Abstract

The argument advanced here is that meaningful participatory democracy requires all sections of society to be empowered with scientific thinking and technological sufficiency. The numbers and complexities of choices triggered by science and its technologies, make this a national necessity for democratic decision-making. The logic is, people without gainful occupations, which rest on technological skills and capabilities, will have very little interest in pious democracy, and it will remain a distraction to be endured at election time. The conclusion that emerges then is that both the delivery of democracy and the application of science have to be reorganized, to allow more benefits to be spread among larger numbers of citizens, especially those at the base of society. Democracy defined mainly in terms of political expression and freedom of speech is not enough, as is science, which speaks mainly to the needs of the elite and powerful. A mature and worthwhile democracy must deliver the means and ways to attain food, health care, housing along with respect and dignity as crucial elements of its practice. If higher levels and more equitable qualities of life are not pursued, democracy will not gain the respect, and science the support, of the vast majority struggling on the margins of many economies.

Keywords

Science and Technology / Democracy.