

## Teacher's Guide

### Outcomes of Democracy

#### Part 4

Based on the NCERT Curriculum for Standard X



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

Janaagraha's initiative to improve citizen engagement in India's democracy through their civic learning program

Developed in collaboration with Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)

## Outcomes of Democracy | Teacher's Guide (4/4) Part 4

Class X

Board – CBSE

Subject – Social Science

Textbook –Democratic Politics-II for class X (NCERT)

Chapter 7 – Outcomes of Democracy

Number of parts – 04

Length – 60 minutes (estimated, for a class of 40-45 students)

*Note: Teachers may divide the lesson plan into as many periods as they see fit*

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### **Section I – What are we going to learn and why is it important?**

#### **Learning objectives**

Students will be able to:

- Explore why active citizenship is central to improving outcomes of democracy.
- Reflect on the duties of a responsible citizen.

#### **Learning outcomes**

Students will be able to

Understand the actions that they can take in their daily lives to create a more progressive and responsive society.

#### **Key Terms**

Active Citizenship	Rights & Duties
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#### **Materials needed**

- Projector
- Ballot box, markers

## Section II – How are we going to learn?

### 1. Rights and Duties in a democracy

Time: 15 minutes

#### Facilitation notes:

- In the previous classes, we discussed how a democracy fares compared to other forms of government. We discussed the shortcomings of a democracy and how even then, a democracy is a more inclusive and people centric form of government and gives scope for people to govern themselves as much as possible.
- The pivot of a democracy lies in the fact that every citizen gets a voice and even if every voice is not always heard, the collective voice of citizens determines the direction that a democracy takes. Citizen's can vote in and vote out their leaders- this is the most basic way in which they participate in a democracy.
- In addition to this, how do citizens participate in a democracy? Any ideas? -*Take a few responses. Likely responses :*
  - Some citizens may decide to stand for elections and become a representative in order to take decisions on behalf of other citizens.
  - Citizens can also participate by taking part in debates and discussions and in the decision-making process. They can reach out to their local leaders/elected representatives and make demands. Other people can be mobilised to create pressure on leaders to address the demands.
  - In India, citizens can also file cases in court against the government to overturn decisions they disagree with or to get court orders in the favour of a certain issue. This is done through the process of filing a PIL (public interest litigation).
  - They may question the government and participate in protests against certain decisions.
- Being a citizen, it is each of our responsibilities that we try and make this country better for everyone.
- If you are a citizen of a country, you are entitled to several rights within that country. At the same time, you are also required to fulfill several duties.
- Rights are essential for protecting citizens against the arbitrary exercise of power by the government. Whereas duties are important to make sure, that a country's democracy is achieving the best outcomes possible at any given time.
- Rights only have meaning if citizens do their duties and help in running the country better.

## 2. Active Citizenship and Democracy

Time: 30 minutes



### Facilitation notes:

- Let's understand this point by watching a video.

### **Video: I Am That Change Short Film**

The video shows the importance of an active citizen in making a democracy strong and ensuring development.

Source: [Youtube](#)

### De-brief

- Let's start by sharing first thoughts on the video. What is the first thing that comes to your mind?
- What do you think is the key message of the video? *Likely responses:* Leading by example/ being the change that we want to see/ doing the right thing even if it's difficult etc.
- Do you think that the concept of active citizenship was highlighted in the video?
- Who do you think an active citizen is? *Likely response:* Someone who is well aware of his rights and duties and practices it in his/her everyday life.
- I am going to say a statement. I want you to just listen to it and hold your thoughts on it for a few minutes. We will then do this activity and, hopefully, it will make sense to you.
- 'A responsible and active citizen makes democracy better.'
- Let's take two real life examples:
- Shubhendu Sharma is a regular citizen. Deeply disturbed by the growing ill treatment of the environment, he decided to take matters into his own hands. Sharma started using his education to come up with scientific techniques of planting trees that do not require too much care. This way he has planted almost 48 'urban forrests' around the country and he hopes to spend his life working for the cause.

[Source](#)

- When people in the village of Ballia in Uttar Pradesh started falling sick, they realised that it was due to the increasing amount of chemicals in the water, specifically arsenic. Dilip a member of an affected community decided to dig up a well instead of using the hand pump. He with his other friends helped save the lives of countless people in his village.

[Source](#)

- Taking these two examples and countless cases from around the world, a good citizen is not just an asset to his family but an asset to the entire society. By his actions, he will end up benefitting everyone around.
- Let's understand the different aspects of responsible citizenship and why it is so important for a society to have such people.
- Now, I am going to divide the class into three groups. Each group will be given a question. As a group you have to come up with answers to the questions.
  - Group A: What are the qualities of a responsible citizen that this video highlights?
    - *Likely responses:*
      - Honesty
      - Respect for law/rules
      - Courage (to raise one's voice)
      - Sincerity
      - Introspection
      - Respect towards others
  - Group B: What are the different ways in which people generally cease to be responsible citizens?
    - *Likely responses:*
      - People violate rules like traffic laws etc.
      - People bribe when it is convenient for them.
      - People show disregard for the environment, do not conserve resources, litter etc.
      - People don't follow the proper procedures and try to use their contacts and influence whenever possible.
      - People use their power to get unfair benefits.
      - People do not go out to vote.
      - People do not keep themselves aware about current affairs and therefore do not engage with issues that are going on. Very often citizens do not participate and engage in the system of governance for reasons such as :
        - indifference
        - ignorance
        - lack of information
        - lack of understanding of the process required to engage or to create impact
        - lack of understanding of the navigation that is required to achieve results
        - lack of a community of citizens that care for the same issue

- Group C: What are the different ways in which a democracy suffers when citizens do not fulfill their basic duties?
  - *Likely responses:*
    - It leads to corruption.
    - If people don't respect the law, crime increases.
    - If citizens go out to vote, we do not get the best possible government.
    - If citizens do not question the government, they may not discharge their duty well.
    - If everyone thinks that cleanliness is not their responsibility, then it becomes a very big problem to tackle.

De-brief:

- We have studied how a democracy is one of the most inclusive forms of government when it comes to regular citizens. It gives scope to raise concerns and get them fixed.
- Living in a democracy is not a birth right enjoyed by everyone around the world. It is a privilege and for our own welfare, we need to make sure this privilege is not taken away from us.
- At the same time, questioning what we believe is wrong and fighting for change is our duty to our country and ourselves.
- Everytime we choose to not be active citizens, the democracy suffers and so do all its citizens.

3. Choosing a good political leader

Time: 40 minutes

Materials needed: Plain activity Sheet-, ballot box, markers

Notes to the teacher: This is an activity which will help students understand the process of electing officials and the power of voting by holding a mock election. Divide the class into three groups. Group A represents the ruling party and Group B represents the opposition and Group C represents the citizens. Elections are approaching and both the parties are making sure that their candidate wins the elections. The representatives from both the parties will be conducting election rallies in order to attract voters.

Facilitation notes:

- We know that elections form the bedrock of a democracy. Let's do mock elections today. I am going to divide the classroom into 3 groups.
  - Group A: Ruling party

- Group B: Opposition
- Group C: Voters/Citizens
- Group A and B will work on their election campaigns and will get a chance to address the voters to convince them.
- Each group think in detail about the issues that you want to address, how you will lead development and your election manifesto of sorts.
- Group C will then vote for the candidate they feel will be the best. They will get a template to compare and hence choose the best.

#### Activity Flow:

- Group A and Group B will get 15 mins to form their manifesto, i.e. the issues that they would prioritize if elected to power.
- During the same time Group C will make a list of demands (citizen's manifesto) that they would like the ruling party to address.
- After making their manifestos, Group A and Group B will come and present their issues. Select 2 people to speak for your group. Other people from the group can choose to add points if their team speaker misses out on something.
- Group C will compare their presentation with the citizen's manifesto. This will be done for each group.
- After this, voting will be done. Members of Group C will choose between Group A or Group B according to their judgement. (Teachers to facilitate this by show of hands)
- The winners will be announced on the basis of this voting.

#### Debrief:

##### Questions for Group A and Group B:

- When you were drafting the manifesto, how did you come up with issues?

##### *Likely response:*

- *We thought about what is important for the country.*
- *We thought about what do people want.*
- What does this tell us about democracy?

##### *Likely response:*

- *Politicians in democracy are forced to think about the needs of the citizens*
- What would have made the manifesto process better?

##### *Likely response:*

- *If there was consensus between the group on all issues.*
- *If we could consult the citizens on what they want.*
- *If we had solutions to major problems.*

### Questions for Group C:

- Was it easy for everyone to agree on the same issues?

#### *Likely response:*

- *Everyone has different priorities, it is hard for people to agree.*
- Did you feel that it was easier for you to make your voting decision because you had thought about your priorities?

#### *Likely response:*

- *Yes, we could compare them more easily.*
- What steps do you think citizens should take to make informed voting decisions?
  - *Read manifestoes of parties.*
  - *Know more about their candidates.*
  - *Discuss and debate with fellow citizens on what is a better option.*
  - *Think deeply about their priorities, and what issues are most important to them.*

### Summing the activity up:

This activity showed us that politicians are by very nature of democracy incentivized to think about the needs of the citizens. This ensures that they act in their favour in the long term. However, to ensure that democratic elections deliver better outcomes, citizens need to be more informed and engaged with the system and make well thought out voting decisions.

### Section III –Assessment

Time: 10 minutes

Materials needed: Blackboard and chalk

#### Facilitation notes:

- State True or False
  - A citizen of a country doesn't have any rights. He needs to do what the government asks him to do. [False; A citizen enjoys fundamental rights and has some responsibilities towards the country]



- An active citizen is aware of his responsibilities. [True]
  - An active citizen takes care of the environment. [True]
  - Voting is a way by which a citizen participates in a democracy. [True]
- Circle all the qualities that demonstrate active citizenship.

Keeps in touch with his/her elected representative to keep them updated of the problems faced by the community	Believes in equal rights for everyone	Smart to find ways to get things done by hook or crook	Volunteers for social activities	Doesn't interfere with what's going on in politics
Thinks of larger good	Votes	Complains	Respectful of diversity	Cares for self as well as others

#### **Section IV – Closure**

Time: 5 minutes

#### **Summary by students**

Get a student to summarise the elements of active citizenship. Ask other students to add to his/her points to ensure everything is covered.

#### **Recap by a student**

Time: 2 minutes

#### **Recap by the teacher**

Time: 3 minutes

Please ensure that all the following points are covered in the recap by the teacher and student.

- A citizen is a person who is a legally recognized member of a country or region. All of you are, for example, citizens of India.

- Citizenship is more than just a legal recognition. It is about participation in the working of the country.
- In a democracy, citizens usually participate by voting in elections to elect leaders to represent them.
- Some citizens may also decide to stand for elections and become a representative in order to take decisions on behalf of other citizens.
- In addition, citizens also participate by taking part in debates and discussions and in the decision-making process. This involves even criticizing the government when required.
- Being an active citizen is really important. The constitution guarantees all its citizens equal rights. It is our duty to ensure we are contributing to the development of the nation.
- Citizens have a role to play to build a better, democratic society and developing the skills and attitudes of active citizenship is crucial.
- Active citizens not only know their rights and responsibilities but they also show solidarity with other people. They take initiatives and ownership to address issues that are of concern to them and others to make their neighbourhood and city a better place to live in.
- It's simply not about focusing on your own self but constantly question the society you live in and striving to make it a better and more inclusive environment for yourself and other.

### **Section V- Homework**

- Ask 10 adults the following questions to understand their voting patterns:
  - Do you know the names of the people who stood from various parties in your constituency.
  - What were the major issues that each/ a few of them raised?
  - Since the last election cycle, what work has been done in your constituency by your candidate?
- Everyone in society benefits from the actions of active citizens. Research and write down 3 instances of active citizenship that you found inspiring. How did these actions benefit everyone around?

### **Section VI – Additional Resources**

#### **For teachers**

1. Video: Why Citizen Engagement

Link: [YouTube](#)

#### **For students**



2. Video: History of elections in India

Link: [YouTube](#)

3. Video: The three essential ingredients for active citizenship

Link: [YouTube](#)

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