

English Essay Topic

Democracy is the best form of government

outline

1. Introduction

2. An overview of different forms of governments

- i. Monarchy.
- ii. Dictatorship
- iii. oligarchy
- iv. Technocracy.
- v. Theocracy.

3. Democracy: Definitions, Types and salient features

- i. Definition by Cambridge Dictionary

ii Definition by Abraham Lincoln

iii Direct and representative democracy.

iv salient features as defined by Larry Diamond

4. Facts which prove that democracy is the best form of government

i ownership by the general public.

ii Provision of the fundamental human rights

iii Availability of peaceful mechanism of political change

iv Evolution of political institutions

v More reliable system based on transparency and accountability

vi. Decentralization of power and authority.

vii. Evolution of leadership

viii. Equitable growth and development

ix. Improved image of the state

§. Some challenges to the sustenance, performance, and growth of democracy

i. persistently prevailing illiteracy and backwardness

ii. Absence of selfless, visionary, and sagacious political leadership

iii. Absence of independent and vigilant role of media

iv. Unrestrained and unbridled corruption.

v. Ineffective, insignificant, and inconsistent performance of

democratic governments

6. Recommendations for the strengthening of democracy

- i. strict posture of UNO and international community against undemocratic forces
- ii. people oriented, sharply focused and highly transparent performance of democratic governments
- iii. professionally, mature, responsible and objective role of media
- iv. Installation of legal and administrative barriers for thwarting the entry of dictators
- v. strengthening of local government system

7. Conclusion

5)

MTWTFSS

DATE: _____

Essay

Man learns from experience. Trial and error method is the best way to make someone get rid of his follies and move ahead. During the course of history, human beings experimented a number of political models to run their collective affairs effectively. Though, none of the models could prove to be absolutely flawless and capable of catering to all human needs simultaneously, yet among all of them, democracy can be declared as the one far better than the others owing to a number of benefits associated with it. Consensus based governance, devolution of power and authority, sense of ownership among the people, in built system of accountability,

and continuous evolution are some of the many such outcomes of democracy. as make it a system most suited to fulfil human requirements. At the same time, it is also worth mentioning that despite masked superiority of democracy over other forms of governments, there are always a number of impediments to the very survival, smooth functioning, and steady growth of democracy. Some scrupulously devised measures coupled with some practicable implementation strategies can prove to be helpful in dealing with these challenges effectively.

Prior to analyzing the democratic form of government in detail, it is pertinent to have a glance at the other forms of government prevailing in the world in one way or the other.

First of all there is monarchy that is the undivided rule or absolute sovereignty by a single person. Monarchy can be further categorized as absolute or constitutional.

In dictatorship, a ruler or small clique wields absolute power pertaining to the affairs of the government. For some scholars, dictatorship is a form of government that has the power to govern without the consent of those being governed.

Oligarchy is a form of power structure in which power effectively rests with a small number of people.

These people can belong to any class of the society.

8)

MTWTFES

DATE: _____

wielding authority. because of any reason including wealth, or family status etc.

In technocracy, people having some sort of expertise.

are in control of all the decision making in the state.

In this form of government, decision makers are selected.

based upon how knowledgeable and skillful they are in their respective fields.

Finally, theocracy is a form of government in which official policy is governed by.

immediate divine guidance.

or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided.

Such form of government pursues the agenda of a particular religion or sect.

9)

M T W T F S

DATE: _____

As far as the democracy is concerned, it has been defined in a number of ways. Cambridge Dictionary defines democracy as the belief in freedom and equality between people, as a system of government based on this belief, in which power is either held by elected representatives or directly by the people themselves. As per the popular saying of Abraham Lincoln,

"Democracy is a government, 'of the people', by the people, and for the people."

Democracy falls into two basic categories, direct and representative. In direct democracy, all citizens, without the intermediary of elected or appointed officials, can make political decisions, formulate laws,

NOTES

and administer programs for the public good. According to American political scientist Larry Diamond, democracy consists of four key elements: a political system for choosing and replacing the government through free and fair elections; the active participation of the people, as citizens, in politics and civic life; protection of human rights of all citizens; and a rule of law which the laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens.

Now after having discussed the salient features of democracy it is time to address the basic question and justify with arguments that democracy by all means is the best form of government. Honestly speaking,

a number of facts can be presented in the context as the benefits of democracy are so marked and distinguished that it is never difficult to trace them and put forward for endorsing the democratic form of government.

To start with this is democracy that gives people a complete sense of ownership and forces them to remain loyal to the government and the state. Ownership by the people might appear as a trivial thing to read, yet in reality it is the power that injects confidence in the incumbent government and helps them take bold decisions for the sake of the country. Unlike dictators who succumb even to the illegitimate international

demands merely to appease the world powers for gaining acceptability. Democratically elected leaders are more likely to take a firm stand in order to safeguard the interest of their people. The overall approach of the Monarchs of Gulf states surrendering to every US demand can be taken as case study in the very context

Likewise, there are democratically elected regimes which are more likely to ensure the provision of fundamental human rights to the general public as provided by the documents like Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, and international covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966.

Why so? simply because democratic leaders have roots with in the general public. An overview of the annual reports published by human right organizations like Human Right Watch, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights, United nation's commission for Human Rights, and Human Rights First clearly highlights that the countries deprived of democracy are the biggest violators of human rights as well.

Availability of a peaceful mechanism for political change is yet another characteristic of democracy that gives it an edge over the other forms of government. Democracy believes in people's consensus whether it is to bring someone in power or to

remove him. The process has been used in different countries of the world in a peaceful way. Unlike democracy, regime change in undemocratic countries is always started with human blood: political history of Afghanistan is an open testimony to it.

Another advantage of democracy that vindicates its supremacy over other forms of government is its strengthening the political system and apparatus of a country with the passage of time. As democracy, unlike other forms of government, involves people and procedures in the whole process of selecting the ruler and governing the country, people keep becoming politically mature and.

political institutions keep getting stronger with every passing day. The ultimate benefit of this evolution appears in the form of better selection and better performance of the rulers.

A comparison between the political culture of India and that of Pakistan is a good case study to understand the role that democracy plays in this regard as in the one country democracy sustained uninterrupted, whereas in the other it got disrupted frequently due to the imposition of Martial Law by different dictators.

Like many other benefits, democracy is more likely to ensure transparency and accountability than any other political model.

that may be taken as its substitute. Its in democratically elected representatives who run the affairs of the government are fully aware of the fact that they need public support for staying in power and getting re-elected, they try to keep general public involved in maximum affairs of governance through forming different types of committees and commissions. The imprisonment of Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, Serzh Sargsyan, the president of Armenia, and Ivo Sander, the Prime Minister of Croatia on the charges of corruption and money laundering is an open vindication of the fact that it is easily possible for the courts too, to hold democratically elected leaders accountable for their deeds.

Likewise, democracy being a people-oriented system, ensures decentralization of power and authority which is necessary for improved governance. In a system where financial and administrative authorities are decentralized, people get early and effective redressal of their issues and grievances. Local government in which people's representatives even at village level get some financial and administrative authorities is the best quintessence of the way democracy provides relief to general public through devolving power and authority.

Besides democracy produces mature leaders for a country and nation by providing people with the opportunity of participating in political process. This

is completely missing in other forms of government. Just like all other human qualities, the trait of leadership can be matured only if some suitable opportunities of their expression and utilization are available. In a democratic form of government, ample opportunities are available to all political workers to reach the top slot of their political party as well as the country through their hard work and leadership qualities.

Democracy ensures or at least is likely to work more sincerely for equitable growth and development of a country. And why it is so? It is due to the fact that a democratic form of government is the true.

representative of all the regions and segments of a country. In democracy, the ruling party is fully cognizant of the fact that unless it is able to get support from all the people, it cannot be re-elected. Hence, those at the helm of affairs always try to appease all the people of the country through equitable development, as it strengthens their case for the next election.

Democracy is immensely important for the good image of a state at international platforms and thus a prerequisite for attracting foreign investment as well. Actually, foreign investors feel more comfortable while dealing with the government that in their view is legitimate and

backed by the people of the country. Absence of any type of foreign investment in Afghanistan and many such other countries where democracy is absent is a testimony to the very same fact.

Having delineated the facts which prove democracy to be the best form of government, it is equally pertinent to analyze the factors that impede the sustenance, performance, and growth of democracy in any state. Among these factors the one that causes the biggest damage is illiteracy and backwardness.

As democracy is a people-centric system by all means, its performance and existence get badly affected when people casting vote lack political wisdom.

2/

M T W T F S

DATE: _____

Low voter turnout, selling of votes, and ethnicity and sect based political support are some common issues in countries afflicted with illiteracy and backwardness.

Ineffective, insignificant, and inconsistent performance of democratic governments also impedes the way of democracy by shaking people trust on democratic form of government. Political history of Pakistan between 1947 to 1958 can be a good case study in the context. During that period, Pakistan saw seven prime ministers and four heads of state; and the general public was so much disturbed with democracy's musical chair game that is used to pray for the entry of some dictator.

Absence of selfless, visionary, and sagacious political leadership is also a major cause of absence of democracy in a country. Actually, in the absence of mature political leaders democratic form of government remains unable to deliver up to the expectations of the people. This thing leads to public unrest that provides undemocratic forces an opportunity as well as justification for grabbing the power forcefully. Entry of dictators that was always welcomed by the people in Pakistan is a testimony to the very same fact.

Absence of independent and vigilant role of media is also a hurdle to the existence of and sustenance of democracy in a country.

This is free media that injects political awareness among people and sensitizes them to the need and importance of democracy. In the absence of such media people become complacent with the undemocratic regime and let the rulers enjoy an unchallenged tenure without any hurdle.

Under performing political institutions are also a hurdle to the existence of democracy in a true sense in a country. Actually when political institutions are unable to conduct timely and free and fair elections, properly vet the credentials of the candidates and hold the politicians accountable for their past performance or corrupt policies, the very purpose of democracy is compromised.

and it can never be able to satisfy the people with its performance

corruption is also the biggest hurdle in the way of democracy. people who do corruption are a constant danger for the flourishing of democracy.

Although, the challenges to democracy seem to be unsurmountable by all means, yet some meticulously devised policies can certainly prove to be helpful in deepening the roots of democracy in a state. First of all, UNO, global organizations, and all democratic states should take a firm stand for the promotion of democracy. These organizations should immediately disconnect all types of relationship with

countries having undemocratic forms of government. Trade, financial aid and foreign investment, diplomatic relationship, everything should be condition with democracy and soon the results will start becoming visible.

Democratic governments should try to "improve their performance to close the doors that may allow the entry of dictators or other undemocratic forces. Participatory governance, rule of law, transparency in the utilization of resources, investment friendly environment, and promotion of research and development can be the keys to good performance of a democratic government.

Presence of visionary and capable leadership is another needed step as quality

leadership blocks the undemocratic forces by not providing them the vacuum that they require for legitimizing their (pre) entry. The goal can be achieved by promoting democratic culture within the societies and political parties, encouraging student's unions, strengthening local government system, spreading awareness among the masses, and imparting necessary training to the elected masses.

Similarly, media's watchful role is immensely important for the existence of democracy in a state. Media outlets should sensitize the general public to the importance of a democratic form of government. It should highlight weaknesses in the performance of the government in a democratic set up. It should

raise voice against undemocratic governments where ever they are. Talk shows, telefilms, documentaries, panel discussions, everything will work.

Imparting education in the masses is yet another prerequisite for the strengthening of democracy in a country. All state governments and international NGOs should utilize more funds and human resource for the complete eradication of illiteracy. as soon as possible. Students should be sensitized to different forms of governments and their pros and cons in addition to allowing political activities in a controlled way within the premises of educational institutes.

All countries should develop strict legal and administrative mechanisms for restricting the entry of the dictators. Enactment of special laws, devising of guidelines and caps for tackling the dictators administratively, and empowering the judiciary to take stern action against the transgressors can be some steps in the right direction.

strengthening of the local government systems is also a way to strengthen democracy in a country. A well planned local government system not only leads to effective utilization of resources and addressal of people's grievances at the door step but also contributes to the inculcation of political wisdom among people and evolution of political leaders.

to be realized that the
apparent benefits of the
political models other than
democracy should not
mat one's judgement
because they are extremely
temporary and short-lived.

The only model that
can evolve with the
passage of time catering
to all creeds of human
needs is democracy - and
the earlier it is realized,
the better it is.

Timely conduct of local government elections and meaningful devolution of financial and administrative authority can be helpful for the purpose.

Conclusively, democracy by all means, is the best form of government because of its myriad of benefits. Being a people oriented system, democracy revolves purely around the demands and aspirations of the people, and, therefore, enjoys their complete support and trust as well. At the same time it needs to be realized that a number of factors pertaining to political, social, administrative and economic sectors of life serve as impediments to the sustenance and growth of

democracy, in one way or the other. These impending elements can, however, be dealt with successfully if some scrupulous measures are adopted for the purpose, spread of education, freedom and maturity of media, and political parties' united opposition. To undemocratic forces are some of the many steps that can be helpful for the purpose. It is high time the people of the world realized that the only purpose of a political system is the collective wellbeing of the people, and a system not based on people's consensus can never achieve this very goal. With reference to different forms of government, it also needs