



CLASS X
POLITICAL SCIENCE
CHAPTER 4
OUTCOME OF DEMOCRACY

NOTES

It is not an easy thing to assess outcomes of democracy. To know the real outcome, it is necessary to compare assets of democracy with those of other non-democratic governments. We have to look at the expected outcome as well as actual outcome of democracy in various respects viz., quality of government, economic development, inequality, social differences and conflict, freedom and dignity etc.

Reasons making democracy a better form of government:

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

- It promotes equality among citizens.
- It enhances dignity of individuals.
- It improves the quality of decision making.
- It provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- It allows room to correct mistakes.

Common features of democratic countries:

- They have formal constitutions
- They hold elections regularly.
- They have political parties.
- They guarantee rights of citizens.

Uncommon features of democratic countries:

- They have different social situations.
- They have different economic achievements.
- They have different cultures.



Basic outcomes of democracy:

- The most basic outcome of democracy is that it produces a government that is accountable to the people, responsive to the needs and expectations of the people and a legitimate government elected by the people through regular elections.

Is democratic government efficient and effective (Superiority of Democracy)?

- Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. So, some delay is bound to take place.
- In democracies more time is taken to follow procedures before arriving at a decision. The result is that the decision is both more acceptable to the people and more effective.
- Another superiority of democracy over alternatives is its transparency in working. Democracy ensures that decision making will be based on norms and procedures.
- Democracies have a greater success in setting up regular and free elections and in setting up conditions for open public debate.
- Democracy often frustrates the needs of the people and often ignores the demands of a majority of its population. But there is nothing to show that other alternative governments are less corrupt or more sensitive to the people.
- Democracy is certainly better than its alternatives in having a legitimate government.

Disadvantages of democracy:

- It always worries about majorities and public opinion
- It delays its decisions.

Comparison between democratic and non-democratic governments in the field of economic growth and development:

Dictatorships have slightly higher rates than democracies. The differences in the rates of economic development are negligible. Economic development of a country depends on social factors:

- Country's population size.
- Global situation.
- Co-operation from other countries.
- Economic priorities adopted by the country etc.



Comparison in the field of reduction of inequality and poverty:

- Democracies are based on political equality.
- We see economic inequality with political equality in many democracies.
- In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.

Democracy accommodates social diversity:

- Democracy should produce a harmonious social life is a fair expectation.
- No society can fully and permanently resolve conflict among different groups.
- Democracy is best suited to produce mechanisms to negotiate the differences.
- Ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is a plus point of democratic regimes.
- Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The majority always needs to work with the minority so that government function to represent the general view.

Dignity and freedom of the citizens in Democracy:

- Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual.
- Equal treatment of women is necessary elements of a democratic society.
- Democracy accommodates all social and religious differences.
- Democracy strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.
- There has been reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the government jobs and in the legislatures in democratic governments.
- In democracy women also get reserved seats at least in the Panchayati Raj (local self-government).
- Democracy treats all the individuals equally.
- Democracy transforms people from the status of subject into that of a citizen.



Challenges to Democracy:

A challenge is a difficulty that carries within it an opportunity for progress. Once a challenge is overcome then the government goes up to a higher level than before.

Foundational challenge- Countries that do not have the democratic set up face the challenge of making transition to democracy and then instituting democratic governments which involves bringing down non- democratic regimes.

Challenge of Expansion- Countries already having the democratic set up face the challenge of expansion. This means applying democratic principles across all the regimes, different social groups and various institutions.

Deepening of democracy- This challenge is faced by all the democratic countries Every democratic country needs to strengthen its institutions and practices to deepen democracy. Communalism, casteism, regionalism, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, movement for women empowerment etc., are the great challenges faced by the Indian democracy.

What Sustains Democracy in India:

- Democracy was the like of the makers of the constitution.
- Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar were aspirants of democracy.
- India democracy accommodates all the differences in caste, creed, religions, race etc.
- India's political institutions are all democratic in structure while the political parties are capable of management of the machineries of administration.
- At present people's participation in the politics is much higher than before. At the same time they have become active, alert and vigilant.

