

Rural Development and Panchayath Raj System in Karnataka State

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Abstract:

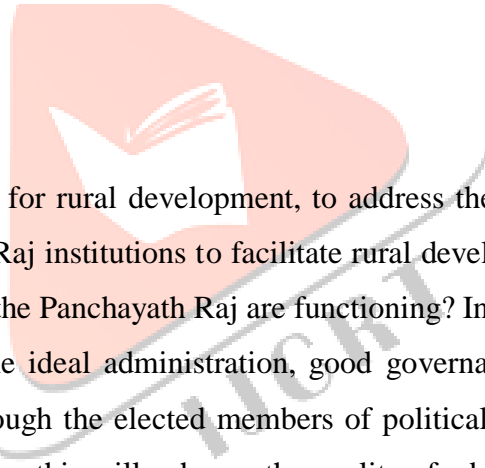
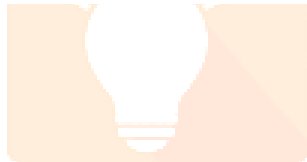
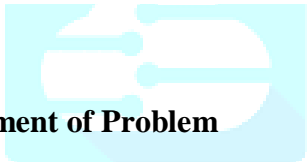
The rural development and panchayath Raj system made its growing path after the 73rd and the 74th amendments to the constitution of India, enacted in 1992, lay down ground rules with basic structural framework for decentralized governance at district and lower levels which can sustain themselves against external interference and emerge as effective and strong people's institutions in the name of panchayath Raj System. The Amendments mandate that every state shall establish a three-tier system of Panchayat, at the village, Taluk and district levels. State of Karnataka is mainly dependent on agriculture, nearly 65 per cent of the people residing in rural areas. So, in the rural area the panchayaths, taluk areas taluk panchayaths and district level Zilla Panchayath have to be involved in planning, decision making, monitoring and execution of development programmes in order to facilitate the process of development in support of the Government, to cater the needs of the large number of populations. Rural development is the method of enhancing the quality of life and financial well-being of individuals in rural areas, specifically living in populated and remote areas. Traditionally, rural development was centred on the misuse of land-intensive natural resources such as forestry and agriculture. In Karnataka, majority of the population, resides in rural communities. The development of all aspects within rural communities is vital for the effective development of the country. These include, education, employment opportunities, infrastructure, housing, civic amenities and the environmental conditions. The development of all aspects within rural communities is vital for the effective development of the country. These include, education, employment opportunities, infrastructure, housing, civic amenities and the environmental conditions' all development aspects realised only after 1992.

Key words: Rural Development, Agriculture, panchayath Raj institutions, Community.

Introduction:

Panchayath Raj institutions Participation and Sustainability Program and rural development awareness among the communities about the value of participation in making local institutions vibrant and improving the last mile delivery of government programs. It incorporates local knowledge and choices in village development programs for inclusive and sustainable development. However, it is important challenges due to gaps in information and inadequate participation at grassroots level makes it difficult to fully achieve the stated objectives. Members of village-level institutions are also constrained by poor awareness, insufficient skills and limited resources, and therefore struggle to lead development activities in villages through panchayath raj institutions. Rural women are at an added disadvantage due to wide gender gaps in education and skill development, as well as, limited knowledge on health and hygiene, financial security and general lack of confidence these are hindering the development of the village so panchayath raj institutions made a drastic

change in the rural development. It is leading to more equitable and sustained outcomes. It enables rural population take part an active lead and eventually own the development program or initiative, thus validating the effort of agencies and ensuring sustainability of the impact created with the help of panchayath raj institutions. The Panchayati Raj Institutions are the nodal point at the district level. Their role is to help plan, coordinate, monitor and wherever required regulate the implementation of various national programmes in the process of development. The panchayath Raj institutions will serve as conserve natural resources for holistic village development. It further creates awareness about important health and sanitation issues, and promotes usage of digital technologies to widen the reach and benefits of government programs to the community's people at rural areas. The role of PRIs no doubt can be pivotal for the success of various rural development programmes, and all programmes should be implemented in correct manner. It would be important in various activities relating to the education, rehabilitation, awareness generation and training programmes of the disabled. They can also provide important feedback for the purpose of planning, monitoring and improvement(s) in coordination. Therefore, it is obvious that PRIs should be provided with all the relevant and necessary information so as to enable rural community participation in implementation of these programmes at the grass root level. It further stresses the role of PRIs by providing a comprehensive list of activities, which they should undertake in this regard over all progress of the rural development.



Statement of Problem

The panchayath Raj system it is needed good governance for rural development, to address the issues and challenges to the effectiveness of functions of panchayath Raj institutions to facilitate rural development, the first question raised in this study is for what purpose is the Panchayath Raj are functioning? In the process of effective functioning of Panchayath Raj Institutions the ideal administration, good governance will be facilitated for rural development. When they function through the elected members of political parties can interact among all civilian about their needs of the localities, this will enhance the quality of administration, governance, easy to reach and they can also communicate efficiently and effectively with different types of the people there by rural development is possible. Thus, the objective of this research is to explore good governance of Panchayath Raj by the use elected members in the rural development process. The main purpose of this research is to expand on existing panchayath raj institutions with this research literature and create greater scope for further research, this study also explores the relationship between the effects of good governance of panchayath raj instructions and reach people at all village level in the process of rural development.

Research questions

1. Which is the most important role in rural development.
2. Why political parties taking more serious about panchayath raj institutions.

Objectives of the study.

1. To highlight impact of panchayath raj institutions on rural development
2. To enlist different functions of panchayath raj institutions.

In the present study is focused through Interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) of qualitative research methodology has been used in this research. The study was conducted among the different aged people in the rural areas, who have involved in Panchayath Raj institutions functions and also actively participating in state of Karnataka, India Only few selected are selected, Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted to understand the role of Panchayath raj institutions.

History of panchayath raj system and composition.

The development of panchayath Raj system in India can be starting from Vedic period, in Vedas old Sanskrit scriptures, word 'Panchayati' has been mentioned which means a group of five persons, including a spiritual man. Panchayati raj originated in 2nd millennium BCE in India during Vedic times. Since Vedic times, the village (gram) in the country is considered as the basic unit for regional self-administration. Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayati Raj as the foundation of India's political system, as a decentralized form of government in which each village would be responsible for its own affairs. The term for such a vision was *Gram Swaraj* ("village self-governance"). Instead, India developed a highly centralized form of government. However, this has been moderated by the delegation of several administrative functions to the local level, empowering elected gram panchayats. The Panchayat Raj system was first adopted by the state of Bihar by the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act of 1947. It was a continued legacy of local self-government started by Lord Ripon in the British era. Later it was implemented by Rajasthan in Nagaur district on 2 October 1959. Rajasthan was the first state to introduce the panchayat system in India after independence. During the 1950s and 60s, other state governments adopted this system as laws on 24 April 1993, the Constitutional (73rd amendment) Act of 1992 came into force in India to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions. This amendment was extended to Panchayats in the tribal areas of eight states, namely: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan beginning on 24 December 1996. This amendment contains provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities to the panchayats, both for the preparation of economic development plans and social justice, as well as for implementation in relation to 29 subjects listed in the eleventh schedule of the constitution, and the ability to levy and collect appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees. The important committees constituted for recommendations regarding Panchayati Raj in India: Balwant Rai Mehta 1957, Krishnamacharya 1960, Ashok Mehta Committee 1978. They are tasked with "economic development, strengthening social justice and implementation of Central and State Government Schemes including those 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule. the Gram Panchayats at village level the Panchayat Samiti at block level and the Zila Parishad at district level. In states or Union Territories with less than two million inhabitants there are only two levels of PRIs. Local government in India refers to governmental jurisdictions below the level of the state. India is a

federal republic with three spheres of government: central, state and local. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments give recognition and protection to local governments and in addition each state has its own local government legislation. Since 1992, local government in India takes place in two very distinct forms. Urban localities, covered in the 74th amendment to the Constitution, have Nagar Palika but derive their powers from the individual state governments, while the powers of rural localities have been formalized under the *Panchayati raj* system, under the 73rd amendment to the Constitution. Within the Administrative setup of India, the democratically elected Local self-governance bodies are called the "*municipalities*" (abbreviated as the "*MC*") in urban areas and the "*Panchayati Raj Institutes (PRI)*" (simply called the "*panchayats*") in rural areas. There are 3 types of municipalities based on the population, Municipal Corporation (Nagar Nigam) with more than 1 million population, Municipal Councils (Nagar Palika) with more than 25,000 and less than 1 million population, and Municipal Committee (Nagar Panchayat) with more than 10,000 and less than 25,000 population. PRIs in rural areas have 3 hierarchies of panchayats, Gram panchayats at village level, Mandal or block panchayats at block level, and Zilla panchayats at district level. So, this is the way they work in the process of rural development. Our panchayat consists of gram sabha; it is a village assembly consists of all eligible voters within the area of panchayat. The gram sabha discusses the developmental plans called gram panchayat development plan (GDP) and it is executed by elected leader. The act gives reservation to all SC, ST candidate at all three tiers. For women not less than one-third of the seats to be reserved. Tenure or term of office is 5 years and the panchayat can be dissolved before completion of a term. The function of panchayat is directed by state legislature, panchayat work as a preparation of plans and implementation of schemes and policies for social and economic development. State legislature may authorize them to collect taxes, duties and fees in accordance with the law. So, these are the above features of panchayath institutions.

The functions of panchayath institutions towards rural development.

Panchayati Raj is a local self-government followed in Karnataka. It is meant to ensure that local administrative affairs, particularly in rural areas, should be resolved by local government units constituted with elected members. Some of the important functions of a Panchayat Union Council are Construction, repair and maintenance of all Panchayat union roads, Construction of water works for the supply of water for drinking, washing and bathing purposes, Construction and maintenance of elementary and middle schools at their localities. By giving the importance of social sector. Implementation of schemes for the development of agriculture and infrastructure Establishment of primary health centres and primary schools It should be one of the top priorities that all of the PRIs must strive to get every child with disability enrolled into a primary school for their comprehensive evaluation. This is done by a team consisting of a qualified physician, clinical psychologist and a special educator. This process of evaluation also determines the best setting of education as suited to each of such child. Children with mild to moderate disabilities may be integrated into normal schools. Those with severe disabilities would benefit most from the special schools. Children who drop out or have problems learning in the normal school have an option to join either an open or remedial school. There are children who only have a learning disability, they are managed in normal schools Children with locomotor

handicaps (O.H.)Mildly and moderately hearing impaired ,Partially sighted children, Mentally handicapped educable group (IQ 50-70) Children with multiple handicaps (blind and orthopaedic, hearing impaired and orthopaedic, educable mentally retarded and orthopaedic, visual impaired and mildhearing impaired, Supply of clean drinking water, Imposing water usage charges has always been a politically sensitive issue. Currently, charges for domestic use are quite ad hoc and nominal and even these are not fully recovered by the water supply departments of various state governments, leading to poor maintenance of the network. At present, only 18% of India's rural households (approximately 3.2 crore) have access to piped water. The Centre hopes to take this figure to 100% in five years under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Drainage and construction/repair of roads, it will also involve construction of small shallow channels/trenches along the gradient and drainage path in the village which will be mapped by 3D mapping technology. The Department of Space has already started sharing details of the same with the Jal Shakti ministry. These channels preferably closed at the top will lead to sinks at natural drainage points to ensure that ground water sources are recharged and sustainable. Development of a cottage and small-scale industries, and the opening of cooperative societies, Establishment of youth organisations in India Every industry either small or large scale is depended on agriculture and allied sector for its advancement, mountainously large number of youth with impeccable skills and practical mindset is residing in every corner of rural area and they are considered as real entrepreneurs, of “Atmanirbhar Bharat”, they are also the upcoming leaders and a true representative of every administrative and local governmental body. With the growing population in rural areas, it is essential to have better health infrastructure, education institutions, transportation facilities, availability of water and electricity, and an institution to settle disputes, and for that the government at local level or Panchayati raj institution is established for the village welfare. The different committees suggested locating means to ensure availability of adequate financial resources for Panchayati Raj Institutions. We can suggest a pattern of compulsory and optional levies for PRIs in order to enable them to function effectively. Inadequacy of staff has seriously affected the functioning of the PRIs whose expenditure needs are rising due to requirement for additional administrative, trained and technical staff for schools, water supply, communications, accounts, tax collection, sweeping, drain cleaning etc. Staff costs can be reduced by attrition, maintaining core professional staff and drawing local expertise (Bird and Rodriguez 1995). To summarize, steps required to make PRIs financially stronger to meet their needs include a carrots and stick approach.

Finding of the study.

The success of the Genuine fiscal federalism i.e., fiscal autonomy accompanied by fiscal responsibility can provide a long-term solution without this PRIs will only be an expensive failure. State govt should adopt the concept of ‘activity mapping, wherein each state clearly delegates the responsibilities and roles for the different tiers of the government. Rural people's issues are addressed at the grass-roots level by local self-government. It gains democracy. The major idea behind democratic decentralization or village panchayat is to uplift the poor and marginalized people. All gram panchayat has been entrusted for social-economic development. It can lead to closer relationship between government officials and village people, all the developmental plans in

village includes less privileged class to discuss as participation of people is the important pillar of good governance. This system also leads to exchange of information and better coordination among local leader and gram sabha. They interact with each other in developmental Plans and issues arising in the village and for the effective functioning of gram panchayat, state government ensures their training at state rural development institutes. After the panchayat there is a visible change in Infrastructure development in terms of road connectivity, health facilities with proper medical Equipments and well-trained nursing staff, education has also improved with proper sanitation, toilets, skilled and knowledgeable teachers, mid-day meals etc., some villages are availing 24*7 water and electricity facilities, this is what the true form of functional democracy demands. Many panchayats contributed significant efforts in employment generation and growth of small and cottage industries, encouraged farmers and labour class to contribute in agriculture in more scientific way and other related sectors, this assured village people a sense of security. Recently the government launched the scheme SVAMITVA (survey of village and mapping with improvised technology in village areas) with the objective of socio- economic empowerment of people living in rural areas. The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to household owners residing in rural areas and issuance of property cards to the property owners. However, some of challenges of panchayath raj are, Insufficient funding: in spite of constitutional provision, the local government faces shortage of grants and funding to carry out activities assigned to them. There is a general demand to make Panchayati raj institution financially stronger. Most of the gram panchayat found reluctant to raise own source of revenue (OSR) in form of tax, rents and fees and this has led to delay in developmental plans. Gram panchayats faces a problem of inadequate infrastructure, they have no separate building to carry out their day-to-day activities and because of that they carry meeting in schools. And some panchayats have building without electricity, toilet, this governance structure is well-suited to the needs of a single village. The burden of responsibility imposed on the state government is significantly diminished by the local government. Any important and vibrant Grama Sabha is essential for the effective functioning of Village Panchayats by promoting transparency and accountability in administration, enhancing public participation in the planning and implementation of schemes and in the choice of beneficiaries, and paving the way for social audit though it is a challenge one but, require to achieve it.

Conclusion:

The maximization of the quantity of development funding or increase in the social sector expenditure to maximization of development outcomes and effectiveness of public service delivery through a change in work culture, better policies and sound delivery mechanisms. In the process of Successful implementation of rural programmes depends also on an effective delivery system for rural development. An important element of expenditure reform therefore relates to effective monitoring of these programmes to assess not only the physical but also the financial progress in implementation to ensure that benefits reach the target groups of the rural areas in tern it will leads to rural development. At the village level the need of the hour is to bring about a holistic change in the lives of beneficiaries among the villagers by uplifting their socio-economic and health status through effective linkages by different govt schemes for this platform is LSG are most important. In this connection Government should take remedial action in the interest of Rural people, The PRIs in Karnataka

suffer from certain colonial hangovers. The ZPs have been given only administrative roles. The hangover thus continues even today. In the political parties Once, the dominant castes have managed to occupy important positions where the decisions are made, they find it easy to manipulate the plans to serve their best interests. With this, the schism of caste grows wider day by day, alienating the low castes farther and farther from participating in rural development programmes. A strong decentralized authority is needed at district level, in order to strengthen panchayat administration in the state. Karnataka government has undoubtedly taken a number of steps to grant greater responsibilities, powers and financial resources to the PRIs. setting up of a Social Justice Committee to safeguard and promote the interests of the vulnerable social and economic groups, imparting training to Panchayat members etc. LSG play vital role in social inclusion and cooperative federalism. People's demands for the sustainable decentralisation and advocacy should focus on a decentralisation agenda. The framework needs to be evolved to accommodate the demand for decentralisation. It is important to have clarity in the assignment of functions and the local governments should have clear and independent sources of finance then only complete success of LSG is possible. They need better tax collection authority and capacity, more untied grants and help with improving accounting and record keeping. But at the same time, they also need to work towards expenditure reform and vitalized service delivery. Linking Central Finance Commission transfers to more effective fiscal decentralization by states would add to the gains. The local needs are only fulfilled when the local government comes more closer to its people and act as a guardian and responsible representative in order to build trust and faith among its people, so every nation can march towards progress and prosperity.

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