



VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PANCHAYATHRAJ: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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Abstract

The government has worked hard to encourage the establishment of Panchayats and turn them into successful local self-governing entities. "The state shall take necessary actions to organize village Panchayats and to endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government," states the Constitution's Article 40. According to the constitution, which characterizes them as institutions of local self-government, the Gramsabha serves as the cornerstone of the PRI system, carrying out the duties and authorities assigned to it by the state legislatures. Villages have developed since the Panchayathraj 73 Amendment Act of 1992. The village development through panchayathraj following the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act is discussed in this article. The study was carried out in Telangana state's Adilabad district.

Key words: *PanchayathRaj, Village Panchayath, Gram sabha, 73rd constitutional amendment act, Self government.*

Introduction

The government has worked hard to encourage the establishment of Panchayats and turn them into successful local self-governing entities. "The state shall take necessary actions to organize village Panchayats and to endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government," according to Article 40 of the Constitution. Fostering democratic involvement, including villages in community development, and lessening the load of upper level management were the objectives.

Gramswaraj through village Panchayats remained a pipe dream until 1992, despite numerous attempts by succeeding administrations to reinvigorate the system. The system's failure was mostly caused by bureaucratic apathy, public indifference, a lack of political will, a lack of consistency, etc. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment, passed by the government in 1992, established the Panchayati Raj system in India.

The 73rd Amendment Act has added a new Part in the constitution-Part Nine consisting of 16 Articles and the 11th Schedule. The functions of the Panchayati Raj institutions have been clearly spelt out in Article 243G of the Constitution, read with Article 243 ZD and the 11th Schedule. The PRIs are supposed to be genuine institutions of local self-government, not adjuncts to the implementing agencies of State governments. The constitution, which describes them as institutions of local self-government, says that this Gramsabha as the foundation of the PRI system to perform the functions of and powers entrusted to it by the state legislatures.

Empowerment of Rural People

The rural population is now close to the decision-making process. Additionally, it has aided in the rise of new democratic municipal leadership. However, the environment in every community has become politicized due to the contested elections.



The so-called harmonious relations of the villages have almost vanished. People did not extend full cooperation from the core of their heart to the panchayats and as a result developmental activity has slowed down. Theoretically, the decisions had to be taken by the non-officials at all the three tiers of the PR system, but in practice, it was the government officials who used to take the decisions. The non-officials (Panch or Sarpanch) being illiterate and uneducated could not wield their power. Most of the benefits of development programmes initiated by PRIs were cornered by the high castes and big peasants. The poor segments of society remained neglected as before. There was a great lack of coordination among the three tiers. Here is the developmental concept of village panchayath through PRI has been analysed through public opinion.

Public Perception on Gram Panchayath Development

The present paper deals with of the respondents opinion on village development through panchayathraj by the randomly selected 120 respondents for this study and who reside in various villages of Adilabad district in Telangana. Data collected from the field study and analysed.

Table-1: Respondent's Awareness on Reservations in Panchayat Raj

Sl.No	Awareness	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	40	33.33
2	No	80	66.67
	Total	120	100

Source: Field study

The above table reveals the respondent's awareness on reservations in Panchayat raj system. The data shows that a substantial number of respondents i.e. 80 (66.67%) were not aware about the reservation policy in panchayat raj while 1/3rd of them i.e. 40 (33.33%) stated that they were aware of reservations. From the above analysis, it can be said that majority of the rural masses have not aware about the reservation policy which is came into force 73rd Constitutional amendment during the year of 1992. The reason behind the less awareness is a lack of education. It in turn leads to political backwardness or political vacuum. When the fruits of reservation cherish by people then only the generous empowerment became possible.

Table –2: Respondents Known Government Institutions in their Village

Sl.No	Known	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	School	120	100.00
2	Community Hall	111	92.5
3	Gram Panchayat	119	99.17
4	PHC	102	85.00
5	Post Office	82	68.33
6	Anganwadi School	97	80.83

Note: The above table consists of multiple responses (n=120)

The above table explains known government institutions by the respondents in their respective villages. The data shows that almost all the respondents i.e. 120 (100%) familiar about the school located in



their villages. As many as respondents i.e. 111 (92.5%), 119 (99.17%), 102 (85%) and 97 (80.8%) are known Gram Panchayat office, Community Hall and Public Health Centre (PHC), and Anganwadi Schools respectively. Among the remaining, a substantial number of respondents i.e. 82 (68.33%) have familiar with Post office.

From the above table, it can be said that majority of the respondents have known all the government institutions. This is owing to general accession or awareness about the all the institutions of government.

Table –3: Awareness on Reservation after 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act

Sl.No	Awareness	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Increased	96	80
2	Not-increased	24	20
	Total	120	100

Table denotes the status of awareness on reservations in panchayat raj system after 73rd constitutional amendment act. The data shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 96 (89%) have stated that the awareness on reservation has been improved after enforcement of 3rd constitutional amendment act. A significant number of respondents i.e. 24 (20%) have stated that even the constitutional enforcement has not given the fruitful results in improving the level of awareness and understanding of reservations that are essential to improve the social, political and economical status of the rural and deprived sections of the India.

From the above analysis, it can be said that majority of the respondents have stated that they have got some more propaganda of political reservations after the enforcement of 73rd constitutional amendment from 1992 onwards. During the filed-study, majority of people expressed their notion that a wider propaganda is required through social media and marketing.

Table –4: Idea of Respondents on Developmental Programmes in their Village

Sl.No	Awareness	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	92	76.67
2	No	28	23.33
	Total	120	100

The above table narrates the idea of respondents on developmental programmes in their villages. The data shows that majority number of respondents i.e. 92 (76.67%) expressed that they are aware of developmental programmes while 28 (23.33%) of them are unaware about the programmes. In a nutshell, it can be concluded that majority of the rural folk aware of developmental programmes held in their respective village. Thus, it may be deduced that poor rural people are looking forward to enhance their social-economic profile so that they always look to get any opportunity or chance provided by the government and non-governmental programmes.



Table –5: Developmental Programmes under taken in Respondent's Village

Sl.No	Developmental Programmes	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Installation of Street Lights	115	95.83
2	Construction of Roads	100	83.33
3	Construction of Drainage	119	99.17
4	Arrangement of Safe Drinking Water	102	85.00
5	School Building Construction	91	75.83
6	Others	21	17.5

Note: The above table consists of multiple responses (n=120)

The above table describes the developmental programmes undertaken in respondent's village. The data shows that the highest number of respondents i.e. 119 (99.17%) and 115 (95.83%) revealed their views in this regard that installation of street lights and construction of drainage are the prime developmental programmes. As many as the respondents i.e. 102 (85%), 100 (83.3%) and 91 (75.8%) are stated that construction of roads, arrangement of safe drinking water and construction of school buildings are the developmental programmes. On the whole, only 21 (17.5%) of them stated that in addition to above programmes there are other types of programmes taking place in their areas.

From the above analysis, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents have stated the developmental programmes like installation of street lights, construction of drainages and village roads, construction of school buildings and arrangement of safe drinking water etc. thus, it may be deduced that due to the fruitful implementation of various developmental programmes by government, the changing scenario has been took place in rural areas and it is once again proved that there are certain developmental programmes running successfully by the consumerate intervention of government.

Table – 6: Implementing Schemes in Respondent's Village

Sl.No	Developmental Programmes	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Rice for Rs. 2/-	120	100
2	ISL (Toilet Construction)	73	60.83
3	Issuing of Pensions	31	25.83
4	Housing	40	33.33
5	NREGS	110	91.67
6	Loans for Buffalo and Sheep	13	10.83
7	Loans for Agriculture	32	26.67
8	Pavala Vaddi (SHG)	47	39.17
9	Mid-day Meals	101	84.17

Note: The above table consists of multiple responses (n=120)

Regarding the government implementing schemes, Table shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 120 (100%) and 110 (91.67%) revealed that rice per Rs.2/- and the national rural employment guaranty scheme are the main and prime developmental programme in rural areas. As many as them i.e. 101 (84.17%) and 73 (60.8%) given second priority as the appropriate utilization of mid-day meals



programme to the school-going children and the construction of individual sanitary latrines (ISL) to keep the environmental sanitation and personal hygiene. Among the remaining, there are 47 (84%), 40 (33%), 32 (26.6%) and 31 (25.83%) have expressed that the another developmental programmes like *Pavala vaddi* (0.25% interest on loans) for self help groups (SHGs), loans for agriculture and allied sectors, issuing of pensions to elders, widows, loans for housing construction and physically challenged individuals and other destitute. In addition to the above programmes, loans for the purchase of cattle, buffalo and sheep having the considerable share in rural areas of Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh.

Over all, it can be said that the Government has been initiated several new developmental to uplift the rural people as well as rural areas. As part of which, Government has given tremendous significance and huge amount of budget to above said programmes, this is why, the congress party came into the force by the appropriate selection of beneficiaries and fruitful or target oriented implementation of programmes at grassroots level. Thus, majority of the people are got the conscious of government programmes to avail and uplift their socio-economic status.

Table-7: Opinion of the Respondents on Functioning of Gram Sabha

Sl.No	Opinion on Functioning of Gram Sabha	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Very Good	05	06.00
2	Good	20	24.00
3	Satisfactory	41	49.20
4	Bad	26	31.20
5	Very Bad	08	09.60
	Total	120	100

The above table describes the opinion of the respondents on function of Gram Sabha. The data shows that about half of the respondents i.e. 41 (49.2%) were satisfied with the functions of Gram Sabha while 26 (31.2%) have stated 'bad'. There are 20 (24%) and 05 (6%) were in good and very good state of opinion on the functionary of Gram Sabha. On the whole, a significant number of respondents i.e. 08 (9.6%) were stated 'very bad' opinion regard the working condition of the Gram Sabha.

From the above analysis, it can be said that majority of the respondents have positive attitude towards the functioning of Gram Sabha. Thus, it may be inferred that the illiteracy and backwardness in rural areas is one of the prime reason render to satisfaction level of opinion.

Table – 8: Suggestions of the Stakeholders to Enhance the Services of Panchyat Raj

Sl.No	Suggestions	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Corruption Free Administration	119	99.17
2	Proper Implementation of Programmes	110	91.67
3	Conduct the Gram Sabha (Social Audit)	90	75
4	More powers have to be taken by local bodies	97	80.83
5	Motivate the people to participate	88	73.33

Note: the responses are multiple responses (n=120)

The above table denotes the suggestions of the stakeholders to enhance the services and functionary of panchayat raj system. The data shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 119 (99.17%) stated that



corruption free administration is required to enhance the performance of the act. The second strata of the respondents i.e. 110 (91.67%) have revealed that appropriate implementation of government programmes ensure the enhancement of panchayat raj act. Among the remaining suggestion, conduct of the Gram Sabha is one of the major suggestions to enhance the services and functionary of panchayat raj act. There are 97 (80.8%) of respondents demanded more powers have to be ascribed to the local authorities to improve the performance. On the whole, 88 (73.33%) have stated that motivation are prerequisites to augment the performance of the panchayat raj act.

Conclusion

Thus, to conclude, it can be stated that the devolution of power to the people without requisite development of character, training and capacity had been found to be a curse in the functioning of democratic institutions and the success of the step more than anything else depended on the quality of elected representative Panchas and Sarpanchas of these institutions. Reservation for women, SC, STs and OBCs in Panchayati raj bodies has acted as a catalyst in the process of political empowerment. The Introduction of Panchayatraj system and constitutional validity definitely helped vulnerable sections to empower and villages also developed with the performance of the Panchayatraj in Telangana. After careful observation from the field study it should be concluded that there should be village development after panchayathraj implementation.

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