

TOPICS to be covered



1 Outcomes of Democracy



Outcomes of Democracy





Why is Democracy Better?

- ❑ Promotes equality among citizens.
- ❑ Enhances the dignity of the individual.
- ❑ Improves the quality of decision making.
- ❑ Provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- ❑ Allows room to correct mistakes.

Democracy – good in principle, not so good in its practice





Part 1 : Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government



- ❑ How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government?





Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government



- ❑ What is our expectation from ~~democracy~~?
- ❑ Produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.





Citizens : Will Ask for Answer ✓



Democratic govt. → Inefficient } Decision making
↳ Time taking }

Dictatorship → quick decisions

Transparency



- ❑ Actual performance of democracies shows a mixed record. Then why do we accept it?
- ❑ Democratic government is legitimate government:
- ❑ People's own government.
- ❑ People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.





Democracy : Is it Efficient?





In Terms of Cost



- ❑ Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.
- ❑ A government that may take decisions very fast. But it may take decisions that are not accepted by the people and may therefore face problems.

→ Dictatorship.



Transparency



- ❑ Decision making is based on norms and procedures.
- ❑ 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.

Expectation

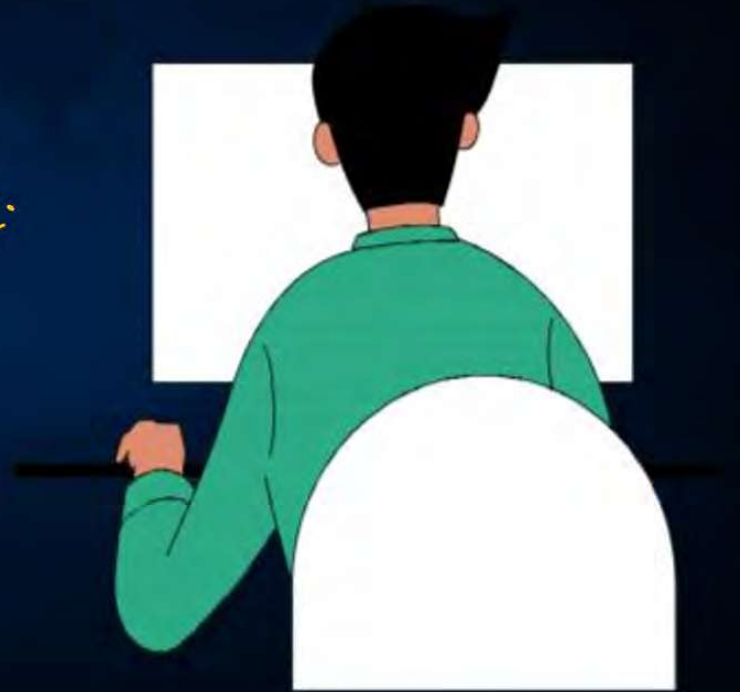
- Accountable
 - Responsive
 - legitimate
- } → mixed record
- ppl's own govt.



Part 2 : Economic Growth And Development



Democratic govt. \rightarrow good govt.





Economic Growth and Development



- ❑ Produce good governments - not fair to expect that they would also produce development
- ❑ Democracy vs Dictatorship - (1950 to 2000 growth rate).
- ❑ But we cannot reject democracy based on this.
- ❑ Economic development depends on several factors: population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities.

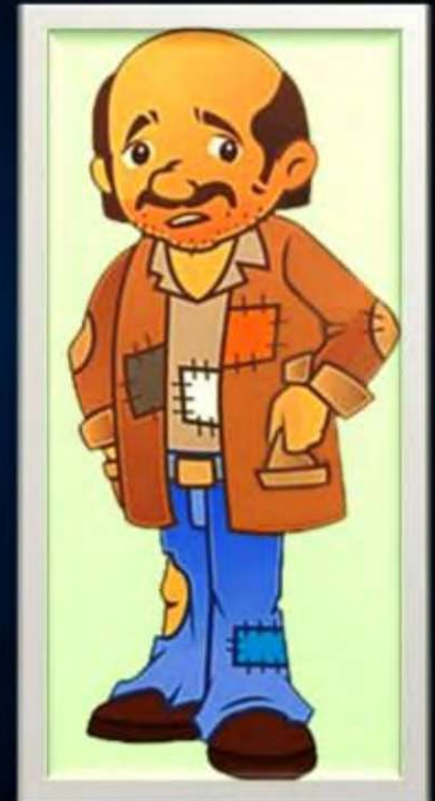




Part 3: Reduction of Inequality and Poverty



- ❑ Reasonable to expect democracies to reduce economic (disparities.) → Diff b/w rich & poor.
- ❑ Democracies are based on political equality. We find growing economic inequalities.
- ❑ Poor constitute a large proportion of our voters and no party will like to lose their votes.
- ❑ Yet democratically elected governments do not appear to be as keen to address the question of poverty as you would expect them to.



Democracy
{ Reduce inequality }
& poverty }

Expectation

Pol. Equality
Eco. Inequality

Reality



Part 4 : Accommodation of Social Diversity



- ❑ What are the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities?





Accommodation of Social Diversity



- ❑ Do democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens?
- ❑ No society ~~can~~ fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and we can also evolve mechanisms to negotiate the differences.
- ❑ Democracy is best suited to produce this outcome.





Accommodation of Social Diversity



- ❑ A democracy must fulfil two conditions in order to achieve this outcome: { Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The **majority always needs to work with the minority.** } Rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group, etc. }

①

②

Sri Lanka

Sinhala → Majoritarian measures





Part 5 : Dignity and Freedom of The Citizens





Dignity and Freedom of The Citizens



- ❑ Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.
- ❑ Difficult for societies which have been built for long on the basis of subordination and domination.
- ❑ Case of dignity of women ✓ in a world that is historically male dominated societies.





Dignity and Freedom of The Citizens



- ❑ What is most distinctive about democracy is that its examination never gets over.
- ❑ As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better.
- ❑ The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy.
- ❑ It transforms people from the status of a subject into that of a citizen.

