

Democratic Politics

APPU

DATE _____

PAGE 12

Ch: 1

What is Democracy? why Democracy?

NOTES:

- 1) Meaning of Democracy: Democracy is a form of Govt. in which the rulers are elected by the people.

Broader Meaning

- 1) Collective decisions are not possible as people can sit together and take a common decision.
- 2) Even if they could, citizens don't have time, desire & skill to take part in decision making.
- 3) Those who are not powerful have the same say in taking the decision as those who are powerful.
- 4) Distinguish betⁿ minimal & good democracy
- 5) Require active involvement of all citizens

Merits of Democracy

- 1) It is more accountable
- 2) It improves the quality of decision as

Page _____

decisions are taken after a long discussion & consultation.

- 3) It provides a method to deal with differences & conflicts.
- 4) It provides various rights like equality etc. and help people live with dignity.
- 5) It is better form of government as it allows us to correct its own mistakes.

Demerits of Democracy

- 1) Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
- 2) Democracy is all about political competition & powerplay. There is no scope for morality.
- 3) So many people are consulted in a democracy that leads to delay in decision making.
- 4) Leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decision.
- 5) Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.

6) Ordinary people don't know what is good for them. They should not decide anything.

One Person, One Vote, One Value

1) Democracy linked to demand for Universal adult Franchise.

2) Principle of political equality: in a democracy each adult citizen must have one vote & each vote must have one value.

#) In Saudi Arabia Women do not have the right to vote.

Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.

In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian Fijian.

Book Exercises

Q1 Each of these statements contains a democratic and an undemocratic element - write out the two separately for each statement.

⇒ Democratic element : Some laws have to be passed by the Parliament.

Undemocratic

a) A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the Parliament in order to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.

⇒ Democratic element : Some laws have to be passed by the Parliament

Undemocratic element : Conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation.

b) The election Commission ordered repolling in a constituency where large-scale rigging was reported.

⇒ D.E : The election Commission ordered repolling.

UD.E : Large scale rigging was reported.

c) Women's representation in the Parliament has barely reached 10 per cent. This led women's organisations to demand one-third seats for women.

⇒ D.E : This led to women's organisations to demand one third seats for women

U.O.E : Women's representation in the parliament has never reached to 10%.

Q2 Distinguish betⁿ Democratic and non democratic

Democratic

non Democratic

1) all citizens have one vote with equal value

1) all citizens are not given equal rights

2) Elections are held at regular intervals

2) Elections are not held at regular interval.

3) Free & fair elections are conducted

3) Free & fair elections are not conducted

3 Explain the major features of democratic governments

Ans Major features of democratic Govt. are :

1) Based Respect for Human Rights

2) A multiparty System

3) Respect for rule of law

4) A democratic voting System

5) Citizens Participation

Q4 What is referendum

A A referendum is a ~~direct~~ direct vote in which the entire electorate is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal. It may be adoption of a new Constitution, a law or a specific governmental policy.