

08 Political Participation

Political participation is necessary ingredient of every political system. By involving the people in matters of state, political participation fosters stability and order by reinforcing the legitimacy of political authority. Political participation studies human behaviour in political system and recognizes that the political system and the political culture have a significant impact on individual political behaviour.

13 Definition -

14 McClosky - "Those voluntary activities by which members of a society share in the selection of rulers and directly or indirectly, in the formation of public policy."

17 Lam - "Acts of political participation also include political activities that are target at private institutions, such as university administrations and business, and that they are designed to pose challenges to existing rules, norms and practices."

19 Activities/Methods of Political Participation -

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- ① Voting
 - ② Membership in political parties and groups and active involvement therein
 - ③ Personal contacting (politicians, civil servants, lawyers, associations, media and corporate actors, friends of officials).
 - ④ Seeking help from political persons who has influence on officials
 - ⑤ Organizing a

- 08 group (6) Filing a lawsuit (7) Sending gifts to officials or hosting meals (8) Campaign activity (9) Co-operative activity (10) Demonstrations and strikes (11) Consumer boycotts (12) Use of labeling schemes (13) Economic support for pol. parties and groups (14) Civil disobedience or riots (15) Wearing of buttons, t-shirt etc that market a political cause (16) Signing of petitions (17) Writing of letters to political actors or newspapers (18) Culture jamming (19) Constructing a home page for political cause (20) Involvement with internet pol. chat sites

15 Levels of Political Participation - (adapted from Milbrath, 1965:18)

