



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF GRAMA PANCHAYATH ADMINISTRATION IN KARNATAKA

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Abstract: *This paper made a modest attempt the issues and challenges of Panchayath raj Institution GPs. Karnataka is the state is mainly dependent on agriculture, nearly 67 per cent of the people live in rural areas. So, in the rural area the GPs have to be involved in planning, decision making, monitoring and execution of development programmes in order to hasten the process of development, to cater the needs of the large number of populations. In the process good governance father of nation Mahatma Gandhi proposed grama swaraj even before Independence. The further of the Nation believed that that as issues at the village levels must be addressed by the people only under local self-governance and the State or the Central Governments only facilitating institutions. Govt must self-rule through grants and by conferring autonomy on them. When there is a financial resource are adequate in GPs with issues and challenges, they can make wonders.*

Key words: Grama Panchayath, Development, Villages, Governance, Panning.

Introduction

Govt. of India introduced 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments and were passed by Parliament in December, 1992. Through these amendments local self-governance was introduced in rural and urban India. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are the best instruments to meet the needs of people as the programmes are a manifestation of the needs of the masses at local level. Three-tier system of panchayats at village, intermediate block/taluk/Mandal and district levels except in States with population is below 20 lakhs (Article 243B).in Karnataka with the introduction of panchayath raj act 1993, the local self govt Grama panchayath (GPs) became popular. In the state of Karnataka the amendments of the Bill is to establish a three-tiered Panchayat Raj System in the State with the elected bodies at Grama, Taluk and District levels

for greater participation of the people for their welfare and more expected effective implementation of rural development programmes in the State by the both state and central Govt. The Gram panchayat are responsible for the overall development of the village and play a key role in providing basic services for the rural health and well-being of rural people, like, Rural road, drinking water and sanitation. GPs also approve of the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development. GPs will take up for implementation by the Panchayat at the village level (Panchayat at the village level is otherwise known as Gram Panchayat). It is also responsible for the identification or selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation, employment generation and other programmes. Every GPs at the village level are obtaining from the Gram Sabha a certification of utilisation of funds for programmes and projects implemented at various schemes, by the Panchayat for such plans are approved by GPs.

Statement of Problem

In the panchayath administration to it is very important to address the issues and challenges of the effectiveness of functions of GPs, the first question raised in this study is for what purpose is the GPs are functioning? In the process of effective functioning of ideal administration method needed. When they function through the elected members of political parties can interact among all villagers this will enhances the quality of administration, easy to reach and they can also communicate efficiently and effectively with different types of the people. Thus, the objective of this research is to explore the issues and challenges of GPs by the use elected members in the administration process. The main purpose of this research is to expand on existing local self govt research literature and create greater scope for further research, this study also explores the relationship between the effects of good governance and reach people at village level according to their local needs.

Research Questions:

1. Which is the most important challenging issue in GP level?
2. Why political parties taking more serious about GP elections?

Objectives of the study.

The present study is focused on the following specific objectives

1. Highlight the impact of issues and challenges of GPs.
2. Enlist different functions of GPs.

Methodology

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. who have involved in GPs active participation in state of Karnataka, India? Only few selected are selected, Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted to understand the issues and challenges of GPs.

History of panchayath raj system

The Panchayat Raj institutional development in India can be analysed starting from vedas , the analytical point of view Vedic period, in Vedas old Sanskrit scriptures, word 'Panchayati' has been mentioned which means a group of five persons, including a spiritual man. later the concept of the inclusion of a spiritual man in such groups vanished so this is real beginning of the solving problem at local level. In the Rigveda, there is a mention of Sabha, Samiti and Vedanta as local self-units. These were the democratic bodies at the local level. The king used to get the approval of these bodies regarding certain functions and decisions. Epic Era indicates the two great epic periods of India, that is, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The study of Ramayana indicates that the administration was divided into two-part Pur and Janpad or city and village. In India Local self govt. which consist consists of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through which the self-government of villages is realized. 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. The development of local self govt. for the first instance Panchayat Raj system was first adopted by the state of Rajasthan in Nagpur district on 2 Oct 1959 but first started by Andhra Pradesh. During the 1950s and 60s, other state governments adopted this system as laws were passed to establish panchayats in various states. The Gram Sabha consists of all registered voters living in the area of a Gram Panchayat and is the organization through which village inhabitants participate directly in local government. Elections for the members of the Panchayats at all levels take place every five years. The Panchayats must include members of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the same proportion as in the general population. One third of all seats and chairperson posts must be reserved for women, in some state's half of all seats and chairperson posts. In Karnataka the Mysore Government in 1902 passed the Mysore Local Boards Act with a view to revitalizing the rural local Government. In 1918, the Mysore Government enacted the Mysore Local Boards and Village Panchayat Act making provisions for elected representatives at the district and taluk levels. The first independent legislation on Panchayat Raj Institutions was enacted by the Ramakrishna Hegde Government in 1983 and was brought into effect from April 1987 with the first elections to these local bodies in rural areas. The modern Panchayati Raj system was introduced in India by the 73rd constitutional amendment in 1993, although it is based upon the historical Panchayati raj system. It introduced in India in April 1993 as the 73rd Amendment to the

Constitution, following a study conducted by a number of Indian committees on various ways of implementing a more decentralized administration. This was amended during 1993. Structure of PRIs Grama Panchayat Section 4 of the PRI Act provides for constituting Panchayat for the area comprising of a village or group of villages having a population of 5000 and not more than 7000. Taluk Panchayat Samiti Section 145 of the Act lists four main functions with 28 detailed functions to be performed by the Panchayat. Zilla Panchayat Section 184 of the Act lists four main functions and 29 detailed functions are given in Schedule III. There are 5 Standing Committees: Finance, Audit and Planning Committee, General Standing Committee, Social Justice Committee, Education and Health at the various level.

An analysis of functions, issues and challenges of GPs

The GPs issue of ambiguity in the division of functions and funds has allowed concentration of powers with the states and thereby restraining the elective representatives who are more aware and sensitive to the ground level issues to take control. to generate proposals and determine the priority of all schemes and development programmes to be implemented in the Panchayat area by the Ward Sabhas through the Grama Panchayat any development is observed with proper planning so, GPs has plan properly for ideal implementation of govt schemes in the expected manner. GPs has to identify and select the most eligible persons from the Panchayat area for beneficiary-oriented schemes on the basis of criteria fixed by the Grama Panchayat and Govt. GPs need to conserve and maintain public properties such as Gomala, tanks, tank beds, ground water, grazing grounds of the cattle, mines etc., within the limits of the Gram Panchayats there by public property will be protected by the people representatives, but here there are some issues people representatives sometimes they working not favouring to the system. GPs has to take action to prevent discrimination on the basis of caste, religion and sex etc., which will bring social inclusion but some places it is challenging. Gram Panchayaths to not to grant license to shops vending liquor or narcotic drugs or place of gambling or any other activities prejudicial to public interest, using power grama panchayats are some of places they are showing discriminatory character in practice. GPs has to identity the child labourers if any, present within the limits of the Grama Panchayaths and to take action to rehabilitate them and to assist in implementation of the legal action specified by the Central and State Government but this is not implemented in correct manner. Some of GPs are grey area is the lack of adequate funds. There is a need to enlarge the domain of panchayats to be able to raise their own funds it is also challenging in nature. The interference of area MPs and MLAs in the functioning of panchayats also adversely affected their performance. The transfer of various governance functions like the provision of education, health, sanitation, and water was not mandated. Instead, the amendment listed the functions that could be transferred, and left it to the state legislature to actually devolve functions in this area they need to be perform in very effective manner. There has been very little devolution of authority and functions in the last 26 years. GPs has to disseminate information on development and welfare programmes and to render assistance in effective implementation of development schemes by providing facilities locally available and to provide feedback on the performance of the same since these institutions are working at gross root level

to implement efficient official are need to be placed in advance. Govt. has to render assistance to the Grama Panchayat in collection and compilation of details required, formulation of development plans, collection of essential socio- economic data and canvassing participation in health, literacy and similar development campaigns. GPs should impart awareness on matters of public interest such as cleanliness, preservation of environment and prevention of pollution. Since, in modern way of life caused different types solid waste in this connection, they need to assist employees of the Grama panchayat in sanitation arrangements in the panchayat area and to render voluntary service in the removal of garbage. They need to promote the programme of adult education within the Panchayat area. GPs has to encourage to assist the activities of school betterment sangha's, Anganwadi, Mahlasela, Youth associations, self-help groups, women activities in the Panchayat area there by different types of empowerment is possible. GPs has to be rational of every decision of the Grama Panchayat concerning the Panchayat area about their issues and concerns, GPs has maintained all the records pertaining to their decisions taken at grama sabha level. The officers of the Grama Panchayat shall attend the meetings of the Grama Sabha as may be required by the Adhyaksha and an officer specifically nominated by the Grama Panchayat as convener of the Grama Sabha meeting shall assist in convening and conducting its meetings and recording its decisions in a minute book and also in taking follow up action thereon. The Grama Sabha may constitute sub-committees consisting of not less than ten members of whom not less than half shall be women, for in-depth discussion on issues and programmes for effective implementation of decisions of the Grama Sabha and in furtherance of exercise of powers and discharge of functions of Grama Sabha. All resolutions in respect of any issue in the meetings of the Grama Sabha shall be documented. grama panchayath must act to provide and mobilize voluntary labour and contributions in cash and kind for development works and to supervise such development works through volunteer teams. Grama Sabha members to pay taxes and repay loans to the Grama panchayat this will be in turn will be use full for their resource consolidation. The major failure of the Amendment is the lack of finances for (panchayath raj institutions) PRIs. Local governments can either raise their own revenue through local taxes or receive intergovernmental transfers. The power to tax, even for subjects falling within the purview of PRIs, has to be specifically authorized by the state legislature. The 73rd Amendment let this be a choice open to the state legislatures—a choice that most states have not exercised. A second avenue of revenue generation is intergovernmental transfers, where state governments devolve a certain percentage of their revenue to PRIs. The constitutional amendment created provisions for State Finance Commissions to recommend the revenue share between state and local governments. However, these are merely recommendations and the state governments are not bound by them. Though finance commissions, at every level, have advocated for greater devolution of funds, there has been little action by states to devolve funds. PRIs are reluctant to take on projects that require any meaningful financial outlay, and are often unable to solve even the most basic local governance needs also suffer from structural deficiencies i.e., no secretarial support and lower levels of technical knowledge which restricted the aggregation of bottom-up planning. Effective implementation of and after considering the suggestions of the ward sabhas the location of street lights, street or community water taps, Public wells, Public sanitation units, irrigation facilities and such other Public amenity schemes and to identify the deficiencies in them and after considering the suggestions

of the ward sabhas to suggest remedial measures and to report the satisfactory completion of the works so this has deficiencies be primary function of GPs at village level. GPs has to assist the activities of public health centres in the panchayat area, especially in disease prevention and family welfare population control and control of cattle diseases and create arrangement to quickly report the incidence of epidemics and natural calamities there by public health sanitation is possible. There is a presence of alcoholism i.e., lack of clear setting of agenda in gram sabha, gram samiti meetings and no proper structure. Though women and SC/STs has got representation in PRIs through reservation mandated by 73rd amendment but there is a presence of Panchayati and Proxy representation in case of women and SC/STs representatives respectively. GPs promote communal harmony and unity among various groups of people in the Panchayat area and to arrange cultural festivals literary activities and sports meets to give expression to the talents of the people of the locality as result social harmony can be among the people. Because these functions were never devolved, state executive authorities have proliferated to carry out these functions. Accountability arrangements remain very weak even after 26 years of PRIs constitutional arrangement. The study observed that the major reason for the improper functioning of the GPs was the lack of people's participation in all aspects of nature of GPs and needed financial support.so, all these information collected by the genal public and consolidated in qualitative manner.

Findings of the study.

The aim of the Indian constitution is to make democracy by equality, only PRI can bring change in the system of rural villages. 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. 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. There is need for bottom-up planning by adapting all levels Govt. schemes, especially at the village level, based on grassroots inputs received from Gram Sabha. Such practices need to be replicated in other states for strengthening the true character of local self-governance. The centre also needs to financially incentivize states to encourage effective devolution to the panchayats in functions, finances, and functionaries. maintenance of all community assets vested in it. The GPs are maintaining all the records in relation to population census, birth, death, illness, crop census, cattle census, census of unemployed persons and person below poverty line, dairying, earmarking places away from the dwelling houses for dumping refuse and solid waste. This data is sometime decision-making data so it has significance. Training should be provided to local representatives to develop expertise so that they contribute more in planning and implementation of policies and programmes. To solve the any problem of proxy representation social empowerment must precede the political empowerment where in the case of when wife wins husband perform the function.

Conclusion

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 GPs 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. 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. GPs 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 GPs is possible.

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