UNIT 8 : FORMS OF GOVERNMENT- UNITARY AND FEDERAL

UNIT STRUCTURE

8.1 Learning Objectives

8.2 Introduction

8.3 Unitary form of Government

8.3.1 Meaning of Unitary form of Government

8.3.2 Characteristics of Unitary form of Government

8.3.3 Merits and Demerits of Unitary form of Government

8.4 Federal form of Government

8.4.1 Meaning of Federal form of Government

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8.4.3 Merits and Demerits of Federal form of Government

8.5 Let Us Sum Up

8.6 Further Reading

8.7 Answers to Check Your Progress

8.8 Model Questions

8.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to –

- describe the meaning and characteristics of the Unitary form of government
- describe the meaning and characteristics of the Federal form of government
- list the merits and demerits of the Unitary form of government

- list the merits and demerits of the Federal form of government

8.2 INTRODUCTION

The machinery of the government is necessary for controlling and managing the affairs of any nation state. There are different forms of government depending on the nature of the political system. In this unit we shall learn about the Unitary and Federal forms of government.

8.3 UNITARY FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Division of powers is the criterion of classification of governments as the Unitary and Federal forms. Let us first discuss the Unitary form of government.

8.3.1 Meaning of Unitary form of Government

The form of government in which the constitution concentrates all powers in the single central government is known as a Unitary government. In the words of British political scientist Dr.Finer, a Unitary government is 'one in which all the authority and power are lodged in a single centre whose will and agents are legally omnipotent over the whole area.' Unitary government exists in the UK, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and some other states. In a Unitary government, the central government, for the convenience of administration, may create certain political divisions but such divisions have no constitutional existence. The central government may abolish them at any time.

8.3.2 Characteristics of Unitary form of Government

The following are the characteristics of a Unitary government:

- **Single government :** In a Unitary government, there is only one integrated system of government. The central government consisting of a legislature and an executive exercises powers over the territory of the entire state. Accordingly, supreme power belongs to the central government alone.
- **Concentration of power :** Concentration of power in a single centre is

the basis of a Unitary government. There is no constitutional division and distribution of powers.

- **Administrative units at the mercy of the centre :** The administrative units created under a Unitary government have no constitutional existence. Therefore, these can be abolished or reorganized without amending the constitution.

- **Written or unwritten constitution :** The constitution of a Unitary state may be either written or unwritten. For example, the UK has a Unitary government with an unwritten constitution, but the Netherlands, another Unitary state, has a written constitution.

- **Flexibility of the Constitution :** In a Unitary govern-ment, the constitution may be rigid or flexible. But generally, the constitutions of Unitary governments are flexible.

- **Supremacy of Legislature :** In a Unitary system, there is one supreme legislature. It is the supreme law-making body in the land. Its actions are not subject to judicial review. For instance, theoretically, the British Constitution establishes supremacy of Parliament. There is no judicial review and no authority can declare the laws made by Parliament as unconstitutional.

- **Single citizenship :** In a Unitary government, there is only one citizenship- the citizenship of the whole country.

8.3.3 Merits and Demerits of Unitary form of Government

Merits of Unitary Government :

A Unitary government has certain advantages:

- A Unitary system has only one government which can maintain uniformity of laws, policy and administration in the whole country. It provides better scope for bringing about unity among the people.

- As the Unitary form of government is marked by a single executive and a single legislature, there can be no conflict regarding authority and

responsibility for work. This accounts for administrative efficiency.

- In a Unitary government, the central government can follow a vigorous domestic and foreign policy. The government is known for its promptness of decision and firmness of action.
- This government is very much suitable during emergency. As the government can take decisions promptly, it can face any situation quickly and with determination.
- The constitution in a Unitary government is relatively flexible. It can be more progressive and responsive to the people as the constitution can be amended without much difficulty to meet the demand of particular situations.

Demerits of Unitary Government :

The following are some of the demerits of a Unitary government:

- The greatest demerit of the Unitary form of government is its inapplicability in states with larger territory inhabited by people of different religions, cultures and languages, etc. In such a state different laws may be necessary for meeting the needs of different localities, or else some areas may be neglected.
- In a Unitary system, all powers are concentrated in the central government. As such, a Unitary state may be transformed into a totalitarian state.
- In a Unitary government, sometimes, local self-government is ignored. The central government has no time to devote attention to local matters. Thus, people may not take interest in local matters.
- In a Unitary government, people have to depend on only the central government for everything. As a result, the single government in a Unitary system has to bear the heavy burden and responsibility of all work.
- As there is no separate legislature in the states and there is less local self-government in a Unitary government, elections are also less frequently held. As such, the people and their representatives do not

receive much political education in this form of government.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: In a Unitary government, there is concentration of power in a single centre . (True/ False)

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Q.2: In a Unitary government, there exists dual citizenship. (True/ False)

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Q.3: State any two charactirstics of a Unitary government.

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8.4 FEDERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

8.4.1 Meaning of Federal form of Government

The idea of Federal government is a comparatively modern concept in Political Science. In fact, it may be said that it started with the establishment of the USA in 1787. In this form of government, a number of independent units combine to constitute a sovereign state keeping the autonomy of each unit intact in its internal administration.

According to political scientist and constitutional expert K. C. Wheare, in the federal system 'the powers of the government are divided between a government for the whole country and governments for

parts of the country in such a way that each government is legally independent in its own sphere.' The Federal form of government exists in countries like the United States of America, Canada, Australia and India.

8.4.2 Characteristics of Federal form of Government

- **The co-existence of two sets of governments:** The Co-existence of two sets of governments is the most important feature of a Federal government. In every Federal state, there is a central government and one government in each of the constituent units. The units have their constitutional existence and are, therefore not subject to abolition by the central government.

- **Constitutional division of powers:** Constitutional divisition of powers between the central government and the governments of the units is another feature of a Federal government. Both the central and the state governments have the right to promulgate laws and run the administration. The division of powers is not similar in all cases. The United States and Australia follow one pattern but Canada and India follow another.



LET US KNOW

In India we have a federal structure of government with two sets of government-Central and state governments. The Constitution of India has provided for division of powers between the Centre and the states. The scheme established by the Constitution consists of three Lists, the Union List, the State List and the Concurrent List. The Central government makes laws on the items enlisted in the Union List which include matters of national importance such as defence, armed forces, foreign affairs, currency, etc. The state governments make laws on the items enlisted in the State List which include matters of local interest such as public order and police, education, forests,

etc. With regard to the items enlisted in the Concurrent List, both the Union and the state governments can make laws. The Residuary Powers not mentioned in the Union, State and Concurrent Lists are vested in the Lok Sabha. In the United States, the residuary powers are vested with the Federal government.

- **The Constitution of a Federal state should be written and rigid:** enumerating the powers of the central government and of the constituent units, so that there is no confusion regarding the same. Every federal constitution must be rigid to the extent that its federal character cannot be changed.

- **Supremacy of the Constitution:** The constitution of a federal state is the supreme law of the land. Both the centre and the units obey the constitution and have full faith in the same. Any act violating the Constitution is declared illegal.

- **Supremacy of Judiciary:** In a federation, there must be a supreme independent and impartial judiciary as the guardian and interpreter of the constitution. It is necessary for settling constitutional conflicts between the centre and the units.

- **Double Citizenship:** An ideal federation is characterized by double citizenship. A person is a citizen of the whole country as well as of the particular State in which he or she lives.

- **Equal representation of the units in the upper house:** Equal representation of the units in the upper house of the central legislature is considered to be a characteristic of a federation by some scholars.

- **Constituent units should have a share in the amendment of the constitution :** In a federation, the constituent units should have a share in the amendment of the constitution. No amendment is to be given effect without the consent of the Central legislature and the legislatures of the constituent units.

8.4.3 Merits and Demerits of Federal Government

Merits of Federal Government :

The following are the merits of Federal government:

- Federation provides an opportunity to small and weak states to unite together and become part of a large and powerful state. This gives them better security and more prestige.
- In a Federal government, the federating units maintain their autonomy although they become parts of large and powerful state. Accordingly, both regional autonomy and national unity is possible.
- A Federal form of government is the most suitable one for vast states with heterogeneous populations. Under a federation, people with linguistic, cultural and religious diversities can have autonomy on affairs which particularly concern them.
- The Federal system prevents despotism. In such a state the autonomous units with constitutional powers can successfully prevent the central government from assuming despotic powers.
- The division of powers between the central government and the governments of the constituent units relieves the central government of the responsibilities of solving local issues and leaves it free to give more attention to matters of national importance.

Demerits of Federal Government :

The following are the demerits of Federal government:

- There is every possibility of conflict between the central government and the governments of the units as well as among the governments of the constituent units themselves regarding authority and responsibility for work.
- The Federal system is inconvenient for arriving at quick decisions. In certain matters, the central government requires the support of the state governments and in certain matters, the governments of the units require prior approval of the central government for taking decisions.

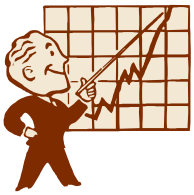
- A Federal government also involves more expenditure as the organization of the government is highly complex. Expenditure has to be incurred with regard to both the Central and provincial governments.
- As the Federal system is often characterized by a rigid constitution, it is very difficult on the part of a Federal government to cope with the changing needs of the people. Amendments to the constitution cannot be brought about easily.
- In the federations allowing dual citizenship, the allegiance of a citizen is divided between the whole country and the province in which he lives. This kind of mentality may be a source of regionalism and could weaken the federation.



ACTIVITY 8.1

In India we have two sets of governments-the Central Government and the State governments. Is this a federal or a unitary feature?

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.4: The co-existence of two sets of governments is an important characteristic of a Federal government. (True/False)

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Q.5: In a Federal system, the constitution of the state need not be written and rigid. (True/False)

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Q.6: Explain any two characteristics of Federal Government .

(within 75 words)

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8.5 LET US SUM UP

- Governments are classified into Unitary and Federal forms based on division of powers.
- In the Unitary form of government, all powers are concentrated in the single central government.The political divisions created under such a government have no constitutional existence.
- The important characteristics of the Unitary form of government include the existence of single governmnet, concentration of power, administrative units at the mercy of the centre, written or unwritten constituion, flexibility of the constitution, supremacy of legislature and single citizenship.
- In the Federal form of government, a number of independent units combine to constitute a sovereign state, with each unit being able to keep its autonomy intact in the matter of internal administration.
- The important characteristics of the Federal form of government include co-existence of two sets of governments (central and state), constitutional division of powers between the central and state governments, written and rigid constitution, supremacy of the constitution, supremacy of judiciary, double citizenship, equal representation of the units in the upper house of the central legistature and role of the constituent units in the amendment of the constitution.



8.6 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R. C. (2006). *Political Theory-Principles of Political Science.* New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K. K.(2006): *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur, A. C.(2006). *Principles of Political Science*. New Delhi:S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V. D. (2006). *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



8.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1 : True

Ans. to Q. No. 2 : False

Ans. to Q. No. 3 : (a) Single government

(b) Concentration of power

Ans. to Q. No. 4: True

Ans. to Q. No. 5 : False

Ans. to Q. No. 6 :

a) The co-existence of two sets of governments

b) Supremacy of Judiciary



8.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q.1 : Mention the names of any two countries where the Unitary form of government exists.

Q.2 : Mention the names of any two countries where the Federal form of government exists.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q.1: Point out any four merits of the Federal form of government.

Q.2: Point out any four characteristics of the Unitary form of government.

C) Long Questions : (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q.1: Explain the characteristics of the the Federal form of government.

Q.2: Explain the merits and demerlts of Unitary government.

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UNIT 9 : FORMS OF GOVERNMENT- PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL

UNIT STRUCTURE

9.1 Learning Objectives

9.2 Introduction

9.3 Parliamentary form of Government

9.3.1 Meaning of Parliamentary form of Government

9.3.2 Characteristics of Parliamentary form of Government

9.3.3 Merits and Demerits of Parliamentary form of Government

9.4 Presidential form of Government

9.4.1 Meaning of Presidential form of Government

9.4.2 Characteristics of the Presidential form of Government

9.4.3 Merits and Demerits of the Presidential form of Government

9.5 Let Us Sum Up

9.6 Further Reading

9.7 Answers to Check Your Progress

9.8 Model Questions

9.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to:

- describe the characteriistics of the Parliamentary form of government
- describe the characteriistics of the Presidential form of government
- list the merits and demerits of the Parliamentary form of government
- list the merits and demerits of the Presidential form of government

9.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous unit, we discussed the Unitary and Federal forms of government. Governments can further be divided into Parliamentary and

Presidential types. As a matter of fact, we could see the functioning these two very significant forms of democratic governments in different countries of the world today. The present unit therefore discusses the Parliamenatry and Presidential forms of government.

9.3 PARLIAMENTARY FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Democratic governments are classified into Parliamentary and Presidential types on the basis of the relationship between the executive and the legislature. Let us first discuss the Parliamentary form of government.

9.3.1 Meaning of Parliamentary form of Government



Cabinet : The body of top-most ministers heading particular departments of the government and are responsible for policy making.

The form of government in which the executive is selected from among the members of the legislature and is responsible to the legislature is called Parliamentary government. A Parliamentary government is also known as the cabinet form of government because the ***cabinet*** is the real executive in it. It is also called *responsible government*, since the cabinet always remains responsible to the legislature for its activities.

9.3.2 Characteristics of Parliamentary form of Government

The following are the main characteristics of the Parliamentary form of government:

- **Dual Executive:** The Parliamentary form of government provides for two executives-the real executive and the nominal or titular executive. The nominal executive is represented by the head of the state who may either be a hereditary or an elective one; legally, the head of the state possesses all powers and privileges which the constitution and laws may confer upon him. But in practice, all powers are exercised by the real executive represented by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister is the head of the government. A classic example of this form of government is the UK where the King or Queen is the titular head (Head of the

State) whereas the Prime Minister is the real head (Head of the Government).

- **Collective Responsibility:** Another important feature of Parliamentary form of government is that the Cabinet is collectively responsible to the legislature. It means that once a decision is taken by the Cabinet, it becomes the responsibility of each minister to support it, in and outside the parliament. If a motion of no-confidence is passed by the parliament against a single Minister while pursuing cabinet policy, it would be considered to be a vote of no-confidence against the whole cabinet and the cabinet has to tender its resignation.

- **Individual Responsibility:** Each minister is individually responsible to the Parliament for the administration of his own department. The Members of the Parliament can put questions to the minister who is responsible for all acts of omission and commission concerning his own department. For example, when China invaded India in October 1962, the then Defence Minister, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon resigned as an instance of individual responsibility.

- **Close relationship between the Executive and Legislature:** In the Parliamentary form of government, there is a close relationship between the executive and the legislature. The members of the executive must be the members of the legislature. If anybody is not a member of the legislature at the time of his appointment to the cabinet, he must get himself elected to the legislature, within the stipulated period. The members of the cabinet take active part in law making. The cabinet remains in office as long as it enjoys the confidence of the parliament.

- **Political homogeneity:** It means that the members of the cabinet belong to the same political party. Usually they are taken from the majority party in the legislature. But there are instances when no single party secures the majority in the legislature. In that case, the only alternative is the formation of a coalition government, consisting of more than one political parties. In Great Britain such governments

are called national governments.

- **Secrecy of procedure:** The secrecy of cabinet proceed-ings is another pre-requisite of the Parliamentary form of government. The minister should not divulge in the public or anywhere else whatever is discussed in the cabinet. Any violation of this is considered to be a serious violation of discipline and the Cabinet Minister may lose his or her seat.

- **Leadership of the Prime Minister:** The Prime Minister is the acknowledged leader of the Parliamentary form of government. Generally, the leader of the majority party in the lower house of the legislature is appointed as the Prime Minister. He or she is therefore the leader of the house. The Prime Minister has an overall control over the cabinet. On the recommendations of the Prime Minister, other ministers are appointed. He or she can reshuffle the portfolios of his or her cabinet colleagues as well as induct new ministers into his cabinet when he or she desires.

The Parliamentary form of government exists, at present, in the UK, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, India, Japan and many other countries of the world.



LET US KNOW

Great Britain is the classic home of parliamentary democracy. The system of parliamentary government is not the result of any formal constitutional device; it is rather, a result of gradual evolution. The parliamentary form of government in Great Britain assumed its present form during the first half of 18th century. Subsequently it was adopted by many other countries of the world.

9.3.3 Merits and Demerits of Parliamentary form of Government

Merits of Parliamentary form of Government :

The following are some of the advantages or merits of the Parliamentary system of government:

- The Parliamentary form of government is marked by cooperation between the legislature and the executive. Accordingly, the cabinet can get its measures passed promptly by the legislature.
- This form of government cannot become autocratic. Since ministers are responsible to the legislature, they are answerable to the legislature for their actions.
- It provides an alternative government. In case the majority party loses its majority in the legislature, the opposition party may form the government. But it must prove its majority in the legislature.
- A Parliamentary form of government has the advantage of flexibility. People can easily change the government and sometimes they may choose a leader to meet a particular emergency. During the Second World War, Churchill replaced Chamberlain as Prime Minister in England without any difficulty.
- The Parliamentary form of government has high educative value. The political parties mould public opinion through political meetings on important issues. During election, every party publishes its manifesto highlighting its proposed plans.

Demerits of Parliamentary form of Government :

Some of the disadvantages or demerits of Parliamentary form of government are listed below:

- It violates the theory of separation of powers and leads to the concentration of legislative and executive powers in the hands of the cabinet. This may result in ***tyranny***. Sometimes, it is described as cabinet dictatorship.

Tyranny:
A type of government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler.

- In the Parliamentary form of government, the executive takes part in law-making and the legislature sometimes interferes excessively and unnecessarily in administrative matters .This may result in confusion as well as inefficiency of both the legislature and the executive.
- When no party is in a position to get clear majority, coalition government comes into being. Its existence generally is short and at the same time it may not be efficient.
- Parliamentary government is criticized as a government by amateurs. The ministers' lack of knowledge of the portfolios they hold make them heavily dependent on the civil servants. Such a government becomes a bureaucratic government in practice.
- The Parliamentary form of government tends to become election centric. Each political party only aims at winning elections. They manipulate the voters which lead to what is popularly known as 'vote bank politics'.



ACTIVITY 8.1

When the Parliament is in session, there is a special programme everyday on Doordarshan about the proceedings in Parliament of India. Watch the proceedings or read about it in the newspapers and observe how the ministers face questions from members of parliament as an indication of the principle of individual responsibility of the ministers to parliament.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1. The Parliamentary form of government provides for two executives. (True/False)

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Q.2. There is a close relationship between the executive and the legislature in the Parliamentary form of

government. (True/False)

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Q.3. List two features of the Parliamentary government?

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9.4 PRESIDENTIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

9.4.1 Meaning of Presidential form of Government

The system of democratic government, in which the executive is constitutionally independent of the legislature, is known as the Presidential form of government. In this form of government, the head of the state who is also the head of government is designated as the *President* and hence the phrase, *Presidential* form of government.

9.4.2 Characteristics of Presidential form of Government

The main characteristics of the Presidential form of government may be summarised as under:

- **Separation of Powers :** There is a separation of powers in the Presidential government. In this system, the executive and legislature are separate from each other and they have equal status. The President and his or her secretaries (cabinet members) are not members of the Legislature and are not responsible to it. The legislature cannot remove them through a vote of no-confidence.

  Since complete separation of powers is not possible, the Presidential system follows the principle of 'checks and balances' as well. For instance, through his or her power of patronage and veto-power over legislation, the President exercises control over the legislature. Similarly, the legislature is empowered to remove the

Impeachment: Impeachment is the process by which the legislature tries charges against a high government official (such as judges and president) in order to convict them and remove them from office.

President by ***impeachment.*** The Supreme Court can declare the laws passed by the legislature and the orders of the President as unconstitutional.

- **Single Executive :** In a Presidential government, the President is the Head of the State as well of the government. The President is not merely a nominal head, but is the real executive who enjoys real powers of administration. The President actually exercises all powers given to him or her under the constitution and the law.
- **Fixed Term of the President :** In a Presidential government, the President is elected for a fixed term and except impeachment for the violation of the constitution, he or she cannot be removed from office before the expiry of his or her term.
- **Preeminence of the President :** The President occupies a pre-eminent position in this system of government. The members of the President's cabinet, who are designated as secretaries, are not his or her colleagues but his or her subordinates. The secretaries help the president in the administration and they are appointed by him or her on the basis of ability. It depends on the will of the president to accept or reject their advice.

At present, the Presidential government is seen in the United States of America, Brazil and in some other countries of South America.



LET US KNOW

The Government of the United Stales is an ideal example of the Presidential form of government. The makers of the US Constitution have provided for three branches of government, namely, the President (executive), the Congress (legislature) and the Supreme Court (judiciary) each one of which is independent of the other two and derives its authority from the Constitution.

9.4.3 Merits and Demerits of Presidential form of Government

Merits of Presidential form of Government :

The following are some of the merits of the Presidential form of government:

- It is a stable form of government as the President is elected for a fixed term and the process of impeachment is rarely adopted. It can follow a continuous and consistent policy.
- It is argued that the application of separation of powers and "checks and balances" as the basis of the Presidential system ensures that none of the three organs of the government can become despotic. It ensures individual liberty.
- The Presidential form of government enables the appointment of experts to head the various departments of the government without consideration of their party affiliations. This leads to efficiency in administration.
- A Presidential system is suitable for emergencies.It can face national crisis without difficulty. As the President need not depend too much on the direction of the cabinet or legislature, he or she can afford to take prompt decisions to meet a crisis and also to carry them out.
- As compared to the Parliamentary government, the influence of political parties in this system is less. This is because the President has full control over administration and his survival is not dependent upon the majority support in the legislature.

Demerits of Presidential form of Government :

The following are some of the demerits of the Presidential form of government:

- As the executive is separated from the legislature in this form of

government, there may be conflict between the President and the legislature particularly when the latter is dominated by the opposition party. As a result of that, public interest might be hampered.

- A Presidential form of government may become despotic as the President cannot be controlled by the legislature and the latter has no control over matters of daily administration. Impeachment is a difficult process and is resorted to only under exceptional circumstances.
- Personal loyalty plays a very important part in securing cabinet berths. The merit or experience of an individual may be ignored.
- A Presidential form of government is also very complex. There are too many commissions and committees under it.
- The Presidential system has been frequently criticized as being incapable of conducting a vigorous foreign policy. It is often said that in the US, the President's dependence on the Congress in certain foreign policy matters makes US foreign policy a slow moving and uncertain affair.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.4. The Presidential form of Government exists in the USA. (True/False)

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Q.5. The Presidential form of Government is characterised by separation of powers. (True/False)

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Q.6. List out two features of Presidential Government.

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9.5 LET US SUM UP

- Democratic governments are classified into Parliamentary and Presidential types on the basis of the relationship between the executive and the legislature.
- In the Parliamentary form of government, the executive is selected from among the members of the legislature and is responsible to the legislature.
- The important characteristics of the Parliamentary form of government include the existence of dual executive (nominal executive and real executive), collective responsibility, individual responsibility, close relationship between the executive and legislature, political homogeneity, secrecy of procedure and leadership of the Prime Minister.
- In the Presidential form of government, the executive is constitutionally independent of the legislature.
- The important characteristics of the Presidential form of government include separation of powers, single executive, fixed term of the President and preeminence of the President.



9.6 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R. C. (2006). *Political Theory-Principles of Political Science.* New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K. K.(2006): *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur, A. C.(2006). *Principles of Political Science*. New Delhi:S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan, V. D. (2006). *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



9.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1 : True

Ans. to Q. No. 2 : False

Ans. to Q. No. 3 : (a) Dual Executive

(b) Collective Responsibility

Ans. to Q. No. 4 : True

Ans. to Q. No. 5 : True

Ans. to Q. No. 6 : (a) Separation of Powers

(b) Single Executive



9.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q.1 : Dual Executive is a characteristic of which form of government?

Q.2 : Mention the name of any country where the Presidential form of government exists.

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q.1: Point out any four characteristics of the Parliamentary form of government.

Q.2: Point out any four characteristics of the Presidential form of government.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q.1: Discuss merits and demerits of the Parliamentary form of government.

Q.2: Discuss merits and demerits of the Presidential form of government.

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UNIT 10: POLITICAL PARTIES

UNIT STRUCTURE

10.1 Learning Objectives

10.2 Introduction

10.3 Meaning and Features of Political Party

10.3.1 Meaning of Political Party

10.3.2 Features of Political Party

10.4 Types of Political Parties

10.5 Functions of Political Parties

10.6 Importance of Political Party

10.7 Let Us Sum Up

10.8 Further Reading

10.9 Answers to Check Your Progress

10.10 Model Questions

10.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to -

- explain the meaning of Political Parties
- describe the types of Political Parties
- discuss the features and functions of Political Parties
- explain the importance of Political Parties.

10.2 INTRODUCTION

Political Parties are an indispensable part of any political system. With

a few exceptions of some monarchies like Saudi Arabia and military dictatorships, political parties are present everywhere in the world. It acts as a link between the masses and the rulers. Political Parties are essential for smooth functioning of the governmental activities especially in democratic political systems. In other words, democracy and political parties go together and can be regarded as two sides of the same coin. Without having political parties, no democratic government can perform its works properly.

Political Parties have given a new dimension to the working of democratic government. Through Political Parties, citizens can express their demand and expectations. It is, therefore necessary for us to understand about the different aspects of Political Parties. In this unit, an effort is made to present the basic concepts of Political Parties i.e. meaning and definition, features, types, functions and its importance.

10.3 MEANING AND FEATURES OF POLITICAL PARTY

10.3.1 Meaning of Political Party

The study of political parties occupies an important place in Political Science from past to present era. However, in recent years, this study has become more interesting for which the political scientists have coined a new term i.e. 'Stasiology' to study about political parties.



LET US KNOW

"Stasiology" It is a term meaning scientific study of party politics. It originates from a Greek word 'stasis.' Stasiology implies a scientific study of party politics with special emphasis on the role of factions and groups operating within political parties so as to have a thoroughly empirical study of the subject.

Generally, a political party is an organization of like-minded individuals

with common goal, ideology, and belief with aims to capture political power through constitutional means. With the help of some common political programmes, they try to win the support of the majority voters and form government either singly or in alliance with other Political Parties. Thus, the main aim of every political party is to form the government by capturing political power.

Regarding the definition of political party, different scholars have forwarded different views. Among them, some are mentioned below:

- According to British-Irish statesman, Edmund Burke, "Political party is body of men united for the purpose of promoting by their joint endeavours the public interest upon some principle on which they are all agreed."
- According to American scholar, R.G. Gettell, "political party is a group of citizens, more or less organised who act as political unit and who by the use of their voting power aim to control the government and carry out their general policy."
- British scholar R.M. MacIver said, "Political party is an association organised in support of some principle or policy which, by constitutional means, it endeavours to make the determinant of government."
- R.N.Gilchrist, the American scholar observes, "A political party may be defined as an organised group of citizens who profess to share the same political views and who, by acting as a political unit, try to control the government."
- Stephen Leacock, the Canadian scholar defined political party as "a more or less organised group of citizens who act together as a political unit. They share or profess to share the same opinions on public questions and by exercising their voting power towards a common end, seek to obtain control of the government."
- According to American political scientist Harold Lasswell, "Political party is an organisation specialized with regard to presenting

candidates and issues under its own name in elections."

- French jurist M. Duverger defined political party as "groups organised for the purpose of achieving and exercising power within a political system."

It is, thus clear from the above definitions that a political party is a group of persons with some belief, rules and regulations of their own which may be different from one another. However, the common aim of every political party is that they try to capture political power through peaceful and constitutional means. Besides, the political parties adopt various programmes and policies to influence the voters and win the elections. Thus, it can be said that the main aim of political parties is to form the government by capturing political power either singly or in alliance with other political parties.

10.3.2 Features of Political Party

From the above definitions of a political party, we may discuss some of its features of it. These features may not be common in case of all political parties or in all political systems. However, to be a political party, it must have certain common features. Let us discuss these features below:

- **Group of people**

  Political Party is a group of like-minded people. It consists of several groups of people like young and old, rich and poor, men and women, landlords and workers and some others as simple members. Even, some others work as supporters with full sympathy for the political ideology and programme. Thus, a political party is a whole consisting of different groups of people having similar views and opinions. Therefore, French Political scientist Maurice Duverger holds that a political party is a mass membership party.

- **Common Principles**

  Every political party has some common principles of their own. Without these, no political party can survive for long and secure popular

support from the people. Therefore, every member of a political party expresses similar views and opinions on public or critical issues. Besides, with the help of some attractive principles, the political parties try to capture political power by influencing the voters to their own sides.

- **Associated with National Interest**

Political Parties are associated with national interests. In other words, they always try to promote national interest and not sectional or individual interests. Sometimes, it is seen that some regional political parties are formed on the basis of some local or regional sentiments or issues. However, they are also closely associated with national interests. Thus, it can be said that every political party can survive as a part of the whole and by protecting the national (whole) interests, it can secure its self interests. That is why, Edmund Burke remarked, "Political party is a body of men united for the purpose of promoting by their joint endeavours the public interest upon some principle on which they are all agreed."

- **Own Organization**

Without proper organisation, no political party can survive in the game of power. Political party is also an organisation of people. It has its own constitution where the aims and objectives, policies and programmes as well as structural organisation of the party are defined clearly. Proper organisation can strengthen the unity and integrity among the members of political party. Therefore, emphasizing about proper organisation, MacIver opined that without party organisation there can be no unified statement of principles and no orderly evolution of policy by means of which a party seeks to gain or maintain power.

- **Aim at Capturing Power:**

Capturing political power is another important feature of political party. Every political party tries to remain in power by influencing the voters in various ways specially during the time of election. For this purpose, they try to establish mass base or popular support. Without

such support, no political party will be able to implement its policies and programmes as well as retain political power for long time. Thus, every political party aims at capturing power to survive their existence.

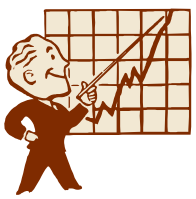
- **Specific Programme:**

Each political party has some specific programme on the basis of which it tries to influence the voters to retain power. Such programme includes- socio-economic, political, cultural and other relevant issues of the society. The political parties also try to implement their policies and programmes when they come to power. However, these programmes keep changing as old issues are solved and new ones take birth. In other words, every political party tries to include relevant issues and programme in election manifestos.

- **Faith in Ballot Boxes:**

Each political party should have faith in ballot box to capture political power. In other words, political parties always try to capture power through peaceful and constitutional means. Of course, it is sometimes seen that some parties resort to violent method to capture power especially during the time of election. However, this cannot be generalized because every political party generally tries to win the spontaneous support of the voters in a peaceful way.

It is clear from the above analysis that political parties contain different features which differentiate them from other groups in the society. In short, it can be said that a political party is a group of like-minded people associated with national interest, having its own organization and some common principles with specific programme aiming at capturing power.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Write the definition of political party given by Maclver.

.....

.....

Q 2: "A political party may be defined as an organised group of citizens who profess to share the same political views and who, by acting as a political unit, try to control the government", who said this?

.....

Q 3: Discuss two features of political parties.

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10.4 TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

There is no universally accepted classification regarding the types of political parties. It is different from one political system to another. Generally, political parties are formed on the basis of the socio-economic, political or cultural conditions of that country. Broadly speaking, political parties can be classified under the following heads:

a) Single or One Party System,

b) Two or Bi-Party System, and

c) Multi-Party System.

These are discussed below:

- **Single or One Party System**

When only one political party operates in the political system, then it is calleda Single or One-Party system. Here, the ruling party either dominates or suppresses all other groups or the opposition. The supporters of this system try to continue the system in the name of national unity and integrity. In other words, they do not allow other parties to come into existence. Only the ruling party can control the whole administration of the country which is legally allowed in the system. For example, the then Communist Party of

USSR, China, Nazi Party under the leadership of Hitler in Germany, etc., can be mentioned here.

- **Two or Bi-Party System:**

A Two or Bi-Party system is one in which two dominant political parties contest election and power alternates between them. Here, the party which secures majority votes forms the government and the other remains as the opposition. However, there may exist other political parties also but they cannot challenge the two dominant parties. The Democratic Party and the Republican Party of USA, The Conservative Party and the Labour Party of UK are the best examples of the two party system. Other countries like Canada, New Zealand, Australia etc have also bi-party system.

- **Multi-Party System:**

In a Multi-Party System, there is no limit on the number of political parties. It is a system where more than two parties exist. In this system, it is not always that one party may secure absolute majority and it may be difficult for any one party to capture majority support in the election to form the government. Thus, in this system, the parties may either be equal or unequal in strength and no single party may be dominant enough to control the administration. In such cases, the multi-party system may lead to formation of a coalition government. Multi-party system is working in India, Switzerland, France, Spain etc.

These are the major types of political parties. However, there may be other forms of political parties also like- Charisma-oriented parties, Interest-oriented parties, Ideology-oriented parties, Regional, National and Religious Political parties etc.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 4: Mention the names of two countries where bi-party system exists.

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Q 5: Define Multi-party system.

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ACTIVITY 10.1

Try to find out the names of the dominant political parties in UK, USA and Switzerland.

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10.5 FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

The political parties perform many important functions today without which democratic government cannot work properly. Different political scientists have put forward different functions of political party in their own ways. However, we can discuss the major functions of political parties under the following heads:

- **Formulation of Policy :**

Formulation of policies and programmes is the first important function of a political party. To solve the problems faced by the society as well as the state, each party tries to formulate its policies and programmes based on the burning issues. The political parties try to convince the voters that if they are entrusted with political power, they will solve the serious problems of the society. In this way, the political parties formulate various policies and programmes to attract the voters though these policies are changing because when the old issues are solved new ones are taken.

- **Link between the People and the Government:**

Political parties provide a link between the people and the government. They provide up-to-date knowledge and information about the various

decisions, policies and programmes of the government to the people. They also act as the people's representatives and present various needs and demands of the citizens in the Assembly or Parliamentary debates. Without political parties, citizens will not be able to fulfill their demands as per their needs. Highlighting the importance of this function, American political scientist, S. Neumann said, "since democracies are pyramids built from below, the connection between leaders and followers becomes a necessity in the two-way traffic of democracy. It is the major function of the party to keep these lines of communication open and clear."

- **Formation of Public Opinion:**

This is another important function of a political party. Through wide publicity about the various policies and programmes of the party, they try to form public opinion in their favour. In this regard, they also criticize the policies and programmes of other parties or the ruling government. Even, they use different techniques like organizing public meeting, distribution of pamphlets and hand-bills, interviews in the newspaper, journals and electronic media etc. to win the support of the voters.

- **Selection of Candidates:**

Every political party selects suitable candidates to contest in the election. It is the political parties which introduce the candidates before the voters at the time of election or before that because the candidate may not be known to the public earlier. So, the selection of the candidates is an important function of every political party. In this respect, every party takes utmost care in considering different aspects of the candidates like their ability, contribution to the society, party loyalty, acceptance of the society and the voters etc.

- **Election Campaign:**

Political parties are associated with the process of election. It plays an active and important role in any constitutional election so that their candidates can win and capture power. During the time of election, political parties organize various election campaigns to attract the voters and win

their support. The party leaders help the contesting candidates through different public meetings, with funds and materials. Every political party adopts many techniques during the time of election like- processions and rallies, posters and handbills, door to door visit, interview in radio, TV etc to win the support of the masses in the election.

- **To Impart Political Education:**

Every political party tries to impart political education to the masses to make them conscious politically. They make efforts to mobilize the masses in their favour. For this purpose, the political parties express their views on important public issues and measures to solve them. They also use mass media of communication like- radio, TV, newspaper, journals, public debates etc. to make the citizens aware about the different critical issues as well as the policies and programmes of the government and of other political parties. In this way, political parties are always busy to make the people aware politically especially at the time of election.

- **To Recruit Political Leaders:**

Recruitment of leaders is another important function of political party. In any political system, democratic or totalitarian, leaders are recruited through political parties. Political parties provide necessary training and education to its members to be a leader. In other words, political parties are the builders of leaders who go on to hold public office. Therefore, every political party tries to recruit the leaders who have charismatic quality and mass support at ground level.

- **Formation of the Government:**

In every political system, the political parties act as legislators. Every political party wants to form the government as it is their main aim. It is also important for bringing political stability in any political system. Therefore, every political party tries to form the government by winning the majority support of the voters in the election. After forming the government, the party tries to implement its policies and programmes to win the hearts of the people so that they can continue their rule for long time. Thus, political party

plays an important and active role in the formation of government as well as in controlling the activities of the government.

- **To maintain Discipline:**

Political party has to maintain discipline and order among its members. It controls its members from indulging in unconstitutional activities which may harm the image of the party among the people. In this regard, we may mention about the party whip which is a source of unity and solidarity among the representatives of the people. It also control the activities of the representatives as desired by the party. Thus, to maintain discipline and control over the members is another important function of political parties.

- **Non-political Activities:**

Political parties perform various social welfare activities in order to win the support of the people. These can be termed as non-political activities. For example, during the time of natural calamities like flood, drought, earthquake, famine etc, parties work for the relief operations among the affected people. Besides, they work for the eradication of different social evils like untouchability, illiteracy by organizing awareness camps etc.

In this way, political parties perform several important functions for the greater interest of the party as well as for the benefit of the people.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 6: Describe two functions of a political party.

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Q 7: Mention the non-political activities of political parties.

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10.6 IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL PARTY

Political parties have become an essential and indispensable part of our political life. It acts as a link between the masses and the rulers. Political Parties are essential for smooth running of the government activities especially in the democratic political system. In other words, democracy and Political Parties go together and can be regarded as the two sides of the same coin. Without having Political Parties, no democratic government can perform its works properly. Regarding the importance of political party, the following points are put forward:

- Political Parties are essential for smooth running of the governmental activities. It connects the people with the government. They also provide up-to-date knowledge and information about various decisions, policies and programmes of the government to the people.
- They also act as the representative of the people and present various needs and demands of the citizens in the Assembly or Parliamentary debates. Without political parties, citizens will not be able to fulfill their demands as per their needs.
- Political parties are also essential for shaping public opinion. They make the demands of the people hearable. This public opinion can be a guideline for the government, while formulating policies and making laws.
- Political parties create political awareness among the people. They educate the people politically through wide publicity of their manifestos. They also make the citizens aware about the different critical issues as well as policies and programmes of the government and other political parties through mass media of communication.
- A political party is also important for bringing political stability in any political system. They harmonize the different organs of the government. Political parties also mediate between the different

pressure groups in the society. In other words, it is a unifying force among the different groups in the society.

- Political parties are also essential to check and control the autocratic functioning of a government. It is the watch dog of the activities of the government and whenever the incumbent government follows and implements policies that may go against the interest of the people political parties stand up to safeguard the public interest.

It is thus, clear from the above discussion that political parties play an important role in our society especially in a democratic political system. However, the political parties should work for the greater interest of the society as a whole leaving their narrow political interests behind.



ACTIVITY 10.2

Prepare a list of countries which are dominated by Single-party system along with the names of the party.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 8 Write about the importance of political parties for smooth running of the governmental activities.

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Q. 9 Write about the importance of political parties in creating political awareness among the people.

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.....



10.7 LET US SUM UP

- Political Parties are an indispensable part of every political system. Without having Political Parties, no democratic government can perform its works properly.
- Political party is a group of persons with some ideology, rules and regulations of its own and these may be different from one another. The main aim of political parties is to form the government by capturing political power either singly or in alliance with other political parties.
- Political parties contain different features which differentiate them from other organizations and groups in the society.
- There is no universally accepted classification regarding the types of political parties. It is different from one political system to another. However, political parties can be classified as - Single or One Party System, Two or Bi-Party System, and Multi-Party System.
- Political Parties are essential for smooth running of the government activities. It connects the people with the government. Without political parties, citizens will not be able to fulfill their demands as per their needs.



10.8 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). *Political Theory-Principles of Political Science*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Kapur,A.C.(2006). *Principles of Political Science*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Mahajan V.D. (2006). *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Srivastava, Smita (ed.) (2012). *Fundamentals of Political Theory*.

New Delhi: Pearson

10.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q. No. 1: Political party is "an association organised in support of some principle or policy which by constitutional means it endeavours to make the determinant of government."

Ans to Q. No. 2: Gilchrist.

Ans to Q. No. 3:

a) Group of people: Political Party is a group of like-minded people. It consists of several groups of people like- young and old, rich and poor, men and women, landlords and workers and some others as simple members. Even, some others work as supporters with full sympathy. Thus, political party is a whole consisting of different groups of people having similar views and opinion. Therefore, French Political scientist Maurice Duverger holds that a political party is a mass membership party.

b) Common Principles: All political parties have some common principles of their own which are different from one another. Without these, no political party can survive for long and secure popular support from the people. Therefore, members of a political party can express similar views and opinions on public or critical issues. Besides, with the help of some attractive principles, the political parties try to capture political power by influencing the voters to their own sides.

Ans to Q. No. 4: UK and USA.

Ans to Q. No. 5: It is a system where more than two parties exist. In this system, there is no political party which has absolute majority. Here, it is difficult for any party to capture majority support in the election to form the government. Thus, in this system, the parties may either be equal or unequal in strength but no party is dominant to control the administration.

Ans to Q. No. 6:

1) Formulation of Policy: Formulation of policies and programmes is the first important function of political party. To solve the problems faced by the society as well as the state, each party tries to formulate its policies and programmes based on burning issues. The political parties try to convince the voters that if they are entrusted with political power, they will solve the serious problems of the society. In this way, the political parties formulate various policies and programmes to attract the voters though these policies are changing because old are solved and new ones are taken.

2) Formation of Public Opinion: This is another important function of political party. Through wide publicity about the various policies and programmes of the party, they try to form public opinion in their favour. In this regard, they also criticize the policies and programmes of other parties or the ruling government. Even, they use different techniques like- organizing public meeting, distribution of pamphlets and hand-bills, interviews in the newspaper, journals and electronic media etc. to win the support of the voters.

Ans to Q. No. 7:

Political parties also perform various social welfare activities to win the support of the people. These can be termed as non-political activities. For example, during the time of natural calamities like flood, drought, earthquake, famine etc, parties work for the welfare of the people. They also work for the eradication of different social evils like untouchability, illiteracy, awareness camps etc. However, the political parties have a motive behind these non-political activities i.e. to capture majority votes in the elections.

Ans to Q. No. 8:

Political Parties are essential for smooth running of the government activities. It connects the people with the government. They also provide up-to-date knowledge and information about various decisions, policies and programmes of the government to the people.

Ans to Q. No. 9:

Political parties create political awareness among the people. They educate the people politically through wide publicity of their manifestos. They also make the citizens aware about the different critical issues as well as policies and programmes of the government and other political parties through mass media of communication.



10.10 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions:

Q. 1: Mention the definition of political party given by Edmund Burke.

Q. 2: Write the meaning of Political party?

Q. 3: What is 'Stasiology'?

B) Short Questions, (Answer each question in about 150 words).

Q. 1: Write briefly about the meaning of political party.

Q. 2: Write three differences between the single party system and bi-party system.

Q. 3: Discuss two merits and two demerits of multi-party system.

C) Long Questions: (Answer each question in about 300-500 words).

Q. 1: Define political party. What are the features of political party?

Q. 2: Examine the various functions of political party.

Q. 3: Discuss the role and importance of political parties in a democracy.

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UNIT 11: PRESSURE GROUPS AND INTEREST GROUPS

UNIT STRUCTURE

11.1 Learning Objectives

11.2 Introduction

11.3 Pressure Groups

11.3.1 Meaning and Definition of Pressure Groups

11.3.2 Types of Pressure Groups

11.3.3 Importance of Pressure Groups

11.4 Interest Groups

11.4.1 Meaning and Definition of Interest Groups

11.4.2 Types of Interest Groups

11.4.3 Importance of Interest Groups

11.5 Distinction between Pressure Groups and Interest Groups

11.6 Further Reading

11.7 Let Us Sum Up

11.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

11.9 Model Questions

11.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:-

- explain the meaning of Pressure Groups and Interest Groups
- describe the types of Pressure Groups and Interest Groups
- explain the importance of Pressure Groups and Interest Groups
- discuss the distinction between Pressure Groups and Interest Groups.

11.2 INTRODUCTION

Pressure groups and Interest groups play an important role in modern political system. In every political system, especially in a democratic political system, these groups are found working outside the government or existing party system. These groups, in order to protect their interests, actively try to influence the decision making process of the government in their favour. Pressure groups differ in terms of their strength and influence. The more influential a pressure group is, the more successful it is in getting its demands met by the government.

Due to the rapid growth of industrialization and modernization, the role of pressure and interest groups are increasing greatly in different spheres of the society today. There may be different kinds of pressure or interest groups in a political system based on different aspects or issues of the society. In other words, various kinds of pressure and interest groups, having specific sectional or localized interests are playing a significant role in our society and the role may vary from one society to another.

11.3 PRESSURE GROUPS

11.3.1 Meaning and Definition of Pressure Groups

Pressure groups occupy a significant place in the study of Political Science. It plays an important role in any political system. Generally, pressure group is an organisation of individuals having some common and specific interests which may be sectional, local, national or even international. A pressure group has no political aim but it tries to influence the decision making process of the government in power to protect the interests of the particular group of people it represents and tries to shape government policies in a way that is favourable to the particular group of people represented by the pressure group.

Different scholars have defined the term "Pressure Groups" differently. In this regard, the following definitions can be mentioned:

- According to American political scientist H. Zeigler, "Pressure group is an organised aggregate that seeks to influence the context of the government's decisions without attempting to place its members in formal governmental capacities."
- According to American political scientist Robert Dahl, "Any association that tries to secure advantage from the state policies favourable to its members or followers, is a pressure group."
- American scholar Henry A. Turner said, "Pressure groups are non partisan organisations which attempt to influence some phase of public policy."
- American political scientist Leiserson defined pressure group as a non partisan organisation of individuals joined together for achieving some objectives and for the protection or promotion of material activities that are supposed to be vital for the existence or survival of the group."
- According to American political scientist Harry Eckstein , "By pressure group, we mean any organised group which attempts to influence government decisions without seeking to exercise the formal powers of government."

It is, thus clear from the above definitions that Pressure group is a group of persons having some specific interests which may be sectional, local, national or even international. They do not attempt to place its members in formal governmental capacities. However, they try to influence some phase of public policy. In other words, they attempt to promote a goal they share or to resist some objective of government or other groups that somehow relates to the political process.

Every pressure group is formed on the basis of certain common interest. They only try to fulfill their interests without participating in politics directly. In other words, they try to protect and promote their specific interests. For this purpose, they use different techniques and methods.

Thus, it can be said that the main aim of pressure group is to influence the government to protect their interests without capturing political power.

11.3.2 Types of Pressure Groups

There is no universally accepted classification regarding the types of pressure groups. It is differs from one political system to another. Generally, pressure groups are formed to fulfil various needs and demands of the society which may be socio-economic, political, cultural or many more. However, the classification made by Gabriel Almond is worth mentioning here. It is applicable for both democratic and non-democratic political system. It is given below:

a) Associational pressure groups,

b) Non-Associational pressure groups,

c) Institutional pressure groups, and

d) Anomic pressure groups

The various types of pressure groups are discussed below:

- **Associational Pressure Groups**

Associational pressure groups are the groups which represent the interests of a particular category of persons. Such groups have specific identity having its own name, offices and professional employees. They follow certain principles to protect and fulfill their interests. In this regard, we may refer to the various labour associations, business and professional groups, students' organisations and so on. Such groups are increasing today due to the development of modern means of communication and technology besides other factors.

- **Non-Associational Pressure Groups**

A Non-Associational pressure group is just the opposite of Associational group. A Non-Associational pressure group has no specific identity or formal structure. Even, the members have no formal communication among themselves. But the nature and interests of these groups are same. These groups are formed on the basis of religion or caste or clan. For example, members of a particular caste or religion or ethnic group could be said to be part of a Non-associational pressure group.

- **Institutional Pressure Groups**

  The Institutional pressure groups are those groups which are formed under the control of the government. They are well organised groups having some specific interests of their own. In this category, we may mention government bureaucrats, members of armed forces, etc., constituting examples of institutional pressure groups.

- **Anomic Pressure Groups**

  Anomic pressure groups are spontaneously formed. They are concerned with a specific issue. In other words, these groups are formed to protest some specific policies of the government without having any pre-plan or organisation. Thus, anomic groups can be termed as the groups which emerge without any specific efforts to protest a particular policy of the government. For example, the people coming together at the time of procession, riots, protest movements etc could be said to be part of Anomic pressure groups.

  In this way pressure groups can be divided into various divisions. These groups may be permanent or temporary, big or small, powerful or weak. All these groups try to influence the decision making process of the government to fulfill their interests.

11.3.4 Importance of Pressure Groups

Pressure groups have become an essential and indispensable part of our political life. It acts as a link between the people and the government. Pressure groups are essential for smooth running of the government activities especially in the democratic political system. In other words, democracy and pressure groups go together and can be regarded as the two sides of the same coin. Without having Pressure groups, no democratic government can perform its works properly. Regarding the importance of pressure groups, the following points can be forwarded:

- Pressure groups are essential for smooth running of the government

activities. It connects the people with the government. They also provide up-to-date knowledge and information about various decisions, policies and programme of the government to the people.

- They also act as the representatives of people and present various needs and demands of the citizens in an organised way. Without pressure groups, citizens will not be able to fulfill their demands as per their needs.

- Pressure groups are essential for moulding public opinion. They make the demands of the people hearable. This public opinion can be a guideline for the government while formulating policies and making laws.

- Pressure groups can also make the citizens aware about various critical issues as well as policies and programmes of the government and other political parties through mass media of communication.

- It is also important for bringing political stability in any political system. They harmonize the different organs of the government. Pressure groups also mediate between government and the people in the society. In other words, it is a unifying force among the different groups in the society.

- Pressure groups are also essential to control the autocratic functioning of the government. It is the pressure groups which can control the activities of the government that go against the interest of the citizens.

Thus, it is clear from the above discussion that pressure groups play an important role in our society especially in a democratic political system. However, the pressure groups should work for the greater interest of the society as a whole leaving the narrow interest behind.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1: Write the definition of pressure groups as given by H. Zeigler.

.....

Q. 2: "Any association that tries to secure advantage from the state policies favourable to its members or followers, is a pressure group" who said this?

.....

Q. 3: What do you mean by Associational and Anomic Pressure Groups?

.....

Q. 4: Write two points regarding the importance of pressure groups in a political system.

.....

.....



ACTIVITY 11.1

Try to make a list of dominant pressure groups in some of the developed and developing countries.

11.4 INTEREST GROUPS

11.4.1 Meaning and Definition of Interest Groups

Interest groups, like pressure groups, play a significant role in any political system. Generally, an interest group is an organised group of individuals which wants to influence public policy. These groups have specific interests based on which they perform their activities. In other words, a group of individuals which are associated with a specific interest can be termed as interest group. They try to influence the legislature to pass, withdraw or repeal legislation. Interest groups make us of lobbying tactics to get their demands met.



LET US KNOW

Lobbying is a technique by which the members of the interest groups meet and try to influence legislators to propose and support bills promoting the interests of the particular interest group. They are concerned mainly with the legislature while it is in session and are concerned with the passage or defeat of particular bills. This term originally started in U.S.A.

Different scholars have put forward different definitions of interest groups. These are given below:

- According to American political scientists Almond and Powell, "Interest groups are those voluntary groups of individuals who are linked by a particular bond or concern of advantage and who have awareness of those bonds. These groups represent the socio-economic and political interests of a particular segment of the polity."
- To American sociologists Schaefer and Lamm, "An interest group is a voluntary association of citizens who attempt to influence public policy."
- According to American scholar David Truman, "Interest group is a shared attitude that make certain claims upon or through institutions of government."
- According to The Blackwell Dictionary of Sociology, "an interest (or pressure) group is an organisation whose purpose is to influence the distribution and use of political power in a society."
- American political scientists Harold Lasswell and Abraham Kaplan remarked, "A group is an organised aggregate and an interest group is an interest aggregate."

From the above definitions, it is clear that interest group is an organised group of individuals which wants to influence public policy. The

individuals are associated with a specific interest and they try to influence public policy. In other words, they try to influence the legislature to promote, withdraw or repeal legislation. These groups play an important role in political process.

11.4.2 Types of Interest Groups

There is no agreement among the scholars regarding the types of interest groups. These groups are formed based on the socio-political or other factors of the state. However, the common interest groups can be mentioned under the following heads:

- **Associational or Professional Interest Groups:** These groups are related with professional interests. The members of these groups join together to share or promote professional interests. They represent a section of society like workers, consumers etc.
- **Business Interest Groups:** This is one of the major interest groups in any political system. In case of India they are mainly concerned with the Planning Commission (now replaced by the NITI Ayog) and Economic Ministries etc. and try to influence them to protect and promote business interests. These groups are playing an important role due to the increasing impact of liberalization, privatisation and globalization on our politics and governance.
- **Cause Interest Groups:** It is a group which represents a particular cause or issue upheld by a section of the society. It is a non-economic group and concerned with the promotion of or focuses on a particular issue for collective social welfare. This group is also known as public interest group. It may or may not be well organised. For example, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Big Dam Movement in Assam etc. can be mentioned here.
- **Linguistic Interest Groups:** These groups have emerged due to the multiplicity of languages in use in our society. These groups represent the interests of a variety of people across the country speaking different languages. Generally, all major languages have their own linguistic

interest groups like- Asom Sahitya Sabha for the Assamese speaking people, Bodo Sahitya Sabha for the Bodo speaking people etc.

- **Religious Interest Groups:** These groups have emerged in order to protect and promote the interests of a particular religion. Sometimes their religious views and activities may seem communal in nature. But these groups are concerned with a particular community and try to promote its interest or reform it. In other words, it is helpful for the protection and promotion of their members.

- **Tribal Interest Groups:** These groups are related to the interests of the tribal people. They preserve and protect the interests of their our community and help their community in bargaining for more socio-economic and political benefits from the government. They have their own specific identity.

It is clear from the above discussion that interest groups are divided into various divisions. All these groups are concerned with fulfilling the interests of their particular groups. In other words, they try to protect, promote and preserve their own interests only.

11.4.3 Importance of Interest Groups

Interest groups play an important role in a political system. It is essential for smooth running of the government activities especially in the democratic political system. In other words, democracy and interest groups can be regarded as the two sides of the same coin. Without having these groups, no democratic government can perform its works properly. Regarding the importance of interest groups, the following points can be noted:

- Interest groups, specially public interest groups serve a useful role in protesting against the undue influence of the rich and powerful individuals and raise the demands and needs of the common citizens before the government.

- Interest groups act as the representatives of particular group/groups

of people and present before the government the various demands and needs of the members in an organised way which may be difficult for an individual member to raise.

- Interest groups, to some extent, can mould public opinion also. They present the demands of the particular group to the government at the time of formulating policies and making laws.

- Interest groups are also important for bringing political stability in a political system. They harmonize the different organs of the government. In other words, an interest group is a unifying force among different groups in the society.

- Interest groups are sometimes necessary in order to control the autocratic rule of the government. Like the pressure groups, the interest group also can raise its voice against and thereby control such activities of the government that go against the interest of the people belonging to different interest groups.

It is thus, clear from the above discussion that interest groups play an important role in our society specially in a democratic political system. However, the interest groups should work for the greater interest of the society as a whole leaving their narrow group interest behind. Finally, we may conclude with the remark that interest groups are essential for compelling the government to remain a constitutional government.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 5: Write the definition of interest groups as given by David Truman.

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.....

Q. 6: "An interest group is a voluntary association of citizens who attempt to influence public policy", who said this?

.....

Q.7: Explain the meaning of Associational or Professional Interest Groups and Business Interest Groups.

.....

.....

Q.8: Write two points regarding the importance of pressure groups in a political system.

.....

.....

11.5 DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRESSURE GROUPS AND INTEREST GROUPS

The pressure and interest groups are generally supposed to be the same group and usually no difference can be drawn between the two. But, in practice, it is seen that both the groups are not alike in all their aspects. Different political scientists have written about some points of distinction between the two as given below:

- Pressure groups depend much more on spontaneous participation of the masses. But, this is not in case of interest groups. The latter does not depend on spontaneous participation of the masses.
- Pressure groups protect the common interest by using different techniques including extra constitutional means to influence and compel the decision making process of the government. On the other hand, interest groups, to protect a specific interest do not use any pressure tactics or even extra constitutional means as is done by the pressure groups.
- Both the groups are separated from each other in regards to their scope also. Pressure groups are concerned not only with the interests of its members but also with the welfare of the other members of the

society. But, interest groups are solely concerned with the specific interests of their members only. In other words, the scope of pressure groups is wider than that of the interest groups.

- Pressure groups use pressure techniques for influencing the formulation and administration of public policy. On the other hand, interest groups, have faith in mutual cooperation and persuasive methods among the members to fulfill their interests. Thus, pressure groups are pressure-focused while interests groups are interest-oriented.

- Every pressure group is an interest group but every interest group is not a pressure group. It is because the interest groups are always concerned with the interests of members only. The pressure groups think not only about their members but also about the larger public interests.

It is thus, clear from the above explanation that pressure groups are different from interest groups in many aspects. However, it can be said that there is no organic difference between the two groups. Both pressure and interest groups are essential for smooth functioning of the government especially in a democratic political system.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS



Q. 9: Write two differences between pressure groups and interest groups.

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ACTIVITY 11.2

"Pressure and interest groups are essential for the development of democratic political environment". Try to present make arguments both for and against it.

.....

.....



11.6 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). *Political Theory-Principles of Political Science*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). *Principles of Political Science*. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). *Political Theory.* New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



11.7 LET US SUM UP

- Pressure groups and interest groups play an important role in modern political system. In every political system, especially in a democratic political system, these groups are found to be working outside the government or existing party system.
- Pressure groups have specific sectional or localized interests.
- They do not attempt to place its members in formal governmental capacities. Their main aim is to influence the government to protect

their interests without capturing political power.

- The different types of pressure groups are : Associational pressure groups, Non-Associational pressure groups, Institutional pressure groups and Anomic pressure groups.
- Interest groups, like pressure groups, play a significant role in any political system.

  Generally, an interest group is an organised group of individuals and it wants to Influence public policy.
- Interest groups have specific interests on the basis of which they perform their activities.
- Interest groups try to influence the legislature to promote, withdraw or repeal legislation. Interest groups employ lobbying tactics to get their demands met.
- The different types of interest groups are: Associational or Professional Interest Groups, Business Interest Groups, Cause Interest Groups, Linguistic Interest Groups, Religious Interest Groups and Tribal Interest Groups.
- There are differences between pressure groups and interest groups.



11.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: According to H. Zeigler, "Pressure group is an organised aggregate that seek to influence the context of the governments decisions without attempting to place its members in formal governmental capacities."

Ans. to Q. No. 2: Robert Dahl.

Ans. to Q. No. 3:

a) Associational Pressure Groups: Associational pressure groups are the

groups which represent the interests of a particular category of persons. Such groups have specific identity having their own names, offices and professional employees. They follow certain principles to protect and fulfill their interests. In this regard, we may cite as examples the various labour associations, business and professional groups, students' organisations and so on.

b) Anomic Pressure Groups: Anomic pressure groups are spontaneously formed interest group. They are concerned with a specific issue. In other words, these groups are formed to protest some specific policies of the government without having any pre-plan or organisation. Thus, anomic groups can be termed as the groups which emerge without any specific efforts to protest against a particular policy of the government. For example, the people coming together at the time of procession, riots, protest movements etc.

Ans. to Q. No. 4:

a) Pressure groups act as the representatives of some people and present various needs and demands of the citizens in an organised way. Without pressure groups, citizens will not be able to fulfill their demands as per their needs.

b) Pressure groups are also essential to control the autocratic rule of the government. It is the pressure groups which can control the activities of the government that go against the welfare of the citizens.

Ans. to Q. No. 5: According to David Truman "Interest group is a shared attitude that make certain claims upon or through institutions of government."

Ans. to Q. No. 6: Schaefer and Lamm.

Ans. to Q. No. 7: (a) Associational or Professional Interest Groups:

These groups are related with professional interests. The members of these groups join together to share or promote professional interests. They represent a section of society like workers, consumers etc.

(b) Business Interest Groups:

This is one of the major interest groups in any political system. They are

mainly concerned with the Planning Commission, Economic Ministries etc. and try to influence them to protect and promote business interests. These groups are playing important role due to the increasing concept of liberalization, privatisation and globalization.

Ans. to Q. No. 8:

a) Interest groups, especially public interest groups serve a useful role in protesting the undue influence of rich and powerful individuals and remind the demand and needs of the common citizens before the government.

b) Interest groups are necessary to control the autocratic rule of the government. Like the Pressure groups, it is the interest groups which can control the activities of the government that go against the welfare of the citizens.

Ans. to Q. No.9:

a) Pressure groups depend much more on spontaneous participation of the masses. But, this not in case of interest groups. They never depend on spontaneous participation of the masses.

b) Every pressure group is an interest group but every interest group is not a pressure group. It is because the interest groups are always concerned with the interests of its members only. The pressure groups think not only about its members but also about public interests.



11.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions:

Q. 1: Mention any two types of pressure groups?

Q. 2: Mention any two types of interest groups?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words).

Q. 1: Write briefly about the meaning of pressure groups.

Q. 2: Write any four differences between pressure and interest groups.

Q. 3: Discuss two merits and two demerits of interest groups.

C) Long Questions: (Answer each question in about 300-500 words).

Q. 1: Define pressure groups. What are the different types of pressure groups?

Q. 2: Define interest groups. What are the different types of interest groups?

Q. 3: Discuss the role and importance of pressure and interest groups in a democracy.

Q. 4: Examine the differences between pressure groups and interest groups.

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UNIT 12: POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

12.1 Learning Objectives

12.2 Introduction

12.3 Meaning and Definitions of Political Socialisation

12.4 Agents of Political Socialisation

12.5 Importance of Political Socialisation

12.6 Let Us Sum Up

12.7 Further Reading

12.8 Answer to Check Your Progress

12.9 Model Questions

12.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through the unit, you will be able to -

- explain the meaning of political socialisation,
- discuss the importance of political socialisation,
- analyze the role of various agents those contribute in the process of political socialisation of an individual.

12.2 INTRODUCTION

One of the major problems which confront all political systems is how to prepare the members of the system for the political responsibilities. Therefore the concept of political socialisation is the most relevant one in the discipline of Political Science. The concept of political socialisation has attracted the attention of political scientists since very early times. The ancient Greek philosopher Plato laid emphasis on the process of political

socialisation through his idea of communisms of property and family. Aristotle showed keen interest in the process of political socialisation and put emphasis on civic education. However, with the rise of Christianity, politics began to be considered as primarily a matter of morality and civic education. It was not given any importance till the middle of the 20th century. However in the modern period the issue of political socialisation has received much attention. In contemporary discourse the concept of political socialisation has become a very important issue as it is through this process of political socialisation that citizens of a country can become aware of the political system and process of their country. In this unit we will discuss about the meaning, agents and importance of political socialisation.

12.3 MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

The term 'Political Socialisation' is generally used to describe the process of formation of political values, attitudes and beliefs. The process of political socialisation is a continuous process. The process of political socialisation goes on throughout the life of the individual. It starts in childhood and comes to an end only with the death of an individual. It includes all political learning, formal and informal, deliberate as well as unplanned, which cover the whole span of an individual's life.

One of the basic objectives of the process of political socialisation is to transmit political values from one generation to another and to bring about political stability. Political socialisation introduces values, norms and orientation in the minds of individuals so that they develop trust in their political system. Political socialisation shapes and transmits a nation's political culture. There are different viewpoints regarding the definitions of political socialisation. Some of the important definitions of political socialisation are as follows:

According to the American Political Scientists Gabriel Almond and G.B.Powell "Political Socialisation is the process by which political cultures are maintained and changed". [Verma, S.P. (1980). Modern Political Theory. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House] According to the American Political

Scientists Easton and Dennis, "Political socialisation is that development process by which persons acquire political orientation and pattern of behaviour". (Mahajan, V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand).

The view of J.Austin Ranney, an American political scientist, is that, political socialisation generally means socialisation of masses, the process by which ordinary people develop their attitudes towards their political system (Gogoi, P. (2007). Degree Political Theory. Guwahati: Banalata Publication).

English Political Scientist Allan R. Ball defines political socialisation as establishment and development of beliefs about the political system. (Gogoi, P. (2007). Degree Political Theory. Guwahati: Banalata Publication)

American political scientist Roberta Siegel says that political socialisation 'is the gradual learning of the norms, attitudes and behaviour acceptable to the ongoing political system' (Mahajan, V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand).

After analysing the above mentioned definitions, we can sum-up that political socialisation refers to the process through which an individual becomes acquainted with the political system and helps in determining his or her reaction to political phenomena. It is a learning process by which individuals are trained to become well functioning members of a political community.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: Political socialisation is a lifelong process. (True/False)

.....

Q.2: 'Political socialisation is that development process by which persons acquire political orientation and pattern of behaviour'- who said?

.....

Q.3: State the definition of political socialisation provided by J Austin Ranney.

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Q. 4: Mention one of the objectives of political socialisation.

.....

12.4 AGENTS OF POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

The process of political socialisation is a continuous process which starts at the very early stage of an individual. A number of agents play significant role in this process. The main agents of political socialisation can be discussed as follows:

- **Family:** The family is the first important agency of political socialisation. It exercises both latent and manifest influence on the child from the very beginning of his life. Family through its authority, structure and decision making process plays a significant part in developing a person's orientation towards authority and obedience in the political sphere. In the family mother, father, brothers and sisters exercise their influence over the child. American political scientist Robert Lane says that the family provides the foundations of the political beliefs of a child in three ways, such as- by overt and covert indoctrination, by placing the child in a particular social context, and by moulding the child's family in the process of political socialisation. As the basic and innate requirements of the child are satisfied by the family he or she tends to identify himself or herself with his or her parents and adopt their outlook towards the political system.

- **School:** The educational institution also exercises immense influence upon the child. Children getting education in a particular educational institution may develop a particular kind of frame of mind. Every school has a definite educational pattern which greatly influences the attitude of the child towards the political system. Allen R. Barec says that, "the educational system has important effects on the process of socialisation. The values imparted by school and universities may not be the result of direct political indoctrination, but are nonetheless

important".

- **Religious institution:** Religious institution also plays an important role in the process of political socialisation of individuals. The importance of religious institution in shaping political belief and value has been prevailing since the early time. In the medieval period, church played a vital role in the political process of European countries. In the contemporary period also different kinds of religious practices of different religions continuously moulded political values in the society and thus play important role in the political socialisation of individuals.

- **Peer Groups:** The peer group is a group of people approximately of the same age. The members of the peer groups share similar problems. In addition to parents and teachers, most of the people spend a great deal of their lives in the company of peer groups. These groups become increasingly important as it influences on political attitude and behaviour of an individual. These groups include organizations like student unions, branches of political parties etc. The peer groups exercises deep impact on the mental attitude of the individual and play a great role in the process of political socialisation of individuals.

- **Experiences in employment:** Another agent of political socialisation is work place related experiences. Each individual encounters different ideas and experiences at his or her work place during the course of his or her employment. Every employee comes into contact with people of different communities at his or her work place. An employee develops specific orientations by way of his or her participation in unions, demonstrations, collective bargaining and negotiations and in decision making processes of the organisation. Informal groups of employees exert influence on the attitude of their members towards political objects and events.

- **Mass-media:** Mass-media is one of the important agents of political socialisation. The channels of mass communication such as newspapers, radio, television etc are very powerful media of political socialisation and exercise a deep impact on the personality of the

individual. These channels of communication provide lots of information about political happenings and thus help in the process of political socialisation of individuals. By observing the important role played by the mass media, Lucian Pye remarked, "Socialisation through the mass media is best short run technique available and it is crucial to modernisation".

- **Political parties and Pressure groups:** Political parties and pressure groups also act as an agent of political socialisation. These influence the process of political socialisation in a big way. Individual's orientation to politics is often conditioned by direct contact with the political parties. His or her relationship with political parties, pressure groups and influential leader determine his or her attitude towards politics. The political parties and pressure groups have a great role in shaping public opinion of the people and thus play a very significant role in the process of political socialisation of the people.

- **Impact of Political System:** A particular political system, which is prevailing in a country, also greatly influences the process of political socialisation. Different kinds of socialisation can take place in different circumstances. For example, people will adopt co-operative attitude towards the authorities if the political system operates in the interest of public welfare. On the other hand, people are bound to be alienated if the political system goes against people's demands. Almond and Powell expressed views regarding the impact of the political system on the process of political socialisation. According to them, 'no matter how positive the view of political system which has been included by family and school, when a citizen is ignored by his party, cheated by his police, starved in the bread line, and finally conscripted into the army, his views on the political realm are likely to be altered'.

- **Symbols:** Symbols also play an effective role in the political socialisation of individuals. The observation of birth days or martyrdom days of national heroes like Mahatma Gandhi, Lachit Barphukan, Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose, Lala Lajpat Rai and others inculcates a new spirit among the youths and inspire

them to work for the nation.

12.5 IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

Political socialisation is one of the major concepts of modern political science. The importance of political socialisation has been recognised by all sections of the society. Political socialisation reflects the process by which the individual learns to confirm to the norms of the group in the political context. In establishing a strong political culture and in maintaining the political stability of a country; the role played by the process of political socialisation is of crucial importance. Political culture of a particular society largely depends on political socialisation. Political socialisation process is also important for the politicians or leaders to understand the peculiarities of the political system. It is also essential for the understanding of political stability and development of a country. Political socialisation has great value, specifically in modern complex society. It helps in studying society in a scientific way. Knowledge about human society is needed in order to achieve progress in various fields. Political socialisation helps us to know about the social nature of men. It examines the relationship between individual, society and political system of a particular country. In this way the process of political socialisation carries a lot of significance in modern society.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.5: What do you mean by peer group?.

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Q.6: What are the important agents of political socialisation?

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Q.7: Write briefly about the role of family as an agent of political

socialisation. (within 75 words)

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Q.8: Write a short note on the role of the mass media in the process of political socialisation. (within 75 words)

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12.6 LET US SUM UP

- The concept of 'political socialisation' is generally used to describe the process of formation of political values, attitudes and beliefs.
- The process of political socialisation is a continuous process. It starts in childhood and continues throughout the life of the individuals.
- One of the basic objectives of the process of political socialisation is to transmit political values from one generation to another and to bring about political stability.
- There are some important agents of political socialisation, such as - family, educational institutions, religious institutions, peer groups, employment experience, mass media, political parties and pressure groups, symbols, impact of political systems.

- The family is the first important agency of political socialisation. It exercises both latent and manifest influence on the child from the very beginning of his life. Family through its authority, structure and decision making process plays a significant part in developing a person's orientation towards authority and obedience in the political sphere.

- The educational institution also exercises immense influence upon the child. Children getting education in a particular educational institution may develop a particular kind of frame of mind. Every school has a definite educational pattern which greatly influences the attitude of the child towards a system.

- Religious institution also plays an important role in the process of political socialisation of individuals. The importance of religious institution in shaping political belief and value has been prevailing since the early time. In the medieval period, church played a vital role in the political process of European countries. In the contemporary period also different kinds of religious practices of different religions continuously moulded political values in the society and thus play important role in the political socialisation of individuals.

- The peer group is a group of people approximately of the same age. These groups become increasingly important as they influence political attitude and behaviour of an individual. The peer groups exercises deep impact on the mental attitude of the individual and play a great role in the process of political socialisation of individuals.

- Another agent of political socialisation is work place related experiences. An employee develops specific orientations by way of his or her participation in unions, demonstrations, collective bargaining and negotiations and in decision making processes of the organisation. Informal groups of employees exert influence on the attitude of their members towards political objects and events.

- Mass-media is one of the important agents of political socialisation.

The channels of mass communication such as newspapers, radio, television etc are very powerful media of political socialisation and exercise a deep impact on the personality of the individual. These channels of communication provide lots of information about political happenings and thus help in the process of political socialisation of individuals.

- Political parties and pressure groups also act as an agent of political socialisation. These influence the process of political socialisation in a big way. An Individual's orientation to politics is often conditioned by direct contact with political parties. Political parties and pressure groups have a great role in shaping public opinion and thus play a very significant role in the process of political socialisation of the people.
- A particular political system, which is prevailing in a country, also greatly influences the process of political socialisation. Different kind of socialisation can take place in different circumstances. For example, people will adopt co-operative attitude towards the authorities if the political system operates in the interest of public welfare. On the other hand, people are bound to be alienated if the political system goes against their demands.
- Symbols also play an effective role in the political socialisation of individuals. The observation of birth days or martyrdom days of national heroes like Mahatma Gandhi, Lachit Barphukan, Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose, Lala Lajpat Rai and others inculcates a new spirit among the youth and inspire them to work for the nation.
- We cannot ignore the importance of political socialisation in establishing a strong political culture and in maintaining the political stability of a country. The role played by the process of political socialisation is of great importance.
- Political socialisation has a great value specifically in modern complex society. It helps in studying society in a scientific way. Political socialisation helps us to know about the social nature of men. It examines the relationship between individual, society and political

system of a particular country.



12.7 FURTHER READING

1. Agarwal, R.C. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chands & Company Ltd.
2. Ashraf, A & Sharma, L.N. (2007). Political Sociology. Hyderabad: Universities Press (India) Private Limited.
3. Chakraborty, S (ed) (2005). Political Sociology. Delhi: Macmillan Publications.
4. Gogoi, P. (2007). Degree Political Theory. Guwahati: Banalata Publication.
5. Mahajan, V.D. (2008). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chands & Company Ltd.
6. Mukhi, H.R. (2008). Political Sociology. Delhi: SBD Publisher's Distributors.
7. Ralhan, S.S. & Lambat, S.R. (2006). Political Sociology. Delhi: Commonwealth Publishers.



12.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: True

Ans to Q No 2: American Political Scientists Easton and Dennis

Ans to Q No 3: Political socialisation generally means socialisation of masses, the process by which ordinary people develop their attitudes towards their political system.

Ans to Q No 4: One of the basic objectives of the process of political socialisation is to transmit political values from one generation to another and to bring about political stability.

Ans to Q No 5: The peer group is a group of people approximately of the same age. The members of the peer groups share similar problems

Ans to Q No 6: Family, educational institutions, religious institutions, peer groups, employment experience, mass media, political parties and pressure groups, symbols, impact of political system.

Ans to Q No 7: The family is the first important agency of political socialisation. It exercises both latent and manifest influence on the child from the very beginning of his life. Family through its authority, structure and decision making process plays a significant part in developing a person's orientation towards authority and obedience in the political sphere. In the family mother, father, brothers and sisters exercise their influence over the child. American political scientist Robert Lane says that the family provides the foundations of the political beliefs of a child in three ways, such as- by overt and covert indoctrination, by placing the child in a particular social context, and by moulding the child's family in the process of political socialisation. As the basic and innate requirements of the child are satisfied by the family he or she tends to identify himself or herself with his or her parents and adopt their outlook towards the political system.

Ans to Q No 8: Mass-media is one of the important agents of political socialisation. The channels of mass communication such as newspapers, radio, television etc are very powerful media of political socialisation and exercise a deep impact on the personality of the individual. These channels of communication provide lots of information about political happenings and thus help in the process of political socialisation of individuals. By observing the important role played by mass media, Lucian Pye remarked, "Socialisation through the mass media is best short run technique available and it is crucial to modernisation".



12.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q.1: Mention the definition of political socialisation provided by Almond and Powell.

Q. 2: Mention any two important agents of political socialisation.

B) Short Questions (answer each question in around 150 words)

Q.1: What do you mean by political socialisation?

Q.2: Write about the importance of political socialisation.

C) Long Questions (answer question in around 300-500 words)

Q.1: Explain the meaning and importance of political socialisation.

Q.2: Discuss the role played by various agents in the process of political socialisation.

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UNIT 13: POLITICAL CULTURE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

13.1 Learning Objectives

13.2 Introduction

13.3 Political Culture

13.3.1 Meaning and Definitions of Political Culture

13.3.2 Kinds of Political Culture

13.3.3 Importance of Study of Political Culture

13.4 Political Participation

13.4.1 Meaning of Political Participation

13.4.2 Determinants of Political Participation

13.5 Let Us Sum Up

13.6 Further Reading

13.7 Answer to Check Your Progress

13.8 Model Questions

13.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:-

- explain the meaning of political culture and political participation
- describe the kinds of political culture
- analyze the importance of study of political culture
- discuss determinants of political participation.

13.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous unit we discussed the concept of political socialisation. Along with it, two other important issues, associated with the discipline of Political Science, are political culture and political participation. These two concepts became popular only after the end of the World War II. If we want to have a deeper understanding of the nature and functioning of the political system of a country, then understanding and knowledge of the political culture and political participation of that particular country are very important. There is a close relationship between political culture and political participation. Strong political culture is always very much conducive for active political participation. In this unit efforts will be made to discuss the concepts of political culture and political participation in detail.

13.3 POLITICAL CULTURE

The concept of political culture is comparatively of recent origin. Political culture is considered to be the beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviour of the people towards a political system. It is necessary to know the political culture of a nation in order to understand the political system of that nation. It is primarily concerned with the study of political attitudes, behaviours and thinking of the people in their actual cultural working. In the following sections we shall discuss the meaning, kinds and importance of the study of political culture.

13.3.1 Meaning and Definitions of Political Culture

Political culture is dependent on the attitudes and beliefs of the people towards the political system. It is the product of several inter-related factors, such as history, geography and socio-economic conditions. The political culture of a society is symbolised by its national flag and national anthem. The term 'political culture' was used, for the first time, by Gabriel Almond. The concept of political culture was discussed in a detailed manner by Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba in the book "The Civic Culture" (Gogoi, P. (2007). Degree Political Theory.

Guwahati: Banalata Publication, page 533). Almond observed that every political system is embedded in a particular pattern of orientation to political actions.

There are different viewpoints regarding the meaning of political culture. To have a better understanding of the meaning of political culture, first it will be important to refer to some of the definitions of political culture as given by scholars. Some of the important definitions of political culture are as follows:

According to American political scientist Sidney Verba, "Political culture consists of empirical beliefs, expressive symbols and values which define the situation in which political action takes place" (Gogoi, P. (2007). Degree Political Theory. Guwahati: Banalata Publication, page 533).

In the words of American political scientist Eric Rowe, "A political culture is a pattern of individual values, beliefs and emotional attitudes" (Mahajan, V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chands, Page No 190).

According to American political scientists Gabriel Almond and G.B.Powell, "Political culture consists of attitudes, beliefs, values and skills which are current in an entire population as well as those special propensities and patterns which may be found within separate parts of that population" (Gogoi, P. (2007). Degree Political Theory. Guwahati: Banalata Publication, page 533).

In the words of American political scientist Heinz Eulan, "Political culture refers to the patterns that can be inferred from the political behaviour of groups as well as the beliefs, guiding principles, purposes and values that the individuals in a group, whatever its size, hold in common" (Mahajan, V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand, Page No 190).

The International Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences defines political culture "as the set of attitudes, beliefs and sentiments which give order and meaning to a political process and which provide the underlying

assumptions and rules that govern behaviour in a political system. It encompasses both the political ideals and the operating norms of a polity. Political culture is thus the manifestation in aggregate forms of the psychological and subjective dimensions of politics" (Mahajan, V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand, Page No 191).

By summing up all the above mentioned definitions, we can say that political culture generally refers to individual orientations towards the political system of his or her country. It refers to the political beliefs and attitude held by an individual. The concept of political culture is not static. It is rather dynamic and keeps on changing in response to the needs of the political system from time to time.

13.3.2 Kinds of Political Culture

- Almond and Powell have classified political culture in three ways: parochial political culture, subject political culture and participant political culture.

- Parochial Political Culture: Parochial political culture refers to those cultures where people have little awareness and in some cases are ignorant of their political system. These sections of people are basically found in a backward society. The parochial political culture basically prevails in Central African region.

- Subject Political Culture: Subject political culture refers to that political culture where people are conscious about the nature and working of their political system, but they cannot take part in the political system of their country. Here the individuals may have no specific knowledge of the ways in which they can influence the political system. This kind of political culture generally exists in absolute monarchical form of government.

- Participant Political Culture: The participant political culture exists in highly developed societies. In this kind of society people take an active part in political life. In society, where participant political culture exists, people actively take part in the political affairs of the state. Under such

culture people are engaged in the process of making demands from the political system and are involved in the making of decisions.

- Besides this classification, there are some other kinds of political cultures. Such as-

- Mixed Political Culture: Mixed political culture refers to that political culture where features of parochial political culture, subject political culture and participant political culture are found. These three aspects of political culture may combine in one single political culture.

- Civic Political Culture: This kind of political culture basically exists in those societies where decision making powers are in the hands of the representative of the people. Here the common people do not participate in the political process of the country directly. In a democratic form of society this kind of political culture exists. Here people express their sentiments and wills only through their representatives.

- Secular Political Culture: Secular Political Culture exists in a society where people are secular, rational and analytical in character. Secular Political Culture basically put emphasis upon dynamic orientation of the system.

- Ideological Political Culture: In societies where people have to accept only one ideology, there exists the ideological political culture. In such society people cannot follow any other ideology of their own. In the countries like Soviet Union, China etc we can see the existence of such political culture.

- Homogeneous Political Culture: Homogeneous political culture refers to that political culture where people hold similar views about political objectives and the means for their attainment. Homogeneous Political Culture exists in developed countries like United States and England.

- Fragmented Political Culture: Fragmented Political Culture exists in a country where the people do not hold similar views about political objects. The societies where there are many political parties, this

kind of political culture exists. For example- countries like France, Italy, and India have fragmented political culture.

13.3.3 Importance of the Study of Political Culture

The significance of the study of political culture is recognised by all sections of scholars. Scholars have pointed out a number of usefulness of the study of political culture. The study of political culture helps us to understand the process of political socialisation. It also informs us about how political ideas and values are transmitted from one generation to another. Again study of political culture enables us to understand the political development of a society. It also helps us to understand the connection between social and economic factors of a region. Political culture is also helpful in developing political behaviour of individual. Another advantage of the study of political culture is that it helps us to study individual psychology. To study individual psychology, political culture is considered to be very effective. The study of political culture also helps in explaining the process of constitutionalism. Study of political culture enables us to understand about different kinds of constitutional laws and rules and regulations of an established society. People observe and evaluate constitutional laws differently in the context of different political cultures and political ideologies. To understand the attitude of citizens towards the political system, study of political culture is very much effective. After going through the study of political culture, we are able to understand about the exact nature of human being as a political animal.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: Who used the term 'political culture' for the first time?

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Q.2: State the definition of political culture provided by Eric Rowe.

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Q.3: Mention the classification of political culture as provided by Almond and Powell.

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Q.4: What do you mean by participant political culture?

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Q.5: Mention the names of two countries where ideological political culture prevail.

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Q.6: Write any two points showing the significance of the study of political culture.

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13.4 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Another important concept associated with the discipline of political science is political participation. The success of political system of any country depends on the political participation of the people of that particular country. So a detailed knowledge of the concept of political participation is very important. In this section we shall discuss the meaning and determinants of political participation.

13.4.1 Meaning of Political Participation

In democratic form of government, political participation is the principal means by which consent is granted or withdrawn and rulers are made accountable to the ruled. Political participation refers to direct or indirect involvement of people in the political process of their country. The political participation indicates not only direct participation in politics but also participation in demonstration, association, organisation, protest participation etc. Political participation may also involve criticism of the government and thus it keeps the government accountable to the people. From country to country the extent of political participation differs. This is due to the fact that political participation does not depend upon the democratic political system alone but is also influenced by so many other factors.

There are different viewpoints regarding the meaning of political participation. But before we understand the meaning of political participation, first it will be important to refer to some of the significant definitions of political participation as given by political philosophers. Some of the important definitions of political participation are as follows:

According to American social scientists Sidney Verba and Norman Nie "Political participation will refer to those voluntary activities by which members of a society share in the selection of rulers, and directly and indirectly in the formation and influencing of public policy". (Chakraborty, S (ed) (2005). Political Sociology. Delhi: Macmillan Publications, page 363).

According to American political scientist Samuel P. Hungtington and American scholar Joan M. Nelson "Political participation is the activity by which private citizens designed to influence governmental decision-making" (Chakraborty, S (ed) (2005). Political Sociology. Delhi: Macmillan Publications, page 363).

American political scientists D.R. Matthews and J.W. Protho defined

political participation as "all behaviour through which people directly express their political opinions". (Ashraf, A & Sharma, L.N. (2007). Political Sociology. Hyderabad: Universities Press (India) Private Limited. Page No-142)

By summing up these definitions we can come to the conclusion that political participation indicates the involvement of individuals and groups of individuals at various levels in the political system. It generally refers to voluntary activity through which individuals or group of individuals try to affect the decision-making process of their country.

13.4.2. Determinants of Political Participation

Political participation is considered to be a complex activity involving several factors. These factors change according to time and place. The important determinants of political participation are as follows:

- ***Psychological factors:*** One important factor which determines the extent of political participation is psychological factor of the individual. The most important psychological factors those determine political participation are as follows:

- **Loneliness:** Through political participation people get the chance to interact with each other that create a bond of friendship and thus they can avoid their loneliness. So many times people want to participate in the affair of the state to get rid of loneliness.

- **Unconscious conflicts and tensions:** Besides loneliness, political participation is determined by unconscious conflicts and tensions. Politics is an important means of releasing unconscious tensions and conflicts.

- **Urge for power:** An important determinant of political participation is the urge for power. Human being always seeks power because he or she finds happiness in being powerful.

- ***Social factors:*** Besides the psychological factors, social factors are

also important determinants of political participation. Social factors are part of the social environment of a person. The most important of such factors are - education, occupation, income, age, residence, mobility, sex, religion, race, class etc. The important social factors are-

- **Education:** Education is the most important social factor influencing political participation of individual. This influence is due to the fact that education widens person's field of interests. The educated person is more conscious towards the duties and responsibilities of the citizen. He or she has more self confidence and ability. Education, thus, increases meaningful political participation of individuals.
- **Occupation or Profession:** Occupation or profession of the individual is also considered as one of the important determinants of political participation. In some occupations most of the persons have to face identical problems which bring them close to one another. These people take more part in the affairs of the state.
- **Income:** Besides, education and occupation, income has an important influence upon political participation of individuals. Economic stability provides more leisure, diminishes anxieties and gives more occasions for political participation.
- **Social factors:** Social factors also influence political participation. For instance in a patriarchal society, women are prevented from taking part in political processes and hence, political participation of women is lower as compared to men.
- **Religion:** Religion is also an important determinant of political participation. For example, attitude towards family planning is very much influenced by Church in the West. In India also, whenever effort is made to legislate for members of a particular religion, there is more political participation of the followers of that religion towards such efforts.

➢ ***Political factors:*** There are also some political factors which are considered to be important determinants of political participation. Such

important political factors are-

- **Attitudes of the government:** The attitude of the government is an important factor that determines the extent of political participation of the people of that country. The government should keep constant communication with the people through various means. The policies of the government should be transparent.
- **Political parties:** Political parties also play an important role in political participation. The political parties take the opinion of the people to the government. They are the media of the expression of the demands of the people. They highlight political problems and suggest remedies. They extend political education and encourage people to participate in the affairs of the country.
- **Elections:** The system and process of elections also influence political participation of the people. Different kinds of activities of election process and people's response to these activities work as a determinant of political participation.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.7: Mention the social factors that determine the extent of political participation of individuals.

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Q.8: Mention the definition of political participation provided by Samuel P. Huntington.

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Q.9: Write briefly about elections and political parties as determinants of political participation. (within 75 words)

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13.5 LET US SUM UP

- Political culture is considered to be the beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviour of the people towards a political system. It is necessary to know the political culture of a nation in order to understand the political system of that nation.

- The term 'political culture' was used, for the first time, by Gabriel Almond. The concept of political culture was discussed in a detailed manner by Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba in the book "The Civic Culture".

- Almond and Powell have provided three-fold classification of political culture: parochial political culture, subject political culture and participant political culture. Besides this classification, there are some other kinds of political cultures. These are- mixed political culture, civic political culture, secular political culture, ideological political culture, homogeneous political culture, fragmented political culture.

- Scholars have pointed out a number of benefits of the study of political culture. The study of political culture helps us to understand the process of political socialisation and the political development of a society. Political culture is also helpful in developing political behaviour of individuals. Another advantage of the study of political culture is that it helps us to study individual psychology. The study of political culture also helps in explaining the process of constitutionalism.

- Another important concept associated with the discipline of political

science is political participation. Political participation refers to direct or indirect involvement of people in the political process of their country. The political participation indicates not only direct participation in politics but also participation in demonstration, association, organisation, protest participation etc.

- The determinants of political participation can be classified, in broader sense, into three categories- psychological factors, social factors, political factors. Psychological factors include- loneliness, unconscious conflicts and tensions, urge for power. Social factors include- education, occupation, income, age, residence, mobility, sex, religion, race, class etc. The important political factors that determine the extent of political participation are- attitudes of the government, political parties, election system.



13.6 FURTHER READING

1. Agarwal, R.C. (2006). *Political Theory.* New Delhi: S. Chands & Company Ltd.

2. Ashraf, A & Sharma, L.N. (2007). *Political Sociology*. Hyderabad: Universities Press (India) Private Limited.

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5. Mahajan, V.D. (2008). *Political Theory*. New Delhi: S. Chands & Company Ltd.

6. Mukhi, H.R. (2008). *Political Sociology*. Delhi: SBD Publisher's Distributors.

7. Ralhan, S.S. & Lambat, S.R. (2006). *Political Sociology*. Delhi:

Commonwealth Publishers.

13.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q. No1: Gabriel Almond

Ans to Q. No 2: A political culture is a pattern of individual values, beliefs and emotional attitudes.

Ans to Q. No 3: Parochial political culture, subject political culture and participant political culture.

Ans to Q. No 4: Participant political culture refers to that political culture where people take an active part in political life. In society, where participant political culture exists, people actively take part in the political affairs of the state. Under such culture people are engaged in the process of making demands from the political system and are involved in the making of decisions.

Ans to Q. No 5: Soviet Union and China

Ans to Q. No 6:

(i) The study of political culture helps us to understand the process of political socialisation.

(ii) The study of political culture enables us to understand the political development of a society.

Ans to Q. No 7: Education, occupation, income, age, residence, mobility, sex, religion, race, class etc.

Ans to Q. No 8: Political participation is the activity through which private citizens try to influence governmental decision-making.

Ans to Q. No 9: Political parties: Political parties play an important role in political participation. The political parties take the opinion of the people to the government. They are the media of the expression of the demands of the people. They highlight political problems and suggest remedies. They

extend political education and encourage people to participate in the affairs of the country.

Elections: The system and process of elections also influence political participation of the people. Different kinds of activities of election process and people's response to these activities work as a determinant of political participation.



13.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q.1: Who wrote the book "The Civic Culture"?

Q.2: State the definition of political culture provided by Almond and Powell.

Q.3: Mention the definition of political participation provided by Sidney Verba and Norman Nie.

B) Short Questions (answer each question in around 150 words)

Q.1: Write briefly about the meaning of political culture.

Q.2: Write about the concept of political participation.

Q.3: Explain the significance of the study of political culture.

C) Long Questions (answer each question in around 300-500 words)

Q.1: Discuss the various kinds of political culture.

Q.2: Examine the factors that act as the determinants of the political participation of individuals.

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UNIT 14 : POLITICAL MODERNISATION AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

UNIT STRUCTURE

14.1 Learning Objectives

14.2 Introduction

14.3 Political Modernisation

14.3.1 Agents of Political Modernisation

14.4 Political Development

14.5 Let us Sum Up

14.6 Further Reading

14.7 Answers to Check Your Progress

14.8 Model Questions

14.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:-

- explain the meaning of political modernisation
- discuss the agents of political modernisation
- explain the meaning of political development
- discuss Almond and Powell's view and Lucian Pye's view of of political development

14.2 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, we shall learn about two very important concepts which human societies pass through, namely, the concepts of political modernisation and political development. Political modernisation involves

changes in a range of spheres covering social, cultural, economic and psychological dimensions. Political Development involves elements of state building and wider political participation.

14.3 POLITICAL MODERNISATION

Before we discuss political modernisation, it is essential to learn about the concept of modernisation. Modernisation implies change in all fields ranging from social, cultural and economic to political and psychological fields. Accordingly, modernisation implies the progress on the part of the majority of people of a country, from their traditional way of life to the modern way of life.Such social mobility leads to new types of social transformation, increasing literacy, adoption of new technology, urbanisation and industrialisation.

The concept of political modernisation needs to be understood against this overall backdrop of modernization. With the movement from the traditional to the modern, the old feudal and religious authorities gave way to a more secular and democratic political authority based on a set of legal rules embodied in the form of a constitution. Under political development, there occurs structural-functional specialization, characterised by the existence of a definite political institution to perform a definite role. For instance, the executive branch of the government would perform executive functions, the legislative branch would be entrusted with the power of legislation, while the judicial branch of the government would have the power to adjudicate disputes.

At the same time, democratic values based on the concepts of liberty and equality began to strike roots, paving the way for people's participation in the political process and institutions. The main criterion for participation in the political system is individual merit and dignity of the human personality. ***Parochial*** loyalties based on caste, creed, ethnicity, race and gender are substituted by universal democratic principles based on merit, equality, freedom and secularism in the public sphere. People then began to identify themselves with national interests. Various organisations including political parties, interest groups and other groups are formed to raise people's

Parochial: Having a narrow outlook or perspective

demands and mobilise public opinion. Thus, political modernisation contributes to the growth of national identity bound by a spirit of national belongingness. Also a shift from a parochial political culture to a universal political culture takes place based on secularism and democracy in all spheres of public life.

Political modernisation is also characterised by the spread and development of modern techniques of mass media including newspapers, television and radio broadcasts and usage of internet and social media. As a result, people become enlightened and politically conscious and start taking active part in politics. Generally speaking, the process of political modernisation in terms of democracy, industrialisation, secularisation and rationalism started in Western Europe in the 16th century and subsequently had spread to other parts of the world.

14.3.1 Agents of Political Modernisation

Political Modernisation is shaped by several agents. These are as discussed below:

- **Colonialism:** One of the important agents of modernisation is colonialism. Most of the European countries set up colonies in Asia and Africa. The colonialists built roads, bridges, railways, telegraph and telephone services, banks, processing plants, oil and natural gas, refineries and other necessary infrastructure in order to gain better control over the colonies and exploit their natural resources. However, when these countries gained independence, the infrastructural developments laid down by the earlier colonial powers were utilised by the national leaders of the newly independent countries to further modernise their countries.

- **Elite:** The colonialists set up educational institutions including schools and colleges to impart modern western education so as to create a class of people who would be western and liberal in outlook and tastes. After independence, this new elite class of people would serve as agents of social change in the social, cultural, economic and political

spheres.

- **Military leaders:** In some newly independent countries, military leaders manage to seize power. After consolidating their control over the country, these leaders embark upon the task of modernisation. ***Secessionist*** and disintegrating tendencies are curbed by the military rulers who try to strengthen unity among the people. For instance, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk captured power in Turkey and undertook the task of modernisation and national unity.

***Secessionism*:** The act of formally withdrawing from a political union or federation of states.

- **Political Parties:** Political parties also serve as agents of political modernisation as they raise various issues of national and local importance and enable the citizens to take part in the public sphere.They also try to create a spirit of patriotism and nationalism.Thus, political parties help generate political consciousness among the masses and mobilise the people around various issues relating to governance and development.

- **Bureaucracy:** Generally, the national governments of the newly independent countries undertake various programmes to modernise their countries. In such a context, the national governments are bound to rely on the bureaucracy in order to implement such programmes. The bureaucracy on its part is expected to remain committed to the principles enshrined in the Constitution based on the principles of equality and social justice.

It may be mentioned here, that ideally political modernisation is related to democracy and as such, the single most important factor leading to political modernisation is the spread of democracy. Democratic values need to be imbibed starting at the level of the "family" to the level of individual groups and communities leading to the level of the society at large. Democratic values spontaneously lead to political modernisation as citizens start giving precedence to more universal principles of liberalism, secularism, merit, equality and

fraternity rather than loyalties of caste and creed, ethnicity and gender.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: Mention any two agents of Political Modernisation.

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Q 2: Political modernisation contributes to the growth of national identity bound by a spirit of national belongingness. (True/False)

.....

Q 3: In Political Modernisation, parochial loyalties are substituted by…….democratic principles in the public sphere.(Fill in the blank)

Q 4: Political modernisation is not characterised by the spread and development of modern techniques of mass media. (True/ False)

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Q 5: Discuss the military and political parties as agents of political modernisation. (within 75 words)

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14.4 POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

The origin of the concept of political development is associated with the developing countries of Asia and Africa. Most of these countries secured independence after the Second World War. These countries subsequently

attracted the attention of many political scientists, especially from America. The names of Lucian Pye, Myron Weiner, David Apter, F.W.Riggs may be mentioned in this context.

The following broad definitions of political development were given by two eminent scholars:

According to the American scholars Rostow and Pye political development aims at "national unity and broadening of the base of political participation." (Political Theory-R C Agarwal, p.452)

American political scientist Alfred Diamant holds that "…….political development is not a process which aims at achieving a particular political condition, but one which creates an institutional framework for solving an ever widening range of social problems." (Political Theory-R C Agarwal, p.452)

However, Almond and Powell have examined the concept of political development in greater detail. Let us discuss their views:

- **Almond and Powell's Views on Political Development**

  According to American political scientists, Gabriel Almond and G.B. Powell, political development implies four problems:

- **State-building:** According to Almond and Powell, the state must have modern institutional structures, administrative apparatuses and agencies. These structures have specialised roles to play in order to deal with different socio- cultural, economic and political problems which may crop up from time to time in any nation. The institutional structures would include the executive (both the political executive meaning the "government in power" and the "non-political executive" including the civil bureaucracy and police), the legislature and the judiciary. Most importantly, it is the centralised bureaucracy which plays a significant role in implementing policies for socio-economic development and contribute towards developing attitudes of obedience and compliance among the general population.

- **Nation-building:** Nation building implies giving up narrow and parochial loyalties such as loyalty to the tribal chief, family, caste, religion, ethnic group, region, etc. The citizen instead must owe allegiance to the State. The citizen identifies himself or herself with national interests. This leads to national integration and development of national consciousness. State building and nation building may go hand in hand. However, in most developing countries while state-building has been achieved, the issue of nation-building is yet to be fully resolved.

- **Political Participation:** As the society develops politically, there is an increasing demand from the public to take part in the decision making process.

- **Equitable Distribution of Welfare:** Increased political participation leads to the demand for equitable distribution of benefits and national income among all sections of the society irrespective of caste, creed, race, sex, etc. Recruitment to high posts should be made only through merit and equal opportunities should be created for all.

- **Lucian Pye's view of Political Development**

Lucian W. Pye was an American political scientist and a comparative politics expert. .According to Lucian Pye, political development has three characteristics, namely, equality, differentiation and capacity. The degree of development in any country can be assessed with the help of these characteristics:

- **Equality:** The first characteristic is the attitude towards equality. The political system sees mass participation of citizens in political activities. Such participation may be either democratic or totalitarian. Equality also means laws are applicable to all and must be applied impersonally. Thus there should be codified legal system. Recruitment to public office must be on the basis of merit and qualification.

- Differentiation: There occurs differentiation in the political system in terms of progressive separation and specialisation of roles. For

instance, legal norms will be separated from religion, administration from politics and so on. Again there will be specialised structures for specialised roles based on an ultimate sense of integration.

- Capacity: The capacity of the political system to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the people by way of efficient management of public affairs, control of disputes and coping with the new demands of the people, needs to be taken into account. Thus, capacity means "effectiveness" and "efficiency" in the execution of public policy on the part of the political system.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5: Mention any two problems put forward by Almond and Powell, with regard to political development.

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Q 6: Who talked about the characteristics of equality, differentiation and capacity.

…….....……

Q 7: Explain the problem of state building with regard to political development.(within 75 words)

……..……..……..……

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Q 8: Explain the characteristic of capacity of the political system with regard to the concept of capacity. (within 75 words)

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14.5 LET US SUM UP

- Modernisation implies the progress on the part of the majority of people of a country from their traditional way of life to the modern way of life. Such social mobility leads to new types of social transformation, increasing literacy, adoption of new technology, urbanisation and industrialisation.

- With the movement from the traditional to the modern, the old feudal and religious authorities give way to a more secular and democratic political authority based on a set of legal rules embodied in the form of a constitution.

- Under political development, there occurs structural- functional specialisation characterised by the existence of a definite political institution to perform a definite role. For instance, the executive branch of the government would perform executive functions, the legislative branch would be entrusted with the power of legislation while the judicial branch of the government would have the power to adjudicate disputes.

- At the same time, democratic values based on the concepts of liberty and equality begin to strike roots, paving the way for the participation of more and more citizens in the political process and institutions.

- Parochial loyalties based on caste, creed, ethnicity, race and gender are substituted by universal democratic principles based on merit, equality, freedom and secularism in the public sphere. People start identifying themselves with national interests. Various organisations including political parties, interest groups and other groups are formed to raise people's demands and mobilise public opinion.

- Political modernisation thereby contributes to the growth of national identity bound by a spirit of national belongingness. There also takes place a shift from a parochial political culture to a universal political culture based on "secularism" and "democracy" in all spheres of public life.

- Political modernisation is also characterized by the spread and development of modern techniques of mass media including newspapers, television and radio broadcasts and usage of internet and social media. As a result, people become enlightened and politically conscious and start taking active part in politics.

- Generally speaking, the process of political modernisation in terms of democracy, industrialization, secularization and rationalism started in Western Europe in the 16th century and subsequently spread to other parts of the world.

- Political Modernisation is shaped by several agents. These include Colonialism, Elite, Military leaders, Political Parties and Bureaucracy.

- The origin of the concept of political development is associated with the developing countries of Asia and Africa. Most of these countries secured independence after the Second World War. These countries subsequently attracted the attention of many political scientists, especially from America. The names of Lucian Pye, Myron Weiner, David Apter, F.W.Riggs may be mentioned in this context.

- According to Almond and Powell, political development implies four problems, namely, state-building, nation-building, political participation and equitable distribution of welfare. State-building implies the state must have modern institutional structures, administrative apparatuses and agencies. These structures have specialised roles to play in order to deal with various socio-cultural, economic and political problems which may crop up from time to time in any nation.

- State-building implies the state must have modern institutional structures, administrative apparatuses and agencies. These structures have specialised roles to play in order to deal with different socio-cultural, economic and political problems which may crop up from time to time in any nation.

- Nation-building implies giving up narrow and parochial loyalties such as loyalty to the tribal chief, family, caste, religion, ethnic group, region, etc. The citizen instead must owe allegiance to the State. The citizen

identifies himself or herself with national interests. This leads to national integration and development of national consciousness.

- Political Participation implies that as the society develops politically, there is an increasing demand from the public to take part in the decision making process.

- Increased political participation leads to the demand for equitable distribution of benefits and national income among all sections of the society irrespective of caste, creed, race, sex, etc. Recruitment to high posts should be made only through merit and equal opportunities should be created for all.

- According to Lucian W. Pye, the degree of development in any country can be assessed with the help of the characteristics of equality, differentiation and capacity.

- Equality implies mass participation of citizens in political activities. Such participation may be either democratic or totalitarian. Equality also means laws are applicable to all and must be applied impersonally. Thus there should be codified legal system. Recruitment to public office must be on the basis of merit and qualification.

- Differentiation occurs in the political system in terms of progressive separation and specialisation of roles. For instance, legal norms will be separated from religion, administration from politics and so on. Again there will be specialised structures for specialised roles, based on an ultimate sense of integration.

- The capacity of the political system to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the people by way of efficient management of public affairs, control of disputes and coping with the new demands of the people needs to be taken into account. Thus, capacity means effectiveness and efficiency in the execution of public policy on the part of the political system.



14.6 FURTHER READING

1) Agarwal, R.C. (2006). Political Theory-Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

2) Asirvatham, Eddy & Misra, K.K.(2006): Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

3) Kapur,A.C.(2006). Principles of Political Science. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.

4) Mahajan V.D. (2006). Political Theory. New Delhi: S. Chand and Company.



14.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: Colonialism and Elite

Ans to Q No 2: True

Ans to Q No 3: universal

Ans to Q No 4: False

Ans to Q No 5:

(a) Military leaders: In some newly independent countries, military leaders mange to seize power. After consolidating their control over the country, these leaders embark upon the task of modernisation. Secessionist and disintegrating tendencies are curbed by the military rulers who try to strengthen unit among the people. For instance, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk captured power in Turkey and undertook the task of modernisation and national unity.

(b) Political Parties: Political parties also serve as agents of political modernisation as they raise various issues of national and local

importance and enable the citizens to take part in the public sphere.They also try to create a spirit of patriotism and nationalism.Thus, political parties help generate political consciousness among the masses and mobilise the people around various issues relating to governance and development.

Ans to Q No 6: State building and Nation building

Ans to Q No 7: Lucian Pye

Ans to Q No 8: According to Almond and Powell, the state must have modern institutional structures, administrative apparatuses and agencies. These structures have specialised roles to play in oder to deal with different social, cultural, economic and political problems which may crop up from time in any nation. The institutional structures would include the executive (both the political executive meaning the government in power and the non-political executive including the civil bureaucracy and police), the legislature and the judiciary. Most importantly, it is the centralised bureaucracy which plays a significant role in implementing policies for socio-economic development and contribute towards developing attitudes of obedience and compliance in the general population.

Ans to Q No 9: The capacity of the political system to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the people by way of efficient management of public affairs, control of disputes and coping with the new demands of the people needs to be taken into account. Thus capacity means effectiveness and efficiency in the execution of public policy on the part of the political system.



14.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q. 1: Mention any four agents of Political Modernisation.

Q. 2: Where did political modernisation start in the 16th century.

Q. 3: Who put forward the problems of State-building, Nation-building, Political Participation and Equitable Distribution of Welfare with regard to political development?

Q. 4: What are the three characteristics of political development put forward by Lucian W. Pye ?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q. 1: Explain the four problems of political development as put forward by Almond and Powell.

Q. 2: Explain the characteristics of equality, differentiation and capacity as put forward by Lucian W. Pye.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q. 1: Discuss the concept of political development.

Q. 2: Discuss the concept of political modernisation.

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UNIT 15: FEMINISM

UNIT STRUCTURE

15.1 Learning Objectives

15.2 Introduction

15.3 Meaning of Feminism

15.4 Evolution of Feminism

15.5 Different Types of Feminism

15.6 Let Us Sum Up

15.7 Further Reading

15.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

15.9 Model Questions

15.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:-

- explain the meaning of feminism
- analyse the evolution of feminism
- discuss the different types of feminism

15.2 INTRODUCTION

In the social sciences the concept of 'Feminism' occupies an important position. Feminism refers to a movement which seeks to establish equality between men and women. Feminism has become a major subject of discussion due to the existing inequalities between men and women in our society. In many societies, women are treated as inferior in comparison to men and thus women have to face discrimination and injustice in every

step of their lives. The feminists take up all the issues of inequality and discrimination against women and the main objective of feminism is to eliminate inequalities between men and women in all fields. In this unit we will discuss the meaning, evolution and different types of feminism.

15.3 MEANING OF FEMINISM

The word 'feminism' is derived from the French term 'feministe' which was used to support equal rights for women and men. Feminism refers to a socio-economic and political movement that aims at establishing equality between men and women. The feminist movement emerged out of the discrimination which is done to women in all spheres of private and public life. The two most important concepts associated with the term 'feminism'- gender and patriarchy.

Gender is one of the most important issues which determines the position and status of a human being in the society. The concept of gender is a socially and culturally constructed one. It refers to the roles and values which the society attach to each sex. Biologically there is difference between male and female, but this biological difference is misused in the social and cultural contexts and this term is used as a means of discrimination against a particular category of gender. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviour, activities and attributes that a particular society considers appropriate for men and women. The socially and culturally constructed distinct roles and behavior may give rise to gender inequalities, i.e. differences between men and women that systematically favour one group and ultimately it leads to oppression of women in every sphere of life.

The feminists consider the Patriarchal system to be the main factor responsible for discrimination against women. The term "Patriarchy" is derived from the Greek word 'Patriarkhes' which means "father of a race" or "chief of a race". It literally means "the rule of the father". Patriarchy means a system in which male members of the society receive a preferential treatment in comparison to female counterparts. It indicates a social system in which males are the primary authority figures and control all aspects of private and public life. In other words, we can say that patriarchy refers to

male domination, or the power relationship by which men dominate women, and characterises a system whereby women are kept in a subordinate position in a number of ways.

The feminist movement is the outcome of all the various forms of discrimination and oppression which women have been subjected to. The feminists want to eradicate all discrimination against women and achieve the prime goal of equality between men and women. This movement for equality between men and women began in the late 1960s. The supporters of the feminist movement radically criticize the patriarchal system which give undue preferences to men and consider women as subordinate to men. The main thrust area of the feminist movement is that the subordinate role and position of women must be questioned, challenged and overcome.

The first Feminist writer was Mary Wollstonecraft from England. Her work *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) was a milestone in the feminist movement which advocated for social and moral equality of men and women.

15.4 EVOLUTION OF FEMINISM

While discussing the evolution of the feminist movement, scholars have referred to three waves, such as - First wave of feminism, Second wave of feminism and Third wave of feminism. Now we shall discuss these three waves in detail:

- First wave of feminism: The first wave of feminism was the period of the feminists' activities which started from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The formal beginning of the first wave of feminism took place at the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. During this convention hundreds of men and women gathered and demanded for equality between men and women. During this period feminist movement mainly focused on legal rights of women such as the right to vote. Demand for participation of women in the decision-making process in the public domain was emphasized during this first wave of feminism.

- Second wave of feminism: The second wave of feminism is confined from the late 1960s to 1990s. During this period the feminist movement demanded equal rights for women both in private and public domains, such as in the fields of family, sexuality and work. Another important issue during this second wave of feminism was the health issue of women. The feminists advocated that women must have the right to control over their body and right to reproductive health. During this wave the feminist movement also demanded that there should be proper legal and social remedies against domestic violence and sexual harassment of women.

- Third wave of feminism: The time frame of the third wave of feminism can be considered from 1990s to the present period. This wave of feminism was broader in nature. It may be mentioned here that the above mentioned two waves of feminism were confined mainly to the developed world. But the third wave of feminism is more inclusive as it includes fight for women across the world. The identity of women is a prime area of concern during this period.



ACTIVITY 15.1

Try to find out names of two Indian feminist activists.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: The term Feminism is derived from…… language. (Fill in the blank)

Q.2: Who is the author of "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" ?

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Q.3: What do you mean by Gender? (within 75 words)

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Q.4: Write a short note on the First wave of feminism. (within 75 words)

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Q.5: Patriarchal society gives equal status for men and women. (True/False)

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15.5 DIFFERENT TYPES OF FEMINISM

Feminism has different forms which can be discussed as follows:

- **Socialist Feminism:** Socialist feminism advocated equality of women and men in both public and private spheres of life. According to socialist feminism, liberation of women is a pre-requisite in order to establish

socio-economic and political justice in the society. This form of feminism argued that oppression of women took place due to financial dependence of women upon the male counterparts. Women's liberation from oppression can be achieved only through eradicating economic and cultural sources of oppression and exploitation against women. Some of the noted socialist feminist activists are- Robert Owen, Charles Fourier, Saint Simon, Suzanne Voilquin.

- **Liberal Feminism:** Liberal feminists advocated equal rights for women in every aspect of their life. The advocates of liberal feminism argue that each and every individual in the society should be treated on the basis of their talent and hard work instead of judging them on the basis of characteristics of their sex. Men and women must get equal opportunity for developing their personality. Liberal feminism believes that along with men, women also have equal capability to develop themselves. Some of the prominent supporters of liberal feminism are- Mary Wollstonecraft, John Stuart Mill, Harriet Taylor, Rebecca Walker. John Stuart Mill in his book *The Subjection of Women* advocated for women's right to property and right to vote.

- **Radical Feminism:** Another form of feminism is radical feminism. It advocates for radical or revolutionary reordering of the society which is the agent of oppression and exploitation of women. This form of feminism argues that patriarchal norms of the society are the main cause of gender inequality, which according to the radical feminists, is the prime cause of social inequality. Women must be free from all forms of social inequalities. Patriarchal norms and values of the society must be overthrown to end oppression and exploitation of women.

- **Marxist Feminism:** Marxist feminism combines both the ideas of Marxian class struggle and feminist social protest. This form of feminism opines that the main agent of oppression of women is the system of capitalism and private property. According to the advocates

of Marxist feminism, in the capitalist system exploitation of the womenfolk takes place due to concentration of wealth in the hands of a few men who keep women in a subordinate position. The rules of inheritance in a capitalist society are such that wealth and property are bequeathed or handed down to the male child. In this way, the capitalist system becomes the main agent of oppression and exploitation of women. Besides, Marxist feminism is also concerned with the unpaid labour of women within home and in the private sphere. The labour of women in the domestic sphere in terms of raising children and performing household chores go unrecognised. Equal wages must be paid to women and due recognition must be given to women for their domestic work. In simple words, Marxist feminism advocates that by overthrowing capitalist economy and implementing socialist principles, justice and freedom for women can be achieved.

- **Cultural Feminism:** Cultural feminism emphasizes the positive and distinct qualities of women such as caring, nurturing, cooperation, etc. This form of feminism argues that these distinct qualities of women must be given their due value. Cultural feminists opine that in conducting affairs of the state and in the process of conflict settlement, women with all these distinct qualities can play an effective role. There is no reason for keeping women away from public life. Some prominent cultural feminists are- Jane Addams, Margaret Fuller and others.

- **Eco- Feminism:** Eco feminism is related to environmental activism or ecology. This form of feminism observes a connection between environmental degradation and the exploitation of women. In the contemporary time, development projects lead to severe destruction of the environment. This destruction of the environment ultimately increases burden on women who in a patriarchal society are mainly concerned with the management of their household activities. Prominent supporters of eco feminism are Greta Gaard, Lori Gruen, Vandana Shiva.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.6: Who is the author of the book "Subjection of Women"?

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Q.7: Mention the names of the two supporters of socialist feminism.

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Q.8: According to the radical feminist patriarchal norms of the society are the main causes of gender inequality. (True/False)

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Q.9: Write a short note Marxist feminism. (within 75 words)

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15.6 LET US SUM UP

- The word 'feminism' is derived from the French term 'feministe' which was used to support equal rights for women and men. Feminism refers to a socio-economic and political movement that aims at establishing equality between men and women.
- The two most important concepts associated with the term 'feminism' are gender and patriarchy. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviour, activities and attributes that a particular society considers appropriate for men and women which gives rise to

inequalities between men and women.

- The feminist consider Patriarchal system to be main factor responsible for discrimination against women. Patriarchy means a system in which male members of the society receive a preferential treatment in comparison to female counterparts.

- Evolution of feminism can be discussed in terms of three waves, such as First wave of feminism, Second wave of feminism and Third wave of feminism.

- The first wave of feminism was the period of the feminists' activities which started from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During this period feminist movement mainly focused on legal rights of women, such as right to vote. Demand for participation of women in the decision-making process in the public domain was emphasized during this first wave of feminism.

- The second wave of feminism is confined from the late 1960s to 1990s. During this period the feminist movement demanded equal rights for women both in private and public domains, such as in the fields of family, sexuality and work. Another important issue during this second wave of feminism was the health issue of women.

- The time frame of the third wave of feminism can be considered from 1990s to the present period. This wave of feminism was broader in nature. The third wave of feminism is more inclusive and it includes fight for women across the world.

- Some of the important forms of feminism are- Socialist feminism, Liberal feminism, Radical feminism, Marxist feminism, Cultural feminism, Eco feminism etc.

- Socialist feminism advocated equality of women and men in both public and private spheres of life. Socialist feminism considers liberation of women as a pre-requisite to establish socio-economic and political

justice.

- Liberal feminists advocated equal rights for women in every aspects of their life. The advocates of liberal feminism argue that each and every individual of the society should be treated on the basis of their talent and hard work; instead of judging them on the basis of characteristics of their sex. Men and women must get equal opportunity for developing their personality.

- Radical feminism advocates radical or revolutionary reordering of the society which is the agent of oppression and exploitation of women. This form of feminism argues that patriarchal norms of the society are the main cause of gender inequality.

- Marxist feminism combines both the ideas of Marxian class struggle and feminist social protest. This form of feminism opines that the main agent of oppression of women is the system of capitalism and private property. Marxist feminism advocates that by overthrowing capitalist economy and implementing socialist principles, justice and freedom for women can be achieved.

- Cultural feminism emphasizes on positive and distinct qualities of women such as caring, nurturing, cooperation etc. This form of feminism argued that these distinct qualities of women must be given their due value. Cultural feminists opine that in conducting affairs of the state and in the process of conflict settlement, women with all these distinct values can play an effective role.

- Eco feminism observes a connection between environmental degradation and exploitation of women.



15.7 FURTHER READING

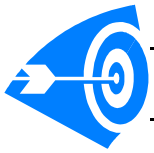
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15.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q. No. 1: French

Ans to Q. No. 2: Mary Wollstonecraft

Ans to Q. No. 3: The concept of gender is a socially and culturally constructed one. It refers to the roles and values which the society attach to each sex. Biologically there is difference between male and female, but this biological difference is misused in the social and cultural contexts and this term is used as a means of discrimination against a particular category of gender. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behavior, activities and attributes that a particular society considers appropriate for men and women. The socially and culturally constructed distinct roles and behavior may give rise to gender inequalities, i.e. differences between men and women that systematically favour one group and ultimately it leads to oppression of women in every sphere of life.

Ans to Q. No. 4: The first wave of feminism was the period of the feminists' activities which started from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The formal beginning of the first wave of feminism took place at the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. During this convention hundreds of men and women gathered and demanded for equality between men and women. During this period feminist movement mainly focused on legal rights of

women, such as right to vote. Demand for participation of women in the decision-making process in the public domain was emphasized during this first wave of feminism.

Ans to Q. No. 5: False

Ans to Q. No. 6: John Stuart Mill

Ans to Q. No. 7: Robert Owen, Charles Fourier

Ans to Q. No. 8: True

Ans to Q. No. 9: Marxist feminism combines both the ideas of Marxian class struggle and feminist social protest. According to the advocates of Marxist feminism, in the capitalist system exploitation of the womenfolk takes place due to concentration of wealth in the hands of a few men who keep women in a subordinate position. In the capitalist system, the rules of inheritance are such that wealth and property are bequeathed or handed down to the male child. In this way, the capitalist system becomes a tool of oppression and exploitation of women. Besides, Marxist feminism is also concerned with the unpaid labour of women within home and in the private sphere.



15.9 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q.1: From which words did the term feminism originate?

Q.2: Mention the names of two supporters of liberal feminism.

Q.3: Mention the names of two supporters of eco feminism.

B) Short Questions (answer each question within 150 words)

Q.1: What do you mean by feminism?

Q.2: Write a short note on Gender.

Q.3: Write briefly about the meaning of patriarchy.

C) Long Questions (answer each question within 300-500 words)

Q.1: Describe the evolution of feminism.

Q.2: Discuss the various forms of feminism.

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