

CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY

Important concepts:

① Relationship between development and democracy

② Models of democracy:

(i) Participative & (ii) Deliberative

Introduction:

Democracy

Form. of
Govt.

Way
of life:

• Govt. of the people

Govt. for the people

Govt. by the people.

- value system as a pers

- freedom.

- Equality

- Fraternity

- Toleration.

Type of Democracy:

① Procedural Democracy

- Focuses on independence judiciary & fair and free elections .. etc.

② Substantive Democracy:

- Where democracy exists as part of life and culture

• Whether present age is an age of democracy?

- It's also an age of democratic confusion. Because of so many model & it have become discourse.

- Waves of Democracy: Spread of democracy all over the world.

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- First wave : late 17th Century - Britain, USA, France.
- First Reverse Wave : 1919-1939 : Germany, Italy, Portugal
(collapse of democracy)
- Second Wave : 1945-1991 : Germany, Italy (dem. returned)
- Second Reverse : Democracy collapsed in 3rd world
(except India)
- Third Wave : Post 1991 - Eastern Communist countries became democratic.
- 4th wave : Arab Spring. (2010)

Democracy and Development :

Context :

Which model of development is better for developing country?

Democracy, win favour of India :

- (i) Existence of India as nation due to democracy
- (ii) Source of inspiration for 3rd world country.
- (iii) Preservation of unity in diversity.

Why democracy is success in India?

- (i) Colonial legacy.
- (ii) Freedom movement that based on civil rights.
- (iii) Choice of leadership.
- (iv) Sense of Constituent Assembly
- (v) Role of caste - reason for mobilisation of people.

- Democracy & Development is debate between Amartya Sen and Lee Kuan (Father of Singapore.)

Globalisation and Democracy:

- What is Globalisation?

- Globalisation denotes borderless world, interdependence, deterritorialisation.

- How Globalisation impacts democracy? What is the implication of democracy?

- Democracy: As a form of Govt, democracy means empowerment of masses.

- What's to be analysed in relationship between Globalisation & democracy?

- We have to analyse whether globalisation has strengthened ~~empower~~ the masses, it has added to the empowerment or disempowerment.

- What is empowerment?

- Empowerment denotes capacity / power to do what one wants to do. Thus empowerment gives state of well being. [capacity building]

Lecture 41

Oceanic circulation of power

↓
Gandhi's concept of Swaraj.



power should be transferred like wave from centre to village level.

(decentralisation)

- The institutions of global governance like UN Security, IMF, World Bank, WTO are suffering from "democracy deficit". It means lack of representativeness, transparency & accountability of these institutions. These institutions are bureaucratically managed. At present, highest level of organisation which is democratically elected is 'Nation-state'.
- Globalisation has weakened the capacity of nation state. Nation-states don't have freedom to formulate the policies of their choice.

• What's the solution?

- He suggests various reforms.

- ① Establishment of World Govt.
- ② Establishment of democratically elected regional parliament inlined with European Union.
- ③ Reform of UN security council.
- ④ Bringing transparency & accountability in functioning of institutions of global governance.
- ⑤ Strengthening grass root democracy.

- ⑥ strengthening independence of judiciary.
- ⑦ Greater freedom of press.

Thus on the basis above reforms we can address the democratic deficit of the present

level of globalisation. Beside David Held, ^{to form} Joseph Stiglitz in his book 'Making

Globalisation Work emphasised on necessity of reforming the institutions of Global Governance.

THEORIES of DEMOCRACY :

• Contribution of L.B. Macpherson :

• Who is Macpherson ?

- Macpherson's work on democracy is the most exhaustive work on democracy.

• why ?

He has studied all theoretical as well as practical models of democracy & also given

his mod own model of democracy.

• Globalisation & localisation (or democratisation) should go hand in hand.

Reading :

• why decentralisation is needed for globalisation ?

School of Thought :

- ① Egalitarian (equality of wealth, status.)
- ② Critical liberal (Liberal but He's critical of inequalities prevailing in these societies.)

Macpherson's works :

- On the basis of his exhaustive research on democracy, Macpherson has classified different theories under two broad theories :-

① Classical theories.

(a). Protective - John Locke, Bentham

(b) Developmental. - J.S. Mill, T.H. Green.

Why democracy ?

- It's a system which gives protection to rights of people. → Protective.

- For them, democracy offers opportunity for development. → Developmental.

- What is strength of classical model ?

- It emphasise on substantive aspect of

democracy which means values of democracy.

- What is the weakness of model?

- The weakness of model is it overlooks "real world" of democracy.

② Modern Theories.

Elitist

- C. Wright Mills.

Pluralists.

- Robert Dahl.

(a) Elitist Theory of democracy.

- It's based on 'Elitists Theory of Power.'

- What is Elitist's Theory of Power?

- It says that power lies with the people.

Elites. Masses are not capable of exercising power. It's neither possible nor desirable that masses exercise power.

- According to them, masses can play only limited role.

- What role?

- Election of Elites.

• What's democracy according to Elitists' scholar?

- It can be called as market model of democracy or economic model of democracy given by Schumpeter or Anthony Downs.

- According to them, democracy is like a market. Voters are like consumers. Politicians are like entrepreneurs. People vote for party or politicians which gives them maximum satisfaction. Hence, if a country has free and fair electoral system, it's enough to suggest that the country has democracy.

- According to them, 'Oligarchy is Iron Law' (Robert E. Mitchell's concept). However situation is better in Western countries. Because, in western countries Elite structure is fractured, it means various parties exists & people have choice choices.

- In socialist countries, monolithic elites exists.

(means single party) Hence, people don't have choices. Elite scholars suggests that, the concept of elites is not incompatible with the idea of democracy.

Why?

① Elites can be considered as leaders & democracy is not incompatible with idea of leadership.

Circulation of Elites :

- Power keeps on shifting from one ~~hands~~ set of elites to other sets of elites.

(b) Pluralists Theory of Democracy.

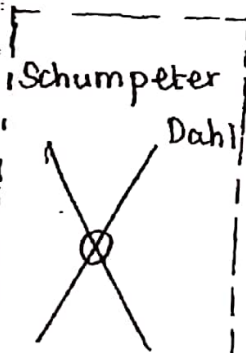
- It's based on Pluralists conception of Power.
- According to Robert Dahl, in reality polyarchy exists; rather than democracy.

• What's polyarchy & what are its features?

• Refer notes. (features of democracy = features of polyarchy).

• What are the weaknesses of these two models?

- Both focus on democracy as a procedure. Elitists scholars suggests that power lies with the top leaders of political parties and pluralists suggests that power lies with pressure groups. Hence Macpherson uses the term 'Schumpeter-Dahl Axis'. It means both meet at one point.



That is both sees democracy as a procedure.

Schumpeter
Dahl-Axis.

• What is the limitation?

- They overlooked the substantive aspect of democracy.

• Macpherson's own Theory :

- ① Macpherson doesn't believe that procedure is most important aspect of democracy.
- According to Macpherson, it's not necessary that all countries should follow western

model to qualify for democratic. There can be other models also. For ex. (a) We can acknowledge one party communist model as democratic, subject to condition there is intra-party democracy. (b) We can accept one party dominant system found in 3rd world countries as democratic.

What is the condition to regard one party dominant system as democratic?

- If there is widespread support to the programs of the party.

② According to Macpherson; West can't claim monopoly over democracy nor that western model is perfect one.

- What is democracy according to Macpherson?

- Democracy means empowerment of masses.

What are 2 forms of power?

a) Extractive Power - which means power of coercion.

China is also a democracy & it can't be said true for India.

- Same in case of Iran. Acc. to U.S Iran is authoritarian which is discourse.

- Therefore, democracy is contested concept.

- China is one party system &

Russia is one party dominant system.

(b) Developmental Power - means power to develop or expansion of capabilities.

• What's the ideal situation?

- In ideal society, there's no coercive power and all should have max^m developmental power.

• Why developmental power is needed?

- Developmental power represent creative freedom.

• What is the situation in western countries?

- Western democracies are inegalitarian.

• Why?

- Capitalists have maximum developmental power and maximum extractive powers. Workers have either no or negligible extractive powers and developmental power.

	Capitalist	Workers
Developmental	100 %	0 %
Extractive	100 %	0 %

What is an ideal democratic society?

	Capitalists	Worker
Development	100 %	100 %
Extractive	0 %	0 %

The extractive power should be eliminated & everyone should have maximum developmental opportunities.

Relation between Constitutionalism and Democracy:

• What is constitutionalism?

- Constitutionalism is Rule of Law. → Govt doesn't

• What is democracy means? (in above context)

- It means Universal Adult Franchise.

• According to Fareed Zakaria constitutionalism should precede democracy.

• Why?

- In the countries where constitutionalism came first which means Rule of Law became political culture; and Universal Adult Franchise introduced later, the chances of success of democracy increases.

• What's empirical basis of above theory?

- One of the strongest democracies in western world is British democracy. On the other hand democracy collapsed in Germany, Italy during interwar period because, these countries lacked

culture of democracy. Same can said about the situation in 3rd World countries. With the only exception of India, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, democracy collapsed in 3rd World countries.

Even in these 3rd World countries we can't say that the existing form of democracy is substantive in any real sense of term.