

Topics *to be covered*

1

Outcomes of Democracy

2

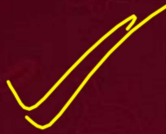
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Outcomes of Democracy





HOW DO WE ACCESS DEMOCRACY'S OUTCOMES?

Democracy:- is considered a better form of government when compared with dictatorship or any other alternate form of government because:

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





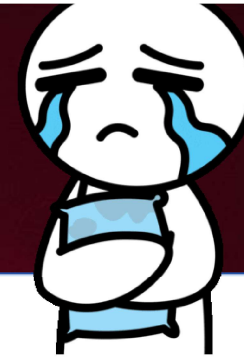
Dilemma of Democracy-

- Democracy → is seen to be good in principle but felt to be not so good in its practice. This dilemma invites us to think about the outcomes of democracy.
- Our interest in & fascination for democracy often pushes us into taking a Position that democracy can address all socio-economic and political problems. If some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy.
- The first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy is to recognize that democracy is just a form of government.
- It can only create conditions for achieving something. The citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals.

ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE AND LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT

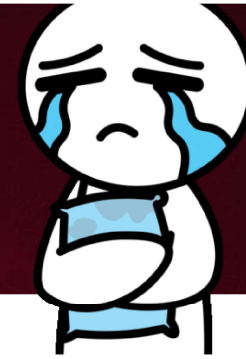


- People should have the right to choose their rulers as well as control them.
- People should be involved in decision making wherever possible.
- Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that → it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.
- Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.
- A democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision. But because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective.
- Democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on norms and procedures. The right and the means to examine the process of decision-making known as transparency.
- Democracy must be a government that is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption. However, it does not fair very well on these two fronts.
- A democratic government is the people's own government. People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.



ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ✓✓

- Economic development depends on several factors- → the country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country, etc.
- If we compare all democracies and all dictatorships between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth. ✓
- But, the difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.
- Democracy is not a guarantee of economic development. But we can expect democracy not to lag behind dictatorship on this front.
- There can be a very high degree of economic inequalities within democracies but it is better to prefer democracy as it has several other positive outcomes.

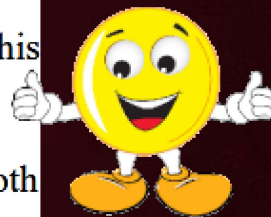


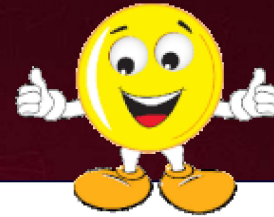
REDUCTION OF INEQUALITY AND POVERTY ✓

- Democratic governments shouldn't focus on growing economically but on reducing economic disparities that exist between rich and poor.
- Democracies are based on Political equality. Every citizen has an equal right to elect their representatives. ✓
- It is seen that ultra-rich people enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and income. And on the other side, Poor have struggles even to meet their necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, etc.
- In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities. Democracies like India and Bangladesh are examples of glaring inequality. ✓

ACCOMMODATION OF SOCIAL DIVERSITY

- It's fairly expected that Democracy would lead to a harmonious social life.
- No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. However, we can learn to respect these differences. ✓
- Democracy is best suited to produce this outcome. Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is a plus point of democratic regimes. ✓
- For Example, Belgium's Democratic government has successfully negotiated differences amongst ethnic populations. ✓
- But the example of Sri Lanka Reminds us that a democracy must fulfil few conditions in order to achieve this Outcome ✓
- The majority and minority, both should work together. Opinions of both must be respected for the smooth functioning of the government. ✓
- It is also necessary that rule by the majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic groups. ✓
- If someone is barred from being in majority on the basis of birth, then the democratic rule ceases to be accommodative for that person or group.





DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF THE CITIZENS

- Democracy stands 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. This has been achieved in various degrees in various democracies.
- Most societies across the world were historically male dominated societies. ✓
- Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity today that respect to and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society. ✓
- Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity. ✓
- Expectations from democracy also function as the criteria for judging and democratic country. ✓
- As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better
- Most individuals today believe that their vote makes a difference to the way the government is run and to their own self-interest. ✓



→ How does Democracy
ensure dignity and freedom
of citizens? (3)