



NOTES

SOCIAL SCIENCE

(POLITICAL SCIENCE)

OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY



**REVISION NOTES
CHAPTERWISE &
TOPICWISE**

Chapter 7: Outcomes of Democracy

Concepts Covered:

1. **How do we assess democracy's outcomes**
 - Reasons for democracy being better
 - Expectations versus reality
2. **Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government**
 - Decision making
 - Responsiveness
 - Legitimacy
3. **Economic Growth and Development**
 - Economic outcomes of democracy
4. **Reduction of Inequality and Poverty**
5. **Accommodation of Social Diversity**
6. **Dignity and Freedom of the Citizens**
7. **Mind Map**
(Colourful & Interactive/ Complete All Concept Covered)
- Practice Questions (All Topics Available)**

Future's Key

Fukey Education

OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY**HOW DO WE ASSESS DEMOCRACY'S OUTCOMES****HOW DO WE ASSESS DEMOCRACY'S OUTCOMES****Reasons for democracy being better**

Democracy is a better form of government when compared with other alternatives because: -

- Promotes equality amongst citizens.
- Enhance the dignity of the individual.
- Improves the quality of decision making.
- Provides a method to resolve conflicts.
- Allows room to correct mistakes.

Expectations versus reality**Expectations**

Most of them support democracy against other alternatives, such as rule by a monarch or military or religious leaders.

Reality

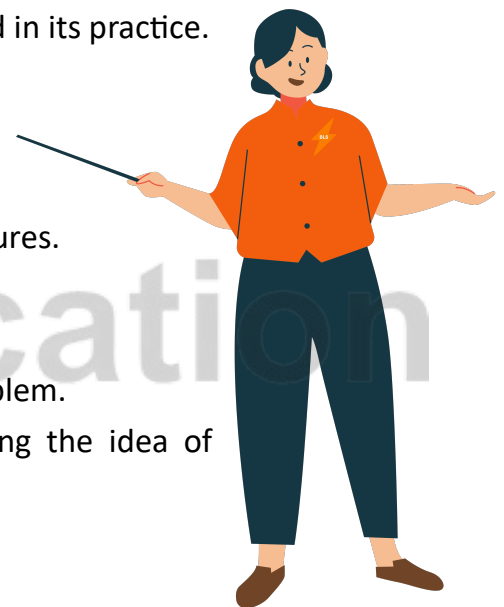
But not so many of them would be satisfied with the democracy in practice.
Democracy is seen to be good in principle but felt to be not so good in its practice.

Democracies

Democracies are very much different from each other in term of their social situations, their economic achievements, and their cultures.

We = Democracy = Our expectations

- Democracy can address all socio-economic and political problem.
- If some of our expectations are not met, we start blaming the idea of democracy.
- We start doubting are we living in a democracy.
- Democracy is just a form of government.
- It can only create conditions for achieving something.
- The citizens have to take advantage of those conditions and achieve those goals.



OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY**ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE AND LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT****ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE AND LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT**

The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens and response to the needs and expectations of the citizens, and this makes up a legitimate government.

Decision making**Democratic V/S Non-democratic**

- Democracy is based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation.
- The democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at decision.
- But because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more effective.

It is right to expect democracy to produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to the people. If you wanted to measure democracies on the basis of this expected outcome, you would look for the following.

Practices and institutions:

- Regular free and fair elections.
- Open public debate on major policies and legislations.
- Citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning.

Expectations and Reality

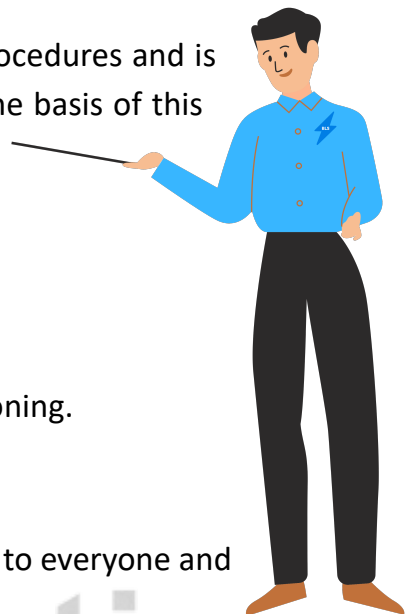
- Most democracies fall short of elections that provide a fair chance to everyone and in subjecting every decision to public debate.
- Democratic government do not have a very good record when it comes to sharing information to citizens.

All one can say in favour of democratic regimes is that they are much better than any non-democratic regime in this report.

Responsiveness

Democracy produces responsive form of government. It may be a reasonable to expect from democracy a government that is attentive to the needs and demands of the people and is largely free of corruption.

- People will have the right to choose their ruler.
- Citizens should be able to participate in decision making.



OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY**ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE AND LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT****Legitimacy**

The most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens and response to the needs and expectations of the citizens, and this make up a legitimate government.

- It may be slow, less effective, not always very responsive, or clean. But a democratic government is people's own government.
- People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.
- Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored.



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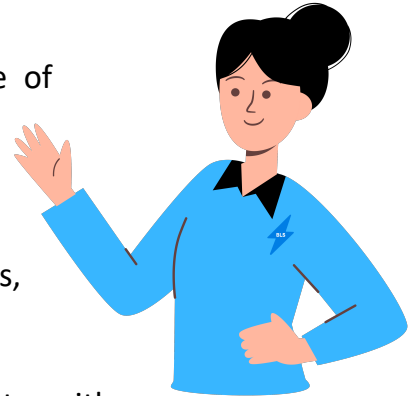
OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY**ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT****ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

If democracy is a good form of government, then it would produce development also.

Evidence shows that in practice many democracies did not fulfil this expectation.

Democracies VS Dictatorship

- Between 1950 and 2000, dictatorship have slightly higher rate of economic growth.
- But this alone cannot be reason to reject democracy.
- Economic development depends on several factors: country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the countries, etc.



Development is not guaranteed in a democracy, but it can compete with dictatorship over economic growth.

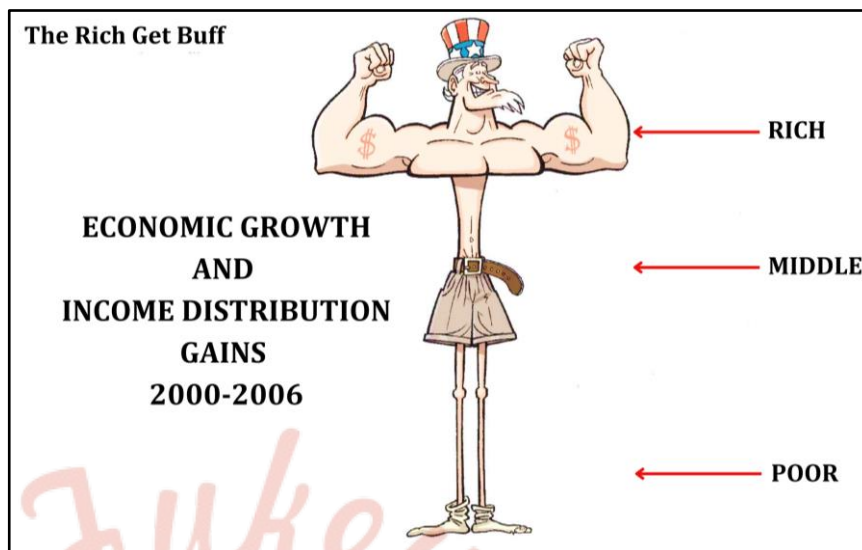
When we find such significant difference in the rates of economic growth between countries under dictatorship and democracy, it is better to prefer democracy as it has several other positive outcomes.

Economic outcomes of democracy

Type of regimes and countries	Growth Rate
All democratic regimes	3.95
All dictatorial regimes	4.42
Poor Countries under dictatorship	4.34
Poor Countries under democracy	4.28
Rates of economic growth for different countries, 1950-2000	

OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



Perhaps more than development, it is reasonable to expect democracies to reduce economic disparities.

Economic outcomes of democracy		
Name of the countries	% Share of National Income	
	Top 20 %	Bottom 20 %
South Africa	64.8	2.9
Brazil	63.0	2.6
Russia	53.7	4.4
USA	50.0	4.0
United Kingdom	45.0	6.0
Denmark	34.5	9.6
Hungary	34.4	10.0
Inequality of income in selected countries		

OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY**REDUCTION OF INEQUALITY AND POVERTY****REDUCTION OF INEQUALITY AND POVERTY**

Democracies are based on political equality. But at the same time, we find growing economic inequalities.

- Economic disparity between rich and poor.
- A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes.
- Share of rich in the total income of the country has been increasing.
- Those at the bottom of the society have very little to depend upon.
- Sometimes poor find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, house, education, and health.



Democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities.

Democracy constitutes a large proportion of our voters.

- No party would like to lose their votes.
- Yet democratically elected governments do not appear to be as keen to address the question of poverty.
- The situation is much worse in some other countries.

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OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY**ACCOMMODATION OF SOCIAL DIVERSITY****ACCOMMODATION OF SOCIAL DIVERSITY**

Our expectation from democracy towards a harmonious social life.

- It should accommodate social diversity.
- This reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent.

Society Have different groups Conflicts.

- No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups.
- But we can certainly learn to respect these differences and we can also evolve mechanisms to negotiate the differences.



Democracy is best suited to produce this outcome.

Therefore, ability to handle social differences, divisions and conflicts is thus a definite Plus point of democratic regimes.

Democracy must fulfil two conditions in order to achieve this outcome:

1. Democracy Not simply rule by majority opinion

- The majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments function to represent the general view.

2. Rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic group, etc.

- Different persons and groups may and can form a majority, democracy remains democracy only as long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time.

DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF THE CITIZENS

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

But it is difficult to achieve this in a society which have been built for long on the basis of subordination and domination.

Dignity of women in a male dominated society is not guaranteed, but once the principle is recognised, it becomes easier for women to wage a struggle against what is now unacceptable legally and morally.

Example of caste inequalities in India.

Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

It is the recognition that makes ordinary citizens value their democratic rights Most distinctive thing about democracy is that its examination never gets over.

- As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better.
- People will always come up with more expectations and many complaints in a democracy.
- The fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy.

It shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect and to look critically at power holders and the high and the mighty.



OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY

MIND MAP

