



**SJMS 2022**

**DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER: PARTICIPATION IN  
PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTION OF VILLAGES  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Vinod Singh**

**Research Scholar**

**Department of Rural Development**

**RRM University, Chennai, India**

**Abstract:** *Panchayati Raj is a structure of rural local self-government in India established by the acts of the state legislature to shape democracy at the grass root level. It is trusted with rural growth and constitutionalized through the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. The constitution of Panchayati Raj is not the sweet will of the state government. It is the outcome of the necessities made in Indian Constitution. The Directive Principles of State Policy lies down that the state shall take steps to organize village panchayats to allow them to purpose as units of self-government.*

**Keywords—** *Panchayati Raj, Decentralization of Power, Development of Villages,*

---

**INTRODUCTION**

The formation of Panchayati Raj was to pursue the support and participation of masses of people in the national reconstruction and growth. The objective of the constitution of Panchayati Raj was mostly two-fold: Decentralization of power and Development of villages. Originally, in 1952, the Panchayati Raj bodies were entrusted with the application of Community Development Projects (CDPs). The organization of shram- dan, voluntary labor, was created to include the people in the growth of their own community. The Panchayati Raj did not make any evolution in the growth of village. The CDPs were considered as projects. It was important for growth that the inventiveness should have come from the below, the masses of people and in fact, from the grassroots.

## EMPOWERMENT OF PANCHAYATS

Panchayati Raj was not a new idea to India. Indian villages had Panchayats time, which were having both executive and judicial powers and used to handle various matters like, land distribution, tax collection etc in the village area. Gandhiji also held the opinion of authorization of Panchayats for the growth of rural regions. Therefore, knowing their position our Constitution makers comprised a provision for Panchayats in part IV of our constitution. Article. 40 discusses the accountability upon State to take steps to organize Village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and expert as may be essential to allow them to purpose as units of self-government. But it does not give guidelines for organising village panchayats. Therefore, its formal organisation and structure was firstly recommended by Balwant Rai committee in 1957. The Committee, in its report in November 1957, suggested the establishment of the scheme of 'democratic decentralisation', which ultimately came to be known as Panchayati Raj. It suggested for a three tier system at village, block and district level and it also recommended for direct election of village level panchayat. After this, Ashok Mehta Committee on Panchayati Raj was appointed in December 1977 and in August 1978 submitted its report with various references to revive and strengthen the declining Panchayati Raj system in the country. LM Singhvi Committee appointed in 1986 first time suggested for the constitutional status of Panchayati Raj institutions and it also suggested for constitutional provisions to ensure regular, free and fair elections to the Panchayati Raj Bodies and the bill finally emerged as the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 and came into force on 24th April, 1993.

**Features of 73rd Amendment Act 1992 :** The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution enacted in 1992 added a new part-IX to the Constitution. It also added a new XI schedule containing list of 29 functional items for Panchayats and made statutory provisions for the establishment, empowerment and functioning of Panchayati Raj institutions. Some provisions of this amendment are binding on the States, while others have been left to be decided by respective State Legislatures at their discretion.

## CONCLUSION

The implementation of rural development programmes through the Panchayat Raj Institutions has carried a essential change in the socio-economic conditions of the rural society. The application of rural development programmes has affected even the social and political matters of the people. In the

economic sphere, these programmes have formed a development in economic location of the villages. As a result, most of the villagers have acquired an added income. Programmes like MGNREGA, SGRY, IAY (housing scheme) and power scheme such as Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuthikaran Yojana (RGGVY) have produced various profitable activities for poor to be placed above the poverty line. Also, in the newly erected tribal houses electricity had been providing through RGGVY, which specifies a cumulative development of infrastructural growth in the rural areas.

#### **REFERENCES**

- [1] Aiyar, Mani Shankar (2008) Key role of Panchayati Raj in building a resurgent rural India,
- [2] Alok V. N. (2011) Role of Panchayat Bodies in Rural Development since 1959
- [3] Banashankari, J.L (2017) A Study on Recent Rural Development Programmes of Government of India
- [4] Panda, S. and A. Majumder. 2013. "A Review of Rural Development Programmes in India." International Journal of Research in Sociology and Social Anthropology1 (2): 37- 40.
- [5] Jawaharlal Nehru : The Discovery of India, Signet Press, Calcutta, I 964. P.288
- [6] Report of the Royal commission on Decentralisation, 1907
- [7] S S Meenakshisundaram : Decentralisation in Developing Countries, Concep1 Publishing Company, New Delhi, 1994
- [8] 4. Report of the (B.Mehta) team for the study of community projects and national extension services, 1959
- [9] S. Lok Sabha Debate on Constitution (Seventy third Amendment) Bill, (Dec 1. 1992): Minister of Rural Development, while moving the Bill to further amend the Constitution of India, P. 713-718
- [10] Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and NCRSOs.: Functioning of Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha· Myth or Reality, National Seminar on Strengthening PRI. New Delhi. 1997
- [11] Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and NCRSOs: Participatory Bottom up Planning Draft Report of National Workshop, New Delhi, 1998
- [12] Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and NCRSOs. Status of Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions - An Overview. New Delhi. 1999