

People's Participation in Governance

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What is Citizen's Participation

- Citizen participation is a process which provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process. The roots of citizen participation can be traced to ancient Greece and Colonial New England. Before the 1960s, governmental processes and procedures were designed to facilitate "external" participation.



The Citizen's Participation is the active **participation** of the **citizens** in the society, which includes all forms of **participation**, political, social, cultural or economical, as well as the combination between them, for example, social economic or social cultural



Examples/Ways of Citizen's Participation

- voting in local, state, and national elections
- participating in a political discussion
- trying to persuade someone to vote a certain way
- signing a petition
- writing letters to elected representatives
- contributing money to a party or candidate



- attending meetings to gain information, discuss issues, or lend support
- campaigning for a candidate
- demonstrating through marches, boycotts, sit-ins, or other forms of protest
- serving as a juror
- running for office
- holding public office
- serving the country through military or other service



People's Participation in Different forms of Government

Types of Governments are:

1) Autocracy

- the oldest form of government
- maintain power through inheritance or ruthless use of military and police power.
- citizens have no ability to participate in the selection of the ruler or in the creation of laws.
- has a single ruler with unlimited power
- one benefit of this type of government is that decisions for a country can be made quickly.
- the power to rule is inherited or by military force.

a) Dictatorship

- the leader has not been elected and uses force to control all aspects of social and economic life.

b) Absolute Monarchy

- a monarchy has a king, queen, emperor or empress.

- the power is usually inherited or passed down from family members.

2. Oligarchy

- a government in which a few people such as a dominant clan have power
- The citizen do not participate in the government

3) Democracy

- citizens vote by secret ballot
 - individual freedom and equality is valued
 - free elections are held
- all citizens are involved in the decision-making process of the government, and all groups are represented.



References:

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