegal. After 10 months trial Rosa Park was evicted from jail.

#### e) Montgomery Improvement Association:

The association was made to lead the struggle towards abolishment of segregation following Rosa Park's sentenced to jail. Martin Luther King was its elected president.

f) 1957 Little Rock Nine: Nine students were allowed admission in an all black school by the Supreme Court. Governor sent police to bar their entry. Also white parents came to protest against this act. President Eisenhower asked removal of police that.

White parents attacked those students to not let them enter into the school. When the children of lesser God entered the Never-Never Land. Maya Angelas.

### g) Abolishment of Segregations of School:

President Eisenhower abolished the segregation and let students of all colors to join same schools.

### h) 1961 Student's Protest:

Though segregation of schools was abolished but within school all the facilities were segregated.

4 students protested to not eat lunch until black and white students be given food from same lunch corner within a week 60,000 students joined the protest. It lead within school segregation to ends.

### i) Mississippi University Admission:

An Airforce veteran wanted to join Mississippi university but was not allowed by Governor. As the governor himself stood on the gate to prevent his entry into university. President John F Kennedy did the same as Eisenhower to let the student in the school as per court's decision.

### j) 1961 Birmingham Violence:

In a peaceful protest against segregation of restaurants the governor ignited the violence. Protest was live telecasted on American TV. Many white people joined the civil rights movement after witnessing the violence.

k) 1963 March towards Abraham Lincoln Monument

To commemorate 1863 emancipation proclamation a peaceful march was led. It was a successive march joined by a large number of people from different areas of life.

l) Civil Rights Bill 1964:

Bill initiated by John F Kennedy was signed by president in 1964 after President Kennedy's death.

This bill eased the conditions of citizenship, language was not further kept as a base of it. The tax limitation for right to vote was limited, and reduced to many jobs to allow all Americans to vote.

African American's At Highest Offices:

~~Thought~~ The movement of rights is still an going <sup>process</sup>. It is evident that comparatively the rights are accessible to African Americans as they are visible in high offices of America performing respectable duties. Among few of them are:

Kamala Harris: She is a half African American. In 2020 elected as a first black Vice president. Now is a nominee for 2024 presidential election.

Barack Obama: First black American President. He took the office as the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the America.

Condoleezza Rice: She served as the first African American Secretary of States from 2005 to 2009.

Gen Collin Powell: He was the first African American Joint Chief of staff. He also worked as first African American Secretary of State from 2001 to 2005.

Gen Daniel Chappie: He served as a four star general as a fighter pilot.

Justice Thurgood Marshall: He was a prominent Supreme Court Judge in Black vs Board of Education case.

Ketanji Brown Jackson: She has been elected as a first judge of color to reach the Supreme court in 2022.

Other High Post officials:

After all those years of struggle now many high post offices are commanded by African Americans.

In Congress a visible numbers are present. In president's Cabinet major ministries are taken by them.

2024

## Conclusion:

African American's have come a long way. The struggle of this equality war is marked by various turns of events. Many leaders, among them Martin Luther, Rosa Park, peace-full augmented the favour and attention of the white people toward their rights. Peoples in highest offices, laws protecting Black Rights, laws and actions for reparation of their struggles are evidences of their struggle and achievements. It is an on going and a continuous process. The upcoming election would further navigate the movement of the rights of these American African - Americans.