

Important Question For Class-9 Chapter-1 What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

1. How did General Pervez Musharraf become the President of Pakistan?

Answer

General Pervez Musharraf became the President of Pakistan by :

- In Pakistan, General Musharraf led a military coup in October 1999.
- He overthrew a democratically elected government and declared himself the 'Chief Executive' of the country.
- Later he changed his designation to President, in 2002 held a referendum in the country that granted him a five year extension.

2. Examine the three common features of democratic countries.

Answer

Following are the features of democratic countries :

- Freedom of speech, expression and thought is a feature of democracy.
- Elections are held at regular intervals and are fair and free.
- The dignity of the individual is recognised

3. Define democracy and elaborate any two common features of it.

Answer

Democracy is a form of government that allows people to choose their rulers.

Features :

- Only leaders elected by people rule the country.
- People have the freedom to express their views.
- Certain political freedom is enjoyed by the people.

4. Highlight any five unfair practices used by the President of Zimbabwe to win the elections.

Answer

Unfair practices used by the President

- His government has changed the constitution several times to increase his power.
- Opposition party workers are harassed and their meetings disrupted.
- Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal.
- Laws that limit the right to criticise the president were passed.
- Television and radio are controlled by the government.

5. Are Elections in China and Mexico democratic? If no, why?

Ans: Following are the way by which election are conducted in China and Mexico:

A) China:-

- 1) In China, elections are regularly held after every five years for electing the country's parliament, called Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui (National People's Congress).
- 2) The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President of the country.
- 3) It has nearly 3,000 members elected from all over China.
- 4) Some members are elected by the army.
- 5) Before contesting elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party.
- 6) Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied to it were allowed to contest elections held in 2002-03.
- 7) The government is always formed by the Communist Party.

B) Mexico:-

- 1) Since its independence in 1930, Mexico holds elections after every six years to elect its President.
- 2) Until 2000 every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party).
- 3) Opposition parties did contest elections, but never managed to win.
- 4) The PRI was known to use many dirty tricks to win elections.
- 5) All those who were employed in government offices had to attend its party meetings.
- 6) Teachers of government schools used to force parents to vote for the PRI.
- 7) Media largely ignored the activities of opposition political parties except to criticise them.
- 8) Sometimes the polling booths were shifted from one place to another in the last minute, which made it difficult for people to cast their votes.

Thus, it is seen that though China and Mexico do conduct election to choose government, the mean and policy to conduct elections are completely undemocratic.

6. Write the differences between democratic and non-democratic government ?

Democratic Government:

- 1) Democratic government is better than any other form of government in responding to the needs of the people.
- 2) A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
- 3) Democratic government uses consultation and discussion to arrive on decisions. Thus improving the quality of decision-making.
- 4) Democratic government provides a methods to deal with differences and conflicts and treat all citizen with equality

.Non-Democratic Government:

- 1) A non-democratic government may and can respond to the people’s needs, but it all depends on the wishes of the people who rule.
- 2) In non-democratic government, rights of people are usually ignored and the decisions by rulers are always final.
- 3) In non-democratic government, all the citizens does not enjoy equal rights. Their rights can be suspended by the rulers even without reason.
- 4) A non-democratic governme hardly seeks any opinion from citizens in any decision making process.

7. Describe the features of democracy ?

Ans: Following are the features of democracy:

- 1) Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
- 2) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
- 3) Democracy improves the quality of decision-making.
- 4) Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.
- 5) In a democracy the final decision-making power must rest with those elected by the people.
- 6) Democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.
- 7) In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.
- 8) Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.

8. How can you say that Saudi Arabia, Estonia, and Fiji are not democratic countries in true sense.

Answers:

In true sense, a democratic countries treat its all citizen, irrespective of cast, creed, gender same.

1)In Saudi Arabia women do not have the right to vote.

2)Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.

3)In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian-Fijian.

Due to above situations, it is quite apparent that Saudi Arabia, Estonia, and Fiji are not democratic countries in true sense.