

# Democracy

In contemporary world, everyone needs liberty, freedom and protection of rights. We all are born free and want to live our lives as the way we want to.

Democracy is something where all the people are treated equally and it can be said that they make their own rules and laws and live their lives according to those rules and laws they made for themselves. Democracy exists in many countries of the world in various forms and it proved itself a finest way of governance as it includes the will of common people in making the decisions for them.

The word 'democracy' derived from the Greek word 'Demokratia'. Which means the rule of people. So democracy can be defined as the form of government where people are sovereign and they have the supreme power and the way of governing depends on the will of people. In democracy common people are involved directly or indirectly in the legislation. The concept of democracy originated by the Ancient Athens in 5<sup>th</sup> century. as they had the representative assemblies. In middle ages, democracy was overruled by monarchy, aristocracy and feudalism but later in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were some great philosophers like John Locke, Rousseau and Thomas Paine who

criticized the system and wrote directly or indirectly about democracy. and it was the main objective in French Revolution.

The American war of independence was also a democratic movement. In 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, democracy prevailed in many countries of Europe. And now it exists in many forms like presidential, parliamentary, constitutional and direct democracy in all over the world. It may be called the finest system of governing a state as it has many positive implications.

First of all, in democracy the supreme power belongs to common people. They <sup>are</sup> directly or indirectly involved in the decision making process. So all the decisions are made by the will of the people. and public opinion is considered as the priority. The laws are usually made by elected representatives of the common people and all are equal under that law. So rule of law prevails and there is not any type of monarchy or a rule of single person who can influence the law or rules. The power is distributed in the various branches of government.

Secondly, the human rights are protected well in democratic form of government. As there is only rule of law, so all the people are treated equally. They all can live together without any

sense of superiority or inferiority. The government and the common people both have their own rights and responsibilities. People are given the right of life, liberty, freedom of speech, security, protection and all basic needs without any discrimination on the basis of color, creed, race or religion. All are equal before the law. State has the responsibility to protect the rights of minorities as well. Minorities are also involved while choosing their representatives.

Moreover, in a democratic state, everyone is accountable for his actions to a respective independent branch of government institution. Judiciary is an independent branch of government and in case of any conflict, it can make the decision without showing any tilt towards anyone. There is no nepotism and favoritism in democracy so all the branches of government are independent and everyone is accountable for the power he has. So no one has the power to violate the laws and rules made by the assembly members by the will of the people.

Democracy or the rule of people is directly linked with the socio-economic development of a state or its people.

Community finds happiness, peace and prosperity when it is ruled by its elected representatives. So in this type of society

people are free for trade and business. They have religious and cultural tolerance for each other and it makes them engaged to each other in various fields including economy. So in this way a well developed society is formed where the governance is based on the equality.

Along with all these advantages, there are some challenges being faced by democracy including corruption, populism, misuse of power and economic inequality. Corruption is a most common problem especially in under developed countries. Due to bad economic conditions, people do corruption to fulfil their needs in this way. There also some populist leaders who gain the interests of people and they choose them as their representatives but they cannot deliver well after gaining the power. Moreover some leaders blame the other leaders in a way that is totally against the ethics. At the end all these evils got combined and people misuse their powers and economic instability emerges and ultimately it is a failure of democracy.

All these issues start when people choose the wrong representatives. If people are educated well, they will choose their representatives well and make good decisions.

So literacy and education promotes democracy. On the other hand if government officials and other officers are praised for their struggle and hardwork, and punished for their misuse of power, the corruption could be eradicated. In addition to that, state institutions must be strengthened enough to take decisions without influence of any other institution. Also to increase fairness in elections, we must need reforms continuously, in electoral process. In this way the democracy would be strengthened and the state would grow.

In ~~conclusion~~ conclusion, while there are some challenges to democracy, it has many positive aspects as well. It gives the freedom and liberty to every in almost all the fields of life including economy, trade, religion, culture etc. It gives protection and provides necessities of life. All the decisions are taken by the will of people and people rule in democracy. It helps in protection of rights, resolution of conflicts and also in socio-economic development. So every state, where people want to live the life they want, needs democracy.