**Name: Nur Ahammad**

**Subject:** SOC-104

**Batch No: BBA 52**

**ID NO: 1121520011**

**Answer All:**

1. Define Democracy in your own words. Write down basic principles of Democracy. Write down what are the forms of Democracy.
2. Show the difference between Democracy and Totalitarianism.
3. Show the difference between Formal Organization and Informal Organization.
4. Briefly Discuss Characteristics of Culture with examples.

**Ans to the question no. 1:**

**Democracy**: A democracy is a form of government that empowers the people to exercise political control, limits the power of the head of state, provides for the separation of powers between governmental entities, and ensures the protection of natural rights and civil liberties. In practice, democracy takes many different forms. Along with the two most common types of democracies—direct and representative—variants such as participatory, liberal, parliamentary, pluralist, constitutional, and socialist democracies can be found in use today.

**Basic principles of Democracy:**

People from around the world have identified the basic principles, which must exist in order to have a democratic government. These principles often become a part of the constitution or bill of rights in a democratic society. Though no two democratic countries are exactly alike, people in democracies support many of the same basic principles and desire the same benefits from their government. The basics principles of Democracy has been described below:

**1. Citizen Participation**

One of the most basic signposts of a democracy is citizen participation in government. Participation is the key role of citizens in democracy. It is not only their right, but it is their duty. Citizen participation may take many forms including standing for election, voting in elections, becoming informed, debating issues, attending community or civic meetings, being members of private voluntary organizations, paying taxes, and even protesting. Participation builds a better democracy.

**2. Equality**

Democratic societies emphasize the principle that all people are equal. Equality means that all individuals are valued equally, have equal opportunities, and may not be discriminated against

because of their race, religion, ethnic group, gender or sexual orientation. In a democracy, individuals and groups still maintain their right to have different cultures, personalities, languages and beliefs.

**3. Political Tolerance**

Democratic societies are politically tolerant. This means that while the majority of the people rule in a democracy, the rights of the minority must be protected. People who are not in power must be allowed to organize and speak out. Minorities are sometimes referred to as the opposition because they may have ideas which are different from the majority. Individual citizens must also learn to be tolerant of each other. A democratic society is often composed of people from different cultures, racial, religious and ethnic groups who have viewpoints different from the majority of the population. A democratic society is enriched by diversity. If the majority deny rights to and destroy their opposition, then they also destroy democracy. One goal of democracy is to make the best possible decision for the society. To achieve this, respect for all people and their points of view is needed. Decisions are more likely to be accepted, even by those who oppose them, if all citizens have been allowed to discuss, debate and question them.

**4. Accountability**

In a democracy, elected and appointed officials have to be accountable to the people. They are responsible for their actions. Officials must make decisions and perform their duties according to the will and wishes of the people, not for themselves.

**5. Transparency**

For government to be accountable the people must be aware of what is happening in the country. This is referred to as transparency in government. A transparent government holds public meetings and allows citizens to attend. In a democracy, the press and the people are able to get information about what decisions are being made, by whom and why.

**6. Regular, Free and Fair Elections**

One way citizens of the country express their will is by electing officials to represent them in government. Democracy insists that these elected officials are chosen and peacefully removed from office in a free and fair manner. Intimidation, corruption and threats to citizens during or before an election are against the principles of democracy. In a democracy, elections are held regularly every so many years. Participation in elections should not be based on a citizen's wealth. For free and fair elections to occur, most adult citizens should have the right to stand for government office. Additionally, obstacles should not exist which make it difficult for people to vote.

**7. Economic Freedom**

People in a democracy must have some form of economic freedom. This means that the government allows some private ownership of property and businesses, and that the people are allowed to choose their own work and labor unions. The role the government should play in the economy is open to debate, but it is generally accepted that free markets should exist in a democracy and the state should not totally control the economy. Some argue that the state should play a stronger role in countries where great inequality of wealth exists due to past discrimination or other unfair practices.

**8. Control of the Abuse of Power**

Democratic societies try to prevent any elected official or group of people from misusing or abusing their power. One of the most common abuses of power is corruption. Corruption occurs when government officials use public funds for their own benefit or exercise power in an illegal manner. Various methods have been used in different countries to protect against these abuses. Frequently the government is structured to limit the powers of the branches of government: to have independent courts and agencies with power to act against any illegal action by an elected official or branch of government; to allow for citizen participation and elections; and to check for police abuse of power.

**9. Bill of Rights**

Many democratic countries also choose to have a bill of rights to protect people against abuse of power. A bill of rights is a list of rights and freedoms guaranteed to all people in the country. When a bill of rights becomes part of a country's constitution, the courts have the power to enforce these rights. A bill of rights limits the power of government and may also impose duties on individuals and organizations.

**10. Accepting the Results of Elections**

In democratic elections, there are winners and losers. Often the losers in an election believe so strongly that their party or candidate is the best one, that they refuse to accept the results of the election. This is against democratic principles. The consequences of not accepting the result of an election may be a government that is ineffective and cannot make decisions. It may even result in violence which is also against democracy.

**11. Human Rights**

All democracies strive to respect and protect the human rights of citizens. Human rights mean those values that reflect respect for human life and human dignity. Democracy emphasizes the value of every human being. Examples of human rights include freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, the right to equality and the right to education.

**12. Multi-Party System**

In order to have a multi-party system, more than one political party must participate in elections and play a role in government. A multi-party system allows for opposition to the party, which wins the election. This helps provide the government with different viewpoints on issues. Additionally, a multi-party system provides voters with a choice of candidates, parties and policies to vote for. Historically, when a country only has one party, the result has been a dictatorship.

**13. The Rule of Law**

In a democracy no one is above the law, not even a king or an elected President. This is called the rule of law. It means that everyone must obey the law and be held accountable if they violate it. Democracy also insists that the law be equally, fairly and consistently enforced. This is sometimes referred to as "due process of law."

**Forms of Democracy:** Democracies can be depicted in different ways. This section will explore elite, pluralist, and participatory democracies along with direct, indirect, consensus, and majoritarian forms of democracy.

**Elite Democracy**

Elite democracy is a model in which a select, powerful subgroup holds political power. The rationale for limiting political participation to the wealthy or land-holding classes is that they typically have a higher degree of education from which to make more informed political decisions. Proponents of elite democracy hold the view that poorer, uneducated citizens may lack the political know-how needed to participate Founding fathers John Adams and Alexander Hamilton advocated for an elite democracy, fearing that opening the democratic process to the masses could lead to poor political decision-making, societal instability, and mob rule.

We can find an example of elite democracy very early in the history of the United States. In 1776, state legislatures regulated voting practices. The only people allowed to vote were landholding white men.

**Pluralist Democracy**

In a pluralist democracy, the government makes decisions and enacts laws influenced by social groups with various ideas and perspectives. Interest groups, or groups that come together because of their shared affinity for a particular cause can impact the government by bringing voters together into larger, more powerful units. Interest groups advocate for their causes through fundraising and other means of influencing government officials. Individual voters are empowered through collaboration with like-minded citizens. Together they attempt to advance their cause. Advocates of pluralist democracy believe that when divergent views enter into negotiations, it serves a protective function where one group cannot completely overpower another. Well-known interest groups include The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the National Urban League. States function similarly to interest groups, contributing the political perspectives of the citizens that live there. Political parties are another interest group that brings people together with similar political perspectives to influence the government.

**Participatory Democracy**

A participatory democracy focuses on wide-scale involvement in the political process. The goal is for as many citizens to engage politically as possible. Laws and other issues are voted on directly as opposed to being decided by elected representatives. The founding fathers did not prefer participatory democracy. They didn’t trust the masses to make informed political decisions. In addition, having everyone contribute their opinion to every issue would be too cumbersome in a large, complex society. The participatory democracy model wasn’t part of the U.S. Constitution. However, it is used in local elections, referendums, and initiatives where citizens have a direct role in decision-making. It is important to note that participatory democracy is not a direct democracy. There are similarities, but in a direct democracy, citizens vote directly on important government decisions, while in a participatory democracy, political leaders still have an ultimate say. Examples of participatory democracy include ballot initiatives and referendums. In ballot initiatives, citizens enter a measure onto the ballot for consideration by voters. Ballot initiatives are prospective laws that everyday citizens introduce. A referendum is when the electorate votes on a single issue (usually a yes or no question). However, in the United States, according to the Constitution, referendums cannot be held on the federal level but can be held on the state level.

**Direct Democracy**

A direct democracy, also known as a pure democracy, is a system in which citizens make decisions about laws and policies via a direct vote. No elected representatives are present to make decisions on behalf of the greater population. Direct democracy is not commonly used as a complete political system. However, elements of direct democracy exist in many nations. Brexit, for example, was directly decided upon by citizens of the United Kingdom via a referendum.

**Indirect Democracy**

An indirect democracy, also known as a representative democracy, is a political system in which elected officials vote and make decisions for the broader group. Most Western democratic nations employ some form of indirect democracy. A simple example occurs during each election cycle in the United States when voters decide which congressional candidate to elect to represent their interests.

**Consensus Democracy**

A consensus democracy brings together as many perspectives as possible to discuss and come to an agreement. It is intended to account for both popular and minority opinions. Consensus democracy is a component of the government system in Switzerland and serves to bridge the views of a wide variety of minority groups.

**Majoritarian Democracy**

A majoritarian democracy is a democratic system that requires a majority vote to make decisions. This form of democracy has been the subject of criticism for not considering the interests of minorities. An example is the decision for most school closures to be planned around the Christian holidays because Christianity is the leading religion in the U.S. There are additional subtypes of democracy that are interesting to explore including constitutional, monitory, autocratic, anticipatory, religious, inclusive democracies, and many more.

**Ans to the question no. 2:**

**Difference Between Democracy and Totalitarianism**

Democracy and totalitarianism differ from each other to a large extent. Democracy is a form of government in which all citizens have a say in matters regarding their lives. While totalitarianism is a political system where a single person with all the powers granted recognizes no limits to his powers. Totalitarianism seeks to regulate all aspects of public and private life.

Democracy is the rule of the people so that totalitarianism is the rule of a single powerful person. This is the main difference between democracy and totalitarianism. Totalitarianism is often described by political experts as a combination of authoritarianism and ideology that consists in identifying the limits of the powers of citizens in making the decision. So totalitarianism is very much the opposite of democracy when it comes to its concept.

Every vote in a democratic country has equal value while that’s not the case with totalitarianism. Freedom of citizens is fully protected in democracy as the freedom of citizens is not protected in the event of totalitarianism. The other form of totalitarian government imposes the speech restriction, mass surveillance and use other limited powers over citizens.

On the contrary, democracy neither restricts speech on citizens nor does it reduce the power and the right decision-making of the individual citizen. In democracy the citizens have much to say in the public decision-making while in the totalitarian rule a single person with whom the power lies can only be granted with the power of state decision speaking.

All citizens are considered equal before the law for democracy. The question of equality of citizens does not occur at all in totalitarianism. These are the differences between democracy and totalitarianism.

**Ans to the question no. 3:**

Today more than half of the youth of the country is working. People work in several companies and organizations. Every organization works in a different way. For instance, there might be strict rules and protocols that have to be followed by every employee in some organizations. At the same time, there are some organizations that give employees a certain sense of freedom regarding work and job. Organizations work either like autocratic leadership or democratic leadership. It is important to have a good organization with a positive environment, as it leads to peace of mind and efficiency at the workplace. Today I will discuss about two significant kinds of organizations, formal organization and informal organization.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **S.NO.** | **INFORMAL ORGANIZATION** | **INFORMAL ORGANIZATION** |
| 1 | A formal organization is defined as an organization that has set rules and regulations to be followed by the employees. | On the other hand, an informal organization is defined as an organization that focuses on building social relationships and networks. |
| 2 | The main aim of a formal organization is to achieve the long-term and short-term goals of the organization. | The main purpose of the informal organization is to build social networks and create a positive work environment. |
| 3 | The formal organization has a hierarchical structure. | An informal organization does not have a hierarchical structure. |
| 4 | The formal organization is created by the management. | Informal organization is created spontaneously by the members. The organization is made based on personal interactions. |
| 5 | Achievement of goal is the priority of a formal organization. | Fulfilling the psychological and social needs of the employees is the priority of the informal organization. |
| 6 | A formal organization is stable, i.e., it continues for a long time. | An informal organization is spontaneously made and is not stable. |
| 7 | Formal organization follows official communication. | An informal organization has a grapevine communication. |
| 8 | The employees are controlled by rules, regulations, and protocols. | The employees are controlled by values, morals, norms, and beliefs. |
| 9 | In a formal organization, the main focus is on work performance. | In an informal organization, the main focus is on building interpersonal relationships. |
| 10 | There are different levels of authority in a formal organization. The employees are bounded by the hierarchical structure. | All the members in the informal organization are equal. |
| 11 | The size of the formal organization is large. | The size of an informal organization is small. |
| 12 | The group leadership of a formal organization is explicit. | The group leadership of an informal organization is implicit. |
| 13 | Vertical hierarchy is seen in a formal organization. | Lateral hierarchy is seen in an informal organization. |
| 14 | In a formal organization, the emphasis is made on efficiency, discipline, consistency, etc. | In an informal organization, the emphasis is made on spontaneity, freedom, and building relationships. |

**Ans to the question no. 4:**

Culture is conceptual. It's a collective set of beliefs, behaviors, ideas, philosophies, practices shared by groups of people. Different groups of people have different cultures but all social groups have a set of activities and values that they **share** and that is their culture. Characteristics of Culture has been discussed below:

**1. Culture is learned:** Culture is not inherited biologically but it is leant socially by man in a society. It is not an inborn tendency but acquired by man from the association of others, e.g. drinking, eating, dressing, walking, behaving, reading are all learnt by man.

**2. Culture is social:** It is not an individual phenomenon but it is the product of society. It develops in the society through social interaction. It is shared by the man of society No man can acquire it without the association of others. Man is man only among men. It helps to develop qualities of human beings in a social environment. Deprivation of a man from his company is the deprivation of human qualities.

**3. Culture is shared:** Culture is something shared. It is nothing that an individual can passes but shared by common people of a territory. For example, customs, traditions, values, beliefs are all shared by man in a social situation. These beliefs and practices are adopted by all equally.

**4. Culture is transmitted**: Culture is capable of transmitted from one generation to the next. Parents papas cultural traits to their children and in return they pass to their children and son on. It is not transmitted through genes but through language. Language is means to communication which passes cultural traits from one generation to another.

**5. Culture is continuous:** It is continuous process. It is like a stream which is flowing from one generation to another through centuries. “Culture is the memory of human race.”

**6. Culture is accumulative**: Culture is not a matter of month or a year. It is the continuous process and adding new cultural traits. Many cultural traits are borrowed from out side and these absorbed in that culture which adopt it, as culture is accumulative and combines the suitable cultural traits.

**7. Culture is integrated**: All the cultural aspects are inter-connected with each other. The development of culture is the integration of its various parts. For example, values system is interlinked with morality, customs, beliefs and religion.

**8. Culture is changing:** It remains changing but not static. Cultural process undergoes changes. But with different speeds from society to society and generation to generation.

**9. Culture varies from society to society:** Every society has its own culture and ways of behaving. It is not uniform every where but occurs differently in various societies. Every culture is unique in itself is a specific society. For example, values, customs, traditions, ideologies, religion, belief, practices are not similar but different in every society. However the ways of eating, drinking, speaking, greeting, dressing etc are differs from one social situation to another in the same time.

**10. Culture is responsive**: Culture is responsive to the changing conditions of a physical world. It intervenes in the natural environment and helps man from all dangers and natural calamities e.g. our houses are responsible to give us shelter and safety from storm and heavy rains.

**11. Culture is gratifying**: It is gratifying and provide all the opportunities for needs and desires satisfaction. These needs may be biological or social but It is responsible to satisfy it. Our needs are food, shelter, clothing and desires are status, fame, money, sex etc are all the examples which are fulfilled according to the cultural ways. In fact it is defined as the process through which human beings satisfy their need.

**12. Linked with society** : Last but not the least one of the characteristics of culture that culture and society are one and the same. But if we say that this turn two are twin sister, it would not be wrong. Society is a composite of people and they interact each other through it. It is to bind the people within the society.