

THE ROLE OF UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNANCE: AN ANALYSIS OF INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The Constitution of India also recognized it and the Article 40 of the Directive Principles of State Policy lays down that -“The State shall take steps to organize village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government”. The core value of democratic, local self-governance and inclusive governance is equal participation, equal treatment and equal rights before the law. The study is based on secondary data. To examine understanding the basics of local governance, India has the distinction of being a unique federal country. Ordinarily, federalism involves a two tier system – central/union government at the first level and the state/provincial government at the second level. But the Indian constitution provides for a three tier federal structure as below Local Government i.e. Panchayats and Municipalities at Grass Root. In this paper focused on the Local Government’s jurisdiction is limited to a specific area and its functions relate to the provision of civic amenities to the population being within its jurisdiction. 73rd Amendment added Part IX titled “The Panchayats” and 74th Amendment added Part IXA titled “The Municipalities”. The Local bodies–‘Panchayats’ and ‘Municipalities’ came under Part IX and IXA of the Constitution. In this paper reveals that total number of Panchayat raj institutions in India is 2, 60,512. And total number of Gram Panchayats in India is 97.22%, Total number of district Panchayat in India is 0.24 %, total Intermediate Panchayats is 2.24%. Uttar Pradesh is the highest number of Village Panchayat (23.21%), Intermediate Panchayat (12.43%), District Panchayat (10.00%) are located in Uttar Pradesh state because more number Panchayat are created and more number of population are concentrated. To overview of the understanding local governance and Self governing rural local bodies are essential for overall development of the rural masses. There is the need of more and more participation of people in local governance. Local Government in India has not been a great success there is wide range gap between the aspirations of the people and the performance by the grassroots institutions.

Keywords: Local Governance, PRIs, Amendment, Municipalities.

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1. INTRODUCTION:

India has a long history and strong tradition of democratic institutions since ancient times. These institutions have been grounded on the prevailing social and political organization of the local habitations. The Panchayats, especially the village or Gram Panchayats have always played a vital role in day to day governance of the rural community. The Constitution of India also recognized it and the Article 40 of the Directive Principles of State Policy lays down that -“The State shall take steps to organize village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government”. The core value of democratic, local self-governance and inclusive governance is equal participation, equal treatment and equal rights before the law.

It also means that governance institutions and policies are accessible, accountable and responsive to disadvantaged groups, protecting their interests and providing diverse populations with equal opportunities for public services such as justice, health and education. Good local governance is not just about providing a range of local services but also about preserving the life and liberty of residents, creating space for democratic participation and civic dialogue, supporting market-led and environmentally sustainable local development, and facilitating outcomes that enrich the quality of life of residents. Although the concept of local governance is as old as the history of humanity, only recently has it entered the broad discourse in the academic and practice literature.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Humes & Martin, 1961: in his study on the local government should have the following features: have a certain population, a specific surface area, the capacity to sign contracts or to enter into relationships with third parties, i.e. the legal status and authority, have a continuous organization and, to realize the financial function therefore have the capacity to collect taxes and determine its budget.

Stones, 1968: it reveals that the local government as part of the governance of a country, but that deals with problems or issues of population within certain territory or location. According to him, this kind of government does the so-called "housework" so that living in these areas to be affordable for its residents. It achieves this by keeping the roads clean, children's education, residential housing construction etc.

Aijaz, 2007: In his study find out that local government is part of the government of a country which deals mainly with problems or issues related to a given population within a given territory. This is done basically on the responsibilities of a country that parliament decides to delegate by the laws to local governance. In this definition we find two important elements of local government, that of the existence of directly elected local bodies and local finances, which constitute common denominators of each local government.

3. OBJETIVES OF THE STUDY

- To examine the role of understanding the basic of local governance in India.
- To know the constitutional status of local governance in India.
- To analyze overview of the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India.
- To examine the State-wise numbers of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India.

4. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data. The data collected from various government reports like PRIs and Govts Reports etc. The statistical tool used like percentage.

5. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

India has the distinction of being a unique federal country. Ordinarily, federalism involves a two tier system – central/union government at the first level and the state/provincial government at the second level. But the Indian constitution provides for a three tier federal structure as below Local Government i.e. Panchayats and Municipalities at Grass Root. The Local Government's jurisdiction is limited to a specific area and its functions relate to the provision of civic amenities to the population being within its jurisdiction. A Local Government functions within the provisions of the statute which has created it. It is subordinate to the state or provincial government which exercises control and supervision over it. But the activities of the Local Government are not less numerous.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN INDIA:

Traditional democratic institutions of local self-governance were validated by the Constitution of India with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments were passed by Parliament in December, 1992. Through these amendments local self-governance was introduced in rural and urban India. The Acts came into force as the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 on April 24, 1993 and the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 on June 1, 1993. These amendments added two new parts to the Constitution, namely, 73rd Amendment added Part IX titled “The Panchayats” and 74th Amendment added Part IXA titled “The Municipalities”. The Local bodies–‘Panchayats’ and ‘Municipalities’ came under Part IX and IXA of the Constitution after 43 years of India becoming a republic. This amendment implements Article 40 of the Directive Principles of State Policy and has upgraded them from non-justifiable to justifiable part of the constitution. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was created as a separate Ministry on 27th May 2004.

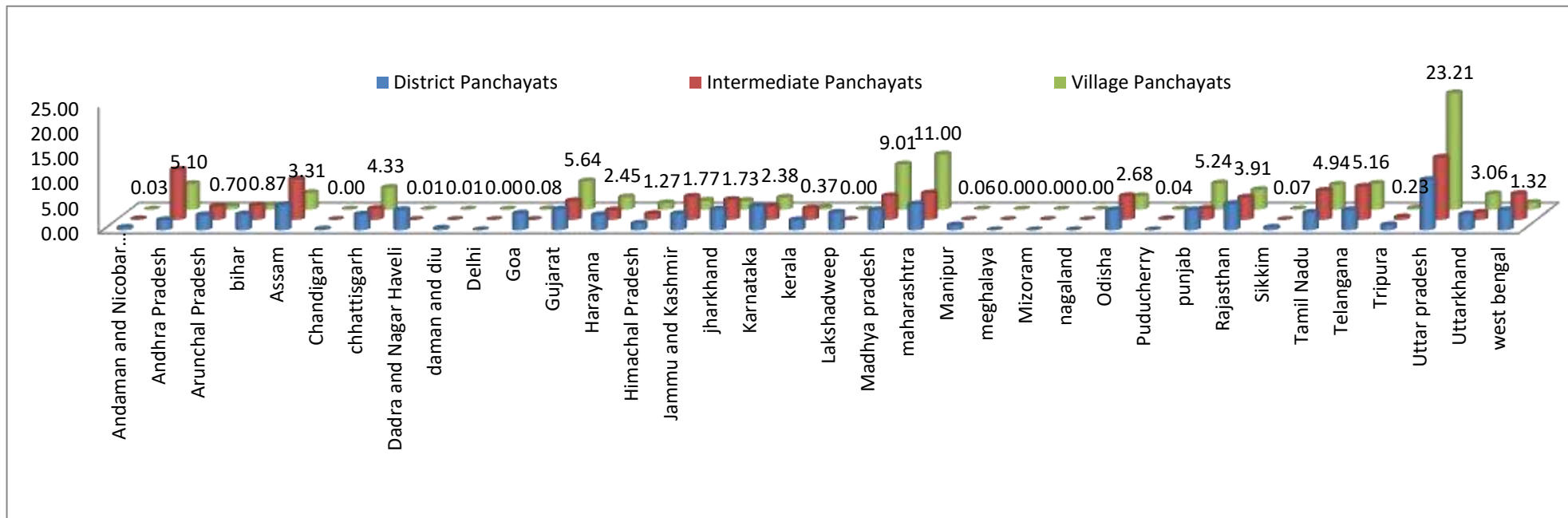
Table: 1. Basic Data on Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs)

SL.NO	UNIT	NUMBERS
1	Number of PRIs in the country	2,60,512
2	Number of Village Panchayats	2,53,268
3	Number of Intermediate Panchayats	6,614
4	Number of District Panchayats	630
5	Number of Elected Members of PRIs	31.00 lakh(approx.)
6	Number of Elected Women Representative	13.75 lakh (approx)

Source: PRIs and Govt Reports

Table 1. To examine the basic the numbers of Panchayats raj institutions in India. The Total number of Panchayat raj institutions in India is 2, 60,512. And total number of Gram Panchayats in India is 97.22%, Total number of district Panchayat in India is 0.24 %, total Intermediate Panchayats is 2.24%. There is a lot difference between village and district Panchayats in India. because of Due to population of the state. The above data shows that local government institutions are covered all over India and also elected representative and women representation is are participating in the local governance.

Figure 1: State-wise numbers of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India



Source: PRIs and Govt Reports

Table-2: reveals that the state wise numbers of Panchayat raj institutions like District, Intermediate, and Village Panchayats. The data shows that there are highest number of Village Panchayat 23.21% in the same period the Intermediate Panchayat 12.43% and also District Panchayat only 10% are located in highest in Uttar Pradesh state because of many reasons like more number Panchayat are created and more number of population are concentrated. Especially in these data North-Eastern states of India have less number of Panchayats due to low population in that states, After Rajasthan, Maharashtra is second Highest number of Panchayats like village Panchayats 11.%,Intermediate Panchayats 5.31%, District Panchayats 5.15% is concentrated. Andaman and Nicobar Island has highest number of Panchayats like Village Panchayats 0.03%, Intermediate Panchayats 0.14%, and District Panchayats (0.48%) as compared to other union territories of India.

Table 2: Figure-1:State-wise numbers of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India

Name Of The States /UTs	District Panchayats	Intermediate Panchayats	Village Panchayats	Name Of The States/UTs	District Panchayats	Intermediate Panchayats	Village Panchayats
Andaman And Nicobar Island	0.48	0.14	0.03	Lakshadweep	3.49	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	2.00	9.98	5.10	Madhya Pradesh	4.00	4.73	9.01
Arunchal Pradesh	3.00	2.68	0.70	Maharashtra	5.15	5.31	11.00
Bihar	3.15	2.89	0.87	Manipur	0.95	0.00	0.06
Assam	5.00	8.07	3.31	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.16	0.02	0.00	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	3.12	2.21	4.33	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadra And Nagar Haveli	4.00	0.00	0.01	Odisha	4.00	4.75	2.68
Daman And Diu	0.32	0.00	0.01	Puducherry	0.00	0.15	0.04
Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	Punjab	4.00	2.22	5.24
Goa	3.31	0.00	0.08	Rajasthan	5.24	4.46	3.91
Gujarat	4.13	3.75	5.64	Sikkim	0.50	0.00	0.07
Harayana	3.00	1.91	2.45	Tamil Nadu	3.49	5.82	4.94
Himachal Pradesh	1.30	1.18	1.27	Telangana	4.00	6.62	5.16

Jammu Kashmir	And	3.21	4.63	1.77	Tripura	1.00	0.53	0.23
Jharkhand		4.13	3.98	1.73	Uttar Pradesh	10.00	12.43	23.21
Karnataka		4.76	2.66	2.38	Uttarkhand	3.15	1.44	3.06
Kerala		2.00	2.30	0.37	West Bengal	4.00	5.17	1.32

Sources: PRIs and Govt Reports

7. CONCLUSION AND POLICY SUGGESTIONS

Self governing rural local bodies are essential for overall development of the rural masses. There is the need of more and more participation of people in local governance. Local Government in India has not been a great success. In the basic Data on Panchayat Raj Institutions more number of women participation is necessary for local governance because most of the states have different type of representation of women's like Bihar and Karnataka has 50% reservation in the local governance but some of the state have 33% percentage of reservation.

Why I am mentioning that women's are real executers of rural policies in India. There is wide range gap between the aspirations of the people and the performance by the grassroots institutions, the weaknesses in the working of Gram Sabha, There is necessary of basic facilities of Panchayats institutions in India.

In this paper we have proposed an understanding of local governance that is people-centered, focusing on the participation, interests and wellbeing of the local community. Constitutional status of local governance in India, State-wise numbers of Panchayati Raj Institutions of District, Intermediate and Village Panchayat,,Analyzed the basic information of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs).

SUGGESTIONS:

- There is need for bottom up planning especially at the district level, based on grassroots inputs received from Gram Sabha.
- To solve the problem of proxy representation social empowerment must precede the political empowerment.
- Training should be provided to local representatives to develop expertise so that they contribute more in planning and implementation of policies and programmes.
- Examine the existing administration structure for rural development and detail out the functions and revenue resources of the local governance.
- If we provide proper awareness about local governance, the local government can create future leaders for our country.

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