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## 19/MHS11/023

## PHARMACY

## GST 203

## REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8

## CITIZENS ROLE IN A DEMOCRACY

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy.They have a collective right to choose their government,political and electoral systems as part of self determination.The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their 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.They capture the foundation for the famous formulation that democratic government is of the people,by the people and for the people.They mean just that governments belong to the people ,governmental process belong to the people,and elections belong to the people.There is no democracy without the engagement of citizens.

 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

In order to enhance their meanings as used within the context of this paper ,it is important to clarify a few concepts.

* Citizen/Citizenship:This term citizen implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government .Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities,including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired by either by birth or by naturalization.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.

* Citizens’ Right:Individual’s rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exists to enable men to live and develop fully.In order to let the citizens have a share in the running of his/her government,a group of rights is very essential.These rights are not absolute since they are limited by rights of other citizens in the state.Right entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizens.

DEMOCRACY

Derived from the Greek word demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule,that it democracy means rule by the people .The Greek democracy was a limited institution in that it excludes labourers,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.According to him,democracy is a government of the people within a state and that it a government by the people when its ideological undercurrents grounded in the people’s culture,also,it is a government which is for the people when the power employed by the custodians of state business emanates from,and resides in the collective mandate of the people,the states and countries where the arrangements,constitutions and practices and the workings of the government are such that the individuals and his rights,freedoms and worth are ensured and guaranteed are usually referred to as democracies.

VARIOUS DEFINITIONS OF DEMOCRACY ARE THE FOLLOWING THE 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

* A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote
* A citizen should be willing to pay taxes,since without taxes to fund a democratic government,there would be no democracy
* A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law
* A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms 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
* A good citizen must support public education in every way possible,through the payment of taxes,through local volunteer efforts,through according this system the respect to which it should be entitled.