

## KEY ELEMENTS OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

Class: VI

Handout

Subject: SST



Democracy has certain key elements which make it the most important form of government. These key elements influence the working of democracy. These include people's participation, the resolution of conflict and equality and justice.

South Africa is a country that had people of several races. People were divided into white, black, Indian and coloured races. South-Africa was earlier ruled by apartheid laws.

### Apartheid laws:

1. Different races were not allowed to mingle with each other.
2. Non-whites were not allowed to vote.
3. Non-white people were not considered to be equal to whites.

**Hector Piterson:**

Resident of South western township (Soweto) in South Africa. He and his classmates were joined the protest against learning the Afrikaans language in school. But the South African police beat up the protestors and shot at the crowd and one of their bullets killed Hector Piterson on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1976.

**Democracy:**

A form of government in which the rulers or leaders are elected by the people.

**Key elements:****1. Participation:**

Participation means to take part in. In democracy; each and every citizen has the right to participate in the decision making of the government. But they do not participate directly. They choose their representatives through an election. These representatives take decisions on behalf of the entire population.

**2. Other ways of participation:**

Apart from voting, there are other ways of participating in the process of government. People can participate by talking an interest in the functioning of the government. These may be dharnas, rallies, protest marches and signature campaigns.

**3. Need to resolve conflict:**

**Conflicts-Reason:** Conflicts generally arise when the people of different regions, religions, languages, castes, culture, gender and economic backgrounds do not value each other. That is, when some of them feel they are being discriminated against.

Rivers, water and dams also create conflicts between states in India. This is because; a river may origin in one state, flowing through another and ends in a third state. So, the sharing of river water among these different states often became an issue of conflict.

Ex. The Cauvery water Dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

### **Resolve Conflicts:**

Conflicts must be resolved according to the laws of the land. The Indian Constitution lays down the basic rules or laws that have to be followed by everyone. These laws are for both the government and the people. Conflicts and differences have to be resolved according to these laws.

### **4. Equality and Justice:**

One of the key ideas of a democratic government is its commitment to equality and justice. In a democracy all are treated equally. All are equal in the eyes of the law.

These are some of the important key elements of a democracy that make it the most accepted form of government in the modern world.

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