

A study on “Representative Parliamentary Democracy an instrument to protect people’s rights and their basic necessities”

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“Democracy is not just a form of government, but also a way of human life”-

Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.

Abstract

An idea of a specific type of democracy that is Representative Democratic system, which is a form of government founded on the principle of elected individuals representing the people. In the last more than 8 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 at grass root level. Challenges like social and economic inequalities, poverty and unemployment, Illiteracy and communalism, population explosion, regionalism, corruption and terrorism, etc. India needs to develop new proposals to reform democracy for more transparency and participatory in grassroots level. Law plays important role in political reformation and may help to prevent wrong practices and encourage good ones. But mere legal changes alone do not help as the changes in laws may sometimes prove not achieving results and may results into negative impact on society. Therefore, the best laws empower people to carry out democratic reforms. In this article deals with representative democracy as a concept and to create opportunities for all members of a political group to make meaningful contributions to decision-making and to bring democracy to a better and more realistic approach.

Keywords: Répresentative democracy, Participation, Increasing population, population explosion, economic inequalities, gender representation.

I. Introduction:

India is the largest democracy in the world, with 980 million citizens were registered to vote and this number will be decreased through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process 2025 , its for to verify and revise electoral rolls through house to house enumeration of India. In India SIR formed in 1952. Now I cont give exact voter number because it’s a under process in some states including Andhra Pradesh (at present going on). In the last more than seven decades democracy 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 and representative parliamentary democracy system an instrument for protecting democracy and people’s necessities it’s a big question. These challenges may include: over population (1.478 billion people), poverty and the huge gap between rich and the poor, proper sanitation, corruption, illiteracy and right to educational, violence communal, religious, etc., terrorism, naxalism, caste related violence, law and order, economic reforms, good governance, voter turnout, relationship with neighboring countries, diplomatic issues, protection of human rights, women and children rights and right to developmental, implementation of various welfare schemes, protection of freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution of India, environment protection, frequent strikes by pressure groups, walkouts, non- cooperative 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.

"Democracy is not majority rule: Democracy is diffusion of power, representation of interests, and recognition of minorities." (John Calhoun, as paraphrased by Roper 1989, 63) Democracy is not just a form of government, but also a way of life, its relating to individual as well as group of people irrespective of cast

and creed. Democracy is a state where the people are sovereign and guided by laws of its own making, and where the people do by themselves everything it is possible to do, and through delegates, everything that is not."

Democracy is a universally recognized ideal as well as a goal, which is based on common values shared by peoples throughout the world community irrespective of cast, religion, cultural, political, social and economic differences. It is thus a basic right of citizenship to be exercised under conditions of freedom, equality, transparency and responsibility, with due respect for the plurality of views, and in the interest of the polity.

The most ancient known example of an early representative democracy, as practised in ancient Rome, occurred in the Western world. The Romans referred to their state as a republic. Modern representative democracies have come into being through a variety of political institutions, most of which made their first appearance in Europe and the United States in the 18th century. The concept of representation is itself the most important, because it enables government officials whom citizens elect to make significant decisions and establish policies.

II. Objectives of the study:

- * To study and discuss about basic principles of representative democracy
- * Study on how does representative democracy differ from direct democracy
- * Study and analyze various challenges faced by the Indian democratic republic
- * Supreme on Democracy in India
- * The issues and challenges take some measures to meet the challenges effectively and help restore Indian democracy in its true spirit.

III. The Situation in India

Democracy in India, according to Abraham Lincoln, is measured as a two thirds democracy only. In India, we have a government of the people and by the people but it is not the people.

The democratic system followed in India is a mix of both the participatory and representative styles of democracy. This is because; India follows a parliamentary system that has a bicameral legislature. The members of the Lok Sabha or the House of the People are directly elected by the people of the country. On the other hand, the people of the Rajya Sabha are nominated and act as representatives of the people.

It is safe to call India a quasi-presidential parliamentary democracy which today, as we can see is a victim of corruption and serves more as an institution of power rather than a system designed to serve the people of the nation. The system of governance is in effect a Prime Minister centred system where the role of the President is restricted to one of a nominal head and nothing more. Who the people trust and elect with the belief of a better life and increased development are today only a system that gives access to the Prime Minister to be the supreme power. This defies the true meaning of a democracy in the sense that it no more is a government for the people.

IV. Basic principles of representative democracy:

Representative Democracy refers to the form of democracy where there is the election of people who are to make decisions on behalf of the citizens and make laws. Others are essential principles like:

Representation: This means that the representatives are elected by the citizens to represent their interests and to make Policy choices.

Accountability: Representatives elected by the population are held accountable by the people for their actions and decisions.

Free and Fair Elections: Free and fair elections would be conducted periodically.

Constitutional Framework: The method of election, who can get elected, and elected officials' powers are described in a written constitution.

Freedom of expression and association: Freedom of expression and the freedom to form political groups are allowed to citizen, and it is their right.

Independent Judiciary: Judges can make decisions to check government actions and declare them unconstitutional, thus making justice independent.

V. Structure of Parliament and its position in Indian Polity:

We have adopted a system of representative parliamentary democracy. The basic premise of true democracy is that every individual irrespective of his caste, creed, colour or sex and irrespective of the level of the educational, economic or professional backgrounds, is capable of governing himself and managing his affairs, the way he deems fit. In a democracy the people are their own masters. But in the modern world of today, direct ruling of country by people by themselves is impossible due to population explosion.

In ancient Greek City-States and also during the Vedic period in India, the people themselves used to assemble together to decide the issues of governance. But due to population rise, this system almost got extinct except in a few Swiss Cantons where issues could still be decided by the people at large through vote. But in modern parliamentary system people rule the nation through their elected representative.

VI. How does representative democracy differ from direct democracy?

In this way we must discuss on two types of democracy like representative democracy and direct democracy and its mainly have differences in decision-making. Representative democracy is when the people of a country choose people to govern them and act on their behalf. The people select people who will be making decisions and enacting laws on their behalf. These are the representatives who must be answerable to the voters with their behavior and choices. Conversely, direct democracy refers to the method of governing by the citizens through their direct involvement in the decision-making process, they vote on the laws and policies and not their representatives. It can happen through mechanisms such as referenda and initiatives. Meanwhile, direct democracy implies direct intervention of citizens, whereas representative democracy is easier and more applicable to contemporary nation-states whose size does not enable the entire population to participate.

VII. Issues in India to the Democratic Setup:

The issues that are posing a great challenge to the Indian Democratic setup include:

Overpopulation: Indian population has reached up to an estimated 1.47 billion people this is one of the greatest challenges that have hindered the possible progress of our country to some extent. Government of India which is already facing challenges from various angles has failed to control the population growth.

Poverty: Though India is approaching towards becoming an economic super power, it has equally great challenges towards tackling the poverty. According to the World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief, approximately 171 million people in India moved out of extreme poverty between 2011 and 2023, with the poverty rate declining from 16.2% to 2.3% based on the international poverty line of \$2.15 per day. The world Bank further estimates that 33% of the global poor now reside in India. Moreover, India also has 134 million people, The major reason for poor population in India is due to its uneven distribution of wealth with 10% of income groups earning 33% of the income and it leads to have and have less environment in the Indian society.

Sanitation: There are about 700 million people who have no access to toilets at home. Statistics conducted by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) have shown that in 2024, 96% of householders had basic drinking water services but only 83% had sanitation access. Studies by UNICEF have also shown that diseases resulting from poor sanitation affect children in their cognitive development.

Corruption: Corruption is widespread in India. India is ranked 95 out of 179 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, but its score has improved consistently from 2.7 in 2002 to 3.1 in 2011. In India, corruption takes the form of bribes, tax evasion, exchange controls, embezzlement, etc. Right to information Act, 2005 has played a major role in unearthing various scams which are politically motivated. Corruption is one of the main causes that hinders the progress of a nation.

Education: Education has remained one of the priorities of the Indian government since independence. Though many initiatives have been taken up by the Government of India to ensure maximum literacy in India, but still, education continues to persist as an impediment to development.

Violence: Constitutional speaking, India is supposed to be a secular, but large-scale violence has periodically taken place in since independence. In recent decades, communal tensions and religion-based politics have become more prominent.

Terrorism: The areas where a lot terrorists activities take place are Jammu and Kashmir, Central India and Seven Sister States and Punjab. Terrorism in India has often been alleged to be sponsored by Pakistan.

Naxalism: Naxalism in India is caused by socioeconomic inequalities, landlessness, exploitation of tribal communities, lack of development, unemployment, displacement due to mining projects, and ineffective governance in remote and marginalized regions. Naxalism is a communist group that has been emerged out of the Sino- Soviet split in the Indian communist movement. Naxalism is found in areas such as West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. The main operation against Naxals is called Operation Green Hunt, with ongoing missions like the 2025 Kurruguttalu Hill operation targeting Naxalite strongholds arias throughout India.

Cocroch Janatha Party: It's a Just like presser group and is a youth based satirical political movement, founded on 2026. But its have any political party support and It's a different types of group compere to other Indian presser groups like political and students organizations and they will need to do agitation in a democratic way and where as zen-gee and CJP these were not belongs to any Political Party or any other systematic Organizations in India, it happens are not good for Indian democracy.

Poor voter turnout: India's political parties are eagerly waiting for the 2029 national elections and the 2029 Lok Sabha elections will feature a significantly expanded Parliament with an anticipated strength 543 to 850 seats (815 for states and 35 for union territories) and Indian citizens equally excited about casting their votes. Since voting is not a compulsory duty of the people, many of them especially educators do not exercise this right and they choose to remain in their houses and do something else on that poling day.

VIII. Supreme on Democracy in India:

OneOn April 24, 1973, Chief Justice Sikri and 12 judges of the Supreme Court assembled delivered the most important judgment in the judicial history of India. It had been conducted for almost 68 days (from October 31, 1972, to March 23, 1973) There was only one issue to find the answer to a question as to whether Parliament can amend the Constitution in an unlimited manner even at the cost of taking away all the fundamental rights of the citizens of India. The problem was that under Article 368 of the Indian Constitution, it is apparent clear that there was no limitations on the power of Parliament to amend any part of the **Constitution**. Even there were no restrictions on the Parliament to prevent it from taking away a citizen's right to freedom of speech or his religious freedom. However, after several amendments made to the Constitution there was doubt was raised whether there is any inherent or implied limitation on the amending power of Parliament. In its 703-page verdict, with a 7:6 majority the Supreme Court has revealed that the

Parliament could amend any part of the Constitution as long as it did not alter the basic structure or essential features of the Constitution. In this was there was an inherent and implied limitation on the amending power of Parliament was imposed by the Judiciary.

The *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* in this case decided by a 13 judge bench (April 24/1973) was the result of a serious conflict between the judiciary and the Government of India. Where the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi acted with a selfish motive and violated the true Parliamentary spirit on several occasions by amending the Indian Constitution and passing various laws favoring her Congress Party and finally in 1975 by declaring the infamous national emergency that too for personal gains. If this was not there, India would certainly have degenerated into a totalitarian

1. In the NDA Govt most recent fully enacted constitutional safeguard designed to deepen democracy is the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act (2023). It safeguards representative democracy by reserving one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies

2. 106th Amendment Act (2023): Also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, this act amended Articles 239AA, 330A, and 332A to ensure broader, more inclusive gender representation in grassroots and national law making.

IX. Conclusion and findings:

Representative Democracy and its better work in India must move beyond to conduct of elections after a certain period of time and it's a continuous accountability. The lack of awareness of true values of democracy among the Indian citizens is also another because which prejudices the minds of the people towards exercising their participation in the formation and functioning of the Government. To strengthen rural and urban local bodies by giving them real financial and administrative powers. To ensure regular and meaningful debate in parliament and state assemblies, the instead of allowing bills to pass through without discussion. Representative democracy, it's a more accountable from the government as to respond to the need and necessities of the people and they must accept the principle of majority rule. We should follow some principles for better working of representative democracy **first** the Government take some masers to mitigate have and have less situation in the every society like food security, rural employment, direct benefit transfers (DBT) and support people during hard times. **Second** Citizens must agree to a system of rule by law and maintain rule for all. **Third** Government exists to serve the people in a more transparency manner, because it derives its power from the people. **Fourth** still voting is not a compulsory duty of the people, many of them especially educators do not exercise this right and governments make some action and punish like cancellation of their passport, deny the government welfare schemes and exclude from income tax exemption, towards make it compulsory duty of citizens. And **Finlay** India to be the best democracy in the world and people have to be loyal to the system of governance. There is never a foolproof system that can be established at any level in any form of organization.

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