

MODELS of DEMOCRACY :

① Representative Democracy

What's representative democracy?

When people don't directly participate, rather elect their representative on their behalf.

What's the necessary institution of representative democracy?

(i) Free & fair election

(ii) Party Politics & Pressure Groups.

Why representative democracy came into existence?

(i) Modern Nation-state.

(ii) Population Explosion.

(iii) Modern Complex Societies.

• Who are exponents of Representative Democracy?

(1) John Locke.

(2) J.S. Mill.

• What are dilemmas of Representative Democracy?

- How to ensure that democracy remains representative which means how to reform electoral system so that different sections & interests can be represented.

• What's the solution?

- Solution is to shift from majoritarian models of elections to proportional representation.

• Why proportional representation is needed?

- So that democracy doesn't turn out to be tyranny of majority.

• What should be the ideal of democracy?

- from majoritarian shift to consociational.

- What is consociational? Consensual?

- Democracy based on consensus.

- Democracy which is representative.

Ex. Germany, Switzerland and other countries of continental Europe.

- In Representative Democracy, scholars often debate on models of representations. Models of representation deals with scope of decision making of representatives. There are two models.

① Delegate model - Locke, Bentham.

- According to them delegate should not have freedom to take decision. They should stick to mandate given to them by people.

- Why?

- According to Locke, they don't have any original powers, they exercise only delegated powers.

- According to Bentham, only person knows what's best in his interests.

② Enlightened Representation - J.S. Mill

- Mill prefers to give greater liberty to representative because he believes that, they have more experience than us.
- Edmund Burke:
 - According to him parliament represent assembly of a nation, it's not a place to advance narrow constituency interest.
 - Representative democracy has criticised by various scholars & leaders. One of the major critic is Rousseau. According to Rousseau, Englishmen are free only once in a five year. Rousseau was inspired by system of direct democracy found Geneva. His idea of 'General Will' is based on necessities of direct participation by people as a condition of freedom in presence of authority.
 - Indian leaders like Gandhi, M.N. Roy, J.P. Narayan advocated for partyless democracy. Gandhi's concept of Swaraj is based on idea of democratic

decentralisation. M.N. Roy believed that political parties pursue unethical politics and hence for purity of politics, there should be "radical democracy" which means Grassroot Democracy.

② Participative Democracy.

Democracy in its original sense is Government is based on participation of people in Governance.

- What are benefits of people's participation?

- We can call it for a prerequisite for good governance.

- Why?

- Good Governance is not possible without transparency and accountability because power has corrupting influence.

- Good Governance is also not possible without responsible citizens. People's participation in

Governance is most effective way of political education, awareness & development of responsible citizenship.

Besides benefits Good Governance, it's acknowledged that participatory democracy is necessity for sustainable development (Agenda 21) and Inclusive Growth.

The '2nd ARO' setup by Govt. of India has strongly recommended by for citizen centric governance.

Sarkaniya Commission, Punchhi Commission setup by Govt of India has even suggested that democratic decentralisation is the best way to address regional aspiration and secessionist trends.

Scholars of Participatory Democracy :

① Aristotle

- It's an obligations on citizens to participate in affairs of city-state & he even excludes all those who are unable to participate for whatever reasons from status of citizens.

- He held that common people deliberating together can arrive at better decision than experts acting alone.

② Hannah Arendt

According to her participation in civic affairs is a true human condition because man is 'zoon Politikon'.

③ Habermas

Habermas has given concept of "Public Sphere", "communicative action" and "Ideal speech situation".

- Habermas, Jacques Ranciere, Nancy Fraser,

Seyla Benhabib are supporters of Radical Democracy.

• What's radical democracy?

- The term radical comes from Latin word - 'radix'

It means 'roots'. Thus radical democracy imply grassroots democracy. [Empowerment of tribal or lower section of population.]

- It represents the Leftist's Ideology. They aim to give greater voice to people at lowest level of society.

• What are the means of radical democracy?

- They are not interested in institutionalised form. They are in favour of politics of protests. They

support social movements by marginalised sections or grassroots of society. For ex, protests by tribals can be considered as example of radical democracy.

• What are the mechanisms of direct democracy?

① Referendum (when assembly make law referring people)

② Initiative

③ Recall (In India, used in Panchayat)

- If your representative doesn't work

according to your wishes, you call him back from post he's holding

④ Social Auditing.

⑤ Right to Information

⑥ Watchdog bodies like NHRC

Note :

- Participative democracy needs that Govt should invest in capacity building of people & create conducive environment for people's participation.

← Protest of tribals against Posco.

• Institution = permanent patterns, system which runs on some definite rules. For ex. Marriage, parliament, etc.

• Plebiscite :

- just opinions of people.

Ex. Brexit.

- Nothing to do with law making.

- Not institution of democracy.

③ Deliberative Democracy

- What's deliberation?

- Deliberation means discussion, debates, dialogue, etc.

- What's democracy?

- Democracy differs from,

(a) Theocracy - In theocracy, basis of law making is religion.

(b) Autocracy - In autocracy, law is dictate of a person.

(c) Features of deliberative democracy:

(i) Rational Deliberation.

(ii) Collective participation.

- Thus democracy is form of Govt. where people come together enter into rational discourse for laws & policies.

- Thus democracy itself contain idea of deliberation and there is no need for hyphenation of

'deliberation' & 'democracy'. (means it's enough

when you say democracy, to be understand

that it's deliberative democracy)

• Why Hyphenation ?

- We are overlooking deliberative aspect of democracy. Around the world, democracy is reduced to "Headcounting principle". Democracy is not a game of number, democracy is about who has the right argument. There is decline of deliberative chambers around the world, giving rise to either executive highheadedness or judicial sovereignty.

- Hence scholars reemphasised on necessary of deliberation & discussion as an integral feature of democracy.

• Exponents of Deliberative Democracy:

① Pericles

- Statesman in Athens

"Discussion is never a stumbling block, it's essential prerequisite for any wise action."

② Aristotle

- "People deliberating together can arrive at better decision than experts acting alone."

① J.S. Mill.

- He's greatest champion of freedom of speech & expression.

④ John Rawls.

- Gave concept of 'Public Reasoning' essential for decision making in a democratic society.

⑤ Amartya Sen

- He also emphasised on public reasoning. Because

Public Debate, Governments don't pay attention,

however he suggest that for public reasoning

there are 3 prerequisites for it :

(i) The idea of public reasoning should exists :

(ii) Public sphere should exists.

(iii) People should have capacity to participate.

⑥ Habermas

- He suggests ~~publ~~ 3 concepts :

(i) Public sphere - it's anyplace where people come together to discuss their common concerns.

(ii) Ideal speech situation.

It has following features

- (a) Everyone recognise every other person's right to speak.
- (b) There's no other force existing except force of argument. Even
- (c) Everyone has equal chance to speak.
- (d) Whatever people is speaking is honest & natural.

(iii) Communicative action.

- People participating in ideal speech situation, communicating with each other & are accountable to each other.

⑦ Joshua Cohen

- Refer notes (Important)
- Explained 5 features of democracy.