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Ch: OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY (Notes)

Two conditions necessary for a democracy to achieve harmonious society:

Democracy must fulfill the following two conditions in order to achieve a harmonious social life:

1. Majority and minority opinions are not permanent. Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion. The majority needs to work with the minority so that government may 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 groups, etc. Democracy remains democracy so long as every citizen has a chance of being in majority at some point of time. No individual should be debarred from participating in a democracy on the basis of religion, caste, community, creed and other such factors..

Outcomes of democracy:

There are certain things that democracy must provide.

1. In a democracy people have the right to choose their rulers and people will have control over them. Whenever possible and necessary, citizens should be able to participate in decision-making, that affects them all.
2. It is right to expect democracy to produce a government that follows procedures and is accountable to people. Democratic government develops mechanisms for citizens—regular, free and fair elections, open public debate on major policies and legislation's, and citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning.

Democracy is a better form of government than others:

- Based on the idea of deliberation and negotiation. Thus the necessary delay in implementation.
- Decisions are acceptable to people and are more effective.
- A citizen has the right and the means to examine the process of- decision-making. There is transparency.
- Democratic government is legitimate government, people's own government.
- There is inability of democracy to achieve higher economic growth which is a cause of worry.
- Ability to handle differences, decisions and conflicts is a positive point of democratic regimes.
- Democracy has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.