

Summary on Dignity and Freedom of Citizens

Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government as far as promoting dignity and freedom of the individual is concerned. Every individual wants to receive respect from fellow citizens. Often conflicts arise among individuals because some people feel that they are not treated with respect. The passion for respect and freedom is the basis of democracy.

All democracies have recognized this in principle, at least. This has also been achieved in various degrees in various democracies.

Let's consider the case of dignity of women. Initially most societies across the world were male-dominated societies. But long struggles by women have created the sensitivity that respect to and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society. Recognition of this principle has made it easier for women to wage a struggle against inequality. This principle of dignity of women is now legally and morally acceptable in most democracies of the world.

The same is true of caste inequalities, which is a unique feature of Indian society. Democracy in India has strengthened the claims of the disadvantaged and discriminated castes for equal status and equal opportunity.

Some More MCQs

1. Why is assessment of outcomes of democracy difficult?
(a) Because expectations are very low and reasonable

- (b) Because expectations are very high and unreasonable
 - (c) Because people consider democracy to be the best form of government
 - (d) Because people consider democracy to be the worst form of government
2. Which are the two largest democracies in the world?
- (a) Pakistan and India (b) Russia and USA
 - (c) India and USA (d) Nepal and Myanmar
3. The basic premise of democracy is that _____ lies with the people.
- (a) Sovereignty (b) Equality
 - (c) Dignity (d) Opportunity
4. Why type of regime has a slightly better record as far as economic growth is concerned?
- (a) Democracy (b) Monarchy
 - (c) Dictatorship (d) None of these
5. Which of the following is not one of the factors that sustain democracy in India?
- (a) There is a balance between the principles of centralisation and federalism
 - (b) There is a horizontal distribution of power
 - (c) There is a vertical distribution of power
 - (d) We have no legal mechanism to resolve disputes and conflicts

