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Outcomes Of Democracy

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IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- **Monarchy:** The government ruled by the monarch or king of the country i.e., monarch or king is the head of the country.
- **Dignity:** The word denotes privileged position, honourable rank or importance given to any particular post or personality.
- **Outcome of Democracy:** Political equality and political justice, social equality and social justice, economic equality and economic justice, dignity to the individual.
- **Measures for Democratic Outcome:** Regular free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies, right to information given to the people.
- **Economic Development:** It refers to the growth or advancement of the country in the way of providing better facilities and services to the individual.
- **Transparency:** Right or means to examine the process of decision making.
- **Accountable:** Responsible, answerable and legitimate to the individual/posts and their needs and expectations.
- **Poverty:** It is a socio-economic phenomenon which in general terms is the denial of opportunities to lead a long, healthy, creative life and to enjoy a decent standard of living.
- **Inequality:** Absence of equal opportunities, equal treatment and equal status at any level, social, economic or political is known as inequality.
- **Civil Liberties:** These are privileges or rights thought to be valuable in themselves and important for the functioning of democratic society.



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Multiple Choice Questions

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1. Which one of the following is an example of outcomes of a democracy that produces an accountable government?

- (a) Open to public debates on major policies and legislation
- (b) Open in promoting economic development
- (c) Open in reducing economic inequalities
- (d) Open to rulers elected by the people

2. Which one of the following is the most popular form of government in the contemporary world?

- (a) Dictatorship
- (b) Monarchy
- (c) Military rule
- (d) Democracy

3. Which one of the following features is common to most of the democracies?

- (a) They have formal Constitution
- (b) They hold regular elections
- (c) They have political parties
- (d) All of the above

4. In which one of the following countries is democracy not preferred over dictatorship?

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) India

5. Which one of the following is not the way to resolve a conflict in a democracy?

- (a) Mass mobilisation
- (b) Using Parliament
- (c) Doing justice
- (d) Armed revolution

6. 'Equal treatment of women' is a necessary ingredient of a democratic society. This means that:

- (a) women are actually always treated with respect.
- (b) it is now easier for women to legally wage struggle for their rights.
- (c) most societies across the world are now increasingly women dominated.
- (d) women are now treated as equals in the political arena.



7. Democratic government is better than non-democratic because

- (a) it is a legitimate form of government.
- (b) overwhelming support for the idea all over the world.
- (c) it leads to a just distribution of goods and opportunities.
- (d) it ensures faster economic growth.

8. Consider the following statements. Which of these do not hold true for non-democratic regimes?

- (a) These do not have to bother about public opinion.
- (b) These take less time at arriving at a decision.
- (c) Principle of individual dignity has legal force.
- (d) These often suppress internal social differences.

9. In a democracy, a citizen has the right and means to examine the process of decision-making. This is known as

- (a) Dictatorship
- (b) Transparency
- (c) Legitimacy
- (d) Equality

10. To measure democracies on the basis of expected outcomes, which of the following practices and institutions would one look for?

- (a) Regular, free and fair elections
- (b) Open public debate on major policies
- (c) Citizens' right to information about the government
- (d) All of the above

11. On which of the following practices and institutions can the accountability of government and involvement of people in decision-making process in a democracy be measured?

- (a) Regular, free and fair elections
- (b) Public debate on major policies and legislations
- (c) Citizens' right to information about government and its functioning
- (d) All of the above

12. Decisions taken by which type of government are likely to be more acceptable to the people and more effective?

- (a) Democratic government
- (b) Non-democratic government



- (c) Military dictatorship
- (d) Theocracy

13. Which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Democracies can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
- (b) Dictatorships can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
- (c) No regime can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

14. Which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Most of the democracies have constitutions, they hold elections, have parties and they guarantee rights to citizens
- (b) Democracies are very much different from each other in terms of their social, economic and cultural achievements
- (c) All democracies are similar as far as social, economic and cultural conditions are concerned
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

15. Why is there a delay in decision-making and implementation in a democracy?

- (a) The government don't want to take decisions
- (b) The government is hesitant in taking decisions
- (c) Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation
- (d) A democratic government is not interested in taking quick decisions

16. In the context of democracies, what is successfully done by Democracies?

- (a) Eliminated conflicts among people
- (b) Eliminated economic inequalities among people
- (c) Eliminated differences of opinion about how marginalised sections are to be treated
- (d) Rejected the idea of political inequality

17. What is promoted much superiorly by democracy than any other form of government?

- (a) Economic growth
- (b) Dignity and freedom of the individual
- (c) Economic equality
- (d) None of these

18. Which regimes often turn a blind eye to or suppress internal social differences?



- (a) Democratic regimes
- (b) Non-democratic regimes
- (c) Monarchy
- (d) Oligarchy

19. In which of these countries half of the population lives in poverty?

- (a) India
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Pakistan

20. Which among the following has a higher rate of economic growth and development?

- (a) Democracies
- (b) Dictatorships
- (c) All non-democratic regimes
- (d) Monarchies

ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. a | 11. d |
| 2. d | 12. a |
| 3. d | 13. c |
| 4. b | 14. d |
| 5. d | 15. c |
| 6. b | 16. d |
| 7. a | 17. b |
| 8. c | 18. b |
| 9. b | 19. c |
| 10. d | 20. b |



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1. How is democracy accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens? Analyse.

Answer: A democracy is concerned with ensuring that people have the right to choose their rulers and have control over the rulers:

- Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making in a democracy.
- Democracy ensures that decision-making is based on norms and procedures. A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. Thus democracy entails transparency.

For a democracy to produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government, it must ensure the following:

- Regular, free and fair elections.
- Open public debate on major policies and legislations.
- Citizens' right to be informed about government policies.
- A government free from corruption.

2. "Democratic government is legitimate government?" Support the statement with arguments.

Answer: Democratic government is a legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean. But a democratic government is peoples' own government. That is why there is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world. People's wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. As a democratic government is peoples' own government, they believe that democracy is suitable for their country as it is a legitimate government. Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.

3. "Democracy accommodates social diversities." Support the statement with examples.

Answer: "Democracy accommodates social diversities" in the following ways:

- Democracies develop a procedure to conduct their competition. This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.
- No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and can evolve mechanism to negotiate these differences. Example, Belgium has successfully negotiated differences among ethnic population. This reduces the possibility of tensions.



- Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic regimes.

4. Analyse any three values that make democracy better.

Answer: We feel that democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government because:

- Democracy promotes equality among citizens.
- It enhances dignity of individual. It promotes dignity of women and strengthens the claims of the disadvantaged.
- It improves the quality of decision making. There is transparency in a democracy
- It provides methods to resolve conflicts.
- Democracy allows room to correct mistakes.

5. On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain.

Answer: No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and evolve a mechanism to negotiate the differences. Belgium is an example of how successfully differences were negotiated among ethnic groups. Therefore, democracy is best suited to accommodate various social divisions as it usually develops a procedure to conduct their competition. But the example of Sri Lanka shows how distrust between two communities turned into widespread conflict. Thus, a democracy must fulfil the following conditions and be based on these values in order to achieve a harmonious social life—

- Majority and minority opinions are not permanent. Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The majority needs to work with minority so that government may function to represent the general view.
- Rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic groups, etc.
- Democracy remains democracy so long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time. No individual should be debarred from participating in a democracy on the basis of religion, caste, community, creed and other such factors.

6. Why do we feel that democracy is a better form of government than any other form? Explain.

Answer: Democracy is a better form of government than any other form because:



It is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. Thus the necessary delay in implementation.

- Decisions are acceptable to people and are more effective.
- A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making. There is transparency in a democracy.
- Democratic government is a legitimate government, people's own government.
- Ability to handle differences, decisions and conflicts is a positive point of democratic regimes.
- Democracy has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

7. Why do we feel that democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government? Explain.

Or

How do you feel that democracy is better than any other form of government? Explain.

Or

"Democracy is more effective than its other alternatives." Justify the statement.

Answer: We feel that democracy is a better form of government than any other form of government because:

- Democracy promotes equality among citizens.
- It enhances dignity of individual. It promotes dignity of women and strengthens the claims of the disadvantaged.
- It improves the quality of decision making. There is transparency in a democracy.
- It provides methods to resolve conflicts.
- Democracy allows room to correct mistakes.

8. How do democracies accommodate social diversity? Explain with examples.

Or

Explain the conditions in which democracies are able to accommodate social diversities.

Or

"Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens". Support the statement with suitable examples.



Answer: No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and evolve a mechanism to negotiate the differences. Belgium is an example of how successfully differences were negotiated among ethnic groups. Therefore, democracy is best suited to accommodate various social divisions as it usually develops a procedure to conduct their competition. But the example of Sri Lanka shows how distrust between two communities turned into widespread conflict, and thus a democracy must fulfil the following two conditions in order to achieve a harmonious social life:

- Majority and minority opinions are not permanent. Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The majority needs to work with minority so that government may function to represent the general view.
- Rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic groups, etc.
- Democracy remains democracy so long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time. No individual should be debarred from participating in a democracy on the basis of religion, caste, community, creed and other such factors.

9. Explain the ways in which democracy has succeeded in maintaining dignity and freedom of citizens.

Or, “ Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.” Support the statement with suitable examples.

Answer: The passion of respect and freedom are the basis of democracy:

- Economic disparity in society has been minimized to a great extent.
- In many democracies women were deprived of their right to vote for a long period of time. After long struggle they achieved their right, respect and equal treatment.
- Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal states and opportunities, for example, SCs and STs.
- In democracy all adult citizens have the right to vote.
- Democracy evolves a mechanism that takes into account the differences and intrinsic attributes of various ethnic groups. In a democracy majority always needs to work taking into account the interest of the minority so that the minority do not feel alienated.



10. How is democracy a better form of government in comparison with other forms of governments? Explain.

Or, "There is an overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world." Support the statement.

Answer: Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practice some kind of democratic politics. They have formal constitutions, hold elections, have parties and they guarantee rights of citizens. Thus, in most countries, the democracy produces a government that is accountable to the citizens and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

No society can fully and permanently resolve conflict among different groups. But we can learn to respect these differences and evolve mechanisms to negotiate them. Democracy is best suited as it develops a procedure to conduct competitions

Belgium is a successful example of negotiating difference among ethnic population. Passion for respect and freedom is the basis of democracy and has been achieved in various degrees in various democracies. The support for democracy is overwhelming all over the world and is evident from South Asia, where the support exists in countries with democratic as well as undemocratic regimes.

People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them as a democratic government is people's own government and makes them believe that it is suitable for their country as it is a legitimate government.

11. "Most destructive feature of democracy is that its examination never gets over." Support the statement with appropriate arguments.

Answer: Suitable arguments:

- As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more.
- People always come up with more expectations from the democratic set up.
- They also have complaints against democracy.
- More and more suggestions and complaints by the people is also a testimony to the success of democracy.
- A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of the democratic project.

12. "Democracy is seen to be good in principle but felt to be not so good in practice." Justify the statement.

Answer: If we look at some of the democratic policies being implemented in more than one hundred countries of the world, democracy seems to be good. For example, having a formal Constitution, holding regular elections, guaranteeing the



citizens certain rights, working for the welfare of the people etc. make us advocate that democracy is good.

But if we look in terms of social situations, their economic achievements and varied cultures, we find a very big difference in most of the democracies. The vast economic disparities, social injustice based on discrimination, standard of life, sex discrimination, etc. create many doubts about the merits of democracy. Whenever some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy. Since democracy is a form of government, it can only create conditions for achieving our goals if they are reasonable.

13. "Democracy stands much superior in promoting dignity and freedom of the citizens". Justify the statement.

Answer: Examples to illustrate that dignity and freedom of citizens are best guaranteed in a democracy:

- Dignity of women. Democracy recognizes dignity of women as a necessary ingredient of society. The one way to ensure that women related problems get adequate attention is to have more women as elected representatives. To achieve this, it is legally binding to have a fair proportion of women in the elected bodies. Panchayati Raj in India has reserved one-third seats in local government bodies for women. In March 2010, the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha ensuring 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State legislative bodies.
- Democracy has strengthened the claims of disadvantaged and discriminated castes. When governments are formed, political parties usually take care that representatives of different castes and tribes find a place in it. Some political parties are known to favour some castes. Democracy provides for equal status and opportunities for all castes.
- Democracy transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen. A democracy is concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making that affects them all.
- A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making.

There is transparency in a democracy like India. In October 2005, the Right to Information (RTI) law was passed which ensures all its citizens the right to get all the information about the functions of the government departments. In a democracy, people also have the right to complain about its functioning.



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Case-Based Questions

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QUESTION 1

Source: Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual. Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings. Often conflicts arise among individuals because some feel that they are not treated with due respect. The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy. Democracies throughout the world have recognised this, at least in principle. This has been achieved in various degrees in various democracies. For societies, which have been built for long based on subordination and domination, it is not a simple matter to recognise that all individuals are equal. Take the case of dignity of women. Most societies 131 across the world were historically male dominated societies. Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity today that respect to and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society. That does not mean that women are actually always treated with respect. But once the principle is recognised, it becomes easier for women to wage a struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally. In a non-democratic set up, this unacceptability would not have legal basis because the principle of individual freedom and dignity would not have the legal and moral force there. The same is true of caste inequalities.

- (1) Why does democracy stand much superior to any other form of government?**
- (2) How are respect and equal treatment of women necessary ingredients of a democratic society?**
- (3) In which type of societies, it is not easy to recognise that all individuals are equal.**

Solutions -

- (1) Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual. Every individual wants to receive respect from other fellow beings and if they do not get. Conflicts arise.
- (2) Respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society in the following ways:
 - Economic independence or independence or access to an inherited or self-generated income is considered the major means of empowering women.
 - This provides equal political and civil rights as men.
- (3) It is not easy to recognise that all individuals are equal in the societies, which have been built because of subordination and domination.



QUESTION 2

In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making, that affects them all.

Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. Some people think that democracy produces less effective government. It is, of course, true that non-democratic rulers are very quick and efficient in decision making and implementation, whereas, democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place. But, because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective. Moreover, when citizens want to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures, they can find this out. They have the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This is known as transparency. This factor is often missing from a non-democratic government. There is another aspect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive, or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

1) People's right to choose their own rulers is called as the-

- (a) Right to Initiate
- (b) Right to Plebiscite
- (c) Right to Vote
- (d) Right to Referendum

Answer: (c) Right to Vote.

2) Which of the following options helps in promoting transparency in the governance?

- (a) Right to education
- (b) Right to information
- (c) Right against exploitation
- (d) Right to speech and expression

Answer: (b) Right to information.



3) make/s the government legitimate.

- (a) Credibility of politicians
- (b) People's movements
- (c) Free and fair elections
- (d) Holding of powers

Answer: (c) Free and fair elections.

4) Decisions in a democracy are more acceptable to the people because they are

- (a) Taken swiftly and implemented quickly
- (b) Taken by giving privileges to the people
- (c) Taken through elites' votes
- (d) Taken after following due processes

Answer: (d) Taken after following due processes



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QUESTION 1



1) What is shown in the given cartoon?

Ans. The cartoon throws a light on the issues faced in a democracy. It includes the Indian examples- language dispute, separatist movements, students' demands, border disputes with different countries, excesses made by the police and bureaucrats.

2) Identify the man sitting on the rock named democracy.

Ans. This is the famous cartoonist R.K Laxman who gave Indian politics a new dimension by releasing political cartoons which commented on all relevant issues. He is seen worried here due to an array of problems faced by India.

QUESTION 2



1) What is shown in this cartoon?

Ans. It shows how the government is keeping an eye on the citizens through a lens/ telescope and knows each and every detail about them but the citizens on the other hand do not have any such information about the government.

2) Can you think of what and how the government knows about you and your family?



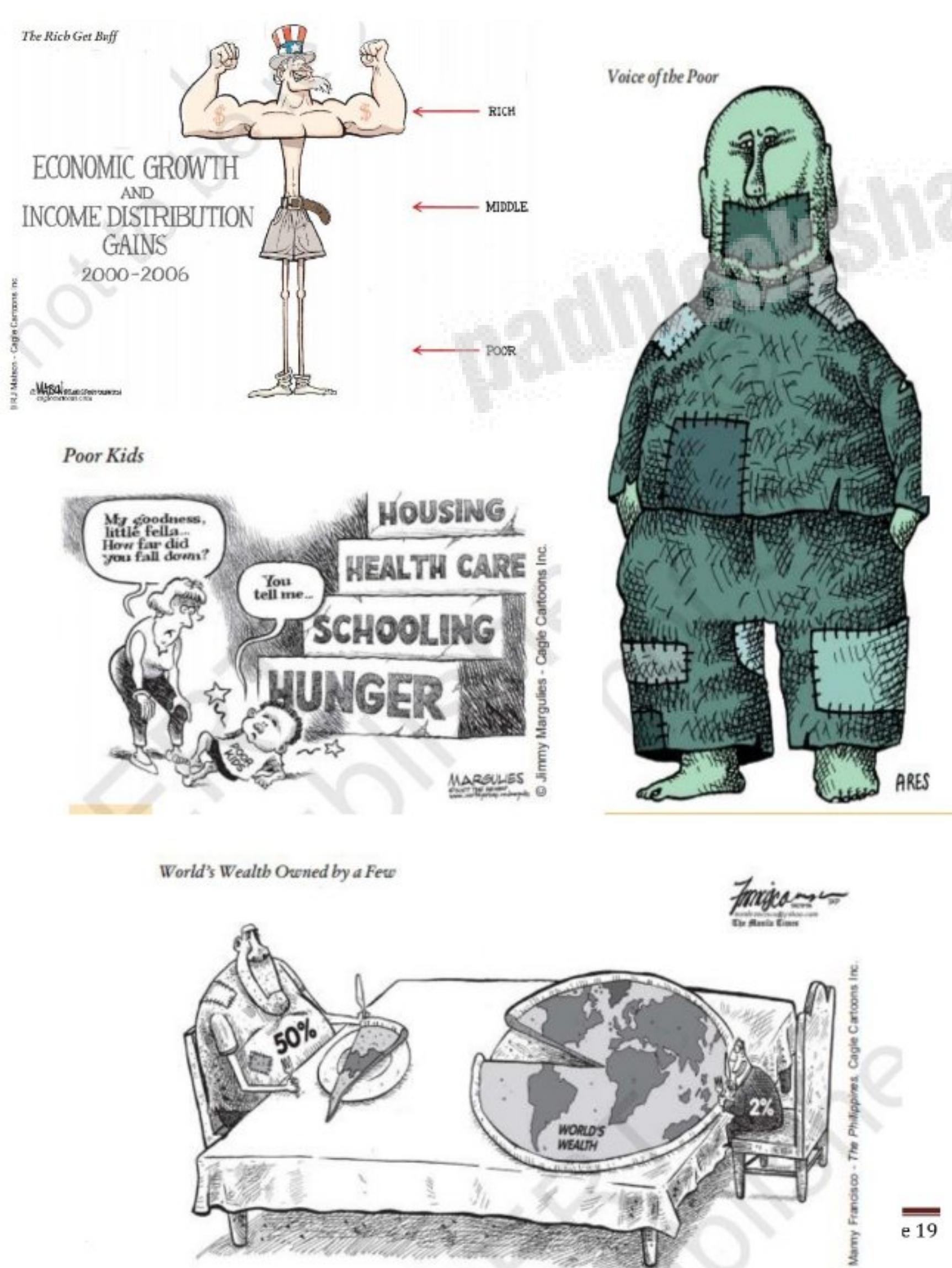
Ans. The government of India has various tools through which information about the citizens can be taken, for example – Aadhar cards, ration cards and voter identity cards etc. Every ten years, the government conducts census. In this census, there are records of each adult member of the family along with his/her sex, age and education. There is a provision of registering birth, marriage and death of the family members with the government institutions.

3) What are the sources of information for you about the government?

Ans. Right to Information, information on government websites, newspapers etc.

Political leaders either local or national are the main sources of information to the common people. They make them aware of the policies and decisions taken by the government.

QUESTION 3





1) What does these cartoons represent?

Ans. It tells us about the disparities between the rich and poor. The rich is getting richer and poor are getting poorer. The economic gains are distributed in society in such a way that this inequality fails to disappear.

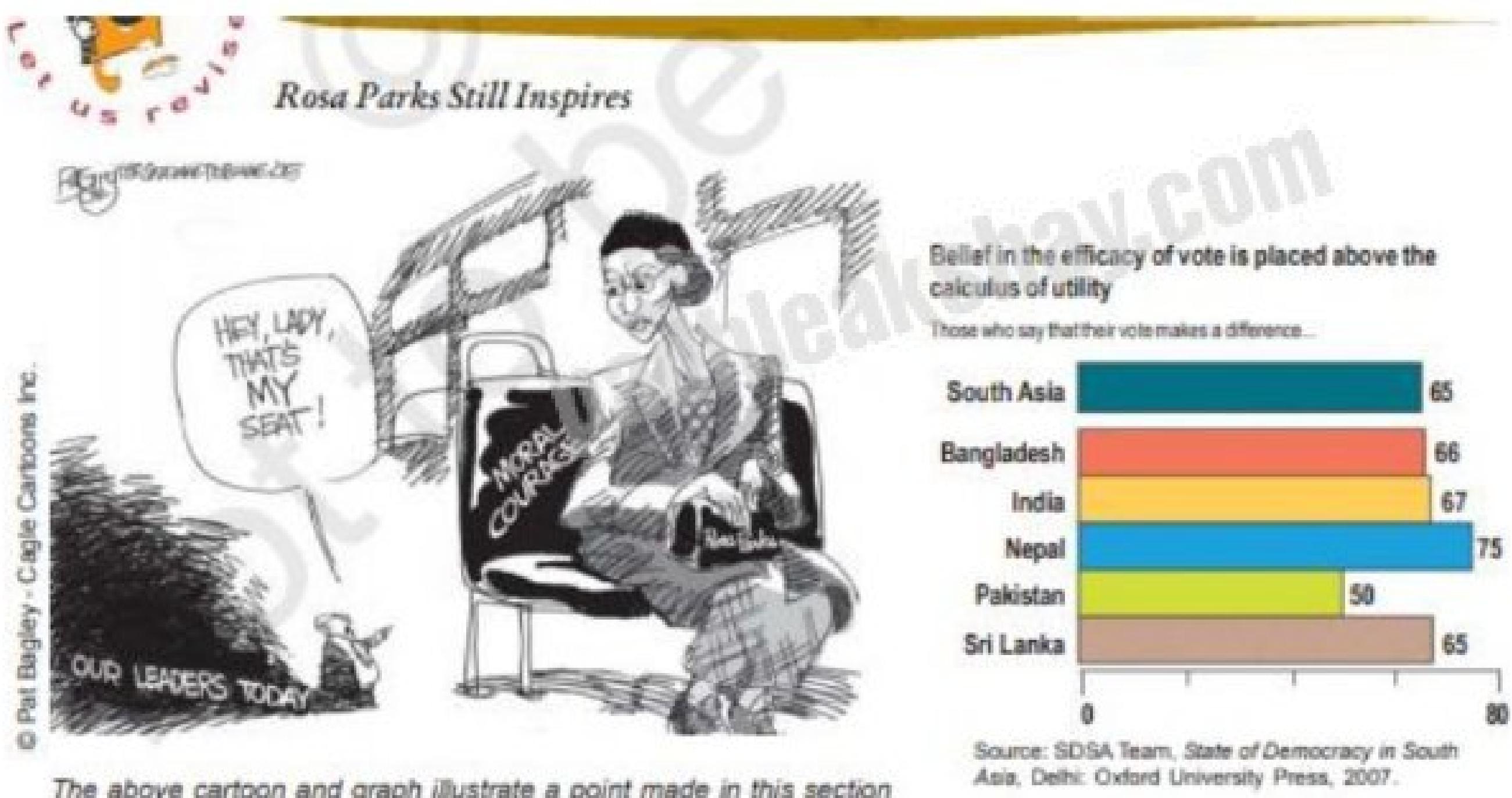
2) Should the gains of economic growth be evenly distributed?

Ans. Yes up to a certain extent it should be. Even Marxism supports this idea. Of course, the gains of economic growth should be equally distributed among the citizens so as to make an economically even society. Also this would be as per one of the basic causes of democracy i.e., economic justice.

3) How can the poor get a voice for a better share in a nation?

Ans. The poor will get better share in democratic nation when they will be given proper and also they get a chance to participate in a decision making.

QUESTION 4



1) What does this cartoon represent?

Ans. The cartoon relates to inequality that women face today all over the world. This reflects insecurity to women's dignity.

2) What does this graph represent?

Ans. The graph shows that even after many complaints against it, democracy has been the most acclaimed form of government in the South Asian nations.

3) Why there is a mention of Rosa Parks in the cartoon? Why is a scene of a bus shown?



Ans. Rosa Parks was an American activist in the civil rights movement best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott. The United States Congress has called her "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement". In 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Parks rejected bus driver James F. Blake's order to relinquish her seat in the "colored section" to a white passenger, after the whites-only section was filled. She became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation.

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