

# Role of Opposition Party in Democracy

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**Abstract:** *The opposition is as important as that of ruling party. They ensure that the acts of the ruling party are not detrimental to the interest of general public or nation at large. The role of the opposition party is not to oppose every decision of the ruling party. Rather, it is the duty of the opposition party to support the ruling party for the acts that are in the interest of the nation. The Opposition parties play a very significant role in a democracy as representatives of the people. The opposition act as "watch dog" of the system. In such countries where there is a two-party system in vogue, the Opposition party forms a 'shadow cabinet' to exercise vigil over the performance of the government.*

**Keywords:** Opposition, consideration, extreme, propaganda, suggesting, constructive, confidence

## 1. Introduction

The role of opposition party in India is as important as that of the ruling party. They ensure that the acts of the ruling party are not detrimental to the interest of general public or nation at large. The opposition ensures that the ruling political parties have a definite programme and policy to offer to the people and who can show a progressive path by action and not just by propaganda. The role of the opposition party is not to oppose every decision of the ruling party. Rather, it is the duty of the opposition party to support the ruling party for the acts that are in the interest of the nation. The political parties should work among the people; win their confidence on the strength of their advocated goals. They must build public opinion in their favour by suggesting alternative programmes and policies which could practically take the country forward to the enjoyment of better standards of living. In this context, there are a few political parties which can seek to play a positive role and can hope to come to power with a swing in political education among the masses. The errors of election process need to be removed. It needs to be ensured that only the right candidate wins the election. Money plays a great role in elections. There are corrupt rich politicians who buy the votes with money, throw temporary advantages to poor people at the time of polls. They make false promises which they know they cannot fulfil. It is, therefore, essential that the role of money power should be entirely eliminated from the electoral process. The opposition should guide the countrymen to more desirable objectives of socio-economic achievement.

### Role of Opposition Parties in Parliamentary Committees

Parliamentary opposition is a form of political opposition a designated government, particularly in a Westminster-based parliamentary system. One of the most important parliamentary committees has an opposition leader as the Chairman. Public Accounts Committee, which investigates the use of finances granted to the government, is led by a member belonging to an opposition party. Presently, there are 24 Standing Committees of the Parliament segmented as per the departments and ministries. Some of the crucial committees such as finance, external affairs, and home affairs are led by the members of opposition parties. It is under their sponsorship that the standing committees examine legislations, expenditure plans of ministries and

government schemes. Every MP of the House has to go through the recommendations of these committees. As a chairman of some of these parliamentary panels, an opposition leader contributes towards consolidation legislation in an informed and participatory manner. The Opposition party members also have a significant role to play in the ad hoc committees constituted to inspect a specific case. The Joint Parliamentary Committee is an appropriate example in this regard. The committee, which was constituted to probe 2G scam, had 15 members from the opposition party out of a total strength of 30. [<http://www.elections.in/political-corner/role-opposition-party-parliament/>]

### Importance of Opposition Party

Political Parties never try to extend their support to the ruling party in their welfare measures. Instead they only oppose the government, which is in no way a healthy atmosphere for the progress of the country. All the parties think only for the next election not for the next generation. The opposition must realize their responsibility and work for the country. Only a responsible opposition party can bring success to the ideals of our constitution.

The Election Commission publicly stated that more than 700 of the 4072 State legislators (MLAs) have criminal records against them. Several known murderers, rapists, goondas and extortionists were nominated, and later elected, as party candidates. There is no major State in which hoodlums and crime lords did not assume the high office of ministers. Even among those legislators who have no criminal background, many depend habitually on crime syndicates and muscle men for winning elections. Money, muscle, liquor, cast, mass power, cost etc. became the new determinants of power. Parties are known to have nominated candidates in exchange for money bags. Moral and dignified party men are side-lined systematically. Known goondas and rowdy shooters with blood stains on their hands, and heinous crimes to their credit are now welcomed with open arms and great fanfare into major political parties. Legislative and ministerial offices have become safe. Employees are corrupt record. Money, muscle power and political power play vital role in political parties. [<http://shubharathi.blogspot.com/2013/09/opposition-party-in-indian>]

### **Duties of the opposite government**

- The opposite party should have the ability to promote responsible and reasonable debate through healthy debates they should be ready to promote national welfares.
- The ruling party has the inclination to hide themselves after the election; the opposition party brings the ruling party, with their voice and make them to do the governmental duties. This creates a bond between the citizens and the opposite party.
- They should be able to act as role models for the future leaders, their act should be in such a way that, they have to rule the government in future. [<http://www.ssbinterviewtips.com/2014/01/role-of-opposition-party-in-democracy>]
- It should acts as a watch dog for the ruling government for its commissions or omissions.
- They should earn good name and a name of “government in waiting”
- It should strengthen the culture of democracy.

### **The role of the Leader of the Opposition**

Leader of opposition has a key role during working of the house. Constitutionally, its designation is equivalent to Cabinet Minister, sits at extreme nook of the respective house. Moreover, it has a signified role as a member of selection committee for appointment of bureaucrats like Directors of central institutions, CIC, CVC etc. He is also a represents opposition in JPC (Joint Parliament Commission) and all party meeting. The way opposition parties work together can influence the outcomes - if they succeed in working together and in building the "political numbers" they increase their chances of toppling the government.

### **Holding the Government accountable**

This is one of the most important jobs of the Opposition is to continually question the Government. “Any Government has to remain answerable to the public at all times, and a good Opposition can put the attention on serious issues and have them resolved quickly”. The active Opposition will also debate legislation actively in the House and during the Select Committee process to ensure the legislation receives careful consideration. Being in Opposition is not just about opposing the Government. “There are occasions when the Opposition agrees with the Government. If the solution proposed by the Government has wide support, and is soundly based, then it’s only natural for the Opposition to agree”. [<sup>1</sup><http://decisionmaker.co.nz/guide2003/hgw/oppose>]

### **Leading the Opposition**

“Opposition parties don’t have the same resources as the Government and the Executive, so we have to work twice as hard to get the same results”. The Government has access to government departments and advisers to form their policies, where the Opposition often has to go down different avenues to source the same information. “It’s also really important that the leader keeps a close eye and ear on what the public is saying, needs and wants – because problems are often caused by the Government not delivering.”

## **2. Conclusion**

Opposition is not meant for opposing each and every policy of Government in power. It should be ideally behave in a manner they would have acted if they would have been in power. The opposition can be on the basis of ideology and should also highlight the alternatives in policy making.

## **References**

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