

VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYPITH SHAKTI UTTHAN ASHARAM LAKHISARAI

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Ch: OUTCOMES OF DEMOCRACY (Notes)

How do We Assess Democracy's Outcomes?

Democracy is a better form of government than dictatorship in the following respects:

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

Democracy Produces Accountable, Responsive and Legitimate Government

People have the right to choose their rulers and they have control over their rulers. Citizens can participate in decision making. Thus, democracy produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens.

Democracy ensures that decision making is based on norms and procedures. So, a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find out this information. Citizens can take part in decision making whenever they want.

A democratic government is the people's own government. People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them.

Economic Growth and Development

Economic development depends on several factors: the country's population size, global situation, cooperation from other countries, economic priorities adopted by the country, etc. There is a significant difference in the rates of economic growth between countries under dictatorship and democracy. So, democracy is preferred as it has several positive outcomes.

Economic Outcomes of Democracy

The following points show the relationship of democracy with economic growth and economic inequalities.

1. Dictatorial regime has had a slightly better record of economic growth. But when we compare their record only in poor countries, there is virtually no difference.
2. There can be a very high degree of inequalities within democracies.
3. There is often inequality of opportunities available to the poorer sections of the society.