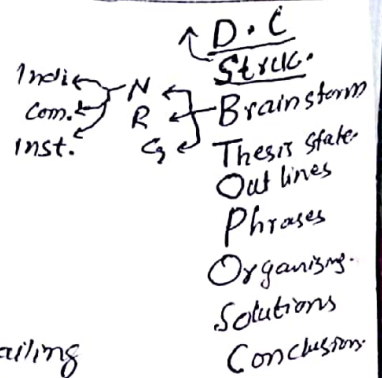


Democracy is failing in the world

- 20 Pgs.

Reasons & Impacts



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Democracy is failing.

Essay:

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"If liberty and equality are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in government to the utmost." Aristotle.

As the famous quote of Abraham Lincoln, the liberty given to blacks, about democracy, "the government of the people, by the people, and for the people", is the basic meaning and purpose of a democratic state. A democratic state always follows the thoughts of the people. But, in the present era, the democracy is failing in many states of the world. The reason of such failure is the rising economic insecurity and inequality. Other factors responsible are, identity politics and clientelism by candidates. Along with it, authoritarian regimes, electoral manipulation, and human rights violation are causing the death of democracy. Failure of international institutions, technological development, and nationalism and right wing parties in power are among other factors which bring democracy to its knees. Besides these factors, climate change is making the democratic world mad about its future. Furthermore, low transparency and high corruption are the features, which are considered as the killer of democratic regime, responsible for democracy's failure. Although, democracy is failing in the present world but there are remedies like, minimizing the economic inequality, transparency in elections and state's institutions, a check on human rights, and democratizing the world institutions, can make the democracy situations better. In a nutshell, democracy in the world is failing but, it can be made better by following some remedies given.

According to Britannica, "democracy is a government system in which laws, policies, leadership, and major understanding of a state or other polity are directly or indirectly decided by the people". In democracy, the eligible members of a community or a state elect their own candidates by voting. These elected members then make policies and laws, and also implement these policies and laws. These members are

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responsible to the people. In a democratic state, the rights of people are secured and if violated, then it can be challenged in court of law. There is rule of law, no one is above the law. There is the principle of ~~the~~ check and balance, which make the departments and institutions accountable before the government. So, democracy is the form of government which is government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Although, democracy is a best form of government but it faces many challenges in present world. Rising economic insecurity and inequality is one of the factors responsible for the failure of democracy. Economic insecurity in many developing countries are in the shape of internal and external debt. It caused high inflation and poverty in these countries. Around 700 million people (8.5 percent of the global population) live in extreme poverty - on less than \$2.15 per day. (World Bank - Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet report - 2024). According to another report of World Bank, "A Growing Inequality", in 2023, around 2.4 billion women of working age do not have the same rights as men. Hence, economic insecurity and inequality is a great challenge to democracy.

Another challenge, facing by democracy, is identity politics. Identity politics is the favour of a specific racial, ethnic, or religious group in the government of a state. It leads to polarization and fragmentation, exclusion and marginalization of other groups, Populism, erosion of civil discourse, and low the engagement in constructive dialogue. For example, the Hindutva ideology of Modi's government in India is marginalizing the Indian Muslims and their rights. So, identity politics is an important challenge to the democratic norms of a democratic state.

Furthermore, clientelism in politics by candidates, is a factor ~~of~~ failure of democracy. Clientelism is the buying of voters, job providing in return of votes, and pork barrel politics i.e. providing funds for projects that is in the interest of a specific group. This phenomenon is against democratic principles. Example of

clientelism in Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte. He was accused of clientelistic tactics like buying of votes. In brief, clientelism is the cause of democratic failure

Similarly, Authoritarianism is a threat to democracy. Authoritarian regimes are those regimes in which a dictator or monarch did what he wants. According to BTI 2024 Governance Index reports, in 137 countries of the world, 74 are authoritarian countries. Examples of authoritarian states in the present time is Russia, where Putin is ruling for more than 15 years. Another example is North Korea. Clearly, authoritarian regimes in the world causing democracy to break down.

In addition to Authoritarianism, electoral manipulation is the death of democratic states. Electoral manipulation means the changing of election results, casting fake votes, avoiding any group to cast vote and many other such illegal practices. Free and fair election is the necessary principle of democracy. But, in the present time, the principle of fair election is going on decreasing trend. Examples of election manipulation in democratic states are Cambodia, Poland, Turkey, Zimbabwe, and Pakistan. The present government of Pakistan is alleged of election manipulation in the recent election of February 2024. Indeed, electoral manipulation is failing democracy.

Despite that, Human rights violation is on its peak, which is a responsible factor for the defeat of democracy. Human rights are the basic rights which a human pose by his birth and is the duty of a state to secure these rights. Global freedom declined for the 18th consecutive year in 2023. Political rights and civil liberties were diminished in 52 countries (Freedom House & Freedom in the world 2024 - 2024). Example of human rights violation is the recent protest in Bangladesh

against the regime of Shreeh Hasing. Her government took action against the protest and killed more than 200 civilians. In simple terms, human rights violation is flopping the democracy.

The next factor responsible for the collapse of democracy is the failure of International democratic institutions. International institutions are those institutions which are formed by majority of the states for some specific functions. Many of these institutions are not performing their functions but work on the instructions of world major powers. The example of United States Security Council which is responsible for the peace in the world but its veto power of permanent members is an obstacle to peace. So, democracy is fail due to unresponsible international institutions.

Another reason for the failure of democracy is the development of technology. Technology and internet was once considered as an open door to democracy and liberty. Today, it is seen as an agent of democratic erosion. Digital challenges to democracy in modern times include the spread of disinformation and misinformation, increase in polarization, and extremism. Hence, development of technology is a reason for the failure of democracy.

Likewise, nationalism and right wing parties in power in different states are responsible for death of democracy. Nationalism is the extreme love for a nation while violating the rights of minor nations. Right wing parties means the conservative religious or national parties. Nationalists and right wing governments do not support the democratic form of government. In history, the government of Hitler was an undemocratic and extreme nationalist government. The second term of Donald Trump and his MAGA (Make Again Great America) policy and his threat to the democracy of the world and other developing states. In short, nationalism and right wing parties governments are failing democracy.

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Additionally, climate change is also responsible for the democracy failure in the present world. The global average temperature is increasing from its original average temperature since industrial revolution. This rising temperature cause many disasters like floods, droughts, heat waves, change in seasons, and tsunamis which cause destruction and financial loss. It also cause migration and poverty. These changes causes ultimately poverty which is a great challenge to the present democratic countries. In brief, climate change is a challenge to democracy.

Low transparency and high corruption is another factor responsible for democratic malfunctioning. Transparency means the clear ~~and~~ working of government institution and accountability to the people, while corruption is the malpractice during services of the government. Transparency and no corruption is the basic principle of democracy. Without transparency and with high corruption, a democratic state cannot survive. Example of corruption in Pakistan, as according to Transparency International report 2023, is ranking on 133 out of 180 countries. Hence, low transparency and high corruption is the cause of undemocratic states.

Furthermore, polarization in international politics is cutting the thought of democracy. Polarisation means the formation of blocs in international relations for the purpose of power politics. In present world, the global North and global South concept, which is the struggle between developed and developing countries respectively. In many developing global south ^{states} there are authoritarian regimes ~~and~~ or nationalist governments for the purpose to tackle global north. The example of present India and Russian government, which want to increase their global influence, are the ~~exa~~ best example. So, polarize world is also a challenge to world democratic norms.

Last but not the least, increasing warfare and conflicts in the world is responsible for dictatorial governments. Warfare and conflict situations are those situations in which two states ^{involve} directly in war with ~~each other~~ each other or having sour relations with each other on a dispute respectively. ~~Wars~~ ~~to~~ During war time, a state's economy and resources going down, and it can not get position without a dictator. In history, Hitler and Mousalini during World War II were ruled on their states as a dictator. In Present time, Putin is an authoritarian President, who is manging the Russian-Ukraine war. Hence, wars and conflicts always deny the democratic governments.

Although, democracy is suffering in many countries due to the above reasons, but there are many remedies which can improve democratic practices. * Minimizing the economic inequality is the first remedy. Economic equality can be bring by providing opportunities to the people in the state. Increase the employment for unemployed people. Give equal opportunities to women ~~for~~ in job market and also give them same salary as men have. Also, bring the women in labour force market. It will increase the global GDP and decrease poverty. So, minimizing the economic inequality will ~~increase~~ ^{improve} the global democracy.

Secondly, bringing transparency in elections and state's institutions will increase the people believe in democratic governments. Due to low transparency, the most developed states are also losing believe in democracy. According to Pew research Center report on Satisfaction of democracy, 2024, People with democracy in Canada are 46%, in U.S are 68%, in U.K 60%, and in France 65% unsatisfied. If the institutions work transparently and also have a responsible election process, then the people will be satisfied with democracy. There is a need of transparent

electoral commission which set electoral rules and regulation, monitoring the election process, and resolving disputes. In brief, transparency in elections and state's institutions is the need of the day for democracy.

Thirdly, checks on human rights are need for democratic processes. Human rights are the most important rights of human and the need of the day. United Nations Human Rights Wng must work properly and bring under check the violating states. The human rights violation in Kashmir by Indian authority need to be stopped. Similarly, the violation of rights of the people of middle east and Ukrainian people is the important need of the day. The human rights and humanitarian law violators in Gaza need to be punished by International Criminal Court. In a nutshell, there is a need for human rights check for perfect democracy in the world.

Lastly, democratic norms in international institutions are necessary. United Nation Security Council veto power, which is stopping many disputes to solve, needs to be abolished. The matters should be resolved through majority votes. Similarly, the loan giving process of IMF shall also be democratically made democratic and remove the hegemony of U.S. Hence, the democratic changes are the of international institutions.

To Sum up, democracy in the present world is failing due to rising economic insecurity and inequality, identity politics, and democratic clientelism. Authoritarianism, electoral manipulation, and human rights violations are also responsible for democratic breakdown. Other factors, which are responsible democratic fall down are low transparency and high corruption, increasing polarization in international politics, and increasing warfare and conflicts. But, these issues can be solve by given remedies like minimizing the economic inequality, transparency in elections and state's institutions.

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check on human rights, and democratizing the world institutions. Democracy is that powerful tool, if it is used in a proper way, then it can bring only prosperity to the world. Abraham Lincoln in the support of democracy says that, "the ballot is stronger than the bullet".