

# Social Studies

## (Civics)

### Chapter 5: Popular Struggles and Movements



## Popular Struggles and Movements

Democracy in every country evolves through popular struggles and movements. Protests, movements and rallies are held by the people or a community even in the democratic countries to gain their rights and privileges. While the popular struggle in Nepal belongs to the first category, the water war in Bolivia belongs to the second category.

### Popular Struggle in Nepal and Bolivia

#### Movement for Democracy in Nepal

The struggle of the people of Nepal is a source of inspiration for people all over the world. The following is a brief outline of the struggle of the people to gain democracy in their country:

- Nepal had become a democratic nation from a monarchical country in 1990. While the king remained a nominal head, the real powers were exercised by the elected members of the Parliament.
- When King Birendra was killed in the much-debated massacre of the Nepal Royal Family in 2001, King Gynendra, the brother of the slain king, dismissed the then Prime Minister and dissolved the Parliament of the country.
- This marked the beginning of the movement which began in 2006 for the restoration of democracy in Nepal. Apart from the people fighting for re-establishing democratic rule in the country, all parties formed a Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and called for a four-day strike in Kathmandu.
- The Maoists also joined the strike. People defied the curfew and came out in the streets calling for the restoration of democracy.
- Finally, on 24 April 2006, the king was forced to accept the demands of the protestors. Girija Prasad Koirala was elected as the Prime Minister of the country by the SPA. The powers of the king were taken away by the Parliament and Nepal again became a democratic country.
- This struggle came to be known as Nepal's second movement for democracy.

#### Water War of Bolivia

- Bolivia is a small country in Latin America. Its government was forced by the World Bank to give up its control over water supply. The work of the distribution of water supply was given by the Government to a multinational company.
- This multinational company immediately increased the price of water by four times. In a country



where the average monthly salary of the people is Rs 5000, people started receiving water bills amounting to Rs 1000. This marked the beginning of protests in Bolivia.

- In January 2000, when a new alliance formed by labours, human rights activists and community members organised a general strike in the city, the Government made promises to look into the grievances of the people but nothing was done. When the agitation started again, the Government brutally suppressed the people and imposed martial law. However, the increasing participation of the people in the movement forced the officials of the multinational company to flee the country.
- The contract with the multinational company was cancelled, and the Government took over the water supply into its own hands. This was termed Bolivia's water war.

The stories of Nepal and Bolivia were different from each other. The movement in Nepal was to establish democracy, while the struggle in Bolivia involved claims on an elected, democratic government. Both these struggles show their impact at different levels. Despite these differences, both instances involved critical role of political organisations.

We conclude the following facts from the struggle which occurred in both countries:

- Popular struggles and movements play an important role in the beginning and spread of democracy.
- Conflicts within the democracy can be resolved through mass mobilisation. The resolution comes not only from outside but also from the people.
- Organised politics play an important role in resolving conflicts within democracy. Public participation becomes effective only when politics is organised.

### **Role of Organisations and Mobilisation**

Various organisations play an important role in establishing democracy and in resolving conflicts within democracy. In case of Nepal, the Seven Party Alliance or the SPA played an important role in establishing democracy. It was also joined by the Nepalese Communist Party (Maoist) which did not believe in democracy; however, it later joined the movement for the restoration of democracy in the country. Thus, we find that apart from political parties, many organisations such as associations of traders, teachers and human rights groups also play a prominent part in supporting the people's movement.

In case of Bolivia's water war, the protests against the privatisation of water were not led by any political party. It was led by FEDECOR, an organisation which included engineers, teachers and environmentalists. FEDECOR was supported by the unions of factory workers, university students and the Socialist party.

Therefore, we find that many organisations work in a democracy and perform two important functions:

- In a democracy, the decisions of the Government are influenced by directly participating

in politics. This can be achieved through the formation of new political parties, contesting elections and forming the Government.

- People may not directly participate in politics and contest elections. By forming organisations and putting forth their demands, many people ask the Government to look into their demands. These organisations or groups are called **interest groups** or **pressure groups**.

### Interest Groups, Pressure Groups and Movements

Organisations which try to influence the policies of the Government are known as interest groups. An interest group is formed when people belonging to the same occupation and with common interests come together to achieve a common objective. However, they may not directly control or share political power.



The movement to oppose crimes on women is a long-drawn movement

Movements, on the other hand, sought to influence governmental policies rather than directly participating in politics. Movements depend on mass participation of the people.

- Interest groups which aim at promoting the interests of a particular group or section of society are known as **sectional interest groups**. They may include trade unions, industrialists, followers of a certain religion and professional bodies. Their prime motive is to demand for the betterment and well-being of their members and not for the entire society.
- Some organisations represent common and general interests. The members of the organisation may themselves not be directly benefited by their own demands. For example, a group fighting for the rights of sweepers is not benefited but work for the larger interest of this community. Such groups are known as **promotional groups** or **public interest groups**. FEDECOR is an example of this kind of
- interest group. In India, BAMCEF is an organisation which consists of government employees which fight for the rights of people from the lower caste.
- Movement groups are mostly issue-specific and aim at achieving a single objective within a limited time period. The Nepalese struggle for the restoration of democracy was a movement. Narmada Bachao Andolan is also an example of a movement which deals with the specific issue of the people displaced by the building of the Sardar Sarovar Dam. Some movements may also be long-term movements. Environmental movements or women's rights movements are examples of such movements.

| Sectional Interest Groups   | Public Interest Groups  |
|---|---|
| (i) Sectional interest groups seek to promote the interest of a particular section/group of society.                        | (i) Public interest groups represent some common or general interest that needs to be defended. |
| (ii) Their principal concern is the betterment and well-being of their members and not society in general.                  | (ii) Their principal concern is the betterment of the entire society.                           |
| (iii) They are sectional because they represent a particular section of a society like workers employees, business men etc. | (iii) They are public because they are concerned with public issues rather than private.        |
| (iv) Example: Trade unions/business associated and professionals (Lawyers, doctors, teachers, etc.                          | (iv) Example: FEDECOR in Bolivia and BAMCEF in India.   |

### How do Pressure Groups Influence Politics?

Pressure groups influence politics in the following ways:

- They carry out campaigns and hold protests and rallies in order to gain attention and support of the people. They also try to influence media to pay attention to the issues raised by them.



Many pressure groups use media to highlight their issues

- Pressure groups organise protest rallies or disrupt government programmes.
- Professional lobbyists are employed by business groups in order to influence the decision-making body of the Government.

### Relationship between Political Parties and Interest Groups/Movements

The relationship between political parties and interest groups take different forms. These are

- Leaders of political parties may themselves form an interest group or support them. Most trade unions and student organisations are either established or affiliated to a political party.
- In some instances, a political party may grow out of movements. For example, the roots of DMK and AIADMK can be traced back to a social struggle in Tamil Nadu.
- The interests of a political party or an interest group may even clash with each other if both of them stand for opposite ideologies. In such a case, issues are resolved through dialogues and negotiations.

Pressure groups and movements play an important role in a democracy. They help in

widening democracy. They force the Government to recognise and implement laws benefiting wider interests of society. When a sectional interest group influences the Government to make policies in their favour, another group may bring counter pressure on the Government to not make laws the way in which the first group desires. This results in maintaining a balance of power and accommodation of conflicting interests of society.

However, pressure groups may also prove dangerous. A sectional interest group may promote the interest of one section of society against the other. Many pressure groups may wield power without responsibilities. Sometimes, rich interest groups may hijack public discussions in favour of their narrow agenda.

## Important Questions

### Multiple Choice questions-

Question 1. The groups that form an organisation and undertake activities to promote their interests or their viewpoints are called:

- (a) Pressure groups
- (b) Agitation groups
- (c) Mobile groups
- (d) None of the above

Question 2. Unlike political parties, pressure groups:

- (a) Aim to directly control or share political power
- (b) Do not aim to directly control or share political power
- (c) Do not all attempt to influence government policies
- (d) None of the above

Question 3. The decision of movements is:

- (a) More informal and flexible
- (b) More formal and flexible
- (c) Less informal and flexible
- (d) Less formal and flexible

Question 4. Usually interest groups seek to promote the:

- (a) Interests of particular section or groups of society
- (b) Interest of the whole population
- (c) Religious groups only
- (d) None of the above

Question 5. Promotional groups promote:

- (a) Selective rather than collective good
- (b) Collective rather than selective good
- (c) Can be both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

Question 6. An organisation that is largely made up of government employees that campaign against caste discrimination is called:

- (a) BAMCEF
- (b) CEFBAM



(c) BAMFEC

(d) CEFMAB

Question 7. Generic movements always seek to:

(a) Achieve a broad goal in the very long term

(b) Achieve a broad goal in a very short term

(c) Achieve a single objective within a limited time frame

(d) None of the above

Question 8. The main objective of the Narmada Bachao Andolan was to:

(a) Give more water to the rural areas than urban areas

(b) To give more compensation to the villagers

(c) To stop the dam from being constructed

(d) None of the above

Question 9. The full form of NAPM, is:

(a) National Alliance for People's Movement

(b) National Authority for People's Movement

(c) National Assistance for People's Movement

(d) National Authority Permanent Movement

Question 10. Most of the pressure groups:

(a) Try to influence the people into giving more attention to their issues

(b) Try to influence the media into giving more attention to their issues

(c) Try to influence political parties into giving more attention to their issues

(d) None of the above

Question 11. Business groups often employ :

(a) Media to solve their issues

(b) Labourers to do their work

(c) Professional lobbyists or sponsor expensive advertisements

(d) None of the above

Question 12. On balance, pressure groups and movements have:

(a) Deepened democracy

(b) Deepened the people

(c) Deepened the media

(d) None of the above



Question 13. When different groups function actively:

- (a) One single groups can achieve dominance over society
- (b) All groups can achieve dominance over society
- (c) No one single group can achieve dominance over society
- (d) None of the above

Question 14. Nepal witnessed an extraordinary popular movement, aimed at restoring democracy in:

- (a) April 2004
- (b) April 2005
- (c) April 2006
- (d) April 2007

Question 15. King Birendra was killed in a mysterious massacre of the royal family in:

- (a) 2000
- (b) 2001
- (c) 2002
- (d) 2003

### Very Short-

1. What was FEDECOR?
2. Who was the last monarch of Nepal?
3. What was the challenge for democracy faced by Bolivian Government?
4. Which political party supported the Bolivia's water war and came to power in Bolivia in 2006?
5. Name the institution that pressurized the Bolivian Government to privatize water supply in the city of Cochabamba.
6. Which three demands were put forward by SPA before the King of Nepal?
7. In which year Socialist Party of Bolivia came into power?
8. What type of challenge for democracy was faced by Nepal?
9. Give one idea and belief of Nepalese Communist Party?
10. What is NAPM?

### Short Questions-

1. What are public interest groups? How do they look after the public interests?
2. What are sectional interest groups? How do they watch their interests?

3. Explain how the activities of pressure groups are useful in the functioning of a domestic govt.?
4. What were the causes of Bolivia's water war?
5. Which three conclusions can be drawn out of the Movement of Nepal and the struggle of Bolivia?
6. Explain three different types of pressure Groups?
7. Elaborate any three effective ways in which the pressure groups and movement influence the politics of a country.
8. Who was the leader of The Green Belt Movement? What were the reasons of his disappointment?
9. Explain the role of sectional interest groups in bringing the balance of power in a society?
10. Elaborate the different ways by which President Daniel Arap Moi's Government retain the power.

### Long Questions-

1. Compare the struggle of Nepal and Bolivia?
2. What do you understand by Kittiko-Hachchiko? When and why Kittiko-Kichchiko movement was launched in Karnataka?
3. In 1984, the Karnataka government set up a company called Karnataka pulpwood limited. About 30000 hectares of land was given virtually free to this company for 40 years. Much of this land was used by local farmers as grazing land for their cattle. However the company began to plant eucalyptus tree on this land, which could be used for making paper pulp. In 1987, a movement called Kittiko-Hachchiko (meaning, pluck and plant) started a non violent protest, where people plucked the eucalyptus plant and planted saplings of trees that were useful to the people. Suppose you belong to any of the following groups, what arguments would you put forward to defend your side: (a) a local farmer (b) an environment(c) a government official working in this company (d) just a consumer of a paper?
4. How far is the influence of pressure groups healthy and useful? Explain.
5. Describe the features of popular mass struggle for restoring democracy in Nepal.
6. Describe the features of the popular struggle against the privatization of water in Bolivia.
7. List out the organizations involved in the mass upsurge of the Nepal's struggle for democracy
8. How are popular struggles integral to the working to the democracy? Explain with an example of Bolivia's struggle against privatization of water.

## Assertion and Reason Questions-

1. In these questions, a statement of assertion followed by a statement of reason is given. Choose the correct answer out of the following choices.

- (a) If both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
- (b) If both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
- (c) If assertion is true but reason is false.
- (d) If both assertion and reason are false.

**Assertion (A):** The story of Poland applies to the struggle for establishing or restoring democracy.

**Reason (R):** Democracy evolves through popular struggles.

2. In these questions, a statement of assertion followed by a statement of reason is given. Choose the correct answer out of the following choices.

- (a) If both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
- (b) If both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
- (c) If assertion is true but reason is false.
- (d) If both assertion and reason are false.

**Assertion (A):** In 1984, the Karnataka government set up a company called Karnataka Pulpwood Limited.

**Reason (R):** The company began to plant eucalyptus trees on this land, which could be used for making paper pulp.

## MCQ Answers-

- 1. Answer: (a) Pressure groups
- 2. Answer: (b) Do not aim to directly control or share political power
- 3. Answer: (a) More informal and flexible
- 4. Answer: (a) Interests of particular section or groups of society
- 5. Answer: (b) collective rather than selective good
- 6. Answer: (a) BAMCEF
- 7. Answer: (a) Achieve a broad goal in the very long term
- 8. Answer: (c) To stop the dam from being constructed
- 9. Answer: (a) National Alliance for People's Movement

10. Answer: (b) Try to influence the media into giving more attention to their issues

11. Answer: (c) Professional lobbyists or sponsor expensive advertisements

12. Answer: (a) Deepened democracy

13. Answer: (c) No one single group can achieve dominance over society

14. Answer: (c) April 2006

15. Answer: (b) 2001

### Very Short Answers-

1. Ans. An organization of Bolivia comprising local professionals, including engineers and environmentalists. The organization was formed to protest against water privatization in Bolivia.
2. Ans. King Gyanendra
3. Ans. Challenge of Expansion
4. Ans. Socialist Party
5. Ans. World Bank
6. Ans. Demands of restoration of Parliament, Power to an all party government and a new constituent assembly.
7. Ans. 2006
8. Ans. Foundational Challenge of Democracy
9. Ans. The Nepalese Communist Party believes in the ideology of Mao, the leader of Chinese revolution. They have no faith in Parliamentary Democracy.
10. Ans. NAPM is national Alliance for Peoples' Movement. It is an organization of Organisations.

### Short Answers-

**1. Ans.** A public interest group is a group that promotes the interests of the people of the society. Their interests can be of a particular section of the society or of the entire society in general. Their activities benefit the entire society and not just a particular section of the society.

II Part

1. They organize meetings and try to gain the public support for their cause.
2. They try to influence the media by drawing its attention to their issues.
3. They sometimes organized strikes and dharnas to voice their interests.

E.g. Bolivia organization FEDECOR and government employees movement called BAMCEF are some examples of public interest group.

**2. Ans.** Sectional interest groups refer to the interest groups that seek to promote the

interest of a particular section or a group of society. Trade unions, business associations and professional bodies (lawyers, doctors, teachers etc.) are some examples of sectional interest groups—

#### Part- II

1. They aim to help groups other than their own members for example a group fighting against bonded labour fights not for itself but for those who are suffering under such bondage.
2. Some times these organization represents the common or general interest of the society.
3. They also exert pressure on the government to meet their demands.

#### 3. Ans.

1. Pressure groups performs a useful role in countering the under influence of rich and powerful people on the govt.
2. Pressure groups remind the govt. of the needs and concerns of ordinary citizens.
3. Different pressure groups put pressure on the govt. for making policies in their favor and against.

This lets the govt. know about what different sections of population want.

#### 4. Ans.

- 1) In the city of Cochabamba, the control of water supply was in the hands of the municipality. The people used this service at reasonable price.
- 2) Under the pressure of international institution World Bank, the Bolivian Government sold the rights of supply of water to a MNC.
- 3) After taking hold of water supply, the Multinational Company hiked the prices by about four times.
- 4) Due to hike in the prices of water the people raised their voice against the decision of Government.

#### 5. Ans.

- 1) Democracy evolves through popular struggles. However some decisions may take place through consensus and may not involve any conflict at all.
- 2) Movements are usually involving a struggle between power exercising groups and those who aspire for a share in power.
- 3) Movement's takes place when the country is going through transition to democracy or expansion of democracy or deepening of democracy.

#### 6. Ans.

- 1) Sectional Interest Groups: They represent a section of society- workers, employees, business persons, industrialists, followers of a religion, caste groups etc. Their

principal concern is the betterment and well being of their members and not the society in general.

2) Promotional or Public interest Groups: They promote collective rather than selective goods. They aim to help groups other than their own members.

3) Movement Groups: These are issue specific that seek to achieve a single objective within a limited time frame.

#### **7. Ans.**

1) Pressure groups and movements try to gain public support and sympathy for their goals and their activities by carrying out information campaigns, organizing meetings, filing petitions.

2) They often organize protest activity like strikes or disrupt government programs.

3) Most of these groups often try to influence media into giving more attention to these issues.

**8. Ans.** Wangari Maathai was the leader of Green Belt Movement in Kenya. He was disappointed by the response of government official and politicians. The responses of the government are following:

1. The corrupt government officials were responsible for much of the deforestation by illegally selling of land and trees to well connected developers.

2. He rights and lives of many Kenyans in the Rift valley were lost when elements of President Denial's Government encouraged ethnic communities to attack one another over land.

3. Supporters of the ruling party got the land while those in the pro-democracy movement were displaced.

#### **9. Ans.**

1. The sectional interest groups play a valuable role. Where different groups function actively, no one single group can achieve dominance over society.

2. If one group brings pressure on government to make policies in its favour, another will bring counter pressure not to make policies in the first group desires.

The government gets to hear about what different sections of the population want. This leads to a rough balance of power and accommodation of conflicting interests

#### **10. Ans.**

1. In the early 1990's the livelihood , the rights and even the lives of many Kenyans in the Rift Valley were lost when elements of president Danial's government encouraged ethnic communities to attack one another over land.

2. The corrupt government officials were responsible for much of the deforestation by illegally selling of land and trees to well connected developers.

3. Supporters of the ruling party got the land while those in the pro-democracy

movement were displaced.

## Long Answers-

### 1. Ans.

1. The Movement in Nepal was to establish democracy, while the struggle in Bolivia involved claims on an elected, democratic government
2. Nepal faced the foundational challenge of democracy while Bolivia faced the Challenge of Expansion.
3. In both cases the struggle involved mass mobilization and public demonstration of mass support clinched the dispute.
4. Both instances involved critical role of political organizations. In Nepal SPA played a major role for the restoration of democracy while in Bolivia FEDECOR played a major role.
5. Both these struggles were successful in achieving their objectives but their impact was different at different levels.

### 2. Ans. Kittiko-Hachchiko means pluck and plant.

1. In 1984, the Karnataka government set up a company called Karnataka Pulpwood limited.
2. About 30,000 hectares of land was given virtually free to this company for 40 years.
3. Much of this land was used by local farmers as grazing land for their cattle.
4. However the company began to plant eucalyptus tree on this land, which could be used for making paper pulp.
5. In 1987, a movement Kittiko-Hachchiko started a non-violent protest, where people plucked the eucalyptus plants and planted saplings of trees that were useful to the people.

### 3. Ans.

- a). As a local Farmer: We would have joined farmers and formed a farmer's organization. We would meet the concern Minister of the Government of Karnataka with a request that the land belong to farmers and they should not be deprived of their common land. Otherwise we will give our vote to that party who will consider our demands.
- b). As an Environmental Activist: Being environmental activist, we would have taken our processions, followed by demonstrations to draw the attention of the government and forced the government to cancel the contract with company.
- c). As a Government official: Being part of the government we will try to convince the farmers and other organizations that it will create more jobs for them, this is helpful for the development of our country.



d). As a consumer of paper: We would request to the government that the land allotted to the company should be cancelled and be given to the local farmers. The farmers will use the land to grow such plants as would provide raw material for paper industry.

#### 4. Ans.

1. It may initially appear that it is not healthy to have groups that promote interests of one section and have influence in democracy. A democracy must look after the interest of all, not just of one section.
2. The pressure groups wield power without responsibility. Political parties have to face the people in elections, but these groups are not accountable to the people.
3. Some time pressure groups with small public support but lot of money can exert influence on public discussion in favour of their narrow agenda.
4. The Groups helps in deepen the democracy. Government can often come under undue pressure from a small class of powerful people.
5. The public interest groups and movements perform a useful role of countering this undue influence and reminding the government to the need and concerns of ordinary citizens.

#### 5. Ans.

1. Nepal became a constitutional Monarchy in 1990 by which king remained the head of the state and the real power was exercised by popularly elected representatives.
2. King Birendra accepted this transition from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy was killed in a mysterious massacre to the royal family in 2001.
3. In February 2005, the king Gyanindra, dismissed the then Prime Minister and dissolved the popularly elected Parliament.
4. All the major political parties in the parliament formed a Seven Party Alliance and called for a four day strike in Kathmandu, the country's capital.
5. This protest soon turned into an indefinite strike in which MAOIST insurgents and various organizations join hands.
6. The leaders of the movement rejected the half hearted concessions made by the king. They stuck to their demands for restoration of parliament, power to an all party government and a new constituent assembly.
7. On 24th April 2006, the last day of ultimatum, the king was forced to concede all three demands.
8. The SPA chose Girija Prasad Koirala as the new Prime Minister of the interim government. The restored parliament met and passed laws taking away most of the powers of the king.

**6. Ans.**

1. Bolivia is a poor country in Latin America. The World Bank pressurized the government to give up its control of municipal water supply.
2. The government sold these rights for the city of Cochabamba to a multi-national company.
3. The company immediately increased the price of water by four times. This led to a spontaneous popular protest.
4. In January 2000, a new alliance of labour, human rights and community leaders organized a successful four day general strike in the city.
5. The protest against water privatization in Bolivia was led FEDECOR.
6. The power of the people forced the officials of MNC to flee the city and made the government concede to all the demands of the protesters.
7. The contract with the MNC was cancelled and water supply was restored to the municipality at old rates. This came to be known as Bolivia's water war.

**7. Ans.**

1. All the major political parties in the parliament formed a Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and called for four day strike in Kathmandu.
2. The protest was joined by the Nepalese Communist Party (Maoist) which did not believe in parliamentary democracy.
3. The struggle involved many organizations other than political parties. All the major labour unions and their federations joined the movement.
4. Many other organizations like organizations of the indigenous people, teachers, lawyers and human rights groups extended support to the movements.

**8. Ans.**

1. Popular struggles are integral part of democracy. These are very help full for the expansion of democracy.
2. The importance of popular struggle in a democracy can be understood from the example of Bolivia's water war. People were dissatisfied with the decision of the government of giving up of control over municipal water supply and subsequent hike in water tax imposed by the multinational corporation.
3. This led to spontaneous popular protests as the water cost began to make a dent in the household budget of the citizens.
4. An alliance of labour, human rights and community leaders organized a four day strike which was called off the government agreed to negotiate.
5. It was due to such protest by the people that the MNC contract was cancelled and the municipal water supply was restored to old rates represent courts.

### Assertion and Reason Answers-

1. (b) If both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

**Explanation:** Defining moments of democracy usually involve conflict between those groups who have exercised power and those who aspire for a share in power. The assertion and reason are both true but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

2. (b) If both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

**Explanation:** The reason and assertion are both true but the reason does not justify the assertion.