

26/10/2024

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Political Science

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CSS-2016.

Q. Democratic Political system can not function successfully without organized political parties - Discuss.

Introduction:

A democratic political system is a form of government where power is vested in the people, and leaders are elected through free and fair elections. Organized political parties play a key role in this system by bringing together individuals who share similar ideas and goals, allowing them to work collectively to influence government policies. These parties act as a bridge between the government and the public, helping to ensure that diverse opinions are heard and represented.

Therefore, without organized political parties, a democratic system cannot function successfully, as it would lack stability, accountability and proper representation.

II. Importance of Organized Political Parties in Democracy:

Organized political parties are crucial for maintaining political stability in a democracy. They bring together people with similar political views which helps in forming clear and consistent policies, reducing the chances of chaos and instability. Furthermore, political parties ensure the representation of diverse opinions by providing a platform for various groups to express their views and interests, leading to inclusive government.

"One party cannot rule and govern; it needs a counterforce"

(John Stuart Mill)

Additionally, organized parties play a key role in the formation of the government and the opposition which is essential for a balanced and functional democratic system where power is shared, checks and balances are maintained.

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III. Functions of Political Parties in a Democratic System:

1. Policy Formulation:

Political parties develop clear and coherent policies and manifestos that explore their vision and plans for governance. This helps voters understand the party's stance on various issues, making it easier for them to make informed choices during elections.

"Plans are worthless, but planning is everything"
(Dwight D. Eisenhower)

2. Political Education:

Political parties play a key role in educating the public about political issues, ideologies and the functioning of the government. By raising awareness, they help citizens understand their rights and responsibilities, encouraging active political participation.

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3. Election management:

Political parties are responsible for organizing election campaigns, mobilizing supporters and ensuring high voter turnout. They provide a structured way for candidates to present their ideas and engage with the electorate.

“During the 2020 US Presidential Election, voter turnout was about approximately 66.8%”
partly due to extensive voter mobilization efforts by political parties and campaigns.

4. Formation of Government:

Winning parties or coalitions have the mandate to form the government, ensuring stability and continuity. They appoint leaders and representatives who take on various roles within the government to implement their policies.

5. To Ensure Accountability :

Political parties, especially those in the opposition serve as guardians by monitoring the actions of the government. They hold the ruling party accountable for its performance, ensuring transparency and responsible governance.

"No government can be long secure without a formidable opposition"

(Benjamin Disraeli)

IV. Ensuring Political Participation and Representation :

Political parties play a crucial role in encouraging citizens to participate in the political process by offering platforms where they can express their views, support candidates and engage in policymaking. They promote inclusivity by representing diverse social, ethnic and economic groups including minorities, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process.

V. Political Parties as a Bridge Between Government and Citizens:

Political parties serve as a vital link between the government and the citizens, facilitating communication and understanding. They convey the concerns and needs of the public to policymakers, ensuring that the government is aware of the issues that matter most to the people. Additionally, parties help to translate complex governmental processes and policies into accessible language for the average citizens, promoting transparency and encouraging informed public discourse. This connection fosters trust and engagement is essential for a healthy democratic society.

"The people have to feel that their voice is heard and their views are taken seriously"

(British PM
Tony Blair)

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VI.

Challenges to Democratic
Functioning Without Political
Parties :

a) Difficulty in policy-making

b) Increased chances of Political fragmentation and instability.

c) Reduced public participation in the absence of structured platforms.

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Conclusion:

In conclusion, organized political parties are essential to the successful functioning of a democratic political system. They ensure political stability by providing a structured approach to governance and facilitating the representation of diverse opinion through functions such as policy formulations, policy education, election management and ensure accountability. Political parties play a crucial role in shaping the political landscape. Moreover, they act as a bridge between the government and citizens, promoting communities/communication and understanding while ensuring that the voices of all groups especially minorities are heard. Ultimately, the effectiveness of a democracy relies heavily on the active involvement and organization of political parties, which uphold the principles of representation, accountability and public engagement.

