



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Sustainable developmental goals (SDG's) are the new worldwide degree of objectives, with targets and pointers that 193 part nations of Joined Countries on the planet have commonly set and settled upon. There are 17 objectives on which the whole world is centering at present to guarantee reasonable turn of events. For accomplishing these objectives, nearby self-administration is utilized at the grassroots levels and in India the hardware is Panchayati raj Establishments. These organizations work from focal and state government level and remember every one of the towns for it. These towns have panchayats and it is kept up with by Gram Pradhans for example chosen delegates, Secretary and different individuals from the gram panchayats. However a great deal is being finished at grassroot level by these Gram Pradhans, under the component of Panchayati raj establishment and other regulatory bodies, but it isn't liberated from difficulties. The current contextual investigation is a graphic report which centers consideration regarding recognize various difficulties the chosen delegates' face, in Panchayati raj establishments in India, which contribute straightforwardly for the reasonable turn of events.

Keywords: *Panchayati Raj Institutions, India, Sustainable Development, Issues, Challenges.*

Introduction

Sustainable development is one of the normal peculiarities for which the greater part of the nations is endeavoring as of now. The purpose behind these SDG's is to accomplish a maintainable world in which 'nobody is abandoned' without settling for less maintainability of the planet. This arrangement of SDGs are assumed to be utilized by part nations of Joined Countries to create the formative plans, arrangements, plans, and activity plans for low carbon pathways in the coming 15 years.

Supportable improvement objectives in India have been thought of as an issue of public need for accomplishing advancement at the grassroots level. The Service of Rustic Turn of events also, Panchayati Raj thought about these SDG's command and presently is focused on destitution annihilation and making a suitable framework to build the speed of financial development of provincial locales in the nation. Their point is to advance methodologies for accomplishing SDG's at the panchayat level by empowering various states for limit building and reinforcing all nearby government by 2030. Panchayati raj organizations in India are the method for decentralization in India held back nothing at grassroots level. Indian economy depends on agribusiness and it is being done fundamentally in the towns of the nation and the advancement of the towns rely on the vote based set up and its execution at the village level thus the efficient panchayat raj framework is thought of as instrumental of development.

Evolution of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India

Though the concept of local governance is evident in our ancient holy books like vedas, however the structural foundation of local self-governance was laid down during British period in India. During British period the self-governance of local level was not really democratic institution and often the



problems of social prejudice, oppression and exploitation of people got evident in local power structures.

Later the panel for drafting the constitution of free India under the chairmanship of B.R. Ambedkar consolidated Article 40 in the Order Standards of State Strategy in the draft of the Indian Constitution. Article 40 of the constitution states that "The state will do whatever it takes to sort out town panchayats and supply them with such power and authority as might be important to empower them to work as units of self-government." After it, the need of the recovery of the idea of Panchayati raj the framework was felt in 1957 and the Balwant Mehta panel was shaped.

Then in 1992, 73rd and 74th amendment in the Indian constitution was made and the major highlights of the amendments are as under:

Reservation of seats for SC's/ ST's in proportion to the population of SC's/ ST's in the panchayat area. II. Not less than 1/3rd of the total number of seta reserved under clause –I shall be reserved for women belonging to SC/ST.

The details about the mandatory provision, discretionary provisions, powers and functions of Panchayats have been discussed in article 243-G of Indian constitution and it includes 29 sectors or function listed in the Eleventh schedule of Indian Constitution may be transferred by state government to the Panchayati raj institution.

Proxy Presence of Female Gram Pradhans

For female pradhans the calls were answered and the mobile phones were handled by their spouses or male members in the family. In fact during personal interaction also the male members answered all the questions and females kept on joining or doing their household chores. It shows proxy presence of females in the panchayati raj system in the sampled location.

Lack of Computer based Infrastructure

For routine functioning, day to day operations, track the progress and facilitating monetary benefits the digital platforms are being created for joining all the panchayats on same platform. The process is quite tedious and time consuming. The gram pradhans generated their Id's however still not very well versed with the technical aspect of computed based infrastructure. It puts them in fix their work gets stuck.

Issues with Panchayati Raj Institutions

The blending of development and local self-government functions has significantly curtailed the autonomy of the local self-government institutions. Again it has virtually converted them into governmental agencies. Even the functions assigned to the Panchayat and the Panchayat Samiti overlap, leading to confusion, duplication of efforts and shifting of responsibility.

The inadequacy of funds has also stood in the way of successful working of the Panchayati Raj. The Panchayati Raj bodies have limited powers in respect of imposing cesses and taxes. They have very little funds doled out to them by the State Government. Further, they are generally reluctant to raise necessary funds due to the fear of losing popularity with the masses.



Introduction of the Panchayati Raj aimed at securing effective participation of the people. But in reality this hardly happens since the key administrative and technical positions are manned by the government officials. Generally there is lack of proper cooperation and coordination between the people and the officials like Block Development Officers, the District Officers etc. Again the officers fail to discharge the developmental duties more efficiently and sincerely.

It is being increasingly noticed that the Panchayati Raj Institutions are viewed only as organizational arms of political parties, especially of the ruling party in the state. The State Government, in most states, allows the Panchayati Raj Institutions to function only upon expediency rather than any commitment to the philosophy of democratic decentralisation.

Challenges faced by Panchayati Raj Institutions

The Panchayati Raj system does not come without its drawback as the Indian society is structured in a way that creates multiple challenges for a grassroots self governing body, especially regarding discrimination against the subjugated (women, people from lower castes, etc).

Financial funding is a very big hurdle in the path of these institutions. Change is slow as there is a requirement to widen the area of panchayats to increase their funds.

Local interference from the Member of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly also crowd over the autonomy of the Panchayats and hinder the delivery of justice.

The 73rd amendment act was incomplete and inadequate in providing autonomy to the local governing bodies. The right to delegate functions, powers, and finances was left to the state government.

Transferring of several government roles like the services of education, sanitation, health, and water was not mandated to the panchayats. It was left to state legislations to devolve these roles/responsibilities.

The terrible conditions of the state water boards are a prime example of the state's lack of capability to head these responsibilities.

The lack of finances can be narrowed down as the main failure of the amendment. PRIs can either receive governmental transfers or raise their funds.

The authority of taxation given to the PRIs is authorized by the state governments something that most states have not done yet.

Regarding the second method of fund generation, intergovernmental transfers are the option. This is when a state government assigns a certain amount of revenue to these bodies. The amendment provided recommendations for the state's finance Commissions to provide a revenue divide between them and the panchayats, but since these are only recommendations, they are not acted upon.

Panchayati Raj Institutions for Sustainable Development

With the Gross domestic product development rate increasing to 7-8 percent over the most recent four years, rustic metropolitan separation, local gap and rich-unfortunate gap became glaring, which welcomed 'comprehensive development' high on the arrangement plan. Such inconsistent open door



structure debilitates the positive job of development in diminishing neediness and making development comprehensive. A lot of public assets are spent to resolve these issues yet their execution and the nature of administrations conveyed come up short. The current component for the conveyance of administrations isn't compelling, effective or affordable. The decentralized nearby government establishments are prominently appropriate for administration conveyance as they can guarantee value and additionally evenhandedness in the arrangement of administrations (considering their proximity to individuals), comprehensiveness (considering the guaranteed portrayal accessible to all segments of the general public in the Panchayati Raj Organizations), availability, straight forwardness, neighborhood support, responsibility and maintainability of administrations. What is accordingly required is that Panchayati Raj be brought the all-important focal point as the key administration change to support monetary change and for conveyance of fundamental social administrations at grassroots level. Improvement of administration conveyance by neighborhood self states would crucially rely on the nature of arranging attempted by these bodies. A key instrument accessible to Legislature of India is hence to give monetary motivators to state legislatures that can urge them to reinforce neighborhood administration, in compatibility of the public procedure. Moving from a model of focal arrangement to that of decentralization to nearby legislatures presents another connection among public and neighborhood strategy creators, while modifying a few existing connections like that between the residents, chose lawmakers and the neighborhood organization. Nonetheless, the issue of carrying out decentralization is all around as significant as the plan of the framework in impacting administration conveyance results. At the point when grass-roots arranging processes strikes profound roots, financial strengthening is serious areas of strength for both practical.

Conclusion

The real benefits of Panchayat Raj institutions in terms of development of villages through local governance are impossible without strengthening the role of functions of PRIs. There are many plans and policies made at the central government level to achieve sustainable development in coming years however it can't be achieved without understanding the issues and challenges imposed on people responsible for executing the relevant tasks. To formulate and implement rural development programmes an appropriate institutional structure is required. This need was met by the establishment of Panchayat Raj Institution (PRIs) in India. Further, the PRIs, being local self-governing bodies ensure, the opportunity for people's participation and involvement in the formulation and implementation of rural development programmes. Thus, the PRIs are entrusted with the task of promoting rural development in India. Since Independence greater emphasis has been laid on the social, economic and planning policy of our country for creating an appropriate rural, economic and social infrastructure and to promote an overall development. The planning policy of our county accorded the highest priority to agriculture and rural development. The measures envisaged from the first fiveyear plan had considerable bearing for the growth of rural economy. The first five-year plan laid down that "development of agriculture, based on the utilization of man power resources of the countryside and the maximum use of local resources, holds a key to the rapid development of the country".

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