

Democracy and Mass illiteracy cannot move together.

(A) Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Literacy serves as the foundation and is essential for democracy to thrive, thus making it inevitable for democracy to function accurately and efficiently.

(B) Literate population as a foundation of democracy.

1) Parliamentary debates require literate electorate to efficiently debate and frame policies on complex and new issues.

↳ Clean air Act, National Environmental Policy Act - 1970.

2) A functioning judicial system requires mass literacy for functioning and justice.

↳ Brown vs Board of education case

3) Literate population engenders effective leaders.

↳ Role of education in forming effective leadership in Colonial India.

(c) Why mass literacy is inevitable for a thriving democracy.

① Teaches individuals to question injustices.

↳ French revolution

2) Give people language to demand their rights.

↳ #MeToo movement, Black rights matter.

3) Economically empowers citizens, reducing over reliance on leaders.

↳ Egypt's Takaful and Karama Program.

4) Less susceptible to manipulation.

↳ Cambridge Analytica scandal in Brexit.

5) Literacy empowers democracy at grassroot level.

↳ Role of literacy in entrenching democracy in the early North side of America (Argued in the book "American Democracy" by Alexis de Toqueville).

6) Enables people to actively participate in democracy.

7) Instills people with critical thinking skills and love of dialogue — essential for democracy.

↳ Pedagogy of the oppressed by Paulo Freire.

(D) Recommendations to use literacy as a tool to strengthen democracy.

1) Encourage debates and student elections in educational institutes.

2) Government must launch specific initiatives to instill democratic values.

↳ US-~~Proj~~ Germany's Federal Agency for Civic Education after WWII.

3) Adult literacy programmes.

↳ Paulo Freire's Adult literacy program in Brazil.

(E) Conclusion

The Essay

Iskandar Mirza, the former President of Pakistan, once said, "With a literacy rate of only 15%, how will you develop your democratic model?". Although his role in office was controversial, his argument holds weight. Literacy plays a crucial role in development of democracy in a country. As democracy derives its power from the people, a literate population serves as the foundation of a democratic government. Starting with legislature, the electorate must be literate enough to deliberate and frame policies on complex issues in this continuously evolving world. Moreover, to attain justice from the judiciary, one must be cognisant of their rights and possess legal knowledge to efficiently present their case. Also, a literate population engenders competent and effective leaders to serve in the executive branch of democratic government. Furthermore, literacy is inevitable for a democracy to thrive. It empowers people to question injustices and demand their rights. By economically empowering people, it reduces over-reliance on the leaders, thus encouraging a check and balance system. Additionally, by making people less susceptible to manipulation, enabling them to actively participate in democratic procedures and instilling critical thinking ability, literacy empowers democracy at grassroots levels. Therefore, literacy serves as the foundation and is essential for democracy to thrive, thus making it inevitable for democracy to function accurately and efficiently.