

# OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY

## Political Science Class-10

### How do we assess democracy?

**Democracy** -The word democracy is derived from the Greek word 'Demo + kratia' meaning the power or rule of people. It is a form of government in which the people rule, either directly or through elected representatives. In India there is representative democracy.

#### Democracy is better than other forms of Govt. because-

- It promotes equality among citizens
- Enhances the dignity of the individual
- Improves the quality of decision making
- Provides a method to resolve conflicts
- Allows room or mechanism to correct mistakes
- It can address well the socio-economic and political problems
- Provides an accountable, responsive and legitimate govt.
- Best suited to accommodate social-diversity, dignity and freedom of citizens are best guaranteed in a democracy
- Democracy has the ability to generate its own support among people
- It is people's own govt
- Any other form of government like dictatorships don't have these democratic values.

#### Board Questions:

1. How are the democratic governments better than the other forms of governments? Justify the statement. (2019)  
OR  
"Democracy is a better form of government than the other forms of government". Analyse the statement with arguments. (Delhi 2016)  
OR  
Bring out any three arguments to show that democracy is better form government as compared to dictatorship. (2012, 15)
2. Describe any five characteristics of democracy. (2017)
3. When is democracy considered successful? (2016)
4. State any three merits of Democracy. (2015)
5. How can the success of Democracy be assessed? Explain. (2012)
6. 'There is overwhelming support for the idea of Democracy all over the world.' Support the statement. (2015)

#### There is overwhelming support of Democracy all over the world

- It has many Merits which make it most popular form of government (See the points above)
- People find it the only govt which can be called as 'people's own government'.
- The evidence from South Asia shows that democracy has its support in democratic as well as non-democratic regimes like China and North Korea.
- People wish to be ruled representatives elected by them and think that democracy is suitable for their country

**Common features of a Democratic Politics**

- Formal Constitutions
- Regular elections
- Political Parties
- Fundamental Rights to citizens

**Factors affecting the achievements of democracies**

- Social situations
- Economic achievements and Culture

**Expectations from a Democracy (outcomes of democracy)**

*Democracy is just a form of Govt which creates suitable conditions for achieving something. The citizens have to make use of these conditions to achieve their goals.*

The democracies are expected to provide the **basic outcomes** –

<b>Political outcomes:</b>	Accountable, responsive and legitimate govt.
<b>Economic outcomes:</b>	Economic growth and development
<b>Social outcomes:</b>	Reduction of inequality and poverty

**I. Political Outcomes of Democracy****1. An Accountable Government**

- It is the most basic outcome of a democracy as democracies are based on political equality
- People have the rights to choose and exercise control over their rulers
- People should be involved in decision making
- Norms and procedures should be followed in decision making
- **Transparency:** Citizens should have the rights and means to find out and examine the process of decision making. It is called transparency
- The decision taking process may be slower than non-democratic regimes but the delay is compensated by a more worthy, correct and suitable decisions.
- Govt should develop mechanisms for citizens to hold the Govt Accountable.
- It is right to expect democracy to produce a govt that follows and is accountable to people

**Board Questions:**

1. Describe the importance of democratic government as an accountable and legitimate government. (Delhi 2019)
2. Explain the meaning of transparency in democracy. (2017)
3. Examine the political outcomes of Democracy. (2016)
4. How can a democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government? (2012)
5. 'Democratic governments in practice are known as accountable.' Support the statement with arguments. (2016)
6. How can a democratic government be made accountable? Explain. (2012)



## 2. A Responsive Government

*It is expected from a democracy that*

- Govt is attentive to the needs and demands of the people
- Govt is largely free from the evil of Democracy
- People should feel that Govt listens to their grievances and properly addresses them.

*But the record of democracies is not impressive.*

- Democracies often frustrate the needs of people
- Ignore demands of the majority
- Democracies are not free from the evil of corruption

### Board Questions:

1. 'It may be reasonable from a democracy a government that it is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption. 'Explain this statement in three points. (2012)
2. How is democratic government known as responsive government? Explain with examples. (2014)
3. How is democracy accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens? Analyse. (2015)

## 3. A legitimate government

- A Democratic government is legitimate govt because, ultimately it is people's own Govt.
- Rule of law is applicable equally to all citizens
- All powers are drawn from the Constitution
- A Democratic Govt may be slow, less efficient, not always responsive or clean but still it is better than other forms of Govt.
- People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them
- Democracy itself generates support for itself which makes it the most popular form of government

### Board Questions:

'Democratic government is a legitimate government.' Support the statement with arguments with examples. (2014, Delhi 2016, 17)

## II. Economic Outcomes of Democracy

### 1. Relationship between democracy and development

- Democracies are expected to produce economic development
- Inability of Democracy to achieve higher economic development is a matter of worry
- The economic development depends on several factors like-
  - Population size of the country
  - Global situations
  - Cooperation from other countries
  - Economic priorities and policies of govt
- The dictatorships are slightly better from democracies in terms of economic achievements
- But it is better to prefer democracy because it has many other positive outcomes.

### Board Questions:

Establish the relationship between democracy and the development. (2012, 16)



## 2. Economic growth in democracies is accompanied by inequalities among people

*Democracies are expected to reduce economic disparities. There should be just distribution of goods and opportunities. But democracies are not able to provide economic justice to people.*

### But the democracies are not successful in reducing economic inequalities

- We find growing economic inequalities with some very rich and some very poor
- A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth. Their share in the total income of the country is has been rising
- Those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend on. Their income is declining. Sometimes they find it difficult to meet the basic needs of life-food, clothing, house, education
- The political parties do not appear keen to address the questions of poverty.
- Example- In Bangladesh more than half of people lives in poverty
- It is also true that several poor countries are dependent on the rich countries for food supplies.

**Example-** In S. Africa and Brazil the top 20% people share more than 60% of the national income and the bottom 20 % people share less than 3% in the national income.

*We can say that economic disparities and inequalities are increasing in democracy. The governments do not appear to be successful in providing economic justice.*

#### **Board Questions:**

1. 'Democracies are not appearing to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities. Justify the statement. (2016, 2019)
2. Evidence shows that in practice, many democracies did not fulfil the expectations of producing economic development in the country. Validate the statement with the help of relevant examples. (2016)
3. Democracy has failed to reduce economic inequality and poverty. 'Do you agree? Give arguments in support of your answer. (2014)

## III. Social Outcomes of Democracy (accommodation of social-diversity)

- It is expected that democracy should produce a peaceful and harmonious social life
- Democracy is best suited to negotiate and accommodate the social diversity
- Negotiations and deliberations reduce the possibilities of tensions becoming explosive or violent
- No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. But Democracy teaches us to respect the differences and adjust accordingly
- Ability to handle social differences and conflicts is a plus point of Democracy

#### **Board Questions:**

1. 'Democracy stands much superior to anyone other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.' Justify the statement. (2011,12,13, 16, 17)
2. On the basis of which values will it be a fair expectation that democracy should produce a harmonious social life? Explain. (2017)
3. 'Democracy accommodates social diversities.' Support the statement with examples. (2016, 17)
4. 'Democracies lead to peaceful and harmonious life among citizens.' Support this statement. (2012, 13)



## 1. Two conditions necessary to accommodate the social diversity

### I. Democracy is not simply the rule of majority

- Majority and minority should work together to produce a general view for the government
- Majority and minority opinions are not permanent

### II. Rule by majority does not mean rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group

- Rule by majority means different persons or groups have a chance to form a majority
- The true democracy creates conditions for every citizen to be part of a majority at some point of time
- The democratic rule ceases (stops working) to be accommodative (sab ko saath le ke chalna) when it bars someone from being a part of a majority.
- **An exceptional example of Sri Lanka-** Here the policy of majoritarianism is followed.

**Board Questions:**

1. What are the two conditions to accommodate social diversities in a democracy? Mention any one exception to this. (2015)

2. Explain with examples, how the dignity and freedom of citizens are best guaranteed in a democracy. (2014)

## 2. Dignity and freedom of the citizens

Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government for promoting dignity and freedom of the individuals.

- Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings.
- The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy and democracies recognise this, at least, in principle.

### Dignity of Women and democracy

- Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity that respect to women and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients (elements or parts) of a democracy.
- Once the principal of equality of women is recognised, it becomes easier for women to struggle for their Rights and place in society.
- The recognition of the principal of individual freedom renders legal and moral force to struggle by women.
- There are several laws and provisions in Constitution to recognise the equal status of women

### Caste inequalities and democracy

- Democracy in India had strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
- Now caste-based inequalities and atrocities lack moral and legal foundation.
- People are aware and now they value their democratic rights
- Such benefits and considerations may not be available in non-democratic regimes.



## Public dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democracy

- People have ever-increasing expectations from democracy
- The most distinctive about democracy is that it's examination is never over.
- Benefits of democracy make people ask for more and it makes democracy even better.
- The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony (witness or sakshya) to the success of democracy.
- People are aware of their rights to criticize the Govt and it keeps the power holders in check
- Public dissatisfaction with government shows the success of the democratic project
- People are aware of the power of their votes to make the Govt function to their own self-interest.

### Board Questions:

1. How are complaints by people treated as testimony to the success of democracy? Explain. (2016)
2. 'A public expression of dissatisfaction with democracy shows the success of democratic project.' Justify the statement. (2016)

## Democracy is seen to be good in principle but felt to be not so good in practice

### (Criticism or demerits of democracy)

#### Some people think that democracy produces a less effective government because there is delay in decision making.

- Democracy is based on the idea of deliberations and negotiations and some delay is bound to take place
- Non-democratic rulers don't bother about debates, deliberation in assemblies or public opinion and therefore they are able in quick decision making and implementation
- The democracies follow norms and procedures to arrive at decisions. The decisions taken are likely to be more acceptable to the people and more effective.
- Non-democratic regimes take decisions very fast but it may not be acceptable to the people.

### Board Questions:

1. 'Democracy is seen to be good in principle but felt to be not so good in practice.' Justify the statement. (2013, 16)
2. 'Some people think that democracy produces a less effective government.' analyse the statement. (2015)

#### The actual performance of democracies shows a mixed record.

- Democracies fall short of elections that provide a fair chance to every citizen.
- Democratic governments do not have good record regarding sharing information with citizens.
- Democracies often frustrate the needs of people
- Ignore demands of the majority
- Democracies are not free from the evil of corruption

#### Democracies not successful in reducing economic disparities. (for detail see above related topics)

#### Some other demerits

- Unstable governments, inefficient governments, red-tapism, role of money in democracy etc

**Board Question:** Describe any five outcomes of democracy. (2019)

(Hint: Try to mention points from all outcomes of democracy)



---

**You can visit us at the following links**



**<https://www.ncerttutorials.com>**

