

- **Progress ad infinitum** - all proof requires some further proof (and so on, to infinity).
- **Relation** - all things are changed as their relations become changed, or as we look upon them from different points of view.
- **Assumption** - the truth asserted is merely a hypothesis or assumption.
- **Circularity** - the truth asserted involves a vicious circle.
- **Criticism:** Skepticism, due to its inherent feature of refraining from any absolute or final truth, poses a dilemma to its followers whether to believe in Skepticism as a school of philosophy or not.
- **Thomas Reid** (1710 - 1796), founder of the **Scottish School of Common Sense**, argued that, if perception and the other cognitive processes are not reliable, then the faculty of **reasoning** which the skeptic uses is also bound to be **unreliable too**.

### Conclusion

- Greek philosophy developed only very slowly after the collapse of the Roman Empire in 427 CE. Due to the rise of Christianity, the Hellenistic philosophy got sidelined, as, within Christianity, there was no place for Cynical defiance of social norms, or Epicurean emphasis on pleasure, or Stoic fatalism, and or Skeptical doubt.
- However, some philosophers of the day, not content with following any particular one of these schools, blended the views of many to suit their needs, thus creating yet another philosophical approach called Eclecticism.
- In modern times, Epicureanism survives in the form of its direct descendent, utilitarianism, which is one of the leading ethical theories today and after centuries of **religious dogmatism** throughout the Middle Ages, Skepticism again resurfaced during the late Renaissance, and particularly during the Age of Reason and the Enlightenment of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

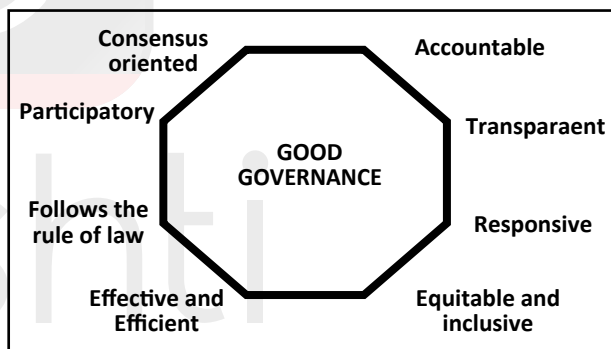
## Good Governance

### What is Good Governance?

- 'Governance' is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented).

- Governance can be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance.
- In the 1992 report entitled "Governance and Development", the World Bank set out its definition of Good Governance. It defined Good Governance as **"the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development"**.
- Good governance has 8 major characteristics. It is **participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law**.
- It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making.
- It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

### 8 Principles of Good Governance by United Nations



- **Participation:**
  - People should be able to voice their own opinions through legitimate immediate organizations or representatives.
  - This includes men and women, vulnerable sections of society, backward classes, minorities, etc.
  - Participation also implies freedom of association and expression.
- **Rule of Law:**
  - Legal framework should be enforced impartially, especially on human rights laws.
  - Without rule of law, politics will follow the principle of *matsya nyaya* i.e. law of fish which means the strong will prevail over the weak.

Note: