

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. How did organisations in a democracy mobilise movements? Give examples.

Ans. Nepal:

In Nepal, the struggle involved many organisations other than political parties. All the major labour unions and their federations joined this movement.

Many other organisations like the organisation of the indigenous people, teachers, lawyers and human rights groups extended support to the movement.

Bolivia:

The protest against water privatisation in Bolivia was not led by any political party but by an organisation called FEDECOR.

This organisation comprised of local professionals, including engineers and environmentalists.

They were supported by a federation of farmers, the confederation of factory workers' unions, middle class students from the University of Cochabamba and the city's growing population of homeless street children.

So, from both these examples, we can conclude that in a democracy, several different kinds of organisations work behind any big struggle.

Q. 2. Differentiate between issue-specific movements and generic movements. Give an example of an issue-specific movement and explain.

Ans. Issue-specific Movements:

(i) They achieve a single objective within a limited timeframe.

(ii) There is clear leadership.

(iii) They have some sort of an organisation, i.e., organisational features of order, stability, leadership, etc. are visible in them.

(iv) Their active life is usually short, e.g., The Nepalese Movement for Democracy.

Generic Movements:

(i) They are more general movements that seek to achieve a broad goal in the long term.

(ii) They have independent leadership.

(iii) There is no single organisation that controls or guides such movements.

(iv) General movements are environmentalists' movements or the women's movements.

In India, Narmada Bachao Andolan is a good example of this kind of movement.

The movement started with the specific issue of the tribal people displaced by the creation of Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River.

Its objective was to stop the dam from being constructed.

Gradually, it became a wider movement that questioned all such big dams and the model of development that required such dams.

Movements of this kind tend to have a clear leadership and some organisation. But their active life is usually short.

Q. 3. Which organisation contributed in the protest against water privatisation in Bolivia? [CBSE (F) 2017]

OR

“Pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics in different ways.” Support the statement with suitable examples. [CBSE Delhi 2016]

OR

Analyse any five ways by which ‘pressure groups’ can exert influence on politics. [CBSE (F) 2017]

OR

How do pressure groups and movements strengthen democracy? Explain. [CBSE (AI) 2017]

OR

How do the pressure groups and movements influence politics? Explain with examples. [CBSE (Delhi) 2017]

Ans. The protest against water privatisation in Bolivia was not led by any political party. It was led by FEDECOR.

This organisation comprised of local professionals, including engineers and environmentalists.

They were supported by a federation of farmers who relied on irrigation, middle class students, confederation of factory workers' unions and the city's growing population of the homeless street children.

Most of these groups try to influence the media.

Business groups often employ professional lobbyists or sponsor expensive advertisements.

Business groups often employ professional lobbyists.

Some pressure groups formed and led by the leaders of political parties.

Some political parties grow out of movements.

Q. 4. What can we conclude about democracy with reference to popular struggles and movements like Bolivian water war? Explain in detail. [CBSE Sample Question 2016]

OR

Explain with appropriate examples the relevance of 'popular struggle' of both Nepal and Bolivia for democracy. [CBSE (F) 2017]

Ans. Democracy evolves through popular struggles. It is possible that some significant decisions may take place through consensus and may not involve any conflict at all. But that would be an exception.

Defining movements of democracy usually involve conflict between those groups who have exercised power and those who aspire for a share in power.

These movements come when the country is going through transition to democracy, expansion of democracy or deepening of democracy.

Democratic conflict is resolved through mass mobilisation. Sometimes it is possible that the conflict is resolved by using the existing institutions like the parliament or the judiciary.

These conflicts and mobilisations are based on new political organisations where there is an element of spontaneity in all such historic movements.

But the spontaneous public participation becomes effective with the help of organised politics.

Q. 5. Describe the popular struggle of Bolivia. [CBSE (AI) 2016]

OR

What do you know about Bolivia's water war?

Ans. Popular struggle of Bolivia

(i) People's struggle against privatisation of water in Bolivia power that struggles are integral part of democracy.

(ii) The World Bank pressurised the government to give up its control of municipal water supply. The government sold these rights to a multinational company which increased

the price of water by four times. Many people received monthly water bill of ₹1,000 in a country where average income is around ₹5,000 a month.

(iii) In January 2000, a new alliance of labour human rights and community leaders organised a successful four day strike.

(iv) The government agreed to negotiate and the strike was called off.

(v) The police resorted to brutal regression when the agitations started in February followed in April and the government imposed martial law.

(vi) But the power of people forced the officials of the MNC to flee the city and made the government concede to all the demand of the protestors.

(vii) The contract with MNC was cancelled and the water supply was restored with the municipality at old rates.

This popular struggle came to be known as 'Bolivia's Water War'.

Q. 6. Examine the role of pressure groups and movements in deepening democracy.

[CBSE (F) 2016]

Ans. Pressure groups and movements have deepened democracy.

(i) It reminds the government of the needs and concerns of ordinary citizens.

(ii) Put pressure on the rulers for the unhealthy activities.

(iii) It performs a useful role of countering undue influence of the rich and powerful people.

(iv) One single group cannot achieve dominance over society.

(v) The government gets to hear about what different sections of the population want.

(vi) This leads to a rough balance of power and accommodation of conflicting interests.

Q. 7. How are 'movements' different from interest groups? Explain with examples.
[CBSE Delhi 2017]

Ans. Difference between interest groups and movements:

(i) Interest groups do not have a loose organisation whereas Movements have a loose organisation.

(ii) Decision making of interest groups is formal whereas decision making of movements is informal and flexible.

(iii) They do not depend so much on spontaneous mass participation and formed by people with a common interest and occupation. Movements depend much more on spontaneous mass participation.

(iv) Interest groups seek to promote the interest of a particular section or a group of society such as, trade unions/business association doctor etc. Whereas, the movements groups are issue specific that seek to achieve a single objective within a limited time frame such as the Nepalese movement for democracy/ Narmada Bachao Andolan etc.

(v) Interest groups promote collective rather than selective good such as BAMCEF(Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation) whereas the movement groups are more general or generic movement that seek to achieve a broad goal in the very long term such as women's movement.

(vi) Interest groups represent some common or general interest that needs to be defended such as FEDECOR whereas movement group are long term and involve more than one issue such as environmental movement.