

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development

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Abstract

A The grass-root democracy in India is the Panchayati Raj Institution. Local self-government for the provision of basic public facilities, the empowerment of weaker sections of society and the implementation of a development mechanism at the grassroots level in rural India are considered to be Panchayati Raj institutions. The study gives an overview of the structure, time, functions of the panchayat and also describes their income streams, etc. India's main priority is the region's overall development. Administration, after its independence. The key drivers of growth in the earlier plans were agriculture, manufacturing, communication, schooling, health and allied industries, but soon it was understood that the country's all-round development was possible only through the development of rural India. With that in mind, Panchayati Raj institutions were implemented under the 73rd Amendment Act of the Constitution of India in 1992. Rural development includes the Panchayati Raj Institutions' efforts to strengthen the democratic structure of society (PRIs).

Key words:

Panchayati Raj;

Rural development;

Exclusion ;

73rd Amendment Act.

1. Introduction

In India, the Panchayati Raj system is viewed as the primary form of decentralization under which government becomes completely representative and receptive. Local self-government institutions are known as the Panchayati Raj, aimed at providing basic infrastructure

amenities, empowering weaker sections of society, and initiating a development mechanism at the grassroots level of rural India, where India exists alone. Measures are also required to improve rural infrastructure, to increase rural household incomes and to provide distribution networks with educational, health and safety services. The Government of India has taken several measures to improve rural India and the Department of Rural Development under the supervision of the Ministry of Rural Development has been set up for this. It is anticipated that panchayats will play an important role, particularly after independence, in India's rural development.

To research the working of Panchayati Raj institutions, the Ashok Mehta Committee was formed in 1977. The committee claimed that the Panchayati Raj Institutions are the soul of democracy and hence more authority should be delegated to them. In accordance with the spirit of the Asoka Mehta Committee recommendations, several states, including West Bengal, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, revisited their respective Panchayati Raj structures and undertook many new measures to grant more powers to local bodies that served as a prime inspiration and precedent for subsequent reform.

The XIth Schedule of the Constitution provides that States must, by statute, grant the Panchayats the rights and powers required to allow the Panchayats to act as institutions of self-government. These laws may also provide for the transition of powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats for the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice⁷ and the execution of plans for economic development and social justice.

Gram Sabha: A Gram Sabha means an agency consisting of individuals enrolled in the electoral rolls relating to the village within the Panchayat district at the level of the village;⁹ Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and conduct such functions at the level of the village as may be provided for by statute by the Legislature of the State.

Panchayat: A Panchayat refers to an entity (by whatever name) of self-government formed for rural areas under Article 243b.

Panchayat area: A Panchayat area means the territorial area of a Panchayat.

Village: A village means a village designated by the Governor to be a village for the purposes of this Part by public announcement and comprises a community of villages so specified.

Village level panchayat: At the village level, it is considered a Panchayat. It's a local body for the village that operates.

Intermediate level panchayat: An Intermediate level means the intermediate level between the level of the village and the level of the district specified by the Governor of a State by

public notice for the purposes of this part. The intermediate level of the Panchayats may not be formed in a State with a population not exceeding 20 lakh.

District level Panchayat: There is Zilla Parishad at the district level under the Panchayati Raj system. It looks after the district's rural area administration and its office is located at the headquarters of the district.

2. How PRIs evolve?

Development is a broad concept that covers every component of human life. It is essentially an operation carried out by the state involving policy formulation and implementation for the benefit of society on the part of the government. Rural development, on the other hand, implies the overall social, economic, political and cultural development of rural areas so that people can lead a pleasant life (Pandit and Kulkarni 2012, 160). It is a broad, inclusive concept that takes the socio-economic and political growth of rural areas into account. This includes programs aimed at strengthening the democratic structure of society through the Panchayati Raj Institutions, as well as interventions aimed at improving rural infrastructure, improving rural household wages, and ensuring schooling, health and safety systems (Mishra, Akhtar & Tarika 2011, 45).

3. Conceptual and Constitutional Dimension

Solidarity; but it was used by independence movements as a basis for local self-government which giving it a political tint. The Royal Commission reported in 1907 on decentralization that 'it is most important to decentralize control and to group citizens with local administration tasks that an effort should be made to establish and create village Panchayats to administer village affairs.' Some of the provisions for the creation of local self-government were implemented by administrative reforms in 1919 and by provincial legislation in 1935. (Stephan, 2001, p. 6). In truth, Lord Rippon had indicated that in India there should be local bodies for rural people's well-being and growth (Mathew, 2003, pp. 3-5). However, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who firmly supported greater autonomy for villages under the five-tier structure of village panchayats, taluka panchayats, district panchayats, provincial panchayats, and all-India panchayats, put forward a concrete conceptualization of the panchayat system. In the other hand, by his contribution to creating the PRIs in 1957, Jawaharlal Nehru stood for the socialist model of the centre.

4. The Three-Tier System

There are two-tier systems of panchayats in the states of Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim, one at the level of the village and the other at the level of the Zila or District. In Jammu and Kashmir, the second level is a block. Panchayati Raj institutions have a three-tier structure like all other states: village as the first level, block or janapad as the second level, and zila or district as the third level.

Village Level

The village forms the basic unit of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The term 'village' is, on the whole, synonymous with sales money. It would also mean 'villages' as read from the use of the word 'village' in singular in the proper context. A place reported as a revenue property in the tax records of a district can only be called a village. A location not registered as a revenue property can not be considered a village and can not be separately classified as a district of Sabha. The rural area that is not registered as a revenue estate does not come under the meaning of village. The local government unit here is called gram panchayat. The gram panchayat is the lowest unit in the system of the Panchayati Raj Institution. The panchayat consists predominantly of delegates chosen by the village residents. Any person who is registered as an elector on the electoral roll prepared by the State Election Commission and for the time being in operation in the Gram Sabha district and does not hold any government benefit office shall be qualified to be elected to the panchayat. The persons convicted by the court for criminal offences are disqualified from election of the panchayat. There is also provision for the co-option, if they do not get sufficient representation in the usual course, of two women and one member of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As an entity, the panchayat is accountable to the village general body known as Gram Sabha, which meets at least twice a year. The Gram Panchayat is expected to send its budget, previous year's accounts and annual administrative report before the Gram Sabha.

A President, or Sarpanch, and a Vice-President or Up-Sarpanch are elected by each panchayat. The Sarpanch is directly elected by the gram sabha in some states, either by the show of hands or by secret ballot, whereas the mode of election is indirect in some states. In the gram panchayat scheme, the Sarpanch occupies a central role. He supervises and coordinates the panchayat's various operations. In order to support the Sarpanch in government, the panchayat secretary and the village level staff are the two officials at the panchayat level.

Block Level

Block or Union is the intermediate or Tehsil level of rural India's local self-government. The nomenclature for block level panchayat has a number of variations. It is classified as Mandal Praja Parishad, Anchalik Panchayat in Assam, Taluka Panchayat in Gujrat, Mandal Panchayat in Karnataka, for instance, in Andhra Pradesh. It is commonly recognised in Bihar,

Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and Rajasthan as the Panchayat Samiti.

The Panchayat Samiti shall have jurisdiction over the whole of the Block area, excluding that portion of the Block area which is included in the Municipality or which is under the authority of the Municipal Corporation, the Cantonment Board or the Notified Area Committee which is constituted by any applicable law.

District Level

In India, except in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the District/Zila Panchayat forms the apex body of the three-tier hierarchy of the Panchayati Raj System. Zila Parishad has jurisdiction over the entire district, with the exception of those areas of the district that are, for the time being, part of a municipality or cantonment area, or under the control of a municipal corporation or of a notified district committee set up under a law. The Panchayat is called Zila Parishad at the district level in most districts, such as Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh, and it is called Zila Parishad in the Panchayat District in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Gujarat.

Usually, the Zila Parishad is an elected body. It shall consist of the representatives of the Panchayat Samiti, of all the members of the legislature of the State and of the Parliament representing part or all of the district, of all the officers of the departments of pharmacy, public health, public works, engineering, agriculture, education and other creation at the district level. The Act provided that in a Zila Parishad with a population of not more than five lacs, and in a Zila Parishad with a population of more than twelve lacs, the minimum number of directly elected members could not exceed twenty-five.

The Act established that Zila Parishad may have its headquarters in any place within the district excluded and may exercise its powers and duties over property and establishments in that area under its own supervision or management.

Panchayati Raj, or municipal self-government, is an exercise of administrative power in democratic decentralization. The scheme is based on the concepts below.

i. From village to district level, there should be a three-tier system of local self-governing bodies with an organic connection from the lower to the higher ones.

Hii. ii. A true transition of authority and responsibility to these bodies should occur.

It. iii. To allow them to fulfill their duties, sufficient financial resources should be transferred to these bodies.

iv. iv. Via these bodies, all implementation programmes at these stages should be channelled.

V. The system built should be such that more decentralization should be encouraged.

The country's success really depends on successful Panchayati Raj and the engagement or cooperation of people. It is the most successful tool that can bring pace and substance into our planning mechanism and ensuring that the country's productivity tools are used more efficiently. The future of both democracy and growth rests in that of both the economy and of the people. The Panchayati Raj will be a stimulus for the organized growth of rural areas in the years to come.

Inclusion and Representation of PRIs since Last 20 Years

In 1992, the 73rd constitutional amendment marked the beginning of the period of inclusion and justice in the PRIs of disadvantaged communities and the termination of any single group's hegemony in local government bodies. The goal was to address the needs of different communities, especially those excluded on the basis of race, faith, and ethnic origin (Hasan, 2009, pp. 3-5). The amendment was in accordance with Article 243(D) of the Indian Constitution, which specified that seats should be reserved in panchayats according to the population of SCs and STs. In addition, one third of the seats at each rank are reserved for women (Buch, 2009). In brief, however, the ultimate transformation of these vulnerable parts was ensured by this constitutional step. During the twenty years of the journey of PRIs in separate states in various stages, the representation of these classes was actually understood (S. R. Maheshwari, 2000, p. 56).

Over a period of time, the ministry of Panchayati Raj adopted various measures to promote women's inclusion and participation. For eg, the emphasis of Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA) was on the women and youth representatives elected. The two primary programmes are: (a) Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan (PMSA) and (b) Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMSA) (PYSA). The goal of Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan is to establish a substantial representation of women in the bodies of the panchayat. Women get a voice through this initiative to get together and work together.

Thus, there have been numerous experiences and analyses that demonstrate the success and failure on two counts; first, constitutional representation; and second, actual achievement and inclusion in the decision-making and governance of PRIs by representatives of marginalized communities (Singh, 2002). The following section illustrates the specifics and narratives of their life and performance in this context.

Conclusion

In the end, the whole review that the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act enters into effect should be inferred, but the electoral empowerment process of the Panchayats has been effectively achieved. While the Panchayat elections were held annually, reservations were granted to women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Groups in all States and Union Territories in proportion to their share of the population in each district of the Panchayat. Many Centrally Funded Schemes (CSSs) by Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) directly implement services, including the flagship NREGS National Rural Work Guarantee Scheme.

The objective of the 73rd Amendment Act was to bring democracy to the grass-root level so that people could control their own affairs at that level. Only the individuals themselves know what is right for them and what needs to be done. So the aim was not only to entrust citizens with the decision-making authority, but also to give them the power and freedom to govern themselves.

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