

A clear observation of the above factors demonstrates that the political parties are the mother root for the development of a Nation. But if parties are deceased, the tree of the State certainly vibrates. In some states if political parties grow within the limits of the constitution, in some other states they are extra constitutional developments. Though constitution does not mention about party or party system, political parties have grown in accordance with the political principles of state. It is common phenomenon in the party system of many states that parties splits and merge for trivial reasons. India is also not exception to this. It is obvious that under such circumstances the political parties change only their names but not the principles.

EXERCISE

I. Answer in one sentence.

1. Which is state that introduced the party system for the first time?
2. What is political party?
3. What is single party system?
4. What is Bi party system?
5. What is multi party system?
6. Name the two political parties of America.
7. Which is the highest body of the communist party of China?

II. Answer in two or three sentences.

1. Write a definition of political party.
2. State any two features of political party.
3. State any two functions of political party
4. What is the reason for the development of multi party system in India.?

5. Identify the difference between National and Regional party.
6. Name the four political parties of Japan.
7. State the four features of the party system in India.
8. Name the three committees of the National Congress of China.
9. State the importance of section 29A of people's representative act of 1951.

III. Answer in five or six sentences.

1. What are the kinds of party system? Explain with examples.
2. Describe the main features of political party.
3. Write a note on the party system of France.

IV. Answer in eight or ten sentences.

1. Describe the functions of political party.

Suggested Activities:

1. Discuss the possibility - impossibility of party less Democracy
2. Write an essay on the role of political parties in Nation building, under the guidance of teachers.



CHAPTER-10

ELECTION

Learning objectives:

1. To know the meaning and definitions of Election.
2. To understand the importance of Election.
3. To identify the kinds of Election.
4. To know the forms of franchise.
5. To comprehend the Election process in India.

- Ballots are stronger than bullets.
- Abraham Lincoln
- The method of winning or losing is more important than the result of election, dignified defeat is better than winning wrongly.
- Jawaharlal Nehru

Introduction:

We the citizens are basically political beings. We have paramount power over our body, mind and wisdom. We have the power of ruling ourselves. We the intellectuals take many decisions, which are articulated in the form of choice. Although we have individual powers, we cannot completely exercise it. Because others also enjoy the freedom of expressing their likes and dislikes through choice. We have the right to decide as to who should rule us. The right which enables us to choose the rulers is the right to vote. Therefore election is a process of choosing our rulers by exercising right to vote.

Elections transform the power of choice of an individual into the political power and the supreme power of the people in the entire state. Election is the only institutional process of choosing representatives peacefully, instituting and changing

governments. Elections, grown from the ancient period, have been an integral part of modern state system. Periodical elections develop relations between the ruler and the ruled. Elections are the lifeline of all governments, which believe in the principle that mandate of the people is the command.

10.1. Meaning of Election:

The term election is derived from the Latin word called **Eligere**. It means to **choose** or to **select**. Therefore, election is a method by which the voters select or choose their representatives for governing themselves.

Election is a process of selecting a person, to a position of authority or to an institution by voting, by raising hands or by voice vote. **Volume 07, Kannada Encyclopedia**

10.2. Importance of Election:

Elections are indispensable in parliamentary and presidential governments, excluding hereditary monarchy and military dictatorship. In the contemporary world many states are democratic states. In democracy periodical elections have greater role to play. There is an intimate relationship between democracy and elections. Therefore **elections are the lifelines of democracy**.

The legislatures are formed on the basis of mandate that emerges from elections. In the legislature the party that gets clear majority becomes the ruling party and the party which fails to get majority functions as the opposition party.

Elections are the foundations of political system. Elections help in choosing representatives, instituting and changing governments by peaceful means. They provide consent of the people to the political class to rule the state. They express the

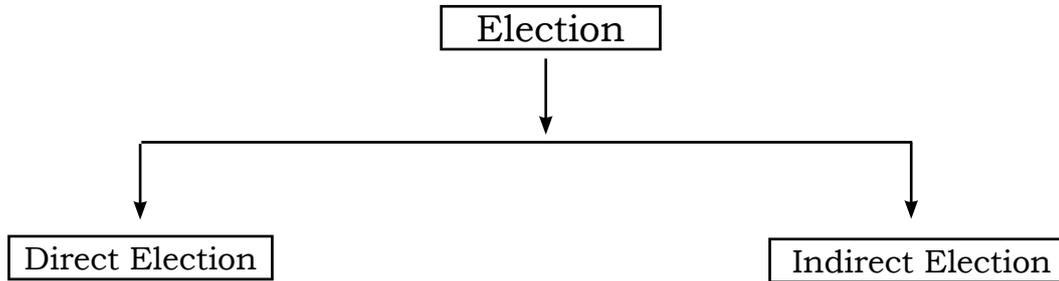
stands of the people regarding a political party, leadership and their attitude either in favor of or against a policy. Therefore, Elections are the tools of transforming political system. The following factors express the importance of Elections.

1. Elections are the foundations of political system.
2. It provides opportunity to all to enjoy political liberty and equality.
3. It helps in the formulation of public opinion on public interest.
4. It develops harmonious relations between the people and the representatives.
5. It provides political education to the people.
6. It helps to elect peoples' representatives and inspires them to serve the people by giving political training.
7. It helps for the management and continuity of governments.

In short, Elections are the barometer of democracy and other forms of governments, which are based on the mandate of the people. Elections provide opportunities to political parties to form government and to protect the interests of the people.

10.3 Kinds of Elections:

Election is an effective instrument of correcting imbalances occurred due to social and economic life of the society. In modern democratic system elections are classified into two categories. They are,



1. Direct Election:

Direct election of their representatives by the voters is direct elections. Under this system the eligible voters go to the polling station and directly elect their representatives by casting vote. For example,

1. Election of the members of Lok saba and Vidhana sabha in India
2. Election of the members of House of Commons in England.
3. Election of the members of House of Representatives in America.

Features of Direct Election:

1. It provides the voters freedom of choosing competent representatives.
2. It promotes good relations between the voters and the representatives.
3. It creates political awareness among voters.
4. The Elected representatives are responsive to the needs and aspiration of the voters, because it is the parameter for the reelection of representatives.
5. The elected representatives perform their functions efficiently and carefully, because the voters always observe the elected representative.

2. Indirect Election:

Indirect election is a method of electing the delegates by the representatives already elected by the people. In this election the voters will not directly participate in the election of representatives. They will not go to the polling station and exercise franchise. Instead peoples' representatives take part in the election. For example, the president of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of the members of parliament and state vidhana Saba. The members of Rajya Saba and Vidhana Parishads of state are also elected by indirect election. The president of America is also elected by a **special electoral class** elected by the people.

Features of Indirect Elections:

1. The best and competent candidates can be elected.
2. It avoids major electoral crimes.
3. Progress of Nation is possible as the right candidates are chosen.
4. Elections are held peacefully as only elected representatives participate in the elections.
5. it is best suited for economically backward nations as elections are inexpensive.

Direct elections were practiced in city states of Athens and Sparta in the ancient Greece. There people directly participated in the affairs of the government. As modern states are bigger in size, Direct democracy is not possible to be practiced. Hence, most of the modern states have adopted indirect democracy. The group of people having right to vote as per the regulations of their respective state is electorate. Elections help the voter to bring the candidate and the party of their own choice to the power. The party which gets clear majority becomes the ruling party. This process will lead to the different forms of election. Such as,

1. General Election: It is a process under which all eligible voters will participate to elect their representatives to the legislature.

2. Re-Election: It means holding a fresh election by annulling the election already held in case of electoral crimes occurred at the time of election. **For example,** destroying voting machine, obstructing polling staff etc.

3. By-Election: If the elected representatives die or resign or lose their membership before the expiry of their normal term, a fresh election is conducted to fill the vacant position. It is called by-election. **For example,** In India by- elections are conducted within six months from the date of vacancy of the membership in the legislature.

4. Interim Election: If a legislature, elected for a particular term, expires before the closure of its normal term a fresh election is held, to elect a new legislature. It is called Interim election. For example, All elections held whenever Vidhana saba and Lok saba are dissolved before their normal term in India are Interim elections.

10.4. Kinds of Franchise

In modern political system the voting class and the representative class are the two wheels of a chariot. If any one of the wheels is detached, the chariot of Nation gets tumbled. Therefore, if right representatives are elected by the informed voters the destiny of the Nation excels. Political scientist are divided on the issue that whether right to vote be given to all or given to few only. As a result three kinds of franchise have been identified by political thinkers. They are,

1. Universal Adult Franchise
2. Restricted Franchise.
3. Proportional Representation.

1. Universal Adult Franchise: It is a system of granting right vote to all the adult citizens of a state without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, color, gender, race, religion, birth and status. All citizens attaining the specific age will have the right to vote in the states which follow this method. But the voting age differs from state to state. For example, in India Britain, China, America, Russia the voting age is 18 years, but it is 20 years in Switzerland. Even in countries with universal adult franchise, the following persons are denied right to vote.

- a. Minors
- b. Persons of Unsound Mind.
- c. Foreigners
- d. Criminals
- e. Insolvents.

Universal adult franchise is practiced in many democratic countries of the world today. It is a process of choosing and changing the government under indirect democracy.

The makers of the constitution of India had divergent views on the issue whether universal adult franchise be implemented or not in India. P.K. Sen and others opposed universal adult franchise. But Nehru and P. Subramanian defended the same. Finally, the Constituent Assembly decided to give right to vote to all adult citizens with the idea of creating political equality and National integration, and strengthening the feeling that we are all one.

2. Restricted franchise: it is a system of giving right to vote to the people on the basis of gender, age, property, status, education, residence, race and citizenship. In some states the following qualifications are considered while giving right to vote.

- a. Qualification of property or Qualification of paying tax: Right to vote was given to those who had specific amount of property

and capacity to pay taxes to the government. This was in practice in some European states in the medieval age. It was practiced in India also during the British. J.S.Mill strongly defended this qualification.

b. Educational qualification: in some states right to vote has been sanctioned only to those who have specific educational qualification. Example: Brazil and Chili.

c. Gender qualification: In some states women are denied the right to vote only the men can exercise franchise. Example, Zambia and Sudan.

d. Qualification of Race: Some states have given right to vote based on the race. Examples, Even today the Negroes are not given voting right in some southern states of America.

e. Qualification of Citizenship: The right to vote is given only to the citizens of the states. The Foreigners are not given voting right.

f. Age Qualification: Right to vote is given to those who have attained the prescribed age. Example, In India all citizens attaining eighteen years of age have right to vote.

3. Proportional Representation: It is the method of giving representation in the legislature in proportion to the size of population. Thomas Hare introduced it in order to politically safeguard minorities from the majority. J.S. Mill also advocated that representation must be decided based on the size of population in order to give representation to all classes of the society. He upheld to give right to vote based on property and educational qualification. Accordingly, persons having more qualification and more property must be given more number of votes. J.S. Mill supported plural voting system. **It means instead of giving one man one vote more preferences should be given in the voting according to the ability.**

He stated that the eligibility of persons for plural voting should be decided based on wisdom, morality, culture, educational

standard and employment. In India, the big liberal democracy, universal adult franchise is practiced. In addition, restricted franchise based on educational qualification and proportional representation is also followed. In order to elect representatives and form government periodical elections are held under the supervision, direction and control of the election commission of India. Therefore it is essential that we the students must have the knowledge of electoral process in India.

10.5. Electoral process in India: In the interest of the students more information is given on the electoral process in India.

1. Gives notification on declaring elections by dissolving Lok saba and States Vidhana sabas.
2. Notification is given by the president for the election of Loksaba members and Governor for the election of Vidhana Saba members.
3. Filing nomination and scrutiny by electoral officers.
4. Withdrawal of nominations.
5. Announcing the final list of candidates to contest in the elections.
6. Election Campaign by the candidates within the stipulated time and stopping campaign before 48 hours of the closer of election.
7. Polling of Votes.
8. Counting of Votes.
9. Declaration of results.
10. Submitting the list of elected candidates.
11. Submission of details of election expenditure by the candidates to the Election Commission.
12. Inquiring electoral disputes.

In the beginning election was informal process. With the development of modern state system, changes also took place in the method of election. In democracy universal adult franchise and proportional representation are more popular. Finally, elections have become institutional process of deciding the quality of leadership, political stability and ups and downs of government. Therefore it is remarkable that elections are held and electoral process is conducted under constitutional institutions.

The Constitution of India has allowed holding elections under free and fearless environment. For this it has created an independent and Constitutional institution called Election Commission. Elections are held under its supervision, direction and control. They are helpful in order to strengthen esteemed democracy. Electoral reforms are being made in all states in the best interest of promoting value based politics.

EXERCISE

I. Answer in one sentence.

1. What is the root word of election?
2. What is election?
3. What is direct election?
4. what is indirect election?
5. What is the minimum age fixed for voting in India?
- 6 What is proportional representation?
7. What is plural voting according to J S Mill?

II. Answer in two or three sentences.

1. What are the methods of election?
2. What is general election?

3. What is Re-election?
4. What is By-election?
5. What is interim election?
6. What is universal adult franchise?

III. Answer in five or six sentences

1. Who are denied the right to vote under universal adult franchise?
2. State the differences between direct and indirect election.

IV. Answer in eight or ten sentences

1. Explain universal adult franchise.
2. Write about Restricted franchise.

Suggested activities

1. Understand the electoral process occurs in your constituencies.
2. Organize mock election in your school.
3. Examine the Braille script adopted in Electronic Voting Machine

ॐॐॐॐ