

The word 'Sthaanik' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Sthaana'. Self-Government means own governance. The place where peoples settled is known as village, town or city. People settled in village or city govern their village or city by own or by their representatives is called peoples' governance or 'Local self governance'. In this manner, the institutions which govern the local transaction of the village or city are known as Institutions of Local Self Governance. In rural area Gram Panchayat, in urban areas Municipalities or Nagar Panchayat and in cities like Ahmedabad, Mumbai Municipal Corporation are considered as Local Self Governance.

These institutions of Local Self Governance administer the functions of village or town people's health and services of local necessity. Generally, these institutions perform the functions like, to provide to the people of its area, provide water for Drink and use to build good road, take care of them, make them clean, to arrange the facility of lights on the public roads, to provide health service, to arrange the facility of primary education etc.

In our nation, institutions of Local Self Governance are in existence since ancient time. Gradually it was destroyed. Recent Local institutions present in the country were started from British governance. It was developed in the country in the time of fighting for independence. Modern Local Self Governance institutions have been started after Balavantray Mehta committee.

Beginning of Local Institutions

Modern states hold large area and huge of population, so responsibilities of Central Government has increased tremendously. It is very tough and difficult to govern the whole nation from one place by the Central Government only. Problems and questions of different parts of the nation are also of different kinds. The Central Government cannot be expected to be very familiar and informed about all these problems or it may not have enough time to solve these problems in a proper and systematic way, from these situations the concept of decentralisation of democracy was immersed.

Where the federal system is in force, there provision for centre and unit States are provided. Unit governments have also developed the concept of decentralisation of powers and functions for the purpose of administrative convenience. Thus, due to the approach of decentralization, institutions of Local Self Governance are immersed and developed. These institutions are considered as 'Third Government'.

Self Governance : Meaning and Concept

Meaning : Local self government refers to the governance of village, town or city, where people have been settled, by elected representatives of them. The institutions which are established for this are called institutions of local self government.

Every local unit government of the State divides the territory of the State in small regional territories according to the local situations for convenient administration. And by handing over the local responsibility and functions to it, administering it, is known as local government or local self government.

Institutions of Local Self-Government are of Two Types

- (a) Rural area institutions includes mainly Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and District Panchayat.
- (b) Institutions of urban area includes Municipality, Municipal Corporation and Mega City.

Importance of Local Self-Government

In the dream of self-governance of the father of the nation, Gandhiji, village has always remained the centre point. For preservation of Indian culture and indinity, for the strength of large society and its welfare, decentralisation of power in the country should be done. He had said, “at present the centre of power is in big cities like Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. If I could, I would distribute these centers of power in the seven lakh villages of India.”

The following points explain the importance of Local Self Government.

- (1) Decentralization of powers is achieved.
- (2) Local citizens become conscious for their responsibilities.
- (3) These institutions are considered as the training school of democracy.
- (4) Administrative expenditure is economised.
- (5) Prove to be the laboratory of administrative reforms.
- (6) Citizens participate enthusiastically in local functions. Continuous awareness comes.
- (7) Citizens' interest in local functions increase and their concern increases.
- (8) Impression of Bureaucracy reduces at local level.
- (9) Workload of centre and unit governments reduces.

Such institutions breathe soul or life into the democratic body politic. And nurtures constantly the roots of democracy and keep them active and live. Local people perform the role of active citizen by performing local responsibilities. Local Government works maximum for public education then any other branch of Government.

While explaining the importance of these institutions, Late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru has told that, Local Self Government is the true foundation of democracy. As long as sufficient importance is not given to the local Government in democracy till then democratic system can not succeed.

Development of Institutions of Local Self-Government

Origin and Development : Since ancient times village is the smallest and important unit of administration in India. Regarding this authentic information are available in Vedas and Buddhist Jatak-katha before 4th and 5th centuries. Arayans had established Janpadas after settling in the Saptasindhu region of India. The Rigveda has mentioned of ‘Gramin’ as the elected head of the village.

Famous Panchayati Raj writer S.K. Dey writes in ‘Panchayati Raj’ that, in ancient India, each village was a small type of republic. Village was ruled by Panchayat. Panchayat means the arrangement of administration of a village by five people, selected by the villagers. Panchayats acquired proper position in the period of Gupta period. At that time, they were known as Panchayata or Panchmandal.

It was nicely developed during British Period. From the view of administrative decentralisation and political education, the Government of the Lord Mayo took an important step in this direction by framing law in 1870 by distributing the responsibilities of education, medical treatment, and construction of roads to the Provincial Government. In 1871, the provincial Government in Madras, Punjab, Bengal and Uttar Pradesh enacted laws for the establishment of the institutions of Local Self Government. In 1882 Lord Rippon laid down the principles for future institutions of Local Self Government by passing a bill to that effect. With this bill the institutions of local self Government came to be truly established.

Therefore, Lord Rippon is called the father of Local Government Institutions. In Mumbai, new law on local board came in to force. Government of Mumbai by framing a law in 1889, provided for the establishment of sanitation boards in villages.

Royal Commission appointed in 1907, recommended in detail for work area – decentralisation of local institution. In that context, Government of India in 1915, by passing a resolution, decided the directive principles for institutions of local Government. The centralized Government in India made Local Self Government a subject for the provincial Government in 1919. As a result, some province framed laws for the establishment of Panchayat, for example, the Bombay Village Panchayati Act of 1920. For provincial autonomy gave further impetus to this.

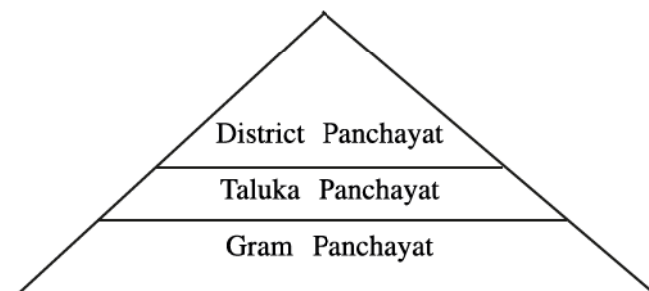
In 1946-47, that was included in Directive Principles of State policy in constituent assembly. Government of India constituted an administrative structure with the title 'community development'. For comprehensive evaluation of its application and result, in 1956, national development committee gave the report which became the base for democratic decentralization. Thus, 'democratic decentralization' became famous as its option. That is a synonym for 'Panchayati Raj'.

In 1977, Ashok Mehta Committee was formed for its evaluation. In 1984 also, under the chairmanship of C. H. Hanumanrav, a committee was formed. With reference to its recommendation, in 1992, by 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment provisions were made for equal Panchayati Raj in the whole nation and also for institutions of urban self government.

(a) Institutions Of Local Self-Governance At Rural Level :

These institutions are established in three layers. Which are like this:

Three Tiered Structure



Formation of Panchayati Raj

The word 'Panchayat' is formed of two words. 'Panch' and 'Aayat'. 'Panch' means five. Whereas, the meaning of 'Aayat' is a place. Thus, Panchayat means 'place of five'. In Indian culture the proverb is famous, meaning of which is five people represent the God. Thus, Panchayat means the institutions of five wise men for the solution of local questions.

Beginning

According to the Article 40 of the Constitution of India, the State will take the necessary steps to create Village Panchayats and devolve upon them the necessary powers and rights so that they can function as a unit of Self Government.

In the reference of recommendations of Balvantrai Mehta Committee the Panchayat Raj system began in Rajasthan on 2-10-1959. Since 1960, State of Gujarat was formed, and from 1963 Panchayat

Raj was started. From 1946, the concept of Panchayat Raj has become firm. This is a novel experiment from the point of view of democratic decentralization and has created a revolution of sorts at the local level through participation by the people.

There is a two-tier panchayat system for the States with a population of less than 20 lakh and a three-tier panchayat system for States having a population of more than that.

By passing 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments in 1992, Indian Parliament has given constitutional status to the rural and urban institutions of Local Self Government. Now both these types of local Government institutions have been accepted as the third tier of governance. In both these type of institutions 1/3 seats are kept reserved for women. Besides this, for the post of chairman of it, 1/3 seats are also kept reserved for women. Regular elections to these institutions have also been provided for. There is also a provision from the State finance commission to allocate the necessary grant to these institutions from the State Government. Lists of functions to be performed by these types of institutions are also included in the Constitution.(Entry 11 for village local Government institutions and Entry 12 for urban local self Government institutions). Thus, now, Institutions of local self governance has established as the third and basic layer of Indian Administrative system. According to the 73rd constitutional amendment of 1992, detailed provisions in this regard have been made.

(1) Gram Panchayat :

Composition :

- (a) Gram Panchayat is an established association of the village. For the establishment of it, minimum population of 500 is necessary. Gram Panchayat can also be established for a population of 15000. Some times group of Panchayat is also established for some villages collectively.
- (b) It consists of 7 members till the population of 3000 and with the increase of every thousand or a part thereof two more members and maximum upto 15 members.
- (c) A village ward is created on the basis of distribution of the total population of the village equally according to the figures published in the last census. The election of the members takes place ward wise on the basis of adult suffrages through direct election system of secret ballots. As per the latest sub-rule of the Government of Gujarat, a citizen cannot contest election from more than two wards. The minimum age of contesting elections is of 21 years of age.

There is a provision, at Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and District Panchayat, for the reservation of seats for the members belonging to scheduled casts, and scheduled tribes, socially and educationally backward classes and women, in proportion to the number of seats. For women 33% of reservation is made and seats are allocated through rotation system. Since 2015 in Gujarat the number of this reservation is increased to 50% from 33%.

Any citizen of India whose name is covered in voters list of the village, is capable to contest for the member of Gram Panchayat or for a Sarpanch.

The Government of Gujarat has declared an 'award of Samrasta' for the villages where uncontested elections are conducted. At Gram Panchayat level, two kinds of awards systems are in force, that are, 'samras' and 'mahila samras'.

Sarpanch : The President of Gram Panchayat is called Sarpanch. The sarpanch is directly elected

under the supervision of the commission by the voters of the entire village. All meetings of the Gram Panchayat are conducted under the chairmanship of the sarpanch. His term of office is for 5 years but members of the Gram Panchayat can bring no-confidence motion against him.

The Panchayat Raj Rules also provide for reservation for the post of sarpanch for members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, Backward communities and women.

The Panchayat law has made it compulsory for the sarpanch to call a meeting of Gram Sabha at least twice a year. This Gram Sabha is the heart of the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat throbs and pulsates due to Gram Sabha. Some thinkers, by knowing the importance of Gram Sabha, know it as Legislature of the village.

Deputy Sarpanch : The Deputy Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat is elected by the elected members of the Gram Panchayat in the first general meeting. Thus, this election conducted indirectly. Generally, he is elected for five years. But he can be removed from his office by passing no confidence motion against him.

Administrative Officials : The official of the Gram Panchayat is called a Talati-cum-Mantri. Who works as a secretary to the sarpanch. By residing locally he keeps the functions of Gram Panchayat in motion. He has to be in constant contact with the Taluka-District Panchayat in the context of Government officers, land revenue and Panchayat Raj schemes. Financial transactions such as daily-accounts and accounts are to be done under the subordination of the Sarpanch.

Committees : To facilitate the work of Gram Panchayat, the following committees are generally constituted.

Committees are constituted for (1) Executive (2) Appeal (3) Social justice (4) Education (5) Water (6) Construction (7) Sanitation (Cleanliness) (8) Health.

Financial Source : According to the Section 243 of the Panchayat Act, there is a State Finance Commission to provide financial aid to panchayats. Apart from this, the other sources of income of this institution are aid of State Government, house tax, educational cess, vehicle tax, water tax, income from fairs and festivals, income of planning, electricity tax and octroi and land revenue. Though, Government of Gujarat and some other States have abolished octroi duty for Gram Panchayat; but they give special grant for that income.

Functions of Gram Panchayat

There are main two important objectives of allocation of the functions of Panchayat Raj as held by the Constitution :

(1) Panchayat of every level should prepare plans for the economic development of its area and implement them.

(2) Panchayat of each level should also prepare plans for the establishment of social justice in its area and implement them.

The main function of Gram Panchayat is the responsibility to prepare plan for the development at village level. It also has to undertake those development functions that a Taluka and District Panchayat asks it to perform as a part for the fulfillment of their own development goals. Functions to be performed by Gram Panchayats are divided into two parts : obligatory functions and voluntary functions.

Duration : Generally, the duration of Taluka Panchayat is of five years but the Government can extend or dissolve that duration.

(A) Obligatory Functions:

(1) Arrangement of water for drinking and household use. (2) repairing and maintenance of public

wells and lakes (3) arrangement for lightings (4) repairing and cleaning of roads (5) maintaining health (6) maintenance of crematory (7) functions for the development of agriculture and cooperative activities (8) registration of birth, death and marriage (9) maintenance of property of Gram Panchayat (10) establishment of Home Guards and its functions (11) recovery of land revenue and Government debt (12) animal husbandry, animal breeding and its care (13) assistance in census and functions of social education (14) to take steps for the prevention of infectious diseases.

(B) Voluntary Functions :

(1) plantation of trees (2) construction of dharmshala, rest houses, bathing places (3) arrangement for gymnasium, library, garden (4) arrangement for grain storages (5) functions in the time of natural calamity (6) to run community centers (7) other functions of public services.

Duration : Generally, the duration of Gram Panchayat is of five years; but State Government can increase-decrease it. If necessary, can dissolve it also.

In Gujarat in the year of 2015 there are 13996 Gram Panchayats are in existence.

(2) Taluka Panchayat :

Taluka Panchayat is the middle tier of the Panchayat Raj system.

Composition : Taluka Panchayat consists of minimum 15 members and maximum 31 members. It consists of 15 members till the population of one lakh and with the increase of every 25,000 or more then that, two more members are included according to the provisions. The members of legislative assembly from this area are also co-members of Taluka Panchayat but they do not have a right to vote.

The population of the entire taluka is divided equally and the constituency is created accordingly. One member is elected for each constituency. 21 years of age limit is for contesting election. Their election is conducted under the supervision of State election commission on the basis of adult suffrage by direct election system. 50% reservation for women is provided there. Candidatures of political parties are made.

President-Vice-President

Election of officials of Taluka Panchayat means President and Vice President held indirectly by elected members on indirect bases. Meetings of Taluka Panchayat meet under the Chairmanship of President. Vice President supports the President in development functions of Taluka Panchayat. Vice President takes over the charge of President when the post of President becomes vacant in some circumstances.

There is a provision in The Panchayat Act for reservation of the seat of President, for women, scheduled cases, scheduled tribes or socially or educationally backward class. Out of the total number of Taluka Panchayat of the State 50% seats of President of Taluka Panchayat is kept reserved for women. If in the population of a taluka 15% is of Baxi panch or scheduled cast or tribe then 15% seats are kept reserved for them.

If no confidence motion is passed against the President and Vice President then has to resign form the post. The Anti Defection Act of 1986 is applicable to the members of Taluka Panchayat. If the President is not successful in passing the budget then it is considered as no confidence motion.

Administrative Official : Officer of the Taluka Panchayat is called as Taluka Development Officer (T.D.O.). He serves as a secretary of the President. He is the head of the administrative Executive of the Taluka Panchayat. Appointment, promotion, transfer of TDO and other employees is done in accordance with the Government and District Panchayat.

Committees : In this institution two committees are formed from the elected members, namely, Executive Committee and Social Welfare Committee, by the elected members. Number of members of it is in accordance with the number of members of Taluka Panchayat. Members of the Executive Committee elect one of its members as the Chairman. Whereas in the Social Welfare Committee the position and selection of members and the chairman are reserved for the members of Scheduled Cast. In other committees, education, agriculture, co-operation, minor irrigation, sanitation, health etc. committees are constituted.

Financial Resources

The financial resources of Taluka Panchayat are part of Government grant, aid, income of stamp duty, land revenue are major.

In Gujarat in the year of 2015 there are 249 Taluka Panchayat.

‘Dilipsinh Bhuriya Committee’: The report of this committee is accepted. If any village, taluka or district is having 51 per cent population of schedule tribes, out of the total population, there the position of Sarpanch, chairmanship of Taluka Panchayat, District Panchayat will remain permanently reserve for Schedule Tribes. An initiative has already been made in this direction. The region from Amirgarh to Ahawa is included in this.

Functions of Taluka Panchayat

(1) Health, sanitation (2) construction (3) social education (4) cultural education (5) collective development (6) agriculture – irrigation (7) animal husbandry (8) development of village industries and small industries (9) co-operative sector (10) woman welfare (11) social welfare (12) relief sectors (13) collection of statistics (14) forest development (15) information – entertainment .

Duration : Generally, the duration of Taluka Panchayat is of five years; but State Government can increase or dissolve it.

(3) District Panchayat :

District Panchayat is at the top of the three layered structure of Panchayati Raj.

Composition : In this institution the minimum number of member is 31 and maximum number of member is 51. The district is divided into different regional electoral on the basis of last census and members are elected. Age limit to contest in the election is 21 years.

The composition is this institution

(a) Members elected by electorate.

(b) Presidents of Taluka Panchayat.

(c) Residents of district – established by invited members like elected Members of Legislature, members of Parliament. These invited members have right to take part in the discussion but can not take part in voting.

President – Vice-President : Election for President and Vice President of District Panchayat is conducted in the first general meeting. Generally, his term is of five years; but before that tenure, development commissioner can compel for removal of his office on the issue of low confidence motion or moral turpitude. In the absence of the President Vice President holds the charge on the basis of his post.

Financial Resources : The main source of income are from land revenue, stamp, duty, organization of fair and festivals, Government grant and aid and special aid from finance commission.

Administrative Officials : Class one officer is appointed to help and to give advice to the President of District Panchayat in the development works. He is called the District Development Officer (D.D.O). His appointment is made by State Government. He functions as the secretary of the President. Appointment, promotion, transfer or suspension of other officers and employees connected with him is also done by the State Government.

Committees : following are the committees in the District Panchayat for the development of District :

(1)Executive (2) education (3) public health (4) social welfare (5) constructions (6) appeal (7) production and co-operation welfare (8) woman-child welfare (9) irrigation (10) committee for the construction of residence of land less agriculture laborer (11) financial estimation committee (12) since 1986 committee of 20 points implementation is also formed. Arrangement of members and chairman in that is made in accordance with The Panchayat Act.

Functions of District Panchayat: (1) health sanitation (2) construction (3) education-culture (4) administrative (5) social development (6) agriculture (7) animal husbandry (8) development of village industry and small industries (9) social welfare (10) relief – help (11) small irrigation planning (12) woman-child welfare (13) co-operative area (14) forest development (15) collection and maintenance of statistics.

Duration : Generally, the duration of District Panchayat is of five years. Dissolution can take place before duration. If a budget cannot be passed because a situation might attract The Anti-defection Act, 1986 because of the reality of party position in the Panchayat or a motion of no confidence is likely to fall short of the requisite 2/3 majority support needed for it, a Panchayat can be kept in dormant state and an administrator can be appointed. District Panchayat completes and implements the development tasks through the subordinate institutions like Gram Panchayat and Taluka Panchayat.

There are 33 District Panchayats in Gujarat as on the year 2015.

Thus, Institutions of Local Self Government work-area covers local matters widely.

(b) Institutions Of Local Self Governance At Urban Level :

According to the 74th constitutional amendment, provision is made for Local Self Governance means institutions of Local Self Government in urban areas. First unit of local self Government in urban areas is Municipality.

(1) Municipality (Nagarpalika) : Municipality started functioning for the first time in 1888 from Chennai.

Composition : On the basis of the last declared census the total population of the town is equally divided into ward. The minimum number of members shall be 21 and maximum number of members shall be 51 for Municipality. Four members are elected from each ward. In that also, according to the rules, the seats are kept reserve, as per the number of seats, for the women, scheduled cast, scheduled tribes and for Baxipanch. Electoral is prepared on the basis of the last census and elections by direct election system, through adult suffrage, is conducted under the supervision of State Election Commission by district collector and regional officer. Member of Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament residing in the area of concern town or city consider as co-members of that Municipal Corporation; but they do not possess the voting right.

Office Bearers : Members Elected In First General Sitting, Elect The President And Vice President. President is considered as the 'First Citizen' of concern city. In Gujarat these rank officers hold office for two and half years. The post of the President is kept reserve for women, scheduled cast and scheduled tribes as per the Government declared rotation system.

Administrative Officials : Chief Administrative Officer is appointed by the Government for the supervision of the entire administration of the Municipal Corporation. He functions as the secretary of the President.

Committees : Following committees are formed by Municipal Corporation for its smooth administration and for the fulfillment of public facilities and appoints its members and chairman. In that :

(1) Administrative committee (2) Education Committee (3) Water facility committee (4) Electric facility committee (5) Octroi committee (6) Sanitation-health committee (7) Garden development committee (8) Town planning committee (9) Construction – Road committee etc. are included.

Recently, the process to undertake primary education, governed by education committee by the District Panchayat.

Financial Resources : Its main sources of income are : entertainment duty , electricity tax, water tax, stamp duty, vehicle tax, Government grant or aid and the grants of Member of Legislative Assembly or Member of Parliament and also the aid from planning board.

There are 259 Nagarpalika existing in Gujarat.

Government of Gujarat has abolished the Octroi at Municipality level; but the Government gives, in lieu of it, a special grant in three annual installments. And as ad hoc salary seven and half percent of the decided grant is paid till first three years.

(2) Municipal Corporation :

This is the supreme institution in urban area. Which is known as Municipal Corporation. The city having more than 3 lac population acquires the position of Municipal Corporation. For example, recently, Junagadh city has acquired the status of Municipal Corporation. At present in Gujarat Municipal Corporations are in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Junagadh and Gandhinagar.

City having population more than twenty lac acquires the status of Mega City. Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata enjoy the status of Mega City. Government of India provides special development grant to these cities. The power to give the status of Mega City is with the Government of India.

Composition

According to the statistics published in the last census equal divided wards are established in the city. According to the new amendment of Government of Gujarat, no member can contest an election for more than two wards at a time.

There are 192 corporators in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

Any citizen who is of 21 years of age and whose name is included in voters' list can contest election of this institution. According to the Government rules-regulations in this regards, seats are kept reserved for women and scheduled cast and scheduled tribes. In Gujarat, a person having maximum two children can only holds membership in all the institutions of local self Government. In addition to that, there must be lavatory in house.

Ranked Officer

Election of President and Vice President is held during first general meeting among elected members. President can be known as Nagarpati or Mayor. Vice President can be called Deputy Mayor. Mayor is considered to be the first citizen of city. The post of Mayor kept reserve for women and backward class by rotation. 'Chairperson' word become famous for Woman Mayor. Tenure of two and half years fixed for Mayor and Deputy mayor in Gujarat.

Officials : The officer who is provided for the administration of the Municipal Corporation is called Municipal Commissioner. According to the necessity departmental Deputy Commissioners are also appointed. State Government appoints them amongst the first class (Class I cadre) officers. Their promotion, transfer, removal depend upon the wish of the Government. He is helpful to Mayor in budget and in other process.

Committees : For the public facilities following committees are forms by this institution. In which :

(1)Executive Committee (2) Education Committee (3) Water Supply Committee (4) Power Supply Committee (5) Public Health Committee (6) Hospital Committee (7) Octroi Committee (8) Garden Committee (9) Sanitation Committee (10) Transportation Committee (11) Construction Committee.

Financial Resources : The main source financial of this institution include house tax, octroi, sales tax, entertainment tax, Government grants and grants allotted to the Members of Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament for the development works. The provision is made for Metropolitan Planning Committee for the development of cities having population of more than 10 lac.

Duration: Generally, the duration of Municipal Corporation is of five years. Though, it can be superseded if it proved inefficient in discharging duties. Election for such a superseded institution must be conducted within six months. In short, the State Government has the full control over it.

Functions :

All the institutions of Local Self Government of the urban area has to perform the following duties. According to 74th constitutional amendment they are mentioned under 12th list of the Constitution.

(1)Town planning under the scheme of town planning (2) land acquisition and building construction (3) plans for economic and social development (4) construction of roads and bridges (5) arrangements for water supply for households, industrial campus, trade and commerce campus (6) arrangements for public facilities, sanitation, cleaning and sewage (7) to provide fire brigade services (8) to increase dimensions of urban forestry, environment protection (9) protection of interests of handicapped and mentally retarded people under the development of under privileged class of the society (10) abolition of unhygienic settlements and development of housing schemes, reduction of slums like, Indira Housing Scheme, Sardar Housing Scheme and Dr. Ambedker Housing Scheme (11) Elimination of poverty from the town (12) to facilitate the people of town creation of facilities by special park-gardens, play-sports grounds like stadium , chopati of Mumbai (13) to increase cultural, educational and beautification dimensions, for example, town hall, city primary school and 'clean city' status of Surat (14) establishment and maintenance of crematories, electric crematories and places of burial (15) abolition of washing places and cruelty towards animals (16) registration of birth-death and maintenance of its register (17) with respect to public purpose development of facilities of lights on roads, parking places, bus services (18) maintenance of slaughter houses and tannery industries.

In Gujarat under the head of urban development Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority, and in that manner RUDA for Rajkot, SUDA for Surat, BUDA for Bhavnagar, GUDA for Gandhinagar are

provided and Government allocates special grant for them.

In this manner Institutions of Urban Local Self Governance at the local level perform the aforesaid functions for the betterment of the people and to provided them facilities for comfort life and people also participate in self governance with enthusiasm by paying their taxes.

Woman Empowerment In The Institution of Local Self-Government

The history shows that, in the self development women are left back. Not only that but they are becoming the part of manipulation. Some times knowing they are kept backward. So as a part of the step of women upliftment the process of women empowerment has taken in hand.

Women and men are almost equal in the population of the society, women must get the equal opportunities of her self development and expression. But till date their status has remained in margin due to the partial behaviour. As 2001 year has been declared as woman empowerment year, status of woman and real situations of the woman in the world are the centre point.

Women Empowerment means a demand for inclusion of women in all political decision making institutions from Panchayat to Parliament, Government structures and in all fields. This is a movement of making women a partner in decision making process and its execution. This empowerment must come in all fields , social, economic, political, cultural and religious.

In the area of political partnership of women, equal voting right has been given in democracy. There are equal opportunities that women can come in the places of power by contesting election as a candidate and by wining it. However, in reality, women are seen in the field of politics in less number. Partnership of women of every stage of the society in appropriate proportion is not seen. Women are not permitted to participate in the power politics to some extent. Even today, inspite of having woman Sarpanch in some of the Panchayat, her husband, son, father or any male family member is seen functioning as Sarpanch in her place. In short, their problems can be solved only when, the women will register their active participation in institutions of Local Self Government and other higher political institutions.

In the preamble of the Constitution of India, ideal of equal opportunity to woman-man and equal social justice has been expressed. In directive principles of State policy also, certain provisions have been made for giving effect to the objective of women empowerment. Even to the extent that in our fundamental duties also practices have been directed to be made so as to protect the dignity of women.

Institutions of Local Self-Government in the Context of Social Justice

Prior to the existence of present Panchayati Raj, a monopoly of power was prevailing in the rural societies at local level. Specially, upper cast of the society was having the majority of powers. As a result, poor and deprived class of people was not having any place in the structure of power that was existing at local level. As a result, higher casts were holding the monopoly of power in the society. This position was fundamentally obstacle in the development of the society because in the structure of power, lower level casts were not getting a partnership at local level. As a result, leaders of higher casts having authority used to become superior authority in the decision making process at local level. That used to give bad results. In this circumstance, lower level casts had to suffer gross injustice and discrimination. This situation can not be considered proper for healthy society. Under this circumstances, the principle objective under the initial consideration that took place for new Panchayati Raj was that

equal participation must be available to all the classes of the society in the decision making process in the structure of power.

EXERCISE

1. Answer the following Questions in detail :

- (1) What is Local self Government? Explain it in detail.
- (2) Explain the importance of Local self Government.
- (3) Discuss the origin and development of Local Self Government.
- (4) Write a detail note on the procedure for establishment of Panchayati Raj.
- (5) Explain the establishment and functions of Gram Panchayat in Panchayati Raj.
- (6) Explain the establishment and functions of Taluka Panchayat.
- (7) Explain the establishment and functions of District Panchayat.

2. Write short notes on the following :

- (1) Write an establishment of Municipal Corporation.
- (2) Discuss the main source of finance of Municipal Corporation.
- (3) Write a note on women empowerment in the institutions of Local Self Government.

3. Answer the following questions in brief (five to seven sentences) :

- (1) What is decentralisation?
- (2) What is the importance of Local Self Governance?
- (3) What is the decentralisation of the power?
- (4) How the election of Deputy Sarpanch is held?

4. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences :

- (1) What is local Government ?
- (2) What is the standard for formation of village panchayat ?
- (3) What is called social Justice ?
- (4) State two compulsory functions of village panchayat.
- (5) What is women Empowerment ?

5. Write the correct option in the given box :

- (1) Who is the father of Local Self Governance?

(a) Lord Rippon (b) Gandhiji (c) Jawaharlal Nehru (d) Sardar Patel

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- (2) From where the word 'Sthanik' is derived?

(a) City (b) Village (c) Town (d) Sthaan

☐

- (3) Which kind of Government is Institutions of Local Self Government?

(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth

☐

(4) What does the Local Self Government do?

- (a) Work of public education (b) Primary Education
(c) Higher Education (d) Foundation Education

☐

(5) How many layers are there in the Institutions of Panchayat Raj?

- (a) four (b) two (c) one (d) three

☐

(6) What is the age of voting in election of Panchayats?

- (a) 20 years (b) 18 years (c) 21 years (d) 25 years

☐

(7) How many Gram Panchayats are there in Gujarat in the year of 2015?

- (a) 10,000 (b) 13,996 (c) 13,550 (d) 13,151

☐

(8) How many Taluka Panchayats are there in Gujarat?

- (a) 249 (b) 241 (c) 233 (d) 251

☐

(9) How many Municipalities are there in Gujarat?

- (a) 260 (b) 259 (c) 233 (d) 241

☐

(10) How many Corporatores are there in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation?

- (a) 192 (b) 190 (c) 182 (d) 191

☐

Activity

- To observe the election of Village Panchayat.
- To make direct visit of Gram Sabha.
- To watch meeting of Panchayat.
- To arrange the conversation of the President of District Panchayat.
- To visit the general meeting of Municipality and Municipal Corporation.
- To arrange conversation from Village Panchayat to Corporation.

