

DPSP

A comprehensive guide to understanding the common misconceptions and correct interpretations of **Directive Principles of State Policy** in the **Indian Constitution**.

Nature & Scope

Trap 1

✗ DPSPs are optional for the State.

✓ Art. 37: Not enforceable in court but fundamental in governance; State obliged.

Trap 2

✗ DPSPs belong to only one ideology.

✓ They are Socialist + Gandhian + Liberal-Intellectual principles.

Trap 3

✗ DPSPs were borrowed only from Ireland.

✓ Majorly from Ireland, but also influenced by Weimar Constitution, Spain, US.

Trap 4

✗ DPSPs never change.

✓ Expanded via Amendments (42nd, 44th, 86th, 97th).

Trap 5

✗ DPSPs bind only Parliament.

✓ They guide both Centre and States.

Trap 6

✗ DPSPs override Fundamental Rights.

✓ FRs prevail; harmony between FRs & DPSPs is the rule (Kesavananda, Minerva Mills).

Trap 7

✗ DPSPs and FRs have no relation.

✓ Together they form the "Conscience of the Constitution" (Granville Austin).

Trap 8

✗ DPSPs cannot lead to enforceable rights.

✓ Many FRs evolved from DPSPs (RTE, Free Legal Aid).

Trap 9

✗ DPSPs restrict liberty.

✓ They ensure social & economic justice, which strengthens liberty.

Trap 10

✗ Courts cannot use DPSPs.

✓ Courts interpret laws in light of DPSPs.

Socialist Principles

Trap 11

✗ Art. 38 demands absolute equality.

✓ It directs reduction of inequalities in status and opportunities.

Trap 12

✗ Art. 39(b)(c) covers only property.

✓ It ensures fair distribution of material resources & prevents wealth concentration.

Trap 13

✗ Art. 39A is for rich litigants.

✓ It mandates free legal aid & equal justice for the poor.

Trap 14

✗ Art. 41 guarantees jobs to all.

✓ Right to work depends on State's resources & capacity.

Trap 15

✗ Art. 42 = only maternity leave.

✓ It ensures just work conditions + maternity relief.

Trap 16

✗ Art. 43 = rural workers only.

✓ It ensures living wage for all workers + promotes cottage industries.

Trap 17

✗ Art. 43A = only about unions.

✓ It mandates worker participation in industry management.

Trap 18

✗ Art. 44 is irrelevant.

✓ It seeks Uniform Civil Code for national unity.

Trap 19

✗ Art. 47 = only alcohol prohibition.

✓ It covers nutrition, public health, drug prohibition.

Trap 20

✗ Art. 48A = only forests.

✓ It covers environment, forests & wildlife protection.

Gandhian & Liberal-Intellectual Principles

Trap 21

✗ Art. 40 made Panchayats optional.

✓ Made mandatory via 73rd Amendment.

Trap 22

✗ Art. 43 = only wages.

✓ Also promotes cottage industries.

Trap 23

✗ Art. 46 = only SCs.

✓ Covers SCs, STs & weaker sections.

Trap 24

✗ Gandhian DPSPs are outdated.

✓ Still relevant: Gram Swaraj, cooperatives, village industries.

Trap 25

✗ Art. 48 = animal care only.

✓ Directs prohibition of cow & cattle slaughter.

Trap 26

✗ Art. 44 (UCC) has no judicial role.

✓ Courts often urge its implementation (Shah Bano, Sarla Mudgal).

Trap 27

✗ Art. 45 always gave free education.

✓ Originally for 6–14 yrs; post-86th Amendment → early childhood care (0–6 yrs).

Trap 28

✗ Art. 50 separates all powers.

✓ Only separation of judiciary from executive in lower courts.

Trap 29

✗ Liberal DPSPs are foreign imports.

✓ They ensure modern constitutional ethos (education, environment, peace).

Trap 30

✗ Only Gandhian principles are significant.

✓ Courts also stress liberal ones (environment, UCC).

Amendments & Judicial Role

Trap 31

✗ 42nd Amendment did not add DPSPs.

✓ Added 39A, 43A, 48A.

Trap 32

✗ 44th weakened DPSPs.

✓ It strengthened 39(b)(c).

Trap 33

✗ 86th only added Art. 21A.

✓ Also changed 45 & added 51A(k) duty.

Trap 34

✗ 97th only amended Part IXB.

✓ Inserted 43B (cooperatives) into DPSPs.

Trap 35

✗ DPSPs froze in 1950.

✓ They evolve with new amendments.

Trap 36

✗ SC ignored DPSPs.

✓ SC evolved many rights from them (RTE, Environment).

Trap 37

✗ DPSPs = legally useless.

✓ SC calls them fundamental in governance (Minerva Mills).

Trap 38

✗ Kesavananda rejected DPSPs.

✓ It gave them importance but under Basic Structure harmony.

Trap 39

✗ Reservations unrelated to DPSPs.

✓ Art. 46 supported SC/ST welfare (N.M. Thomas).

Trap 40

✗ Courts can never push DPSPs.

✓ They issue guidelines & mandamus indirectly.

Implementation & Special Traps

Trap 41

✗ DPSPs have no political role.

✓ Used in policy-making & manifestos.

Trap 42

✗ DPSPs = domestic policy only.

✓ Art. 51 promotes international peace, treaties.

Trap 43

✗ DPSPs are enforceable in courts.

✓ They are politically enforceable, not legally.

Trap 44

✗ DPSPs are outdated.

✓ Modern DPSPs (environment, co-ops, education) = highly relevant.

Trap 45

✗ DPSPs and Duties are unconnected.

✓ Part IVA (Fundamental Duties) was added to complement DPSPs.

Trap 46

✗ DPSPs = only social justice.

✓ They also guide foreign policy (Art. 51).

Trap 47

✗ Parliament can legally ignore DPSPs.

✓ True in courts, but political accountability makes them binding in practice.

Trap 48

✗ DPSPs apply unconditionally.

✓ Many (like Art. 41) depend on State's resources.

Trap 49

✗ DPSPs influence only laws.

✓ They shape laws, executive policies, judicial rulings, amendments.

Trap 50

✗ DPSPs completely failed.

✓ Many realised: Panchayats, RTE, legal aid, environment, co-operatives.