Outcomes of Democracy

Introduction:

In class IX we have studied in details the basics of democracy, its organisations as well as its rules and regulations. Along with that we have got to know the delicacies of democracy. We have observed politics very closely while moving through the process of democracy. It is important for us to know certain issues such as ideal and ideas, co-operation and co-ordination, conflict and competition etc. If democracy is the best form of governance then why is it not proving itself in tackling issues like social problems, equality and independence and pride of the people? This is so because democracy due to its qualities brings hope. So, this question is obvious and positive and this will guide us. We can try to evaluate the achievements of democracy. In this process not only our queries will be answered but also lead us to the development of healthy democracy. In this chapter evaluation of democracy will be done at different levels, so that continuous discussion goes on with common understanding of democracy. In this way we will evaluate the achievements of Indian democracy.

Whether democracy is achieving its goal?

Today in about 100 countries democracy is there in one form or the other. Continuous extension of democracy and citizen supports, has been getting proves that democracy is better than all other forms of government.

The citizens' equal opportunity, liberty and dignity are some of the important attractions of democracy. It also has immense potential to minimize the frictions and possibilities of improvement on the basis of merits- demerits. It is also important in this context that decision in democracy is not taken individually but are unanimous. This feature is even the main objective of democracy. With the hopes of people intact there is no less complains towards the democracy.

People expect so much from democracy that even its little deficiency hurts the people. Sometimes we took a risk to consider democracy as the panacea of all diseases and also consider it as a magical remedy for all social, political and economic diversities. This type of extreme expectation at times lead to disinterest and ignorant attitude among the people towards it. But this view towards democracy is not acceptable either in theoretical form or on practical ground. Therefore, before evaluating the achievements of democracy we have to understand that democracy is better than other forms of government and its people oriented-ness creates a condition to achieve different goals. Now it is the responsibility of citizens to achieve the goal by taking advantage of these conditions.

The achievement of Indian democracy should be measured in this context. This is true that there are plenty of examples which show the dark side of the Indian democratic system. In the history of last 60 years, after independence the story of corrupted politicians and story distracting the main objects of constitution are no less in number. Inspite of these weaknesses, our democracy is unique compared to western democracy, as it is becoming strong and refined clay by day.

We should visualising it as the best system of governance and evaluate its achievements accordingly. Come lets try to examine the basic elements of democracy and compare it with non-democratic governing system and try to create a constructive/positive understanding towards it.

Responsible and constitutional governance:

To evaluate how democracy is responsible towards people and upto which extent it is valid/constitutional it is necessary to raise a few question.

(a) Whether in democracy, people have right to elect their representatives?

(b) Whether elected government is capable of meeting people's expectations?

(c) Whether government is taking decision quickly and are those decisions good for the welfare of people?

If we evaluate democracy in the light of above questions, then we see that people participate in elections, and elect their representatives. This is another thing that socially and economically strong people have great influence of them. Inspite of this due to increasing awareness among the people and massive opposition, democracy is getting better day by day. Due to broader publicity and increasing literacy today people are highly using their voting rights whereas in past either they were kept aloof or were not interested. If we see this in Indian context then it is satisfactory. Marginalized class of people were kept away from voting by the aristocrats of the society but today they are using their voting rights and discussing about their rights. If we see carefully then there is no basic structural changes in Indian democracy; but the conditions have changed due to people's faith in democracy. Today people are not using their franchise but also interfere in the decision making process of the government. This is the reason that government has to be responsible towards people; because it feels the danger of being rejected by the people.

Now we think in an other context. It is true that decisions are taken in democracy after a long process of discussion and counter arguments. As the decisions are taken through a long process of legislation. It is obvious that all this will take time. At times it takes so long that decisions become meaningless. On the other hand if we see the case of delaying decisions from non-democratic system, then decisions are take quickly and effectively. One point to be focussed here is that, in non-democratic system decisions are taken by any particular person without any decisions. These decisions need not go through a long process of legislation. At times these decisions are contextual as well as judicious. People also feel relaxed. But if we see these decisions in totality then it is quite disappointing. Reason is very clear that in non-democratic system there is possibility of personal prejudice which is not suitable for the mass welfare of the people. Whereas in democratic system people have the right to know how and in what way decisions are being taken. This means democratic system has transparency and trust of the people, whereas in non-democratic system there is no such possibilities. While concluding we see that in democratic system elections are held regularly. When government makes any law, then it keeps on discussing with the representatives and the common people openly.

The democratic system thus is the best system of governance inspite of a few shortcomings. After comparing with non-democratic system of governance there is no doubt that democratic system is a more responsible and valid governing system. This is the reason that today in the entire world trust towards democracy is increasing and all countries feel proud in cleaning there country to be democratic.

Economic Prosperity and Development:

On the basis of information we have, we can say that democracy is valid and responsible towards the people. On this basis it is not

un-contextual, that this system gives good government. It will also have economic prosperity as well as lead in terms of development. But when we compare economic happiness and the rate of development between democratic system and autocratic/dictatorship ruling system, then we feel very sad and disappointed. One question also arises after having a glance at the chart given below that on the basis of economic prosperity and development whether democratic system is better than autocratic system? Look at the chart carefully.

Rate of economic development in different ruling system (1950-2000)

Types of ruling system	Development rate
All democratic ruling	3.95
All autocratic	4.42
Poor countries under autocracy	4.34
Poor countries having democracy	4.28

After studying the above data one feels disappointed with democratic system. But the economic development of any country depends on the population, economic priorities, co-operation from other countries along with global aspect. Inspite of low rate of development, it is better to opt for democracy because it has many positive and reliable benefits.

Social Imbalance and Adjustment:

Democracy helps in developing mutual trust and understanding among many social imbalances and diversities that exit in any society. It means that democracy helps citizens to live peacefully. In chapter-two we have seen with examples that democracy is helpful in reducing conflicts and

differences between different castes and religions. It also prevents them from getting violent an un-ruly. In our country also, democracy has been helpful in reducing caste and communal conflicts to a great extinct. Now it is confirmed that if democratic system had not been there, then definitely conditions would have been worst.

It is true that no governance can claim to completely stop the clash and conflict among people of different castes, languages and communities. There are many social, economic and cultural reasons for such conflicts. When their expectations and demands are ignored or suppressed then conflicts occur. Usually such attitudes are seen in non-democratic system. Recently citizens demands were ignored and suppressed in Nepal by the Monarch's family. But at the end the citizens won. The role of democracy is important in ending social conflicts and differences, by creating an environment of common understanding. Democracy develops the respect towards social and cultural differences among the people. It can be said confidently that between different social disparities and differences only democracy is successful. These issues are well addressed in the story of people's struggle in history books.

Other than this, from dignity and freedom of citizen's point of view also democracy is not only ahead but superior to all other forms of governance too. The most important feature of democracy is that there is always great possibility of regular dialogue among people. Aim of

Your examinations occurres twice or thrice in a year, but democracy has its examination daily which is taken by people.

these dialogues is to reach a positive conclusion. That means to develop a healthy tradition of presenting one's own point boldly and listening to others patiently. Now it is clear that no other governing system is better than democracy as it provides freedom of all shorts.

Thus, we arrive at a conclusion that inspite of social disparities and differences democracy is better in comparison to other governing systems in establishing mutual understanding and adjustments as it is open to dialogues all the times.

How successful is Indian democracy?

When we see Indian democracy in terms of its achievements and results, then we get mix responses. At times we feel disappointed but hopes are still alive. Our disappointments first appear in the form that either there is no democracy in India, or India is not suitable for democracy. Sometimes such comments are also heard that democratic system is unsuccessful and crippled in comparison to all other ruling system. It is obvious that democracy has to pass through several processes. Therefore its pace will definitely be slow. Delay in justice, slow rate of development or progress make people feel that democracy is not better. In monarchy and autocracy its pace is more but there is lack of common people welfare from one end. It absolutely lacks quality.

Even among these disappointments, there is ray of hope. Where we see the bad impacts of quick decisions taken in non- democratic systems, there we feel there is no better governing system than democracy. When we see this in the 60 years of Indian democracy then we feel we are very successful in terms of time line. There was a time when people talk in the proverb " koi nrip hohu hamen ka haani ". People never felt themselves as a part of governance. People use to caste their voter on emotions. Candidates with the rich and criminal background are still capable to purchase the votes. But, when we evaluate the 15th Lok sabha election in 2009, then we observe that citizens of India rejected the candidates having criminal background throughout the country. People got the confidence that they can play a decisive role through their votes. Today in the whole world Indian trust

towards democracy has risen and other democratic countries inspired by its success. This is true, democracy has to prove itself regularly before the people. Where people get little benefit in democracy, their expectations rise. They expect better work from democracy. Therefore, when you ask about working and future of democracy people start talking about their personal or common problems. Expectations and queries of citizens towards democracy is the evidence that shows dynamism and success of democracy. People's satisfaction indicates two things. First thing is that in autocracy citizens are forcibly satisfied and second, people are not interested in democracy. The evaluation of work of any dictator is not done because of fear whereas in democracy evaluation of work of the people sitting in the system is done every day. When we evaluate Indian democratic context, we find the situation satisfactory. Today in India people are continuously in the process of becoming citizens.

Basic Elements behind success of Indian Democracy:

Undoubtedly, the credit of Indian democracy has increased in the whole world. Its continuous development has enabled more participation of common people. Then also Indian democracy has not attained maturity. People still do not have direct control. Therefore for democracy to succeed in India it is necessary to educate people. Education can create awareness. This is true that democratic government is formed on the basis of majority, but democracy does not mean system that runs on majority rather here it is necessary to give attention to expectations of minority.

Faith and internal Democracy:

The success of Indian democracy is that the government must provide opportunity to every citizen to become a part of majority. It is also necessary for the success of democracy that along with people there must be internal democracy inside democratic organisations. It means that there should be open and wide discussion on common issues. It is very important for the

political parties because their aim is to take the control of the government. It is unfortunate that there is a lack of internal discussion and healthy practices of internal democracy in different political parties as well as among the common man. It is obvious that as an adverse effect of all, the character and behaviour of ruling people will be seen as non-democratic and there will be lack of faith towards democracy. It can be eliminated by our active participation and continuous faith in democracy.

Questions

Long Answer Questions :

1. How does democracy lead to the formation of a responsible and valid government?

2. How is democracy helpful in economic prosperity and development?

3. In which conditions is democracy helpful in resolving social discriminations and constructing environment of co-operation?

4. On which of the following points did democratic systems get success?

    (a)   Abolished the political differences.

    (b)   Abolished the conflicts between the people.

    (c)   Majority and minority groups are treated equally.

    (d)   Reduces the economic grade for the people standing in the last line.

5. Which one of the following is not according to the democratic system?

   (a)   Equality before law.

   (b)   Free and fair election.

   (c)   Responsible ruling system.

   (d)   Rule of majority.

6. In the Context of political and social discriminations in democratic system which survey is true or false?

   (a)   Democracy and development go parallel.

   (b)   Differences remain in democratic systems.

   (c)   No indifferences in autocracy.

   (d)   Autocracy proved better than democracy.

7. Which of the following statements are true or false in relation with the achievement of Indian democracy?

   (i)   Today people understand their voting rights much better.

   (ii)   From the administrative point of view Indian democratic system is not better than British administration.

   (iii)   Marginalised group people cannot be the candidate in the elections.

   (iv)   Women participations in politics has increased from earlier times.

8. How do you see the future of democracy in India?

9. How could democracy be successful in India?