

Unit -1

Women Empowerment



Learning Objectives

- ❖ To know the sociological perspectives of gender.
- ❖ To understand about various role played by women in society.
- ❖ To know the importance of woman's education.
- To understand the role played by women in economic development.
- ❖ To understand the idea of women's rights.



Introduction

"Feminism is not about making women stronger. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength".

"The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organisation but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights".

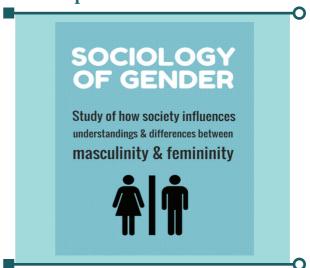
"You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation".

To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman –Mahatma Gandhi.

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development.

Women's empowerment and achieving gender equality is essential for our society to ensure the sustainable development of the country.

Social Aspects of Gender



In sociology, we make a distinction between sex and gender. Sex is the biological trait that societies use to assign people into the category of either male or female. When people



talk about the differences between men and women they are often drawing on sex – on rigid ideas of biology – rather than gender, which is an understanding of how society shapes our understanding of those biological categories.

Gender is more fluid – it may or may not depend upon biological traits. More specifically, it is a concept that describes how societies determine and manage sex categories; the cultural meanings attached to men's and women's roles; and how individuals understand their identities including, but not limited to, being a man, woman, transgender, and other gender positions. Gender involves social norms, attitudes and activities that society views as more appropriate for one sex over another. Gender is also determined by what an individual feels and does.

The sociology of gender examines how society influences our understandings and perception of differences between masculinity (what society views appropriate behaviour for a "man") and femininity (what society views appropriate behaviour for a "woman"). We examine how this, in turn, influences identity and social practices.

The essential factors for empowerment are:

- **1. Education:** Education gives one the ability to think wisely and take thoughtful decisions.
- 2. Gender Discrimination:
 A Society which discriminates between the two genders can never be empowered.
- 3. Discrimination based on caste, creed, religion etc.

Woman's Education



Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. More than 40 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted that "everyone has the right to education".

Educating the girl child produces mothers who are educated and who will, in turn, educate their children care for their families and provide their children care and support. The girl child needs to be educated to acquire knowledge and skills needed to advance her status for social interactions and self-improvement.

The sustainability and progress of all regions depend on the success of women across the globe. As the former President Barrack Obama said while addressing the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, "the future must not belong to those who bully women. It must be shaped by girls who go to school and those who stand for a world where our daughters can live their dreams just like our sons."







The Unmatched Importance of Female Education

- 1. **Increased Literacy:** Of the illiterate youth across the globe, nearly 63 percent are female. Offering all children education will prop up literacy rates, pushing forward development in struggling regions.
- 2. Human Trafficking: Women are most vulnerable to trafficking when they are undereducated and poor, according to the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking. Through providing young girls with opportunities and fundamental skills, Human Trafficking can be significantly undermined.
- 3. Political Representation: Across the globe, women are under represented as voters and restricted from political involvement. The United Nations Women's Programmes on Leadership and Participation suggest that civic education, training and all around empowerment will reduce this gap.
- 4. **Thriving Babies:** According to the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, children of educated mothers are twice as likely to survive past the age of five.



5. **Later Marriage:** As suggested by the United Nations Population Fund, in underdeveloped countries, one in every

- three girls is married before reaching the age of 18. In a region where a girl receives seven or more years of education, the wedding date is delayed by four years.
- 6. Income Potential: Education also increases a woman's earning capabilities. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, (UNESCO) a single year of primary education has shown to increase a girl's wages later in life by 20 percent.
- 7. **Prospering GDP:** Gross Domestic Product also rises when both girls and boys are being offered educational opportunities. When 10 percent more women attend school, GDP increases by three percent on average.
- 8. **Poverty Reduction:** When women are provided with equal rights and equal access to education, they go on to participate in economic activity. Increased earning power leads to reduction in poverty level.

Savitribai Phule as a tradition breaker, the first female teacher at the first girls' school. when we talk about the girls' education only Jyotirao Phule is remembered as the champion of women's education in India. He, along with his wife Savitribai Phule, opened the first school for girls in 1848.









First in the World - Woman

First woman	Name	Country
Prime Minister	Sirimavo Bandaranaike	Sri Lanka
In space	Valentina Tereshkova	USSR
To scale Mt Everest	Junko Tabei	Japan
To win the Olympic gold	Charlotte Cooper	England

First in India - Woman

First Women's University Maharshi Karve starts SNDT University in Pune with five students in 1916.

First Women to hold a Union Cabinet post Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

First Women to hold a Union Foreign Minister's post Sushma Swaraj (2014)

First Women youngest minister of a state Sushma Swaraj (She became the cabinet minister of Haryana when she was only 25 yrs old)

First Women governor of Independent India Sarojini Naidu, in charge of United Provinces

First Women president of UN General Assembly Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1953)

First Women Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi (1966)

First Women IPS Officer of India Kiran Bedi (1972)

First Women to win Nobel Peace Prize Mother Teresa (1979)

First Indian Women to climb Mount Everest Bachendri Pal (1984)

First Indian Women to win Booker Prize Arundhati Roy (1997)

First Women President Pratibha Patil (2007)

First Women Speaker of LokSabha Meira Kumar (2009)

First Women judge in Supreme Court Meera Sahib Fatima Bibi

First Women President of the Indian National Congress Annie Besant

First Women Chief Minister of an Indian State Sucheta Kripalani

First Women Director General of Police (DGP) Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya

First women defencse Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman

First woman Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman

Factors Responsible for Poor Female Literacy Rate

- 1. Gender based inequality.
- 2. Social discrimination and economic exploitation.
- 3. Occupation of girl child in domestic chores.
- 4. Low enrolment of girls in schools.
- 5. Low retention rate and high dropout rate.

Male Female literacy rate in India: 1951-2011

Census year	Persons	Males	Females	Male- Female gap in literacy rate
1	2	3	4	5
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	28.3	40.4	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	23.98
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	64.83	75.26	53.67	21.59
2011	74.04	82.14	65.46	16.68







Role of woman in the economic development

Importance of women's economic empowerment in society is inevitable. Empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development. Women's empowerment and achieving gender equality is essential for our society to ensure the sustainable development of the country.

Benefits of Economic Empowerment of Woman

- 1. Women's economic empowerment is central to realising women's rights and gender equality.
- 2. Empowering women in the economy and bridging gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the agenda for Sustainable Development
- 3. When more women work, economies grow.
- 4. Increasing women's and girls' educational attainment contributes to women's economic empowerment and more inclusive economic growth.
- 5. It is estimated that companies with three or more women in senior management functions score higher in all dimensions of organisational performance.

The need for Economic Empowerment of Woman.

- 1. Gender differences in laws affect both developing and developed economies, and women in all regions.
- 2. Women remain less likely to participate in the labour market than men around the world.
- 3. Women are more likely to be unemployed than men.
- 4. Women are over-represented in informal and vulnerable employment.
- 5. Globally, women are paid less than men.

- 6. Women bear disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work.
- 7. Unpaid care work is essential to the functioning of the economy, but often goes uncounted and unrecognised
- 8. Women are less likely to be entrepreneurs and face more disadvantages starting businesses.
- 9. Women are less likely than men to have access to financial institutions or have a bank account.
- 10. Women are still less likely to have access to social protection.
- 11. Violence and harassment in the world of work affects women regardless of age, location, income or social status.

Indian society is known for its unity in diversity. Social inequality also prevails in this society which has given birth of weaker section of society which is as diverse as Indian society itself, women, Scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, children, poor, landless farmers are considered as weaker sections. They have faced socio-economic and political discrimination in hands of dominating section since ancient time and their fight for rights and access to justice is almost as old as the discrimination against these marginalised and weaker group.

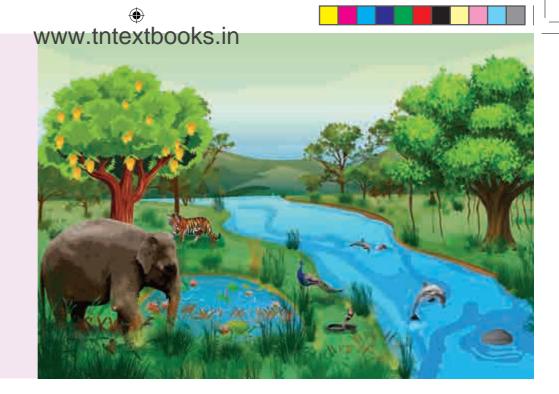
Summary

Women empowerment and issues related, nowadays gained its importance worldwide. Personal rights, Social equality, Political power, and Economic opportunity are the important aspects of woman empowerment. World governments, both developed and developing countries are sincerely working towards achieving the goal of Women empowerment. Almost the women population shared 50% of the total population of the world; we can't imagine world peace and prosperity without empowering each and every woman on this planet. It is everyone's responsibility to make each woman into an independent and empowered woman.





NATIONAL SYMBOLS





OutputLearning Objectives

- To know about the natural national symbols of India.
- To understand the importance to protect nature.
- To know the other national symbols and appreciate them.
- To know the about different national festivals and celebrate them with joy.



Path way

This lesson deals with the natural national symbols and the other national symbols. It also explains about the different national festivals.

Velan and Ponni went on a forest trip to Pulivanam. The thought that they were going to visit the forest, made them ecstatic and they were filled with adventurous excitement and Veena, a wildlife reasearcher was with them. That forest had a legendary river running across. The forest also had 2,000 metre high mountain.

As per the plan, they had reached the forest area by a vehicle. "We are waiting for you" said the forest officer Manimaran, smilingly to the enthusiastic young researchers. Veena introduced

Velan and Ponni to the officer. The personal vehicles had to be stopped there as they were restricted to go further. After that they had to travel only by vehicles run on battaries that are pollution free. These vehicles also called as 'Jeep' were covered with glass. A jeep was waiting for them. The forest officer Manimaran, Veena and the team boarded the vehicle.

"I think you are eagerly waiting to watch the tiger, but it is possible only when you are lucky enough. Though it is the tiger's habitat, there are many birds, insects, reptiles, aquatic life and

amphibians which make the eco-system. So please don't wait only for the tigers but enjoy watching other animals too. And remember you shouldn't speak loudly" said Manimaran.

In a few minutes they had a chance to see a beautiful pond with lotus. The vehicle was moving slowly. The lotuses were smiling back at them. "Lotuses are of different types. Those which are pink are called pink lotuses. The lotus has a very special structure" said Veena.

Just behind a big tree near the pond, a peacock was fanning out its feathers gracefully. Without making noise, Velan and Ponni were admiring it. "Uncle Manimaran, usually peacocks do this during rainy days. Will it rain now?" said Ponni.

"Maybe. It dances only during rainy days. But once a chieftain Began, wondered whether the peacock was shivering in cold and covered the peacock with his shawl. This chieftain belonged to the classical Sangam age of Tamils and also revered as one of the seven most generous personalities of ancient Tamil land.





"You know very well that the peacock is our national bird. For a long time the Peacock has a significant place in our culture, art and heritage. It's beauty, stately appearance and its even distribution all over India makes it our national bird" said Manimaran.

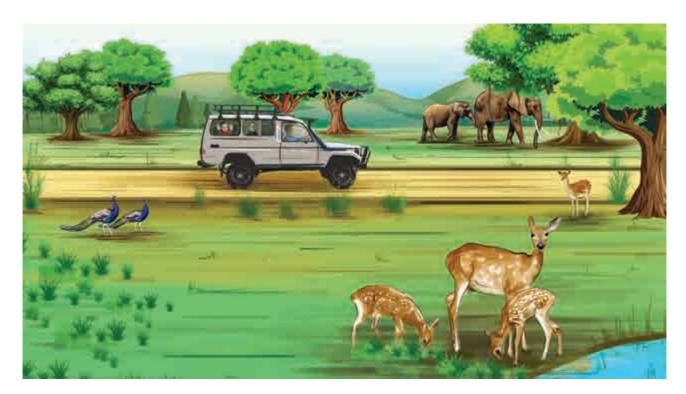
The vehicle moved forward silently. They admired the beauty on either side even without blinking.

"We have come very close to the bank of the river. Now we have to go along the river. I am going to show you a different animal. You have to remain silent; only then you can see it. Please take your binoculars" said Manimaran.

Veena had instructed the team to bring their binoculars on the visit. Velan and Ponni had borrowed the binoculars from their neighbours. They focused their binoculars towards the gap between the bushes. That gave them a view of the river. Veena said, "Look, there is something black like a Gharial crocodile moving". They could not see the animal clearly due to the glare caused by the morning sun. Manimaran said, "Turn away from the Sun's rays and watch carefully. It is not a Gharial".

Veena said, "No it does not look like a fish. It looks like an aquatic mammal — a river dophin".

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Velan and Ponni exclaimed, "What? Is it a dolphin? Marine acrobatic animal? How can it live in a river?

Manimaran said, "There are river dolphins in our country. The dolphins that live in the rivers have a long snout similar to the Gharial crocodiles. Just like bats, they use the ultrasound waves to catch their prey. They are essentially blind.

Velan said, "That was an interesting detail".

"Do you know the name of the river beside which we are now on?".

"The rich harvests of the fertile plains of Ganges was mentioned in one of Bharathiyar's famous songs. Am I on the same banks of Ganges? My father asked me to collect some information about this place before visiting it," said Ponni.

"No doubt about it."

"Do you know that this river is 2,525 km long and is the longest river

in India?" said Velan stunning everyone around.

"Though Brahmaputra is 3848 km long, it does not flow across India. So, What Velan said is right" said Veena.

Manimaran said, "We have seen a lot of things. Now let us relax. Come, let us have these pieces of mangoes."

"These mangoes are very tasty, what kind of mangoes are these?" asked Veena eagerly.

"This kind of mango is known as 'Imam pasand' a variety of mango that was cultivated during the Mughal reign for the royal family. This is occasionally found in the forest. Even this was picked from the mango grove at the fringes of this forest" said Manimaran. Eveyone got into the vehicle and were ready to go.

"Now we are going to see another wonder" said Manimaran and drove the vehicle around a big banyan tree with countless roots around. He travelled



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around it for a few minutes and came back to the starting point. "Such a big banyan tree?" exclaimed Ponni and Velan.

"This is a very big banyan tree and is the oldest in this forest. It is the habitat of thousands of birds. It is as famous as the banyan tree in the Indian Botanical Garden in Howrah (Calcutta)," said Manimaran.

"There is another big banyan in Adyar (Chennai). It is as big as that. I saw that when I visited the Theosophical Society and wondered at it." said Ponni.

"Let us now go slowly because there is a herd of elephants climbing the mountains right behind the banyan tree" said Manimaran.

Velan replied at once, "Oh! Aren't the wild elephants ferocious? Are we in danger?".

Manimaran said "First and foremost we are not supposed to trouble the wild animals because the forest is their home. We can admire them without disturbing them."

Manimaran continued "We should know how to safeguard ourselves from the encounters of the wild animals. That is the reason why we try to explore the forests with the guides who belong to the forest tribal community".

"Even though the animals are quite huge, they will not harm you unless you hurt them".

"Let us also climb the hills along with the elephants. There is another surprise waiting for you on the top of the hills" said Manimaran.

After climbing the hill they came across a plain. He parked the vehicle and asked the team to see something using their binoculars. "Look there,"

There was a cone-shaped nest built with dried leaves. Manimaran asked, "Can you guess which animal's nest is that?

I know that birds build nests on the ground, but this seems a bit strange," said Veena.

It is a snake's nest, the nest of king cobra".

"What? Snakes build nests?" said Velan.

"This is the only reptile that builds a nest of its own and reproduces. Thus snake's average length is 18 feet and is the longest of the poisonous snakes" said Manimaran.

"We have explored the forest and climbed the hills but we have not seen a tiger till now" said Ponni.

"Don't worry Ponni. We have come across many wonders. The Tiger is a very shy animal. While descending down the hills we may see one on the rocky area on the slope" said Manimaran.

They had seen many unusual things that day. But they were very disappointed because they had not seen ever a tiger."

"I have visited several forests but they are not identical. I got some new information from Mr.Manimaran and the tribals. I have visited forestes many times regarding my research. But I was not able to see the tiger. Don't worry, we will see a tiger some time later comforted Veena.

NATURAL NATIONAL SYMBOLS



The years the symbols were adopted by the Government of India are given.

They descended down the hill and came to the same place where they had watched the river dolphins. They parked the vehicle and rested for a while. Ponni came out of the vehicle and watched through the binoculars. She noticed something strange. She couldn't control herself she whispered "Uncle, look there." All of them quickly turned to look with their binoculars. They saw a tigress with her three cubs drinking water from the river. Veena captured the beautiful scene with her camera. Nobody dared to see anything other than the tigress, till it left the river bank and vanished away.

"This is the real king of the forest" said Manimaran.

Tamil Nadu's Natural
Symbols

Animal	Nilgiri Tahr	
Bird	Emerald dove	
Flower	Gloriosa Superba	an an
Tree	Palmyrah tree	

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"It is absolutely true" said Veena.

They all got back to the vehicle and were returning. Veena asked the team a question. "Do you know, there is something common between all the wonders you have seen today?"

"What is common?" asked Velan.

"Please, tell us quickly. We are very eager to know" said Ponni.

"All that we saw today are our natural national symbols" said Veena

"You are right, Veena. This didn't strike me." said Manimaran.

Other Symbols of our Country

National flag:

The tricolour flag is our National flag. The three colours are of the same width and are

arranged horizontally. The saffron at the top represents valour and sacrifice. The green at the bottom represents fertility and prosperity. The white band in



between represents honesty peace and purity. The Ashoka chakra or the wheel in navy blue represents truth and peace.

Out National Flag's length and width proportion is 3:2 respectively and the Ashoka's chakra has 24 spokes in it.

National Emblem

The four lions on top of the Ashoka

HOTS:

Who has been given the right to manufacture the National flag?



Kodi Kaatha Kumaran

Tirupur Kumaran was born in Chennimalai of Erode district. As a youth, he actively participated in the freedom struggle for



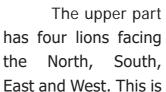
India. In 1932, when Gandhiji was arrested, protests were held against the arrest all over the country. When protests were held for Gandhiji's release, Tirupur Kumaran took active part in it. He lost his life when the police attacked violently. He held on to the tricolor flag even when he died. He was honoured with the title, 'Kodi Kaatha Kumaran'. The Government of India has released a postal stamp on his centenary year to remember Tirupur Kumaran's sacrifice and dedication to the nation.



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- The National flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya from Andhra Pradesh.
- The first Indian Flag was woven at Gudiyatham in Vellore district of Tamilnadu.
- This flag was hoisted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 15th August 1947 at Red Fort (Delhi)
- This flag is now an exhibit at the St.George's Fort Museum, Chennai.

Pillar at Sarnath was chosen to be our National emblem. The national emblem was accepted on 26th January 1950, 'Satyameva Jayate" has been inscribed at its bottom. It means 'Truth alone triumphs'. The National emblem consists of two parts-the upper and the lower parts.





on a circular pedestal. One can only see three lions at a time.

The lower part has an elephant, a horse, a bull and a lion. The 'Wheel of righteousness' is placed between them. This emblem is found at the top of the government communication, Indian currency and passport.



The four lions, chosen from the Sarnath pillar of Ashoka as our emblem, is now

placed in the Sarnath Museum.

National Anthem

'Jana Gana Mana' is our National anthem. It symbolises the sovereignty and intergrity of our nation. This anthem was written by Rabindranath Tagore in Bengali. This was transcripted in Hindi and was accepted by the Constituent Assembly on 24th January 1950.

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The rules to be observed while singing the Anthem

- This anthem has to be sung at a duration of 52 seconds.
- Everyone should stand erect while singing the national anthem.
- One should understand the meaning while singing.

National song



On 27th December 1911 this National anthem was sung for the first

time during the Congress committee meet held at Kolkata.

The song Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, was a source of inspiration to the people of India in their struggle for freedom. It has an equal status with Jana Gana Mana. On January 24, 1950, the then President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad came up with a statement in the Constituent Assembly, "the song Vande Mataram, which has played a historic part in the struggle for Indian freedom, shall be honoured equally with Jana Gana Mana and shall have equal status with it."

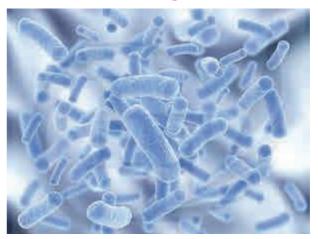
The song was a part of Bankim Chandra's most famous novel 'Anand Math'.

National pledge

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"India is my country. All Indians are my brothers and sisters" is our national pledge. The pledge was written by Pydimarri Venkata Subba Rao in Telugu.

National Micro organism



The curd which we consume every day is curdled from milk by a micro organism called lacto bacillus delbrueckii. This was accepted as our national micro organism in the year 2012. This micro organism makes the milk undergo a chemical reaction and changes the protein content of the milk. Curd is known for its digestive quality and cooling capacity.

Currency of India- (INR)

The Indian currency is the Indian Rupees. The currency released by SherShah Sur in the sixteenth century was 'Rupiya'. This 'rupiya' has been transformed, into 'Rupees'. The symbol of rupees is ₹. This was designed by D. Udhayakumar from Tamil Nadu in the year 2010.

National Calender

During the reign of Emperor Kanishka he began following a new calendar in the year 78 CE/AD. The year begins from the spring equinox which falls on March 22nd. During a leap year, it begins on March 21st. Our country follows this calendar. The famous astronomer Meghnad Saha headed the

Calendar Reformation Committee on 22nd March 1957. It was then accepted by the committee as our national calendar.

The National symbols help in uniting the diversified sections of India and to instill patriotism.

National Holidays

Independence Day



Every year, August 15 is celebrated as the Independence Day to commemorate India's freedom from British rule. This auspicious day is also marked as a birth of the world's biggest democracy, India.

On the day India gained independence, Mahakavi Bharathiyar's poem "Aaduvome Pallu Paduvome" and it was sung over the AIR (All India Radio) by T.K.Pattammal, a famous singer of Carnatic Music. The celebration of Independence Day continues every year. The Prime Minister unfurls the National Flag on the Independence Day at the Red Fort, New Delhi.

Republic Day



On 26th January 1950, India was declared as a democratic state. Every year this day is commemorated as the 'Republic Day'. The constitution commenced on 26th January 1950. From August 1947 to 26th January 1950, the Queen of Britain was the honorary head of India. The day India was declared as a democratic state, the President became the first citizen of India. On Republic Day, the President of India hoists the National flag at the Red Fort New Delhi.



On January 29, the third day of the Republic day, the celebrations are brought to an end

with the "Beating Reteat" ceremony. This is performed by the bands of Indian Army, Navy and Airforce. The President of India is the chief guest of this day. Rashtrapati Bhavan will

be illuminated at 6pm as a part of the celebration.



Gandhi Jayanthi



The birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, was declared

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Learning Objectives

- ▶ Understand what human rights are
- ▶ Understand the relationship between rights and responsibilities
- ► Know the importance of Human rights
- ▶ Understand that human rights belong to everybody
- ▶ Appreciate the meaning and significance of the Universal Declaration of



Introduction

Everybody is born equal. Each individual in the world has the right to lead a dignified life of his or her own choice. Human rights are related to individuals and society. Human rights denotes all those rights that are inherent and ensure that we live as free people and exercise our choices. The state's role is to ensure that people have equal rights.

What are Human Rights?

Human Rights are rights inherent to human beings regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language and religion. Human rights include freedom from



slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression and fair trial, the right to life work and education.

Where do Human Rights come from?

A set of basic rights and freedoms has deep roots in European and American countries.

a. Written Precursors of Human Rights **Documents**

The Magna Carta of 1215(England) – gave people new rights and made the king subject to

The Petition of Right 1628(England) – set out the rights of the people.

The Habeas Corpus Act of 1679(England) – an act for the better securing liberty of the subject.

The English Bill of Rights of 1689 – set out certain basic civil rights.

The French Declaration on the Rights of Man and Citizen 1789 – a document of France, stating that all citizens are equal under the law.

The US Constitution and Bill of Rights 1791

- safeguards the rights of the citizens.

b. The Birth of United Nations

The idea of human rights emerged stronger after the Second World War. This War led to







unimaginable violation of human rights. During the times of war, human lives lost its value and those affected by war had to struggle till the end of their life. Atrocities during the Second World War made clear that previous efforts to protect individual rights from government violations were inadequate. The rights of man were prevented or eliminated in several parts of the world due to several factors. It is proved that the government of some countries alone could not protect human rights. People wanted to ensure that never again would anyone be unjustly denied life, freedom, food, shelter, and nationality. These voices played a critical role in the San Francisco meeting in which the United Nations Charter was drafted in 1945. At this juncture, an International body, the United Nations Organisation (UNO) which was established on 24th October 1945 took up the issue. Human Rights is an important theme in all UN policies and programmes in the areas of peace and security, development, humanitarian assistance and economic and social affairs.

c. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

One of the greatest achievements of United Nations is the creation of human rights law. To advance this goal, the UN established a Commission on Human Rights. Commission guided by Eleanor Roosevelt's (wife of former US president Franklin D Roosevelt) forceful leadership captured the world's attention. Finally, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948. It is a milestone document in the history of Human rights. The Declaration was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in Paris, France on 10th December 1948(General Assembly resolution 217A). In remembrance of every year 10th December is observed as the Human Rights Day and its

Preamble of UDHR

All men are born free and all are equal in status and rights. They are endowed with intelligence and conscience and obliged to promote the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all men.

regular observance commenced from 1950. It is also known as modern International Magna Carta of Human Rights. Its principles have been incorporated into the Constitutions of most of the (more than 185) nations. UDHR has been translated into more than 500 languages. It is the most translated document in the world.

The Cyrus Cylinder 539 BC (BCE)



Cyrus the Great, the first king of ancient Persia, freed the slaves and declared that all people had the right to choose their own religion and established racial equality. These and other decrees were recorded on a bakedclay cylinder in the Akkadian language in cuneiform script. It is translated into all six official languages of the United Nations and its provisions parallel the first four Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Human Rights are based on the values of

- a. Dignity The right to life, the right to integrity, the prohibition of enforced labour, slavery and degrading punishment.
- b. Justice The right to fair trial, proportional punishment to crime, the right not to be trialed more than once for the same crime
- c. Equality Equality before law. No discrimination on race, religion, gender, age, ability/disability etc.

Basic Characteristics of Human **Rights**

Inherent - they are not granted by any person or authority.

they are fundamental rights Fundamental because without them, the life and dignity of man will be meaningless

Human Rights and UNO



Inalienable they cannot be taken away from the individual. **Indivisible** they can't be denied even when other rights have already been enjoyed. Universal they are universal. They apply irrespective of one's origin or status. are enforceable without national border. Interdependent they are interdependent because the fulfillment

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually on 10th December every year. It is to honour the United Nations General Assembly for declaring the human rights universally.

or exercise of one human

right cannot be had

without the realization

of the other.

Kinds of Human Rights

There are 30 Articles incorporated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These rights are broadly classified into Five primary categories. They are as follows

a. Civil Rights

The term civil rights refers to the basic rights afforded by laws of the government to every person. This is the right to be treated as an equal to anyone else. It includes the rights to life, liberty, freedom from slavery and arbitrary arrest.

b. Political Rights

Political rights are exercised in the formation and administration of a government. The Civil and Political rights are directly related to modern democracy. They protect the individual from the misuse of political power and recognise every individual's right to participate in their country's political process. It includes the freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly, the right to take part in the government of one's country, the right to vote, the freedom of speech and obtain information.

c. Social Rights

It is necessary for an individual to fully participate in the society. Social rights are those rights necessary for an adequate standard of living including the right to education, health care, food, clothing, shelter and social security.

d. Economic Rights

The right to participate in an economy that benefits all and to desirable work. Economic rights guarantee every person to have condition under which they are able to meet their needs. This includes the rights to employment and fair wage, the reasonable limitation of working hours, shelter, education and adequate standard of living, and the right to property.

e. Cultural Rights

The right to freedom of religion and to speak the language and to practice the cultural life of the community, the right to share in scientific advancement, and right to the protection of moral and material interest.

The Difference between Human Rights and Civil Rights

Human Rights	Civil Rights
Human rights belong to everyone, everywhere,	Civil rights are those rights that one enjoys by
regardless of nationality, sexuality, gender, race,	virtue of citizenship in a particular nation or
religion or age.	state.
Human rights are considered universal to all human beings and universal in all countries.	Civil rights vary greatly from country to the country's or government to government. It is related to the Constitution.
No nation may rightfully deprive human rights	Different nations can grant or deny different
to an individual.	civil rights and liberties.
Human rights are basic rights inherent with birth.	Civil rights are creation of the society.

Human Rights Commission

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), a principal organ of the United Nations was empowered to setup a commission for the promotion of human rights. National level and State level human rights commissions were established to ensure the protection of human rights.

a. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

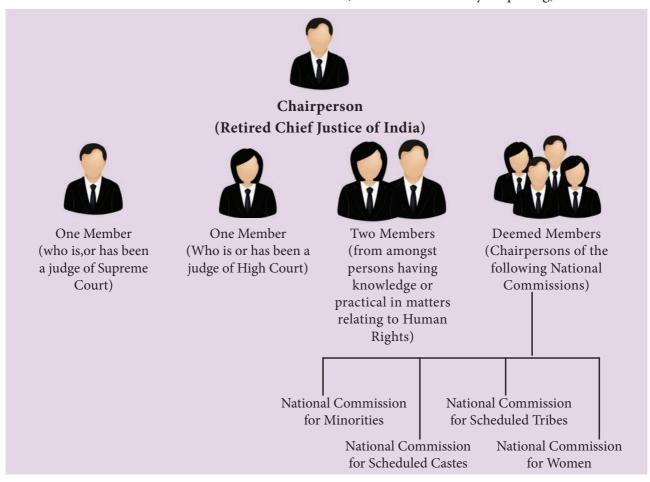
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established on 12th October, 1993. It is an independent statutory, and non-constitutional body. Its headquarter



is located in New Delhi. NHRC is a multimember body which consists of a Chairperson and other members. The President appoints the Chairperson and other members. They are appointed for 5 years or till the age of 70 years whichever is earlier. NHRC has five divisions. Law Division, Investigation Division, Policy Research & Programmes Division, Training Division and Administrative Division. The National Human Rights Commission is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights in India.

b. State Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

The State Human Rights Commission of Tamil Nadu was formed on 17th April, 1997.It functions at the state level. It consists of three members including a Chairperson. A state Human Rights Commission can inquire into violation of human rights related to subjects covered under State list and Concurrent list in the seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution. (not if NHRC already enquiring)



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Human Rights Organisations

Many organisations around the world have taken their efforts to protect human rights and for ending human rights abuses. These Nongovernmental organisations



monitor the actions of governments and pressure them to act according to human right principles. Some of these organaisations are Amnesty International, Children's Defense Fund, Human Rights Watch.

Indian Constitution Article

24 - prohibits child labour.

39(f) - provides for children to develop in healthy manner.

45 – provides that the state shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

Child Rights

According to Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, 'a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years'. The Convention



on the Rights of the Child was proclaimed by UN on 20th November 1989.

The child is considered as an important national asset. The future of a nation depends on how its children mature and develop. So protection of children from all kinds of exploitation and abuses has become the main objective of our society. There are laws in India protecting the rights of the children.

UNO has declared

1978 as International year of women. 1979 as the International year of children.

a. Right to Education Act

Article 21A provides that the state shall provide free and compulsory education to all



children aged six to fourteen years.

b. The Child Labour Act (Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986)

It provides no child who has not completed 15 years of age can be employed

c. The Juvenile Justice Act 2000 (Care and Protection of Children)

This Act tries to protect children deprived of adequate care and to reform the children by adopting child friendly approach.

d. POCSO Act 2012

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act regards the best interest of the child as being paramount importance in every state.



1098 Child Line

This is India's first 24 hours' free emergency phone service for children in need of assistance. Special care



is given for vulnerable children those affected by child labour, child marriage and children affected by any abuse.

Human Rights and UNO



Women Rights

Women and girl's rights are human rights. Women are entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of all of their human rights and to be free from all forms of discrimination. This is fundamental to achieve human rights, peace and security and sustainable development. The Charter of the United Nations guarantees equal rights to both women and men.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is described as an International bill of rights for women.

In 1995 the Fourth World Conference of Women, held in Beijing, developed a Platform for Action to recognise women's rights and improve women's livelihood worldwide, and follow-up meetings monitored progress towards meeting these goals. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), has worked since 1995 to implement the Beijing Platform for Action. Only when women and girls have full access to their rights will true equality exist.

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act 2007

This Act makes it legal obligation for children and heirs to provide maintenance to senior

citizens and parents. Protection and support during old age are envisaged as human rights.

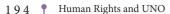
Conclusion

Human rights are about equality and fairness for everyone and it ensures that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. The protection of human right is everyone's responsibility. An understanding and respect for human rights provides the foundation for peace, harmony, security and freedom in our community.

Legislations	Provisions
The Hindu Widow Remarriage Act 1856	Legalised widow remarriage.
The Hindu Marriage Act 1955	States that the marriageable age for women is 21.
The Hindu Succession Act 1956	Ensures the right to women to inherit their parental property.
The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961	Provides drastic punishments for those ill-treating the bride in the name of dowry.
The Eve Teasing Act 1997	Gives relief to women.
Indecent Representation Act 1999	Prohibits the indecent representation of women in magazine, newspapers etc.
The Factory Act 1948,	
The Plantation Labour Act 1951, The Mines Act 1952 The Maternity benefit Act 1961	Protects the women workers.
Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005	Protects women from harassment by husband and family members.

Recap

- Human rights are freedoms that all human beings are entitled to enjoy. They include civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- Human rights are inherent, inalienable, interdependent and indivisible.
- One of the greatest achievements of the United Nations is the creation of comprehensive body of human rights law.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.









Forms of Government and Democracy

Ø Learning Objectives

- Know the forms of government
- Understand the meaning of democracy
- Know the merits and demerits of democracy
- Know the challenges to Indian democracy



Introduction

We are going to learn from this lesson how various forms of government have developed globally. Today, many countries of the world follow different types of governments, but the modern world prefers democracy.

1.1 Forms of Government

The governance of nations differs significantly based on who has power. There are different forms of government: aristocracy, monarchy, autocracy, oligarchy, theocracy, democracy and republic.

1.1.1 Aristocracy

A form of government in which power is in the hands of a small previleged ruling class (nobels).

Example: United Kingdom, Spain

1.1.2 Monarchy

A system of government in which one person reigns supreme, usually a king or queen(constitutional monarchy).

Example: Bhutan, Oman, Qatar

1.1.3 Autocracy

A system of government by one person with absolute power.

Example: North Korea, Saudi Arabia

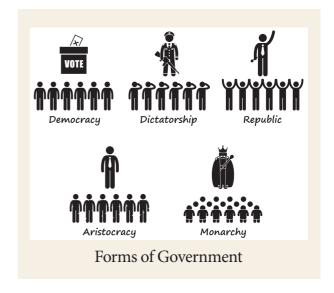
1.1.4 Oligarchy

A small group of people having control of a country or organisation.

Example: Former Soviet Union, China, Venezuela, North Korea.

1.1.5 Theocracy

A system of government in which religious doctrines form the basis of



1. Forms of Government and Democracy

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government headed by a priest who rules in the name of God or proclaims himself as a God.

Example: Vatican.

1.1.6 Democracy

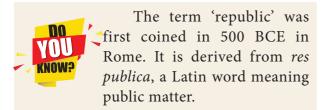
A system of government in which eligible members in the population vote to elect their elected representatives, and the party or individual who obtains the majority votes forms the government.

Example: India, USA, France

1.1.7 Republic

A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives and which has an elected or nominated President rather than a monarch.

Example: India, Australia



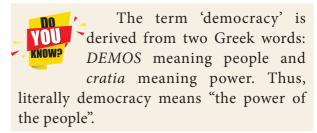
India became a Republic on 26 January 1950. It is governed in accordance with the Constitution adopted on 26 November 1949, which came into force on 26 January 1950.

1.2 What is Democracy?

- Democracy is a form of government that allows people to choose their rulers.
- Only leaders elected by people should rule the country.
- People have the freedom to express views, freedom to organise and freedom to protest.

1.2.1 Meaning of Democracy

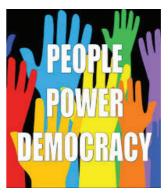
Democracy is a system of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people of a country and people elect their representatives either directly or indirectly through fair and free elections, which are usually held periodically.



1.2.2 Definition

According to Mahatma Gandhi, "True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village."





1.2.3 Salient Features of Democracy

- 1. Elected representatives of people and final decision-making power to the representatives.
- 2. Free and fair elections.

Abraham Lincoln, one of the Presidents of USA, defines democracy as a government of the people, by the people and for the people.



Abraham Lincoln

- **3**. voting right is with equal value to those who have attained the age of 18
- **4.** Fundamental rights and protection of individual freedom.

1.2.4 Evolution of Democracy

Democracy began 2,500 years ago in some of the city-states of ancient Greece. It is important to know that democratic institutions existed in India as early as the Vedic period. Chanakya's *Arthashastra* tells us that in ancient India, an autonomous village community was the basic unit of the local government. during the later chola preiod ancient Tamil Nadu, Kudavolai system was a

DEMOCRACY IN ANCIENT ATHENS.

Vth CENTURY BCE

very notable and unique feature of the village administration of the Cholas. The evolution towards a democracy is represented by the following values: freedom, equality, fraternity, accountability, transparency and trust.

1.2.6 Types of Democracy

There are two types of democracies:

- 1. Direct democracy
- 2. Indirect (representative) democracy

The types of democracy refers to the kind of government or social structures which allow people to participate equally.

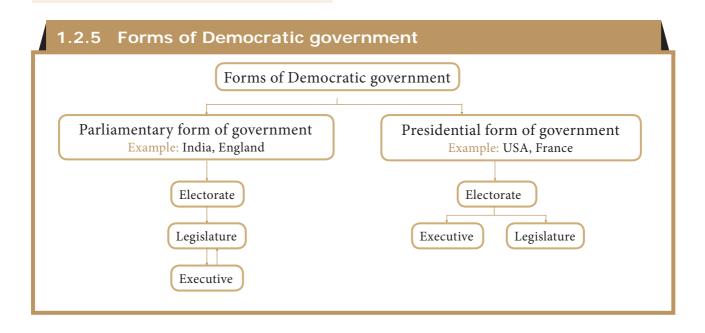
Direct Democracy

When the people themselves directly express their will on public affairs, the type of government is called pure or direct democracy.

Example: Ancient Greek city-states, Switzerland

Indirect Democracy / Representative Democracy

When the people express their will on public affairs, through their elected representatives, the type of government is called indirect or representative democracy.



Example: The prevailing system of democracy in India, USA and UK

1.2.7 Merits and Demerits of Democracy

Merits

- 1. Responsible and accountable government
- 2. Equality and fraternity
- **3.** Sense of responsibility among common people
- 4. Local self-government
- 5. Development and prosperity for all
- 6. Popular sovereignty
- 7. Sense of cooperation and fraternal feeling

Demerits

- 1. Indirect or representative nature of democracy
- 2. Lack of interest in democratic process and hence lower turnout in elections
- **3**. Instability in governance due to fractured mandate
- 4. Delay in decision-making process.

1.2.8 Democracy in India

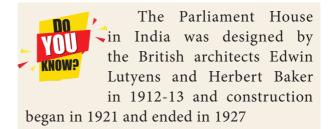
India has a parliamentary form of democracy. The Indian Parliament comprises the elected representatives of people and makes the laws for the country. The participation of people in the decision making and the consent of citizens are the two important elements of the parliamentary form of government in India.



Parliament of India

India is the largest democratic country in the world. Democracy in India works on five basic principles. These are sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic.

Every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age can exercise their right to vote in India, based on universal adult suffrage. There is no discrimination based on a person's caste, creed, religion, region, gender and education when it comes to providing the right to vote.



1.2.9 Elections in India

India has a quasi-federal government, with elected representatives at the federal, state and local levels. The general elections are conducted by the Election Commission of India. At the national level, the President of India, appoints the Prime Minister, who enjoys majority in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament of India.

KNOM5	Two Houses of Parliament
Lok Sabha / Lower	Rajya Sabha /
House / House of	Upper House /
People	Council of States

All members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected through general elections, which take place once in every five years, in normal circumstances. Two Anglo Indian members can be nominated by the President of India to the Lok Sabha.

Members of the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, are elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states and the Union Territories of India. The President of India nominates 12 members for their contributions to art, literature, science and social services.

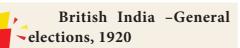
1.2.10 The First Elections in Democratic India

General elections to the first Lok Sabha since independence were held in India between 25 October 1951 and 21 February 1952. The Indian National Congress



Elections in India

emerged victorious by winning 364 of the 489 seats. Jawaharlal Nehru became the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the country.



General elections were held in British India in 1920 to elect members to the Imperial Legislative Council and the Provincial Councils. They were the first elections in the country's history.

1.2.11 Major challenges to Indian Democracy

Democracy is the dominant form of government in the contemporary world. It

has not faced a serious challenge or a rival so far. In the last hundred years, there has been an expansion of democracy all over the world. The various aspects of democracy and its challenges are:

- 1. Illiteracy
- 2. Poverty
- 3. Gender discrimination
- 4. Regionalism
- 5. Casteism, communalism and religious fundamentalism
- 6. Corruption
- 7. Criminalisation of politics
- 8. Political violence

1.2.12 Conditions for the Success of Democracy in India

- Empowerment of the poor and illiterates to enjoy the goodness of democracy.
- Willingness among the elected people not to misuse their powerful position and public wealth.
- Eradication of social evils and dangers from which democracy suffers.
- An impartial and efficient press to form public opinion.
- Presence of strong public opinion.
- Feeling of tolerance and communal harmony among the people.
- Awareness among the people of the fundamental rights that they are entitled to enjoy.
- Conscious check and vigilance on the working of the elected representatives.
- Powerful and responsible opposition.

Indian democracy can be successful and vibrant only when its citizens imbibe and reflect in their behavior the basic democratic values like equality, freedom, social justice, accountability and respect for all. Their mindset, thinking and behavior are expected to be in tune with the essential conditions of democracy. They have to appreciate the opportunities for their desired roles like participation, making the system accountable,



Election, Political Parties and Pressure Groups

O Learning Objectives

- Know about the electoral system in India
- Know the different types of elections in India
- Understands the meaning of political party
- Know the functions of state party and national party
- Understand the pressure groups in India



Introduction

An election is a formal decision-making process by which a people chooses an individual to hold public office by voting.

2.1 Electoral System in India

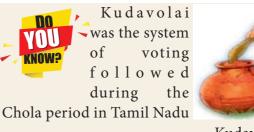
The electoral system in India has been adapted from the system followed in the United Kingdom. India is a socialist, secular, democratic republic and the largest democracy in the world. The modern India the constitution of India came into force on 26th January ,1950

Articles 324 to 329 in part XV of the Constitution make the following provisions with regard to the electoral system in our country.

- (i) Article 324 of the Indian Constitution provides for an independent Election Commission in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country. At present, the commission consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- (ii) The Parliament may make provision with respect to all matters relating to elections to the Parliament including

the preparation of electoral rolls, the delimitation of constituencies and all other matters necessary for securing their due constitution.

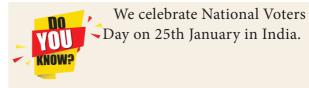
(iii) The state legislatures can also make provisions with respect to all matters relating to elections to the state legislatures including the preparation of electoral rolls and all other matters necessary for securing their due constitution.



Kudavolai

2.1.1 Election Process

At the national level, the head of government, the Prime Minister, is elected by members of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament in India.



2. Election, Political Parties and Pressure Groups

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In representative democracy like ours, elections are extremely important. Voting in elections are the best way to make your 'voice' heard.

2.1.2 Introduction of the NOTA Option

If the people in a democratic country are not willing to elect any candidate, they can vote for the option called NOTA (None Of The Above). Rule 49-O in the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, of India describes this procedure.



Voters Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)



Voters Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is the way forward to enhance credibility and transparency of the election process. This

system was first introduced in the 2014 General Election.



9th Civics U2.indd 247

NOTA was first introduced in the General Elections held in 2014. India is the 14th country in the world to introduce NOTA.



Symbol used with NOTA option on electronic voting machines in India

2.1.3 Types of Elections in India

Elections are classified into two types: direct and indirect elections.

Direct Elections

People directly vote for the candidates in the fray and elect their representatives. The following are examples of direct elections in which people over the age of 18 years participate in the electoral process by casting their votes.

- (i) Lok Sabha elections, in which the Members of Parliament are elected.
- (ii) Elections to the state Legislative Assemblies, in which the Members of Legislative Assemblies are elected.
- (iii) Elections to the local governing bodies, i.e such as village panchayat, town panchayat, municipalities, municipalcorporation are conducted by the state election commission.

Merits

(i) As the voters elect their representatives directly, direct elections are considered to be a more democratic method of election.



- (ii) It educates people regarding the government activities and helps in choosing the appropriate candidates. Also, it encourages people to play an active role in politics.
- (iii) It empowers people and makes the rulers accountable for their actions.

Demerits

- (i) Direct elections are very exspensive.
- (ii) Illiterate voters sometimes get misguided by false propaganda. Campaigning based on caste, religion and various other sectarian considerations pose serious challenges.

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2. Election, Political Parties and Pressure Groups

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- (iii) Since conducting direct elections is a massive exercise, ensuring free and fair elections at every polling station is a major challenge to the Election Commission.
- (iv) There are instances of some political candidates influencing the voters through payments in the form of cash, goods or services.
- (v) Election campaigns sometimes results in violence, tension, law and order problems and affects the day-to-day life of people.

Indirect Elections

Voters elect their representatives, who, in turn, elect their representatives this method of election is followed for the election of president of India.

Merits

- (i) Indirect elections are less expensive.
- (ii) It is more suited to elections in large

Demerits

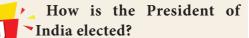
- (i) If the number of voters is very small, there exists the possibility of corruption, bribery, horse trading and other unfair activities.
- (ii) It is less democratic because people do not have a direct opportunity to elect, but they instead do it through their representatives. So, this may not reflect the true will of the people.

2.2 Political Parties

Political parties are an essential part of democracy. Parties are the link between government and the people.

2.2.1 Meaning of Political Party

A political party is an organisation formed by a group of people with a certain ideology and agenda to contest elections and hold power in the government. A political party has three components: a leader, active members and the followers.



The President of India is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of

- **1.** The elected members of both Houses of Parliament
- **2.** The elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all the states and Union territories in India

NOTE: The members nominated to either House of Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies of states are not eligible to be included in the electoral college.

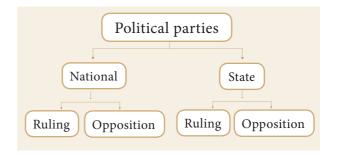
2.2.2 Types of a Party System

There are three types of party system in the world namely.

- i. Single-party system in which one ruling party exists and no opposition is permitted. China, Cuba, the former USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) are the examples for the single-party system.
- ii. Two-party system in which only two major parties exist, for example, USA, UK.
- iii. Multi-party system in which there are more than two political parties, for example, India, Sri Lanka, France and Italy.

2.2.3 Types of Political Parties

Political parties in India are classified according to their area of influence into two main types:(1) national and (2) state parties.



2. Election, Political Parties and Pressure Groups



National Parties

A party which is recognised as a state party in at least four states is recognised as a national party. Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission while the Commission treats all the parties equally. It offers some special facilities to state and national parties. These parties are given a unique symbol. Only the official candidate of the party can use that election symbol. In 2017, there were seven recognised national parties.

State Parties

Other than the seven national parties, most of the major parties of the country are classified by the Election Commission as 'state parties'. These are commonly referred to as regional parties. A party is recognised as a state party by the Election Commission of India based on certain percentage of votes secured or a certain number of seats won in the Assembly or Lok Sabha elections.

Recognition to the Parties

For getting recognition as 'national party', a party has to fulfill any one of the following criteria:

- i. At least 6% votes in at least four states and members to the Lok Sabha.
- ii. In the election of Lok Sabha, at least 2% members from at least three states are elected to Lok Sabha.
- **iii.** Recognition as a state party at least four states.

Functions of Political Parties

- Parties contest elections. In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by political parties.
- Parties put forward their policies and programmes before the electorate to consider and choose.
- Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally, laws are debated and passed in the legislature.

- Parties form and run the governments.
- Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of the Opposition to the party or a group of coalition parties in power, by voicing different views and criticising the government for its failures or wrong policies.
- Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlights issues of importance.
- Parties function as the useful link between people and the government machinery.

2.2.4 Role of Opposition Parties in a Democracy

In a democracy, there may be a two-party system like in the USA or a multi-party system like in India and France. The ruling party may have received the mandate of the majority people and the Opposition party represented the remaining people. The Leader of the Opposition party occupied a prominent place in all democratic forms of the government. He enjoys the rank of a Cabinet Minister. He opposes the wrong policies of the ruling party, which affects the general public. As the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee questions the functioning of the government departments and examines the public money used for the well-being of the people. Similarly, he plays an important role to select the Chairman and members of the Central Vigilance Commission, Chairperson and members of the Information Commission. The Opposition Parties reflect genuine demands and concern of the people to play a constructive role in a democracy.

2.3 Pressure Groups

The term 'pressure group' originated in the USA. A pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest. It is so called as it attempts to bring a change in the public policy by exerting pressure on the government.

The pressure groups are also called 'interest groups' or vested groups. They are different from

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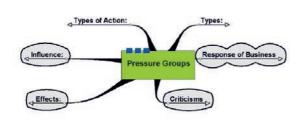
the political parties in that they neither contest elections nor try to capture political power.



2.3.1 Pressure Groups in India

A large number of pressure groups exist in India. But, they are not developed to the same extent as in the USA or the Western countries like Britain, France, Germany and so on.

Pressure Groups



The pressure groups in India can be broadly classified into the following categories:

- 1. Business groups
- 2. Trade unions
- **3.** Agrarian groups
- **4.** Professional associations
- **5.** Student organisations
- 6. Religious organisations
- **7.** Tribal organisations
- 8. Linguistic groups
- **9.** Ideology-based groups
- **10**. Environmental protection groups

Functions of Pressure Groups in India

Pressure groups are the interest groups that work to secure certain interest by influencing the public policy. They are non-aligned with any political party and work as an indirect yet powerful group to influence the policy decisions. Pressure groups carry out a range of functions including representation, political participation, education, policy formulation and policy implementation.

Examples for Pressure Groups

- **1.** Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- 2. All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)
- 3. All India Kisan Sabha
- 4. Indian Medical Association (IMA)
- 5. All India Students Federation (AISF)
- 6. All India Sikh Students Federation
- 7. Young Badaga Association
- 8. Tamil Sangam
- 9. Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam
- 10. Narmada Bachao Andolan

Political Participation

Pressure groups can be called the informal face of politics. They exert influence precisely by mobilising popular support through activities such as petitions, marches, demonstrations and other forms of political protest. Such forms of political participation have been particularly attractive to young people.

Education

Many pressure groups devote significant resources by carrying out research, maintaining websites, commenting on government policy and using high-profile academics, scientists and even celebrities to get their views across, with an emphasis to cultivate expert authority.

Policy Formulation

Though the pressure groups themselves are not policy-makers, yet it does not prevent many of them from participating in the policy-making process. Many pressure groups are vital sources of information

2. Election, Political Parties and Pressure Groups

and render advice to the government and therefore they are regularly consulted in the process of policy formulation.

2.4 Mobilisation and People's Participation

2.4.1 Mobilisation

Mobilising people towards socially productive activities that lead to the overall betterment of people's lives is essential. Sometimes earthquakes, tsunami, floods and other such natural disasters on a massive scale occur and people's immediate mobilisation for evacuation and emergency relief becomes most essential.

2.4.2 Democratic Participation

Democracy can succeed only when smaller local groups and, in fact, every citizen can take action that supports the tax and revenue collection systems, observance of national norms in environmental protection, cleanliness, health and hygiene, sanitary drives and immunisation programmes like pulse polio.

However, we must keep in mind that there is no better form of government than Democratic government. To create a better society and nation, the people of India along with the union and state governments should come together to fight against the miseries of human life.

Recap

- The Prime Minister is elected by members of the Lok Sabha.
- There are two types of elections: direct and indirect elections.
- A political party has three components: a leader, active members and the followers.
- Political parties in India are classified into two types: (1) National Parties (2) State Parties.
- In 2017, there were seven recognised national parties.
- The term 'pressure group' originated in the USA.
- A large number of pressure groups exist in India.



I. Choose the correct answer:



- 1. India has adapted the electoral system followed in the
 - (a) USA
- (b) United Kingdom
- (c) Canada
- (d) Russia
- 2. The Election Commission of India is a / an
 - (a) Independent body
 - (b) Statutory body
 - (c) Private body
 - (d) Public corporation
- 3. Which Article of the Constitution provides for an Election Commission?
 - (a) Article 280
- (b) Article 315
- (c) Article 324
- (d) Article 325
- 4. Which part of the constitution of India says about the election commission?
 - (a) Part III
- (b) Part XV
- (c) Part XX
- (d) Part XXII
- 5. Who accords recognition to various political parties as national or regional parties?
 - (a) The President
 - (b) The Election Commission
 - (c) The Parliament
 - (d) The President in consultation with the Election Commission
- 6. Assertion (A): Indian Constitution provides for an independent Election Commission.

Reason (R): To ensure free and fair elections in the country.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) does not explain (A)
- (c) (A) is correct and (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false and (R) is true



