



CHALLENGES OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY AND PROBLEMS

Vijay M. Gawande

Department of Political Science, Smt Savitabai U. Deshmukh College, Digras

*Corresponding Author: vijaygawande149@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT:

India is the largest democracy in the world. In the last 7 decades it has worked successfully well to some extent. But in modern India it has to face many challenges that need to be tackled in order to ensure true democracy. Important issues like horse-trading in politics, the anti-defection law, pros and cons of post-poll alliances and discretionary powers of the governor has brought to light the various challenges facing Indian democracy. The main focus of this article is not to discuss about the nature or characteristics of Indian democracy or not to try redefining Indian democracy. In this paper, I would like to discuss mainly the problems and challenges with some examples that Indian democracy is facing.

Keywords :- Democracy, Issues and Challenges, Problems of India.

INTRODUCTION :

Democracy means rule by the people to ensure that every citizen takes part in the decision making process either directly or indirectly through elected representatives. India is the largest democracy in the world. In the last more than 6 decades it has worked successfully well to some extent. But in modern India, it has to face many challenges that need to be tackled in order to ensure true democracy. These challenges may include: overpopulation, poverty and the huge gap between rich and the poor, proper sanitation, corruption, illiteracy and right to education, violence communal, religious, etc., terrorism, caste related violence, law and order, economic reforms, good governance, voter turnout, relationship with neighbouring countries, diplomatic issues, protection of human rights, womens and children rights and right to development, implementation of various welfare schemes, protection of freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution of India, environment protection, apathy of media, frequent dharnas, strikes, walkouts, noncooperative movements, etc. India needs to develop new legal, political and social proposals

to reform democracy. Law plays important role in political reformation and may help to prevent wrong practices and encourage good ones. But mere legal changes alone does not help as the changes in laws may sometimes prove counterproductive and may result into negative impact on society. Therefore, besides good laws, the political ruling and the opposition must work in with a true parliamentary spirit toward meeting these challenges and hence restoring the true democracy in India.

To ensure this Right to Information Act is the best example that serves as a watchdog against abuse of democratic principles by the politicians and the beaurocrats. In this paper, the author has attempted to study and analyse the existing democratic setup in India and suggest necessary reforms in order to ensure and sustainable democracy in India. Counter productive and may result into negative impact on society. Therefore, besides good laws, the political ruling and the opposition must work in with a true parliamentary spirit toward meeting these challenges and hence restoring the true democracy in India. To ensure this Right to Information Act, is the best example that serves

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OBJECTIVES :

1. To study and analyse the existing democratic setup in India.
2. A study of the challenges effectively in Indian democracy system.
3. A study the implications of democracy in Indian system.

Types of Democracy In India :

For the first time, the direct democracy system was practiced in ancient Greece. In the system of direct democracy, the peoples of the country assemble together for the enactment of laws required for governance and they implement these rules too. Citizens were also engaged directly in the judicial process of the country. Citizens themselves used to perform these duties as per the provision of democracy. In a nutshell, it can be said that citizens have the power to participate directly in the process of governance as well as in the decision-making process of the country. Switzerland is one of the best examples of direct democracy in the world.

Another type of democracy is Indirect Democracy. In this type of democracy, citizens indirectly participate in the decision-making process of the country through their representatives. In the present society, most of the countries of the world accepted indirect democracy as the best form of democracy because of the large size and vast populations. As this system is by the representatives, it is also known representative democracy. The country like India is the best example of indirect democracy and also considered as the largest democracy in the world. In India, due to large populations and vastness of the country, People

elect their representatives at the centre, state and local levels in India.

Challenges to Democracy In India :

Accountability :- Accountability is to be adopted not only at the time of elections, but also during the whole life of the government in power. According to Irish patriot Daniel O'Connell, 'No man can be grateful at the cost of his honour, no woman can be grateful at the cost of her chastity and no nation can be grateful at the cost of its liberty.' Democracy suffered a temporary demise in our country from June 1975 till March 1977. Political leaders are more accountable to their parties than the common people. Power is everything in politics.

Tolerance: - There should be freedom to express the views. Freedom of speech has no meaning if there is no freedom after speech. In a free democratic society tolerance is vital. An authoritarian regime cannot tolerate the expression of ideas which challenge its doctrines and ideology in the form of writings, plays, music or paintings. Intolerance is incompatible with democratic values. Our tradition teaches tolerance; our philosophy preaches tolerance; our Constitution practices tolerance. Let none dilute it.' Fighting among religious groups is a common fact in India. Democracy does not support this. Indian constitution never supports this.

Political Violence :- Violence has been with us for long, but use of violence for political end is dangerous for the existence of any system. In India we have been witnessing various forms of violence. Communal violence, caste violence and political violence in general have attained serious proportion. Communal riots are engineered by vested interests for political, religious and economic reasons. Caste violence in various shapes has been increasing. Despite agricultural development, abolition of zamindari system, and developments like green revolution and white revolution, there are still powerful feudal elements in the society. A serious conflict

of interests has emerged between higher and middle castes and this has led to aggressive competition for political power which many a time leads to violence.

Criminalization of Politics :- In recent years, criminalization of politics in India has become a debatable issue. There have been allegations that there are some elements in politics who do not have faith in democratic values and practices. They indulge in violence and take refuge in other unhealthy, undemocratic methods to win elections. Undoubtedly, this is not a healthy trend in politics and there is an urgent need to apply serious check on such tendencies. Criminalization of politics is the very negation of democratic values and has no place in a democratic set up. Democracy can be strengthened by adopting and promoting democratic values and shunning criminal activities.

Regionalism:- Indian democracy has also been struggling with regionalism which is primarily an outcome of regional disparities and imbalances in development. We all know that India is a plural country with diversities of religions, languages, communities, tribes and cultures. A number of cultural and linguistic groups are concentrated in certain territorial segments. Although development process in the country aims at growth and development of all regions, the regional disparities and imbalances in terms of differences in per capita income, literacy rates, state of health and educational infrastructure and services, population situation and levels of industrial and agricultural development continue to exist. Existence and continuation of regional inequalities both among States and within a State create a feeling of neglect, deprivation and discrimination.

Communalism:- Communalism and religious fundamentalism have acquired a very dangerous form and alarming proportion in India. They disrupt the pattern of co-existence in our multi-religious society. Communalism is an affront to

India's nationalist identity and a tragic setback to its evolving secular culture. It is subversive of our democratic political stability and destroyer of our glorious heritage of humanism and composite culture. Quite often, communalism is wrongly used as a synonym for religion or conservatism. Adherence to a religion or attachment to a religious community is not communalism.

Democracy in India: its Problems and Prospective :

Soon after attaining independence, India gave herself a Constitution and became a Democratic Republic on 26th January, 1950 and has since been governed by this Constitution. This was indeed a commendable achievement, more particularly when one looks at some of the countries in our neighbourhood and even around the world. For it established a system of governance, a sound legal system and a fairly sound basis for a democratic socialistic society when elections were held regularly and the popular mandate was respected. Thus we may say that the democratic system has been established as accepted as an indispensable part of Indian political life; yet we have to recognise that in practice, there have been serious shortcomings and these will have to be addressed sooner or rather than later. Democracy is not a modern phenomenon; it was practised with some measure of success in ancient Athens and in ancient India; also they laid down some of the fundamental principles of a democratic society which will be very relevant to us even in modern times.

CONCLUSION :

The time has come to discuss such a change. It is the right time to review our commitment to a government that truly represents the people. Our current form of democracy is clearly falling short on this count. The functioning of democracy has not provided a scope for a revolutionary advance in India. But it has provided to a new kind of democratic progress. A

century that saw a steady expansion of the meaning of democracy from formal political freedoms to the socio-economic rights and then to the pursuit of multi- dimensional liberation from class, caste and patriarchal domination.

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