

Democracy and Illiteracy cannot Live Together

Outline:

1. Introduction

Only an informed, enlightened and active citizenry can agitate for, participate in and preserve democratic organization without being swayed by greed, intimidation or narrow-minded interests such as sub-national tendencies.

2. Democracy: A hostage to unwitting and ugly nexus between illiteracy and authoritarianism

3. Democracy is not imported and never imposed but its bloom is conditioned on an active society which it cannot be but with literacy. The causes of this incompatibility are numerous

- A. Ignorant masses are vulnerable masses
- B. Illiterate public cannot agitate against institutional injustices
- C. Without a literate nation, subnationalism and religious extremism rule the roost and sideline democracy
- D. Unaware constituents fall victim to greed and intimidation
- E. Ill-informed citizenry is liable to be patriarchal and stagnant - thereby stuck in rut of status quo

f. Democracy is not well-served by cult-followers and populism peddlers

4. How democracy can be made more resilient, aware that illiteracy is not only about education deficiency but also about being put in dark or misinformed? The answers are varied but promising:

- A. Strong civil society
- B. Not only educated but a politically well-served nation
- C. Compulsory leadership skill impartment at tertiary education level
- D. Freedom of expression and freedom of media
- E. Regulates and ethical use of artificial intelligence in political campaigns to kill stream of misinformation.

5. Conclusion

