

BHUTAN CIVICS

Classes VII & VIII



A Supplementary Textbook

BHUTAN CIVICS A Supplementary Textbook for Classes VII & VIII

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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

འཕྲིན་ལྗང་ལྷན་ཁག།

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
THIMPHU :BHUTAN

Cultivating the Grace of Our Mind



October 30, 2008

FOREWORD

Plato believed that it was the duty of every citizen to participate in the political life of the state. Then, politics was still a highly respected and a much-desired field that brought out the best in the citizens. It was not for no reason that he contemplated the Ideal State to come. Over time, though, politics has acquired an image that is not particularly flattering or inspiring. However, in as much as all humans possess inherent political instincts of sorts, it becomes necessary to learn about the way human beings organize their life and build institutions to guide and govern themselves.

Civics is more than an academic discipline. It is in the nature and role of Civics to concern itself with an examination of the way governments are formed and the manner in which they relate to and influence the life of citizens, including their rights and responsibilities as members of the state. As the children of the new Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, it is in the fitness of things that our school students develop a broad historical perspective and understand the basic principles of how governments are formed and how they operate.

As a powerful nation-building discipline, Civics should inspire an appreciation of the need to develop the necessary qualities of head and heart that help young men and women to live as good fellow-citizens in a democratic society that is based on the principle of mutual respect and trust. Civics, as indeed any discipline, should help develop insight, and not content itself with mere collection of information and facts.

I learn that this edition of *Bhutan Civics* has had the privilege of having been examined and approved by some of our finest minds in the country besides being the collective effort of some seventy of our educators in the country. The book incorporates some of current topics including an introduction to our Constitution and the advent of parliamentary democracy in the country.

I trust that the book will serve the purpose of informing as well as inspiring our scholars. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all our experts and educators for the hard work put in by all of them in the development of the *Bhutan Civics* titles.

Tashi Delek.

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INTRODUCTION

Democratic Constitutional Monarchy was instituted in 2008. The Constitution was formally enacted on July 18, 2008. To be able to contribute to the democratic process, it is fundamental that the Bhutanese youth understands democracy and its elements in the Bhutanese context from their early stages of education. Thus, the objective of this Civics supplementary textbook is to introduce class VII and VIII students to the new form of government. This is a part of History.

The supplementary textbook has two chapters. It is Forms of Government for class VII. This chapter has topics on types of government, the branches of government, Constitutional bodies and relation among different bodies. This chapter will introduce the different forms of democracy as it is the basis to understand democracy in Bhutan. Then, the Bhutanese form of government will be treated in the context of Parliamentary Democratic Monarchy.

In class VIII, the students will be introduced to Constitution and the Citizen. This chapter will help the students understand the salient features and importance of the constitution. The concept of citizen and their role in election will be introduced.

This supplementary textbook will help the students to understand the types of democratic government, Bhutanese form of government and about the Constitutional bodies and the relationship among the different bodies.

Thus, this supplementary textbook will not only introduce the students to democracy in general and Bhutanese form of government in particular but also create awareness of democratic process. Further, it will serve as a basis for understanding the topics on civics in higher classes. Therefore, it is extremely important to use this supplementary text as a guiding framework that allows the students to explore about democracy and democratic Bhutan.

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PART 1

CLASS VII



Introduction

Basic Principles of Civics:

Civics is the study of citizenship and government with particular focus on the rights and duties of citizens.

Importance of the study of Civics: As Bhutanese, it is essential to study the formation and function of our government and how citizens can participate in governance as citizen of the state. Some of the importance of civics education is as under:

1. It imparts knowledge about the system of governance in the country and functions of the different ministries and agencies;
2. It creates awareness on responsibilities of citizen to the Tsawa-Sum (the king, the country and the people) and the privileges and facilities they enjoy as bonafide citizens of the country;
3. It develops civic consciousness, a sense of unity and a sense of love, loyalty and dedication to the Tsawa-Sum among the people as members of the society and nation; and
4. It serves as a medium for promoting values and moral standards of our society.

Therefore, study of civics helps us understand our political system, the structure of our government, our duties, responsibilities and the benefits we receive as citizens of our country. Before we study about the entire structure of the political system of our country, it is vital that we learn about the forms and concept of government in general and structure of the Bhutanese Government in particular.

Forms of Government

Key Terms	Learning Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy • Parliamentary • Legislature • Executive • Judiciary • Lhengye Zhungtshog • Constitutional Bodies • Bi-Cameral • Defence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiate the types of Democratic Government. • Identify the branches of the Government and Constitutional Bodies. • Explain the specific functions of the branches of the Government and the Constitutional Bodies. • Explain how Constitutional Bodies ensure Good Governance. • Identify the roles of the Armed Forces.

1.1 Government

Government is an organisation, where a group of people looks after and manages the work of the State. This group of people works according to the laws of the country and as per the Principles of the State mentioned in the Constitution. In simple words, functioning of a Government is similar to the functioning of a family. Like the family manages its day-to-day works at home, Government also manages the political, social and economic affairs of a country. Broadly, Government can be of two types: Democratic and Non-Democratic Governments.

1.2 Types of Democratic Government

The word 'Democracy' is derived from the two Greek words 'Demos' and 'Kratos'. 'Demos' means People and 'Kratos' means Power. Thus, Democracy means the Power of the People. Therefore, Democratic Government refers to the Government elected by the people. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States of America defines Democracy as a Government of the people, by the people and for the people. Democracy is of two types:

- i) Direct Democracy:* Direct Democracy is a system of Government in which all the citizens take part in the activities of the Government directly without representatives. In this system, people participate directly in decision making or

in making of laws without any legislature. Such system existed in the city states of ancient Greece, where all citizens participated in day-to-day governance, i.e., in taking political decisions, and were free to vote. However, Direct Democracy is not popular since it is difficult to involve all the adult citizens in the activities of the Government because of large population.

ii) Indirect Democracy: Indirect Democracy is a system where all the adult citizens choose or elect their representatives. In Bhutan, any Bhutanese citizen who have attained a minimum of 18 years of age, have right to vote for their representatives. These elected representatives run the Government. While running the Government, the representatives of the people keep in mind the interest of the people and are also answerable to the people. Under Indirect Democracy, the political parties take part in the elections. The political party which wins majority of seats in the elections forms the Government. The other party that does not get maximum seats plays the role of the Opposition. In a country of two party system of Government, the winning party forms the Government and the other party plays the role of the Opposition. Under Indirect Democracy, there are two forms of Government:

a) Presidential form of Government: Presidential form of government is the system where the president is both the chief executive of the government and the head of the state. The President and his or her ministers are not the members of the **Legislature**. An example of a presidential form of government is the Government of the United States of America (USA). In the USA, the laws are framed by the members of Congress, which consists of Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives (Lower House).

b) Parliamentary form of Government: Parliamentary form of Government is a system where the Prime Minister and the Ministers run the government. The Monarch or the President is the Head of the State like in Bhutan, the UK and India. In this form of Government the Prime Minister and the Ministers are the members of the Legislature.

Structure of Bhutanese Government

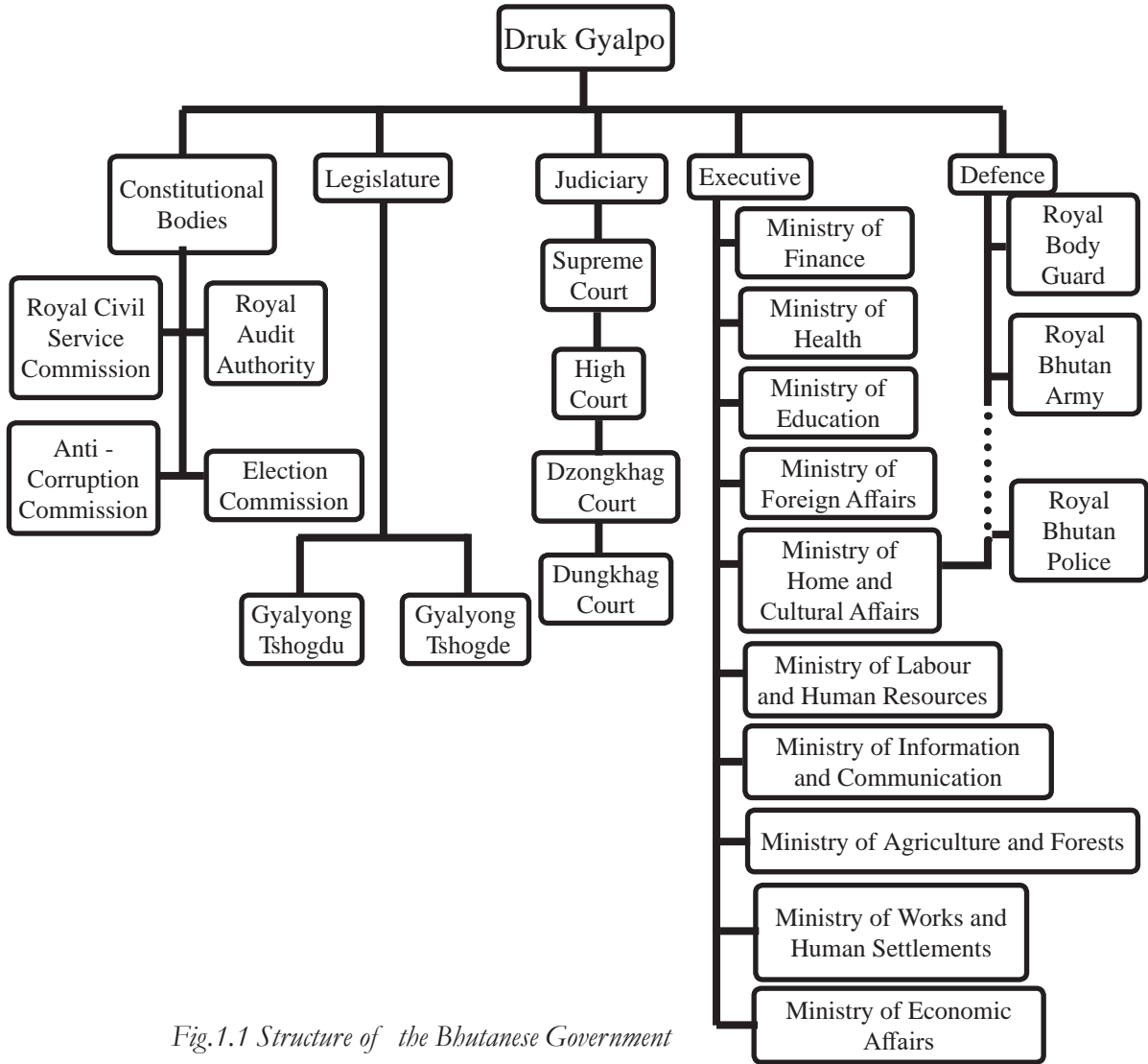


Fig.1.1 Structure of the Bhutanese Government

Student Activity 1.1

1. Define “Democracy”.
2. List down the differences between the Direct and Indirect form of Democratic Government.
3. What kind of Democratic Government do we have in our country? Explain.

1.3 Branches of the Government.

The Government in Bhutan is composed of different branches which are as under:

i) *Legislature*: The Legislature is the law-making body of the country. It makes and

amends laws that are applicable throughout the country. It consists of the Druk Gyalpo, and the two houses which are the Gyalyong Tshogde (National Council) and Gyalyong Tshogdu (National Assembly). They make up the Parliament. In other words, the Bhutanese Legislature is based on the Bi-cameral System.

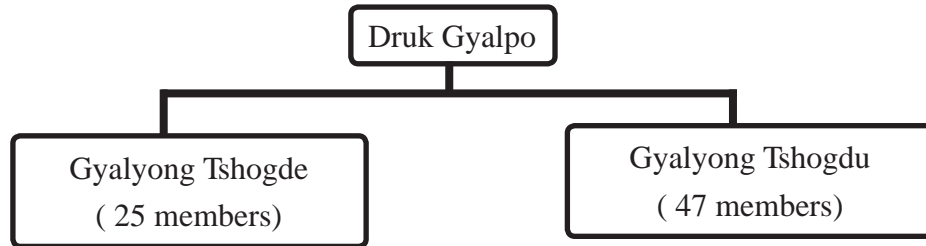


Fig. 1.2. The structure of Legislative body.

ii) *Executive:* The Executive is the governing body that implements policies, programmes and laws passed in the Parliament. In the Bhutanese context, the executive power to run the government is placed in the Lhengye Zhungtshog (Cabinet), which consists of all the ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The number of ministers will be determined by the number of ministries required to provide efficient and good governance.

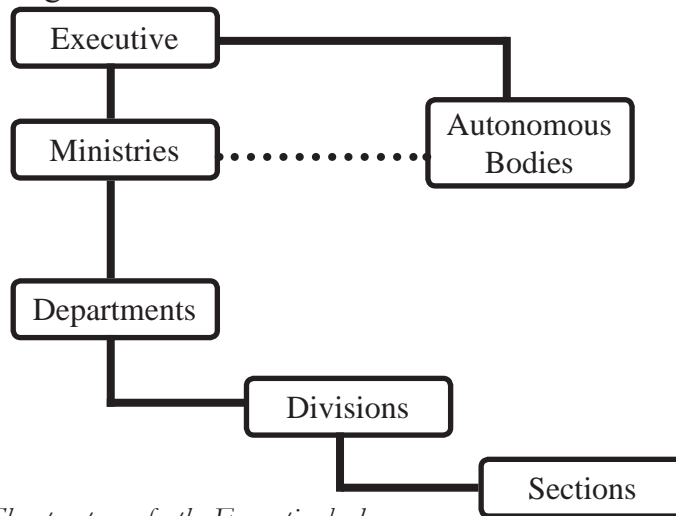


Fig. 1.3. The structure of the Executive body.

iii) *Judiciary:* The Judiciary is responsible for interpreting and protecting the laws made by the Parliament and implemented by the Executive. The judicial authority of Bhutan is placed in the Royal Courts of Justice comprising of the Supreme Court, the High Court, the Dzongkhag Courts, and the Drungkhag Courts. The laws explained and given by the Supreme Court is final and binding on all. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the Chief Administrator of the Judiciary in the country and the Supreme Court is the guardian of the Constitution. Other officials who provides justice are the Drangpons in the respective Courts.

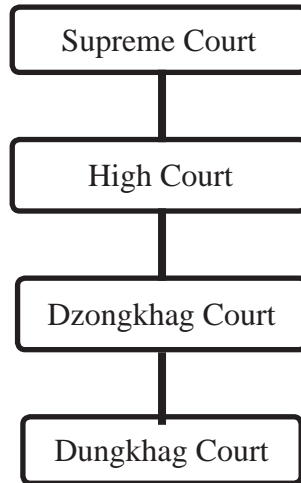


Fig. 1.4. The Structure of the Judicial body

Student Activity 1.2

Divide the class into three groups. Allot one branch of Government to each group.

Ask the students to discuss in their groups and then write down what they understand of the topic allotted to them and also to write its basic functions. Then, ask each group to present their work to the class.

1.4 Constitutional Bodies

The Constitutional Bodies are the independent authorities which function to ensure transparency, efficiency, professionalism and accountability in the functioning of our Government. The Heads of the Constitutional Bodies are appointed by the Druk Gyalpo from a list of names recommended jointly by the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, the Speaker, the Chairperson of the National Council, and the Leader of the Opposition Party.

A Types of Constitutional Bodies

- i) *The Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB)*: The Election Commission is an independent Constitutional office consisting of the Chief Election Commissioner and two Commissioners. The term of office of the Chief Election Commissioner and the two Commissioners is for five years or until attaining the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

The Office of the Election Commission is responsible for setting up a free and fair election system in the country to allow the voters to elect capable members to the Parliament and Local Governments. The Commission ensures that competent and qualified elected member are provide good governance and maintain the well-being and prosperity of the people.

ii) *The Royal Audit Authority (RAA)*: The Royal Audit Authority is an independent authority headed by the Auditor General. The term of office of the Auditor General is for five years or until attaining the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

The RAA reports on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public resources. The task is carried out by auditing without fear, favour or prejudiced, the account of all departments and the offices of the government including the offices under Legislature and Judiciary. All public authorities and bodies administering public funds, the police and the defence forces are subject to audit by RAA.

iii) *The Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC)*: The Royal Civil Service Commission consists of a Chairperson and four other members. The term of office of the Chairperson and the members of the Commission is for five years or until attaining the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

The Commission is a constitutional body formed to promote and ensure an independent and apolitical Civil Service to carry out its public duties in an efficient, transparent and accountable manner. It ensures that the civil servants give their best professional services honestly to promote good governance and social justice in implementing the policies and programmes of the government

iv) *The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)*: The Anti-Corruption Commission is an independent authority headed by a Chairperson and comprising two members. The term of office of the Chairperson and the members of the Commission is five years or until attaining the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

The Commission takes all necessary steps to prevent and combat corruption by educating the public on the risks of corruption and the benefits of its eradication. It further combats corruption by investigating cases of corruption according to the laws made by the Parliament.

All the duties performed by different constitutional bodies support good governance, provide check and balance mechanism in the system. Good governance is one of the main pillars of Gross National Happiness (GNH), our country's developmental philosophy. The Constitutional bodies help to administer the government machinery efficiently, ensure free and fair election of the people's representatives, and bring equitable development in the country.

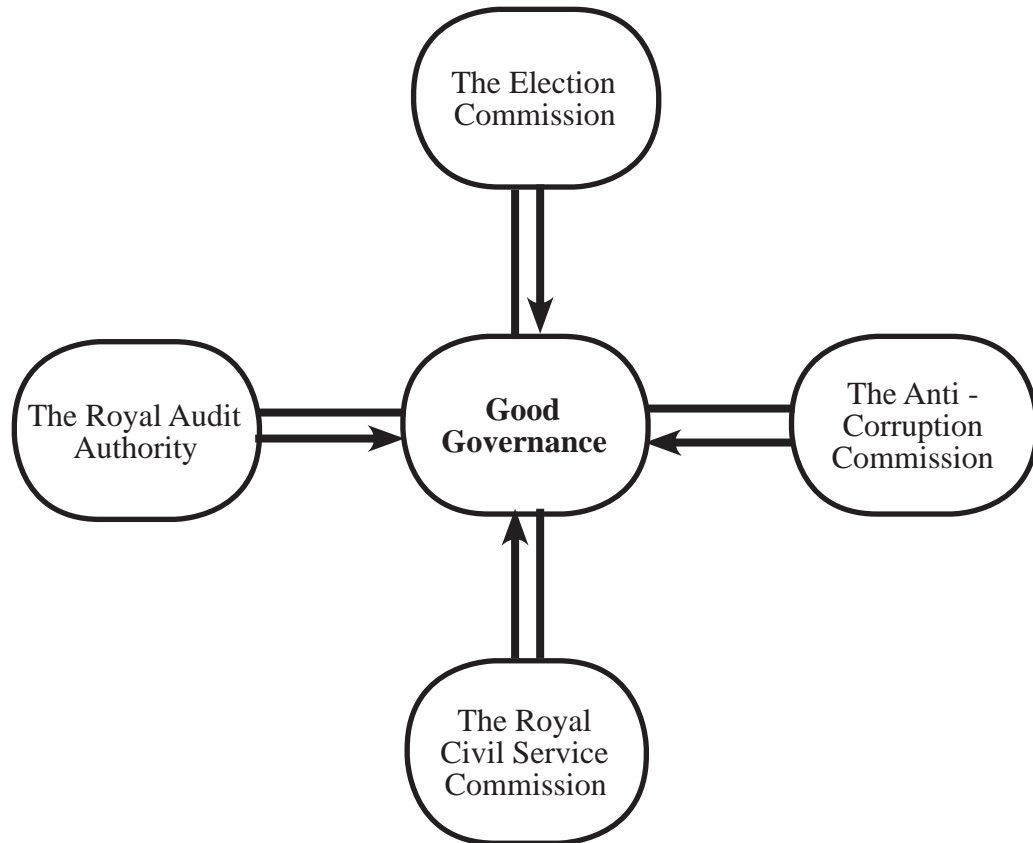


Fig. 1.5. Figure displaying relation among different Constitutional bodies

Student Activity 1.3

1. List down the Constitutional bodies and write down their features.
2. Explain how the Constitutional bodies ensure Good Governance in the system.
3. What differences and similarities do you see in the functioning of Royal Audit Authority and Anti-Corruption Commission?
4. Which Constitutional office would you prefer to work and why?
5. Frame as many questions as you can on the Constitutional bodies and gather information from the teachers in your school. Summarise your findings.

1.5 Defence

Bhutan's Armed Forces comprises Royal Body Guard (RBG), Royal Bhutan Army (RBA), Royal Bhutan Police (RBP), and Militia is directly under supreme command of the Druk Gyalpo. The Royal Body Guard is responsible for the security of the Druk Gyalpo while the Royal Bhutan Army serves as a professional standing army and both forces form the core of Bhutan's defence against security threat. The Royal Bhutan Police under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs is responsible for maintaining law and order and prevention of crime. It is also considered as important part of the nation's security force. Militia further strengthens the defence of the country.

Student Activity 1.4

1. Draw a flow chart of Armed Forces of our country.

Points to remember

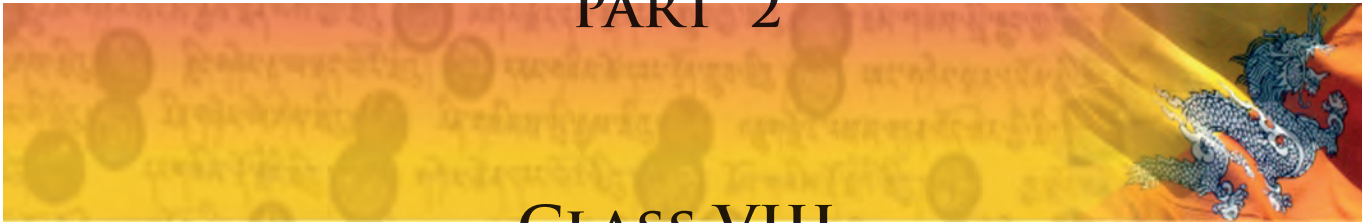
- Democratic government functions in two different ways: direct democracy and indirect democracy.
- Indirect Democracy is divided into Presidential form of Government and Parliamentary form of Government.
- Bhutan follows the Parliamentary form of Government.
- The Druk Gyalpo is the Head of the State and the Prime Minister is the Head of the Government.
- Bhutan has three branches of Government: Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary.
- The Legislature consists of the Druk Gyalpo, the Gyalyong Tshogde (National Council) and the Gyalyong Tshogdu (National Assembly).
- The Executive consists of Lhengye Zhungtshog (Cabinet Ministers) headed by the Prime Minister.
- The laws made by the Parliament is protected and interpreted by the Judiciary.
- For efficient functioning of the democratic system, there are Constitutional Bodies such as Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC), Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Election Commission of Bhutan(ECB) and The Royal Audit Authority (RAA).
- Bhutan's Armed Forces and Militia safeguard the security of the country and the well being of the nation.

Student Activity 1.5

Divide the class into any convenient groups and organize a quiz after the completion of the chapter. You can assign one topic from the chapter to each group and ask them to frame questions. Then, groups can exchange questions in turns amongst themselves while the teacher keeps a record of the points that each group gets for responding correctly.

PART 2

CLASS VIII



Constitution and the Citizen

Key Terms	Learning Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Preamble • Citizen • Citizenship Laws • Voting • Universal Adult Franchise • Emblem • Oath of Secrecy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define Constitution. • Write the features of the constitution. • Write the importance of constitution. • Define citizen. • Write citizenship laws of Bhutan. • Explain why a citizen must vote.

1.1 Introduction

In class VII, we have already studied that all the countries in the world have some form of a Government that makes decisions on matters concerning the people of their state. The government frames laws and regulations, so that people may live peacefully, earn their livelihood, may travel from one part of the country to the other and carry out activities in life smoothly. The Government also ensures that people enjoy the benefits of health, education, roads, and other facilities.

1.2 Definition of Constitution

In order to run the Government, we need a set of uniform rules applicable to all citizens. Consider a school as an example. If there were no rules and regulations in the school to be followed by the students there will be many problems and confusion leading to chaos and disorder in the school. However, there are rules that tell us to attend the morning assembly regularly, to attend the classes daily, attend the study hours, submit assignments on time and be punctual in all the school activities. Thus, there is no confusion and disorder in the school.

Likewise, for a Government to function smoothly there are laws for governing the country, to look into the welfare of the people and to uphold the unity and integrity in the country. These laws are written in a book called the Constitution. A Constitution is a set of rules and laws according to which a country is to be governed. It is the written law of the land. All other laws must draw their legality from the Constitution. Thus, the Constitution as the supreme law ensures good governance for the welfare of the citizens and the nation.

1.3 Important Features of the Constitution

Now, let us look at some of the important features of the Constitution. Our Constitution has a Preamble, 35 Articles and four Schedules.

- 1) **Preamble:** Like the Constitution of other countries, the Bhutanese Constitution also begins with a 'Preamble'. The Preamble is an introduction in which the purpose of the Constitution is given. It states objectives which the Constitution seeks to achieve. The Preamble to our Constitution reads as under:

WE, the people of Bhutan:

BLESSED by the Triple Gem, the protection of our guardian deities, the wisdom of our leaders, the everlasting fortunes of the Pelden Drukpa and the guidance of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck;

SOLEMNLY pledging ourselves to strengthen the sovereignty of Bhutan, to secure the blessings of liberty, to ensure justice and tranquility and to enhance the unity, happiness and well being of the people for all time;

DO HEREBY ordain and adopt this constitution for the Kingdom of Bhutan on the Fifteenth Day of the Fifth Month of the Male Earth Rat Year corresponding to the Eighteenth Day of July, Two Thousand and Eight.

This clearly indicates that our Constitution was framed by the representatives of the people keeping in mind the welfare and the benefit of our people. Therefore, we the people are the ultimate source of laws and authority in Bhutan. Here is an example of another Preamble from our neighbouring country, India:

We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly Resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC And to secure to all its citizens:
JUSTICE for social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith And worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;
And to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the Individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this Twenty-sixth day of November, 1949,
DO HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

- ii) Parliamentary System of Government:** The Bhutanese Constitution talks about our form of Government which is a Democratic Constitutional Monarchy. The law-making or the legislative powers are vested in the Druk Gyalpo, the Gyalyong Tshogde (National Council) and the Gyalyong Tshogdu (National Assembly) .
- iii) Fundamental Rights:** The Constitution of Bhutan guarantees the Fundamental Rights to all its citizens. Fundamental Rights are the basic rights and privileges guaranteed to all citizens. If a citizen's Fundamental Rights have been violated either by an individual or an organisation, this citizen has the right to seek legal protection. A few Fundamental Rights stated under Article 7 are:
- a) All persons shall have the right to life, liberty and security of person and shall not be deprived of such rights except in accordance with the due process of law.
 - b) A Bhutanese citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech, opinion and expression.
 - c) A Bhutanese citizen shall have the right to information.
 - d) A Bhutanese citizen shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. No person shall be compelled to belong to another faith by means of coercion or inducement.

e) There shall be freedom of the press, radio and television and other forms of electronic dissemination of information, including electronic.

iv) **Fundamental Duties:** Fundamental Duties are the basic responsibilities to be performed by the citizens for the welfare of the people and the interest of the Nation. In a society, if everybody enjoys rights and performs no duty, it will result in exposing that society to many internal disturbances and external threats. On the other hand, if one performs duties and has no rights, his or her position will be like that of a slave. Thus, Rights and Duties must co-exist in a society.

Fundamental Duties have been enshrined in the Bhutanese Constitution to make the Bhutanese people conscious of their duties and responsibilities and to respect and abide by the provisions of the Constitution. A few Fundamental Duties mentioned in Article 8 are:

- a) A Bhutanese citizen shall preserve, protect and defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and unity of Bhutan and render national service when called upon to do so by Parliament.
- b) A Bhutanese citizen shall have the duty to preserve, protect and respect the environment, culture and heritage of the nation.
- c) A Bhutanese citizen shall foster tolerance, mutual respect and spirit of brotherhood amongst all the people of Bhutan transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities.
- d) A person shall respect the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- e) A person shall not tolerate or participate in acts of injury, torture or killing of another person, terrorism, abuse of women, children or any other person and shall take necessary steps to prevent such acts.
- f) A person shall have the responsibility to provide help, to the greatest possible extent, to victims of accidents and in times of natural calamity.
- g) A person shall have the responsibility to safeguard public property.

v) **Principles of State Policy:** The Principles of State Policy are directives or instructions to the Government to keep the welfare and interest of the people in mind while formulating policies. They also act as a yardstick for the people to measure the performance of the Government at the end of their political tenure.

vi) **Citizenship:** The Constitution of Bhutan discusses citizenship and citizenship laws. The Constitution clearly indicates that no Bhutanese can hold dual citizenship. Article 6 states that if any citizen of Bhutan acquires the citizenship of foreign state, his or her citizenship of Bhutan shall be terminated. This is done to promote unity and integrity among citizens living in the country.

vii) Schedules: The constitution of Bhutan has four schedules:

- a) First Schedule deals with the National Flag and National Emblem.
- b) Second Schedule deals with the National Anthem.
- c) Third Schedule deals with an oath or Affirmation of Office.
- d) Fourth Schedule deals with an Oath of Secrecy.

viii) Universal Adult Franchise: The Constitution provides for a Universal Adult Franchise. It means that all Bhutanese citizens who have attained 18 years of age and above are eligible to vote and participate in choosing their representatives in the Parliament and the Local Governments.

ix) Independence of Judiciary: Our Constitution provides for an independent and strong Judiciary system with the Supreme Court at the apex. The Judicial system settles disputes amongst citizens or between the citizens and the Government. The Judiciary in Bhutan is separated from the Legislature and the Executive in order to dispense justice impartially and promptly. It provides proper checks and balances within the Government through the interpretation of laws.

x)

1.4 Importance of the Constitution

The Constitution is a set of fundamental laws to govern the country. It ensures peace, stability, unity, harmony and prosperity through strong, efficient and effective Government for the people and the country. The Constitution provides fundamental rights for the all-round and balanced development of the people. The Constitution also spells out fundamental duties and responsibilities of citizens towards the country. Thus, it is the Constitution that ensures the well being of the people and the security and sovereignty of the nation.

Student Activity 1.1

2. Define 'Constitution' in your own words.
3. When was the Constitution of Bhutan formally adopted?
4. Explain at least two significant features of the Constitution.
5. Write down any two similarities and differences between the 'Preamble' of Bhutan and 'Preamble' of India.
6. What would happen if there were no Principles of State Policy?
7. List down at least three rights and duties of a student in a classroom.

1.5 Citizen

People living in a country are known as citizens. But, some people come as tourists, students and employees; such people are termed as foreigners. A foreigner does not get the right to vote or stand for an election. Citizens, on the other hand, enjoy all the rights provided in the Constitution and are legally bound to the State by citizenship laws. As per the citizenship laws of Bhutan, there are three ways of becoming a Bhutanese Citizen:

- i) **Citizenship by Birth:** A person, both of whose parents are citizens of Bhutan, shall be a natural born citizen of Bhutan.
- ii) **Citizenship by Registration:** A person, living in Bhutan on or before the 31 December 1958 and whose name is registered in the official records of the Government of Bhutan shall be a citizen of Bhutan by registration.
- iii) **Citizenship by Naturalization:** A foreigner can also acquire Bhutanese citizenship by a process called naturalization. In order to acquire citizenship by naturalization, this person must fulfill the following conditions under the Bhutanese Citizenship Act. Under this Act he or she must:
 - a) Have lawfully resided in Bhutan for at least 15 years.
 - b) Not have any record of imprisonment for criminal offences within the country or outside.
 - c) Be able to speak and write Dzongkha.
 - d) Have a good knowledge of the culture, customs, traditions and history of Bhutan.
 - e) Have no records of having spoken or acted against the Tsawa-sum.
 - f) Renounce the citizenship, if any, of a foreign state on being conferred the Bhutanese citizenship.
 - g) Take Solemn Oath of Allegiance to the Constitution as may be prescribed.

Attributes of a Good Citizen: Whether one is a citizen by birth, registration or naturalization, it is important to become a good citizen. Some of the attributes of a good citizen are given in the diagram.

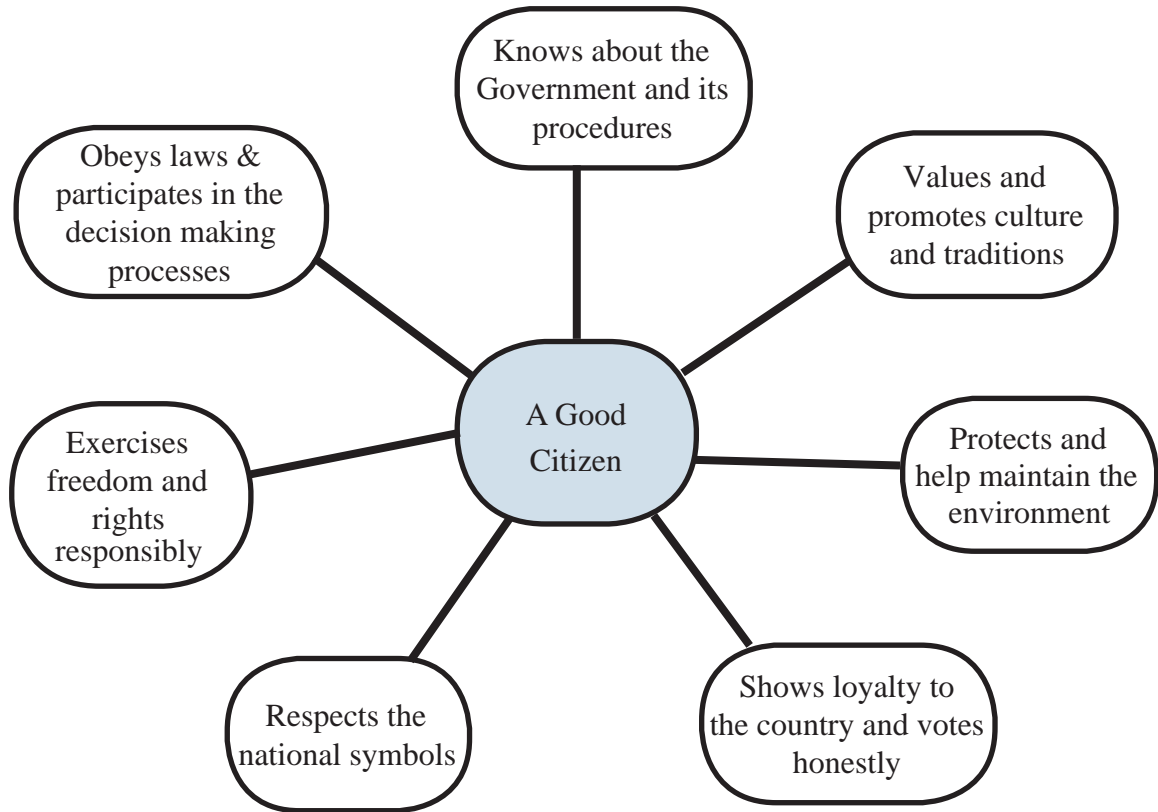


Fig. 1.1 Attributes of a Good Citizen

1.6 Voting

The Constitution grants all citizens who are 18 years and above the right to vote. ‘Voting’ means the act of casting a vote in an election.

Voting is a right of an individual to choose the most competent and qualified members in the Parliament and suitable candidates for the local government. Citizens can learn and understand about the candidates, the political affairs and election process through media like the television, radio and the newspapers, and through publications of Election Commission. This understanding will enable them to vote for the right candidate in a responsible manner.



Fig. 1.2 Voter casting a vote

If citizens are unaware, indifferent and do not vote for the most suitable candidate, it may result in electing inefficient representatives to the Parliament and the local government. This may result into the formation of a weak government. A weak Government will not be able to take good decisions. Thus it will harm the interests of the country and the people. Therefore, voting is not only one of the fundamental rights given to a citizen but also a fundamental duty to choose a competent representative and a capable Government.

Student Activity 1.2

1. Write down attributes of a good citizen other than the ones mentioned in the text book.
2. Why do you think it is important to vote for the most suitable candidate?
3. As a Bhutanese are you eligible to vote? Give reasons.
4. If a Bhutanese is married to a foreigner, what are the conditions his/her spouse must fulfill to obtain Bhutanese Citizenship?

Points to remember

- Constitution is the set of laws according to which a country is to be governed.
- 'Preamble' is an introduction to the Constitution.
- Fundamental Rights are the basic rights and privileges guaranteed to all citizens.
- Fundamental Duties are the responsibilities to be performed by the citizens for the welfare of the people and the nation.
- The Principles of State Policy are directives to the Government while formulating policies.
- Our Constitution provides for an independent and strong Judiciary system with the Supreme Court at the apex.
- One can become Bhutanese by birth, by registration, and by naturalisation.
- Voting is a right of an individual to choose the most competent and qualified members in the Parliament and suitable candidates for the local government.

Student Activity 1.3

Play any outdoor games for 5 minutes without rules and the next 5 minutes with rules of the game. Write a brief on the experiences you have gained in relation to the value of rules.

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