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CIVICS
Lesson No. 1
Power Sharing

Summary

Power Sharing :

- Power sharing is important because it the conflict between different social groups.
- Social conflicts often lead to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one citizens through participation, acquire a stake in the system.
- One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power.
- Power is shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- Power can be shared among governments at different levels a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level.

Questions :

1. What do you mean by power sharing?
2. Name all the different organs of government.?
3. What do you mean power sharing in a country?
4. What do you mean by majority?
5. What are different forms of power sharing in modern democracies give an example of each of these.

Lesson No. 2

Federalism

Features of Federalism

- There are two or more levels of Govt.
- Different tiers of Govt. govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of Govt are specified in the constitution.
- Require the consent of both the levels of Govt.
- Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of Govt.
- An ideal federal system has both aspects : mutual trust and agreement to live together.
- The first route involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.
- The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national Govt.

Federalism in India

- The constitution originally provided for a two tier system of Govt the union Govt or what we call the Central Govt, representing the union of India and the state Govt. later, a third tier of federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities.
- Constitution clearly provided a three fold distribution of legislative powers between the union Govt and the state Govt :
 1. Union list :- Defence of the country foreign affairs, banking.
 2. State List : Police, trade, commerce, agriculture.
 3. Concurrent List : Education, Forest, Trade Union, Marriage.
 4. Residuary Subject : Computer software
- Only Jammu & Kashmir has their own constitution.

Decentralization in India

- When power is taken away from central and State Govt. and given to local Govt. it is called decentralisation.
- The basic idea behind decentralisation is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.
- Local govt. get constitutional importance in democracy.
- And representation of women may also increased with this role played by

women in democracy became more stronger.

Questions :

1. What do you mean by Federalism?
2. What do you mean by jurisdiction?
3. How many lists we have retated to legislative powers?
4. What do you mean by decentralisation?
5. What is the main difference between a federal form of Govt and a unitary one?
Explain with an example?
6. How power shared between Central and State Govt. in Federalism.
7. Write main features of Federal Government?

Lesson No. 3

Democracy and Diversity

Summary

Differences, Similarities and Divisions

Origins of Social Differences

- (a) On the basis of birth**
- (b) on the basis of colour**

Politics of Social Divisions

Democracy involves competition among various political parties. Their competitions tends to divide any society if they start competing in terms of some existing social divisions, it can make social divisions into political divisions and lead to conflict, violence or even disintegration of a country.

- It would be best if there are no social divisions in any country. If social divisions do exist in a country, they must never be expressed in politics.
- Social divisions affect voting in most countries.
- In a democracy, political expression of social divisions is very normal and can be healthy.
- Expression of various kinds of social divisions in politics after results in their canceling one another out and thus reducing their intensity.

Questions :

1. When does a social difference become a social division?
2. How do social divisions affect politics? Give two examples?
3. How does social division & politics interrelate each other explain it?
4. How does social divisions make democracy stronger?
5. Discuss three factors are crucial in deciding the outcome of politics of social divisions?

Lesson No. 4

Gender Religion and Caste

Summary

Public / Private Division

- In fact the majority of women do some sort of paid work in addition to domestic labour. But their work is not valued and does not get recognition.
- Although women constitute half of the humanity, their role in public life especially politics, is minimal in most societies.
- Women in different parts of the world organised and agitated for equal rights. There were agitation demanded enhancing the political and legal status of women and improving their educational and other opportunities. More radical women movements aimed at equality in personal and family life as well. These movements are called feminist movements.

Patriarchal Society : Mostly societies are male dominating even day to day participation of women may increase than also our society is a patriarchal society on the basis of :

- Literacy rate
- No wonder the proportion of women among the highly paid and valued jobs is still very small.
- Her work is not paid and therefore often not valued.
- Women are paid less than men.
- Girl child aborted before she is born.
- various kinds of harassment, exploitation and violence against women.

Religion, Communalism and Politics

- Unlike gender differences, the religious differences are often expressed in the field of politics.
- Communalism happens when beliefs of one religion are presented as superior to those of other religions, when the demands of one religious group are formed in opposition to another and when state power is used to establish domination of one religious group over the rest. This manner of using religious in politics is communal politics.

Communalism can take various forms in politics :

- Stereo types of religious communities and belief in the superiority of one's religion over other religions.

- a desire to form a separate political unit.
- Often involves special appeal to the interests in preference to others.
- Ugly form of communal violence, riots and massacre.

Secular State

- No official religion - constitution does not give a special status to any religion.
- freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion.
- The constitution prohibits discrimination on ground of religion.
- allows the state to intervene in the matter of religion.
- ensure equality within religious communities.

Caste and Politics :

- They keep in mind the caste composition of the electorate and nominate candidates from different castes.
- Political parties and candidates in elections make appeals to caste sentiments to muster support.
- No parliamentary constituency in the country has a clear majority of one single caste.
- No party wins the votes of all the voters of a caste or community.

Questions :

1. What do you mean by division of sex?
2. What do you mean by Feminism?
3. What do you mean by communal politics?
4. Mention any two constitutional provisions that make India a secular state?
5. What sexual division of labour?
6. State different forms of communal politics with one example each.

Lesson No. 5

Popular struggles and Movements

Establishment of democracy in Nepal.

Meaning of the word democracy : - Democracy is the govt of the people, for the people and by the people.

The aims of movement for democracy in Nepal : The Nepalese movement for democracy arose with the specific objectives of reversing the kings orders that led to suspension of democracy. Establishment of democracy in Nepal :

- Democracy established in Nepal in 1990.
- King Birendra accepted it.
- King Gyanendra the new king of Nepal was not prepared to accept democratic rule after the death of king Birendra.
- The king dismissed the popularly elected Parliament.
- The movement of April 2006 was aimed at regaining popular control over the govt from the king and establish democracy means the govt of the people. All the major parties of parliament formed a seven party alliance. (SPA) and called for a four day strike in Kathmandu, the country's capital.
- On 21st April the protestors served an ultimatum to the king.
- 24th April 2006 was the last day of the ultimatum, the king was forced to concede all the demands.
- The SPA choose Girija Parasad Koirala as new Prime Minister of the interim govt. The parliament passed laws taking away most of the powers of the king. This struggle came to be known as Nepal's second movement for democracy.

Questions :

1. What was SPA?
2. What was the main demands of people of Nepal?
3. What was the aims of movement for democracy in Nepal?
4. When did the protestors served ultimatum to the king?
5. How was democracy established in Nepal?

Topic - 2

Sectional Interest groups and Public Interest Group meaning of Interest Groups.

Usually interest groups seek to promote the interests of a particular section or group of society.

Sectional Interest Groups :- They are sectional because they represent a section of society-workers, employees, business, persons, industrialists, followers of religion, caste group etc.

Features : Their principal concern is the betterment and well being of their members, not society in general.

Public Interest Groups : Public interest group promote collective rather than selective goods. They aim to help groups other than their own members.

Example : BAMCEF (Backward and minorities community employees federation).

Questions :

1. Distinguish between sectional interest groups and public interest groups?
2. Give one example of public interest group?
3. What is public welfare groups?
4. In what ways do pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics.

Lesson No. 6

Political Parties

Meaning : A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in govt and make public opinion among the people of country.

Topic : The role of Political Parties to Shape Public Opinion :

- They raise and highlight issues.
- The parties clear the policies of govt. to people.
- The parties clear the policies of govt. to people.
- Political parties give their ideas in favour and against the govt.
- Political parties give their ideas about the new laws made by the govt.
- In this way the political parties help to create public opinion in people. So it is necessary for people if they want to establish democratic govt. they have to analyze for and against democracy.

2. Topic : Challenges to Political Parties

Parties are for the working of democracy parties are the most visible face of democracy. It is natural that people blame parties, criticise them.

Parties have to face many challenges :-

1. Lack of Internal democracy :-

1. Concentration of powers in one hand.
 2. Parties do not conduct internal election.
 3. Leaders assume greater power to make decision in name of party.
- The second challenge of dynastic succession is related to the first one. Those who happen to be the leaders are in a position of unfair advantage to favour people close to them or even their family members.

Growing role of money and muscle power in parties :

1. The parties tend to nominate those candidates who have or can raise lots of money. In some cases parties support criminals.
- The fourth challenge is that very often parties **do not seem to offer a meaningful choice**. In order to offer meaningful choice, parties must be significantly different.
 - There has been a decline in the ideological differences among parties.
 - The difference among all the major parties on the economic policies have reduced.

- Those who want really different policies have no option available to them.
- Lack of good leaders.

3. Topic : Reforming the Political Parties

- The constitution was amended to prevent elected members from changing parties.
- The supreme court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals.
- Now it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an affidavit giving details of his property.
- The election commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organizational elections and file their income tax returns.
- A law is made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.
- The govt. should give money to parties for election so that every one who wants to participate in elections can do the same.

Questions :

1. What is public opinion?
2. Explain the role of political parties in making public opinion.
3. What is ruling party?
4. What is defection?
5. What is affidavit?
6. What are the various challenges faced by political parties.
7. What steps have been taken by the govt for the smooth functioning of political parties.
8. Give two merits of any political party.

Lesson No. 7

Outcomes of Democracy

Democracy is better than others

We felt that democracy is better because it :

- Promotes equality among citizens.
- Enhance the dignity of the individual
- Improves the quality of decision making.
- Provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- Allows room to correct mistakes.
- The countries which have formal constitutions, they hold elections and form govts.
- They guarantee rights of citizens.
- Democracy solves the social and political and economic problems of the country.

Topic - 2 : Accountable responsive and Legitimate Govt.

Accountable Govt. : Democracy is a accountable govt because it is the govt. of the people and made by people and for the people. The representatives elected by the people are responsible to them. If the people are not happy with the govt they can change the leaders in coming elections.

Responsive Govt. : A citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out. She has the right and the means to examine the process of decision making. This type of transparency is not available in non democratic govts.

Legitimate Govt. : Democratic govt is legitimate govt.

It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean. But a democratic govt is people's own govt's can not ignore the needs of people. So people wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.

Questions :

1. Give the definition of democracy?
2. How democracy is better than other types of govt.?
3. How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate govt.
4. "democracy depends on political equality". clarify this statement.

Lesson No. 8

Challenges to Democracy

Topic : 1 : Challenges to Democracy :

The serious challenges that democracy face in a country for smooth running of govt is called challenges. A challenge is not just any problem. We usually call only those difficulties a challenge which are significant and which can be overcome.

Challenges : At least one fourth of global is still not under democratic govt. The challenge for democracy in these parts of the world is very stark. These countries face the foundational challenge of making the transition to democracy and then instituting democratic govt.

- Most of the established democracies face the challenge of expression. This involves applying the basic principles of democratic govt across all the region, different social groups and various institutions.
- Challenge of deepening of democracy is faced by every democracy in one form or another. This involves strengthening of the institutions and practices of democracy. They should happen in such a way that people can realise their expectations of democracy.
- Elections are very expensive. The only rich persons can elect elections. The common man can not stand in elections. The govt should minimise the election expenditure. The govt should prepare budget for elections.

2. Topic : Political Reforms in Democracy

Meaning : All the suggestions or proposals about overcoming various challenges to democracy are called democracy reform or political reform.

- Reforming politics by making new laws.
- Carefully devised changes in law can help to discourage wrong political practices and encourage good ones.
- Any legal change must carefully look at what results it will have on politics. Sometimes the results may be counter productive. For example, many states have banned people who have more than two children from contesting panchayat elections. This has resulted in denial of democratic opportunity to many poor people and women.
- The best laws are those which empower people to carry out democratic reforms.
- The Right to Information Act is a good example of a law that empowers the people to find out what is happening in govt.
- Democratic reforms are to be brought about principally through political prac-

tice.

- Any proposal for political reform should think not only about what is a good solution but also about who will implement it and how.

Questions :

1. Name the two democratic countries who face challenge of expansion.
2. What is political reforms.
3. What is the importance of Right to Information Act.
4. What is the meaning of word 'challenge'.
5. How we can make political reforms in democracy.
6. Evaluate the main challenges faced by Indian democracy.