

Grade :- **10**

Subject :- Citizenship Education

Unit :- **1.3**

Name :- Features of a Democratic Governance II

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Features of a Democratic Governance...

05. Existence of a government and an opposition

- ✓ The party which wins a majority of representatives becomes the government in a parliamentary system of government. Administration rests with the government.
 - ✓ The party or parties which get a minority of representatives becomes the opposition.
 - ✓ There is a role for the opposition to have a successful administration in a democratic governance.
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- Assist the government in their good work.
 - Oppose the government in anti-democratic policies and actions.
 - Provide constructive criticisms for the policies of the government.
 - Act establish a better alternative government.

Features of a Democratic Governance...

06. Freedom, equality and rights

In simple terms, freedom is the opportunity for developing one's personality sans external resistance.

G.D.H. Cole

Providing every individual with equal opportunities is equality.

1789 French National Board

The conditions which people need to have a good social life are rights.

Harrold J. Lasky

If there is a democratic governance in a country, citizens receive freedom, equality is existed and rights are received.

Democracy depends on these three towers.

Features of a Democratic Governance...

07. Act accordance with the constitution

The basic law of a country is the constitution.

“The constitution is a document which defines the formation, the execution and the powers of the major component of a government, which are the legislature, executive and the judiciary and describes the relationship between the said institutions with the people.

Ivor Jennings

There are lot of benefits of adherence to the constitution in a democratic country.

- Ensures the regularity and the consistency of the administration.
- Possibility of preventing rulers being arbitrary.
- Protection of fundamental rights.
- Equal treatment under law for everyone.

Features of a Democratic Governance...

08. Media freedom and the right of access to information

People have freedom of expression and access to information only in a democratic governance. This is fulfilled by the media. Media is the main factor in forming public opinion.

There are several tasks fulfilled by media in a democratic country.

- Presenting true and correct information to the public.
- Improving the knowledge of people.
- Ensuring that the rulers followed the path of democracy.
- Making the government aware of the grievances of the people.
- Presenting unbiased information.

Features of a Democratic Governance...

09. Sovereignty of the judiciary.

- The judiciary should be independent as possible in a country which has a democratic governance.
- It is expected that the judiciary is free from the influences of the legislature and the executive.
- Sovereignty of judiciary is essential to have fair justice.
- Safeguard the fundamental rights and the constitution are expected from the judiciary.
- Several steps are taken for this by the 1978 constitution of Sri Lanka.

Features of a Democratic Governance...

10. The supremacy of law

- ❖ Law is above all the others in a country is supremacy of law.
- ❖ Both the rulers and the followers are equal before law.
- ❖ There are lot features which show the supremacy of law.
 - Everybody respects the law.
 - Being obedient to the law.
 - Not superseding the law.
 - Equality before law.