

# DEMOCRACY

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- **CLASSICAL MODEL**

- The term democracy is derived from Greek word ***demos*** and ***kratos*** which means rule of the people. It was **direct** and **participated** democracy. **Sartori** said that the most distinctive feature of ancient democracy was **stateless**.
- Athens was the first home of democracy where people were **equal share holder** of the decision of community. All major decisions were made by assembly (**Ecclesia**) and all citizens were member of ecclesia. This met at least **forty times a year**. Public officials were chosen on the **basis of lot**. A **council** consist of **500 citizens** acted as a **executive** of the committee and **president** of committee held office for **only a single day**.
- Rousseau was influenced by this Athenian model of democracy which known as a **Plebiscitarian** model of democracy.
- Although critics said that Greek democracy was not true democracy because **women, traders** and **slaves** were not allowed to participate in the political activities.

# REPRESENTATIVE MODEL-LIBERAL

- With development of large nation states direct democracy became impractical option. Therefore, rule of people became the rule of **representative of the people**.
- **Abraham Lincoln** in his **Gettysburg** address (1864) said that democracy is government **of the people, by the people and for the people**.
- Practically, democracy is not possible by the people but it is **for the people**. **Liberalism** stands for **liberty, limited constitutional government**, market economy. However **democracy** implies one person one vote, **rule by consent** and **rule by majority**.
- **(1) INSTITUTIONS**
- Representative democracy is also known as **electoral democracy** where people elect their representatives through various electoral means like- **first past the post** system or the method of **proportionate representation**.

- Representative democracy develop in form of **parliamentary democracy** as well as **presidential form of democracy**.
- **(2) VALUES**
- Representative democracy is associated with liberalism. Therefore, the values of representative democracy includes **liberal values**.
- **Popular sovereignty** or the rule by majority becomes cardinal principle of democracy. It believes in equal moral worth of individual. Therefore grant right to **one person one vote (Bentham)**.
- Democracy never discriminate the person on the basis of caste, color, creed, sex or religion. It upholds the principle of **equality (Bentham)**.
- Liberal democracy provides **liberty (Mill)** and **right (Locke)** for every individual.

- **(3) A WAY OF LIFE**
- JS Mill says that democracy does not mean only the form of government neither it is the government by majority but it is helpful for **self-realisation** and **moral development** for the people.
- It is also a form of education because the basic aim of education is to promote moral development of the people.
- Representative democracy requires **political parties** and **bureaucracy** for smooth functioning of democratic system.

# MARXIST THEORY OF DEMOCRACY

- **(1) CRITICAL TOWARDS BOURGEOISIE DEMOCRACY**
- Marxist says that **people sovereignty** is paradoxical in class based society. Without abolishing of **capitalism** and **private property**, democracy becomes a tool in hand of bourgeoisie. Marxist propound the **people's democracy**.
- **(2) DICTATORSHIP OF PROLETARIAT**
- Marx says that only minority has rule over majority and therefore Marx believe in **rule of working class** which is a **transitional** but it is a true example of **majority rule**.
- **(3) COMMUNISM**
- Marx believe in the **perfectionist** concept of democracy. Engels says that there shall be **rule over the things not over person**.

- For Marx democracy is not only a **form of government** but it is a **form of society**. Community will have **ownership over the means of production**. Therefore, there will be no division in society.
- **Equality, Fraternity** in society is the **real democracy**. People will be liberated from their **necessities** and they shall work according to their **capacity** and receive according to their **need**.
- This is a democratic society like **Greek democracy** without slavery. Marxist concept of democracy is a **perfectionist model**.
- **(4)NEO-MARXIST**
- **Nicos Poulantaz, Habermas** believes in **radical** democracy. Society economy will be democratized beside **political democracy**. They **rejected one party rule** of Marxist governments.

# MODELS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY-LIBERAL DEMOCRACY

- Macpherson propounded four models of liberal democracy:-
- (a) **Protective model**:- It protected the people's **property** and **liberty** from monarchical form of government. **Locke** and **Bentham** propounded the **protective model**.
- (b) **Developmental model**:- Democracy is a mechanism for **moral development** of the people. It is a educational experience which was supported by **Rousseau** and **Mill**.

- **(c) Equilibrium model:-** it believes that democracy is merely an **electoral mechanism** for choosing the government. The opposite of the **normative model** of democracy based on **ideals and values**.
- **(d) Participative model:-** Macpherson prefers the normative model of democracy propounded by **Rousseau and Mill**. But he is against the **capitalist** form of economy and participative model is the **best model** of democracy.

# ELITIST OR EQUILIBRIUM MODEL

- It is a **procedural** model of a democracy which describes democracy in **form of institutions**. **Schumpeter (Capitalism, socialism and democracy)** said that liberal democracy is the competitive struggle between parties for political power.
- Schumpeter says that **values and morality** is **not** associated with democracy but it is an **institutional arrangement** for reaching political decisions **not an end in itself**.
- Schumpeter draws an analogy between **political behaviour** and **market behaviour**.
- Democracy need the **presence of multiple political parties independent bureaucracy and difference of opinion**.
- It is a game of **politicians** rather than masses.

- **Anthony Downs** propounded economic theory of democracy and he said that democracy is the **rule of politicians**.
- It is also known as **democratic elitism** and reject the **normative model** of democracy which believes in the popular sovereignty.
- Elitist theory of democracy is also supported by **C. Wright Mills** who wrote **power elite** (1956). He said that democracy of US is run by power elite which includes the **politicians of federal government, defense personal and industrialist**.
- Democracy is recognized as **polyarchy** or **pluralist democracy**. **Robert Dahl** never used the term democracy but polyarchy which implies democracy is **not the rule majority**, it is rule of **multiple minorities**.

# PARTICIPATIVE MODEL

- For **Macpherson** participative model is the **best model** of democracy. Macpherson says that protective model of democracy incorporates the **capitalist mode** of economy which goes against the democracy.
- Equilibrium model maintains **status-quo** and equate democracy from market principles which is wrong.
- Macpherson (**the life and times of liberal democracy-1977**)  
Carol Pateman (**participation and democratic theory-1970**).
- **(1) REJECTION OF VOTE CENTRIC DEMOCRACY**
- Participative democracy rejected the **vote-centric model** of democracy (representative model).
- Participative democracy is becoming stronger in form of global civil society movement against globalisation.

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- **(2)STRONG DEMOCRACY**
- **Benjamin Barber** supports participatory democracy in form of strong democracy. He tries to revitalise **citizenship** and active participation in at least some public affairs at some time. Thus, participative democracy maximize **self-determination** and **self-realisation** of human being.
- **(3)RADICAL DEMOCRACY**
- **Carol Pateman** said that democracy is not merely a form of government but a **form of society too**. Thus, **patriarchal society** is against the democratic principles.
- **(4)UNITARY DEMOCRACY**
- **Jane Mansbridge** wrote **beyond adversary democracy** (1980). Participation in democracy requires active participation rather than holding the elections only.

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- **Unitary democracy** based on common interest and friendship it believes sharing of values and brotherhood.
- **Adversary democracy** based on conflicting interest because it is based on self interest rather than common goods. Adversary democracy is **against the participatory democracy**. Participatory democracy includes:-
  - (i) Members felt equal to one another.
  - (ii) Decision by **consensus** rather than by majority.
  - (iii) Face to face assembly rather than representation.
- **(5) SOCIALIST PLURALISM**
- Nicos Poulantaz want to democratise **state, parliament, bureaucracy, political parties**. Women group ecological group should be strengthen at **local level**. He supports factory based politics. **David Held** says that the contradiction between **Marxism** and **liberalism** is fruitless and we should combine the feature of both in democracy.

# DELIBERATIVE MODEL

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- It is a contemporary model of democracy which also react against the **vote centric** model of democracy which believe in the representation of majority and counting of vote and eventually democracy becomes the **numbers game**.
- The term deliberative democracy is introduced by **Joseph M Bessette**. **Joshua Cohen, Dryzek** are the theoretical propounders of deliberative democracy.
- James Fishkin highlighted the following features of deliberative democracy:-
  - (a)Information
  - (b)Substantive balance between various diverse groups and stakeholders.
  - (c)Equal consideration.
  - (d)Consensus.

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- **Habermas** point out the following problems associated with the present model of democracy:-
  - (1) There is decline of public sphere.
  - (2) Capitalist give rise to industry culture.
  - (3) Spectator politics.
  - (4) Re-feudalization of public sphere.
  - (5) Communicative action.
- **Joshua Cohen** identified the following features of deliberative democracy:-
  - (a) **Deliberative democracy** is an ongoing and independent association whose members expect it to continue into in definite future.
  - (b) **Free deliberation among equal** is the basis of legitimacy. Members have common knowledge about association.

- (c) Deliberative democracy is a **pluralistic association** where some particular set of **preferences, conviction and ideals** is not mandatory.
- (d) Members recognize one another as having deliberative capacities therefore involving **public exchange** of reason and for acting on the result of such **public reasoning**.
- **PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY**
- **Direct democracy** is an ideal for **participative democrats** but parliamentary democracy is an ideal for deliberate democrat. Both participative as well as deliberate believes in **moral individual**. Thus, it becomes **normative** theory of democracy.

# ISSUES RELATED TO DEMOCRACY

- **(1) DEMOCRACY AND DIFFERENCE**
- Now societies are plural and diverse therefore, representation of each and every cultural group is essential that is believe of **Marion Young**. She believe in **differentiated citizenship**.
- Multiculturalist like **Will Kymlicka** also favour the representation of various cultural groups.
- **(2) PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION**
- Now democracy is practiced in form of representative democracy and **first past the post system** and **proportionate method of representation** is utilized for ensuring the representation. Participation through **social movement** is equally important.

- **(3) DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT**
- **Lee Thesis** believes that democracy is an obstacle in path of economic development and **Lee kuan Yew** was the formal prime minister of Singapore.
- **Amartya Sen** is not agree with Lee Thesis because democratic government are always **sensitive** to the need of the people and people are free to criticize the economic policies of the government.
- **Ruchir Sharma** said that economic development of **South East Asia** may be more but **India** provide more welfare facilities for the people.

- **(4) SCOPE OF DEMOCRACY**
- **Chantal Mouffe and Ernesto Laclau** believe in **radical democracy** therefore want to remove various **structure of power** and **inequality** in society.
- Democracy should be apply in all spheres of human life like **family, workplace** and in community.
- They believe in **decentralisation** of power in the hand of local government.
- **Cosmopolitan democracy** propounded by **David Held** is equally important. He said that the transnational actors like **IMF, World Bank, Security Council, WTO** should be **democratized**. Non-state actors are responsible to **none**.

# CHALLENGES FOR DEMOCRACY IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

- **China** is pursuing **one party rule** with a lifetime head of the government. **Russia** and **Turkey** are also adopting the authoritarian tendencies.
- New rightist like **Samuel Brittan**(1977) said that democracy is under **overload** and electoral politics is **self defeating** for economy.
- **David Marquand** said that democracy to **adults** is what **chocolate** is to **children**. Therefore new rightist are more interested to protect the **market economy**.
- Problem of **democratic deficit** is also witnessed in the various parts of the world and **technology** is also becoming a **threat for democracy** because of the **monopoly of Google and Facebook**.