Rural Governance In India

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How is it ruled??????
THREE LEVELS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT

- Central Government
- State Government
- Local Self-Government
Central Government of India

- **Another name:** Union Government
- **Location:** New Delhi (capital)
- **Functions:** deals with matters of national importance, defence, national finance, foreign exchange, railways, postal services
State Government of India

- Division of India – states
- Each state – own state government
- Function of each state government –
  - law and order
  - local transport
  - health services
  - community development programmes
Local Self - Government

- **Bottom** of the administrative pyramid
- **Functions at the grass – roots level**
- **Formed by the people of a certain locality**
- **Local people – elect own representatives – local government of an area**
- **Function – local problems, basic needs of the local people**
Local Self Government

LOCAL SELF – GOVERNMENT

RURAL

URBAN
Rural Local Self - Government

- PANCHAYATS (village level)
- BLOCK SAMITIS (block level)
- ZILA PARISHAD (district level)
Urban Local Self - Government

URBAN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS
MUNICIPALITIES
CANTONMENT BOARDS
PORT TRUSTS
Rural Local Self – Government
Rural Local Self - Government

- Functions under the ‘panchayati raj system’
- panchayati raj system – three - tiered system

Zila parishads
(district level)

Block samitis
(block level)

Panchayats
(village level)
Panchayats

- ancient tradition in villages
- ‘panchayat’ - group of five people/ elders/ panchas
- deal with local problems, solve disputes among villagers
- decision – binding upon all the people
- functioned well till the Mughal period
- British sent their own officials to look after rural problems – not much effective during British rule.
- revived by the democratic government after independence
- Main purpose: involve villagers in managing their own affairs
Panchayati system – three parts

- Gram Sabha
- Gram Panchayat
- Nyaya Panchayat
Gram Sabha or Village Assembly

- **Villages** – population of 500 or more
- **Members** – all adult members of the village
- **Meetings** – twice a year
- **Discusses important matters and problems regarding the villages.**
- **Elected representatives of this assembly form the ‘Gram Panchayat’**
Gram Panchayat

- Elected senior members of Gram Sabha form the Gram Panchayat
- Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes
- One-third of seats reserved for women
Nyaya Panchayat

- formed in some villages
- elected by the gram panchayat
- settles disputes in a cheap and speedy way
- solves petty civil, criminal cases
- allowed to impose small fines
- cannot send people to jail
- Villagers are allowed to approach the district or high court if both the parties are not satisfied of the panchayat’s decision.
Panchayat - Features

- Head – pradhan/sarpanch – elected by the Gram Sabha – assisted by the vice – sarpanch or up – pradhan – 3-5 years term period
- sarpanch – announces meetings and organises them, signs important documents, coordinates events
Panchayat – Compulsory functions

- Maintenance of roads, water sources
- Health facilities
- Drinking water
- Cleanliness
- Check spread of diseases – vaccination, inoculation
- Construction – buildings, burial grounds
- Primary education
- Record of birth and death
- Improvement, development of farmers
- Looking after weaker sections
Panchayat – Optional Functions

- Construction of playgrounds, rest houses
- Installation of television, radio sets in community centres
- Organisation of educational programmes
- Cattle fairs, village markets
Sources of Income - Panchayat

- House tax, fair tax, shop tax
- Fees for recording sale of land and cattle
- Admission fees for services of Nyaya Panchayat
- Fines on criminal offences
- Import and export tax
- Grants from Zila Parishads, District Boards
Importance – Gram Panchayat

- Helping in daily problems
- Administrative, social, economic, judicial functions
- Community development
- Training for future leaders
- Mutual help, cooperation, responsibility, self – sufficiency
BLOCK SAMITIS
(block level)

- Handles problems which are too difficult for panchayats to solve – pooling resources for a large hospital (Eg)
- Many village panchayats (usually a hundred) = one block samiti / panchayat samiti
Composition of Block Samiti

- Sarpanches of all village panchayats under it
- Town Area Committee (if any in the block) – Chairperson
- Members of the parliament and state legislative assembly (Vidhan Sabha) representing the block
- Members of SCs, STs, backward classes
- One – third for women
- chairperson, vice – chairperson – elected by its members
- block development officer – carrying out its plans
Block Samiti - Functions

- Supervises the working of the village panchayats under it
- Arranges government funds for its development
- Community Development Programmes – financial assistance, irrigation, seeds, fertilizers, education, health facilities, drinking water, sanitation, financial assistance
ZILA PARISHAD

- District board (district level)
- Head of the panchayati raj system
Zila Parishad - Composition

- Chairpersons of block samitis
- Members of the state legislature (vidhan sabha and vidhan parishad)
- Members of the Parliament (MPs)
- District collector, district judges, district police officers
- Reservation of STs, backward classes
- One – third for women
Zila Parishads - Functions

- Supervises block samitis, panchayats
- Advises the state government on working of panchayati raj system
- Supervises working of community development projects of block samities and five – year plan projects
- Monitors agricultural production, undertakes irrigation projects
- Builds, maintains, inspects primary, secondary schools, hospitals, dispensaries, primary health centres
- Establishes and maintains cooperatives – promotion of industries and arts
- Link between panchayat samiti and state government
Sources of Income – Block Samiti, Zila Parishad

- Grants and aids from state governments, central government
- Land tax, house tax, water tax, electricity tax, tax on fairs and cattle
Conclusion

- Democratic awareness
- Take part in governing country – cooperation at different levels