

Class 10 Civics – Chapter 5: Outcomes of Democracy

◆ What Do We Expect from Democracy?

Democracy is often praised as the best form of government. But does it deliver on that promise?

Democracy is expected to:

1. Promote **equality** among citizens
2. Enhance **dignity** of the individual
3. Improve **decision-making**
4. Resolve **conflicts peacefully**
5. Allow **corrections of mistakes**

✓ In principle, democracy is excellent.

⚠ In practice, results are often **mixed or slow**.

1. Accountable, Responsive, and Legitimate Government

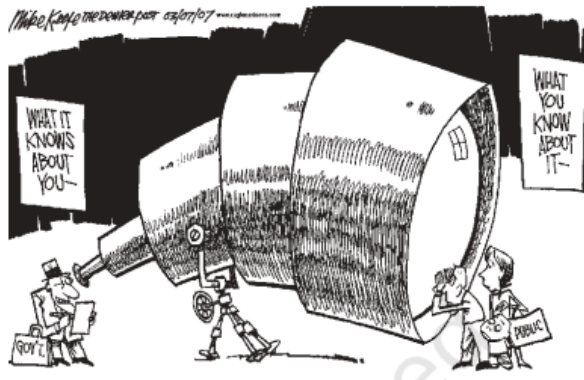
A good democracy should:

- Have **free and fair elections**
- Be **accountable** to the people
- Be **transparent** (people can check how decisions were made)

♦ **Transparency:** Citizens have the right to ask how decisions were made (Right to Information).

Is democracy efficient?

- Dictatorships are fast but may ignore people's needs.
- Democracies are slow but more **inclusive** and **deliberative**.



♦ Add: (Fig. 1 – Cartoon on government secrecy and transparency)

2. Economic Growth and Development

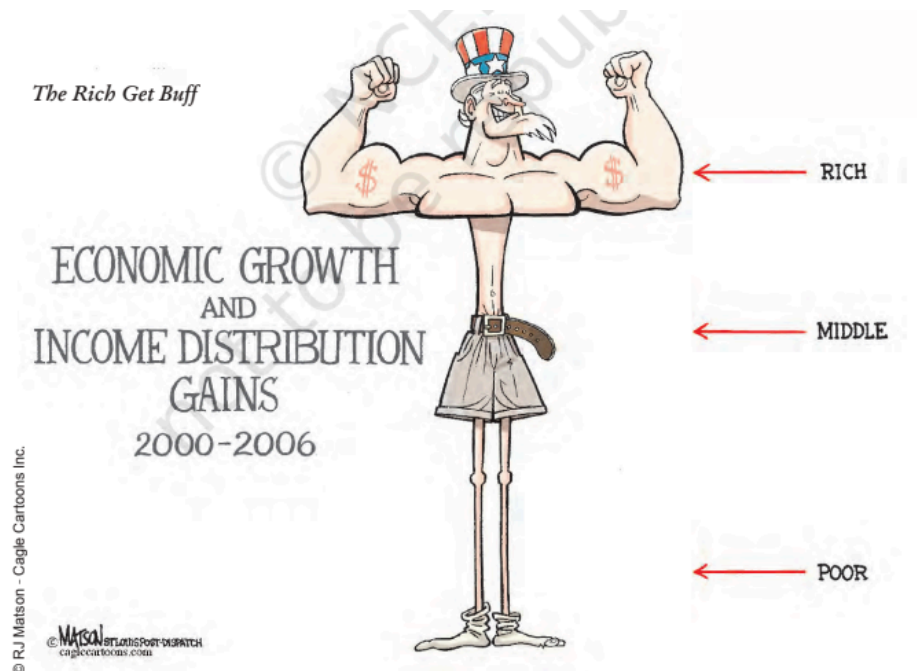
Democracies are expected to bring **economic growth**. But reality is complex.

Type of Regime	Avg. Growth Rate (1950–2000)
Democracies	3.95%
Dictatorships	4.42%

However, this difference is **not significant in poor countries**.

Conclusion:

- Democracy **doesn't guarantee** better growth.
- But democracy has **other advantages** like accountability and rights.



♥ Add: (Fig. 2 – Cartoon: “The Rich Get Buff”)

💰 3. Reduction of Inequality and Poverty

- Democracies **promise political equality** (1 person = 1 vote).
- But they **fail to reduce economic inequality**.

Country	Top 20% Income	Bottom 20% Income
South Africa	64.8%	2.9%
Brazil	63.0%	2.6%
Denmark	34.5%	9.6%

✦ Even in democracies, rich people control most wealth.

Table 1

Rates of economic growth for different countries, 1950-2000

Type of regimes and countries	Growth Rate
All democratic regimes	3.95
All dictatorial regimes	4.42
Poor countries under dictatorship	4.34
Poor countries under democracy	4.28

Source: A Przeworski, M E Alvarez, J A Cheibub and F Limongi, *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Table 2

Inequality of income in selected countries

Name of the Countries	% share of national income	
	Top 20 %	Bottom 20 %
South Africa	64.8	2.9
Brazil	63.0	2.6
Russia	53.7	4.4
USA	50.0	4.0
United Kingdom	45.0	6.0
Denmark	34.5	9.6
Hungary	34.4	10.0

✦ Add: (Fig. 3 – Chart/Table of income inequality + cartoon on the poor)

👉 4. Accommodation of Social Diversity

Democracy helps manage **social divisions** such as:

- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Caste
- Language

But to succeed, it must:

1. **Respect majority and minority voices**
2. Not turn majority rule into **majority community domination**

✦ *Example:* Belgium handled diversity well; Sri Lanka did not.

👤 5. Dignity and Freedom of Citizens

Democracy ensures:

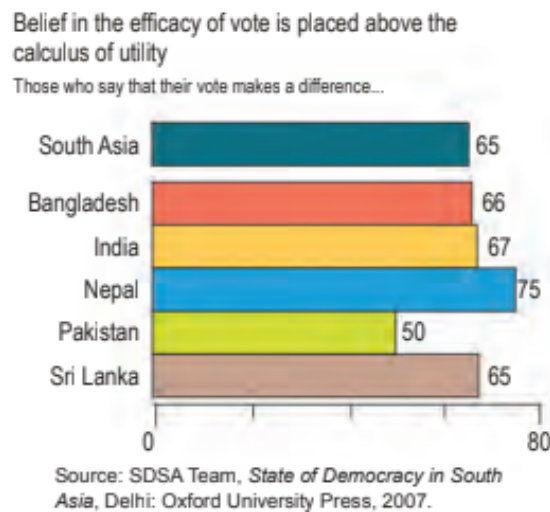
- **Individual dignity**
- **Freedom of speech**
- **Equal rights** for all genders, castes, and religions

● Dignity of Women:

- Democracy **recognizes** women's rights.
- Women have fought for and gained **legal protections**.

● Caste Equality:

- Indian democracy has **empowered Dalits and backward classes**.
- Still, discrimination exists—but **people now fight it legally**.



✦ Add: (Fig. 5 – Graph on belief in democracy and vote effectiveness)



Why People Still Believe in Democracy

- People criticize democracy because they **expect better**.
- That's a good sign—it means they're aware and active.
- Even poor citizens believe **their vote matters**.

✦ *Democracy doesn't end at elections—it keeps evolving.*



Key CBSE Questions – Trends

Type	Common Questions
1 mark	Define transparency / democracy's outcomes
3 marks	Explain legitimacy, dignity, social accommodation
5 marks	Why democracy is better despite its flaws?
Passage-based	RTI example, poverty, dignity of women