

Freedom From Restraint

1. Freedom to do anything

a. Definition

Freedom is a mental condition – a condition of the spirit. All of us are free, if we but choose to acknowledge it. To borrow from Rose Wilder Lane, freedom is control of self. The essence of your "self" is your mind, soul, and spirit. We all are always free to change our thoughts, improve our knowledge and understanding, change our attitudes and beliefs - the inner part of each of us. Liberty is a condition of the physical body: the absence of physical restraints. We seek liberty to use our resources, time, intelligence, and energy in the most beneficial (to us) way.

b. Do we have freedom to do anything?

It seems no doubt that people have 'freedom' in this democratic society. But is it true that we have freedom to do anything? Since we live as a member of society, it is not possible for an individual to have unlimited freedom. As we all know, we have "responsibility" as well as "freedom". Therefore we need to think about social freedom and social unfreedom.

c. Social freedom

The word "freedom", with its synonym "liberty", has strong laudatory connotation. It has therefore been applied to whatever actions, policies, or institutions may be deemed valuable, from obeying the law to attaining economic affluence. It is, however, social freedom that is most frequently referred to when we talk about the concept of freedom.

The concept social freedom refers to relationships of interaction between persons or groups. Its concept is best defined by reference to another, interaction relation, social unfreedom.

(1) Social unfreedom

With respect to actor B, actor A is unfree to perform action x if and only if B makes it either impossible or punishable for A to do x. "B makes it impossible for A to do x" means that B performs some action y such that were A to attempt x, his attempt would fail. Governmental sanctions against illegal acts are only one example of punishability as an instance of social unfreedom.

(2) Social freedom

Social freedom is not the contradictory of social unfreedom. A relationship of freedom refers to a set of at least two alternative actions, I am unfree to do this; I am free to do this or that. An actor is free to act in any one of several ways, provided there is no other actor who makes him unfree to perform any one of these actions. Thus, with respect to B, A is free to do either x or z if and only if B makes it neither impossible nor punishable for A to do either x or z.

2. Freedom guaranteed by Government

As mentioned before, we have social freedom. It is the government that rules and controls various social affairs, conflicts etc. that occur in the society. Then, does the government should guarantee freedom for citizens?

a. Social contract

Social contract means that each individual concerned consented and, so, removed himself from the "state of nature" and helped set in motion a regime of government under laws, of impartially administered justice, Cited of civic morality.

According to social contract, individuals had natural rights in their nature. But to protect and secure himself, he gave up certain part of their rights. That's the reason why people don't have unlimited freedom in a society. While people gave up certain part of their freedom, the government or ruler should guarantee people essential freedom which they had not yet given up, In this way, the government control and protect people more efficiently.

b. Freedom as government by consent

This persuasive definition of freedom is used to express that the norm that government ought to be based on consent of the government and this usually means representative government and majority rule. Under such a system, men are free because their freedom is limited only by measures in enactment of which they were free to participate. With a slight shift in emphasis, "freedom" stands no longer for the government's duty to be responsive to the will of the citizens but for the citizens' duty to obey governmental enactments reflecting the rule of the majority. According to Rousseau, the citizen is free whether he fulfills this obligation freely or lie has been it compelled to be free."