

## CBSE Class 12 Sociology

### NCERT Solutions

#### Chapter-3

#### The Story of Democracy

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##### **1. Interest groups are part and parcel of a functioning democracy. Discuss.**

**Ans.** • Interest Groups are organised to pursue specific interests in the political arena, operating primarily by lobbying the members of legislative bodies. Different interest groups will work towards influencing political parties.

- The question, however, arises whether all interest groups are comparable. Can an illiterate peasant or literate worker make her case to the government as coherently and convincingly as an industrialist?
  - Democracy is a form of government for the people, by the people and of the people. In this system interest groups are formed for specific interest. When certain groups feel that their interests are not being taken up, they may move to form an alternative party. Interest groups are private organisation. They are formed to influence public policy.
  - These are non political systems and their main goal are to take care of their own interest. Political parties are established organisations with the aim of achieving governmental power and using that power to pursue a specific programme. Different interest groups will work towards influencing political parties.
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##### **2. Read the snippets from the debates held in the Constituent Assembly. Identify the interest groups. Discuss what kind of interest groups exist in contemporary India. How do they function?**

**Ans.** Snippets from the debates

- K.T. Shah said that the right to use full employment could and should be made real by a categorical obligation on the part of the state to provide useful work to every citizen who was able and qualified.
- B. Das spoke against classifying the functions of the government as justifiable and non-justifiable. "I think it is the primary duty of Government to remove hunger and render social justice to every citizen and to secure social security ... ". The teeming millions do not find any hope that the Union Constitution ... will ensure them freedom from hunger, will secure them

social justice, will ensure them a minimum standard of living and a minimum standard of public health".

**Ambedkar's answer was as follows:**

- "The Draft Constitution as framed only provides a machinery for the government of the country. It is not a controversy to install any particular party in power as has done in some countries. Who should be in power is left to be determined by the people, as it must be, if the system is to satisfy the tests of democracy.
- On land reform Nehru said, that social forces were such that law could not stand in the way of reforms, interesting reflection on the dynamic between the two. "If law and Parliament do not fit themselves into the changing picture, they cannot control the situation".
- On the protection of the tribal people and their interests, leaders like Jaipal Singh were assured by Nehru in the following words during the Constituent Assembly debates: "It is our intention and our fixed desire to help them as possible; in as efficient a way as possible to protect them from possibly their rapacious neighbours occasionally and to make them advance".
- Even as the Constituent Assembly adopted the title Directive Principles of State Policy to the rights that courts could not enforce, additional principles were added with unanimous acceptance. These included K. Santhanam's clause that the state shall organise village panchayats and endow them with the powers and authority to be effective units of local self government.
- T.A. Ramalingam Chettiar added the clause for promotion of cottage industries on co-operative lines in rural areas. Veteran parliamentarian Thakurdas Bhargava added that the state should organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern lines.
- Interest groups are people outside the government who support the political parties to gain favours from them when they are in power. These are private organisation formed to influence public policy. They are non political groups whose main aim is to uphold their own interest.
- Political parties are not political parties. In India interest groups adopt two methods i.e. to influence the legislative committees and to help people at the time of natural calamity.

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**3. Create a 'phad' or a scroll with your own mandate when standing for school election. (This could be done in small group of 5, like a panchayat).**

**Ans.** • Pictorial pictures on the 'phad', accompanied with folk music were useful tools to convey the message for able governance and participation. This innovative method of story telling was very effective in bringing awareness to unlettered women.

- Most importantly the campaign conveyed the message, that it was not enough to merely vote, or to stand for election, or to win. But important to know why one is voting for a particular person, what are the traits to look for, and what does he or she stand for .
- The value for integrity is also emphasised through the story and song media of the 'phad'.
- 'Phad' for school election can have the following mandate:
  - Creating awareness about the school election.
  - Why it is necessary not just to vote but stand for election or win.
  - Why the student should know why one is voting for a candidate.
  - The traits of a good leader and what the leader stands for.

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**4. Have you heard of Bal Panchayats and Mazdoor Kissan Sanghathan? If not, find out and write a note about them in about 200 words.**

**Ans.** Bal Panchayat: My school follows a prefectorial system. The school has four houses. From each house, the house masters and the house children elect five prefects on the basis of their academic performances, leadership traits and their antecedents regarding contribution for the curricular and co-curricular activities of the house. The principal, teachers and 20 prefects elect head boy of the school.

The head boy functions as a prototype of the school. He/she is responsible for discipline, school environment, curricular and co-curricular activities, social interaction particularly with the other schools and is accountable for student's activities in the school.

The head boy particularly coordinates with the principal, headmasters, and house masters with the help of 20 prefects and helps in proper functioning of school buses, maintenance of assets, school fields, taking care of school property and by and large school discipline.

**Mazdoor Sanghathan:** In 1920, first All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was established.

- It was initiated by the congress but in 1929 hijacked by the communists.
- Indian Trade Union Congress (INTUC) untraced by the congress, Hind Mazdoor Sabha organised by the socialists and Bhartiya Mazdoor Sabha linked with Bhartiya Janta Party earlier Jan Sangh.

These trade unions played a very significant role in the recruitment, wage policy,

functioning, living conditions, hire and fire policy and by and large developing a political and social awareness among the workers.

**Kissan Sanghathan:** India is a country of villages. Even today 75% of Indian population is living in villages and depends on agriculture.

Earlier this population was not politically aware with their rights. They were very much traditional and attached to their customs and rituals but due to congress and communists now the kissans of India are politically very mature, are aware with their strength and providing strong base to Indian democracy. This is very much proved in 2014 election when these peasants voted for a stable government breaking the caste, class and region bondings. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel took initiatives in 1936 congress session at Lucknow and All India Kissan Sabha was established but due to caste and class conflict it could not function. Later CPI activists took command of Kissan Sabha. Many Kissan organisations emerged in India after independence. The socialists established Hind Kissan Panchayat and instead the Kissan Sabha by Marxist. The communist party of India (Marxists) established revolutionary peasants convention in 1967. This organisation gave lead to Naxalbari movement in West Bengal.

- Due to the motivation of Shri Raj Narain and Choudhary Charan Singh in 1978 formed the All India Kissan Kamgar Sammelan. Many politicians and farmers like Shri Mahinder Singh Tikkait tried to organise the Kissans of India but even now this peasant group of India is not a well organised pressure group.

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### **5. The 73rd amendment has been monumental in bringing a voice to the people in the Villages. Discuss.**

**Ans.** • The 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution ensured the reservation of one third of the total seats for women in all elected offices of local bodies in both the rural and urban areas. Out of this, 17 per cent seats are reserved for women belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes.

- This amendment is significant as for the first time it brought women into elected bodies which also bestowed on them decision making powers. One third of the seats in local bodies, gram panchayats, village panchayats, municipalities, city corporations and district boards are reserved for women.

- The 1993-94 elections, soon after the 73rd amendment brought in 800,000 women into the political processes in a single election. That was a big step indeed in enfranchising women. A

constitutional amendment prescribed a three-tier system of local self-governance for the entire country, effective since 1992-93.

**Main features of the Act:**

- Recognition to Panchayats, as institutions of self government.
  - Panchayat's power and responsibilities to prepare a plan for economic development and social justice.
  - Establishment of the 3 tier system of strong Panchayats at village, block and district levels for all states having a population of over 20 lakhs.
  - The Act provides guidelines for the structure powers and functions, finance and elections and reservation of seats for the weaker sections of the given area.
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**6. Write an essay on the ways that the Indian Constitution touches peoples' everyday life, drawing upon different examples.**

**Ans.** • Indian constitution has given a democratic system to all of us.

- Democracy is a government for the people, of the people and by the people. It is not limited to political freedom or economic and social justice. It is also about equal rights to all respective of caste, creed, race and gender.
- Indian constitution has established Secularism. We have respect for all the religions and all the Indians have fundamental right to have faith in their own religion. Indian constitution provides equal rights to minority communities by extending friendly relationship and all sort of support system to them.
- India is a welfare state and a Sociologist patronise society. It is our duty to protect public and national property. We all have equal opportunities to make use of resources and put our best effort for economic development.
- Indian constitution provides social, political and economic justice and equality to all citizens of India.