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**ASSIGNMENT**

* **A review of chapter 8.**

**CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY**

The authority of government likewise drives drives from the will of the people on that choice of these systems, and the people have a right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices, these precepts are embodied in the universal declaration of human rights and in modern constitutions the world over. For democracy to deliver, citizens must become informed about issues that can improve their lives. They must be free to come together to express their views and preferences and work to see that government responds to citizens, views thus holding those in government accountable.

Barriers to citizen participation are multiple in every country.they are both subtle and obvious, small and formidable ,and based on numerous factors.for full citizenship to be archived we must remove these barriers ,whether that are based on gender,race,ethnicity,religion,age or another status.

**Conceptual clarifications**

**Citizen/citizenship**

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government.

In Ancient Rome, it was considered a privileged status to be called a citizen because the status has not accorded to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire, slaves, and some alien.residents were derived of citizenship for racial, political and religious reasons.Citizenship of a state may be acquired by birth or naturalization whereby a man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory of that state. On the other hand, citizenship by naturalization is a process whereby an individual person inherits through a collection of legal rights and obligations, controlling access to the scarce political, economic and cultural resources of the society.

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria define citizenship as;

* Every person bit in Nigeria before the date of independence either or whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria by virtue of this section of neither of his parents nor any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria.
* Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grand parent den is a citizen
* Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parent is a citizen of Nigeria.

Citizenship has so many definitions made or created by different persons for example;

* Brennan et.al; that citizenship is not solely comprised of passive membership of a political entity, but that being active is an essential of being a citizen.
* Clover (2004;18);argues that there are these dimensions of active citizenship which are;

Ethical citizenship

Interactive citizenship

Educative citizenship

* **Ethical**

It understands active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship.

* **Interactive**

This needs engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices and institutions.

* **Educative**

It refers to the process that develops a moral, practical and institute and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship.

**CITIZENS RIGHT**

Individuals rights and liberties are the grand-work of the state these rights are not absolute their limited by the rights of other citizens in the state. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the states, it becomes a civil rights.if the civil rights are being invaded by another citizen he is entitled to seek redress in the court of law. Then civil rights accorded in the constitution include;

* Right to life.
* Right to work.
* Right to freedom of religion.
* Right to education.
* Right of association and right to freedom of speech.

**DEMOCRACY**

The word Democracy is gotten from the Greek word “**denos”** meaning people and “**kratos”** meaning rule that is **RULE BY THE PEOPLE.**

In these assemblies citizens were free to discuss state affairs,,take decisions and exercise their political rights.

In those system every citizen were expected to participate in the running of government.

The Greek democracy was a limited institution in that is excluded laborers, slaves And aliens from exercising political rights.

**Abraham Lincoln,** former American president ,perceived democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people. In other words of MAXEY, the state and countries were the arrangements, constitutions and practices and the workings of the government and such that the individuals and his rights, freedom and worth are ensured and guaranteed are usually referred to as democracies.

Since there is no single definition of democracy where what can be deduce from the various definitions of democracy are the following features.

* The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed.
* Independent and impartial judiciary
* Existence of rule of law
* Freedom of press
* Periodic election that is free and fair.

**Duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy**

While the state provides rights and liberties, all citizens have duties to the state. Democratic citizens recognize that they not only have rights that have responsibilities such as;

* A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote.
* A citizen should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes it not possible to fund a democratic government.
* A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law.
* A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticism but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies.
* A good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community.
* She must support public education in every way possible, through the parent of taxes, through local volunteer efforts through according this system to respect to whether it should be entitled.

Regardless one should know that democracy assures basic fundamental rights for citizens like right to vote, right to liberty right to practice and religion or be irreligious, right to information.