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LEVEL: 200

TOPIC: CITIZENS ROLES IN A DEMOCRACY

DEPARTMENT: NURSING

MATRIC NO: 19/MHS02/082

 Review of Chapter 8

Sovereignty resides in and flows from the people in a democracy. They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self determination.

There is no democracy without the engagement of citizens. 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.

The term Citizen and Citizenship has an inherently political meaning that 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, In addition to the intrinsic democratic value, participation in an instrumental driver of democratic and socio economic change and a fundamental way to empower citizens. To be a citizen means to enjoy certain liberties and rights as opposed to the slaves who could not enjoy them.

Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization . A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if is parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory of that State . Citizenship determined by the place of birth is fundamental in the laws of most countries. The process by which an individual may voluntarily change his or her citizenship of a state to another state is known as naturalization. The conditions under which naturalization are conferred vary from country to country.

Chapter 111 ,section 25 1(a) of the Constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria defines citizenship as: every person born in Nigeria before the date of independence, either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria: provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents nor any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria. (b) every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria.

Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of or be divided into civil citizenship , political citizenship, and social citizenship, all these types of citizenship was explained . With so many other concept citizenship does not have one definition, it means different things to different people. Citizenship is about being willing to contribute to social action as well as to political debate, to be willing to get involved. While involvement in local clubs and societies is seen as valuable. They argue that the involvement must speak of public mindedness and have a purpose beyond that of a small group of people. However there are broader definitions and perceptions of citizenship as well as shown by Glover who argues that there are three dimensions of active citizenship;active citizenship ethical citizenship, integrative citizenship and educative citizenship. Educative citizenship, on its part according to Dagger refers to the process that develops a moral practical, and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship .

Citizens rights; Individual 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 citizen have a share in the running of his or her government , a group of rights is very essential. A right is defined as a priviledge or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. If the civil rights of a citizen are invaded by another citizen or the government , he is entitled to seek redress in the court of law.

Democracy ;Democracy is derived from the Greek word ‘’demos meaning people and kratos meaning rule, that is rule by the people’’’ The Concept of democracy , like many other political concepts first originated from the Ancient Greece where in the city states , citizens were free to meet frequently in assemblies whoch had the power to make laws.

Abraham Lincoln former American president perceived democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Since there is no single definition of democracy however, what can be deduce form the various definitions of democracy are the following feature;

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

The duties and responsibilities of a citizen in a Democracy ; While the states provides rights and liberties, all citizens have duties to the state. they do not have only the rght but they do have responsibilities.

A citizen in a democracy should have duty to vote, should be willing to pay taxes, A good citizen must have a duty to obey the law, he or she must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms, etc…

In Conclusion, Democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. It is also defined as the system of government by the people, of the people and for the people. It is considered as the best form of government in the modern era as it allows citizens to exercise and enjoy many rights and it gives them responsibilities at the same time. It is a plus for citizens if they are born in a democratic country.