

Name: Alexandra Biobele Briggs

Dept:MBBS

Matric NO:19/MHS01/122

Course:Gst 203 Government and Political Science

Assignment: chapter 8 review

Citizens Roles In A Democracy.

Citizen is a term used to define the relationship between people and government. Citizenship is the right to be an identified member of a state or a country. Democracy is a system of government of the people ,by the people and for the pople. If there are no citizens /people democracy cannot take place. Citizens should be able to express themselves in order to make life easier for both the government and the masses. The relationship between democracy ,citizens and the government is symbiotic. In ancient Rome citizens could enjoy some privileges that slaves ,labourers and aliens could not enjoy. Nowadays, citizens are seen as whole members of state or country.

Citizenship can be acquired by two ways;

- **Birth :**
 - 1) If your parents are citizens of that state or country.
 - 2) If you are born within the territory of that state.

Naturalisation : This is the willingness to sacrifice citizenship of one state to get citizenship of another state. The conditions for naturalisation vary from country to country.

Citizens have many roles to perform for their country but they are all divided into three;

- Civil citizenship: This are rights that protect individual liberty. It benefits both state and government.
- Political citizenship : This has to do with participation of citizens in democratic processes and exercising of political power either directly or indirectly.
- Social citizenship is simply having a right to access resources that will allow them to live with civility in accordance with the laws of the land .

A good citizen is active on the state which involves willingness to get involved in the social actions of the state. An active citizen is said to posses the three ethical borders;

- **Ethical citizenship:** This is the active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizens. It involves your personal sacrifice to develop the society which , in the long run you'll still benefit from.
- **Integrative citizenship :** This is a wide sphere engagement that goes beyond political parties and institutions .
- **Educative citizenship:** This refers to development of a moral, practical and intellectual sense of self in individuals in their practices of citizenship.

Active participation of citizens works to overcome individualism and exposes connection between the private and public interest. Citizens' have RIGHTS and these rights help them to take part in running of the government. Rights are duties and responsibilities on part of every citizens. They are usually conferred by law upon a person.

DEMOCRACY

Now let's talk about democracy. The concept of this originated in ancient Greece where every citizen was allowed to participate in running of government. This was direct democracy. Although this democracy excluded slaves, aliens and labourers from taking part in the electoral processes. Abraham Lincoln perceived democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. He stated that the rights of individuals count more than those of the state. Democracy has the following features;

- Guarantee of Fundamental human rights.
- Independent and impartial judiciary.
- Existence of rule of law.
- Free press
- Periodic free and fair elections.

The practice of democracy ensures that citizens have a fulfilled and happy life. Democratic citizens not only demand things from the state but the state also demands things from them meaning they not only have rights but also responsibilities. They have to be active participants not passive participants. They have the following responsibilities;

- Citizens in a democracy have a duty to vote. Democracy is useless without their participation.
- Citizens should be willing to pay taxes, to ensure that the democratic government is funded.
- A good citizen should obey the law and help the law agency by reporting suspicious activity. There can be no democracy in a lawless society.
- Citizens should be less destructive and more constructive. That means they should refrain from destructive criticism and focus more on constructive alternatives for the government
- Citizens should consider another. They should not interfere with the enjoyment of another person's rights if they are enjoying their own rights.
- They should support public education. It strengthens citizens to be better informed and situated to interrogate government policies.

Citizens therefore play every important role in democracy, there would be probably no democracy if not for the co operation and commitment of citizens. It is a plus for citizens if they are born in a democratic society so they must do what they can to preserve it at all costs. Thank you.