

on the principles of democracy. If these international organisations are not democratic, are they becoming more democratic than before. Here also we don't get any encouraging or solid evidence. Infact, while the nations of the world are becoming more democratic these International organisations are becoming less democratic. Approximately 23 years ago there were two big powers in the world- United States of America and the Soviet Union (Ex.). Due to the competition between these two great powers-there was a balance between the great powers of the world. But due to disintegration of USSR in 1991, USA appears to be the greatest power of the world. Hence, dominance of America is affecting the functioning of the international organisations.

WHETHER THE POWERFUL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AND MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES ARE DANGER TO DEMOCRACY ?

The powerful countries of the world have launched armed attack to establish democracy in the non-democratic countries. They are establishing Government of their choice in those countries : Is this a democratic act ? No, not at all. To establish democracy by violence measures is against the principle of democracy. Now the question arises will the democracy survive for a long time if it is established by military operation ? Is it democratic to help the people of the countries who are striving for democracy ? Let us try to know answer of these questions.

Let us take example of Iraq. Iraq is a country in Western Asia. It became Independent from British colonialism in 1932. Three decades later continuous attempts were made by military coups to dethrone.

It was ruled by Arab Socialistic Party till 1968. After this Saddam Hussein led the Party in and brought in Power by conspiracy. This Government abolished certain traditional Islamic Laws. Women were entitled certain liberty including right to vote which were not given in other Islamic countries. Saddam Hussein became the President of Iraq in 1979 and ran a dictatorial Government. It is said that he got a number of political opponents, some were killed and persons of ethnic minorities were massacred.

America and England alleged Iraq of having atomic and other destructive weapons on large scale, which poses a threat to the rest of the world. Team of United Nations organisation was sent to Iraq for enquiry. But the team could not get any clue for having atomic or other destructive weapons. Even then America and its allies invaded Iraq in 2003, dethroned Saddam and installed an interim Government of its choice. The General Secretary of the Security Council called this operation as an illegal. The action of America and its ally nations was undemocratic.

Now let us think about **Multinational Companies**. Whether these companies are spreading Imperialism indirectly. Whether these companies are dangerous for democracy ? Now a days developing and backward countries have adopted the policy of open market and Globalization. Under this policy multinational companies are doing business in these countries. Their sole purpose is to earn maximum profit. With the policy of profiteering the services are becoming costlier day by day. Common man is being exploited by these companies in some or the other way.

The Governments of this age seem to be democratic but the reality in business sector is that of the country is running the Govt. These business families have monopoly in multinational companies, therefore

they becomes successful to mould (turn) the Govt. policies in their favour. These companies have widen the gap between the rich and the poor. International public opinion has to be made against these multinational companies and powerful countries. Only then true Democracy will be established in the world.

Dear Students— it is for your information that with the emergence of ‘Swadeshi Company’ not only the people get employment in the country but also the income (money) remains in the country.

EXERCISE

A. Objective Type Questions :

I. Fill in the blanks :

- (a) The smallest unit of administration during the ‘Cholas Reign’ was
- (b) led the socialistic party in Chile.

II. Multiple Choice Questions :

- (a) Which of the following countries inspired other countries of the world to adopt Parliamentary System.
 - (i) Germany
 - (ii) France
 - (iii) England
 - (iv) China
- (b) Which of the following country doesn't have the Veto Power
 - (i) India
 - (ii) USA
 - (iii) France
 - (iv) China

III. Write T (for True) and F (for False) statements :

- (a) India is a permanent member of the Security Council of UNO.
- (b) Democracy is surviving continuously in our neighbouring country-Pakistan.

B. . Very Short Answer type Questions :

1. Which form of ruling system is being adopted in majority of the nations of the world these days ?
2. Give the names of the ideologies remained in Italy and Germany and were responsible for the set back of democracy after Ist World War ?
3. When was Allende elected President of Chile ?
4. When did the reinstallation of democracy take place in Chile ?
5. Who led the strike for demand of democratic rights in Poland ?
6. When did the election take place in Poland for Presidentship ? Who was elected President?
7. When was the universal adult Franchise given to the citizens of India ?
8. Which two big continent were fell prey to colonialism ?

9. When did Ghana-a country of South Africa continent become Independent ?
10. Which military dictator took hold of the elected Government in 1999 in our neighbouring country Pakistan ?
11. Give the names of two International organisations.
12. What is the Function of International Monetary Fund ?
13. How many countries are members of the UN ?
14. Give the names of different ruling system prevailing in the world ?

C. Short Answer Type Questions:

1. What do you mean by adult franchise ?
2. Write a note on the democracy at local level in Chole Kingdom ?
3. What is the meaning of 'Veto' power ? Give the names of countries having Veto power ?
4. Write brief note on the history of democracy in our neighbouring country Pakistan.
5. Write brief note on the history of democracy in Chile.
6. Who played a great role for the freedom of 'Ghana' – a country of African continent ? What was the influence of freedom of Ghana on other countries of African continent ?
7. Describe the electoral method of representatives of local bodies in the period of Chole kings.

D. Long Answer Type Questions

1. Write a note on International Monetary fund.
2. Write a note on United Nations Organization.
3. Explain in brief the development of democracy in ancient period of Greek and Romans.
4. "Multinational companies are posing a threat to democracy in the modern era", Explain this statement.

Chapter 10

Democracy, Meaning and Importance

Dear Students,

In this chapter we will try to find out the answers of the following questions regarding democracy:

- What is the meaning of democracy ?
- What are the basic principles of democracy ?
- What is the significance of democracy ?
- What are the major problems confronted by democracy ?
- What are the necessary conditions for the success of democracy ?



Except the above questions you will be able to know the difference between democratic and undemocratic forms of government. First of all, we shall try to know the etymological meaning of democracy and then step by step we shall know the broad aspect of democracy.

Meaning of Democracy and Nature:

The word 'Democracy' has been derived from two Greek words 'demos' and 'Kratia'. Meaning of 'demos' is people while 'Kratia' means 'rule'. So etymological meaning of democracy is 'rule of the people.'

The term 'democracy' has been defined by political thinkers in different way, some are of the view that it is a form of government where, people control the political powers. Leaders are elected by people and they run the government, as the representatives of the people. While others define it as life style and collection of views and attitudes which inspire and guide people's behaviour towards their fellow being. These views and attitudes not only guide the people in political sphere but also in other sectors of life such as social, economic and cultural.

Nature of Democracy : Democracy is such a structural arrangement where free and fair participation of people is ensured to get the political power. In democracy the people control the government. Sometime democracy is called as the rule of the masses (entire public). But it is merely a hypothesis as all the people are not of the same opinion. Democracy is sometime called the government of the majority. This is also not appropriate. For example, many times an anarchist becomes successful to win the support of the majority on the basis of violence or misuse of power. Shall we call such a government as democratic ?

The freedom to elect is the root or base of democracy. The existence of democracy lies in the difference of opinion. Every person has his own view to solve national problems. In democracy difference of opinion is shown through ballots and not bullets. There is no place for violence in democracy. In election any ideology becomes successful to win the support of majority of people and becomes successful to hold political power.

Political Parties are machines of ideology. Different political parties have their existence due to difference of opinions or ideology. Infact, political parties are different type of instruments with which different types of opinions are expressed in the society and also at state level afterwards. In democracy political parties bridge the gap between the people and the government.

After the above discussion the following things are clear about democracy

1. Existence of different political parties along with their ideology
2. Freedom of speech and expression
3. Universal Adult Franchise
4. Periodical Elections

So, democracy condemns principally the arrangement of special privileges on the basis of birth and wealth. Democracy recommends liberty, equality, justice and awareness among citizens as essential qualities in a society. It accepts existence of different classes in society. Now a days people of different religions and creeds reside in every country. Democracy demands unity in diversity. It supports the principle of self decision on the basis of justice and logic in interstate relationship. The power of sovereignty in the interstate relationship hurts the attempts of democracy.

Definitions of Democracy :

Abraham Lincoln : Democracy is the government of the people for the people and by the people.

Seeley : Democracy is a government in which everyone has a share.

Hall : Democracy is that form of political organisation in which public opinion has control.

Dicey : Democracy is a form of government in which the governing body is comparatively a large fraction of the entire nation.

Bryce : Democracy really means nothing more or less than the rule of the whole people expressing their sovereign will by their votes.



Abraham Lincoln

As no single definition is sufficient to describe democracy completely therefore, to understand democracy properly we shall have to be aware of the fundamental principles of democracy which are described as below :

Basic Principles of Democracy :

1. Democracy provides right to freedom of speech and expression, to criticise and to differ from others.

2. Democracy is based on the principle of tolerance. There is a liberty to express your opinion.
3. In democracy disputes on national and international level are settled through inspiration and peaceful way.
4. Democracy is clearly against violence though it may be used for the welfare of society.
5. The government which uses unfair suppressive power in the name of social welfare cannot be called a democratic government.
6. Democracy enhances the dignity of an individual. That is why people are given different types of rights in democracy.
7. Democracy is a form of government where sovereignty lies in the hands of people.
8. Practically, democracy is a rule of majority where the interests and rights of minority are protected.
9. Democracy is the government of the representatives who are elected by the adult franchise. Every adult who has attained the age of 18, has the right to elect his representative without any fear or pressure.
10. Democratic government works strictly according to the constitution which has been accepted by the people.
11. Democracy is based on the principle of maximum welfare of all sections of the society.
12. In democracy Government can be changed by constitutional methods. It is against changing the government by violent measures.

Importance of Democracy : Every form of government has its own merits and demerits. But nowadays democracy is the most prevalent form of government. No one denies that existing democratic system has some weaknesses even then this form of government as compared to the other forms of government in the world, is significant. To know the importance of this system following points may be considered.

- (1) **Less fear of bloody revolution (bloodshed) :** In democratic system people can change the Government peacefully with the help of ballot. There is no need of any sort of bloodshed or violence to change the government. So in democracy government can be changed with the help of ballot instead of bullet.
- (2) **Development of the spirit of patriotism :** Democracy strengthens the love for country because citizens feel that the government is their own creation. It is a matter of dignity that people elect their representatives and feel their participation in administration.
- (3) **Based on Equality :** Democracy is based on the principle of equality. It is moral in nature, as there is no discrimination in this form of government. In democracy, rich or poor have the equal right to express themselves freely and cast their vote according to their will. In democracy there is same value of everyone's vote.
- (4) **Representative of Public Opinion :** Democratic government is the real representative of the people. This government makes Laws keeping in view the interests of the common man. The government cannot ignore the public opinion otherwise the people will change the government in the next election.

- (5) **Ensures the protection of Individual Liberty** : Only a democratic Government ensures the rights and liberty of citizens. In democracy freedom of speech and expression, freedom to assemble peacefully without arms and freedom to form association or unions have been provided. Freedom of press is also provided in democracy.

According to **Lavel**, In Complete democracy no one is in a position to say that his problem has not been listened to.

- (6) **More opportunity for political awareness** : In democracy there are periodical elections. During election political parties put their policy and programmes before public through their election manifesto. People become politically aware. They evaluate the policies and programmes according to their intellect and logic and cast vote in favour of the candidate whom they like the most. According to C.D. Burns, “All forms of Government are the methods of education, but best education is self education. Therefore, the best form of Government is self government which lies in democracy.”

- (7) **Symbol of peace and progress** : Democracy is the only government which ensures peace and progress in the state. This system enables the people to live peacefully and inspires them to make progress in their life.

- (8) **Development of moral qualities** : Democracy promotes moral qualities among the people. It builds high national character than any other polity whatsoever. It teaches them the qualities of tolerance, cooperation and self sacrifice.

The above points describe the importance of democracy. The rights and freedom which people enjoy in democracy cannot be enjoyed in any other form of government. That is why, this system is considered the best.

Now, we will discuss some hurdles in the path of democracy.



Hurdles in the way of democracy : Though democracy is the best form of government but due to some serious problems it is not fully successful. The threats or challenges to democracy are as below :

1. **Regionalism** : Feeling of regionalism among people is a serious threat to democracy. It creates a feeling of narrow mindedness among people. They prefer regional interest to national interest. Which is harmful for national unity and integrity.

2. **Illness** : It is also a serious problem in the way to democracy. People suffering from chronic diseases lack interest in public work.
3. **Casteism and Communalism** : The curse of casteism and communalism gives rise to hatred and tension in the society. Casteism and communalism are fatal for national unity and integration.
4. **Illiteracy** : Illiteracy is a major threat to democracy. It is responsible for the downfall of values. An illiterate person can not contribute to the maximum as he is not fully aware of the economic, social and political problems of the nation. The illiterate person do not take right decision under the instigation of political leaders. They become a prey to the false promises of selfish and shrewd politicians and can't do full justice to the right to vote.
5. **Poverty** : Poverty is a big hurdle in the way of democracy. A poor person is forced to sell his vote. He can't express his views freely. Many a times he does not use his right to vote. It poses a threat to democracy. The rich becomes successful to buy the vote of the poor.
6. **Indifferent attitude** : Indifferent and lazy persons are burden on the society as they do not take part in political activities. They do not use the right to vote. They have no interest to participate in election rally. Such type of people are also a threat to democracy.
7. Besides the above factors lack of good ideologies of organised political parties, increase in corruption, lack of faith in political parties, lack of positive attitude among the opposition parties and decreasing feeling of patriotism are also hindrances in the path of India becoming the best democracy in the world.

Activity :

Dear Students – What can you do for your school, village and city as an educated and aware citizen ? Discuss it.

Now we will describe the **essential conditions for the success of democracy.**

1. **Political Freedom** : For the success of democracy people should have freedom of speech and expression, freedom to assemble peacefully without arms and freedom to form associations or unions. They must have liberty to criticise wrong policies of Government.
2. **Economic Equality** : Political democracy without economic equality is meaningless. Economic disparity on large scale gives birth to revolution. It is true that complete economic equality is not possible but basic necessities of life of every person must be fulfilled. Exploitation of man by man should be banned. Benefit of economic resources must reach to all the persons. National wealth should not remain only in few hands.
3. **Social Equality** : Social equality is the essential condition for the success of democracy. There should not be any discrimination against a citizen on the basis of race, caste, sex, religion or place of birth. Democracy on one side demands to abolish autocracy based on special privilege, on the other side demands to abolish exploitation of labour and peasants.

- 4. Literacy :** Literate citizens make the democracy successful. Only educated citizens can understand economic, social and political problems of the nation and play a vital role to solve them. Education also creates liberal attitude and interest among people. Liberal thinking is essential for the success of democracy.
- 5. High moral values among citizens :** People with high moral values make democracy successful. If people of the country, political leaders and rulers are corrupt then that Democracy will definitely collapse like a pack of cards.
- 6. Enlightened Citizenship :** Aware and alert citizens make democracy successful. The citizens must be aware of their rights and dedicated towards their duties. If the citizens are not alert then the rulers will become dictator.
- 7. Ideal Leaders :** For the success of democracy leaders must be honest, ideal and wise. They must have power to take right decision at right time. They must have high ideals and quality to take initiative.
- 8. Local self-Government :** The organisation of local self-government like village panchayat, panchayat sammittee, Zila Parishad and Municipal Committees educate and train the people about administration. Local body organisations are essential for the success of democracy.
- 9. Independent and Impartial Judiciary :** Independent and impartial judiciary is of great importance for a democratic country. Judiciary must be honest and fearless also. Independent and impartial judiciary protects the rights of citizens and stops the government to become dictator. Lord Bryce has well said, “There is no better test of the excellence of the government than the efficiency of its judicial system.”
- 10. Rule of Law :** Rule of Law is important for success of democracy. It means that no one is above law. No one should be penalised with a biased view. Everyone is equal before Law.
- 11. Decentralisation of Powers :** There should not be centralisation of powers for the success of democracy. Decentralisation of powers enables the people to participate in the administration. Due to decentralisation of powers no part or officer of government can become absolute.
- 12. Organised political parties based on principles :** Political parties are the backbone of democracy. Political parties based on principles establish stability and security in democracy. Political parties should not be based on communalism and casteism.

It is a matter of pride that from the very first day of forming the constitution in India i.e., since 1950 women have got right to vote equal to men. While developed countries like America and England granted this right to women much later than man.

CONCLUSION :

After having a discussion on the meaning, basic principles, importance, hurdles in the way to democracy and essential conditions for the success of democracy we will think upon the question whether government elected by people can be democratic or not ? To know the answer to this question we will illustrate here some examples—In our neighbouring country Pakistan : General, Parvez Musharraf

lead a military coup and took over the control of government in 1999. He decreased the powers of Pakistan National parliament and state legislative assemblies. He passed a law by which he declared himself the Chief Executive of the country and later he changed his designation to President. By the same Law he made provision with which president can dissolve the parliament at any time. Also a council of military officers was formed for the observation of parliament and assemblies. In democracy the last power is with the representatives of the government but in the time of Musharraf the representatives of people were deprived of this power. So, how can we call such type of government a democratic government ?

Next example is from China – our other neighbouring country. In China elections are held after every five years. But voters have no option to vote except the communist party as in China candidate nominated by communist party only can contest the election. Some representatives from Army officers are also taken in parliament in China. So, the country which have the government only of one party and no existence of other parties – can we call that government elected by the people as democratic government. The country where there is no existence of opposition party can not be called a democratic country.

Now we take example of Fiji. In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian Fijian. In democracy the principle of ‘One person – one vote – one value’ is applicable. Therefore, we can’t call Fiji as a democratic country.

Now we will take an example of Mexico, It became independent in 1930. Mexico holds elections after every six years to elect its President. The power of government never remain in the hands of military or dictator. But until 2000 every election was won by PRI party. Other parties were free to contest the election. But being in power, PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) party was known to use unfair means. Government officials and officers were forced to attend meeting of PRI Party. Government teachers were directed to insist the parents to cast their votes in favour of PRI Party. The polling booths were shifted from one place to another in the eleventh hour on polling day so that the opposition leader might not be successful to cast their votes. All these examples reveal that only periodical elections are not sufficient but free and fair poll is essential. If a party wins the election by unfair or **suppressive** means we will not call it true democracy. Above illustration differentiate between democratic and undemocratic countries. In democratic form of government, free and fair periodical elections are must. The power of administration must be in the hands of the representatives of the public. Existence of opposition party is also essential in democracy. Every voter should have a right to one vote one value.

Last but not least, we will discuss about types of democracy. Democracy, mainly is of two types – Direct and Indirect. But nowadays most of the countries have adopted indirect democracy. It is also called ‘representative democracy’. Here the people elect their representative directly. The representatives run the government.

In direct democracy people participate in administration directly. Here, every citizen participate in making laws to solve the economic, political and social problems of the country. But this type of