



Challenges And Essential Conditions For The Success Of Indian Democracy

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Abstract:

India is a large democracy country full of diversities, linguistically, culturally and religiously. On the other hand, it has faced many social and economic inequalities such as poverty and illiteracy, casteism, unemployment, corruption, Gender discrimination, etc. which needs to be resolved as it requires new proposals. Undoubtedly, the law plays an important role in drive out Indian democracy from these issues, but the mere legal proposals are not enough for the necessary reforms in society. Some of the measures that can be taken to maintain a democratic democracy in India are hundred percent literacy, Make people aware of democratic rights, Ensure better protection of basic rights, and freedom of the press. In this paper, it has been attempted study the existing democratic set up in India, analyze the challenges of Indian democracy and suggest necessary conditions in order to ensure a sustainable democracy in India.

Keywords: Introduction, objectives, Methodology, Challenges, Essential Conditions, Conclusion.

Introduction:

India has a long and complex history of democracy, dating back to ancient times when times when councils of elders were responsible for decision-making in various kingdoms and republics. However, modern democracy in India began with the country's independence from British rule in 1947. the constitution of India, adopted in 1950, and established a democratic government with a federal structure and a parliamentary system. India's first general election was held in 1951-1952 which saw a voter turnout of over 60%. The Indian National congress, led by Jawaharlal Nehru, won a majority and formed the government. The democratic system in India is based on the principles of federalism, parliamentary democracy and multi-party system. The country has a constitution that lays down the frame work for the

functioning of the government and the distribution of powers between the central government and the state governments.

Democracy is the Kannada equivalent of the English word 'Democracy'. The English word 'Democracy' is derived from the Greek words 'demos' and 'kratia' demos means citizen kratia means rule, dominion power, so democracy means rule by citizens. but the meaning of democracy is not so simple but very complex. According to the famous historian Herodotus, A state in which the sovereignty rests entirely with the citizens is a democracy.

Dicey says- Democracy is a system of government in which the governing body represents the majority of the nation.

Prof, seely said- 'Democracy is a government in which everyone has a chance to participate.

According to Lord Bryce- 'Democracy is when the power of government rests in the hands of the people of the society as a whole and not in the hands of any one class high or low'.

Ernest Barker- 'Democracy is government by debate and criticism.

Objectives:

- Understanding the meaning of democracy in different aspects.
- Addressing the introduction of democracy in India.
- Identifying the challenges facing democracy in India.
- Recognize the essential conditions for improving the Indian democracy System.

Methodology:

This research paper is descriptive and analytical in nature. The data used in it is collected from Secondary resources on various books relating to challenges to democracy and essential conditions for the success of democracy, and used different authentic websites, journals, and E-contents.

Challenges to democracy:

India has changed a lot. Yet, there are various challenges that the country faces in terms of fulfillment of expectations of various sections of society. The challenges come both from prevailing domestic and international conditions as well as a lack of adequate prerequisites for smooth functioning of democracy. These are discussed below.

Illiteracy –

Illiteracy among people was a matter of grave concern for the successful functioning of democracy in India on the eve of independence and it still continues to be a major challenge. The level of education of citizens is a key to both the successful functioning of democracy and socio-economic development of the country. The literacy rate in 1951 was more 18.33 percent and female literacy was negligible with 8.9 percent. Literacy is necessary not simply for enabling citizens to participate in elections and exercise their right to vote effectively, it has other important implications as well. Literacy enables citizens to be aware of various

issues, problems, demands and interests in the country. According to 2011 census, the literacy rate has risen to 74.04 percent; the female literacy rate is still lagging at 65.46 percent. This means that over one-fourth of the country's population is still illiterate while among women nearly one out of there is not literate. if the children have access to basic education, the problem of illiteracy can be checked. Recently, the right to education is provided as a fundamental right.

Casteism-

Communalism, religious fundamentalism – The Indian democracy faces serious challenges also from casteism, communalism and religious fundamentalism. They weaken the functioning and stability of democratic system. The caste system acts against the roots of democracy. The democratic facilities like fundamental rights relating to equality, freedom of speech, expression and association, participation in the electoral process, free media and press and even legislative forums are misused for maintaining casteist identity.

Corruption –

Corruption in public life has been a major issues concern in india. In 2011, India was ranked 95th of 183 countries defined as corrupt in transparency international's corruption perceptions index in fact, corruption is rampant in all walks of life, be it land and property, health education, commerce and industry, agriculture, transport, police, armed forces, even religious institutions or so called places of spiritual pursuits. Corruption continues to exist in covert and overt ways at all three levels political, bureaucratic and corporate sector. We as citizens should take a vow not to indulge in corrupt practices at any level and contribute in eliminating corruption from our country.

Poverty –

Poverty is considered as the greatest bane of democracy. it is in fact, the root cause of all kinds of deprivations and inequalities. It is the state of denial of opportunities the people to lead a healthy and fulfilling life. Of course, India inherited poverty from the long exploitative British colonial rule, but it continues to be one of the gravest problems today. Even now a considerable proportion of Indian population lives below poverty line, called BPL. During the 1990s non food items like clothes, employment. Shelter, education, etc. got included in the definition of poverty.

Gender Discrimination –

Gender equality is one of the basic principles of democracy. The constitution of India enjoins upon the state to ensure that men and women are treated as equals and there is no discrimination against women. Fundamental rights and fundamental duties as well as the Directive principles of state policy make these intensions very clear

Sustainable Development –

Indian democracy can adequately respond to all the challenges when it moves forward on the path of sustainable development. A model of development without taking into account the basic needs of millions, today as well as in the future, cannot be conducive for the survival of democracy. Development has to be human centered and directed towards improvement of quality of life of all the people. It has to be focused on removal of poverty, ignorance, discrimination, disease and unemployment. The development process has to aim at sustained economic, social, and environmental development.

Administrative and judicial Reforms –

The success of all the above stated corrective measures primarily depends on the efficient functioning of administration and independence and righteousness of the judicial system. Administrative reforms have continuously been on the agenda of the government ever since independence. A number of commissions and committees have been set up in this regard. But bureaucratic reluctance to change has prevented the reforms to take place in full measure. The recommendations of various commissions and committees focus around the need,

To make administration accountable and citizen friendly.

- To build its capacity for quality governance
- To orient administration for promoting people's participation, decentralization and devolution of powers.
- Make administrative decision making process transparent.
- Improve the performance and integrity of the public services.
- Reinforce ethics in administration.
- And inculcate readiness for e-governance.

Judicial reform also has been a critical concern since long. Various recommendations have been made on many occasions. The major issues that need consideration in this regard are,

- Simplification of rules and procedures, and Repealing out-dated Laws.
- Increase in the judge population Ratio.
- Time bound filling of vacant posts in judiciary.
- Transparency in appointment. Promotion and transfer of judges.
- Judicial accountability and Transparency of court proceedings.

Essential conditions for the success of Democracy:

Democracy is considered to be the best and most rigorous system of government and it has been successful in some countries. In some other countries it has failed. A democratic government is not a one-size-fits-all government. For it to run successfully there must be certain factors in the society which are helpful. For democracy to function successfully the following factors are necessary.

Good Leadership –

Democracy needs good performance to function smoothly. There should be good political parties in the country. They must have good leaders people's leaders should be honest, upright and self sacrificing. These leaders should be proactive and work for the welfare of the nation with a selfless mind. Being generous in spirit public service should be his aim. Democracy has succeeded in countries like England and America because of the presence of toward thinking and effective leaders.

Free and fearless press –

Independent and unfettered press, as the press puts the truth before the people. They give their own opinion. If the government makes a mistake, they criticize it without shame or complaint. People expect how newspapers react to government policies. Those in power would avoid being criticized by the press.

Political parties –

Modern democracy is closely related to political parties. They are interdependent. Representative democracy is not possible without parties. At least two are essential to the success of democracy. There should be strong political parties. The party with a majority in the legislature forms the government. Minority parties act as opposition parties. A party which is in majority today may lose its majority tomorrow and join the opposition party. It is the job of opposition parties to express appreciation for the good works of the government and make constructive criticism to point out the ruling party. Opposition parties should be ready to form the government when the ruling party loses majority. Opposition parties should do their work honestly and not just oppose for opposition's sake. Without strong opposition party, the ruling party is like a dictator.

Patience, cooperation, compassion. –

If democracy is to succeed, there must be a broad sense of tolerance among the people of the society. That means everyone should have a tolerant quality. Democracy is the rule of the majority by the majority. Come to power. Those who get a small number of votes work as opposition parties. A majority must yield to the decision of the majority. So it is necessary to have patience and cooperation among them. Accordingly those in power should sympathize with the minorities and protect their interests. If both sides' starts raising their own demands, democracy will happen it will be difficult.

Eternal vigilance –

For democracy to succeed, people must realize its importance and fight to make it successful. It has been said that constant vigilance is the price to be paid for democracy. In nation where democracy is established it can survive only if the people are prepared to protect it at any cost.

Educated electorate –

It has been said that democracy is successful if there are educated and politically knowledgeable voters, educated people are the wealth of democracy. Since democracy is the government of citizens, citizens

should be educated and aware of their rights and duties. So the quality of government depends on the funds each electorate chooses.

Moral level and capacity of people –

A democratic government depends more on the people than any other government. It can be said that there is no doubt that democracy will succeed in any country where the moral level of the people is high. Democracy cannot succeed where people are unrighteous, selfish, irresponsible and corrupt. Democracy demands certain level of competence and will from the people. Reasonable behavior participation in government work, intelligent understanding of public affairs, ability, to make independent decisions, tolerance and selfless work are essential. The reason for the success of democracy in Sweden is the high level of moral life and the ability of the people.

Citizens should have Thirst for Democracy-

For democracy to succeed, citizens must have faith in its principles and ideals. In the people of any country where there is no unshakable faith in the principles of public governance, it cannot take root fully there. Therefore, democracy cannot succeed if the sovereign citizens are apathetic towards the government's activities. Citizens feel that the government belongs to them democracy participate in government activities with interest. People's government will be successful if the people think that the work of the government is their work and work hard for the success of the government.

Suggestions:

- The illiterate people of India should be given proper education so that they can vote wisely.
- Citizens need to be aware of when choosing their leaders with good moral values and honesty.
- Changes should come through peaceful, democratic and constitutional means.
- Politicians should have a sense of democracy as they play an important role in maintaining democracy. They should like a slave and not a master.
- The media must work positively to expose the facts and to improve the true spirit of democracy.

Conclusion:

In fact, we can conclude that, although India is considered one of the largest democracies in the world, in reality there are several problems that create obstacles to the true functioning of the democratic republic of India. There is a lot of illiteracy and corruption in India. Politicians practice corrupt practices, strike, divide the nation for religious reasons because of their petty voting motives, which negatively impacted respect for Indian democracy in the world. Despite the diversity of culture, race, religion, and language the people are united. No government or country can be considered ideal. There is nothing wrong with the constitution of India, but due to the selfishness of some politicians, people's faith has decreased towards democracy, for which everyone should strive to rejuvenate people's faith in democracy, understanding their responsibility, making efforts, actively participating in the functioning of the government.

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