

## THE ROLE OF PANCHAYAT RAJ MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL SOCIETY

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### ABSTRACT

*The panchayat raj system is very powerful machinery and play vital role on the development of rural areas. The study has covered the specified area where the respondents are active in local decentralized administration. The local election process, participative decision making by the local leaders and the functional activities of the panchayat raj management system on the various developmental activities have been studied extensively. The structured questionnaire was administered on the local citizens to elicit the responses. The study has resulted in though there is positive response but still there is need to improve. The panchayat raj system should be equipped with the trained and qualified manpower, optimum utilization of resources, act transparently, proper allocation of funds on various developmental activities etc. Any system of activity to be successful, it has to be managed systematically; otherwise the performance will not be as expected.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Panchayat Raj, Management System, Local Leaders, Decision Making, Performance.*

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### Introduction

The basic theme of this comprehensive research paper is to enlighten the significant role played by the panchayat raj on the development of rural society, which is the concept identified for the purpose of the study. The scholarly literature studies made by the experts has revealed that the various developmental activities have to be initiated at grass root i.e., village level through decentralization of power and for which the panchayat raj institutional system functions with its democratically elected leaders. The rural societies have to be focused on analyzing the rural activities, rural local organizations, identification of the rural problems faced by the persons residing at rural areas, providing solutions in the interest of rural public. The rural studies should not confine to theory alone but should provide practical solutions faced by the rural society. The studies at rural areas should be scientific. It is the science of rural society and laws of growth and development. The analysis of rural society should explore about social, economic, political, religious, empowerment and development of women, life styles of the people at rural areas, the problems should be predicted and remedial actions have to be ensured. The country's development will be ensured in terms of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), per capita income and consumption levels, and real wages. The development could be viewed as not increase in prices of various products or services; the purchasing power has to be increased. There are some important factors that contribute for development are infrastructure facilities, modernization, empowerment of people i.e., socio, cultural, economic, political, women psychological etc., throughout the nation or across the nation. Gandhiji has stated that the development of man in his entirety. The economy of rural areas and its development is an integral process of the overall economic development. The important aspect of the development of rural areas is to improve the quality of work life by the process of elimination of

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poverty through adoption of various strategies and policies which provides scope for development. The Ministry of Rural Development in India formulates policies, regulations and implements various strategies as per plans stated. Initially, main thrust for development was laid on agriculture, industry, communication, education, health and allied sectors but later on it was realized that accelerated development can be provided only if governmental efforts are adequately supplemented by direct and indirect involvement of people at the grass root level. Panchayat raj institutions have been involved in the programme implementation and these institutions constitute the core of decentralized development of planning and its implementations.

### **Need / Significance**

The magnitude of various problems faced by the rural people like poverty, unemployment, education, etc., requires careful attention for implementation of various schemes for the purpose of development. Panchayat raj institutions play a crucial role on the development of rural areas. It fills the gap in the implementation of policies and programmes related to the development of rural belt. Panchayat raj administration has taken the charge of responsibility of strengthening the democratic process at the grass root level. These institutions help the poor to participate in decision making process. This institution helps to speed up the process of social transformation. These institutions also help for decentralized planning for development with proper design to make the human and the other resources to the optimum level. The magnitude of various rural problems like poverty, unemployment, low productivity and consumption, low literacy levels, have necessitated remedial action which is possible by strengthening and increasing the economic, political, and administrative capabilities.

### **Area**

The broad area of the study is confined to the development of rural society through the management system adopted by the Panchayat raj administrative machinery. The area identified is Kisthapur, a rural belt, vast scope for migration for residents for various purposes like business activities, employment, higher education, medical facilities etc.

### **Aim**

The main aim of the study is to enlighten the significance and importance of the Panchayat raj system in the light of development of rural societies. An attempt is made to study the contribution of the Panchayat raj system on development that has taken place at various locations at various villages. An attempt is made to assess the effectiveness of the Panchayat raj system in fulfilling of its stated objectives and functions.

### **Identification of the Problem**

The theoretical concept of the Panchayat raj system was found very significant in contribution to the development of rural areas. After the amendment of constitution, vast scope has been provided to the Panchayat raj administrative machinery to undertake many developmental activities at various local areas.

- Why the development of rural areas is not up to mark as per the expectations when the administrative government machinery has given the freedom, resources, power to exercise in decision making related to various development activities.
- Why the democratically elected politicians, local representatives and decision makers are not able to achieve the tasks related to the development activities in their respective localities.
- Why the hurdles for the development are not eliminated completely.

### **Scope**

The scope of the study is specifically confined to those areas related to the local administration, functions of Panchayat raj management system, local elections, leadership, participation, decision making, and also on the development of agriculture, education, infrastructure, communication, technology, horticulture, development of cottage and small scale, rural urban connectivity, transportation, drinking water, sanitation, medical facilities, electrify and the other facilities.

### **Methodology**

The research design is basically explanatory, diagnostic and analytical. The collection of data is basically adopted by the mode of conducting the general and open survey. The objective behind this is to elicit the perceptions of the respondents in fair and honestly. The structured questionnaire / schedules were employed on the subjects concerned.

### **Process of the Study**

Initially, a study is carried out for the purpose of pre testing in certain identified areas in the area selected. Basing upon the positive response, the research study related to the panchayat raj system was analyzed. In this process an in depth discussions are held with academicians, professionals in the subject concerned, bureaucrats, local leaders, political experts and also the subject analysts besides some people on functioning of the panchayat raj system.

### **Universe of the Study**

The areas likely to be selected are rural belt areas where the panchayat raj administration play crucial role on the development of rural areas. The rural areas identified for the purpose of the study are some villages situated nearby to Hyderabad.

### **Population**

The entire population of the study comprises of various stake holders including the public persons those who aware and possess some knowledge about the panchayat raj system; and the others those who are associated with it.

### **Sampling Technique**

The simple random technique based upon the Convenience / Purposive Sampling method is employed for the purpose of the study. The estimated size of the sample is initially 150 respondents. The sample size was constituted after the elimination of incomplete responses and responses not received from the respondents. The actual respondents were 80 only after the elimination of incomplete response pattern.

### **Literature Review**

The studies related to the present study were reerred mostly from the published sources, profiles of the administrative machinery. In this process, it is found certain gaps which have to bridge in order to achieve the desired objectives. The literature survey has provided valuable inputs which are very useful to the present study. It has also given scope for future research related to the present study. **Nupur Tiwari,(2013)**.,the contributor of the article has observed that the existing mechanism for the delivery of services is not effective, efficient or economical .The decentralized local government institutions are eminently suited for service delivery as they can ensure equity and / or equitability in the provision of services (in view of their nearness to the people), inclusiveness (in view of the assured representation available to all sections of the society in the Panchayat raj Institutions), accessibility, transparency, local participation, accountability and sustainability of services. **Gandhi Siga, (2015)** , the author has stated in his article that democratic form of the government is the best one because it takes care of faith, equality, freedom of speech, equality of status, right to participate in political decision making. **Sowmya Sivakumar (2002)**, **stated that** the article has analysed the panchayat raj system and stated that that the real beneficiaries or the poor people are not able to obtain the fruits of the panchayat raj.

### **Nature of Study**

The nature of study is fact finding basing upon the existing information obtained from the selected respondents of the local areas with an emphasis on various developmental activities of the selected areas.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The major objectives of the study have focused on the functioning of the panchayat raj system in the in achievement of the developmental tasks.

- To study the perceptions / opinions / attitudes of local citizens.
- To study the factors that contributes significantly to the achievement of the goals in relation to the development.

### **Research Design**

The present study is basically an explorative, descriptive, diagnostic based case study carried out at the identified rural societies.

### **Data Collection Process**

The study was carried out at certain identified villages which are found under the panchayat raj management system. The related and relevant data pertaining to these villages and its panchayat raj institutions was collected from both the primary and secondary sources.

### Primary Data

The raw data was collected from different sources through the administration of the questionnaire / schedule to the selected respondents.

### Observation

This technique was also employed by the researcher at periodic intervals with a view to assess the functioning of the administrative machinery of the panchayat raj decision making body.

### Interviews

The high profiled political and the other representatives of the panchayat raj were interviewed at regular intervals. The various concrete inputs obtained would like to be analyzed.

### Secondary Data

The data was collected from different secondary sources like the profiles of the panchayat raj institutions, press reports, information provided by the experts with respect to the functioning of the panchayat raj through its democratically elected representatives. The information has obtained from the published sources like articles, published in journals / magazines, and also official web sites.

### Data Analysis

The raw data collected will be edited in a sequential fashion. The data contained in the instrument was fed into the computer. The analysis was carried out by the application of simple statistical techniques like per centage.

### Scale

The scaling technique employed for the purpose of the measurement of the instrument is Likert Five Point Scale which is found more appropriate.

### Limitations

The practical difficulties faced by the investigator in the process of collection of data and completion of research work has limited the scope of work in compilation of data processing because of non receipt, partial responses etc., and also practical difficulties faced like time, cost, money and efforts.

Questionnaire		
S. No.	Items	(%)
01.	I am aware of about the existence of the panchayat raj management system.	72
02.	I know the activities and functions of the panchayat raj system.	63
03.	The management of the panchayat raj system is fully transparent with focus on development.	76
04.	The effectiveness of panchayat raj system depends upon the local leadership.	81
05.	The election process of panchayat raj management system is carried out in democratic form.	82
06.	The reservation policy is implemented as per constitutional norms.	69
07.	The local leaders plays key role on the development of rural areas.	79
08.	The panchayat raj systems provide the opportunity to local leaders to participate in decision making process.	82
09.	The panchayat raj system is fair on the development of education - basic, secondary, graduation etc., at rural areas.	83
10.	The allocation of funds by the panchayat raj on various developmental activities is crucial.	80
11.	The panchayat raj administration implements the schemes allocated to it very effectively.	83
12.	The panchayat raj significantly contribute for the development of the other sectors like horticulture, agriculture etc.	68
13.	The decisions expressed by the democratically electoral leaders are implemented fairly.	73
14.	The implementation of various schemes of panchayat raj is in conflict with the schemes of government.	88
15.	The panchayat raj also has many hurdles like lack of right manpower, funds, infrastructure facilities etc	92
16.	The panchayat raj system also faces problems from local leaders on implementation of developmental activities.	83
17.	The panchayat raj management systems has also facilitates the local citizens for various services like development of technology in various fields, counseling centres, market centres, godowns for storage, corruption free atmosphere etc.	62
18.	The contribution of the panchayat raj on the overall development of rural areas is excellent.	68

**Discussion & Conclusion**

The experts, local citizens in the areas have stated that the real voice in decision making at grass route level is not up to mark. The business people, seasonal unemployment position, migration to cities, lack of trained manpower, lack of funds, and diversion of the allocated funds due to pressure are some important aspects which handicaps the performance of the panchayat raj management system. The response pattern of the local citizens is though positive but still requires more improvement, for which support from public, government and the other local democratically elected representatives is required. The experts have observed that on the whole the role of panchayat raj management system on the development of rural areas is significant.

**Suggestions**

The villagers should be motivated by creating awareness and imparting knowledge and opportunities for skill development related to various procedural and functional formalities so that the people those who are really interested may be given the opportunity by providing the inspiration. The leaders should possess certain traits, capabilities, competencies to lead the situation and take proper decisions in the overall interest of the local areas. There should not be any external interference in day to day operational activities of the panchayat raj system. The elections should be conducted at regular intervals without any delay. The conflicts should be resolved by taking the decisions in the democratic way. The reservation policy should be strictly enforced among the all categories. The women representatives should be given opportunity to participate in decision making process. The overall observation is that the role of panchayat raj management system is very effective on the various developmental activities at local areas.

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