Democracy in India

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ABSTRACT

India is known as the world's largest democracy, **which has been ruled by** various kings, emperors and European imperialists for centuries. India became a democratic nation after its independence in 1947. After that the citizens of India got the right to vote and elect their leaders. India is the seventh largest country in the world by area and the second largest country by population, for these reasons India is also known as the world's largest democracy. **After the country's independence in 1947,** the democratic government of India was formed. Parliamentary and state assembly elections are held every 5 years to elect the central and state government in our country.

INTRODUCTION

India's system of governance is democratic. Here the people of India choose their own head. It allows every citizen in India to vote and, , choose their leaders as per their wish irrespective of their caste, colour, creed, religion or gender.

Democracy refers to, the government elected by the people, for the people. In a democratic nation, citizens have the right to vote and elect their government. Democracy is known as the best system of governance in the world, which is why today democratic system is in force in most countries of the world.

A democratic nation is a nation where citizens choose their government by exercising their right to make choices. Democracy is also sometimes referred to as "majority rule". Many countries around the world have democratic governments, but due to its characteristics, India is known as the world's largest democracy.

Democracy was formed in India after it was freed from the clutches of British rule in 1947. This led to the birth of the world's largest democracy. It was due to the effective leadership of the Indian National Congress that the people of India got the right to vote and elect their government.

➢ **Impact of Democracy**
Democracy in India means not only the right to vote but also ensuring social and economic equality. The government should also work to eliminate illiteracy, poverty, communalism, , casteism as well as gender discrimination to make democracy successful. The government in the country is elected by the common people and it would not be wrong to say that it is their intelligence and awareness that determines the success or failure of the government.

➢ **Components of Democracy**
Indian democracy has a federal form under which there is a government at the Centre which is accountable to parliament and separate governments for the state which are equally accountable to their legislatures. Elections are held at regular intervals in many states of India. In these elections, many parties compete to form the government by winning at the Center and in the states.

➢ **Features of Indian Democracy**
At present, India is the largest democracy in the world. After being ruled for centuries by the Mughals, Mauryas, British and many other rulers, India finally , became a democratic country after independence in 1947. After this, the people of the country, who were exploited by foreign powers for many years, , finally got the right to choose their own leaders by votes. Democracy in India is not only limited to providing the right to vote to its citizens but it is also working towards social and economic equality.

Democracy in India works on five democratic principles:

Sovereign: This means India is free from the interference or control of any foreign power.

Socialist: This means providing social and economic equality to all citizens.

Secularism: It means the freedom to adopt any religion or reject all

Democratic: This means that the Government of India is elected by its citizens.

Republic: This means that the head of the country is not a hereditary king or queen.

➢ **How democracy works in India**

Every Indian citizen above the age of 18 years can exercise the right to vote in India. , There is no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, gender or education of a person to grant the right to vote. There are many parties in India whose candidates contest elections on their behalf, prominent among them are the Indian National Congress (Congress), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India-Marxist (, CPI-M, , , All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Before voting for the candidates, the public evaluates the work done by these parties or their representatives in their last term,

➢ **Areas for improvement**

There is a lot of scope for improvement in Indian democracy, these steps should be taken to improve it:

1. Poverty Alleviation

2. Promoting literacy

3. Encouraging people to vote

4. Educating people to choose the right candidate

5. Encouraging intelligent and educated people to take up leadership roles

6. Eradication of communalism

7. Ensuring fair and responsible media

8. Monitoring the functioning of elected members

9. Creating responsible opposition in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha

➢ **History of Democracy in India**

India was ruled by many rulers from Mughals to Mauryas. Each of them had their own distinct style of governing the people. India became a democratic nation after getting independence from the colonial rule of the British in 1947. The people of India at that time, who had suffered a lot of atrocities at the hands of the British, got the , opportunity to vote for the first time after independence and choose their own government.

➢ **Democratic Principles of India**

Sovereign

Sovereign refers to an entity that is free from the control of any foreign power. The citizens of India use universal power to elect their ministers.

Socialist

Socialist means providing social and economic equality to all the citizens of India, irrespective of caste, colour, , creed, gender and religion.

Secularism

Secularism means the freedom to follow any religion of one's choice. There is no official religion in our country.

Democratic

Democratic means that the Government of India is elected by its citizens. All Indian citizens without any discrimination have been given the right to vote so that they can choose the government of their choice.

Republic

The head of the country is not a hereditary king or queen. He is elected by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, whose representatives are elected by the people themselves.

Proceedings of Democracy in India

Every citizen of India above the age of 18 years has the right to vote. The Constitution of India does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of their caste, colour, , creed, gender, , religion or education.

Many parties in India contest elections at the national level, the major ones being – Indian National Congress (Congress), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Communist Party of India (CPI ,), Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP, , , , All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Apart from these, there are many regional parties that contest elections to state legislatures. Elections are held periodically and people exercise their right to vote to elect their representatives. The government is constantly making efforts to get more and more people to exercise their right to vote to choose good governance.

The purpose of democracy in India is not only to give people the right to vote but also to ensure equality in all spheres of life.

➢ **Obstacles in the work of democracy in India**
Although elections are being held at the right time and the concept of democracy in India is followed from a systematic point of view, there are still many obstacles in the smooth functioning of democracy in the country. This includes illiteracy, gender discrimination, poverty, cultural inequality, political influence, , , , , casteism and communalism. All these factors adversely affect democracy in India.

➢ **Democratic Principles of India**
At present there are seven national parties in India which are as follows – Indian National Congress (NCP), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Communist Party of India (, CPI), Communist, Party of India- Marxist (CPI-M, , , All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Apart from these, many regional parties fight for the state assembly elections. Elections to parliament and state assemblies in India are held every five years.

➢ **The democratic principles of India are as follows:**
Sovereign
Sovereign means independent – free from the interference or control of any foreign power. The government that runs the country is an elected government by the citizens. Indian citizens have the, power to elect their leaders by elections held to parliament, local bodies and state legislatures.

Socialist
Socialist means social and economic equality for all the citizens of the country. Democratic socialism means achieving socialist goals through evolutionary, democratic and non-violent means. The government is constantly making efforts to reduce the concentration of money and reduce economic inequality.

Secularism
It means the right and freedom to choose religion. Anyone in India has the right to practice any religion or reject all of them. The Government of India respects all religions and they have no official state religion. India's democracy does not insult or promote any religion.

Democratic
This means that the government of the country has been democratically elected by its citizens. The people of the country have the, right to elect their government at all levels (union, state and local). People's adult suffrage is known as 'one man one vote'. The right to vote is given on the basis of color, , caste, creed, religion, , , gender or education without any discrimination. Not only political but the people of India also enjoy social and economic democracy.

Republic
The head of state is not hered, king or queen, but an elected person. The ceremonial head of state i.e. the President of India, is elected by the electoral process (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) for a term of five years while the executive powers are vested in the Prime Minister.

➢ **Challenges faced by Indian democracy**
The Constitution promises a democratic state and provides all kinds of rights to the people of India. There are many factors which work to influence Indian democracy and have become a challenge for it. Some of these factors are discussed below.

Illiteracy
Illiteracy of the people is one of the biggest challenges that has always been faced since the beginning of Indian democracy. Education enables people to use their right to vote wisely.

Poverty

People belonging to poor and backward classes are generally always molested by political parties. Political parties often give them bribes and other types of inducements to get votes.

Apart from these, there are many other factors like casteism, gender discrimination, , communalism, religious fundamentalism, , , political violence and corruption which have become a challenge to democracy in India.

CONCLUSION

India's democracy is highly admired across the world. The right to vote has been given to every citizen of the country, , without , any discrimination on the basis of their caste, color, creed, religion, gender or education. The vast cultural, religious and linguistic diversity of the country is a major challenge to democracy. Along with this, this difference between people has become a cause of serious concern in today's time. To ensure the smooth functioning of democracy in India, we need to stop these divisive tendencies.

Democracy is known as the best system of governance in the world, that is why the framers and leaders of our country chose the democratic system as the system of governance. We need to strengthen the democracy of our country even more.

Although democracy in India is appreciated all over the world for its work, there is still a lot of scope for improvement. The above mentioned steps can be used to ensure the functioning of democracy in the country.

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