



Introduction

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Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Introduction

A democratic or an elected form of government is better than any other form of government. This is because a democratic government ensures

- Equality among citizens**
- Dignity of every individual**
- Improvement in the quality of decision making**
- Several alternatives to resolve conflicts**
- Correction of mistakes made previously**

Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Introduction

Many people argue against following a democratic form of government. However, it has to be remembered that one democratic country may be different from the other. Further, democracy is just a form of government where the citizens have to take an advantage of the existing conditions. Democracy cannot achieve economic and political equality without the cooperation of the citizens.

Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Outcomes of a Democratic Government:

Results and outcomes of a democracy:

- A democratic government is accountable to the citizens and responsible for the needs and aspirations of the countrymen.
- It is an efficient government. A democratic government may take time to arrive at certain laws and agreements because it has to look after the needs of every section of society. Laws are implemented after deliberations and negotiations which are accepted by people at large unlike a dictatorial government which enacts laws without bothering about its people.

Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Outcomes of a Democratic Government:

- In a democratic government, the working of the government machinery is transparent. It means a citizen can enquire if any decision was taken based on prescribed norms and procedures. Thus, a democratic government follows procedures and is accountable to the people.



Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Outcomes of a Democratic Government:

- In most democratic countries, free and fair elections are held regularly. However, many countries still experience rigging of elections which is the biggest challenge which a democratic country faces.
- Although a democratic government may be slow in forming laws, implementing reforms and less efficient on certain occasions, it is the legitimate form of government which is formed by the people themselves.

Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Democracy and Economic Growth:

If democracy produces good governance, then should we not expect the government to also ensure development? According to a survey, dictatorial countries have shown a slightly higher rate of development in the last fifty years.

However, this factor alone cannot undermine the importance of a democratic country because of the following reasons:

- Economic development depends on certain factors such as the population of the country, availability of natural resources, economic trade policies and global cooperation.

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Democracy and Economic Growth:

- Dictatorial regimes have a little better record in economic terms only in developing countries. In poor countries, there is hardly any economic growth.
- In many democratic countries, unsatisfactory growth rates can be attributed more to inequalities of income in society. Further, there is inequality of opportunity in the poorer sections of society.

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Democracy and Economic Growth:

We can conclude that though democracy is the best form of government, it has not been able to reduce economic inequalities in society. Sometimes, even a government elected mostly by the poor people does not resolve the issue of poverty in the country. For example, in Bangladesh, more than 50% of its population lives below the poverty line, still the government has failed to work for the upliftment of its people.

Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Accommodation of Social Diversity:

A democratic country looks into the needs and aspirations of every section of society. It is also able to handle social conflicts, divisions and differences. However, in order to achieve this objective, a democratic government should fulfil the following conditions:

- In a democratic government, the majority should work in close cooperation with the minority.

Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Accommodation of Social Diversity:

- The rule of the majority community should not be taken in the religious or linguistic sense alone. The rule of a majority should apply in every decision taken and in the formulation of economic policies. Thus, every citizen should get an opportunity to become a part of the majority at some point of time.

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Accommodation of Social Diversity:

We can thus conclude that democracy is the best form of government in the sense that it is elected by the people and it promotes dignity and freedom of an individual. In India, the Constitution does not allow discrimination among people on the basis of religion, caste, gender or sect. A democratic government transforms people from subjects to free citizens.

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Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens:

Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting the dignity and freedom of the individual. The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy. Let's take the case of the dignity of women. The long struggles by women have created some sensitivity that respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society. The same is true of caste inequalities. Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

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Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens:

Most individuals today believe that their vote makes a difference to the way the government is run and to their own self-interest. Democratic examination never gets over. As it passes one test, it produces another test. As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better. The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy.

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