

CLASS: SS3

SUBJECT: CIVIC EDUCATION

TOPIC: POPULAR PARTICIPATION

WEEK: 8

TERM: FIRST

MEANING OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION

Popular participation means the involvement of every citizen in determining the affairs of the state and the issues that concern them. It is the involvement of all citizens irrespective of their social, economic, physical, religious, gender or political status, in the affairs of the state or nation.

TYPES OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION

1. **Political participation:** It is the active involvement of all citizens in the political process. It can be done by being membership of any registered political party, seeking elective position post, or participating in elections.
2. **Economic participation:** This is the involvement of the citizens in legitimate activities that will boost the economic wellbeing of the country. This includes buying and selling, ownership of business etc.
3. **Civil society or mass participation:** it involves the participation of people in shaping the political and economic processes of the country.
4. **Community participation:** it involves participation in governance at the grassroots level. At community meetings, people come together to discuss the development of their area

NEED FOR POPULAR PARTICIPATION

1. It promotes inclusiveness in politics.
2. It discourages political apathy.
3. It promotes understanding of government policies.
4. It teaches political values.
5. It makes government responsible to the people.
6. It aids development of the nation.

TRADITIONAL MODES OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION

1. **Community development association:** Here, members of a community come together to discuss and carry out developmental projects like environmental sanitation, securing their areas with the use of vigilante groups, building of town halls etc.
2. **Self-help movement:** In villages and towns, people help one another with projects like farming, buildings, ceremonies etc. They rotate communal work among members.
3. **Cooperative movement:** many traditional Nigerian families are involved in cooperative movement. This helps to save and raise money for projects.

MODERN MODE OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION

1. **Town hall meetings and public debate:** members of the community come together to express their views at a designated place.

2. **Open-Air rally and civil disobedience:** leaders of civil society groups can call for open air rally or ask people to stay indoors to defy government directives.
3. **Sensitization campaign:** many civil society groups educate and inform the citizens of the need to be fully involved in the electoral process such as voter registration and voting through posters, leaflets, radio etc.
4. **Volunteerism:** some people volunteer themselves to act as observers and members of monitoring groups during elections in order to ensure that the exercises go on without any hitch.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Find out from your parents or guardians, how important issues are discussed in your home town or villages.