

## **Ch-5 Outcomes Of Democracy (Civics)**

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### **How to Assess Democracy's Outcomes?**

• Democracy is considered a better form of government than dictatorship because it:

- Promotes equality among citizens
- Enhances the dignity of the individual
- Improves the quality of decision-making
- Provides a method to resolve conflicts
- Allows for correction of mistakes through regular feedback and elections.

### **Accountable, Responsive, and Legitimate Government**

• Democracy produces an accountable, responsive, and legitimate government:

- People have the right to choose and change their rulers through elections
- Decision-making in democracy is transparent; citizens can question and challenge the process
- Governments formed by elected representatives must follow constitutional rules
- Democratic governments are considered legitimate because they are based on the consent of the governed.

### **Economic Outcomes: Growth and Equity**

- A democracy does not guarantee the fastest economic growth compared to dictatorships, but:
  - Democracy provides a stable environment for economic activities and prioritizes the welfare of all.
  - Economic growth depends on the country's size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, and government policies
  - Democracies generally have negligible differences in economic development compared to less developed non-democratic countries
  - Economic inequalities tend to persist, but democracy strives through policies and programs to minimize the gap between rich and poor.

### **Social Outcomes: Accommodation and Harmony**

- Democracy accommodates social diversity and maintains peace and harmony in society:

- Provides the institutional mechanism to resolve differences among various social groups (e.g., religion, language, caste)

- Respects and protects the interests of minorities, preventing dominance by any majority group

- Manages social differences, divisions, and conflicts by peaceful discussion rather than violence.

- Promotes dignity and freedom for individuals, allowing them to voice their opinions, organize, and protest peacefully.

### **Economic Growth and Development**

- While democracies are expected to produce good governments, it's not always fair to assume they automatically guarantee economic development—a gap exists between the ideal and the reality.

- Evidence shows that many democracies did not meet expectations for economic development compared to dictatorships.

- From 1950 to 2000, dictatorships had a slightly higher average rate of economic growth than democracies.

- The inability of democracy to consistently achieve higher economic development is a concern, but it should not be the sole reason to reject democracy.

- Economic development depends on several factors beyond government type:

- Population size

- Global situation

- International cooperation

- Country-specific economic priorities

### **Comparing Democracies and Dictatorships**

- The difference in economic growth rates between less developed countries with democratic governments and those with dictatorships is minimal, or negligible.

- Democracy does not guarantee the highest economic growth, but it generally manages not to fall behind dictatorships.

Main Arguments and Evidence

- Debates about democracy's economic outcomes are passionate and must be based on facts and evidence, not just opinions.
- Over the years, researchers have studied the relationship between democracy, economic growth, and economic inequalities using data.

### **Key Findings from Tables**

Table 1: Economic Growth under Different Regimes (1950–2000)

- On average, dictatorial regimes had a slightly better record of economic growth than democratic ones:
  - All democratic regimes: Growth rate = 3.95%
  - All dictatorial regimes: Growth rate = 4.42%
  - Poor countries under dictatorship: Growth rate = 4.34%
  - Poor countries under democracy: Growth rate = 4.28%
- The difference in growth rate is slight and “virtually no difference” exists when comparing poor countries under both systems.

Table 2: Inequality of Income in Selected Countries

- Within democracies like South Africa and Brazil, the richest 20% of the population control more than 60% of the national income, leaving less than 3% for the poorest 20%.
- Countries such as Denmark and Hungary display more equitable income distribution, where the top 20% control about 34% and the bottom 20% get 9–10% of the income.

### **Reduction of Inequality and Poverty**

- Although democracy is based on political equality (one person, one vote), economic inequalities still remain
- Democracies strive to improve the living standards of marginalized and weaker sections, but complete equality is still an ongoing challenge.

### **Challenges and Limitations**

- Challenges within democracy include:
- Political instability in some regions

- Delay in decision-making as consensus is prioritized over speed
- Corruption and misuse of power if accountability mechanisms are weak
- Risk of majority domination over minority interests
- Democracy is always a “work in progress”—people constantly demand more, leading to ongoing efforts for better governance and outcomes.

### **Key Points to Remember**

- Democracy’s actual outcomes may not always match expected outcomes, especially regarding eradication of poverty and inequality. However, it is still preferred because it empowers citizens and enables continuous improvement of society.
- Citizens play a vital role in holding governments accountable through elections, protests, and civil society actions.