**Right to Vote & Importance of Political Participation & Representation**

Political participation involves actions taken by ordinary citizens, directly or indirectly, to influence decisions made by the government, such as the selection of leaders or making policies.

In **liberal democracies**, voting in elections is one of many forms of political participation. The structure of political institutions, like the party system, has a clear impact on how people participate in politics.

In a **totalitarian model**, citizens are generally involved in politics only when the state mobilizes them to implement decisions that have already been made. Such as the system of education, the arts, the sciences, and the private-life morality of the citizens. The totalitarian government controls most aspects of human life.

**Five Political Participatory Modes:**

1. **Appeals**: Citizens request action or change from the government through petitions, letters, or meetings with officials.
2. **Adversarial Activities**: Citizens challenge the government through lawsuits, or campaigns to push for change.
3. **Cronyism**: Citizens use personal connections or gifts to gain favors from bureaucrats.
4. **Resistance**: Citizens resist government policies by slowing down work or organizing groups to oppose leaders and their decisions.
5. **Protest**: Citizens organize rallies to publicly express their disagreement with government policies or leadership.

**Political Efficacy:**

* **Internal Efficacy**: It is the citizens' trust in their ability that they can understand and influence political affairs.
* **External Efficacy**: It is the citizens' trust in their government that they will respond to their citizens’ demands and actions.