

Popular Struggles and Movements

Value-Based Type - Popular Struggles and Movements

1) "In a democracy several different kinds of organisations work behind any big struggle." How can you influence the government to listen to you?

Answer:

(i) One way of influencing the decisions in a democracy is direct participation in competitive politics like Team Anna's representative Mr. Kejriwal is asking for the opinion of people to plan a political party itself and fight corruption by being in the govt.

(ii) There are many indirect ways in which people can get government to listen to their demands or their point of view.

(iii) They could do so by forming an organisation and undertaking activities to promote their interest or their viewpoint. These are called interest groups or pressure groups.

Sometimes, people decide to act together without forming an organisation.

2) In what ways do pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics?

Answer:

(i) A democracy must look after the interest of all, not just one section.

(ii) Political parties have to face the people in elections, but these groups are not accountable to the people.

(iii) Pressure groups and movements sometimes are unable to get any funds or support from the common people.

(iv) Sometimes, these pressure groups with small public support but lots of money can hijack public discussion in favour of their narrow agenda.

3) "Pressure groups and movements have deepened democracy." How far is it true?

Answer:

(i) Pressure groups and movements can easily put pressure on the government to pay attention to them.

(ii) Government can often bend under high pressure from a small group of rich and powerful people.

(iii) Public interest groups and movements perform a useful role in reminding the government of the needs and concerns of ordinary people.

(iv) Sectional interest groups also bring pressure on the government to make policies in their favour and some other anti-groups can pressurise the government not to make policies in favour of the former group.