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DEMOCRATIC POLITY

## MINORITIES' DILEMMA And Democratic Polity

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The concepts of minority and plural society developed during the emergence of the liberal democracy and its socio-political set up. The minority group is significant due to its critical position and the treatment it receives in the socio-political structure of modern society. A minority is a small group of people in a society, characterised by its socio-cultural and ideological distinctness which it wants to retain and by which it wants to be identified. It is out of power and thus discriminated against and not treated at par with the majority group.



In general sense, the word 'minority' refers to the group which has less numerical strength though the exact number is not specified, but academically it is identified by power differences among groups rather than by differences in numerical strength. Modern scholarship does not consider it proper to identify a group as minority on the basis of numerical strength or representation. It describes people as minority as those having "less power, are oppressed, or are a subordinate segment within a political unit" (Myers,

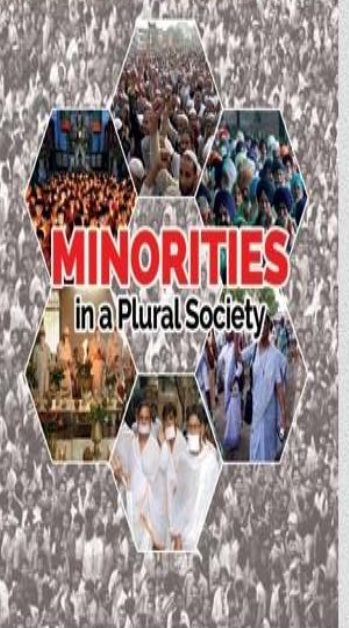
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