

MIND MAP

Democracy is the better form of government when compared with dictatorship or any other alternative, because it allows equality among citizens; enhances the dignity of the individual; improves the quality of decision – making; provides a method to resolve conflicts; and allows room to correct mistakes.

How do we assess democracy's outcomes?

Reduction of inequality and poverty

Democracies are based on political equality. All individuals have equal weight in electing representatives. In actual life, democracies do not appear to be very successful in reducing economic inequalities. A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes.

Accountable, responsive and legitimate government

Democracy produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the citizens. The democratic government is the legitimate government. But democratic governments do not have a very good record when it comes to sharing information with citizens.

Outcomes of Democracy

Accommodation of social diversity

No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups. Ability to handle social differences, divisions, and conflicts is thus a definite plus point of democratic regimes. It is also necessary that rule by majority does not become rule by majority community in terms of religion or race or linguistic groups.

Economic growth and development

If you consider all democracies and all dictatorships for the fifty years between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth. But this alone cannot be the reason to reject democracy. The difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.

Dignity and freedom of citizens

Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual. Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity. As people get some benefits of democracy, they ask for more and want to make democracy even better.

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