

**Semester – IV (Hons.)**

**PHIACOR08T [Social and Political Philosophy- Western]**

**Democracy and its different forms:**

- What is democracy?

Democracy is the system of government where the citizens of the nation directly exercise their power. They have the right to elect government representatives who collectively create a government body for the entire nation (like, a parliament).

Another way to define democracy is that, it is a political system of government that is ruled by citizens and the citizens are allowed here to express their own political preferences. In this system, citizens have certain basic rights that are given by the government and these rights are internationally recognized and guaranteed their liberties.

- Types of democracy

The main types of democracy are:

1. Direct democracy
2. Indirect or Representative democracy
3. Presidential democracy
4. Parliamentary democracy

- Direct Democracy

A direct democracy is the way to vote for a policy directly, without any intermediate representatives or houses of parliament. If the government has to pass a certain law or policy, it goes to the favor of people. The citizens of the nation vote on the raised issue and decide the providence of their own countries. They can also bring up issues themselves, as long as they have a considerable agreement on the issue.

For a small and politically homogenous country, idea of direct democracy seems to be good and easier. For example, Switzerland, has the long record of a successful direct democracy. Moreover, in certain places of the country, citizens of the country come together in open air on a certain day and vote on the laws of their society.

Though, direct democracy is not simple for most of the countries because of their population and complicated political ideals. For those countries, citizens prefer to elect mediate representatives on their behalf, and this system of government is called representative or indirect democracy.