



CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER 05

Outcomes of Democracy



CHAPTER NOTES

HOW TO JUDGE DEMOCRACY

EXPECTED BENEFITS

Democracy should:

- Promote equality among citizens.
- Respect individual dignity.
- Improve the quality of decisions.
- Provide ways to resolve conflicts.
- Allow mistakes to be corrected.

PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE

- People may agree with democracy but feel dissatisfied with how it works.
- Democracies share formal features, yet their results differ.
- Population, society, economy and culture affect outcomes.

NOT AN AUTOMATIC CURE

- Democracy is a form of government, not a guarantee that every problem will disappear.
- It creates conditions in which desirable results can be achieved.
- Citizens must use democratic opportunities to make government work better.

KEY IDEA

Judge democracy through actual outcomes as well as its principles.

ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE AND LEGITIMATE

ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

- Government answers to citizens for its actions.
- Citizens can participate and exercise control over rulers.
- Elections and public scrutiny help make leaders answerable.

RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

- Government pays attention to people's needs and expectations.
- It should respond to public concerns rather than ignore them.

LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT

- People accept its authority.
- An elected government is regarded as the people's own government.
- Citizens have the right to choose and change their rulers.

THE BASIC DEMOCRATIC OUTCOME

Government should be accountable to citizens and responsive to their needs.

WHY PARTICIPATION MATTERS

Democracy rests on political equality. People's role does not end after voting; they can question, discuss and evaluate government decisions.

DECISIONS, PROCEDURES AND TRANSPARENCY

DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS

- Discussion, consultation and negotiation can take time.
- Decisions follow accepted procedures.
- People are more likely to accept a decision when they were consulted.
- The cost of delay may be balanced by better acceptance and effectiveness.

QUICK DECISIONS

- A non-democratic ruler may decide faster.
- But an imposed decision may ignore public needs and create problems.
- Speed alone does not prove efficiency.

TRANSPARENCY

Citizens have the right and means to examine how decisions were made.

INDICATORS TO LOOK FOR

- Regular, free and fair elections.
- Open public debate on major policies and laws.
- Access to government information and correct procedures.

Good government needs both sound decisions and accountable methods.

DEMOCRATIC RECORD AND LEGITIMACY

A MIXED RECORD

- Democracies perform better on elections and public debate than on several other expected outcomes.
- Not everyone receives equal opportunities to influence policy.
- Access to information and open discussion may be limited.
- Corruption and unmet needs remain real problems.
- Non-democratic governments are not automatically more responsive or less corrupt.

POPULAR SUPPORT: SDSA, 2007

	Percent saying democracy is suitable	Percent accepting government by elected leaders
South Asia	88	94
Bangladesh	93	96
India	92	95
Nepal	79	94
Pakistan	84	81
Sri Lanka	92	98

WHY LEGITIMACY MATTERS

Strong support for elected rule is itself an important democratic outcome.

These are historical survey findings, not current opinion polls.



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