

# CITIZENS AND INDIAN DEMOCRACY

**Dr. Jagadish Bidarakoppa**, Asst. Prof.  
Govt. First Grade College  
Sagara.

## **Introduction**

In recent centuries, democracy has also come to include ideas such as liberty and individual freedom- treating everyone in an equal manner. Also given the rise in population size, direct democracy is rarely practiced; instead democracy tends to involve elected representatives.

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people of a country. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as an aspects of self-determination. The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems and the people have a right to take part in their government through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices.

These precepts are embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in modern constitutions the world over. They capture the foundation for the famous formulation that democratic government is "of the people, for the people and by the people." In essence, they mean just that: governments belong to the people; governmental processes belong to the people, and elections belong to the people.

In simple, there is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. Engagement is thus both a right and responsibility of citizens in establishing, developing and sustaining democracy.

Citizens engagement is not an abstraction, it takes tangible forms and serves particular purpose to improve people's lives. Citizen engagement pursues economic, social, cultural and political development, including the provisions of opportunity, resources, services, and security. As NDI'S chairman Madeleine Albrite often says; "Democracy must deliver."

For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. They must be free to join together to express their views and preferences and work to see that government responds to citizen views, thus holding those in government accountable. To be informed, citizens need accurate and timely information, particularly government-held information. They need to learn from those who compete in politics how politicians intend to employ that information for the good of the population. Access to information, and what we often call "open government data", is essential to an informed citizenry. That is why "transparency" is a necessity for democracy. Citizens, including political competitors, must also be free to impart their views about governmental processes and public affairs; otherwise citizens cannot be truly informed, not can they freely make choice.

Barriers to citizen participation are multiple in every country. They are both subtle and obvious, small and formidable, and based on numerous factors. For full citizenship to be achieved, we must remove these barriers, whether they are based on gender , race, ethnicity, religion, age or another status. If not, universal and equal suffrage is essentially denied, and governmental credibility is undermined to the degree that these barriers exist.

## **Role of the citizen: The ten roles of citizens in Indian democracy.**

This question makes it sound as though you are expected to know ten particular duties that a citizen has in a democracy' a list perhaps from a textbook. Since we have no way of knowledge what that textbook and list I think should be expected of a citizen in a democracy.

I am basing my response on a presumption that we are speaking of a constitutional democracy.

First, a citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote. If it were up to me, voting would be a requirement. What is wonderful about a democracy is that we choose who will represent us. There is no point to a democracy in which we do not participate.

Second, a citizen in a democracy should have an obligation to understand the powers and duties of the government, generally set forth in a constitution. If we do not know this, the government that does not act properly has no checks upon it and can avoid carrying out its duties.

Third, a citizen in a democracy should have the responsibility of knowing his or her rights, which are also generally set forth in a constitution. If we do not know what our rights are, they are meaningless.

Fourth, a citizen in a democracy should always know who his or her representatives are. If we do not know who is representing us properly, to whom we should complain. If that is the case, as to whom we should state our own opinions and preferences.

Fifth, a citizen in a democracy should assume the responsibility of being informed about the issues that affect the country as a whole, for example, the economy, immigration policy, environmental policy, and foreign policy.

Sixth, a citizen in a democracy is also a citizen of the world and as such, should be informed about the major issues that affect the other countries. These inevitably have an impact on the citizen. A drought in one country might mean a rise in prices of a commodity that the citizen needs.

Seventh, a citizen should be concerned and informed about local conditions, those that affect him or her most directly, what a city is doing about urban Plightor homeless people. This is one of the most important aspects of living in a democracy when a citizen is informed, since the information closest to home is usually the best information, and this provides one's greatest opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

Eighth, a citizen should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes to provide a democratic government, there would be no democracy. A democracy must provide for all of its citizens.

Ninth, a citizen must have a duty to obey the law. A democracy cannot exist in a lawless society, and without the willingness of citizens to obey the law, which is really a social contract, no government has the wherewithal to police a nation of lawbreakers, and anarchy results.

Tenth, a citizen must support public education in every way possible, through the payment of taxes, through local volunteer efforts, through affording this system the respect to which it should be entitled. Public education is the foundation of democracy, meant to educate children to be responsible and knowledgeable participants in the democratic process. Education is our power to perpetuate the democracy.

**Conclusion:** As good citizens, they must take interest in the welfare of their country. They must always remain ready to help for good causes. Democracy can be strengthened if its citizens have a view of their own rights and the rights of others. In nutshell the citizens must be honest, trustworthy, dutiful and vigilant. A democratic nation can flourish only then.

## **Bibliography**

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