

## 15. DISADVANTAGES OF DEMOCRACY:

Followings are the dis-advantages of democracy:

### I. INTRICATES SYSTEM:

It is generally said that the entire superstructure of democracy is intricate that stands unintelligible to a common man hence is a difficult form of government. It expects too much from the people while they do not come up to the required standards.

### II. PERVERTED RULE OF LEADERSHIPS:

Political problems, as already pointed out, are so complex that these are generally unintelligible to common men. Normally, the opinion of citizens reflects the views of their leaders or that of the press. Clever leaders and demagogues, mobilize the public opinion through charming slogans and lofty promises.

### III. INCOMPETENT GOVERNMENT:

In an ideal democracy, no individual or group enjoys permanent right to rule. Change in the government is inevitable. In a short period, normally consisting of three to five years of tenure, it is not possible for the rulers to get proficiency in statecraft.

### IV. INSTABILITY:

A continuous struggle and conflict among political parties and interest groups, marks the working of modern democracies. In the Third World, extreme polarization has caused considerable loss to different nations in respect of national solidarity. This has been the experience of Pakistan particularly.

### V. AUTOCRACY OF MAJORITY:

All decisions in a democratic system are taken on the basis of majority principle and all such decisions are regarded as the manifestation of popular will.

#### V. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION:

Freedom of expression has been regarded as the backbone of modern democratic system. The formulation and expression of public opinion is made possible through the recognition of this right.

#### VI. POLITICAL PARTIES :

Modern politics revolves around political parties. Political parties form public opinion, educate the masses and try to capture political power within constitutional limits. The aspirations of the people can be realized effectively through political parties as they prepare a well-knit programme get the mandate from the people at elections and then try to implement the programme through political authority.

#### CONDITIONS OF DEMOCRACY:

A democracy system is characterized by the presence of political rights, political equality and change in the government. But certain prerequisites essential to enforce political rights in a society.

##### I. TOLERANCE:

In a democracy, multi-views, opinions and ideas are allowed to be propagated and expressed. But difference of opinion is useful in a society where people are tolerant enough to listen to the opposite views and try to convince others on the basis of reasoning and arguments. Helvetius a prominent thinker, presents this thesis in these words. "I detest your opinion but I will fight unto death to safeguard your rights to express it."

##### II. PROVISION OF OPPORTUNITIES:

In a democratic system every person is expected to be politically conscious and express his opinion on political matters it is, therefore, necessary that all such facilities should be provided as can make

them capable of performing such duties. It is the duty of a government, of example, to provide mass education. This is the educational system that can effectively foster democratic values, promote political vigilance and sense of responsibility and develop collective thinking in a people.

### III. ECONOMIC JUSTICE:

The success of political democracy is closely linked with the enforcement of economic democracy. Absence of fair play and justice in economic field, paves the way for the establishment of a monopolistic system based on class conflict.

### IV. POLITICAL PARTIES:

Political parties perform a key role in a democracy. They educate the masses, formulate public opinion and act as important source of political recruitment. Political parties try to get political power through constitutional means. In case of defeat at the polls, they continue playing an important role as opposition, while successful parties form the government.

### V. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:

Fundamental rights are better secured when these are incorporated in the constitution while superior courts stand as its guardian. In this way, maximum sanctity can be attached to fundamental rights.

### VI. SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Protection of fundamental rights through constitutional guarantees, is not enough to protect public liberties. Higher sense of responsibility and eternal vigilance on the part of the public, is more important in this context.

### VII. ALLEGIANCE WITH INSTITUTIONS:



Direct Democracy in a direct system of democracy, citizen have direct political participation as was the practice in states with limited population. Nevertheless even at present, certain devices of direct democracy exist in the form of initiatives.

Referendum and recall, especially in Switzerland.

#### 11. INDIRECT DEMOCRACY:

At present, the prevailing form of democracy is based on popular representation, according to which citizens elect their representatives after regular intervals, to shoulder the responsibilities of government. The representatives are accountable to the people. Many devices have been opted by different democracies to get the participation of people in political decision making.

#### 12. CHARACTERISTICS (BASIC INJUNCTIONS)

I. **Civil Rights:** Under a democratic system, people enjoy political participation. In the ancient Greek city states political rights were secured to a small function that consisted of a very limited number of population, while slaves and metics resident aliens were deprived of the rights of citizenship. But in modern democracy, all the citizens enjoy equal civil and political rights.

#### II. CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT:

In a democratic government system, no class or any group has claim to political power on permanent basis. Change in government is regarded as essential feature, made possible through free and regular elections. Tenure of government is fixed and after the expiry of that period, the representatives have to go to the people for getting fresh mandate.

#### III. POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

The people's representatives exercise political power but they are also accountable to the electorates. In every system proper devices are adopted to make the government accountable to the people.

#### IV. MAJORITY RULE:

The main impetus to democratic thought came from the concept of Natural Rights that got popular support during the last phase of medieval ages. This concept laid much emphasis on preserving the sanctity of individual rights.

#### 6. CONCEPT OF NATURAL RIGHTS:

The French Revolution translated the theory of National Rights into political reality.

From that time onward the idea that democracy is the best form of government, gained deep roots.

#### 7. SUPPORTERS OF LAISSEZ-FAIRE DOCTRINE:

The supporters of laissez-faire doctrine, also contributed positively in the development of democracy ideals. They struck down on the theory of absolutism and that of totalitarianism and projected the case of fundamental freedoms.

#### 8. CODE OF LIFE:

In order to appraise and analyze the real nature of democracy it must be made clear that democracy is not merely a political precept. It is rather a socio-economic and political concept and must be taken in a wider sense. If it is understood in political sense only, that is as a form of government merely, it loses its significance. Most modern political theorists have regarded democracy as a complete worldly system of life that regulates human conduct in all phases of activity.

#### 9. KINDS:

Two types of democracy are mentioned in political literature:

- Direct democracy.
- Indirect democracy.

In democracies, decisions are taken by a majority vote, that may endanger the rights and interests of the minorities. Majority group can easily establish its authoritarian rule which may prove harmful especially in a multi-racial and multi-religious society.

#### **VI. BASIS OF REPRESENTATION:**

The supporters of Guild Socialism severely criticized the mode of representation in modern democracies. According to Cole, no person can represent any other. They believe that function representation should replace the present basis of geographical cum popular representation.

#### **VII. ECONOMIC JUSTICE:**

Socialists criticize democracy on the grounds that it serves the interests of the capitalists classes and thereby help in strengthening their political hold. The laws in such societies, they argue protect the interests of the dominant class.

#### **VIII. LACK OF CIVIC VIRTUES:**

Analyzing the attitudes of peoples Lord Bryce remarks, that common people lack civic virtues which are essential for democracy. People show indolence in respect of political participation to an extent that sometimes they abstain even from voting. Vote-bargaining, political bribery and nepotism becomes a routine affair. Political parties at times, do rigging in elections to get favourable results.

#### **16. APPRAISAL OF THE WORKING OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF GOVERNMENT:**

As regards an appraisal of the working of different forms of government, a moderate approach signifies the following criteria.

- I. How does a government perform the basic functions of states?
- II. How far it has protected the interest of the people from encroachment by the external and internal forces?