ABSTRACT

Democracy has a long history and one has to go back to more than two thousand years to trace its origin and to find out and understand its features, practices and institutions. The functioning democracy is a form of government which provides the citizens with most freedom, most opportunities, and the most comfortable life. The last quarter of the twentieth century witnessed the greatest expansion of democracy in the world. The spread of democratic governments in many parts of Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Africa in the late 1980s and early 1990s had been an important trend in world. It means the importance of democracy is growing more in the contemporary period. Moreover, to achieve a sustainable democratic form of government in a particular country it needs some necessary concepts. These concepts are not new. In ancient period the ideas of Buddha reflect the core contribution of democracy and quite different and notable one. His ideas like economic development, human rights, right to freedom, right to religion and women empowerment are considered as some of the essential concepts for development democracy. These conditions or concepts lead to a strong democratic system in a country. In this background, the paper would like to discuss the origin and some essential concept of democracy in first part. In second part, it would like to explore how Buddha’s ideas can be considered as features of democracy. Finally, it tries to conclude that Buddha is an eminent political thinker for his contribution to the development of the concept of democracy.

KEY WORDS: Democracy, Buddhism.

REFERENCES


Leidecker, Kurt and Buddhadasa P. Kirthisinghe (2011): Buddhism and Democracy, Buddhist Publication Society


The Link Between Democracy and Development, by Carl Gershman, President of the National Endowment for Democracy, available http://cipe.advomation.com/or/2012 issue53/articles/03_gershman.html?height==780

Websites

http://www.thehindu.com
http://www.un.org
http://www.ohchr.org
http://www.un.org
http://www.wzb.eu
www.colorado.edu/
http://www.budsas.org