

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
WEEK: 7
TERM: FIRST

MEANING OF FRANCHISE

Franchise may be defined as the political rights of qualified adult (male and female) citizens of a given country to vote or be voted for in any political election, everybody can vote in a system, those that are qualified to vote are referred to as the electorate and those to be voted for are called candidates.

TYPES OF FRANCHISE

Limited or restricted franchise: Only the qualified voter are allowed to vote or stand to be voted for in a political system, the criteria for voting and to be voted for may depend on the following.

- a. **Sex:** In some countries, only the male may be allowed to vote or contest elections.
- b. **Race or colour:** for Example, formerly in South African, only the whites had the right to vote and be voted for in a society dominated by racial discrimination.
- c. **Residential Qualification:** A number of months or years an individual has lived in a particular area will determine his right to vote.
- d. **Education:** In some countries the level of education is a determining factor in the exercise of one's franchise.
- e. **Religion:** Religion is also a deciding factor in some countries.

MERITS OF LIMITED OR RESTRICTED FRANCHISE

1. Opportunity of voting is better for the matured and informed mind.
2. Contesting election demands enough resources for proper planning.
3. They make use of qualified candidates.

DEMERITS OF LIMITED OR RESTRICTED FRANCHISE

1. Many people due to limited political education are excluded from voting and being voted for in any election.
2. The opportunity of voting is not given to adults that are qualified
3. Those elected not popularly elected. The reason is because; it is not a reflection of the people's choice.

UNLIMITED FRANCHISE OR UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE

This type of franchise is the most popular and universally acknowledged. It is constitutional and democratic and be voted for in the system. However, there are still some qualifications to be met by individuals before voting. They include:

1. **Age:** In Nigeria, only 18 years and above can vote Britain, U.S.A also 18 years, Germany 20 years, India, 21 years.
2. **Citizenship:** Only the legal citizen and those that are citizens through naturalization are qualified to vote or be voted for in most democratic system.
3. **Registration:** Citizens can only vote in the system, if they are properly registered, and issued with voters' cards.
4. **Bankruptcy:** Those declared bankrupt cannot vote or be voted for.
5. **Alien:** Non-citizens are not allowed to vote or to be voted for.
6. **Criminal:** Criminals and those with criminal records may be disqualified from voting in some political system.
7. **Insanity:** Insane person cannot vote in any political election.

MERITS OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE

1. Equality of votes: i.e. it is one man, one vote.
2. Discrimination: This method does not allow for discrimination based on race, religion, sex, wealth etc.
3. It is democratic and constitutional
4. It makes for full participation: opportunity is created for qualified citizens to exercise their voting right in the political system.

DEMERITS OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE

1. Lack of political education.
2. Illiteracy: The majority of the voters are illiterates are the possibility of voting blinding cannot be ruled out.
3. Electoral Malpractices: The involvement of many people in voting is capable of producing electoral malpractices, cheat violence etc.
4. Intimidation of opponents: It can bring about victimization, intimidation of political opponents in the system.

TYPES OF SUFFRAGE

1. **Adult suffrage:** It involves the voting of adults (man and woman), having the necessary qualifications.
2. **Male suffrage:** It is a system where only adult can vote.
3. **Tax-payers suffrage:** Those who have been pay on taxes constantly can only vote.
4. **Property suffrage:** Those people with enormous and wealth are allowed to vote.

ASSIGNMENT

Choose the type of Franchise you prefer and state why?