

(ii) Independent and impartial Judiciary (iii) Periodic election that is free and fair.  
Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens in Democracy

While the state provides rights and liberties, all citizens have duties to the state. Democratic citizens recognize that they not only have rights but also responsibilities. For democracy to succeed, citizens must be active, not passive because they know that the success or failure of the government is their responsibility and not of anyone else's. Citizens are therefore expected to perform the following responsibilities in a democracy.

- (a) A citizen in a democracy should have the duty to vote. There is no part in democracy in which we do not participate. People who are unhappy with their leaders are free to organize and peacefully make the case for change or try to vote those leaders out of office at established times of elections.
- (b) A citizen should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes to fund a democratic government, there would be no democracy. A democracy must provide for all its citizens and this can be better ensured when citizens pay taxes.
- (c) A good citizen must refrain from uttering destructive criticisms but must be prepared to offer constructive alternatives to government policies. He should not stir up racial or class divisions within the state which may lead to bloodshed or chaos.

### Conclusion

Democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. It is considered as the best form of government in modern era as it allows citizens to exercise and enjoy many rights and it gives them responsibilities at the same time. Citizens play an important role in democracy. Citizens have the duty in a democracy of making their rights are preserved by challenging government when it errs. Besides the rights, citizens must be critical of the government also. After some time, while being critical, citizens must also not lose sight of the pursuit of public interest. A positive attitude should be maintained with development of the state being the priority.



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COURSE CODE: GST203 (Chapter 8 - Citizen Roles in Democracy)

Date: 30th January, 2021.

## Introduction

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in the decisions affecting the public affair welfare. In addition to the intrinsic democratic value, participation is an instrumental <sup>driver</sup> of a democratic and socio-economic change and a fundamental way to empower citizens. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalisation. A man become a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizen of that state or if he is born within the territory of that state.

**Citizen Rights:** Individual rights and liberties are the grand aim of the state since it exists to enable man to live and develop fully in order to the the citizen have a share in the running of his/her government, a group of right is very essential. Right entails some duties and responsibilities as the part of every citizen. A right may therefore be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it become a civil right.

**Democracy:** It has been etymologically established that the word democracy is derived from the Greek word "demos" meaning people and "kratos" meaning rule, that is 'rule by the people'. The Greek democracy was a limited institution in that it excluded laborers, slaves and aliens from exercising political right. The idea that all citizens, high or low, within the state are entitled to take parts in the running of the affairs of their state was first advocated in England after the great Civil war of the Seventeen century. Since there is no single definition of democracy so far, the following is deduced: (i) that rights of the citizen is guaranteed (ii) freedom of press (iii) existence of rule of law