

## 5 Outcomes of Democracy

### How do we assess democracy's outcomes?

- Democracy is a better form of government because:
  - It promotes equality among citizens.
  - It enhances the dignity of the individual.
  - It improves the quality of decision-making.
  - It provides a method to resolve conflicts.
  - It allows room to correct mistakes.

### Is the democratic government efficient?

- Non-democratic rulers do not have to bother about deliberation in assemblies or worry about majorities and public opinion.
- A democratic government will take more time to follow procedures before arriving at a decision.
  - Because it has followed procedures, its decisions may be both more acceptable to the people and more effective.

### Accountable

- A citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedures can find this out. This is known as transparency.

### Legitimate Government

- In democracy, governments are elected through a regular, free and fair elections.
- Laws are made following proper procedures, after much discussion with the representatives of the people.
- If people feel that government has done something which goes against the Constitution, people can challenge it in the Judiciary.

### Economic growth and development

- Between 1950 and 2000, dictatorships have slightly higher rate of economic growth.
- Economic growth depends on various factors:
  - Size of the population of a country
  - Global situation

- Co-operation from other countries
- Economic policies adopted by the country
- However, the difference in the rates of economic development between less developed countries with dictatorships and democracies is negligible.

### **Reduction of inequality and poverty**

- Democracies are based on political equality, but we find growing economic inequalities.

### **Accommodation of social diversity**

- Democracy helps its citizens to lead a peaceful and harmonious life by accommodating various social divisions.

### **Dignity and freedom of the citizens**

- Democracy promotes dignity and freedom of the individual.

### **Democracy - its examination never gets over**

- A democracy is always striving towards a better goal.
- People constantly demand more benefits in a democracy.