

Teacher's Guide

Outcomes of Democracy

Part 1

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 (1/4) Part 1

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

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

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Understand the key benefits of a democracy.
- Articulate the potential shortcomings of a democratic government vis-a-vis a non-democratic government.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to

- Formulate their own expectations of a good democracy.

Key Terms

Democracy	Dictatorship	Monarchy	Representation	Transparency
Accountability				

Materials needed

1. Projector for images and videos.
2. 5 slips of paper with the following words written on them: representation, time, cost, transparency, and accountability for the activity comparison of different governments.

3. Activity sheets for every student for the activity 'if I were the prime minister'.

Section II – How are we going to learn?

1. Different types of government

Time: 15 minutes

Facilitation notes:

- We will be starting with the chapter 'outcomes of democracy'. We will be thinking critically about a democracy, what it means to live in one and what are its benefits and challenges.
- Let's revisit two basic ideas: Freedom of citizens and the ability to change the government.
- In a democracy, the people choose their government by voting for and electing the people they like the most.
- A democracy is clearly distinct from all other forms of government on the account of elections where people choose their leader/ruler. A democracy entails election of the government while a non-democracy will mean that a government is not elected by the citizens of that country. For the purpose of this chapter, we will simply club governments as democracies and non-democracies, even though non-democracies can be of many types.
- From what we know so far, is it fair for me to say that in all the forms of the government, a democracy is perhaps the one form which gives its citizens the maximum amount of power? (Expected answer- Yes)
- So does that mean that a democracy is the most perfect form of government? (Expected answers- Yes and No)
- Let's explore this further.

2. Comparison between forms of government

Time: 20-25 minutes

Materials needed: 5 slips of paper with the following words written on them: representation, time, cost, transparency, and accountability.

Facilitation Notes:

- So far, we have focused on a democracy, how it is beneficial to its citizens and how it is just a platform for people to build a strong country and not necessarily a solution in itself.

- But this does not give us a completely definite answer on whether a democracy is better than non-democracies. I do agree that when we think of dictatorship, the first image in our minds is a negative one. But let's not rule it off without reason. Let's critically think of what makes a democracy good by evaluating its outcomes.
- For the purpose of this discussion, the class is divided into 5 groups.
- To save time, let's evaluate every government on these 5 criteria:

Representation	Time in decision making	Cost of Decisions	Transparency	Accountability
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- Each group should send one member to pick a chit. You will be thinking on this one criteria. (After every group has received a chit and knows the criterion that they need to discuss)
- Now think of the two forms of government: democracy and non-democracy.
- Discuss within your group how both forms of government fare on these criteria and which one is better. For clarity, do not think of anything else, but only the criteria you have been assigned.
- (For the next 5 minutes or so, the students discuss each factor. After the discussion is over, the teacher draws the table on the board and one student from each group discusses it out loud in the class.)
- Let's discuss this together. Everyone to note down this table in their notebooks:
- (Potential points for student discussion):

Factor/ Government	Democracy	Non Democratic forms of government	Which form of government does better?
Representation	In a democracy, every citizen gets to vote. Every citizen can choose the leader he or she wants and collectively all of them decide who will be their leader. Each individual may not get exclusive representation, but collectively the citizens are represented. Eg: India, the largest democracy in the world in terms of populations sees a vibrant election process where each citizen is free to vote for his choice of representative. The country has over	In non-democratic forms of government, the head of the government makes most of the decisions. It is solely upon the government to pay attention to or ignore the wishes of the common man. The common man may not have a say in the decisions made by them. Eg: The government is controlled by a single dictator. Kim Jong-un a.k.a Supreme leader holds nearly absolute power. The ruling party although comes to power by the process of elections, each	A democracy gives the highest scope for citizens to be represented in their own governance.

	<p>2000 political parties registered with the election commission.</p> <p>Source</p>	<p>voting slip has only one state-approved candidate on it.</p> <p>Source</p>	
Time in decision making	<p>In a democracy, decisions are usually taken keeping in mind the preferences of everyone. Multiple consultations, deliberations, meetings, and negotiations are held before policies and laws are made. This process is lengthy and time-consuming.</p> <p>For instance, In 2016 when President Trump USA was elected to the white house, many leaders in the world were worried (considering his past radical views and rash comments) about his access to the "nuclear button" and the American government's military resources. However in the American democracy any policy decision goes through a system of checks and balances (in the USA the president checks Congress and vice-versa) where it is scrutinized under a lens making it a lengthy, well thought out decision. The chances of making a rushed decision are much lower.</p> <p>Source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In non-democracies, decisions are very quick and dependent on one of very few people. The head usually has the final authority to make the final call. • He/She doesn't need to worry about popular opinion or majority. • Non democracies are usually faster in decision making. • King Henry VIII is famously considered as one of the most powerful and the most irrational monarchs by the British. He constantly drove his troops into war against Scotland, even when everyone advised him against it. This was possible because he had absolute authority. <p>Source</p>	<p>In terms of giving out timely decisions, a democracy is less efficient than a non-democracy.</p>
Cost of Decisions	<p>In a functional democracy, decisions are made after consulting affected parties. The decisions are made after following prescribed procedures, therefore decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective.</p> <p>Eg: India passed the Goods and Services Tax Act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions are made by the head of the government and his small group of advisers. • If these decisions are not acceptable to a large group of people, then there is widespread discontentment. • In some cases, the chances that people 	<p>In the long run, a democracy may take time to implement decisions but these decisions will be more acceptable and will get implemented.</p>

	<p>in 2017. This was a major economic reform (and a constitutional amendment) but was only enacted by the Indian government after consulting all effected parties, therefore most people welcomed it and had also begun preparing for it in advance.</p>	<p>may even revolt. A situation of civil unrest is more plausible in non-democracies. Eg: The 1857 uprising in India was in response to unpopular decisions by the British Empire for Indian subjects.</p>	
Transparency	<p>A democracy ensures that decision-making will be based on norms and procedures. So, a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out. She has the right and the means to examine the process of decision-making.</p> <p>Eg: The law in most democracies grants each person an unconditional right to access official federal information without legal, commercial, or any other kind of justification. For instance, through the Right To Information (RTI) Act in India. This ensures that any decision undertaken by the government, its implementation and progress is under public scrutiny. Source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A non-democracy is based on the will of the government. Decisions are made behind closed doors and common people are often prevented from questioning any decision taken by the government. <p>Shah Jahan's reign in India saw massive architectural projects being undertaken with help of the state treasury. The cost was such that the Emperor had to increase the taxes which disgruntled many people of the state. But no one could question him. No one was even given access to the records of the expenses incurred to fulfil dream projects that had no logical basis. Source</p>	<p>A democratic government is a more transparent form of government.</p>
Accountability	<p>A democracy is based on election of representatives by the citizens of that country. Every election, citizens again get the right to choose who they should vote for. Therefore, the most basic outcome of democracy should be that it produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, and responsive to the needs and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A non-democracy is based on a kind of unquestionable rule by the head of state. While there is a chance that he feels a sense of duty to his nation, there is no legal binding on him. He is not accountable to the citizens and can choose to ignore any questions that may arise. Usually in history, when common men have 	<p>A democracy is perhaps the most accountable form of government. The elections ensure that politicians are regularly rated by the public on the basis of their performance. This is the most important outcome of</p>

	<p>expectations of the citizens.</p> <p>Eg: In Indian democracy, the government is accountable to the Parliament. The Parliament can scrutinize its functioning. This may be done using various methods including, during debates on Bills or issues on the floor of Parliament, by posing questions to ministers during Question Hour, and in parliamentary committees. The Parliament is in turn elected by regular citizens in elections. At the end of a term, citizens can choose to change their government by voting them out if they are not happy with its performance.</p> <p>Source</p>	<p>questioned the heads, they have been suppressed by force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For instance, the notorious dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein's rule is infamous for the atrocities committed by him with the help of the state machinery. He is known to have brutally crushed several opposition movements. His reign sees a conservative estimate of 2,50,000 deaths. The 'Butcher of Baghdad' is said to have ruled with fear and violence. <p>Source</p>	<p>a democracy.</p>
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Debrief:

- A democracy may not be perfect. There are delays, sometimes unnecessary, that occur in decision making. Multiple people need to be consulted and everyone cannot be kept satisfied all the time.
- A democracy is supposed to be a representation of all its citizens but in reality, this does not happen. Very often, while taking decisions, even large groups of citizens are ignored.
- There is also a lot of evidence of the corruption that a democracy creates room for. When was the last time you saw or heard of a government official taking a bribe?
- But what makes the other forms of government better? While a democracy does not solve all problems, it has advantages that a monarchy or a dictatorship definitely do not have. There is nothing to show that non-democracies are less corrupt or more sensitive to the people.
- There is however one respect in which democratic government is certainly better than its alternatives: democratic government is legitimate government. It may be slow or less efficient. But a democratic government is people's own government.
- While it is true that a democracy is not flawless, it has its own problems, I believe that it is safe to assume that it does give its citizens the most freedom and representation in the long run.
- According to the NCERT book, democracy:
 - Promotes 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.
- Now let's understand how does this happen? How does a democracy achieve all of these? (the teacher to now ask students to discuss each of the above mentioned points and come up with logical reasons for them)

How does a democracy?	Potential answers
Promotes equality among citizens;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A democracy ensures equal political rights for all citizens. Because every citizen can vote, the government has the incentive to ensure that every citizen is looked after. A democracy promotes equality among people.
Enhances the dignity of the individual;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A democracy is based on the idea of freedom and equality. By creating a situation where every individual is equally important politically, a democracy promotes the dignity of its citizens.
Improves the quality of decision- making;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In a democracy elected representatives make decisions. Decisions in a democracy require excessive deliberations, consultations and negotiations, as they care about getting re-elected. ● This process automatically improves the quality of decisions.
Provides a method to resolve conflicts; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a decision or an act of the government is not acceptable, a democracy gives room to people to question it. The constitution lays down ways in which opposing people and ideologies can challenge the government's decisions in courts and through exercising their freedom of speech.
Allows room to correct mistakes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In a democracy, elections are held at regular intervals. This means that every government wants to make sure that it keeps the people happy. ● Governments regularly re-think their policies and keep changing them. ● Also, there is always an option to vote out the elected leader in favor of another candidate, in case people are unsatisfied with the government's performance.

3. Activity: What does a democracy mean to me?

Time: 20 minutes

Materials Needed: Activity sheets for every student (Printable version in the appendix. If printing is not possible, the teacher can draw the format on the blackboard)

Facilitation Notes:

- We will start this part with an activity I am really excited about.
- Let's watch a video that always inspires me to be a citizen of India



Video: Jaago Re

This very vivid and articulate video talks about the need for people to 'wake up' and change their society.

Link: [Youtube](#)

- You will all get a sheet, the sheet is fairly self-explanatory. For now, I want you all to take 10 minutes, think and fill it completely. Try and not leave anything blank and think as differently as possible.
- Activity Sheet:

If I lived in a perfect society
<p>India is the largest democracy in the world. Since independence in 1947, our country has come a long way. Progress in agriculture, manufacturing and technology has been made. Health care has reached world class levels. The economy has grown tremendously.</p>
<p>But at the same time, there is yet so much to be achieved. Our country still faces problems- dowry, child marriage, child labour are rampant. Women are still not safe</p>

in many parts include big cities. Minority communities are often subject to oppression.

Keeping all this in mind, answer the following questions: (do not write textbook definitions. Write what you understand from your everyday experiences.)

- 1. What do I understand by the word 'Democracy'?**
- 2. What, according to me is an ideal democracy? (give me three points)**
- 3. While the country is democratic, do I think that my society is democratic? Why?**
- 4. What are the problems that I see in my 'democratic society'?**
- 5. Understanding my own ideas of a democracy, how will I promote it?**

- After 10 minutes, the teacher reads each of these questions aloud in class and asks a few responses on each, one at a time.
- (After this activity is done) These were some excellent points that were made by each one of you. Especially the points on what changes you will bring in the Indian democracy. It also got me thinking that while the Indian democracy is more than 70 years old, why are there so many problems still?
- By now, as Indians, we should have been in a better position. After all, we are the largest democracy in the world!
- This is because a democracy essentially means that the citizens of a country choose their government and can change it if they are unhappy.
- A democracy does not guarantee that all social, economic, and political problems of a country will automatically get resolved.
- The most important step in thinking of a democracy is that it's only a type of government. It can only give its citizens a platform to be represented and heard. Beyond this, it depends on the citizens and their politicians how they use this opportunity to solve the problems of a country.
- Let's wrap this section up with a few points from your textbook on what makes a democracy strong.
- If you wanted to measure democracies on the basis of this expected outcome, you would look for the following practices and institutions:
 - Regular, free and fair elections;
 - Open public debate on major policies and legislations; and
 - Citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning.

Section III – Assessment

Time: 10 minutes

Facilitation notes:

- Mark 'T' if the statement is True and 'F' if the statement is false
 - A democracy is a perfect form of government.
 - In a dictatorship, decisions usually take more time.
 - Free and fair elections are an important part of a democracy.
 - Democracies are usually free of corruption.
 - Dictators can be held accountable too through revolts, therefore it is unfair to say that governments are most accountable in a democracy

Section IV – Closure

Time: 5 minutes

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 democracy is a form of government where citizens elect their representatives and have the option of changing them whenever possible.
- By its very make up, a democracy promotes equal representation and dignity among citizens.
- Given that a democracy has to account for everyone's interest, it is a representative and accountable form of government.
- It is transparent and leads to lesser costs of decisions since mostly all major policies are acceptable by a majority of people.
- A democracy usually involves negotiations and consultations and is, therefore, not the fastest form of government.
- Even with its drawbacks, a democracy creates a responsive, accountable and legitimate form of government and is seen as the most successful form of government around the world.

- An important thing to note is that a democracy is simply a form of government. There guarantee that there won't be any problems in a democracy. Ultimately, it is on the citizens of a country to build a strong government. We all need to consistently be aware that a country is made from its people and no structure can ensure progress and problem-free countries. That is a duty of its people.

Section V – Homework

Answer the following questions:

- a) Find out how many times has the ruling party been re-elected in the general elections in the last 30 years in India?
- b) Observing these trends, do you think Indian citizens have held the government accountable?
- c) What are some of the major reasons to which fall of the governments was attributed in elections where the ruling party wasn't elected again?
- d) Do you think Indian democracy has succeeded in making the government accountable to its people? Why and why not?

Note to the teacher: This is an open-ended question, however most students will argue that Indian democracy is responsive in many ways as can be seen by the election trends. You can also have a class debate on this topic, in case many students think otherwise.

Section VI – Additional Resources

Resources for teachers

1. Article: What has gone wrong with democracy?

The article details the rise of democracy, what are its current biggest challenges and how can they be solved.

Link: [The economist](#)

2. Video: Why democracy matters?

In this talk, the speaker details why despite its many drawbacks a democracy is important and how can it be made stronger.

Link: [Ted.com](#)

Resources for students



1. Video: Forms of government

The video explains in very simplistic terms the different forms of government

Link: [YouTube](#)

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