

Date 08/01/2022Chapter-7Outcomes of democracy =

* Democracy \Rightarrow It is a system of government in which the rulers are elected by the citizens of the country through free and fair elections.

How do we access democracy's outcomes?

\Rightarrow Democracy is a better form of government when compared with dictatorship or any other alternative, because:

- It promotes equality among citizens.
- It enhances dignity of the individual.
- It improves the quality of decision-making.
- It provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- It allows room to correct mistakes.

"Democracy is seen to be good in principle, but felt to be not so good in its practice."

\Rightarrow If our expectations are not met, we ~~start~~ start blaming the idea of democracy.

Democracy is just a form of government.

It can only create conditions for achieving something. The citizen have to take advantage of those conditions to achieve those goals.

Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

⇒ There are some things that democracy must provide:

- (i) People will have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over the rulers.
- (ii) Citizens should be able to participate in decision-making.

Is democratic government effective?

- Non-democratic rulers do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion.

So, they can make quick decisions, although the decisions ~~are~~ effective and favourable or not.

- Democratic rulers will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision.

That's why, some delay occurs in the decision-making, but the decision would be more acceptable and effective.

Accountability -

- Democracy produces an accountable government, the people have the right to choose their representatives through electoral process and can participate in decision-making.
- A citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures has the right to examine the process of decision-making. This is known as transparency.
- Thus, democracy produces a form of govt. that follows procedures and is accountable to people.

Responsiveness -

- A democracy produces a form of govt. which is responsible towards its citizens.
- It must promote the formation of public opinion and take care of the needs and demands of its people.

Legitimate government -

- ⇒ A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.
- Democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedures.

- In a democracy, regular, free and fair elections should be held.
- Open public public debates on major policies should be done.

Drawbacks of the above outcomes:

- Regular and free elections are held but they are not fair.
- Open debates are not subjecting on every decision.
- There is not a very good record in sharing information with the citizens.

"Democratic government is people's owned government."

Economic growth and development

- Between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth than democracies.

Economic growth depends upon the following factors:

- Size of population of the country.
- Global situation.

- Co-operation from & other countries.
- Economic policies adopted by the country.

⇒ However, the difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.

⇒ Overall, democracy does not guarantee economic growth, but it is better to prefer democracies as it has several other positive outcomes.

Reduction of inequality and poverty:-

- Democracies are based on political equality. But also, there are several economic inequalities.
- A small no. of people ~~share~~ rich and enjoy a disproportionate share of wealth and incomes. Also, their share in the total income of the country has been increasing.
- There are a large no. of people who are very poor and their incomes have been declining. They also find difficult to meet their basic needs.
- In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.

Accommodation of social diversity:-

- Democracy helps its citizens to lead a peaceful and harmonious life by accommodating various social divisions.
- No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups.
- Non-democratic regimes turn a blind eye to or suppress internal differences.
- Thus, ability to handle social divisions and conflicts is better in a democracy.

⇒ Two conditions important to achieve this outcome are:

- Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The majority always needs to work with the minority. Majority and minority are not permanent.
- Rule by majority does not mean rule by majority community (such as religion, race, etc.). Rule by majority means that in case of every decision/election, different persons and groups may and can form majority.

Dignity and freedom of the citizens:

- Democracy is much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.
- The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy.
- A democracy is always striving towards a better goal.
- People constantly demand more benefits in a democracy, which shows the success of democracy.
- It transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen.