

CHAPTER-7

OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACIES

Q-1 Why is democracy considered a better form of government than dictatorship or any other government?

ANS- It is considered a better form of government:

1. It promotes equality among citizens.
2. It enhances the dignity of the individuals.
3. It improves the quality of decision making because of deliberation and negotiations.
4. It provides a method to resolve conflict. It tries to reduce tensions. The majority works with the minority.
5. In a democracy, it is possible to correct mistakes. The deliberations and discussions in the legislatures may lead to change a law or make an amendment in public interest on the demands of the people.

Q-2 Is the democratic government efficient and effective?

ANS- Some people argue that a democratic government is less efficient and effective because it is based on deliberations and negotiations. Discussions are held in legislatures and cabinet which cause delay in taking decisions. On the other hand, in the non-democratic government no such deliberations or discussions take place in legislatures. The rulers or those people who are in power take decisions. But delay in the decision-making process doesn't mean that democracy is inefficient and ineffective government. As the prescribed procedures don't mean that democracy decisions are generally acceptable to the people and are more effective. Delay is caused due to various procedures and decision makers are not responsible for that. Democracy ensures that norms and procedures must be followed.

Q-3 Difference between democratic and non-democratic government in decision making.

ANS- Democratic

1. Democracy is based on the idea of deliberations and negotiations.
2. Democratic government takes into account the public opinion before reaching a decision.
3. There is some delay in taking a decision due to deliberation and negotiations but these decisions are effective.
4. It is accountable to the people.
5. There is transparency in government. For example, there is a right to information.
6. Democratic government is legitimate. These are people's own governments.

Non-democratic

No such deliberation and negotiation are held.

2. Non-democratic government does not care for public opinion.

3. Non-democratic governments can take quick decisions are sometimes less effective and are forced on the people.
4. There is no transparency under non-democratic governments.
5. It is not accountable to the people because these are dictatorial governments.
6. Non-democratic government is forced on the people.

Q-4 State two conditions for democracy to achieve the outcome of resolving conflicts among different group?

ANS-Almost every country in the world has social diversities in respect of caste, race , religion , and language.

Democracy is considered as the most suitable form of government to accommodate various diversities and negotiate their differences .

It is form of government which aims at giving equal right and opportunities to all the citizens.

Q-5 If people are complaining , it is clear sign of success of democracy. How ? Give reasons .”

ANS-If people are complaining , it is clear sign of success of democracy as the people of the country feel themselves free and equality. Both the feeling is sign of democracy.

Q-6 How does democracy stand superior to any other form of government in prompting dignity and freedom of the individual?

ANS-1. Chief merit of democracy lies in safeguards, the interest of the people.

2. Democracy is based on the principle of equality.

3. Democracy is based on the public will.

4. Democracy is known for its stabilities, firmness and efficiency.

Q-7 If we compare all democracies with all dictatorship between 1950 to 2000 all over the world we find a slight higher ratio of economic development under dictatorship. Do you agree with this? If not, why not? Give reasons.

ANS- The inability of democracies achieve higher economics development worries us.

The above cannot be reasons to reject democracy.

The economics factor depends on several factors, countries, population size, global situation etc.

The differences in the rates of economical development between less developed countries with dictator and democracy is negligible.

Q-8 How does democratic govt. not reduces inequalities?

ANS- Modern democracies are, in fact capitalistic, electioneering is carried out by money.

Rich candidates purchase the votes.

The concept of equality is enshrined in democracies.

It is against the law of nature.

Q-9 Why do democratically elected governments not appear to be keen to address the problem of poverty, as you would expect them to do?

ANS-The situation is much worse in some other countries.

In Bangladesh more than its half population lives in poverty.

People in several poor countries are now depending on the rich countries even for food supplies.

Q-10 Distinguish between dictatorship and democracy ?

ANS-

ON THE BASIS OF ADMINISTRATION

Democracy is in brief govt. for the people, by the people , of the people whereas dictatorship is a rule of one strong man. Individual are obliged to obey this command.

ON THE BASIS OF MEANS AND END

Democracy is the man oriented. In it , state is the means and the welfare of the man is the end.It is quite the opposite of the dictatorship which states – oriented. In it, the man is mean who are require to sacrifice themselves at the alter of state, the ultimate aim is on end of dictatorship.

ON THE BASIS OF CONCEPT

Democracy function according to public will. When a govt. loses public support it is voted out of power. Diametrically opposed to it is dictatorship. Dictators acquire power by force. Change in govt. under dictatorship is possible either by military coup or revolution.

Q-11 What are the prudential reasons to support democracy?

ANS- 1. Over a hundred countries of the world today claim and practice some kind of democratic politics.

2. They have formal constitution , they hold election, they have parties and they guarantee rights to citizens.

3. While these features are common to most of them, these democracies are very much different from each other in terms of their social situations, their economic achievements and their cultures.

Q-11 Do we have to blame democracy for socio-economic and political problems?

ANS- 1. If some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy.

2. The first step towards thinking carefully about the outcomes of democracy is to recognize that democracy is just a form of government. It can only create conditions for achieving something.

3. The citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals.

Q-12 What are our expectations from democracy?

ANS- 1. In a democracy, we are most concerned with ensuring that people will have the right to choose their rulers and people have control over the rulers.

2. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision making , that affects them all.

3. Thus, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that the government is accountable to the citizen and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

Q-13 Is democracy more effective in terms of costs of time?

ANS- 1. Imagine a government that may take decisions very fast. But it may take decisions that are not accepted by the people and may therefore face problem.

2. In the contrast, the democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision.

3. But because it has followed procedures, its decision may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective.

So the cost o time that democracy pays is perhaps worth it.

Q-14 What are the normal procedure of a democratic government?

ANS- 1. It should held regular, free and fair elections.

2. Open public debates on major policies and legislations.

3. Citizens right to information about the government and functioning.

Q-15 Is democracy attentive to the needs of the people and is free from corruption ?

ANS- The record of democracies is not impressive on these two counts.

1. Democracies often frustrate the needs of people and often ignore the demands of a majority of its population.
2. The routine tales of corruption are enough to convince us that democracy is not free of this evil.
3. At the same time, there is nothing to show that non-democracies are less corrupt or more sensitive to the people.

Q-16 In which respect democratic government is better than its alternative?

ANS- 1. Democratic government is legitimate government .

2. It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean.
3. But a democratic government is people's own government.

Q-17 How democracy accommodated social diversity?

ANS- Democracy must fulfil two conditions in order to achieve this outcome.

1. It is necessary to understand that 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.
2. It is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority meant community in terms of religion, or race or linguistics groups. Rule by majority meant that in case of every decision or in case of every election, different persons or groups may and can form a majority.

Democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a choice of being in majority at some point of time.

Q-18 How democracy promotes dignity and freedom of an individual ?

ANS- 1. Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings.

2. Often conflicts arise among individuals because some feel that they are not treated with due respect.
3. The passion for respect and freedom are the basis of democracy.

For societies which have been built for long on the basis of subordination and domination, it is not simple matter to recognize that all individuals are equal.

Q-19 How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government ?

ANS - ACCOUNTABLE

1. A democracy makes it sure that people will have the right to choose their rulers.
2. Whenever possible, citizens should participate in decision making process.
3. This known as transparency.
4. Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy is that it produces a government that is accountable to citizens and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizen.

LEGITIMATE

1. There is one respect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternative.
2. Democratic government is legitimate government.
3. It may be slow, less efficient but it is people's own legitimate government.

RESPONSIVE

1. People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.
2. They also believe that democracy will listen to their problems.
3. Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.

Q-20 Give arguments to support or oppose the following assertions.

ANS- 1. Industrialized countries can afford democracy but poor need dictatorship to become rich.

The economic development of a country does not depend only on the democratic set up to the government. Democracy can only create conditions to achieve some goals. We do not agree with the statement because the nature and scope of democracy is not afford democracy for popular government and economic growth.

2. Democracy can't reduce inequality of incomes between different citizens.

As the democracy is the government of people, so one expects democracies to reduce economic disparities. Most of the democracies of the world have failed on this issue. In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities. In India, even after 50 years of

democratic government, 26% population is still poor. Situation is still worse in countries like Bangladesh.

3. Government in poor countries should spend less on poverty reduction, health, education and spend more on industries and infrastructure.

The government in poor countries should maintain a balance between investment on poverty , education, health etc. as they are the most important components of human development, whereas industries and infrastructure.

4. In democracy all citizens have one vote, which means that there is absence of any domination and conflict.

Principle of one vote does not mean that there is an absence of any domination and conflict.

No societies can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different social groups. But democracy can teach us to respect these disparities. Democracies are better in handling such problems.

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