



## DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION: AN ANALYSIS OF PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES

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| Article history:   | Abstract:  |
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| <p><b>Received</b> 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021<br/><b>Accepted:</b> 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021<br/><b>Published:</b> 22<sup>th</sup> July 2021</p> | <p>Liberal democracy is not just a system of government it is a way of life. Establishing liberal democracy as a way of life is essential for the success of liberal democratic governance. Liberal democratic values are democracy, liberty, rights, justice, equality, fundamental duties of citizens, tolerance, secularism, peaceful dialogue, political pluralism, law, fraternity, etc. The society in which these shots will be developed will be liberal democratic society. Democratic society is a prerequisite for liberal democratic state. Nominal liberal democracy is worthless. Liberal democratic values are the political culture of a liberal democratic society. So the political socialization of liberal democratic values is essential. If the process of political socialization is weak, liberal democracy will become nominal.</p> |

**Keywords:** Democracy, Value, Political Culture, Political Socialization, State.

### INTRODUCTION

The tradition of democratic governance is very ancient. The intellectual and institutional ancestry of democracy is claimed by Ancient Greeks, who practiced direct democracy in Athens and in this city-state people directly participated in decision making process, concerning their own affairs.<sup>1</sup> Ancient India also had multiple patterns of democratic rule. However, the triumph of democracy in the modern sense has begun with the fall of the almighty monarchy. The glorious revolution in England (1688), the American war of Independence (1776) and the French Revolution (1789) have contributed immensely to the development of modern liberal democracy. Liberal democracy is characterized institutionally by limitations on governmental power to provide safeguards for individuals and groups, by means for securing the regular, periodic and peaceful change of their leaders, and by organs of effective popular representation. Its basic creed is individualism which assumes that the state is founded upon, or can and should be founded upon, the free voluntary associations of self-determining, rational, enlightened individuals.<sup>2</sup> European liberal political thought and philosophy has paved the way for modern liberal democracy in the world. Liberal political philosophy is the basis of modern liberal democratic rule. European thinkers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Rousseau, Bentham, James Mill, J.S. Mill and T.H. Green have made their contributions to the development of liberal democratic consciousness. Later other modern liberal thoughts are also enriching liberal democracy. In the evolution of liberal democracy today we have gained an excellent liberal democratic regime. The basis of today's liberal democratic rule is political pluralism and the rule of law.

### METHODOLOGY

This research article is based on logic and empirical observations. It considered qualitative research method of social science and followed the method of content analysis.

### FINDINGS (discussion and important findings)

Different values of liberal democracy-

Democracy as a form of government is based on a few very important basic human values and institutional arrangements for governance which have to be in conformity with the basic values cherished by every modern society in the twenty first century.<sup>3</sup> Today's modern liberal democracy is based on:

**Democracy:** Democracy is first of all a way of life then it is a regime. Democracy as a way of life establishes the principle of tolerance of opinion. Democracy as the form of government establishes the rule of the majority. The principle of majority is based on the number. The rules of representative democracy apply here. Democratic rule is for the welfare of the people.

**Liberty:** It has indeed been a magic word in history which has inspired millions to revolt. And even today the battle-field of freedom is not silent. Wherever individuals suffer from injustice, they invoke the name of liberty.<sup>4</sup> It emphasizes the fact that the state exists for the individuals or citizens: for securing their welfare and for the

enrichment of their personality; hence certain things should be secured to them by the fundamental law of the state.<sup>5</sup> Democracy protects individual freedom. In a democracy, the rule of law is the basis of individual liberty and individual liberty is regulated by law for the public interest and public order.

**Rights:** People have so many fundamental rights in a democracy and enjoy other rights. The democratic mechanism for enforcing popular control through periodical elections and alternative parties ensures enjoyment of rights. The independence of the judiciary also helps this process.<sup>6</sup> Constitutional recognition of rights is very important.

**Justice:** Justice as a political value is an essentially contested concept. Liberalism aims to create a society in which each individual is capable of developing to the fullness of his or her potential.<sup>7</sup> Justice can also be looked at both as a conservative and reformative principle. Conservative justice, as D.D. Raphael observes: "seeks to protect the established order of society or the status quo, by contrast, reformative justice calls for revision of the social order to suit the changing needs of society."<sup>8</sup> In general, justice is: everyone will get what he deserves.

**Equality:** Equality is integrally linked with the right to individual freedom is the idea of human equality in society.<sup>9</sup> The principle of equality means that all men are to be treated as equal in respect of their rights.<sup>10</sup> Democracy emphasizes equality of opportunity and prioritizes the issue of equality in the eyes of the law and equal protection by law. Some exceptions are also recognized by the constitution in a democracy.

**Fundamental duties:** Democracy emphasizes the basic duties of citizens. Enjoying rights and fulfilling duties complement each other. Fundamental duties are enshrined in the constitutions of many countries of the world. Usually, the duties of citizens are implicit in the civil and criminal laws that the state lays down for the citizens.<sup>11</sup>

**Tolerance:** Democracy promotes the principle of tolerance. Everyone must respect each other's opinions. This is the norm in a democratic society. Differences of opinion are very natural and normal in democracy.

**Secularism:** The values of secularism inspire to be respectful of all religions. The state may have a particular religion but the state and society will be tolerant of other religions as well. By the way, secularism is a great democratic value. Those states which engage themselves in secular affairs only believe that religion is a private affair of an individual or a group of individuals and is best left to them.<sup>12</sup>

**Peaceful discussion:** Another important democratic value is peaceful discussion. Elimination of violence and production of a non-violent attitude is a significant feature of democracy. This value is essential for the development of a healthy democratic society.

**Political pluralism:** Today every democratic society is a pluralistic society. Democracy recognizes political pluralism. The importance of majority, many political parties, many cultures, many communities is well established in democracy.

**Rule of law:** Democratic order is based on the principle of rule of law. It makes democracy successful. In a democracy, no one is above the law. Citizens obey the law voluntarily and for the fear of punishment.

**Fraternity:** Democracy relies on the principle of fraternity. Unity and harmony among the citizens is essential in a democracy. The best resource of a democratic state is public resources.

### PROBLEMS

1. Democracy has not been established as a way of life in most democracies. Most of the people do not follow democracy as a way of their life. As a result, a perfect democratic society is not developing. Again, the principle of majority in representative democracy denies the genius of minority opinion. There are also various evils of representative democracy. Which are becoming obstacles in the way of establishing proper democracy.
2. Most of the people in a society are not aware of the liberty of themselves and others. As a result, one is disrespecting the liberty of other and creating obstacles in the way of enjoying the liberty of the other. Besides, individuals are being deprived of their liberty by abusing state laws.
3. Yet most of the people are not aware of their state-recognized rights. As a result, the role of the individual in the enjoyment of rights has become limited. At the same time, democratic states are depriving individuals of their rights through various tactics. Russell remarked: "government and law, in their very essence, consist of restrictions on freedom, and freedom is the greatest of political goods."<sup>13</sup> He said, "respect for the liberty of others is not a natural impulse with most men: envy and love of power lead ordinary human nature to find pleasure in interferences with the lives of others."<sup>14</sup>
4. The establishment of social, political, legal justice in the democratic state has created a new range of deprivation. Many deprivation claims do not reach the courtroom. As well as the long-term judicial process and its complexity have exacerbated problems related to the establishment of justice.
5. Inequality of opportunity, the main obstacle in the way of establishing equality. Moreover, in a liberal democracy, the principle of establishing economic equality is neglected, resulting in inequality in other areas. Most of the country's financial resources are concentrated in the hands of a few rich people. This increases poverty and does not improve the living standards of the citizens. In fact society contains inequality; so it must be reformed and made more equal. Social inequality has been a historical fact.<sup>15</sup>
6. There is a great lack of awareness among the citizens in the performance of the fundamental duties recognized by the constitution. In this case, it is often seen that the conscious person also neglects his duty. Enjoying ones rights depends on fulfilling the duties of another. If these values are not properly introduced in the society, the problem will not be solved.

7. All citizens are not equally respectful to the opinion of others. As a result, animosity toward opinion is on the rise. Conflict and violence have increased among members of a large number of political parties in a conventional democratic society.
8. In many democracies, the main obstacle to secularism is communalism. While positive communalism is good, negative communalism is harmful to other communities. Communalism is a conflict between progress and reaction.<sup>16</sup> The elements of communal propaganda and communal thinking comprised the following- mutual fear, attack on each other's way of life.<sup>17</sup>
9. The scope of peaceful negotiations has gradually diminished in the democratic state and society. As a result, various types of unrest are coming to the fore.
10. Political pluralism is in crisis. The struggle of many opinions, the struggle of many cultures, the struggle of many communities, the struggle of many political parties is increasing. As a result, the safety of the person is being harmed.
11. Illegal work is on the rise. Fear of punishment is decreasing among the citizens. Besides, misuse of law by the government has become a common occurrence. As a result, not the rule of law; but government arbitrariness has increased.
12. The problem of unity, traditions and solidarity is being created from the problem of fraternity. The incidence of treason is increasing. The separatist movement is growing. The mutual relations of the citizens have been damaged.

### POSSIBILITIES

The democratic values of the democratic state must be well established in the society. Otherwise, problems related to values will not be solved. This requires the teaching of values and political socialization. Political socialization is a process that creates, preserves and transforms political culture. A political culture is composed of the attitudes, beliefs, emotions and values of society that relate to the political system and to political issues.<sup>18</sup> Political system is a social institution dealing with the governance of a state and its relationship with the people.<sup>19</sup> By the way, a political culture is not static but will respond to new ideas generated from within the political system or imported or imposed from outside.<sup>20</sup> Political socialization, however, is not a process confined to the early years of one's life, but one that is continued throughout the entire life span of an individual. Political beliefs and attitudes developed in the early part of life may undergo continuous changes as an individual goes through his varied social experiences.<sup>21</sup> According to Ball, "political socialization is the establishment and development of attitudes to and beliefs about the political system. The process may encourage loyalty to the nation, the fostering of particular values, and it may increase either support for or alienation from the system."<sup>22</sup> Political socialization is effected through a variety of agents like the family, peer groups, educational institutions, secondary group, the mass media, government and party agencies.<sup>23</sup> A child gets basic political education from their families. People are made aware of politics by peer groups. Educational institutions make students interested in politics indirectly and accelerate value education. Professional organizations or groups expose political knowledge among employees and help to develop the value. The news media shape public opinion on political issues. Political parties therefore inculcate political values in their members and the government as a whole preserves the political culture of the country and keeps its values. If political socialization proceeds appropriately then there will be no or less problem of values. The prerequisite in this case is that each medium or agent must play a positive and appropriate role. Values must be well established in the minds of the people. It is essential that the agents play a helpful and conducive role for the development of a person's personality. Negative political socialization is not justifiable. It is the essential duty of the family, society and the state to conduct the process of political socialization. Values need to be promoted. In addition to the existing education system for value education, it is necessary to formulate a compulsory training program for all citizens for one year. Public representatives, government officials, employees will also be covered under this training program.

### CONCLUSION

In order to have a good democratic society and governance, socialization and political socialization of social and political values is necessary. Democratic society is the ideal society. The democratic state is the ideal state. Democratic people are ideal citizens. Any system becomes ideal only when the ideal people are in charge of managing that system. Therefore, it is important to develop the moral qualities in the human 'heart'. Honesty, prudence, cooperation, self-sacrifice and responsibility transform man into a 'deity'. When man is transformed into a 'deity'; family, society, country and world order are transformed into a 'heaven'.

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