

**ROLE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN
RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF
KUTURACHUAN GRAM PANCHAYAT**

Thesis Submitted
for the Award of the Degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
in
POLITICAL SCIENCE

by
SUDHANSU KUMAR MAHAPATRA

Regd. No.: 41800031

Supervised by
Dr. MANVENDRA SINGH [UID: 21755]
PROFESSOR



LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY
PHAGWARA, PUNJAB

AUGUST 2025

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the presented work in the thesis entitled “Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat” in fulfillment of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.)** is the outcome of research work carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Manvendra Singh, working as Professor, in the Department of Government and Public Administration of Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India. In keeping with the general practice of reporting scientific observations, due acknowledgments have been made whenever the work described here has been based on the findings of other investigators. This work has not been submitted part or full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree.



(Signature of Scholar)

Name of the scholar: Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra
Registration No.: 41800031
Department/School: Political Science, School of Social Sciences and
Languages
Lovely Professional University,
Punjab, India

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the research work presented in the Ph.D. thesis entitled “Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development: A Study of Kutturachuan Gram Panchayat” submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences and Languages is a research work carried out by Sudhanshu Kumar Mahapatra, Registration No. 41800031, is bonafide record of his original work carried out under my supervision and that no part of thesis has been submitted for any other degree, diploma or equivalent course.



Signature of the Supervisor

Name of Supervisor: Dr. Manvendra Singh,

Designation: Professor

Department/ School: Department of Government and Public Administration, School of Social Sciences and Languages.

University: Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India.

ABSTRACT

The noble idea of the Panchayati Raj gained importance soon after independence. The national leadership had always desired the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions for the betterment of rural India. The notion is not merely post-independence development. Rather, panchayats had jurisdiction and adjudication power in the ancient and subsequent periods. In the past, the panchayat bodies did not fully enjoy the decentralization of power. The uses of panchayat bodies differed in different periods, such as ‘instrumentations of dominations’ in feudal set-ups. In the Mughal and British periods, the importance of village panchayats was undermined. Lord Rippon, a great advocate of local government in the British era, attempted to revive panchayat bodies through his famous resolution in 1882.

The Panchayati Raj Institutions, as envisioned by the constitution makers and statesmen, have empowered the rural masses. These local people have assumed leadership roles and are actively involved in self-government and democratic decentralization. The institutions not only provide a platform for political education and leadership generation but also foster better communication skills, identify and address local issues, promote political participation, women empowerment, education, asset creation, poverty eradication, employment opportunities, conservation of the local environment, and confidence building for a better and standard of living.

The philosophy of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, came true, as villages are now leading players in development movements. He was a champion of ‘Gram Swaraj.’ He remarked on an occasion that “*Independence must begin at the bottom. Thus, every village will be a republic of Panchayat that has full power.*”

On the auspicious occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, the 2nd of October 1959, Rajasthan became the first state where Panchayati Raj was introduced. Gradually, several study teams and committees examined the workings of the institutions and suggested reforms. As a result of that, the 73rd Amendment

Act of 1992 was a significant attempt to give Panchayati Raj Institutions constitutional status. This Act came into force in 1993. This Act was placed in a new chapter in the constitution under Part IX, covering Articles 243 to 243O. The village-level or grassroots-level local self-governance gained significant strength. The constitutional foundation made it constitutional for every state to form panchayats under Article 243B. The composition of three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions is obligatory for every state. Some significant provisions of this Act are regular elections in every five years term, Reservation of seats for women and backward class citizens, including Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, transfer of 29 subjects as devolution powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions, and constitution of State Finance Commission to grant and examine the financial status of Panchayats.

This research investigates the contribution of Panchayati Raj Institutions in promoting rural development, specifically focusing on the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in Odisha. Panchayati Raj Institutions were founded with the aim of decentralizing government and granting more authority to rural communities. This study investigates the contributions made by the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat to many aspects of rural development, which includes infrastructure development, education, health care, and economic activities. By analyzing primary data collected through interviews with local residents and secondary data from government reports, the study highlights the effectiveness of Panchayat in implementing development schemes and addressing local issues.

The findings suggest that while the Panchayat has made significant progress in promoting rural development, challenges such as inadequate funding, bureaucratic hurdles, and limited community participation still impede its progress. The study concludes with recommendations for strengthening the Panchayati Raj system to ensure more inclusive and sustainable rural development.

Acknowledgment

The Conduct of research work requires a substantial amount of effort and diligent labour. The work was only conducted with wholehearted support. This study seeks to investigate the impact of Panchayati Raj Institutions on rural development, specifically focusing on the Kutturachuan Gram Panchayat in Odisha. The work's current status owes its achievement to the invaluable direction, supervision, and assistance generously offered by several persons. The support and advice of my respected Supervisor, Dr. Manvendra Singh, Associate Professor at Lovely Professional University, has had a significant impact on my academic path. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor Dr. Pavitar Prakash Singh, the Head of the School, and Professor Dr. Kirandeep Singh, the Head of the Department of Political Science at Lovely Professional University, for their invaluable support. The entire teaching fraternity of the Department of Political Science deserves special acknowledgment for their consistent motivation and support.

I express my gratitude to all the respondents who were kind enough to complete the survey, as their involvement was crucial for the accomplishment of this task. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my wife and family members for their consistent support and good wishes throughout this endeavor. Above all, I bow my head to the Divine Being for abundant grace that will continuously bestow blessings upon this endeavor.



Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra
Regd. No. 41800031
Political Science, School of Social Sciences and Languages
Lovely Professional University,
Punjab, India.

CONTENTS

	PRELIMINARY PAGES	
	<i>TITLE PAGE</i>	<i>i</i>
	<i>DECLARATION</i>	<i>ii</i>
	<i>CERTIFICATE</i>	<i>iii</i>
	<i>ABSTRACT</i>	<i>iv-v</i>
	<i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</i>	<i>vi</i>
	<i>CONTENTS</i>	<i>vii-viii</i>
	<i>LIST OF TABLES AND DIAGRAMS</i>	<i>ix</i>
	<i>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</i>	<i>x- xi</i>
	CONTENTS	
I	Chapter- I	1-62
I.1	Justification and Significance of the Study	1-6
I.2	The Meaning of Rural Development	6
I.3	Role of Panchayati Raj in Rural Development	7-9
I.4	Devolution of Power	9-36
I.5	Literature Review	36-62
	Chapter- II	63-140
II.1	Evolution of Panchayati Raj	63-65
II.2	Panchayati Raj in Ancient India	65-72
II.3	Panchayati Raj in the Mughal Era	72-75
II.4	Panchayati Raj System in the British Era	76-81
II.5	Panchayati Raj Before Independence	81-83
II.6	Panchayati Raj in Post-Independence	84-91
II.7	Constitutional Provisions Regarding Composition	92-94
II.8	The 73 rd Amendment Act 1992	94
II.8. i	Gram Sabha	95
II.8. ii	Reservation of Seats	96
II.8. iii	Powers and Responsibilities of Panchayats	96-97
II.9	Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat: An Overview	97-99

II.10	Sambalpur District: An Overview	99
II.11	Local Self-Government of Odisha, Some Basic Facts	100-101
II.12	Programs and Schemes	101-107
II.13	Working of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Odisha	108-109
II.14	Special Initiatives by the Government of Odisha	109-122
II.15	PESA ACT 1996	126-126
II.16	Panchayati Raj Institutions: Structures and Functions	126-140
	Chapter- III	141-146
III.1	Research Methodology	142
III.1. 1	Research Design	142
III.1. 2	Sampling	142
III.1. 3	Sample Unit	143
III.1. 4	Distribution of Sample Unit for Collection of Data	144-146
	Chapter- IV	147-210
IV.1	Tabulation Analysis and Interpretations of the Study and Data Analysis	147-210
	Chapter- V	211-230
V.1	Introduction	211-212
V.2	Findings and Conclusion	212-230
	References	230-238
	Appendices	238-255
1	Appendix- 1	239-247
1.1	Appendix- 1-B	244-246
	List of Publications	248-249
	Conference and Workshop Certificates	249-256

	TABLES AND DIAGRAMS	
Sl. No.	Contents	Page No.
1	Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat Demographics Details	98-99
2	Sambalpur District Demographics Details	100
3	Gram Panchayat Level Schemes	102
3.1	MGNREGA Schemes	102-103
3.2	Distribution of Rice under various Schemes	105
3.3	BPL Rice for Welfare Institutions	106
3.4	Annapurna Scheme	106
3.4.1	APL Rice	106
3.4.2	APL Wheat	106
3.4.3	LEVY Sugar	107
4	Division of Participants of the Study Area	144-146
4.1	Demographics of Study Participants	148
4.2	Sex Composition of Respondents	149
4.3	Social Category of the Respondents	150
4.4	Level of Educational Qualification of Respondents	151
4.6	Income level of the Respondents	154-155
5	Questionnaire Section	156-197
5.1	Questionnaire Section	198-209

List of Abbreviations

SL.NO.	ABBREVIATION	FULL FORM
1	PRI	Panchayati Raj Institutions
2	73 rd CCA	73rd Constitutional Amendment Act
3	Art.	Article (of the Constitution)
4	G.V.K. Rao Committee	Gopalaswami Venkatarama Rao Committee
5	L.M. Singhvi Committee	Lokeshwar Mishra Singhvi Committee
6	V.N. Gadgil Committee	Vishwanath Narayan Gadgil Committee
7	SC	Scheduled Castes
8	ST	Scheduled Tribes
9	OBC	Other Backward Classes
10	MP	Member of Parliament
11	MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
12	MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
13	MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
14	IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Program
15	SGSY	Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
16	NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission

17	JRY	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana
18	JGSY	Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana
19	SGRY	Sampooran Grameen Rozgar Yojana
20	IAY	Indira Awas Yojana
21	FRA	Forest Rights Act
22	BPG	Biju Pucca Ghar
23	BRGF	Backward Regions Grant Fund
24	GGY	Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana
25	CC Road	Cement Concrete Road
26	TRYSEM	Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment
27	SHG	Self-Help Group
28	BPL	Below Poverty Line
29	ITI	Industrial Training Institute
30	DPR	Detailed Project Report
31	MDG	Millennium Development Goals
32	ICT	Information and Communication Technology

CHAPTER- I

INTRODUCTION

This research aims to comprehensively explore the workings of Panchayati Raj Institutions in promoting rural development, with a specific emphasis on Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in Odisha. By examining the structural, functional, and legal framework of Panchayati Raj Institutions, identifying obstacles, and providing solutions, this study seeks to strengthen participatory democracy and effective governance at the grassroots level.

1. Justification and Significance of the Study:

The need and significance of the study of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development in India is gaining importance day by day, which was made for a noble cause. Panchayati Raj Institutions are the lifeline of participatory democracy in India. These institutions enable rural people to address local problems directly and empower them with decision-making authority. It also empowers women and disadvantaged communities to participate in local governance. Panchayati Raj is a three-tier governance structure that works at all levels of society and is gaining significance in the advancement of the country through rural development. India is mostly a rural nation. Villages are developing rapidly as Panchayati Raj has been playing a key role in implementing programs relentlessly related to infrastructure development, education, health care, drinking water, sanitation, etc. More sincere attention needs to be paid to avail themselves of the basic needs. Since independence, planners and policymakers have been trying to design the ways and means for rural development through the participation of the local people. Active participation in the management of local affairs considerably strengthens Indian democracy at the lowest level. As a result, panchayats have been proven to be the backbone of villages.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 is a landmark for Panchayati Raj Institutions. It instrumentalized the devolution of authority to Panchayati Raj

Institutions through constitutional Acts. Panchayati Raj Institutions are responsible for developmental planning to achieve rural development goals. It monitors and supervises the schemes and programs by paying attention to realizing the improvements of the people living in rural areas. Socio, political, and economic justice can be realized through the implementation of the schemes and programs entrusted to the panchayat Raj institutions. These institutions are bringing about a sea change in people's daily life. The 73rd Amendment Act 1992 is an instrument for the all-round development of rural people. Article 243(Z) is a step towards making the Panchayati Raj an institution of self-government.

The decentralization process started in India with the implementation of the Community Development Program in 1952 and has continued to the present. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 has given momentum to it. It has passed through various stages like reforms suggested by Balwant Rai Mehta (1957), Ashok Mehta 1978, Ch Hanumant Rao working group on district Planning 1983, G.V.K. Rao Committee 1985, L. M. Singhvi Committee 1986, Thungan Committee 1988, etc. are prominent. The Constitution 73rd Amendment Act. 1992 paved the way for greater representation of women. Weaker Sections were given special emphasis on social justice and economic developments (Mallik. S. 2002)

In India, Panchayati Raj is not just a system but a living testament to the vitality of democracy. The administrative entities under the Panchayati Raj system are called Gram Panchayats. The Panchayati Raj System facilitates the socio-political and economic growth of the populace at the local level. In addition to raising people's financial circumstances, it also seeks to foster a sense of independence in them. In the past, under the direction of the village elders, people would gather to discuss and find solutions to issues in the community. This participative democratic attitude was a part of our historical continuity. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation, supported "Gram Swaraj.". The devolution of authorities served as the slogan. The fact that panchayats have been there for a while in India is a well-known truth. There were periods of local self-government during the Vedic, Medieval, and British eras. Mahatma Gandhi and several other notable

figures, including Jawaharlal Nehru, were strong proponents of democratic decentralization and political engagement within democracies. He thought that the local panchayats should be given a lot of importance if Indian democracy was to become lively and strong. At the grass-root level, village panchayats serve as democratic institutions.

The inclusion of Panchayati Raj in the Indian Constitution was achieved by means of Articles 243 to 243O. A new part, Part IX, was established, consisting of 16 items in the Eleventh Schedule by the 73rd Amendment Act 1992. This specifies the method for holding direct elections at the village level in order to pick local leaders, so guaranteeing the safeguarding of freedom of expression, equality, fraternity, and the right to have divergent viewpoints.

Panchayati Raj is the realization of equitable representation for socio-economic reform in society in its purest form. This Act stipulates that (i) seats for SCs and STs shall be reserved in proportion to their population; (ii) the posts of chairpersons for the SCs and STs in a state shall be reserved for women; (iii) women shall be allocated at least one-third of the elected seats in each panchayat, with a provision for rotation; (iv) women shall be allocated one-third of the posts of chairpersons for rural women and shall be reserved among constituencies; (v) Representatives of Panchayats shall be elected directly; (vi) village panchayat chairpersons shall be represented at the intermediate and district levels; (vii) MPs, MLAs, and MLCs shall be allocated within Panchayati Raj institutions; (viii) Panchayat chairpersons shall be elected one.

The 73rd Amendment Act's implementation signaled the start of a significant devolution of authority and decentralization of government. Power decentralization was used as a technique to create several development plans and strategies for different grassroots initiatives. The Panchayati Raj system may now enhance infrastructure and undertake developmental projects for impoverished rural and tribal communities. To achieve the dream of the Millennium Development Goals, sustainability and inclusion in the development of those who are marginally below the poverty line are kept as essential items.

On average, two or three villages constitute a Gram Panchayat with an approximate population of 2000 to 10000 Behuria, R. (2017). Villages are taken as units of development all over India. Villages are known as the foundation on which the fortress of democracy has stood. So, the success of rural people is reflected in the growth index.

The activities brought about the achievement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Odisha. It performs with different programs and schemes, particularly rural development. These programs are classified under broad categories.

- 1) The Self-Employment Program mainly carries out the National Rural Livelihood Mission.
- 2) Wage Employment Program a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (MGNREGS).
- 3) Rural Housing Program a) Indira Awas Yojana. b) Indira Awas Yojana (FRA) '*Forest Right Act.*' c) Biju Pucca Ghar (BGP).
- 4) Infrastructure Development. a) Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), b) Gopa Bandhu Grameen Yojana (GGY), Cement Concrete Road (CC Road).

This study is more significant regarding finance, the devolution of powers to Gram Panchayat, and the relationship between beneficiaries and bureaucrats. The study needs closer attention to the relationships between beneficiaries and officials.

The Panchayati Raj system is significantly contributing to the functioning of Indian democracy. The Gram Panchayats serve as the administrative entities in the Panchayati Raj Systems. This organization helps realize socio-political and economic development among the people at the grassroots level. In ancient times, it was seen that individuals would convene to address communal issues, guided by the wisdom and authority of village elders. This system embodied the essence of participatory democracy. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, campaigned for the concept of 'Gram Swaraj,' which refers to the self-governance of villages. The

slogan aimed to achieve the dispersion of authority, focusing on human welfare and avoiding exploitation. It was a deliberate effort aimed at achieving self-sufficiency and autonomy. Panchayats have been a longstanding institution in India. Throughout the Vedic era, the Medieval period, and British rule, we saw the existence of local self-government as a direct manifestation of the governing class.

Following independence, the draft Constitution included a reference to the panchayat in Article 40 under the Directive Principles of State Policy. The statement asserts that the government should implement measures to establish Village Panchayats and provide them with the necessary authority to act as self-governing entities. This Article mostly serves as a recommendation or guidance. In the post-independence period, policymakers promptly devised Community Development Programs aimed at fostering local development, which were subsequently implemented in 1950-1951. The research team, led by the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee, identified the inadequate performance of the previous system and raised concerns about the absence of public involvement in Community Development Programs. Finally, the Panchayati Raj system was introduced in 1959, as a result of the influential suggestions of the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee. Its purpose was to decentralize authority to lower levels via the implementation of Panchayati Raj. The early euphoria quickly waned due to the uncaring behavior of several State entities. Periodically, several research teams and commissions were established to guarantee the effective functioning of the panchayat. The Ashoka Mehta Committee was also established in 1970 with the aim of promoting rural development. In the 1980s, many committees were set up to revitalize the Panchayati Raj System.

The G.V.K. Rao Committee, established in 1985, recommended the decentralization of authorities in Panchayats. In 1986, the L.M. Singhvi Committee proposed that the Gram Sabha be constitutionally recognized and given significant prominence. The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations proposed enhancing Panchayats' financial and functional capabilities. In 1989, the Congress Committee, led by V.N. Gadgil, proposed a three-tier structure, a five-year term for elected members, and the reservation of seats for marginalized groups of society in

the Panchayati Raj system.

The Parliament of India passed the 73rd Amendment Act in 1992 with the aim of restructuring the Panchayati Raj system to promote efficient socio-economic development in rural India by addressing previous shortcomings.

This Act provides for:

- (i) Reservation of seats for SCs and STs in proportion to their population,
- (ii) Reservation of the posts of chairperson for the SCs and STs in a state,
- (iii) Reservation of not less than 1 / 3rd of the elected seats in each panchayat for women and rotation,
- (iv) Reservation of 1/ 3rd posts of chairpersons for rural women and rotation of reservation for women among constituencies,
- (v) Direct election of Panchayats,
- (vi) Representation of Sarpanch at the intermediate and district level,
- (vii) Participation of MPs, MLAs, and MLCs in the Panchayati Raj Institution,
- (viii) Election of chairpersons of Panchayats; and
- (ix) Continuity of operations of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Before April 23, 1994, all the States of India completed the process of enacting fresh legislation to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions as envisaged in the 73rd Amendment. The Panchayati Raj 73rd Amendment Act became operational, and power devolution started in most of the States of the Union.

The Meaning of Rural Development

The concept of Rural Development has earned widespread recognition and appreciation globally, both in developing and developed countries. At its core rural

development involves the comprehensive enhancement of rural regions, with the goal of improving the quality of life for those living there. This multifaceted concept includes the empowerment of rural populations, the progress of agriculture small-scale industries and village enterprises, and the development of social infrastructure and community services. Most importantly, rural development is shaped by the interplay of various factors, including technological, economic, socio-cultural, and institutional elements. As a strategic approach, it aims to uplift a specific demographic's economic and social conditions: the rural poor (Singh Kartar, 1995, p- 18).

According to D.M. Nanjundappa, “Rural development refers to an integrated multi-sectarian activity which includes the development of agriculture and social overhead facility” (Honnappa, S. 2017). According to G. Shaha, rural development is “the development of rural areas. Often rural development has meant the extension of irrigation facilities, expansion of electricity, improvement in the techniques of cultivation, construction of school buildings, and provision of educational facilities, health care, etc.” (Honnappa, S. 2017).

The importance of decentralization in governance and a participatory approach by the community was very much needed for the standard of living all over India. In this respect, Panchayati Raj Institutions were given responsibilities and accountability to emphasize rural development (Y. Sheikh, 2023).

Role of Panchayati Raj in Rural Development

- a) **Decentralization of Government and Decision Making:**
- Panchayati Raj Institutions comprise three tiers of Institutions. These institutions implement various plans and programs such as local development planning, resource allocation, promoting capacity building and empowerment, and strengthening federalism. The identification of challenges in the path of rural development is a major work of institutions at the local governance level(Kumar & Singh, 2021).

- b) **Community Participation:** Rural development programs' planning and proper implementation require community participation. Panchayati Raj institutions provide platforms for the people living at the grassroots level to come up and participate actively in this regard. The Gram Sabha, a sacred institution, allows the residents to vent their grievances, difficulties, and preferences for the onward transaction for planning and implementation. This approach develops a sense of ownership and empowerment in rural people's minds.
- c) **Planning and Implementation for Rural Local Development:** Panchayati Raj Institutions are responsible for planning and implementing various rural development activities. Allocating resources and executing projects at the rural level are key priorities in accordance with the powers conferred upon them. The most important areas in this line are agriculture, infrastructural development, education, healthcare, and social welfare.
- d) **Capacity Building:** Through the election, Panchayati Raj Institutions empower people to take charge of their own development. Elected officials play a significant role in planning and executing development. A great achievement of this movement is the empowerment of women (Kaushik & Shaktawat, 2010). They are empowered to be involved in local governance and development processes through training and technical assistance.
- e) **Social Equity:** The Panchayati Raj Institutions ensure marginalized and downtrodden people's representation and participation in local governance. The reservation of women, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, and Other backward classes in the Panchayat Raj structure is a great opportunity to mitigate the socio-economic disparities and promote social justice and equality in Indian Democracy (Naik & Pattnaik, 2017).
- f) **Promotion of Sustainable Practices:** The Panchayati Raj Institutions are making efforts to promote sustainable natural resource management.

Water bodies, forests, and land masses are the points of focus. Agricultural development is a constant subject matter. It encompasses crop rotation, organic farming, soil health improvement, and market linkages.

- g) **Social Inclusion and gender Equity:** The Panchayati Raj Institutions provide the chance of participation to marginalized groups such as Women, Dalits, and tribal communities (Chaturvedi, 2016). It works to reduce the gender gap, illiteracy, and hunger.
- h) **ICT-enabled Governance:** Information and Communication Technology makes life easier for rural people. The Centre and the State Government's initiatives help establish digital platforms at the rural level. ICT has made the service delivery system easy. Modern techniques empower local communities to get facilities, including grievance redressal.

DEVOLUTION OF POWER:

Devolution with respect to Panchayati Raj means delegating authority of a specific activity from the state government to the local government, which enables the local government to make decisions and act accordingly in the planning and implementation of that specific activity. Finance and Funds, Functions, and implementations are the processes of devolution of powers and responsibilities.

The above meaning is self-explanatory, stating that all the powers and responsibilities given to these institutions through the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, should be transferred to each and every tier of local self-government. However, state governments have not transferred the designated powers and functions through state legislation. Administrative and financial powers are necessary for successful work. The Functions include 29 subjects listed in the 11th schedule, Autonomy in performing the Major Flagship Programs by PRI bodies, and Preparation of Plans for Expenditure at the Gram Panchayat Level.

Devolution of Financial Powers is the most important aspect of discharging

the responsibilities entrusted to Panchayati Raj bodies. The powers include areas such as i) power to collect tax, duties, and tolls, ii) timely action on state finance commission's recommendations, iii) devolution of untied funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions, iv) provisions of allocation of resources to PRI on apportionment formula, v) empowerment of Gram Panchayat to sanction expenditure, etc. (Oommen, M.A. 2009).

1. i Major Rural Development Programs:

Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP):

The IRDP, popularly known as the Integrated Rural Development Program, was launched in 1978. This highly successful poverty alleviation program, designed and implemented for poverty alleviation through self-employment by the rural poor, has a proven track record of helping individuals develop their employability skills and creation of assets.

Aims of IRDP:

1. Poverty alleviation through income generation and asset support.
2. Employment generation through self-employment opportunities
3. Employment opportunities for vulnerable and backward groups to uplift socio-economic standards. Small and marginal farmers, rural artisans, and agricultural laborers.

Basic Features:

1. Through financial assistance, rural poor people can create assets, and they are given support for bank loans and bank subsidies.
2. The subsidy component of the project cost is given as a subsidy by the government, and a bank loan watch is provided to them as financial assistance.

3. The program has a wide range of activities, including agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, forestry, cottage industries, and services
4. Beneficiaries received training and skill development. The main focus was on ensuring the proper use and maintenance of the assets provided to them.
5. IRDP was implemented at the lowest level through district rural development agencies. These agencies focus on monitoring progress and identifying beneficiaries, planning and implementing projects, and monitoring beneficiaries' progress.
6. The IRDP watch is designed to converge with other rural development schemes to maximize impact and resource utilization.

Implementation Process

1. Identification of beneficiaries: A survey is conducted to identify families below the poverty line.
2. Project planning: Individual projects are planned based on the needs and skills of the beneficiaries.
3. Credit links: Financial institutions are involved in providing credit to the beneficiaries.
4. Training: Beneficiaries received training related to their respective projects.
5. Monitoring and evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation are carried out to ensure the effectiveness of the program.

Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

The IRDP has helped millions of rural families rise above the poverty line. It has contributed to the creation of various small-scale enterprises in rural areas. The program has increased beneficiaries' income levels and improved their living standards.

Challenges

Despite its success, the program has faced challenges such as improper beneficiary identification, delays in the disbursement of funds, and inadequate training. There have also been instances of asset misuse and a lack of follow-up support. The program has had an impact on different regions.

Origin and integration:

The IRDP was merged with other rural development schemes. In 1999, it was restructured and integrated into the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), which aimed to promote self-employment through the formation of self-help groups. SGSY has since been replaced by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), also known as Aajeevika, which continues to focus on poverty alleviation and rural development.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY):

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was a significant rural employment program initiated by the Government of India in April 1989. It was one of the largest public works programs aimed at addressing rural unemployment and alleviating poverty. The program was named after Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister.

Objectives

1. **Employment Guarantee:** To provide employment to the unemployed rural poor
2. **Asset Creation:** To create durable assets in rural areas which can contribute to the socio-economic development of these regions.
3. **Poverty Alleviation:** To improve the standards of life of the rural poor with a regular source of income.

Target Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of JRY were the rural poor, particularly those who were below the poverty line (BPL). Special emphasis was placed on:

- Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- Women
- Small and marginal farmers
- Landless agricultural labourers

Key Features

1. **Funding:** The program was centrally sponsored, with the cost shared between the central government and the state governments in a ratio of 80:20.
2. **Implementation:** The implementation of the various programs through decentralization.
3. **Community Participation:** Local communities were involved in identifying the types of works to be undertaken, ensuring that the assets created were relevant to their needs.
4. **Work Types:** Projects included the construction of roads, irrigation channels, school buildings, community halls, and other infrastructure that could generate long-term benefits for the rural economy.

5. Wages: Wages were paid in cash, and the program aimed to provide at least 90 to 100 days of employment to each beneficiary family per year.

Implementation Mechanism

1. Planning: Local bodies, particularly Gram Panchayats, were responsible for planning and identifying projects based on local needs.
2. Execution: The execution of the works was done by the local bodies with technical support from the district administration.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation were conducted at various levels to ensure the effective implementation of the program.

Achievements

1. Employment Generation: The JRY was successful in providing substantial employment to millions of rural poor, significantly reducing unemployment in rural areas.
2. Asset Creation: The program led to the creation of a wide range of durable assets that contributed to rural development.
3. Empowerment: The involvement of Gram Panchayats in planning and execution empowered local communities and enhanced their capacity for self-governance.

Challenges

1. Leakages and Corruption: There were issues related to corruption and leakages in the funds allocated for the program.
2. Quality of Assets: In some cases, the quality of the assets created was subpar due to a lack of technical expertise and proper supervision.
3. Uneven Implementation: The effectiveness of the program varied across

different states and regions, with some areas showing better results than others.

Evolution and Successor Programs

The JRY underwent several changes and restructuring over time. In 1993, it was renamed Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with a renewed focus on creating rural infrastructure. Later, in 2001, JRY/JGSY was merged into the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), which combined the elements of JRY with the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). In 2006, this program was merged with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), with a guarantee of 100 wage days in a year to workers. MGNREGA was designed on the foundation laid by JRY and aimed to provide a more comprehensive and legally binding framework for rural employment.

Conclusion

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was a landmark program in India's rural development strategy. It played a crucial role in providing employment and creating infrastructure in rural areas. Despite its challenges, the program laid the groundwork for subsequent rural employment schemes and contributed significantly to the socio-economic development of rural India

Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

The Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a pilot program. It was launched on April 1, 1999, by the Government of India as a comprehensive self-employment program. It was a holistic scheme integrating various aspects of self-employment, including training, credit, technology, infrastructure, and marketing, with a primary focus on promoting sustainable livelihoods by Self-Help Groups.

Objectives

1. Self-Employment: To raise the standards of the poor families from below poverty line. Formation of Self-Help Groups among unemployed persons

by giving bank linkages and subsidies.

2. Empowerment: To empower the rural poor, especially women and vulnerable sections of society, by providing them with opportunities for gainful self-employment.
3. Sustainable Livelihoods: To ensure long-term sustainability of income-generating activities through skill development, training, and infrastructure support.

Key Features

1. Formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs): The cornerstone of SGSY was the formation and nurturing of SHGs, which are groups of 10-20 individuals (mainly women) from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families who come together to start income-generating activities.
2. Subsidy and Credit: SGSY provided a combination of subsidies from the government and credit from financial institutions. The subsidy was linked to the bank loan and was capped at 30% of the project cost for general category beneficiaries and 50% for SC/ST beneficiaries, subject to a maximum limit.
3. Capacity Building and Training: The program emphasized the importance of capacity building and skill development. Beneficiaries received training to enhance their skills and entrepreneurial abilities to successfully run their enterprises.
4. Infrastructure Development: SGSY facilitated the creation of necessary infrastructure and common facilities for SHGs, including production centers, training facilities, and marketing infrastructure.
5. Marketing Support: The program aimed to provide comprehensive marketing support to ensure that the products produced by SHGs could find a ready market. This included setting up of rural haats (markets), exhibitions, and support in branding and packaging.

6. Revolving Fund: SHGs were provided with a revolving fund to build up their financial base and meet their working capital needs.

Implementation Mechanism

1. Identification of Beneficiaries: The identification of BPL families was conducted through surveys, and the selection of beneficiaries was done in a transparent manner.
2. Planning: Detailed project reports (DPRs) were prepared for each SHG, outlining the income-generating activities and the necessary support required.
3. Training and Capacity Building: Training programs were conducted to equip SHG members with the necessary skills. This included basic orientation, skill development, and managerial training.
4. Credit Linkage: SHGs were linked to banks for accessing credit. The loans were provided at subsidized interest rates.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation were carried out at various levels to ensure effective implementation and to address any issues promptly.

Achievements

1. Empowerment of Women: A significant number of SHGs formed under SGSY were women-centric, leading to the socio-economic empowerment of rural women.
2. Income Generation: Many SHGs successfully started various income-generating activities, resulting in improved livelihoods and income levels for the members.

3. **Skill Development:** The training and capacity-building initiatives under SGSY enhanced the skills and entrepreneurial capabilities of the rural poor.

Challenges

1. **Credit Access:** Despite the program's efforts, some SHGs faced difficulties in accessing credit from banks due to various reasons, including lack of collateral and high perceived risks by the banks.
2. **Sustainability:** Ensuring the sustainability of SHG activities was a challenge, especially in the absence of continuous handholding and support.
3. **Market Linkages:** Establishing robust market linkages for the products produced by SHGs remained a challenge, affecting the profitability of the enterprises.

Evolution and Successor Programs

SGSY was restructured into the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in 2011, also known as Aajeevika. NRLM aimed to address the shortcomings of SGSY by providing a more comprehensive and focused approach to rural poverty alleviation through self-employment and skill development.

Conclusion

The Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) successfully played an important role in bringing the rural people into a state of socio-economic standards like the others. While it faced certain challenges, the program laid a strong foundation for subsequent rural development initiatives like NRLM, which continue to build on its legacy and work towards sustainable rural livelihoods.

Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM):

The Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) was an

initiative launched by the Government of India in 1979 as part of its broader strategy to address rural unemployment and poverty.

Objectives

1. Skill Development: To provide technical and vocational training to rural youth, equipping them with skills that can help them secure self-employment.
2. Employment Generation: To create opportunities for gainful employment in rural areas through skill enhancement.
3. Poverty Alleviation: To reduce rural poverty by increasing the employability and income-generating capabilities of rural youth.
4. Entrepreneurship Promotion: To encourage and support rural youth in starting their own enterprises.

Target Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of TRYSEM were rural youth in the age group of 18-35 years. Special emphasis was placed on:

- Youth from families below the poverty line (BPL)
- Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- Women
- Disabled individuals

Key Features

1. Training Programs: TRYSEM provided a variety of training programs tailored to the local needs and available resources. Training included both technical skills and soft skills essential for running a business.

2. Collaboration with Institutions: The program collaborated with various training institutions, including Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), polytechnics, and other vocational training centers.
3. Duration and Content: Training programs typically last between six months and a year, covering practical and theoretical aspects of various trades.
4. Financial Assistance: Participants were given stipends during the training period to support their subsistence. Additionally, they received assistance in accessing credit to start their ventures post-training.
5. Entrepreneurial Support: TRYSEM included components for entrepreneurial development, such as guidance on business planning, marketing strategies, and financial management.

Implementation Mechanism

1. Identification of Beneficiaries: Rural youth were identified through surveys and community participation, ensuring that the selection process was transparent and inclusive.
2. Training Delivery: Training programs were delivered through a network of approved training centers. The curriculum was designed to be relevant to local economic activities and market needs.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation were conducted to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the training programs. Feedback from participants was used to make necessary improvements.

Achievements

1. Skill Enhancement: TRYSEM successfully enhanced the technical and entrepreneurial skills of numerous rural youth, making them more employable and capable of starting their own enterprises.
2. Employment Generation: Many trained youth were able to secure self-

employment or wage employment, contributing to the reduction of rural unemployment.

3. **Empowerment of Marginalized Groups:** The program particularly benefited marginalized groups, including SC/ST youth and women, by providing them with opportunities for economic independence.

Challenges

1. **Quality of Training:** In some cases, the quality of training provided was not up to the mark due to inadequate infrastructure and lack of skilled trainers.
2. **Post-Training Support:** Limited post-training support and handholding were available for the trainees to help them establish their businesses successfully.
3. **Market Linkages:** Ensuring market linkages for the products and services offered by the trained youth remained a challenge, affecting the sustainability of their enterprises.

Evolution and Integration

In 1999, TRYSEM was merged with the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to create a more comprehensive rural development program that integrated various aspects of self-employment and skill development. The focus on skill development continued under SGSY and later under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

Conclusion

The Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) played a crucial role in addressing rural unemployment by equipping rural youth with essential skills for self-employment. Despite its challenges, the program made significant contributions to rural development and poverty alleviation. The principles and lessons learned from TRYSEM have continued to inform subsequent rural development initiatives in India.

Integrated Child Development Program (ICDS):

The Integrated Child Development Program (ICDS) is launched by the Government of India on October 2, 1975. The main aim of this program was to improve the standards of children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

This program represents one of the world's largest and most unique community-based outreach programs, providing a package of services to combat malnutrition and support child development.

Objectives

1. Holistic Development: To offer a full range of programs to support children under six years old in their overall development
2. Nutritional Improvement: To enhance children's health and nutritional status.
3. Education and Awareness: To provide the groundwork for healthy social, physical, and psychological growth.
4. Mother and Child Care: To improve mothers' capacity to care for both their own and their children's health and nutrition.
5. Poverty Alleviation: Reducing the rates of illness, death, starvation and school drop out.

Target Beneficiaries

Children under the age of 6, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls are the main beneficiaries of ICDS.

Key Features

1. Package of Services: ICDS provides an integrated package of six services, delivered through Anganwadi Centers (AWCs):

- Supplementary Nutrition: To bridge the calorie gap between the national recommended dietary allowance and the average dietary intake of children and mothers.
 - Immunization: To protect children and mothers against six vaccine-preventable diseases.
 - Health Check-ups: Regular health check-ups for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
 - Referral Services: For serious cases detected during health check-ups.
 - Pre-school Non-formal Education: Early childhood care and education for children aged 3-6 years.
 - Nutrition and Health Education: Education for mothers and women on how to improve their nutritional and health practices.
2. Anganwadi Centers (AWCs): These are the focal points for the delivery of ICDS services, managed by Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and helpers. Each AWC caters to a population of about 1,000.
 3. Community Involvement: Emphasis on community participation and involvement to ensure the program's success and sustainability.
 4. Intersectoral Coordination: The program ensures coordination between various sectors like health, education, and social welfare to provide comprehensive services.

Implementation Mechanism

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development: The program is implemented under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

2. State Governments and Union Territories: The program is implemented by state governments and union territories with financial and technical support from the central government.
3. Anganwadi Workers and Helpers: These employees play important role in the service delivery of Integrated Child Development Services at the grassroot level.

Achievements

1. Nutritional Improvement: Significant reduction in the levels of malnutrition among children and pregnant/lactating women.
2. Child Development: Improvement in early childhood care and education, leading to better school readiness and reduced dropout rates.
3. Health Outcomes: Increased immunization coverage and improved health check-up outcomes for children and mothers.
4. Empowerment of Women: Enhanced capability of mothers to look after their health and nutrition and that of their children.

Challenges

1. Infrastructure and Resources: Inadequate infrastructure and resources in some areas, leading to disparities in service delivery.
2. Quality of Services: Variability in the quality of services provided at different AWCs due to insufficient training and support for AWWs.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation: Need for more effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track program outcomes and impact.
4. Community Participation: Ensuring sustained community involvement and participation in program activities.

Evolution and Integration

Over the years, ICDS has undergone several modifications and expansions to enhance its effectiveness and reach. The program has integrated with various other schemes and initiatives to broaden its impact, such as the National Health Mission (NHM) and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

Conclusion

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program has been instrumental in addressing the health, nutrition, and educational needs of young children and mothers in India. Despite facing challenges, it has made significant strides in reducing malnutrition, improving child health, and supporting early childhood development. The continued focus on enhancing service quality, infrastructure, and community participation is essential to ensure the sustained success and impact of ICDS.

The Desert Development Program (DDP):

The Desert Development Program (DDP) was launched by the Government of India in 1977-78 to combat desertification and promote the development of desert areas. It aims to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification and improve the living conditions of the people residing in these arid regions. The program focuses on sustainable development through integrated planning and management of land, water, and other natural resources.

Objectives

1. **Desertification Control:** To arrest and reverse the process of desertification by adopting appropriate measures.
2. **Livelihood Improvement:** To improve the economic conditions of people living in desert areas by promoting sustainable livelihoods.
3. **Natural Resource Management:** To promote the conservation, development, and sustainable management of natural resources such as land, water, and vegetation.

4. Drought Mitigation: To mitigate the impact of droughts and enhance the resilience of communities in desert areas.
5. Infrastructure Development: To develop infrastructure that supports sustainable development in desert regions.

Target Areas

The DDP primarily targets areas classified as arid and semi-arid, which are characterized by low rainfall, high evaporation rates, and sparse vegetation. The program covers the following states:

- Rajasthan
- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Punjab
- Karnataka
- Andhra Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Jammu & Kashmir
- Himachal Pradesh

Key Features

1. Watershed Development: The program adopts a watershed approach for the holistic development of desert areas. Watershed management involves the conservation and efficient utilization of water resources to improve agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable water availability.
2. Afforestation and Agroforestry: DDP promotes afforestation and agroforestry practices to increase vegetation cover, prevent soil erosion, and

improve the micro-climate of desert regions.

3. **Soil and Water Conservation:** Various soil and water conservation measures, such as contour bunding, check dams, and water harvesting structures, are implemented to prevent soil erosion and enhance groundwater recharge.
4. **Livelihood Support:** The program provides support for income-generating activities such as livestock rearing, horticulture, and handicrafts to improve the livelihoods of people in desert areas.
5. **Community Participation:** Emphasis is placed on involving local communities in planning, implementation, and maintenance of development activities. This participatory approach ensures that the interventions are sustainable and meet the needs of the people.
6. **Capacity Building:** Training and capacity-building programs are conducted for local communities, government officials, and other stakeholders to enhance their skills and knowledge in natural resource management and sustainable development practices.

Implementation Mechanism

1. **Ministry of Rural Development:** The DDP is implemented under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, which provides overall policy direction and funding.
2. **State Governments:** State governments are responsible for the implementation of the program at the state level. They prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) and ensure the effective execution of project activities.
3. **District and Block-Level Agencies:** District and block-level agencies, including the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), play a crucial role in the grassroots

implementation of the program.

4. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) are involved in mobilizing communities, providing technical support, and ensuring the participation of local people.

Achievements

1. Increased Vegetation Cover: The program has successfully increased vegetation cover in many desert areas through afforestation and agroforestry initiatives.
2. Improved Water Availability: Soil and water conservation measures have improved groundwater recharge and availability of water for agriculture and other uses.
3. Enhanced Livelihoods: Livelihood support activities have provided alternative income sources for people in desert regions, reducing their dependence on traditional agriculture.
4. Community Empowerment: The participatory approach has empowered local communities, making them active stakeholders in the development process.

Challenges

1. Climate Variability: The inherent climate variability and extreme weather conditions in desert areas pose significant challenges to sustainable development efforts.
2. Resource Constraints: Limited financial and technical resources can hinder the effective implementation of the program.
3. Sustainability: Ensuring the long-term sustainability of interventions, especially after the withdrawal of external support, remains a challenge.
4. Infrastructure Development: Developing adequate infrastructure in remote

and harsh desert areas is often difficult and costly.

Conclusion

The Desert Development Programme (DDP) has played a vital role in addressing the challenges of desertification and improving the livelihoods of people in desert areas. Through a combination of watershed development, afforestation, soil and water conservation, and livelihood support activities, the program has made significant strides in promoting sustainable development in arid and semi-arid regions.

Despite the challenges, the participatory approach and focus on community empowerment have ensured that the interventions are well-received and have a lasting impact on the targeted communities.

Continued efforts and support are essential to build on these achievements and ensure the sustainable development of desert regions in India.

Jeevan Dhara Yojana:

The Jeevan Dhara Yojana is a water conservation and management initiative launched by the Government of India to address water scarcity issues, particularly in drought-prone and arid regions. The program aims to ensure the availability of water for irrigation, drinking, and other essential purposes by implementing effective water conservation techniques and sustainable management practices.

Objectives

1. **Water Conservation:** To conserve and efficiently utilize available water resources.
2. **Drought Mitigation:** To mitigate the impact of droughts and ensure water availability during dry seasons.
3. **Agricultural Productivity:** To enhance agricultural productivity by providing

a reliable water supply for irrigation.

4. Community Involvement: To involve local communities in water management and conservation efforts.
5. Sustainable Development: To promote sustainable water management practices that ensure long-term water availability.

Key Features

1. Rainwater Harvesting: Promotion and construction of rainwater harvesting structures to capture and store rainwater for various uses.
2. Watershed Management: Implementation of watershed management practices to prevent soil erosion,

enhance groundwater recharge, and improve water retention in the soil.
3. Check Dams and Nala Bunding: Construction of check dams and nala bunding (small earthen dams built across streams) to control the flow of water, prevent soil erosion, and improve groundwater recharge.
4. Water Storage Structures: Development of water storage structures such as ponds, tanks, and reservoirs to store excess rainwater and use it during dry periods.
5. Afforestation and Plantation: Encouragement of afforestation and plantation activities to increase vegetation cover, which helps in water retention and reducing soil erosion.
6. Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation: Promotion of efficient irrigation techniques like drip and sprinkler irrigation to reduce water wastage and increase water use efficiency in agriculture.
7. Awareness and Training: Conducting awareness campaigns and training programs for local communities on water conservation techniques, efficient

water use, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Implementation Mechanism

1. Ministry of Water Resources: The program is implemented under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, which provides policy direction and funding.
2. State Governments: State governments are responsible for the implementation of the program at the state level, including planning, execution, and monitoring of water conservation activities.
3. District and Block-Level Agencies: District and block-level agencies, including District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), play a crucial role in the grassroots implementation of the program.
4. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) are involved in mobilizing communities, providing technical support, and ensuring the participation of local people.

Achievements

1. Improved Water Availability: The program has significantly improved water availability for irrigation, drinking, and other purposes in drought-prone and arid regions.
2. Enhanced Agricultural Productivity: Reliable water supply has led to increased agricultural productivity and reduced crop failures due to water scarcity.
3. Community Empowerment: The involvement of local communities in water management has empowered them to take ownership of water conservation efforts.
4. Groundwater Recharge: Effective water conservation measures have

improved groundwater levels and reduced the depletion of aquifers.

Challenges

1. **Climate Variability:** Unpredictable rainfall patterns and extreme weather events pose significant challenges to water conservation efforts.
2. **Resource Constraints:** Limited financial and technical resources can hinder the effective implementation of the program.
3. **Maintenance of Structures:** Ensuring the regular maintenance and upkeep of water conservation structures is crucial for their long-term effectiveness.
4. **Community Participation:** Sustaining community participation and ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits among all community members can be challenging.

Conclusion

The Jeevan Dhara Yojana is a critical initiative aimed at addressing water scarcity and promoting sustainable water management practices in India. By focusing on water conservation, efficient water use, and community involvement, the program has made significant strides in improving water availability and enhancing agricultural productivity in drought-prone and arid regions. Continued efforts and support are essential to build on these achievements and ensure the long-term sustainability of water resources in the country.

Kuteer Jyoti Schemes:

Kuteer Jyoti Scheme is a free electricity scheme. Under this scheme, people below the poverty line, bonded labourers, and SCs, and STs are covered. It is a very successful program that has made new electricity lines and connections available to the uncovered area.

Kalpataru Scheme:

The Kalpataru Scheme was introduced in 2003- 2004. Under this scheme, the rural youth were given self-employment. The Boys and girls identified as living below the poverty line are given a chance to engage themselves on a priority basis.

FINDINGS:

The rural development initiative in India is an effort of a chain of targeted schemes and programs aimed at achieving poverty alleviation, employment generation, and empowerment of vulnerable groups, and to provide an ease of living to the rural people. One of the very important programs was the Integrated Rural Development Program (1978), aimed at promoting self-employment and asset generation among the people of rural India. This programme achieved a lot of success in providing financial support, training, and uplifting many families above poverty. The integrated Rural Development Program converged with many schemes and, in the initial years, found a place in the rural development agenda in post-independent India. The limitations of the said program were many, like improper beneficiary identification and inadequate post-training support. The Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (1999) emphasized the creation of Self-Help Groups to empower women and reserved categories. The program was a success in skill development and income generation, credit access, and market linkage. The National Rural Livelihood Mission was also inspired by the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (1999) in many ways. In line with the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (1999), the Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) aimed to address youth unemployment by providing vocational training and entrepreneurial support.

In the welfare direction, the Integrated Child Development Services 1975 (ICDS) has been a milestone in solving child malnutrition and maternal health. It is a successful program in child development indicators and community participation.

Ecological balance is a must in the global scenario. The Desert Development Program (DDP) and Jeevan Dhara Yojana, like many others, have targeted watershed development, afforestation, and water conservation. The result is visible

as it has recharged the groundwater and improved livelihoods. Many issues, such as climate change, pose a persistent threat to these programs.

In conclusion, these programs represent a holistic approach to rural development. Mass political participation, literacy, capacity building, asset creation, banking facilities, and loan availability greatly impacted rural people's lives. However, many challenges, such as poor implementation, resource allocation, proper training, community mobilization, lack of technology, communication gap, and above all, utilization of ICT, are to be looked into sincerely by the government.

National Family Benefits Scheme:

The National Family Benefits Scheme Printed to provide financial assistance of ₹10,000 to poor families when the main earning person dies within 63 years of age.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The original constitution of India mentions Panchayati Raj Institutions in Article 40, Directive Principles of State Policy. After many state-level interventions and efforts, it was only in 1992-1993 that Local-Level Governance in India gained recognition with the passage of the 73rd Amendment Act. After long years of journey of Local self-governance, however, it is seen that the success rate of development is not as satisfactory as it should be in the context of Sambalpur in general and Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in particular in the state of Odisha.

1.2 Nature of the Problem

Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat is situated near the headquarters of Kuchinda Block Development Office of Sambalpur District. The focus of development could be more on the Gram Panchayat, as it is being given, as it is located in a prominent place that connects many people from different parts to the Block headquarters. Kuturachuan is in the center of many villages, including Kirashasan and Satakama

villages, as the researcher's study area. It is rightly called a center because it has one model High school and Higher Secondary School (+2 College), one Primary Health Centre, a Revenue office, and many others. However, the living standards of that area are not satisfactory compared to other places in the Kuchinda Block. It is quite remarkable that the functioning of the Gram Panchayat is greatly affected by the domination of bureaucracy and inadequate financial allocation support. The incompatible relations among the three tiers are quite evident. The decision-making body is politically biased. The uncordial relationship between people and the Panchayat officials is clearly seen.

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To study in detail the Panchayati Raj Act in line with the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, with special reference to Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in Odisha.
2. To examine the structural and functional aspects of Panchayati Raj in Odisha.
3. To identify the problems and constraints to make the local self-government bodies effective units of participatory democracy.
4. To suggest effective solutions for the efficient and effective implementation of the Panchayati Raj Act. in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat of Odisha.

1.4 Research Questions

- a) What factors usually affect the developmental programs at the Panchayat level in the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat region in Odisha?
- b) What are the successful models of development in Panchayati Raj Institutions in our country?
- c) Has this region succeeded in rural development after implementing the 73rd Amendment Act 1992?
- d) To what extent has the concept of women empowerment gained roots in

Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat?

- e) Why have the people in the study area not attained a better standard of living despite the implementation of numerous development programs over many years?
- f) How has Panchayati Raj contributed to the overall development of this region?

1.5 LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter is to examine the previous literature relevant to the present topic, offering a suitable direction and viewpoint for the research. A multitude of academics and researchers have conducted thorough investigations into the topic of Local Self-Government, leading to a vast body of literature on rural development programs and other facets of Panchayati Raj institutions. Panchayati Raj institutions have been instrumental in fostering citizen engagement and enhancing the quality of life since the attainment of independence. Panchayati Raj, as a crucial and momentous aspect of participatory democracy in development management, has continually garnered the interest of scholars, academics, political leaders, bureaucrats, and researchers, both inside India and outside.

Chaubey, A. (2023). Panchayati Raj Institutions in India: A Grass Root Level of Democracy. The Panchayati Raj Institutions exemplify India's federal democratic structure, emphasizing the significance of rural development in maintaining a smoothly functioning democratic system. They are primarily dedicated to the development of rural areas within the country.

Saini, K. K. (2015). By addressing challenges, PRIs can effectively fulfill their role as local self-governance bodies, promoting grassroots democracy, empowering marginalized communities, and driving sustainable and equitable development at the village level. Strengthening PRIs is essential to promoting inclusive governance, ensuring effective resource utilization, and meeting local communities' diverse needs and aspirations. This will contribute to the overall

development and well-being of rural areas in India.

Kumar, & M, Ayoub. (2023). The 73rd constitutional amendment facilitates women's participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions by reserving one-third of the seats for them. This historic change marked the beginning of women's active engagement outside their homes, contributing significantly to the nation's representation in policymaking at all levels. Efforts were made to combat illiteracy among them. This transformation empowered women, fostering a deeper understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and rights within the family and society.

Alam, & Thakuri, P. Looking back at India's history, it is evident that Panchayati Raj Institutions have a long-standing presence, closely resembling the contemporary system of local governance. This institution has evolved, passing through different phases, and has ultimately transformed into its present structure. This exploration aims to comprehend the essence and significance of the Panchayati Raj System in India by tracing its historical legacy and evolutionary journey.

Soren, P., & Naik, I. C. (2023). The indigenous tribes of India have a deep-rooted connection with the forests, upon which their lives and livelihoods are intricately dependent. Forest ecosystems play a pivotal role in preserving biodiversity, ensuring watershed protection, and sustaining the well-being of indigenous communities. In Odisha, forests are not merely a natural resource but are also perceived as an asset. For generations, tribal communities in Odisha have maintained a profound interdependence with the forests, aligning their customs, culture, and way of life with the forest environment. These natural landscapes fulfill a wide array of needs for forest dwellers, encompassing social, economic, cultural, religious, and medicinal aspects. Beyond these fundamental connections, there is a distinct focus on the role of Panchayati Raj institutions in forest resource management for the welfare of tribal communities. The study delves into the extent of awareness among tribal members, particularly after the enactment of the Panchayat Extension to the Scheduled Area Act.

Tripathi, J. (2023). Political participation refers to active involvement in political activities. Progress in society cannot be achieved without the active contribution of women, who make up a significant portion of the population. Women play a crucial role in administrative responsibilities and leadership, and their participation is essential for the comprehensive development of society. Panchayati Raj Institutions have provided women with opportunities to participate in various aspects of governance. Through their active engagement in these institutions, women are demonstrating their decision-making capabilities, contributing to the multifaceted development of rural society, including financial, social, and educational aspects.

Dalal, R. S., & Dhillon, S. (2023). Governance is a dynamic process that hinges on the principle that the full benefits of democratic government can only be realized when society acknowledges that issues should be addressed at the local level by those who are most affected. In the context of a developing nation like India, fostering social change and economic progress necessitates effective communication so that local committees and individuals can actively participate, channel local energy, enthusiasm, and resources, and undertake local development initiatives under favorable local conditions. India's manifestation of democratic decentralization is exemplified by the establishment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). These institutions were constitutionally formalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. The Panchayati Raj (PR) System, in its current form, has been operational for over seven decades, offering a substantial timeframe for evaluating its objectives. Consequently, it is both relevant and imperative to conduct a comprehensive analysis of democratic, decentralized governance in India, particularly concerning PRIs.

Sahoo, J. (2023). The traditional global order has given way to one marked by a blend of uncertainties alongside vast potential and prospects. However, the planet's population has surged to approximately 7.8 billion, leading to a multitude of challenges across diverse political systems. Despite persistent threats to human existence, there is optimism in the potential synergy of "democracy," "governance,"

and “public policy” to pave the way for a more promising world.

Nagaraju, Boska. (2022). Panchayat Raj Institution (PRIs) plays a central role in program implementation and is the foundation of decentralized planning and its execution. Their primary objective is to realize Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of village self-governance (Gram Swaraj) and serve as a potent instrument for rural development and rebuilding.

Sheikh, Y. (2023).From time to time, panchayat raj institutions in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir carried out many rural development programs to develop the rural area. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir assures people’s participation in developmental activities and in local governance institutions with adequate gender, class, and caste representation as per the need of the amendment package.

Kumar, M. S., & Singh, M. (2022). Role Of Panchayati Raj in Rendering Social, Political, And Economic Justice: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, Odisha, the decentralization of power has become a crucial tool for designing development plans and programs at the grassroots level in India. The Constitutional position of decentralization enables the Panchayati Raj system to enhance infrastructure and execute development programs, particularly in rural and tribal regions requiring assistance. This method aims to foster sustainable and inclusive development for those living below the poverty threshold and those who are marginally impoverished. By empowering local governance structures, such as Gram Panchayats, and involving communities in decision-making and development initiatives, the dream of achieving the Millennium Development Goals becomes more attainable. This approach aligns with the broader objectives of democratic decentralization in India, which seeks to ensure people's participation in development and governance processes, ultimately leading to more inclusive and effective development outcomes.

Das, M. (2022). “Panchayati Raj Institutions in India.” The Panchayati Raj has become an instrument of grassroots democracy. With the implementation of the 73rd Amendment Act. 1992, it is hoped that the fullest achievement of the basic objectives of this constitutional Provision will be achieved. Addressing local needs will strengthen the Panchayati Raj. The author says that it is the closest democratic experience. It promotes the political participation of the local people.

Baruah, R. (2022). “A Study on Evolution of Panchayati Raj System in Assam.” Democracy is a form of government that is widely popular as the government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Active participation of individuals makes democracy successful. The establishment of grassroots democracy in India was achieved by the invention of Panchayati Raj institutions. Panchayat Raj provides a self-government system and has become an instrument of democratic decentralization and socio-economic transformation in rural India. Empowerment of people in the decision-making process in local governments, as well as in politics, makes people more responsive to addressing local needs.

Ratra, P., & Dahiya, J. (2022). “Decentralization and Challenges Related to Panchayati Raj Institutions in India.” Devolution of power to local organizations makes them autonomous in fiscal, political, and administrative fields. Panchayat Raj institutions are the backbone of Indian social life, so the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992, 100 over constitutional status and made them more transparent, answerable, and efficient. According to the World Bank (2007), “fiscal autonomy is the key element of decentralization, and the local government autonomy cannot be sustained without the proper fiscal empowerment invested.” The 14th Finance Commission found out that the Gram Panchayat's source of revenue is very little. Gram Panchayats are mostly dependent on state and central government funds. So, to make Panchayat Raj Institutions successful, the central government should take steps for solid fiscal aspects.

Reddy, M. G., & Mohapatra, B. P. (2022). “Finances of Panchayats and status of Own Revenues in Telangana state: A Critique” The author studied the financial position of a Gram Panchayat referring to the 73rd Constitutional

Amendment Act 1992 and Telangana State Panchayat Raj Act and the 1st State Finance Commission (SFC). This article is a small part of the entire study. It was found that panchayats' revenue is inadequate for proactively undertaking developmental activities. Both the Central Government and State Governments face challenges while imposing and implementing taxation. This article suggests four greater devolutions of subjects and more revenue for Texas from the state finance Commission to meet the needs of the service delivery functions.

Behera, B.(2021). “A Comparative Assessment of Functioning of Autonomous District Councils and Panchayati Raj in India: A Case Study of Tripura tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.” The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 is an instrument for rural development to the constitutional machinery, while the tribal-dominated states under the 5th and 6th schedules of the constitution were in a dilemma as to either interfere with Panchayat Raj Institutions or operate with their traditional pattern of self-government institutions. As time passed, the different state commands changed their previous rules with amendments.

Kumari, V. (2021). “Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development: A Critical Assessment.” This article found that the change in the socio-political aspect has not been largely achieved. Concepts like social equality, gender equality, and the level of leadership are yet to be fulfilled. Better performance of the local self-government needs the devolution of power and finance. The author suggested proper planning; otherwise, the system of the Panchayati Raj would be a big failure. Gram Sabha should be given proper weightage and shape to foster local governance. The author again suggested setting up the minimum qualifications for panchayat representatives.

Sharanappa, K. C. (2021). “A Sociological Analysis of Panchayath Raj and Rural Development Program in India.” Mahatma Gandhi's view is that the development of a nation depends on the development of villages. So, the local and central governments are, from time to time, delegating their powers to the village republics. 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 is a pioneering step of constitutional importance to Panchayati Raj institutions, which is directly a way towards

decentralization of powers. With powers in hand, the grassroots level of the country is planning for its own growth, recognizing its own needs and requirements. Rural development could be possible with the help of proper planning and programs. So, the central government is looking towards comprehensive growth of the rural areas and introducing a number of developmental schemes like PMGSY and MGNREGS. etc. On the other hand, many reasons hindering development are illiteracy, lack of awareness, ignorance, political bias, social stigma, and political background.

Sharanappa, K. C. (2021). “Review of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment: Issues and Challenges” Gram Swaraj was a great idea of our Father of Nation, and the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 made it functional. Drastic Changes in structures and functions were brought through this Act in Panchayati Raj Institutions, such as the introduction of reservations in presidents/ sarpanches and ward members for SCs and STs as per the population and one-third seats for women candidates. The author found out that there is no clarity in relation to powers and functions, which affects the functioning of the Panchayati Raj System. In the matter of all Twenty-Nine subjects and the XI Schedule, it is seen that all the powers have not been transferred to Panchayat Bodies. In some cases, state political leaders are not favorable to uplifting and empowering the downtrodden, marginalized groups.

Gangamali, S. B. (2018). “Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Development of Primary Education”. In this scholarly article, it is found that education plays an important role in the development of people. Society, as well as the nation, is known for its educational achievements. The adjustments between man and the environment require humanity, which is a result of better education. To make life better and luxurious, we must realize the importance of education. A sense of responsibility comes from education and awareness, and more so, it trains human beings to lead a standard life and be good citizens. Panchayats are playing a greater role in the uplifting and spreading of education and sustainable development. The eradication of illiteracy and the spreading of Primary Education, Gram Panchayats are doing yeomen’s service.

Rajiv. (2018). Information Needs of Gram Panchayat Members: A Study of Kurukshetra District, Haryana, revealed that information plays an active role in development. So, every Gram Panchayat should have an Information center to inform people about different rural development programs. The Information Center plays a great role. The library, Newspapers, and other sources of information might be provided to connect people in the country's development process.

Bhanja. (2017). Panchayati Raj in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh In his study, he found out that many changes have taken place in Arunachal Pradesh Village Councils. Earlier, it was an unorganized, fragmented community and tribes. Panchayati Raj gave them a new dimension in forming the Arunachal Civil Society. It is also realized that the spread of education can broaden the scope of political participation in the community.

Benni, S. (2017). A Study on Panchayat Raj Institutions in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act This study focused on women's empowerment and participation in various programs like MNREGA, IAY, and SGRY to reap the fruits of both central and state government schemes and programs. Poverty eradication can also be possible with the help of active participation and pumps in old self-help groups in both rural and urban areas.

Sagar, N., &Shilpa, H. L. (2017). E-Services of Gram Panchayat System, modernization and computerization of Gram Panchayats Gram Panchayats can give everyone access to the noble institution's day-to-day affairs with the help of e-services. Anybody can approach the job through online applications, digital payment, updating of work progress, annual budget, and estimates, and expenditures can be done smoothly. The status report of every work can easily be accessed by the implementing authority and institutions

Khan, M. Nasrullah. (2017). A journal on the Role of Gram a Panchayat: A special reference in Uttar Kanada District, in this article, the role of Gram Sabha in promoting accountability and transparency has made the panchayat Raj system much active. To achieve sustainable goals of approval development with the help of

decentralized governance, Gram Sabha can be a pioneering point. Active participation in Gram Panchayat can make the concept of grassroots democracy fruitful.

Kadam, N. (2017). Panchayat Raj Institution and Rural Development in India: Structural and Functional Dimension From this literature, it is found that the active participation of both males and females can make the Gram Panchayat successful. It is also mentioned in the Rigveda that the concept of sabhas and samiti's, Panchayat, was used in ancient times. Respected and wise elderly people were chosen by the village to represent them in that assembly and to bring out formulas for the smooth running of society. Any sort of dispute was resolved primarily by those ancient bodies.

Priya Lakshmi, C. (2016). In the paper “Present Scenario of Panchayati Raj in India,” the author discusses the role of the rural development ministry and the Panchayat Raj department. When the departments integrate themselves, it would greatly help the local administration of India, making it easier for the rural people to appeal for redressal of grievances when it is the same forum for approach. When both ministries merge with the Ministry of Rural Development, the government of India can take immediate steps to empower the Panchayat Raj system.

Prasad. (1980). According to him, the role of the local government declined after independence. In the British period, most of the work of district councils and urban bodies was given to state governments. In some states, administrators were appointed to look after the affairs. In 1958, Bihar district and sub-district councils were dissolved. The elections to the councils were held in 1946, and no such elections have been held since.

Prasad, A. (1977). Suggested that the composition of rural local self-government should be based on the principle of democratic decentralization. Democratic decentralization, too, has negative results in helping the growth of the rural bureaucracy.

Bjorkman. (2015). In another work, Bjorkman argued that the performance of the Panchayati Raj did not fulfill the desires of the planners. Rather, it failed to comply with them. Panchayati Raj nourished the concept of institutionalizing politics and government at the grass-roots level or in the village level. For example, a state like Bihar neglected the Panchayati Raj institutions to a great extent.

Bhandari, L. (2014). In his report titled “Survey in 23 States for the Panchayat Strengthening Index 2013-14,” the author presents a brief account of the structure of Panchayats in the context of the state of Odisha. The Government of India Act of 1935 gave Odisha the status of a new province and also made provisions for the constitution of a Provincial Assembly. Thus, after Independence, the new Assembly passed the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act 1948.

During 1958-1961, Community Development (CD) Blocks were set up in selected areas of the state. The first Odisha Zilla Parishad Act was enacted in 1959 and subsequently amended as the Odisha Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Act, 1959, in the year 1961 (Odisha Act 24 of 1961). This act is now referred to as the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act of 1960. In 1961, a 3-tier system of Panchayati Raj Institutions was established in the State. The intermediate tier, or the Panchayat Samiti, was made the implementing agency for all programs. All funds for Community Development were given as grant-in-aid to the Samitis. The Gram Panchayat was treated as the unit for the formulation of developmental programs. Zilla Parishads were to function as the supervisory body in charge of preparing the master plan for development programs. Zilla Parishads, which were abolished in 1968, were established again after the implementation of the Odisha Zilla Parishad Act in 1991.

In 1992, the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution mandated that the government endow Panchayati Raj Institutions with the powers and authority necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. After the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, the panchayat laws were amended according to the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment as given below:

Reservation of seats in favor of SC, ST, OBC, and women

Constitution of the Election Commission and Finance Commission. The 5-year tenure for Panchayats.

Redefinition of the Powers and Functions of the Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha.

Pursuant to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992, Odisha has suitably amended the existing Panchayati laws, including the Odisha Zilla Parishad Act 1991, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act 1959, and the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act 1964. Under the legislation, as it stands amended, Panchayats at all three levels have been entrusted with duties and functions regarding 21 matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. Odisha Panchayat laws were amended to keep them in line with the provisions of the 73rd Amendment and the Provisions of Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA). Odisha was the first State to conduct PRI elections in accordance with the PESA Act in 2002. All the offices of elected heads of 3-tier PRIs in Scheduled Areas have been reserved for STs. Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha have been given more statutory power after the PESA Act came into force.

Neog, R. (2014). “Panchayat and Rural Development: A Case Study of Amguri under Siva Sager District, Assam, India.” The Gram Panchayat has been seen as the cornerstone of rural development. He discovered that his field of study offers several developmental initiatives to improve rural communities' lives, including programs like PMGSY, IAY, NREGA, and others, which are implemented at both the state and national levels. In addition, some significant projects, such as the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana, Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment, and Total Sanitation Scheme, do not now have a supporting function. After conducting a thorough analysis, it was shown that these projects have a low rate of improving the conditions of the village, given the current pace of population growth.

Ramya, T. (2014).In the paper “The Role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in Rural Development in General and a tribal village of a Backward District in Arunachal Pradesh.” The author asserts that since achieving independence, the primary focus has been on ensuring effective governance and promoting comprehensive national development. Prior to the 73rd Amendment Act of the Constitution of India in 1992, the primary focus of development plans was on sectors such as agriculture, commerce, industry, education, and health. However, it was discovered that the absence of rural development would hinder the rate of progress. Panchayat Raj Institutions were established by the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992. The Ministry of Rural Development oversees a department dedicated to the development of rural areas in India. Panchayats are anticipated to significantly impact the advancement of rural areas in India. Multiple studies were conducted by both the national and state governments, as well as other committees.

. **Mohapatra, B. P. (2018).** in his scholarly article “ Panchayats under the PESA Act in Odisha – A Study of Two Gram Panchayats,” mentioned that in the case of Odisha, an extension of this Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act 1996) to the fifth scheduled areas of the State came into force in 1997 as per the Odisha Panchayati Raj Amendment Act (Odisha Gram Panchayat Amendment Act (1997), Odisha Panchayat Samiti Amendment Act (1997) and Odisha Zilla Parishad Amendment Act (1997).However, the State was not able to make a full-fledged State-specific rule keeping the spirit of this act in mind, notwithstanding the constant demand raised by academic and civil society circles (NGOs) in the State. However, keeping the spirit of this act in mind, the state government has drafted the State PESA Rule, which is expected to get a legislative accord soon. It is believed that the act has been implemented in the State, notwithstanding the absence of a full-fledged state-specific rule with regard to that act. However, it is argued that despite the implementation of this act, the tribal areas are continuously thriving under the shadow of poverty, hunger & maladministration, which raised the question of the functioning of this act in the tribal areas as well as the functioning of PRIs.

Muthalib. (1973). Focuses on planning and must meet democratic decentralization. He opined that planned development brings democratic decentralization.

Punekar & Golwarlkar (1973). analyzed the growth in the villages of the rural areas in Maharashtra and found that the speed of change, both economic and social, was not as satisfactory as it should be. The approach to the development by both Elected Representatives and Officials matters greatly. Elected Representatives like Sarpanches were not aware of their duties and responsibilities. The response of bureaucrats was also not up to expectations.

Harichandran. (1983). Studied Panchayati Raj. Delegation of powers and functions is provided to the bodies, but it is realized as inadequate when the question arises regarding the resources needed to meet the responsibilities. Adequate resources could make the Panchayati Raj institutions instrumental in rural development.

Mishra (1996). studied the relations between Gram Sabha and Panchayats. When the devolution of funds for development work is considered in the Panchayati Raj system, the needs of the area under Gram Sabha should come first.

Bohra (1997). Conducted a study of the status of women in decentralized democracy. He found that most of the women like to be involved in village development, but they do not clearly understand how to approach problems for solutions. Due to little knowledge and ideas, they fail to avail themselves of opportunities before them. Leadership training and awareness can educate women to meet the challenges and issues successfully before them.

Sinha (1999). Conducted a case study of women in Panchayats and found that they do extremely well when they get a chance to take part in the development of their locality. The reservation of women revolutionized the rural power structure. He adds that women gained confidence in being elected and doing developmental work for their localities.

Abdul, Aziz. (2000) in the article on Panchayati Raj institutions, pointed out that the Panchayati Raj institutions should play important roles in taking care of development works. Besides that, there is a lack of participation and noncooperation from the people. Further, he says that the 73rd and 74th Amendment Act 1992 became a tool for the development of the backward regions, traditional sectors, and weaker sections. It provided the path of new planning for a solution. However, in the initial stage, Gram Sabha was involved in project identification, and accordingly, planning was done. However, the case is now quite considerable as the elected members of Panchayat and its officials dominate it.

Haque et al. (1975) have discussed that there are two clear-cut opinions on the rationality of the development process. The first one is the decrease in the quality and ability of local leadership. They moved for better opportunities on the state and national front. Second, inflation was due to World War II. That resulted in decreasing faith in local bodies. However, the main point is that the better standard of living and the role of district and local councils in rural areas have started a new level of planning and development. The urban bodies, however, have no point of suffering. The process of rural development in independent India has passed through several phases. In the early fifties, fifty-two randomly selected areas spread over the entire country were selected in the form of a comprehensive community development program. It was later extended to all areas of the country. The entire country was divided into development blocks. Developmental programs were implemented through them. It was found that the Community Development program failed as it did not fulfill the hopes of the policy planners. It was a great shock to the national leadership.

Bjorkman. (1976). According to Bjorkman, the Panchayati Raj institutions also help promote leadership, even among the people of remote villages. This would never undermine the role of politics in the development process and the achievements of the Panchayati Raj institutions of India, such as states like Maharashtra and Gujarat. It is to be noted that in some places, there was a direct confrontation with leadership and bureaucracy.

Bjorkman. (2015), in another work, argued that the performance of the Panchayati Raj did not fulfill the desires of the planners. Rather, it failed to comply with them. Panchayati Raj nourished the concept of institutionalizing politics and government at the grassroots or village levels. For example, a state like Bihar neglected the Panchayati Raj institutions to a great extent.

Wheeler. (1917). Local self-government in India presents three forms: that of municipalities dealing with the affairs of towns, that of rural boards concerned with the improvement of non-urban tracts, and that of villages in which authorities of various kinds in varying degrees regulate the business of the smallest administrative unit. To village government, it is not now proposed to refer at length; the Indian village had a history of its own, presenting markedly different features in different areas; it is not, for the most part, the product of legislative enactment, nor was it an element in the scheme of local self-government as devised in the 'seventies and the 'eighties of the last century for which the term local self-government in the Indian sense now ordinarily stands. It is true that it is thought by many that the foundation of real self-government must be sought in the villages rather than in the artificial creations of British legislatures, and towards the fostering of village life efforts are being made, but its development lies in the future, and the immediate results of local self-government are to be seen in the working of municipalities and rural boards.

Hochgesang, J. (1995). Studied the present promising trends in Panchayati Raj institutions in India and the future perspectives in building up the Panchayati Raj institutions in the country. They recommend spelling out time limits for Panchayati Raj regulations and elections, transfer to Panchayats of the schemes and subjects in the Eleventh schedule, designing of training programs, devolution of powers, preparation of micro-level development plans in a participation manner, resource mobilization at Panchayat level, training of Panchayati Raj personnel and designing a syllabus for Panchayati Raj training.

Bohra. (1997) Conducted a study of women in decentralized democracy. He reports that most of the women representatives want to work for village development in general, but they don't have any clear idea about the solutions to the problems.

Due to a lack of education and knowledge, access to better opportunities is hard to come by. he asserts that special emphasis on leadership training for women may provide some solutions to this persisting problem.

Jeyapal.& Dravidamani. (1997). Conducted a study relating to Panchayat Presidents. This study covered the socio-economic conditions and Panchayati Raj system planning with the execution of the Panchayat activities of the Women Panchayat presidents. They found that most of the women Panchayats do not have previous experience in politics, have low awareness of the Panchayati Raj system, and are dependent upon their husbands or others for planning and executing the Panchayati Raj activities, which will not develop the women's leadership quality.

Sinha.(1999). Conducted a case study of women in Panchayats. He reveals that the reservation of seats for the weaker sections of society has revolutionized the rural power structure. He adds that the women elected to such bodies have gained confidence, and some of them have been performing extremely well in the initial stages; project identification and planning were done by involving people under the institutions by convening the Gram Sabha. But, of late, planning is being done by Panchayat elected members and bureaucrats.

Katambli, R. G. (2021). 'Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development' has stated that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj recognizes that the 73rd Constitutional Amendment's promised empowerment hasn't materialized even after 22 years of implementation and several Panchayat elections. As a result, rural development initiatives persist within a broader national plan, with a primary emphasis on mitigating poverty, enhancing livelihoods, and advancing infrastructure via diverse wage and self-employment initiatives. This study proposes ways to improve the functioning of panchayats and emphasizes the critical role they may play in rural development. It highlights that national strategies alone are insufficient for effective rural development; programs customized to different phases of a country's growth are needed. The Panchayat Raj concept is deeply rooted in rural Indian history and culture. It is by no means an original idea. Panchayat Raj made a system of rural self-governance possible. The fundamental tier of self-government is

represented by Panchayat Raj Institutions. It has been proclaimed to bring about socio-economic change in rural India. The active participation and involvement of all male and female citizens is necessary for these bodies to function effectively and meaningfully. These institutions play a crucial role in the development of rural areas.

Chinnadurai, A. S., & Sakthivel, (2024). Panchayat Raj Institutions encounter obstacles such as insufficient resources, inadequate infrastructure, and privacy issues despite their promise for transformation. ICT integration enhances the capabilities of PRIs by providing training and resources, promoting openness and responsibility, encouraging public participation, and providing guidance on successful implementation. The essay highlights the need to use ICT (Information and Communication Technology) to promote an inclusive, responsive, and accountable government that is specifically designed to meet the requirements of local communities inside Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Choudhary, R. (2024). In certain parts of India, women continue to be overlooked. To address this, separate attendance requirements for women should be established at Gram Sabha gatherings. Women's active participation in these meetings is vital, and a subset of female participation should be incorporated into the required number. This ensures that gender-related issues and preferences are adequately represented in the proceedings of the Gram Sabha.

Shaikh, N. B. (2024). The advantages of economic progress are not surprising to over two-thirds of the population. However, our performance in crucial sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, community and social services, and overall rural development leaves much to be desired. Rural development plays a pivotal role in the economic advancement of any nation, fostering growth and sustainability. This paper explores a facet of India's rural landscape, outlining its challenges and opportunities for sustainable development.

Maji, B. (2018). The primary objectives are to comprehend the circumstances that allowed women representatives to lead and participate in Panchayati Raj Institutions in spite of the obstacles and limitations they encountered,

as well as how these actions are altering the dynamics of local self-governance. The main data was gathered from several villages in the Meerut district, as well as secondary sources. We have used survey technology and collected primary data from 80 respondents belonging to different genders, age groups, and categories of women's Place in Panchayati Raj Organizations.

Mahapatra, S., & Singh, M. (2024), in their research article “The Political Empowerment of Scheduled Tribe Women through Panchayati Raj Institutions: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat,” found that Scheduled Tribes women and women in general have participated in political affairs at each level, such as regional and national. They are now on equal footing with their male counterparts. The Scheduled Tribe Women are now coming out in large numbers to present their involvement in political affairs. Rural women's voting statistics are higher than urban women's in elections, whether Gram Panchayat or Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha.

Thematic Analysis of the Review of Literature:

Objective 1: To study in detail the Panchayati Raj Act in Line with the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, with special reference to Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in Odisha.

Theme 1: Panchayat Raj, the Constitutional Framework.

Development of Panchayati Raj Institutions: The 73rd Amendment Act 1992: Scholars like Dalal & Dhilon and Das emphasize the importance of this amendment, introducing reservations, five-year tenure, powers to Gram Sabha, and establishing State Election and Finance Commissions.

Odisha's adaptation of the 73rd Amendment Act 1992: Bhandari provides insights into Odisha's legal forms aligning with the 73rd Amendment in the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, Gram Panchayat Act, and Zilla Parishad Act.

Special Reference to Kuturachuan: Kumar & Singh (2022) and Mahapatra & Singh (2024) directly address the decentralized planning and grassroots empowerment witnessed in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, Odisha.

Objective 2: To examine the structural and functional aspects of Panchayati Raj in Odisha

Theme 2: Organizational Structure and Operational Dynamics of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Three-Tier System: Odisha's Panchayati Raj Institutions structure (Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad) with developed responsibilities across 21 subjects as per the Eleventh Schedule is highlighted (Bhandari, Das).

Functionality Issue: although functions were assigned, scholars (Shranappa, Ratra & Dahiya) found incomplete devolution of power and dominance by state bureaucracy affecting functional autonomy.

Performance in Program Implementation: Studies of (Neog; Sheikh) confirm Panchayati Raj Institutions' active role in executing schemes like MGNREGS, PMGSY, and rural sanitation programs, but point out gaps in performance delivery.

Role of Kuturachuan Panchayat: The literature (Kumar & Singh) describes the proactive role of Kuturachuan in grassroots planning and execution despite limited resources.

Objective 3: To identify the problems and constraints to make the local self-government bodies effective units of participatory democracy.

Theme 3: Challenges and Constraints:

Financial Constraints: Studies (Reddy and Mohapatra; Ratra & Dahiya) report heavy dependency on state and central grants, insufficient own revenues, and fiscal stress on Gram Panchayats.

Administrative and Political Challenges: Lack of trained personnel, political interference, weak Gram Sabha, and domination by bureaucrats are cited as barriers (Sinha, Abdul Aziz).

Social Constraints: Illiteracy, cast discrimination, gender bias, and political apathy hinder participatory governance, especially in tribal-dominated areas like Kuturachuan (Behera; Shranappa).

Technological Gaps: The absence of e-government and ICT usage in many rural PRIs limits the transparency and public engagement, as highlighted by Sagar & Shilpa.

Objective 4: To suggest an effective solution for implementing the Panchayati Raj Act in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat of Odisha.

Theme 4: Strategies for Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Capacity Building and Leadership Training: Regular Training programs for Panchayat members, especially for women and marginalized communities, are recommended (Bohra, Jeyapal & Dravidamani).

Strengthening Financial Resources: Authors advocate for enhancing Panchayats' revenue collection power, better fund transfers, and fiscal autonomy (Reddy and Mohapatra; Ratra & Dahiya).

Enhancing Women's Participation: Mandatory participation measures in Gram Sabha meetings should strengthen women's empowerment and leadership roles (Mahapatra & Singh; Choudhury).

Integration of ICT: Modernizing Panchayats through ICT for better governance, record-keeping, and services delivery is highlighted as a crucial reform (Chinnadurai & Sakthivel).

Tribal and Marginal Area Focus: Tailoring development plans for Scheduled Areas like Kutchachuan, ensuring genuine implementation of PESA provisions, and empowering Gram Sabhas (Soren & Naik; Mohapatra)

Summary Table :1

Objective	Theme	Key Focus
Objective 1	Panchayati Raj and Constitutional Framework	73 rd Amendment, Odisha laws, role in
Objective 2	Organizational Structure and Operational Dynamics of Panchayati Raj Institutions	3-tier system, functional challenges
Objective 3	Challenges and Constraints	Financial, political, social, technological
Objective 4	Strategies for strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions	Capacity building, ICT, and fiscal strengthening women's Empowerment

Summary Table: 2

Theme	Focus	Key References
Evolution and Legal Framework	73 rd Amendment & Odisha's PRIs	Das, Bhandari, Dalal & Dhillon
Structure and Functions	3-tier system, decentralized planning	Nagaraju Boska, Kumar & Singh
Problems and Constraints	Fiscal, administrative, social barriers	Ratra & Dahiya, Sharanappa, Abdul Aziz
Recommendations	Training, finance, Gram Sabha, ITC, Women's empowerment	Reddy & Mohapatra, Sagar & Shilpa, Maji, Mahapatra, & Singh

Cohesive Arguments

The primary focus of the cohesive argument is the function, development, difficulties, and possibilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions as an essential tool for rural development and grassroots democracy in India. This is investigated through an extensive review of the literature to bring together academic viewpoints from different areas and situations

Core Cohesive Argument:

Panchayati Raj Institutions are the foundation of democratic decentralization in India, representing the ideals of participatory governance and rural development. Though they have evolved structurally and gained constitutional support, and have increased inclusivity, especially for marginalised groups, Panchayati Raj institutions still encounter significant obstacles in delivering on their development and democratic promises.

Supporting Themes:

1. Democratic Decentralization and Participation

Many agree that the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 was a significant step in enabling local self-governance. To promote inclusive governance, Panchayati Raj institutions throughout India encouraged participation from women, Scheduled casts, Scheduled Tribes, and other marginalised groups.

2. Women's Empowerment and Leadership

Multiple studies underline how the reservation of seats has enabled women to participate actively in local governance. This participation has begun to reshape gender dynamics in rural India, through limitations in training, awareness, and socio-cultural barriers persist.

3. Rural Development and Program Implementation

Panchayati Raj Institutions are pivotal in implementing developmental schemes (e.g., MGNREGS, PMGSY). Their proximity to the community ideally places them to address local issues, yet success varies due to administrative inefficiencies, funding issues, and lack of autonomy.

4. Challenges in Fiscal and Functional Autonomy

A recurring concern is the limited fiscal autonomy of PRIs. Many Gram Panchayats remain heavily dependent on state and central funds, which curtail their ability to act effectively. Moreover, ambiguity in the devolution of functions further hampers performance.

5. Tribal Governance and PESA Implementations

Special attention is paid to tribal regions, where the PESA Act, 1996 was meant to align Panchayati Raj institutions structures with the traditional governance system. The literature indicates a gap between policy intent and on-ground implementation, especially in Odisha and northeastern states.

6. Education, Information, and Capacity Building

Education and information access are emphasized as crucial for empowering Panchayati Raj institutions representatives and the border rural population. Without adequate training and awareness, the potential of PRIs remains underutilized.

7. Integration with technology and Modern Governance

The integration of ICT is proposed as a transformative tool to enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in Panchayat operations.

In conclusion, the cohesive argument of this document is both analytical and prescriptive: it identifies the Panchayati Raj system as a vital democratic institution for inclusive rural development, highlights its transformative potential, and emphasizes the need for structural reforms- especially in financial autonomy, gender equality, and administrative capacity-for it to be fully effective.

1 Foundations and Democratic Decentralization

Chaubey (2023) emphasizes PRIs as foundational to India's federal democratic framework, especially for rural development.

Dalal & Dhillon (2023) underscore that democratic governance thrives when local communities are empowered to manage their affairs.

Das (2022) and Baruah (2022) view Panchayati Raj Institutions as the grassroots embodiment of democracy and decentralization, fostering direct political participation.

Ratra & Dahiya (2022) stress the significance of fiscal, political, and administrative autonomy in successful decentralization.

Kumar & Singh (2022) argue that decentralization allows for grassroots infrastructure development and just governance.

Cohesive Argument: The above authors affirm that Panchayati Raj institutions are central to achieving democratic decentralization in India, supporting inclusive and locally responsive governance.

2. Historical Evolution and Constitutional Empowerment.

Alam & Thakuri trace the historical evolution of Panchayati Raj institutions, showing their adaptation over time.

Bhandari (2014) and Prasad (1980) outline legislative and structural milestones, particularly in Odisha.

Sharanappa (2021) highlights the 73rd amendment as pivotal for empowering local governance.

Wheeler (1917) provides an early insight into pre-independence village governance systems, emphasizing their historical importance.

Cohesive Argument: These authors present a historical and constitutional backdrop establishing PRIs as a product of both the indigenous governance system and constitutional reform.

3. Women's Empowerment and Social Inclusion

Kumar & Ayoub (2023) and Tripathi (2023) note the transformative impact of seat reservations on women's political engagement.

Sinha (1999) and Bohra (1997) show how reservations have revolutionized power dynamics in rural areas.

Jeyapal & Dravidamani (1997) and Mahapatra & Singh (2024) point to the challenges and successes in women's leadership, especially among tribal women.

Majhi (2018) adds qualitative insights into how women navigate obstacles to lead effectively.

Cohesive Argument: These authors collectively argue that institutional mechanisms

like reservations have initiated social transformation and gender empowerment, although full inclusion is still a work in progress.

4. Role in Rural Development and Program Implementation

Nagaraju (2022) and Neog (2014) describe Panchayati Raj institutions as central to development programs, embodying Gandhian ideals of self-rule.

Sharanappa (2021), Ramaya (2014), and Katambli (2021) affirm PRIs' role in programs like MGNREGS, PMGSY, and education initiatives.

Gangamili (2018) explores the contribution to improving primary education.

Cohesive Argument: PRIs are crucial for implementing rural development schemes, with effectiveness dependent on governance quality and public engagement.

5. Indigenous Communities and PESA Act 1996:

Soren & Naik (2023) focus on PRIs' roles in forest management and tribal welfare in Odisha.

Mohapatra (2018) and Behera (2021) examine the practical challenges in implementing the PESA Act in tribal areas.

Mohapatra & Singh (2024) highlight political empowerment among scheduled Tribe women.

Cohesive Argument: While PRIs have the potential to support indigenous self-governance under PESA, implementation gaps undermine their effectiveness in tribal regions.

6. Financial Autonomy and Governance Challenges

Reddy & Mohapatra (2022) and Ratra & Dahiya (2022) identify poor revenue generation and overdependence on external funds as the key issues.

Benni (2017) and Shaikh (2024) link poverty eradication and infrastructure development to the efficiency of local governance.

Chinnadurai & Sakthivel (2024) advocate ICT integration for better

accountability and service delivery.

Cohesive Argument: Fiscal constraints and infrastructure weaknesses are significant barriers to the effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions, but digital tools offer promising solutions.

7. Information, Awareness, and Capacity Building

Rajiv (2018) and Choudhry (2024) stress the need for greater awareness and access to information, particularly among women and marginalized groups.

Khan (2017) emphasizes Gram Sabhas' roles in promoting transparency and community engagement.

Hochgesang (1995) and Abdul Aziz (2000) call for structured training and community participation for sustainable development planning.

Cohesive Argument: Knowledge dissemination and local capacity-building are fundamental for Panchayati Raj institutions to function democratically and effectively.

8. Critiques and Structural Deficiencies

Bjorkman (2015) criticizes the gap between theoretical goals and actual performance of PRIs in a state like Bihar.

Kumari (2021) and Sharanappa (2021) argue that despite institutional support, social equity and empowerment remain unfulfilled due to political, educational, and infrastructural constraints.

Haque et al. (1975) and Muthalib (1973) question the integrity of local leadership and the impact of inflation and migration on local governance.

Cohesive Argument: These critical perspectives point to institutional inertia, uneven implications, and socio-political barriers as ongoing challenges to PRI success.

Conclusion:

The entire document helps to agree that Panchayati Raj Institutions are essential to achieving participatory, inclusive, and sustainable rural development in India. The constitutional status and decentralization efforts have created an environment to build frameworks and to overcome structural deficiencies, lack of fiscal empowerment, poor capacity building, and inconsistent implementation, especially in tribal and marginalized areas, which obstruct their effectiveness. Future strategies call for attention to autonomy, equitable participation, integration of modern technologies, and fostering community ownership of governance.

CHAPTER- II

EVOLUTION OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

Introduction

Village Panchayats have been a longstanding customary practice in India. Its roots can be traced back to ancient times. From ancient times, the creation of the Panchayat has been instrumental in directing and supervising the administration of India's communities. R.K. The whole hamlet has been renowned since the Vedic period. Since agriculture was the main source of sustenance for the Vedic people, the term “GRAM” became representative of social interaction. Vedic literature, while it has been adapted in later centuries, seems to have little influence outside the small village. Initially, the community was primarily defined by its functionality rather than its physical location.

The headman's leadership and the agency's support were vital for the successful accomplishment of the village's objectives. He had a significant influence on the community and on its foundation. He was a member of the King's Council of Ratnins, renowned as the crown jewels of the royal court. Furthermore, he could influence the selection of kings.

India has a rich historical tradition of local government institutions that may be traced back to ancient times. The informal rural self-governance system has been integral to Indian culture for generations despite encountering sporadic obstacles. Formal and organized local government structures were created during the British colonial period, mostly in metropolitan areas. The concept of expanding such government to rural areas arose later. Throughout the ages, local government organizations in India, both in urban and rural areas, have gone through a process of evolution, successfully adjusting to different circumstances and surmounting obstacles.

Urban and rural local self-government organizations aim to facilitate local development by providing infrastructure and services. However, their organization, responsibilities, governing bodies, staff, and financial affairs vary considerably. It is important to study these local government organizations in India extensively to gain a thorough comprehension of their development, role, functions, and distinctive attributes.

Therefore, this chapter critically examines the historical development of local self-government in India, offering insights into the intricate aspects of its structure, responsibilities, and available resources.

The concept of "Panchayati Raj" emerged within the context of the existing democratic system. It refers to a system of local self-government where the people themselves take on the duty of governing. The Panchayati Raj system consists of three stages of rural self-government: the Village level, the Block level, and the district level, which are known as Village Panchayat, Panchayati Samiti, and Zila Parishad, respectively. Previously, the word was used subsequent to the implementation of the recommendations put forward by the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee on Democratic Decentralisation. Previously, the terms "Village Panchayats," "district boards," and "sub-district boards" were used to describe these autonomous bodies operating at the village level. The village panchayats are linked to the Zila Parishad at the district level and the Panchayat Samiti at the block level. This is an enhanced iteration of the Community Development Program (CDP) that was first established in 1952. This organization has acquired a well-defined structure, has power that is explicitly established by legislation, and is responsible for performing a wide range of duties and activities related to almost every area of village life. The Panchayati Raj system enables rural communities to achieve high self-sufficiency in addressing their basic needs. These societies are intricately interconnected and consist of tiny, easily managed components. They are responsible for upholding local peace in order to protect the unity of the state, and they have complete autonomy in all aspects, including the execution of justice. India is a country characterized by its rural communities, where agriculture has always been

the primary source of employment. This may be seen by examining its socioeconomic history, both in the past and in the present. India's rural network has always been regarded as the most esteemed, respected, and wealthy occupation since it forms the basis of the country's economy. Soil tillers had a higher social status compared to other occupations since they were recognized as the ones who supplied food and nutrition to millions of people, including kings and emperors. The community functioned as a self-reliant little republic via the institutions of the Panchayat (Rao, 1980, P.1).

Panchayati Raj in Ancient India

In ancient India, every local community had a Panchayat, also known as a "Sabha" or "Samiti," consisting of village elders responsible for the whole village's legal, legislative, and tax affairs. Although the panchayats in the past carried out many responsibilities that had an impact on the local society, they mostly functioned autonomously from external socio-political changes. This body was responsible for supervising village affairs and acted as an advising council to the headman. It maintained law and order, dispensed justice, and fostered peace. Furthermore, they ensured the provision of sanitation and executed other public works projects, such as constructing and maintaining roads, buildings, tanks, wells, and other communal amenities. Consequently, these towns had their own governance. While village communities have been discovered in several European and Asian countries, Panchayati Raj is mostly an Indian establishment. Gaining insight into the framework of ancient Indian culture is crucial for comprehending the historical development of Panchayati Raj. It is worth noting that India mostly resides in rural regions. Village panchayats have been present in India for a significant period of time. The prevalence of village panchayats throughout the British rule is evidence of the enduring existence of these self-governing organisations that served as administrative units in ancient India. Monsieur. Elphinstone said that these institutions had all of a state's resources inside them, although on a smaller scale. Indeed, British influence had a significant effect in shaping India's present-day local self-government systems.

The headman had a crucial role in ensuring justice and possessed significant legal power. He exercised authority in resolving both civil and minor criminal matters within his hamlet. As an executive officer responsible for ensuring internal harmony, he also supervised the payment of penalties to those who were found guilty and performed several other essential duties. The responsibilities are performed with the support and collaboration of the whole village. Apart from being provided with property without having to pay rent, the village headman may also earn various minor payments that the community is obligated to provide to the monarch in return for his services. The headman handled business with the aid of the peasants. The local governance of each village was conducted by public meetings of homeowners held in the groves, which have always been a prominent characteristic of the extensive and fertile plain. Prof. Rhys David cites the *jatakas* to support the notion that villages voluntarily came together to construct mote-halls, rest houses, reservoirs, repair roads between their own and neighbouring villages, and even establish parks. These endeavours for the collective well-being were financed through the corporate fund, corporate property, and fines levied on offenders and troublemakers. The guilds, often referred to as economic corporate unions, played a vital role in the village's economy by serving as associations for skilled and manual labourers. The *Dharma Sutras*, *Upanishads*, *Epics*, and *Jataks* all include many references to these guilds. There were guilds that consisted of muslin weavers, leather artists, goldsmiths, potters, stone carvers, dyers, jewellers, and moneylenders, among other professions. Each of these guilds consisted of a whole community. They exhibited a high degree of autonomy and operated with a quasi-judicial framework. Gautam, the earliest known writer from 500 B.C., observed that guilds comprised of peasants, traders, herdsmen, moneylenders, and artisans possessed the authority to establish laws for their specific social classes. It was the duty of royal judges to uphold these guilds' customs and regulations when deciding cases that were appealed from the guild tribunals (Majumdar, 1918).

Additionally, Kautilya's *Arthashastra* provides a description of village panchayats. The village administration structure during that time is extensively elucidated in Kautilya's *Arthashastra*. The village's population varied between 100

and 500 houses. The boundaries were delineated by hills, forests, trenches, boundaries, and distinctive species of plants, among other characteristics. Kautilya recommended that settlements should be strategically located at a distance of two to four miles from each other to provide mutual assistance during times of crisis. The peasants shared the burden of maintaining law and order. During Kautilya's rule, the hamlet had many officials, such as Adhyaksha, who served as the headman, Samkhyaka, who was the accountant, Anikashta, who worked as a veterinary doctor, Jamgh Karika, who served as village messengers, and Chikitsaka, who was the surgeon. The gramik, who served as the village headman, was responsible for reporting and overseeing wrongdoers' activities, while ensuring the collection of state duties. All of them were collectively responsible for that action. If the individuals assigned to cultivate the property did not do so adequately, it was his responsibility to impose a penalty and contribute the amount to the community fund. If an individual borrows money but fails to use it for its intended purpose, they would be penalised with a fine equal to three times the loan amount. This fine would have been deposited into the village fund. Land was provided without cost for the construction of retirement homes, reservoirs, and places of worship. The hamlet of Gramik was tasked with organising several types of amusement for its inhabitants, as well as coordinating the visits of government officials and religious figures (Jain, 1967, P. 80).

During Ashoka's rule, the panchayats enforced a prohibition on animal slaughter, except in regions where it was permitted by local traditions. The "Gopa," who supervised a cluster of five to twenty villages, had a higher position than the Gramik. He had responsibility for managing land records and census data. He was tasked with the duty of ensuring precise documentation about the utilisation of the property, specifically delineating the cultivated and uncultivated land, pastures, fallow areas, orchards, and land designated for commercial crops. In addition, he diligently documented census data, especially distinguishing between males and females. The data includes information on individuals of various age groups, their professions, income, as well as the number of livestock owned by each individual and farm. He was responsible for investigating the boundary problem of the

community. He was tasked with documenting the laws, traditions, and customs and submitting them to his supervisor. Rajukas had the power to survey the property and determine the district-level land income. In addition, they acted as judges with the assistance of dignitaries and famous individuals. The monarch chose the provincial viceroys and the Vishayapati, who led the district. They were members of the council (Saparishad), where the highest-ranking officials, called Mahamatras, were periodically supervised and given orders by the king. Despite minor changes in nomenclature, the system of local self-government in rural areas remained largely unaltered under the Gupta Empire. The Vishayapati held the position of a feudatory Maharaja, which required paying respect to the emperor and having authority over internal matters instead of paying tribute.

Additionally, the Vishayapati fulfilled the role of a district governor and served as a royal official. He received counsel from high-ranking scribes, presidents of guilds, and significant members of the community. The southern province was referred to as Mandal and was subsequently divided into Kottams (sub-districts) and Nadus (districts). Kurram, which refers to the amalgamation of villages, and gramme, which denotes individual villages, were situated underneath them. The village assembly, including all adult males (urar) in the community and sometimes a select few elders (Mahattaras), assisted Grampati, the village headman. The assembly formed multiple committees to oversee various aspects of village governance, including infrastructure, landscaping, water reservoirs, religious sites, education, and legal matters. These committees were responsible for managing assets, land transactions, irrigation systems, safeguarding communal lands, restoring temples, ensuring security, and settling disputes related to traditional rights among the village's workers, craftsmen, and farmers. The endowments, gifts, collections, and fines all bolstered the financial resources of the rural community. The community's wealth may be used to make investments in long-term resources for specific purposes (Dikshitar, 1929, P. 328).

The system of local self-governance known as Panchayati raj was prevalent throughout the Pallava and Chalukya eras, which occurred between the 7th and 12th

centuries A.D. The historical background of North India remains ambiguous. Consequently, the Deccan and South India, regions where the Chalukya and Pallava empires thrived for an extended period, emerged as the primary centre of attention in political history. The available inscriptional and literary evidence is insufficient to provide a comprehensive description of the exact organisation of the regional institutions in Northern India during this period.

At that stage, the South had established a structured system of village self-governance via the use of assemblies, committees, and elected officials. This is evident from a substantial amount of material available. The Village Convocation was particularly prominent throughout the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries A.D. The inscriptions consistently mention village assemblies. Indicates that the village Assembly had the highest level of power in the community and was a well-established institution. In some areas, the assembly consisted of all the men in the community, regardless of age, while in other regions, it included a specific group consisting of the village's educated Brahmins and other distinguished males. The meeting places in the past consisted of nearby temples, a dedicated hall, and maybe the shelter of a tamarind tree. The Village Assembly had the responsibility of remitting the whole sum of money to the government and effectively possessed exclusive ownership of the village property. In the event that a plot owner fails to make their designated payment, the plot would be transferred to the ownership of the Village Assembly, who would then have the right to sell it in order to recover the outstanding debt. The company had corporate assets that were accessible for purchase by the general public. Aside from regular taxes, it has the authority to levy extra fees on certain public utility products. The document included provisions that catered to charity and educational groups. In addition, it designated specific areas for the sale of certain goods and regulated the markets. The Village Assembly had complete jurisdiction over its members, in addition to its regular responsibilities and powers, necessitating special attention to the irrigation system and communication systems. The hamlet Assembly had the power to mandate compulsory labor from the inhabitants of the hamlet. The ordinance clearly demonstrates the extent to which the Village Assembly controlled the private lives of its citizens. It states that individuals

who possess the necessary qualifications for professions such as accountancy and carpentry are required to provide their services exclusively within the village. Engaging in these services outside of the community is considered a violation of the law, a betrayal of the Assembly, and a detriment to the village's well-being. This approach to governance, seen in both the Rashtrakata Kingdom and the Chola Empire, pioneered the establishment of self-governing units that addressed village issues for the overall development of the population. The Rashtrakata Kingdom was divided into four administrative divisions: Rashtra, which was a province; Visaya, which was a modern district; Bhukti, which was a collection of villages; and Village, which was the basic unit of the kingdom. The village headman and the village accountant were the two authorities responsible for supervising village operations at the lowest administrative level. As a reward for carrying out their responsibilities, they were given estates without having to pay rent and were able to hold office based on their family lineage. The village committee and Grama-Mahattrra offered them substantial aid. The village committee efficiently oversaw various agricultural, educational, transportation, and infrastructure projects in close collaboration with the village headman. In addition, the committee effectively maintained law and order and secured funding for unforeseen requirements. The conquered territory of the Chola empire was divided into three regions: Mandalam (provincial), Valnadu (contemporary district), and Nadu (group of villages). The local administration was overseen by two assemblies, including the Mahasabha (comprising of adult males in the hamlet) and Ur (the general assembly of the community). The Brahmanas settled in villages where the bulk of the land was exempt from rent. The Mahasabha was granted jurisdiction over matters pertaining to farmers' entitlements in relation to land productivity, cultivation of fertile land, taxation, and utilization of funds for assisting individuals during calamities like as floods, illnesses, and crop failure. The knowledgeable members of the executive committee aided village assemblies in overseeing local affairs. Furthermore, separate committees were responsible for managing the maintenance of peace and tranquility, as well as overseeing the collection of land revenue. The level of autonomy enjoyed by local self-government was contingent upon the relationship between the local and state authorities. The

main responsibility of the village was to collect and remit the State's portion of land revenue and other taxes. The king sent officials to examine the financial records of the local groups and punish anybody found guilty of misappropriating public funds. The village committee that was constituted for this purpose assisted the King's officials in conducting a survey of the land. Kautilya's work proposed that the Gopa, a government official responsible for a cluster of villages, maintain records of land, census (including livestock), and other financial data. In order to uphold ethical standards, public health, and the security of the kingdom, the state government may intervene. Narada provides a comprehensive list of reasons for state intervention, such as when these organizations merge in ways that harm public interests, arm themselves without justification, engage in conflicts with each other, act in opposition to the king, misuse public funds, exhibit morally objectionable behaviors, or when members of the organization unite out of animosity to oust another member. Governmental action was provoked only by resistance to taxation and disobedience to regulations regarding public health, safety, and morals. If the village body engaged in treason, the monarch had the power to dissolve the body, appoint his own officials, and punish those involved in the offense (Khan, 2000).

On the other hand, the State aimed to establish a solid foundation for local self-government. It defined their areas of influence, equipped them with the necessary resources to carry out their duties as described in canonical literature, and ensured that the king's courts, officials, and people acknowledged the legitimate authority of local self-government. The rules and decisions of the monarch were documented and recognized by his courts. In addition, the monarch appointed State officials (or properly approved local persons) to ensure the proper functioning of these bodies. The communications, authored by the private secretary and authenticated by the Chief Secretary, were sent to the royal officer in charge of local administration. The district official received them after their communication with the provincial authority. The district officer may personally deliver the message or order or, alternatively, send it to Gopa, the official directly following him, for the purpose of conveying it. As a result of insufficient communication, the process was prolonged, lasting three years in one instance. The assembly was notified of the

message or command, and the information was documented. During a land grant, the village official and the elders have the option to accompany the royal officer who delivers the message. Their purpose is to demarcate the borders of the property being granted and install a signboard to denote this. The dynamics of state-local relations mirror the changing political landscape of the country. In some instances, the local authorities were responsible for their own safety and well-being, while the state authority exceeded its limits at other times. However, it is certain that the rural local self-government system was efficiently organized to establish a distinct and direct link with the state government and its provincial agencies.

Panchayati Raj in Mughal Era

The ascendancy of Muslim power in India throughout the Middle Ages significantly impacted political dynamics more than the struggles between Hindu kings. Despite the prolonged period of decline, characterized by chaos and political instability, the fundamental concepts of the relationship between the state and local communities remained largely unchanged as different kingdoms rose and fell. The Hindu rulers actively promoted the autonomy of religious institutions and displayed tolerance towards diverse religious beliefs. In addition, they recognized the autonomous privileges of Srenis, or guilds, which recruited members from both urban centers and artisanal areas. The guilds enabled individuals to practice self-governance in several social and economic domains. One of the main reasons for the remarkable longevity and strength of local self-government organizations in Ancient India was their adherence to religious customs and the fair administration of justice in local Panchayats. However, Muslim authority in India introduced many foreign assumptions and concepts that were unfamiliar to the region. The newly appointed leaders expressed their allegiance only to the "Believers" and mandated that the "non-believers" pay jizya as a condition for being excused from military duty and ensuring the protection of their assets and lives. The Muslim immigrants owned the lands, but the Hindus were obligated, according to the ruling class's discretion, to provide between one-third and half of their agricultural output as land tax. Ala-ud-din Khilji and Aurangzeb reduced the product by half, while Shershah and Akbar

fixed the land income at one-third. The farmer and monarch had contrasting perspectives on their connection to the land.

The Emperor had exclusive ownership of all the land. Consequently, the farmer was seen more as a lessee with rights to the products he cultivated rather than to the land. There were several instances of "abwab," which are situations that are considered illegal. There were also extra charges, such as pasture and housing taxes. Ala-Ud-din Khilji's true objective was to systematically strip the subjects of their resources and capabilities, rendering them incapable of mounting any kind of rebellion against the Sultan's authority. The economic basis required to sustain community organizations and implement development initiatives declined as surplus profits were depleted and village incomes dropped to a level barely sufficient for survival. Despite the State government's evident disregard, the local institutions managed to continue functioning. The administration's jurisdiction was confined to the district level or cities only for law enforcement and the execution of justice. The complexity of the equipment was increased in order to earn revenue. At its peak, the Empire was divided into subahs (provinces), sarkars (subdivisions), and Parganas (unions of villages). Village dues were settled by negotiations with the headman, also known as the Muquaddam, at the local village level. The Patwari, often known as the village accountant, had considerable influence as a local authority figure.

During the Emperor's reign, he enforced intricate rules, conducted routine inspections, and penalized officials who failed to comply. Headmen were able to regulate the capricious exercise of power by local authorities in this manner. Drawing from Hindu polity, the southern Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar flourished during the Sultanate era in northern India and had an intricate system of rural local governance. The Panchayat had authority over executive functions, police services, and the dispensation of justice. The help of many individuals, including the village watchman (talara), supervisor of forced labor (beggar), accountant (senateova), and others, was secured. They were rewarded with land grants or a portion of agricultural produce in return for their assistance. The local Panchayat members were appointed as leaders of various firms and guilds. Mahanayakacharya was designated by the

monarch to supervise the operations of the village assembly and maintain connections with the local administration.

During the declining phase of the Mughal Empire, while the Company Raj was gaining dominance, rural local administrations faced numerous challenges but managed to endure remarkably. The power of the hamlet was inherently influenced by its social structure and financial level. The villages that were *Bhai Chara villages*, characterized by inhabitants asserting family ties, engaging in agricultural activities, sharing the produce, and collectively meeting their financial requirements, demonstrated their vitality most prominently. Here, the peasants united with the purpose of protecting the hamlet and carrying out construction projects after peacefully settling their disagreements via discussions on family clans and financial requirements. Charles Metcalfe made observations on this kind of community. "Village communities are little republics that own practically everything they need internally and are mostly self-sufficient in their interactions with the outside world. They seem to endure while all else fails. Revolution following revolution topples dynasty after dynasty. The settlement has not changed despite the succession of rulers including Hindu, Pathan, Mughal, Maratha, Sikh, and English." In the villages of Zamindari or Jagirdari, where the revenue farmer or his representative held authority due to a grant from the Emperor or Nawab, the Panchayats were the least powerful (Maheswari, 1972).

In the chaos that followed the loss of central authority, he solidified his position and became a kind of virtual tyrant. He began usurping the magisterial authority in alliance and illicit connivance with Qanungo (the local revenue registrar) and Daroga (the local police agent) when checks and balances to his power of extortion became ineffective. He then turned to managing the villages under his revenue lease, much like a large estate. Except on a caste level, where they still upheld caste laws, the Panchayat had essentially stopped performing any duty where the Zamindar or jagirdar interacted with the farmer directly and presided over the court. Where panchayats were present, they were controlled by the local agent of the Zamindar, Jagirdar, or members of the upper castes, making it impossible for them

to fairly administer justice to the less fortunate members of the society. It was impossible for the lower caste residents or landless workers to expect that their requests for justice would be handled fairly.

More hierarchical ideas of social organization, in which government employees, higher castes, and Zamindars were entitled to special privileges and immunities relative to those deemed beneath them, had begun to supplant the egalitarian and beloved Panchayat concept. Although it made it appear too much like the tradition, which by then had become immoral by today's standards, the village community was nevertheless able to live in peace and tranquility because of its interdependence, lack of undue pressure on the land, and clear definition of customary obligations. Certain settlements have a mixed population with Hindu and Muslim components. Muslim cases were to be resolved in accordance with Shriyat. The courts of justice created by the Mughal emperors included a Qazi to look into the accusations, a Munsiff to administer the law of Shriyat, and a Faujdar or police personnel to enforce it. Even while local norms and practices might be used to settle conflicts among Hindus, Muslim subjects who were party to the action were given further protection. Despite the negative effects of a foreign authority, rural local government institutions at the village level and those in the social, religious, and occupational spheres persevered. Due to severe famines, repeated foreign invasions that broke the back of the peasants, and the severe exactions of the Muslim rulers, they were severely destitute under a diminishing material foundation. Their local communities continued to administer justice and divide State revenue demands among themselves (apart from Ryotwari lands). They were no longer represented in the district, provincial, or imperial governments. The old nobility of guild presidents, mayors, and other officials, whose interests and authority countered the king's arbitrary powers and prevented the abuse of governmental authority, was superior to the Mughal nobility. The nobles of the Mughal dynasty were divided, foreign, and extravagant. With the exception of a few wise rulers like Shershah and Akbar, the State failed to acknowledge its obligation to advance public works, social services, and irrigation.

The Panchayat Raj System in the British Era:

The Panchayat Raj System in the British Era, a "gradual decline in the village community as an effective form of local polity," was seen in India during the time between the end of the Mughal era and the establishment of the British administration. Hugh Tinkers states that "the ties of the Social frameworks were loosened in this interregnum, and in many places, local institutions had been prevented and sapped before British Officials had an opportunity to assess their value." As a result, panchayats were not as vibrant when British rule began as they had been previously. In several regions of India, such as Bengal, they had completely stopped functioning. In contrast to the Northern and Eastern regions of the country, which were under continuous Muslim hegemony, they were found to play a more active and effective role in the Southern and Western regions of India. However, references to and accounts of self-sufficient village communities and Panchayats—the mechanisms through which these communities operated—in the memoirs, minutes, and other writings of contemporaneous travelers, statesmen, and officers support the belief that these institutions were still in operation in one form or another well into the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Almost everywhere, the workforce of clerks, craftspeople, and merchants that supported local communities' internal governance has persisted in a recognizable form. In the rural regions that provide refuge to millions of people, the village community organization has been described as the heart and spirit of corporate life. Since these groups continued to exist, the populace was unable to put up with the atrocities committed by the many despotic and callous administrations. "These contain in miniature all the materials of a state within themselves and are almost sufficient to protect their members if all other governments were withdrawn," Elphinston says, paying praise to these village communities. They are an effective treatment for the shortcomings of a terrible government, preventing the negative impacts of its neglect and weakness and even providing some barriers against its tyranny and rapacity, even if they are not equivalent to a very good government." In addition, Sir George Birdwood said, "Village communities across the peninsula maintain full municipal vitality despite India having had more political and religious upheavals than any other nation in the

world. The Greek, Saren, Afghan, Muglah, and Maratha populations have sprung from the mountains of this region, while the Dutch, English, French, and Danes have risen from the oceans around it to establish their consecutive control over the area. Nevertheless, the presence and departure of these groups have had minimal impact on the religious trade unions in villages, similar to how a rock remains unaffected by the ebb and flow of the tide. The officials responsible for overseeing the confiscated lands of the Mahrattas provided detailed reports to Elphinston, clearly indicating that the district collectors only recognized specific Panchayats authorized to resolve civil matters. The assertion that two distinct types of Panchayats existed for village governance, one being the Panchayat proper responsible for settling disputes and the hereditary council of representatives that dealt with other village matters, is corroborated by supplementary documents found in the Daftar (Office). Over time, the collectors and district administrators came to recognize that the Panchayats served as the primary mechanism for resolving conflicts despite their outdated nature and vulnerability to undue influence. Despite occasional criticism, panchayats have been widely regarded as the most effective form of local self-government in principle and practice. The presence of these individuals was shown to considerably benefit every sector of the community. Even under the tumultuous and disorganized rule of the Peshwas, when circumstances were very adverse for the functioning of such institutions, they never needed assistance. The panchayats have successfully endured as the most efficient mechanism for administering justice. As per H. George Frank argues any alternative system would have been overwhelmed by corruption and neglected by local officials in Maharashtra, who saw it only as a means of personal profit. Despite these challenges, the panchayat system survived, thrived, and succeeded. The British had two main approaches in their efforts to enhance their administrative authority in India. The first group consisted of persons such as Cornwall, Wellesley, Dalhousie, Curzon, and others, who prioritized Western norms and institutions above indigenous ones, disregarding the latter.

The second group consisted of persons such as Munro, Malcolm, Elphinston, and Metcalf, who were more humble in nature. They advocated for maintaining and protecting the ancient Indian system of local panchayats. Munro has a superior

understanding of the Indians compared to anybody else. He believed that to fully convey the advantages of English law to Indian peasants, it was necessary to first convert them into Englishmen. Furthermore, he comprehended that the absence of courts in the country was a direct consequence of widespread poverty. He firmly believed that the Headman of the Panchayat, operating under his supervision, was the most qualified individual to resolve local conflicts. He attempted to establish a personal administrative framework centered on Panchayats. He advocated for the transfer of all litigation with a value below a certain threshold from the jurisdiction of regular courts to panchayats. Regrettably, the influential higher authorities did not align with his views. Malcolm argues that Panchayats need to be included in the British judicial system without giving them the discretion to choose which cases they preside over. He believed that unless the norm is universally applied to trials or individual cases in these courts, there would be a mere one percent probability that the two sides would reach an agreement. If both parties fail to reach an agreement, the subject will be brought before the district court, where the submission of forms is mandatory. At this stage, both the plaintiff and the defendant will decide if filing with the court would increase their chances of winning their complaint. "However, it is important to note that this result should not be considered as conclusive proof of its greater acceptance. Before reaching such a conclusion, it is crucial to ascertain whether it is preferred by individuals of integrity or by those lacking honesty." Moreover, Elphinston has consistently emphasized that panchayats are the main mechanism for resolving civil disputes. In addition, Elphinston's successors issued multiple circulars to district officers, emphasizing the requirement for complainants to demonstrate that they had made every effort to resolve their disputes before seeking legal recourse through civil action, taking into account the specific conditions of each locality. As a result, district Munsifs were eventually established after many years of administration. Initially, it was declared that Panchayats, rather than Munsifs, had the authority to adjudicate any issues upon receiving a formal request from the involved parties. Nevertheless, eleven distinct categories of cases came into this classification and may be managed by Panchayats, including a wide array of local governing bodies. Nevertheless, this concept was not meant to be

permanent, and parties might choose to relinquish their rights to the Munsifs if they readily consented in writing. Ultimately, the British regular court system proved to be more effective and facilitated expedited dispute settlement. Ultimately, this influenced its level of popularity. The British government implemented modifications to the administrative service, opting for a centralized approach to administration. Upon Dalhousie's arrival, the central government workers took over many administrative chores and public works that were previously carried out by the local community. The emoluments of the old village leaders were decreased, their powers were limited, and they were provided with a modest wage instead. Throughout history, the village watchman, a lower caste member residing on the outside of the community, has served as the headman's servant and primary law enforcement officer. He fulfilled several roles in the community.

Since 1815, Lord Hastings has constantly recognized him as the fundamental basis for all prospective law enforcement in the country, and this recognition of his work has continued to the current day. Within the village system, the police commission of 1902-03 emphasized the cruciality of maintaining the village watches. Nevertheless, they ceased to be under the authority of the headman and instead became accountable to the District Magistrate via him. The alterations made to the Revenue Scheme by the British profoundly negatively impacted the village community in India (Purwar).

The East India Company had enlisted many intermediaries, who were essentially tax collectors or officials appointed by the previous rulers, to gather land revenue on a commission basis. Initially, these intermediaries consisted of soldiers, military leaders, government officials, and individuals favored by the court. They were granted the power to collect land income as compensation for their services, recognition of their hard work, or as a gesture of the kings' admiration for them. Nevertheless, as each subsequent monarch upheld the grants bestowed by their predecessors, the privilege of collecting revenue from government-owned property gradually became an inherited right for the offspring of those who were assigned or granted the land. With the decline of the Muslim empire, the revenue farmers, who

were responsible for collecting a set amount of money from a particular region as payment for the state dues on land holdings, either joined or took over the role of the revenue officials. Unfortunately, the East India Company neglected the rightful proprietors, who are the cultivators, by acknowledging these revenue farmers as the owners of the land. Indeed, these income farmers lack any legal ownership of the land. In India, the farmer had the genuine ownership of the land, but the king, who provided protection and care, was entitled to a percentage of the revenue as a grant, allowing them to collect money. Land ownership by farmers remained unchallenged due to its adherence to custom. Nevertheless, the British demonstrated a deliberate lack of concern for the rights of the ryots, asserting that the zamindars had full ownership of the areas where they collected taxes. The government occasionally implemented rules and regulations that disregarded local circumstances, aiming to protect the ryots from the unjust demands of the zamindars. Due to their issuance by a geographically distant state government, which is comprised exclusively of English individuals without local knowledge and operating in a dissimilar setting, The establishment of regular law courts led to a surge in the number of filed claims and cases. Due to the landlord's refusal to acknowledge the tenant's rights, the renter was compelled to protect himself in a legal proceeding initiated by the landlord. In this case, the landlord filed a lawsuit against the renter under Section 58 of the Agra Tenancy Act 1901. The landlord argued that the tenant was a non-occupancy tenant despite having previously acquired tenant rights in most situations. In cases when a tenant suspected the landlord of engaging in dishonest behavior towards the Patwari, they were sometimes required to provide evidence of their entitlement to occupy the premises. The devolution legislation relating to occupancy tenancy, which was incorporated in section 22 of the Agra Tenancy Act of 1901, also led to several legal issues among tenant heirs. The Act had various antiquated provisions that led to an increase in litigation. According to Macdonell, the destruction of offices in Indian social life that handled personal disputes led to people seeking resolution in places like bars, law courts, and pleaders. This created a cycle where people became dependent on these institutions, similar to how alcohol creates a desire for more. The zamindars, with the help of clever pleaders, used false civil and criminal charges to

force tenants out of their villages and into extreme poverty. The few individuals who persisted in challenging the obstacles were subsequently reduced to a state of extreme poverty. Nevertheless, the Court of Directors acknowledged that it is futile to claim that the Republicans are protected from burdensome and bothersome legal proceedings by the Court of Justice due to the significant time and financial costs connected with the legal process.

Panchayati Raj before independence

Panchayati Raj, during the period before India gained independence, Sir Charles Metcalfe characterized the ancient village Panchayats as "small village republics," emphasizing their roots in customary practices and traditions rather than formal legislative measures. The existence of these institutions was maintained via the mutual reliance of landowners, who were connected by familial ties and the concept of pre-emption, and the workers who cultivated and worked the land. This system was defined by a fixed structure with restricted movement based on a belief in equal agreement throughout the local society. Nevertheless, it was devoid of contract-based legal regulations, which are essential to contemporary democracy.

During the British administration, land legislation was implemented to acknowledge the idea of contract. This legislation attempted to liberate people from communal delegates and instead subject them to rules that recognized and protected their individual rights. This transition resulted in a rise in legal disputes and undermined the stability of traditional village communities.

During the first phase of British control, local administration developed as a result of need. The call for democratic decentralization originated from the educated elite, who want to have a portion of authority and patronage. The decentralization process first focused on local entities and municipalities, with the aim of ensuring that local needs are addressed via local taxes. In 1870, Lord Mayo implemented a decentralization plan with the goal of generating local monies to satisfy local demands. This plan attempted to alleviate the burden on imperial finances by allowing local authorities to manage their own requirements (Maheswari, 1972).

Lord Ripon expanded the decentralized financial system by shifting more sources of income and fees from the "provincial" level to local administrations. This measure was implemented to guarantee consistent advancement in regional development across the nation, and it expanded upon the strategies of previous leaders.

The significant and pivotal period in the history of local self-government in India began with the Government of India Resolution on local self-governance in 1882. Prior to this, the local administration had mostly been non-Indian in character and did not really represent the notion of local self-government as understood by Indians. The reforms implemented by Lord Ripon were a crucial turning point in the history of local self-government in India since their objective was to establish a novel system of popular elections. The previously selected district committees were ineffective because many members did not live close to the headquarters station and had a poor understanding of the requirements of remote regions. As a result, there was an emphasis on the local vicinity of the central station or an excessive concentration of authority in the district officer.

Lord Ripon's first proposal, outlined in his Resolution of September 30, 1880, was on the decentralization of finances in British India. Lord Ripon acknowledged the progress made in local self-government since Lord Mayo's era but also saw major differences across provinces and believed that more growth was necessary. He urged provincial governments to meticulously scrutinize their financial records and suggested implementing changes for local self-governance, with a specific focus on rural regions. Unhappy with the suggestions put forward by the provincial administrations, he provided further details about his concept of local self-government in rural regions. In May 1882, Lord Ripon proposed a significant Resolution to establish local self-government via local representative organizations. The resolution clearly stated that its primary goal was to provide political and civic education to the rapidly expanding population of service-oriented persons, whose potential should not be underestimated.

The Resolution proposed that the placement of the smallest administrative entities, such as subdivisions, talukas, or tehsils, should generally be under the jurisdiction of local boards. Above these local boards, district boards might be constituted with powers of coordination or control. The majority of members on these local boards should be non-official, making up at least two-thirds of the total membership. Members would be required to serve two-year terms with mandatory rotation.

Regarding financial matters, the Resolution restated the previously established principles and argued for granting local governments the highest level of independence in budgeting decisions. Furthermore, it mentioned that the central government should possess the jurisdiction to override local boards in instances of severe abuse of power or carelessness. Lord Ripon contends that it was not essential for the collector to retain the position of chairman or even be a member of these local organizations.

The next significant progress happened with the creation of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation. After assessing the performance of local and district boards in several British Indian provinces, the Commission concluded that these bodies had not been successful mainly due to their insufficient representation and restricted jurisdiction. In response to these concerns, the Commission suggested the establishment of an authentic electorate consisting of village Panchayat members, guaranteeing a majority of elected members on all boards, and including minority representation via nominations.

The Government of India's 1915 decision on local self-government took into account these proposals. The Montague-Chelmsford Report of 1918 highlighted the need to have a broad foundation and majority representation on all boards of responsible institutions. This notion was fully accepted in the Government of India's 1918 decision. However, attempts to reform rural local self-governance in accordance with the Government of India legislation of 1919 produced poor outcomes, and the Panchayats founded under the 1920 legislation were considered weak imitations of their historical ancestors. These entities were characterized by a

lack of stability, the absence of consistent government backing, and the absence of local autonomy. During the time before India gained independence, local self-government was heavily regulated by the government and did not become a significant source of power. They were affected by several flaws.

Panchayati Raj in post-Independence period:

Upon achieving independence, it became apparent that a substantial rural transformation initiative was needed to improve the people, particularly the destitute rural populations. The Community Development Programs (CDP) were launched in 1952 with the aim of achieving this purpose. This approach resulted in the formation of Blocks as the core units of development management. Soon after, the National Extension Service (NES) was created to enhance the administrative framework and tackle the obstacles related to expansion and progress at different local and functional levels. There was little public involvement in this stage, mostly via elected representatives. Gradually, it became apparent that the absence of public engagement and participation was impeding the successful implementation of the CDP and NES initiatives. The bureaucracy mostly controlled these programs, with little involvement at the local level.

The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was established in 1957. The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was formed in January 1957 with the purpose of examining and assessing the efficacy of Community Development Projects and the National Extension Service (NES). The committee aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts in using local resources and institutions to improve rural economic and social circumstances. The main objective of these programs and NES was to provide fundamental resources, organize activities, and provide staff to assist in rural development endeavors.

The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee proposed two noteworthy recommendations. Firstly, they supported administrative decentralization as a means to effectively implement the development program by delegating responsibility to elected organizations. The significance of local communities understanding their

concerns, taking responsibility, and exerting influence via elected representatives was emphasized. The group proposed the establishment of legally required local elected entities with the ability to allocate resources, exercise authority, and make decisions. Additionally, they suggested that the fundamental unit of democratic decentralization should be at the block or samiti level, while the Zilla Parishad would primarily serve in an advising capacity.

The committee saw a deficiency in the level of public participation in the Community Development Projects and NES. They stressed the need to establish inclusive and democratic organizations catering to local interests and supervising development spending. They believed district boards were inadequate for this objective and advocated substituting these entities with a solitary, representative, and resilient democratic organization with a specific emphasis on rural development. This entity should be granted legal recognition, undergo an electoral process, possess extensive responsibilities and resources, and function with sufficient autonomy from government oversight.

The ideal local body should have a suitable magnitude, neither too huge to impede its function nor excessively tiny to jeopardize effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. They contended that the village Panchayat was insufficient in size, but the block level, known as Panchayat samiti, provided a more suitable equilibrium. The composition of this body should be determined by the process of indirect elections, with representatives chosen from the local Panchayat.

The Panchayat Samiti's duties should include promoting agriculture, fostering local enterprises, guaranteeing access to potable water, supervising road building and upkeep, and performing numerous other roles. This organization would create offices at both the block and village levels, and its officials would be chosen from state cadres and appointed by the state administration.

The committee foresaw village Panchayats and panchayat Samiti as the primary local governing authorities, with little need for additional higher-level administrative executive entities, apart from the government, to synchronize their

efforts. They suggested the establishment of a Zila Parishad consisting of Presidents of Panchayat Samiti, state legislators, parliament representatives representing the district, and district-level officials.

The implementation of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) established a formal structure for collaboration between elected representatives and government personnel. It fostered the engagement of national and state-level political leaders with local leaders, hence enhancing accessibility and advancing the principles of democratization. Nevertheless, as time passed, problems arose in the operation of the PRI.

The general people had little participation, and many Panchayats were overruled, resulting in significant delays in conducting elections. Rural elites established alliances with local political personalities and government officials, leading to decreased involvement of the rural impoverished. State governments and local political leaders impeded the establishment and development of these organizations. In 1977, the Ashok Mehta Committee was assigned the responsibility of examining the challenges at hand and proposing necessary changes.

The Ashok Mehta Committee was established in 1978. The Committee analyzed the structural and operational aspects of the Panchayat Raj system and concluded that its history has seen phases of progress and setbacks. They identified three distinct phases: an upward trend from 1959 to 1964, a period of little growth from 1956 to 1969, and a decrease from 1969 to 1977. The Committee concluded that many factors have undermined and rendered the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) ineffective.

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were seldom given significant planning or implementation duties and usually got minor programs and tasks. This statement challenges the idea that all development operations should be directed via block-level organizations despite the actual trend being the opposite.

The committee vehemently condemned the influence of bureaucracy, asserting that it contributed to the disconnection of Pri from the development

process. They identified several factors that contributed to the problem, such as the hierarchical system that favored bureaucracy, with officers primarily accountable to the State Government. A lack of political resolve and instances where State Governments delayed elections or disregarded important PRI levels were also identified as contributing factors. The apathetic disposition of high-ranking political elites towards enhancing grassroots democracy was also a significant concern. In some states, Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) saw a threat from the leadership of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), which hindered development even further.

A significant problem was identified due to the absence of a precise definition and purpose for the Panchayat Raj. Different people had varying perceptions of it. Some saw it as only an administrative entity, while others saw it as an expansion of grassroots democracy. Still, others viewed it as a manifestation of rural local governance. The success of the Panchayati Raj was further constrained by the dominance of economically and socially favored groups within the PRI, political factionalism, corruption, inefficiency, political meddling, parochialism, and other related difficulties.

The group proposed an educational framework that emphasized decentralization at the district level, with the district serving as the focus of decentralization under public supervision. At a sub-district level, they suggested establishing Mandal Panchayats, with each one catering to a population of 15,000 to 20,000. The Mandal Panchayats would promote local development and build effective linkages between rural and urban regions.

The group advised that the feature of direct elections should be dominant at all levels of PRIs. They determined that the scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes shall be represented in elections proportionally to their numbers. Effective strategic planning should be a fundamental responsibility of Zila parishads, while Mandal Panchayat should prioritize the execution and advancement of local development initiatives.

The Committee proposed that the district should serve as the primary level for comprehensive planning, with Zila Parishads assuming responsibility for planning at the district level. Their proposal suggested the creation of a proficient and certified staff at the district level to manage district planning. In addition, the committee proposed incorporating district-level officials into Zila Parishads to improve coordination and efficiency.

Concerning financial resources, the committee proposed a novel strategy centered on growth progress, focusing on distributing power and authority at the district level and highlighting the significance of Mandal Panchayats. It was said that Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh had passed laws based on the framework proposed by the Ashok Mehta Committee but had difficulties putting them into practice.

The committee's conclusion emphasized the need to rejuvenate PRIs, guaranteeing periodic elections, sufficient representation of marginalized communities, and more decentralization of authority. The text also examined the divergent viewpoints on granting constitutional status to PRIs and the obstacles encountered in attaining this objective.

Overall, the Committee's report discussed the past obstacles and suggested strategies to enhance and empower Panchayati Raj Institutions for efficient local government.

The Hanumantha Rao Committee was established in 1983. The purpose of establishing this committee was to revitalize Panchayats.

The G.V.K. Rao Committee

The G.V.K. Rao Committee was established in 1985. Following the Ashok Mehta Committee, it comprehensively analyzed many aspects of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs). The committee stressed the need to implement a holistic approach to rural development, which should include all economic and social development initiatives carried out by different organizations at the local level. The committee emphasized the need to be actively involved and provide enough

assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions to empower them to successfully address the issues of the people. Furthermore, it advised the consistent organization of elections for these entities.

The G.K.V. Rao Committee proposed that the Block Development Officer should play a central role in rural development. However, it was suggested that the district should be considered the primary policy development and program implementation unit. Therefore, it is imperative for the Zilla Parishad to take on the primary responsibility of overseeing all development administration operations at the district level, with significant duties. In order to streamline this process, the committee suggested creating the role of a district Development Commissioner (DDC), who would supervise and coordinate all development initiatives within the district. In addition, the committee recommended a substantial restructuring of the planning and execution apparatus at the district level.

L.M. The Singhvi Committee

The L. M Singhvi Committee, which was established in 1986 and sometimes referred to as the committee for the concept paper Panchayati Raj Institutions, was formed by the Indian government's Department of Rural Development in 1986. This committee highlighted the significance of Indian villages and the Gram Sabha as the fundamental cornerstones of our democratic country. The Gram Sabha was considered to be the epitome of direct democracy.

The L.M. Singhvi Committee, or the Committee for the Concept Paper on Panchayati Raj Institutions, was established by the Indian government's Department of Rural Development in 1986. The committee emphasized the crucial function of Indian villages and the Gram Sabha as the fundamental cornerstones of the nation's democracy. The Gram Sabha was considered to be the epitome of direct democracy.

The Committee advocated for the inclusion of Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) as a fundamental component of the democratic decentralization process. They proposed a progressive development of the national framework starting from the local level rather than a sudden and revolutionary transformation. The statement

highlights the need to view PRIs as autonomous entities, promoting people's active participation in planning and growth as a crucial element of self-governance. The group contended that relying just on the bureaucratic structure and devolutionary techniques would not adequately promote people's engagement.

In addition, the committee emphasized the importance of PRIs in fostering communal and societal togetherness, surpassing divisions based on caste, religion, gender, and economic differences. PRIs were seen as tools for consolidating and indoctrinating the country's collective values and beliefs.

The Committee suggested that local self-government should be officially acknowledged, safeguarded, and maintained by adding a new section to the Constitution. Implementing this measure would guarantee the steadfastness and independence of PRIs.

The committee also voiced concern over the substantial postponement of elections for Panchayati Raj bodies in several states after their legally mandated tenure expires. The need for an electoral mandate for the functioning of democratic institutions is acknowledged, and it is understood that depriving PRIs of this mandate would make them useless.

Finally, the committee discussed the issue of political parties' involvement in PRIs. It is often considered impractical and undesirable to legally exclude persons affiliated with political parties from participating in PRIs. Instead, it proposed that the function of political parties in PRIs should undergo transformation by agreement within the parties themselves rather than being subjected to external influences.

The Sarkaria Commission

The Sarkaria Commission in 1988 did not endorse the proposal presented by the L.M. on the Centre-State relationship. The Singhvi Committee was established to confer Constitutional legitimacy to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The commission contended that the states should have exclusive jurisdiction over legislating on Panchayats since it falls under List II. It emphasized the need for

consistency in these laws throughout India and proposed three options to accomplish this.

1. By implementing legislation on Panchayats by unanimous agreement across all state legislatures using a standardized bill suggested by an interstate council that was created under Article 263.

2. By enacting legislation in Parliament via the provisions of Article 252(1) with the unanimous consent of all state legislatures.

Despite the efforts of multiple committees to rejuvenate PRIs, they were unable to achieve the status and effectiveness of accountable bodies representing the people. This can be attributed to factors such as irregular elections, prolonged supersessions, inadequate representation of marginalized groups (scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women), insufficient delegation of powers, and a lack of financial resources. The concept of conferring Constitutional status to PRIs gained popularity in the late 1980s, primarily due to the efforts of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who proposed the 64th Constitution Amendment Bill in 1989.

Nevertheless, the 64th Amendment Bill encountered criticism, as opposition parties saw it as a potential threat to the federal framework of the Indian Constitution. The concerns were an inflexible three-tier structure, supervision of elections by the Election Commission of India, and the examination of financial records by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Although the measure had certain flaws, it made a noteworthy effort to establish PRIs as a rural local government system by giving them constitutional recognition.

In 1990, the National Front Government assumed control and implemented the Seventy-Fourth Constitution Amendment Bill, which omitted the contentious parts of the 64th Amendment Bill. Nevertheless, this measure could not be enacted into law due to the dissolution of the Ninth Lok Sabha. Later on, the Congress Government presented the Constitution Amendment Bill in the Tenth Lok Sabha, which was later enacted as the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act of 1992. It officially came into force on April 23, 1993.

Previous encounters with Public Resource Institutions (PRIs) governed by state legislation have shown a tendency to deviate from the constitutional principles of self-governance. While both the 64th and 74th Constitution Amendment Bills intended to tackle these problems, the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act of 1992 effectively granted constitutional recognition to PRIs. This study aims to compare the provisions of these amended bills and acts.

Constitutional Provisions Regarding Composition: -

The Amendment Bill suggests implementing a uniform three-tier structure for Panchayati Raj in each State, which includes village, intermediate, and district levels. However, in States with a population of less than 2 million, there may not be Panchayats at the intermediate level. The State legislature has the power to establish the structure of Panchayats while adhering to the limitations outlined in this section. Direct elections shall be used to fill all posts in the panchayat. If feasible, the geographical constituencies within the panchayat region will have equal members. The State legislature has the authority to create specific criteria for the selection of the village-level Panchayat chairman, as well as for the intermediate and district levels. The State legislature shall decide the representation of members from the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly who represent seats that are either partly or entirely inside a Panchayat region. Nevertheless, the Bill explicitly states that only the Panchayat chairman and other members directly elected from territorial constituencies within the Panchayat territory are entitled to vote at Panchayat sessions. The election of village-level Panchayat chairpersons will be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the State legislation. However, at the intermediate and district levels, the chairperson will be chosen by and from the elected members. The Bill delineates the process for ousting a chairman who has been chosen from the elected members of the Panchayat. It highlights that a motion for their removal will only be considered genuine if it garners the backing of a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and participating in the vote.

Seat Reservation: Seat allocation: Seats in each Panchayat have been reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) according to their

respective populations. If the population is not enough to reserve seats, at least one seat should be saved for either SC or ST women. The State Legislature has the authority to reserve the chairman position, except for women's reservations (Singh, 1994).

Gender Representation: Women are ensured sufficient representation, with around 30% of all seats (including those allotted for SC/ST women) in each Panchayat being reserved for women.

These seats are cycled among various constituencies. Duration of Tenure: Panchayats have a fixed tenure of five years unless they are dissolved before the completion of their term as per relevant regulations. In the event of dissolution, new elections must be held within six months, and the reconstructed Panchayat will serve for the remainder of the term of the dissolved one. No elections are necessary if the remaining term is shorter than six months.

Powers and obligations: State legislatures have the ability to confer upon Panchayats the essential powers and authority to operate as autonomous governing bodies, including measures for transferring authorities and obligations to Panchayats at the appropriate level.

The Finance Commission:

Every quinquennial period, commencing with the 64th Amendment Act of 1989, the State government establishes a Finance Commission to assess the panchayat's financial condition and provide suggestions about tax allocation, grant-in-aid, and other financial affairs. The State Legislature determines the Commission members' qualifications and selection procedure.

Panchayat accounts are required to strictly follow the approved forms established by the Governor based on the advice of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. The Comptroller and Auditor-General is responsible for determining the audit methodology. Legislation reports are then provided to the state governor.

The Election Commission has jurisdiction over the process of preparing the electoral register and conducting Panchayat elections. Nevertheless, State legislatures have the authority to enact laws regarding election-related issues within the guidelines established by this section.

Jurisdiction: This provision applies to Union territory; however, the President has the authority to exclude certain Union territories. The aforementioned provisions do not extend to Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, scheduled and tribal territories as specified in Articles 244 (1) and (2), the Hill Area of Manipur, or the Hill territory of the Darjeeling District in West Bengal. Nevertheless, the states referred to in Sub-Clause (a) of Clause (1) have the option to expand this section to their individual states.

The transitional provisions provide that any current legislation pertaining to Panchayats that is not in line with these requirements will continue to be in effect until it is modified or revoked, or for a maximum of one year from the beginning of the 64th Amendment Act, whichever occurs first. Panchayats that now exist will remain in operation until the completion of their tenure unless they are abolished by the State Legislature.

The 11th Schedule of the Constitution enumerates the authorities and responsibilities that will be delegated to the Panchayats, as outlined in the Amendment Bill.

The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992:

The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992 is a significant law in India that mandates the creation of Panchayats (village councils) at the village, intermediate, and district levels. The Act also includes provisions for the allocation of seats specifically for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women in Panchayats.

The primary characteristics of the 73rd Amendment Act are as follows:

Gram Sabha:

The Gram Sabha is the collective entity consisting of all individuals officially enrolled in a village's electoral records. The Panchayati Raj system is built upon this principle, granting it the authority to exercise powers and carry out duties as determined by the state assembly via legislation. In each state, panchayats are required to be established at the village, intermediate, and district levels. The state legislature has the authority to regulate the structure of Panchayats through legislation.

Seat Reservation:

Reserved seating must be allocated for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each Panchayat based on their respective numbers within the Panchayat region. At least one-third of the total reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes must be allocated to women from these groups. At least one-third of the total seats available for direct election in each Panchayat must be set aside for women.

Chairperson's Offices:

The state legislature has the authority to enact laws that reserve the posts of the chairpersons in Panchayats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women. At each level of Panchayats, a minimum of one-third of the total number of chairperson positions must be set aside for women.

The 73rd Amendment Act has significantly advanced the empowerment of rural people and the inclusion of their involvement in decision-making processes. Furthermore, it has contributed to enhancing the provision of fundamental services to remote regions.

Below is a more concise restatement of the 73rd Amendment Act:

The 73rd Amendment Act is a legislative measure that establishes village

councils, known as Panchayats, in India. The legislation also allocates certain seats on the Panchayats for individuals belonging to particular categories, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women. This legislation is significant since it empowers rural people and ensures their participation in their villages' governance and decision-making processes.

Powers and Responsibilities of Panchayats:

The 73rd Amendment Act of the Indian Constitution grants Panchayats (village councils) the capacity and jurisdiction to operate as self-governing entities. Consequently, Panchayats possess the authority to determine their communities' governance and execute initiatives to promote economic progress and social equity.

The Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution enumerates 29 subjects under Article 243G.

Competence - These include agriculture, which refers to the practice of cultivating crops and rearing animals for food, medicinal plants, and other products used by humans. Animal husbandry refers to breeding, raising, and caring for animals, particularly those used for agricultural purposes. Potable water

Education Marine resources management Wooded areas Medical care Residential accommodations Small-scale irrigation Reducing poverty Highways accessible to the general public Rural electrification refers to the process of providing electricity to rural areas that do not have access to it. Public assistance programs Gender and juvenile welfare The state legislature has the power to provide authorization to the Panchayat to impose and collect taxes, charges, tolls, and fees. The state government has the authority to delegate particular taxes, charges, and tolls to Panchayats for a designated purpose. Furthermore, the state government has the authority to provide grants-in-aid to Panchayats from the consolidated budget of the state. Panchayats have the authority to establish their own funds and access cash from various sources. The 73rd Amendment Act has significantly advanced the empowerment of rural committees and their participation in decision-making processes. Furthermore, it has contributed to enhancing the provision of fundamental

services in remote regions.

Panchayats possess the authority to determine the governance of their villages and to execute initiatives aimed at promoting economic progress and social equity. In addition, they possess the authority to impose and collect taxes, charges, tolls, and fees. The state government has the authority to provide a grant-in-aid to the Panchayat and transfer taxes, duties, and tolls collected by the state to the Panchayat for specific purposes.

Finance Commission's Constitution As per the Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) legislation, 1992, the Governor of each state in India is mandated to establish a Finance Commission within one year of the start of the legislation, and thereafter every five years. The Finance Commission's role is to assess the financial status of the Panchayat (village councils) and provide recommendations to the Governor based on certain principles.

How to allocate the net earnings of taxes, tariffs, tolls, and fees between the state and the Panchayats. How to distribute the Panchayats' portion of these earnings across the various tiers of panchayats. Which taxes, charges, tolls, and fees may the Panchayats be authorized to collect or allocate?

How to provide a grant-in-aid to the Panchayats from the consolidated fund of the state. What steps are required to enhance the financial standing of the Panchayats? The Governor may submit any other subject connected to the sound finance of the Panchayat to the Commission.

The state legislature is responsible for establishing the criteria for membership of the Finance Commission, specifying the qualifications required for its members, and regulating the process by which they are chosen. The Commission establishes its own process and has the powers that the state government may provide to it. The Governor is obliged to provide to the state legislature the recommendations made by the Commission, accompanied by an explanatory statement detailing the actions performed in response to the recommendations.

The Finance Commission is an autonomous entity tasked with evaluating and proposing measures to enhance the fiscal status of the Panchayats. The state legislature has the authority to establish the structure and authority of the commission. The governor is obligated to provide to the state legislature each recommendation made by the panel, accompanied by a detailed account of the measures performed in response to the recommendation.

The Finance Commission plays a crucial role in ensuring that the Panchayats have the necessary resources to operate efficiently and provide key services to rural people.

2.2 KUTURACHUAN GRAM PANCHAYAT: AN OVERVIEW

Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat is composed of three revenue villages, namely Kuturachuan, Kirashasan, and Satakama, in the Kuchinda Block of Sambalpur District. The Panchayat headquarters Office is situated in the center of the three villages, i.e., in Kuturachuan Village.

Sl.No.	Parameter	Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat	Kuturachuan	Kirashasan	Satakama
1	Total Geographical Area in Hectors	1755	275	670	810
2	Total Population	3819	789	1230	1800
3	Total Male	1871	401	592	878
4	Total Female	1948	388	638	922
5	Total Schedule Castes	833	154	129	550
6	Total Schedule tribe	1548	418	736	394
7	Total Literates		473	731	
8	Percentage of Literacy	64.92%	64.35% (74.33% Male)	64.35% (74.33%)	66.07% (76.42%)

			(54.02% Female)	Male) (54.02% Female)	Male) (56.24% Female)
9	Total Agricultural labour	970	191	301	478
10	Total Agricultural labour male	495	104	170	221
11	Total Agricultural labour female	444	87	131	226

Source: Census Report 2011

2.3 Sambalpur District an overview:

Historical Background:

Sambalpur was one among eight municipalities prior to the separate statehood of Odisha before 1936. Sambalpur became a municipality in 1867. It became so after the Punjab Municipal Act became applicable in the regions of the central provinces. Being a part of the central provinces, it came under a special Act. in 1873. Mr. L.S.S. O'Malley mentioned in the Sambalpur District Gazetteer in the year 1909 that Sambalpur had an area of 3 square kilometers, with a population size of 14,003. Sambalpur was then divided into 11 wards. The Municipal Board had 16 members, including four nominated and 12 elected.

Sambalpur lies on the western side of Odisha and plays an important role in the socio-economic and political aspects of Odisha. The table below shows the details of the Sambalpur District. The average rate of literacy is 76.22 percent. Almost all the people depend on agriculture and forests for their livelihood.

Sambalpur District Demographics Details:

Sl. No.	Parameter	Range
1	Total Geographical Area	6624.00 Sq. Km.
2	Total Population	1,041,099
3	Total Male	526,877
4	Total Female	514,222
5	Total Schedule Castes	19,1827 (96511/M+95316/F)
6	Total Schedule tribe	355,261 (177565/M+177696/F)
7	Total Literates	703,691
8	Total Male Literates	393192
9	Totalfemale Literates	310,499
10	Total Workers	5,05,840 (3,13,161/M+1,92,679F)

Source: Census Report 2011

2.4 Local Self-Government Institutions of Odisha: Some Basic Facts

Panchayati Raj in Odisha has its legal foundation in the form of several laws passed by the Odisha Legislature. These are the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act (1991), Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act (1991), Odisha Zila Parishad Act (1991), and Odisha Panchayat (Amendment) Act 2011.

There are 30 Zila Parishads, 314 Panchayat Samitis, and 6799 Gram Panchayats in Odisha. Twelve Districts of Odisha have sizeable tribal populations. These have been identified as Tribal Blocks, which look after the distinctive interests, needs, and traditional social systems of the tribal.

There are 5 Municipal Corporations in Odisha – These are (i) Berhampur

Municipal Corporation, (ii) Cuttack Municipal Corporation, (iii) Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, (iv) Rourkela Municipal Corporation, and (v) Sambalpur Municipal Corporation. In each Municipal Corporation, the people directly elect the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation. However, the Deputy Mayor of each Municipal Corporation is elected by the members of the Municipal Corporation Council.

There are 35 Municipalities, Municipal Committees, or Nagar Palikas working in Odisha. There are also 66 Notified Area Councils working in Odisha.

In Odisha, women enjoy 50% Reservations in rural and urban local self-government bodies and institutions. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election in Odisha, the Biju Janata Dal decided to field 33% Women candidates. Consequently, in the Odisha Legislative Assembly election, the number of women MLAs registered a significant increase. It was a step towards empowering women in the social and political life of the state.

Strengthening of Panchayati Raj as units of Local Self Government

The Odisha Government is committed to strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions. In 2003, twenty-one subjects of eleven departments were transferred to Panchayati Raj institutions. All the officers coming under District, Block, and Village level functionaries of 11 departments are made accountable to Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, and Gram Panchayat, respectively, for smooth and effective Implementation. They are given powers to prepare and place plans and schemes for discussion and approval in the meetings of the respective levels of PRIs.

2.4 Programs and Schemes implemented through Panchayati Raj:

The plan programs and schemes implemented by the Panchayati Raj Department can be categorized as:

1. Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Program

2. Basis Service Program.
3. Infrastructure Developmental Program.
4. Capacity Building Development Program
5. E- Governance.
6. Drinking Water and Sanitation.

GRAMPANCHAYAT P. LEVEL SCHEMES

Personal		Community	
1	Dug well	1	Construction of Canal
2	Farmer Pond	2	Renovation of Canal
3	Vermi Compost	3	Beautification of the village pond
4	Cow shed	4	Plantation
5	Poultry Farm	5	Nursery
6	Goat Shed	6	Playground
7	Pig Shelter	7	Panchayat Pathagara
8	Personal Plantation	8	Panchayat Market
		9	Construction of Anganwadi building
		10	School and Anganwadi Toilet
		11	Sock Pit

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GURANTEE SCHEME

The table below shows the details of MGNREGS work in Odisha in 2010 to indicate the implementation of the said schemes.

Sl. No	Schemes	Lunch	Source Of Fund	Matching Grants	Convergence With Other Departments	Total Amount
1	Const. of AWC Building	2019	MGNREGS & W&CD and MS	60:40	W&CD and MS	7.00 Lakhs
2	Cattle Shed	2018	MGNREGS			1,13,000/-
3	Goat Shelter	2018	MGNREGS			44,000/-
4	Piggery Shelter	2018	MGNREGS			69,000/-
5	Poultry Shelter	2018	MGNREGS			39,000/-
6	Farm Pond	2018	MGNREGS			1,67,032/-
7	NADEP Compost Pit	2018	MGNREGS			14,000/-
8	Vermi Compost Tank	2018	MGNREGS			20,000/-
9	GPLF Building	2018	MGNREGS			12.50 Lakh
10	Multi-utility Gram Panchayat Tank	2019	MGNREGS			10 Lakh
11	Panchayat Library	2018	MGNREGS			5.00 LAKH
12	Playgrounds	2018	MGNREGS with CFC/SFC		Ama Gaon Ama Bikash & RWSS	5.00 LAKH
13	IHHL	2018	MGNREGS			12,000/-
14	Land Development	2018	MGNREGA			15,000/-
15	Plantation	2018	MGNREGA			15,000/-
16	Cattle-feed Supplement	2018	MGNREGA			20,000/-
17	Dug Well	2018	MGNREGA			63,000 to 1,60,000/-
18	Const. of Rural Park	2018	MGNREGS with CFC/SFC		SBM/RWSS/ CFC/SFC	

SOURCE GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF PANCHAYATI RAJ & DRINKING WATER DEPARTMENT. 2010

Besides MGNREGS there are some other works are running under Panchayati Raj Department are -

OLM (Odisha Livelihood Mission)

Odisha Livelihoods Mission aims at:

- Mobilizing all the poor households into functionally effective SHGs and their federations.
- Enhancing their access to bank credit and other financial, technical and marketing services.
- Building their capacities and skills for gainful and sustainable livelihoods development; and
- Converging various schemes for efficient delivery of social and economic support services to the poor with optimal results.

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

Projects and Programs of OLM

Odisha Livelihoods Mission is implementing various National & State-funded Rural livelihood development projects. All these projects and programs are:

1. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) / National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP)
2. Odisha Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (O-AABY)
3. Rural Self-Employment Training Institute (RSETI)
4. Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society (ORMAS)
5. PRI-CBO

Rice for all the selected beneficiaries at Re.1/- per kg

It has been an exemplary step on the part of the State Govt. to distribute rice at Re.1/- per kg under various State & centrally sponsored schemes. This initiative helps to mitigate the maladies of hunger deprivation and poverty. AAY scheme specifically caters to the needs of the poorest of poor people living in urban & rural areas, who face difficulties in buying essential commodities even at a relatively lower price. At present, rice at a price of Re.1/- per kg is distributed among the targeted groups under the following scheme from Feb'2013.

Essential commodities even at a relatively lower price. At present, rice is priced at Re. 1/- per kg is distributed among the targeted groups under the following scheme from Feb'2013.

SL. NO	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Scale of Entitlement	Consumer price per kg(Rs.)
1	BPL	36,90,027	25 kg	1.00
2	KBK APL	5,32,133	25 kg	1.00
3	AAY	12,53,164	35 kg	1.00
4	ST/SC Hostel	4,15,357	15 kg	1.00
5	Rice for Differently-abled persons (RDP)	76,534	10 kg	1.00

BPL Rice for Welfare Institutions:

SL. NO	Scheme	No. of Inmates	Scale of Entitlement	Consumer price per kg (Rs.)
1	Welfare Institution	11,705	15 kg	6.30

ANNAPURNA SCHEME:

Under this scheme, rice is distributed to destitute citizens who are over 65 years old free of cost. The scheme exclusively benefits those aged people who are not included under the National Old Age Pension Scheme.

SL. NO	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Scale of Entitlement	Consumer price per kg(Rs.)
1	Annapurna	63,759	10 kg	Free of cost

APL RICE :

APL rice is distributed to the Inmates/Boarders of APL rice for Prisoners in Jails, ST/Sc hostel is managed by NOGs & Adrut Children Homes.

SL. NO	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Scale of Entitlement	Consumer price per kg(Rs.)
1	APL rice for Prisoners of Jails			9.3
2	ST/SC Hostels managed by NOGs	12,302	15 kg	9.3
3	Adrut Children Homes	256	15 kg	9.3

APL WHEAT:

Wheat is distributed to the APL cardholders at a subsidized price.

SL. NO	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Scale of Entitlement	Consumer price per kg (Rs.)
1	APL	35,91,809	7 kg	7.00

LEVY SUGAR :

Sugar is provided to the BPL & AAY beneficiaries at a subsidizes price.

SL. NO	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Scale of Entitlement	Consumer price per kg(Rs.)
1	Levy	49,43,191	2 kg	13.5

RURAL HOUSING ODISHA

The Government of Odisha is committed to providing pucca houses to all the homeless and those staying in Kutcha houses in rural areas. In this endeavor, the following Schemes are implemented by the Panchayati Raj Department.

1. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Grameen)
2. Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana
3. Pucca Ghar Yojana(Mining)
4. Nirman Sharmik Pucca Ghar Yojana

Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department (SSEPD)

- a) Madhu Babu Pension Yojana.
- b) Indira Gandhi National OLD Age Pension.
- c) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension.
- d) Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension.
- e) National Family Benefit Scheme.
- f) Bhima Bhoi Bhinna Kshyama Samarthya Abhiyan (BBSA).

2.5 WORKING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN ODISHA

The constitutional enactment of the Panchayati Raj Acts serves two distinct purposes. Firstly, its objective is to include the local population in the process of designing, implementing, and supervising rural development projects. Furthermore, it aims to enhance the capabilities and opportunities of underprivileged and marginalized sectors of the population who persistently encounter socio-economic challenges. Empowering individuals is crucial in order to encourage their active participation in the development and implementation of anti-poverty programs, with the ultimate objective of significantly decreasing rural poverty.

The primary objective of Poverty Alleviation Programs is to augment the income of a certain demographic residing in rural regions, allowing them to exceed the minimal income threshold (poverty line) required for the adequate sustenance of an average family. This goal is accomplished by developing more job possibilities or offering income-generating assets with the help of financial assistance from institutions.

Community Development is a process that prioritizes involving people in improving their well-being, specifically focusing on strengthening their social, psychological, and economic goals. This process entails the creation of socio-economic endeavors and signifies a profound alteration of rural India's social and economic terrain. The primary objectives are to promote self-sufficiency among the inhabitants of the village, enhance income and employment prospects, and optimize the use of both material and human resources.

The Planning Commission's remark highlights that meeting the fundamental minimum criteria is insufficient, and it is crucial to identify the requirements for a better level of living.

Odisha has significant economic resources and is rich in natural resources. By tackling the difficulties with a sympathetic attitude and meeting the authentic

needs of individuals, we may offer happiness to humanity. By undertaking these endeavors, we may strengthen the concept of a welfare state and successfully accomplish our sincere objective of advancing our state and fostering prosperity.

The Orissa Grama Panchayat Act of 1948 was the first legislation that defined the framework, jurisdiction, and functioning of Gram Panchayats in the state. Between 1950 and 1951, a total of 500 Grama Panchayats were constituted throughout different parts of the state. From 1958 to 1961, various locations saw the establishment of Community Development Blocks. The Orissa Zilla Parishad Act was passed in 1959, but the formation of the Zilla Parishads did not occur immediately. Later in 1951, the Zilla Parishad Act was modified and given a new name, the Orissa Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Act 1959 (Orissa Act 24 of 1961). In 1961, a hierarchical system of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) was implemented, covering all the villages in the state.

The 73rd Constitution Amendment Act 1992 of the Indian Constitution and the Provision of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) came into effect in 1993 and 1996, respectively. Following that, the state of Orissa modified its Panchayat laws to conform with the regulations outlined in the 73rd Amendment and the Provisions of Panchayats (Extensions to Scheduled Areas) Act. Orissa implemented the PESA Act of 1996 by holding elections to provide social justice for Scheduled Tribe groups. In 2011, the PRI Act was revised to empower women by reserving 50% of seats for women members in the three-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions. This amendment included the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act of 1964, the Orissa Panchayat Samiti Act of 1959, and the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act of 1991.

2. 6 Special Initiatives by Odisha Government:

The government is committed to strengthening the capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions as autonomous governing entities. In 2003, a grand total of twenty-one subjects originating from eleven distinct departments were assigned to Panchayati Raj Institutions. District-level officers, block-level officers, and village-level functionaries from these eleven departments have now assumed the

responsibility of implementing the subjects and schemes that have been transferred to PRIs. They must submit proposals and strategies for review and endorsement at the meetings held at the respective levels of local self-government, namely Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, and Gram Panchayat.

The Odisha government has launched a new initiative called the Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibira (MASS) project in partnership with the Law Department and the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department. This project is operational in the Gram Panchayats around the state and is designed to provide complementary legal assistance to underprivileged people in rural regions. Legal Assistant Lawyers have been assigned to 1,871 Gram Panchayats, which cover 100 blocks in 18 Districts. A total of INR 4,83,31,800/- has been distributed till the Financial Year 2021-22 to facilitate the implementation of the MASS plan in these 18 districts.

The Panchayati Raj Institutions function as the first step in the process of government decentralization, aiming primarily to provide necessary services to the people. To accomplish this objective, the State Government is actively engaged in a range of developmental initiatives and programs. The State Government provides financial resources to the Panchayats to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system's endeavors to enhance the welfare of the populace and facilitate different activities targeted at their well-being.

Each local administrative body has created a Bio-Diversity Management Committee, as per the orders of the National Green Tribunal and in compliance with the parameters stated in the Odisha Biodiversity Rule of 2012.

In the year 2021-22, some substantial revisions were implemented to the Panchayat Acts and norms. The Hon'ble High Court of Orissa has imposed a 50% reservation limit on the total reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Backward Classes (BCC) under the Odisha Grama Panchayat Act of 1964, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act of 1959, and the Odisha Zilla Parishad Act of 1991.

In addition, Section 25 of the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act, Section 45 of the

Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, and Section 33 of the Odisha Zilla Parishad Act were revised to require candidates to submit affidavits. Provisions pertaining to disaster management were added to Section 44 of the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act and Section 20 of the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act via further revisions. The State Government has made amendments to the Odisha Gram Panchayat Election Rules of 1965, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Election Rules of 1991, and the Odisha Zilla Election Rules. Additionally, vote counting will now occur at the Block level instead of at polling stations, as part of the initiatives implemented by the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water.

The department may be categorized as:

- I. Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Program.
- II. Basic Services Program.
- III. Infrastructure Development Program
- IV. Capacity Development Program.
- V. E-Governance Initiatives.
- VI. COVID-19 Management Documentation
- VII. Other Activities.

- I. Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Program.

Geographic Information System (GIS)- based General Practitioner (GP) Plan Asset geo-tagging is required for all assets from Phase I (2017-18 and prior) and Phase II (2018-2019 to the present).

Aadhaar Seeding of all currently employed individuals

The National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS Apps) captures workers' real-time attendance at worksites and geo-tagged photographs of the tasks being performed. The attendance records and photographs are accessible in the public domain.

The Area Officers App enables efficient supervision of work by State, District, and Block Officials, ensuring proper monitoring and execution of the project.

Social audit. In order to guarantee transparency in the execution of projects, a Social Audit of the works carried out under MGNREGA is being conducted to hold the government accountable to the people.

Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society (ORMAS)

Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) is an independent organization established in 1991 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. It operates under the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department of the Government of Odisha. In order to tackle the main obstacles in infrastructure support with both forward and backward connections, 30 district-level units of ORMAS were established in all districts of Odisha.

Goals of ORMAS

ORMAS engages in both backward and forward linkages, including a range of marketing operations at the state level for specific rural goods (agricultural/horticultural-based, non-timber forest products) in various clusters of Odisha. Identification of activity clusters for the manufacturing, value addition, and proper packaging of rural goods.

ORMAS engages in both backward and forward linkages, including a variety of marketing operations at the state level for specific rural goods (agricultural/horticultural-based, non-timber forest products) in various clusters of Odisha. Identification of activity clusters for the manufacturing, value addition, and proper packaging of rural goods.

- (c) Enabling the large-scale procurement of agricultural products from rural areas via the establishment of institutional or business partnerships. Collaborations between retail stores and government organizations for

marketing purposes. Distribution conduit for certain agricultural goods in rural areas.

- (d) Arranging exhibitions at national, state, and district levels to showcase and sell rural goods.

Enhancement of Economic Opportunities:

Ensuring sustainable income and developing a robust distribution system for agricultural products in rural areas.

Advertising and promoting products or services.

The Shakti Gaon Project

This initiative aims to empower women in rural regions by offering them chances to distribute LPG. The initiative was initiated in 2005 by BPCL and IOCL, with the allocation of LPG distribution rights to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in four districts: Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, and Mayurbhanj.

The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY)

The purpose is to provide

- a) job opportunities to young people living in rural areas.
- b) to provide current and in-demand skills for enhancing capacity and generating cash.
- c) to promote job possibilities.

PROGRAMS FOR BASIC SERVICES

II. 1. Rural housing refers to the provision of housing in rural areas.

Odisha is a prominent state in India in terms of rural housing. The Odisha

government is committed to providing a pucca (permanent) home to every rural family that does not have a permanent structure or is living in temporary huts.

Classification of Housing Scheme:

- a) The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) is a government initiative
 - b) Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana
 - c) The Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana (NSPGY)
-
- a) The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, formerly known as the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), is the primary initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development in the Government of India. The impoverished households without homes and those living in less than two Kucha rooms.
 - b) The Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana is the primary project of the state of Odisha. In the fiscal year 2014-15, a new program was implemented to replace the old "MO-KUDIA YOJANA." The main objective of this project is to convert all makeshift buildings into permanent residences. Under this program, qualified recipients who live in rudimentary dwellings are provided with homes for the purpose of construction. The program consists of two components: (a) Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (Normal) and (b) Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana (Special).
 - c) Pucca Ghar Yojana (MINING) - The Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana (NSPGY) provides assistance to building and other construction workers who are registered with the Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board under the Building and Other Construction Workers (RE & CS) Act for a minimum period of one year without any breaks.

Drinking Water and Swatch Bharat Mission

The primary objective of the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department is to ensure the provision of secure and enough drinking water to rural families.

Their Rural Water Supply and Sanitation section is accountable for ensuring the provision of secure potable water sources in remote regions. In areas experiencing water shortages or water quality problems, there is a shift from using local sources such as tube wells and sanitary wells to relying on Public Water Supply (PWS) systems that extract water from surface sources. The purpose of this move is to provide access to potable water to rural families, hence tackling the water-related issues prevalent in these regions.

Currently, there is a significant emphasis on the provision of piped water supply, and the continuing "Functional Household Tap Connection" initiative is being implemented to accomplish the objectives.

The Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen

- (a) Management of solid and liquid waste in rural regions.
- (b) Comprehensive implementation of sanitation and solid waste management practices to ensure cleanliness in rural areas.
- (c) Regular implementation of mass cleaning campaigns in rural areas
- (b) Village action plans tailored to meet the specifications of SBMG, NREGA,

Grant for Fiancé Commission

Programs for infrastructural development

- a) The Gopa Bandhu Gramin Yojana is a government initiative.

Gop Bandhu Gramin Yojana is a scheme initiated by the Odisha State Government to facilitate the provision of electricity, the building of cement concrete roads, the establishment of drainage systems, and the delivery of clean drinking water.

- (b) The Sansad Adharsh Gramme Yojana Scheme (SAGY)

The Sansad Adarsh Gramin Yojana (SAGY) was announced by the Government of India on October 11, 2014, under the Ministry of Rural Development. This plan is influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's concepts and objectives. It highlights the need to cultivate qualities such as national pride, patriotism, unity, and self-confidence.

The National Rurban Mission Scheme (NRuM)

The "Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission" (SPMRM) Scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet on September 16, 2015, and launched by the Honourable Prime Minister on February 21, 2016, seeks to foster the development of groups of villages that preserve and maintain the fundamental aspects of rural community life. The focus is on ensuring justice and inclusion while providing the usual facilities in metropolitan regions. This endeavor resulted in the establishment of these clusters, often known as "Rurban villages."

Program for the development of capacity:

The State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD & PR)

The State Institution for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj is the main training institution for the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department of Odisha. The organization is responsible for managing and supervising three Extension Training Centres (ETCs) in Bhubaneswar, Keonjhar, and Kalahandi, as well as 15 District Panchayat Resource Centres (DPRCs). This institution has a crucial role in enhancing the skills and abilities of elected representatives and officials at the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) level. In addition, it conducts research and evaluations of different government initiatives and produces informative materials such as booklets, newsletters, posters, and documentary films on various subjects. These materials are widely distributed to multiple stakeholders, thereby improving the successful implementation of various programs.

E-Governance initiatives:

The department has made substantial progress in integrating information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications to develop a transparent, accountable, and responsible governance system. The main goal is to guarantee that these technologies provide advantages to even the most basic and fundamental stakeholders. Throughout the years, the department has implemented many projects to advance good governance via the use of electronic governance (e-Governance). Consistent endeavors have been made at many levels to improve the delivery of public services and simplify the processes for obtaining them.

Electronic governance apps:

- (a) e-Gram Swaraj is a web-based site designed to improve financial administration by facilitating the tracking of revenues and expenditures.
- (b) The National Panchayat Portal (NPP) allows individuals to upload their information.
- (c) NREGA Soft is software designed to track and evaluate the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) 's physical and financial advancements.
- (d) Awa Soft: The software is a tool for executing and tracking the advancement of Rural Housing Schemes.
- (e) PP Grant: This grant is given to Gram Panchayats as a reward for their performance based on their completed jobs.
- (f) The primary objective of the Local Government Directory (LGD) is to assist State Departments in maintaining an updated directory that reflects current developments, such as the establishment of new panchayats or local bodies and a reorganization within panchayats.
- g) The Tubewell Management Information System is a comprehensive database

that stores information on tube wells.

- h) A Videoconferencing Facility has been implemented at the Block Level, with Videoconferencing (VC) equipment installed in all 314 Blocks within the State. These platforms enable the Department to engage with and continuously monitor the several developmental projects and programs it manages.
- (i) The Dashboard Monitoring System (DBMS) is a fast and efficient tool for providing succinct performance evaluations. This tool efficiently monitors numerous programs managed by this department, enabling rapid evaluation of their effectiveness.

Additional Pursuits:

Socio-Economic and Caste Census:

In June 2011, the Indian Government, under the Ministry of Rural Development, conducted a thorough survey called the "Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011" in both rural and urban regions. The main objectives of this survey were as follows:

1. Evaluate the socio-economic standing of households.
2. Categorize the inhabitants according to caste.
3. Comprehend the actual influence of social, educational, and economic statuses among various caste groupings.

The survey was conducted by the Panchayati Raj Department, which serves as the central agency across the state, including all urban local bodies (ULBs), with the aid of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL).

Mission Antyodaya

- (a) Tackling the many aspects of poverty,

(b) The convergence of all programs.

The Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global targets created by the United Nations. Although each objective has distinct aims, they are interrelated and seek to tackle diverse social and economic development challenges. There are a total of 169 distinct objectives linked to these aims. The SDGs include a broad range of issues, including reducing poverty, eliminating hunger, improving healthcare, promoting education, mitigating climate change, advancing gender equality, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, promoting sustainable energy, protecting the environment, and promoting justice. These objectives were to replace the Millennium Development objectives, which were completed in 2015.

Bonded Labour Scheme

The "Bonded Labour" issue garnered much public attention when it was included in the previous 20-Point Program on July 1, 1975. The Bound Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1976 was enacted to safeguard the rights of bound laborers and provide a satisfactory standard of living.

Complaint Resolution Unit

Grievance Redressal Cell (GRC) was formed under the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department on September 1, 2012. The main objective of this department is to resolve the concerns of the general population about different programs and initiatives within the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department.

Panchayat Helpline

The implementation of the Panchayat Helpline signifies a pivotal stage in governance, bringing about significant changes. It effectively accepts and promptly addresses concerns filed by beneficiaries, which has fostered a feeling of hope

among the rural recipients.

e-ABHIJOG

The e-Abhiyoga (CMGS) Cell has been functioning since 2010 to improve openness in implementing many initiatives managed by the PR & DW Department. Citizens may file complaints either via CMGC or directly to the Departmental department, Project Director (PD), or Collector, depending on the nature of the complaint. Following that, the individual personnel is asked to provide action-taken reports in order to reach a final settlement within the department or to escalate the matter to the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell (Online). Several complaints have been effectively handled by consistently following up and reminding the relevant authorities.

PESA ACT 1996:

The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, which was implemented to decentralize authority and empower Indigenous people, has been in operation for 25 years. However, it is now plagued with significant inefficiency, blatant violations, and structural flaws. In 1992, the Indian Constitution underwent the 73rd and 74th Amendments, which extended the three-tier Panchayati Raj governance structure to the country's rural and urban areas. However, areas that are predominantly tribal and fall under The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution were excluded from the scope of the Panchayati Raj Acts.

The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), implemented in 1996, extended the rules of local self-governance to the regions mentioned in the Fifth Schedule, which governs the administration of districts predominantly inhabited by tribal communities. PESA is currently applicable in 10 states across India, namely Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Telangana.

Although the Act was intended to expand governance to scheduled areas and the tribal community, it is now regarded as "ineffective" due to the loss of its

original purpose, despite being previously considered one of the most influential pieces of legislation supporting the community, which makes up approximately nine percent of India's population. The violations of the self-governance features of the Gram Sabhas persist in relation to customary resources, minor forest output, minor minerals, minor water bodies, selection of recipients, approval of projects, and control over local organizations.

Although the establishment of Gram Sabhas is required under the constitution in states, the state legislatures have been given the authority to determine the powers and responsibilities of the Gram Sabhas. Consequently, several nations have established distinct authorities and functions for this entity in diverse ways.

Nevertheless, around 40% of states have yet to establish essential regulations concerning PESA, indicating its weakening. Four states, including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, have yet to establish the regulations necessary for enforcing the act.

The land acquisition and displacement of villages for the construction of the Statue of Unity in Gujarat included the notification of 121 villages, demonstrating a clear violation of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA). Another instance included the act of making the Pathalgadi movement illegal, in which Adivasis installed stone slabs to mark the boundaries of their communities' authority. The regulations pertaining to protecting autonomy and preserving tribal culture, known as PESA laws, have remained unclear. The violation of the PESA terms demonstrated a lack of respect for the rights of forest dwellers, particularly indigenous communities, and environmental considerations. This was evident in the bypassing of proper procedures to facilitate the implementation of "development" projects.

The powers of the Gram Sabha are defined under PESA, and any higher-level entities cannot infringe upon these rights. Nevertheless, a Gram Sabha lacks authority since all functions have been delegated to the elected members, resulting

in a hierarchical distribution of authority. One legislation grants one ultimate authority while the other grants a different one; hence, PESA cannot function within the existing framework.

The structures above the Gram Sabha should be modeled after the Sixth Schedule. The ideal scenario would have included implementing a well-organized system in scheduled regions, where the state's authority could be distributed in a manner that does not undermine the Gram Sabha but rather strengthens it.

The violations of the Act and its dilution demonstrate a consistent pattern of actions that indicate a lack of dedication from both the central and state governments to enhance the power of Gram Sabhas. Instead, there has been a strong effort to facilitate corporate involvement and domination over resources, hence reducing the need for approval from the Gram Sabha.

The draft Environment Impact Assessment policy, presented by the Modi administration last year, aims to weaken the 2006 standards substantially. This would simplify the process for the government and private sector to carry out projects without undergoing environmental examination. The weakening of the Forest Rights Act (2006) and the government's inclination towards removing forest dwellers, along with the recent reduction of state powers in forest affairs under the Forest Conservation Act (1980), reveal a deliberate effort to undermine the safeguards for tribal communities and natural resources. Furthermore, as India undertakes the privatization of coal and implements mining reforms, environmentalists are particularly concerned about the potential conflicts with the breaches and weakening of the PESA requirements.

PESA ACT 1996 AND ODISHA

The (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act of 1996 was enacted on December 24, 1996. The Orissa Gram Panchayat Act of 1964, Orissa Panchayat Samiti Act of 1959, and Orissa Zilla Parishad Act of 1991 have incorporated the provisions of the PESA Act. It encompasses seven districts, namely Mayurbhanj,

Sundargarh, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Nowrangpur, and Kandhamal, which are fully dispersed throughout 1966 Gram Panchayats in 118 Blocks. Keonjhar, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Balasore, Sambalpur, and Ganjam are partially divided across 3 Blocks. A total of 24,734 out of 87,542 wards, 1,966 out of 6,234 Sarpanch offices, 1,965 out of 6,233 Panchayat Samiti Member offices, and 256 out of 854 Zilla Parishad members are inside the Schedule Area. The elections for these positions were carried out in accordance with the terms of the PESA Act.

The State of Orissa seems to have partially complied with the terms of the Central PESA Act while making changes to its PRI Acts. The mandatory provisions in the Central Act that guarantee tribal communities control over natural resources, the granting of licenses for minor minerals and their exploitation, and the acquisition of land by the government for development projects, which are proposed to be enforced through Gram Sabhas, have not been followed. The current Panchayat Rules of the Orissa Government ensure that seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in scheduled areas based on their demographic share. The positions of Chairpersons of the PRIs at all levels are exclusively allocated for individuals belonging to the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

The SC and ST Development Department has implemented appropriate modifications to its current acts, rules, and regulations in accordance with the provisions of the PESA Act. The Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation of 1956 has been modified by Regulation of 2002 (Regulation I of 2002), which became effective on September 4, 2002. The Orissa Scheduled Areas Money-Lenders Regulations, 1967 (Regulation of 1968) has been in effect since November 15, 1968, with the purpose of overseeing and controlling money lending operations in the scheduled areas of the State. Various pertinent departments have delegated some responsibilities to PRIs, who have appropriately made adjustments to the current regulations. Let us examine the accomplishments of PESA in Orissa with careful attention to specific specifics.

Minor Forest Produce: Department of Panchayati Raj. Resolution number 8131 dated. The date of May 26, 2000, has granted the essential authority to Gram

Sabhas in accordance with the Forest and Environment regulations. Department Resolution number 5503 dated. March 31, 2000. The Orissa Government has implemented the Minor Forest Administration Rules of 2002 starting from 15.11.2002. GPs / Gram Sabhas have been given the responsibility of owning and managing 68 MFPs.

The Revenue & Excise Department has issued a letter bearing number 22977/R regarding enforcing Prohibition and selling intoxicants. The Bihar & Orissa Excise Act 1915 was amended on 22.04.1999 to provide that no license of exclusive privilege may be given without the previous consent of the relevant Gram Panchayat, with the agreement of the Gram Sabha of the G.P. Grant authorization during a 30-day timeframe.

The SC & ST Development Department has initiated the process of amending the Orissa (Scheduled Areas) Moneylenders Regulation, 1967. This change aims to provide Gram Panchayat with the authority to regulate money-lending activities and issue licenses in Scheduled Areas. Additionally, it has been stipulated that if any Panchayat provides incorrect information, both the Sarpanch and the relevant authorities would be subject to legal penalties. The Law Department is now reviewing it. The ZP is responsible for managing minor irrigation water bodies (Zilla Parishad). The Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act of 1957 (67 of 1957) was changed. According to the amendment, no prospective license, quarry lease, or renewal, or auction of a source may be given without the advice of the relevant GP. The Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Properties (by STs) Regulation, 1956 has been modified by Regulation 1 of 2002, which became effective on September 4, 2002. The Panchayati Raj Department has changed its Act to transfer control of village markets to the Gram Panchayat. However, the subject is now under judicial consideration. The current implementation status of the PESA Act in the state of Odisha.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj periodically reviews the implementation of the PESA Act and urges the States to take prompt action to align the Panchayati Raj Act and related legislation with the PESA Act. The Ministry performed a study to

assess the conformity of the State Panchayati Raj Act and other relevant legislation with the requirements of the PESA Act. The Study Reports were sent to all the PESA States, including Odisha, requesting to review and implement any necessary changes to State legislation to comply with PESA rules.

The Odisha State Government has substantially ensured that its Panchayati Raj Act aligns with the provisions of section 4 of the PESA Act. The compliance status of the Panchayati Raj Acts with Section 4 of the PESA Act is as follows:

- (d) Customary mode of conflict resolution by the Gram Sabha
- (e) Selection of program beneficiaries by Gram Sabha
- (f) Gram Panchayat to obtain Utilisation Certificate from Gram Sabha
- (h) Nomination by State Government of persons of ST not represented in intermediate & district Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- (i) Consultation with Gram Sabha or PRI before land acquisition & resettlement & rehabilitation
- (j) Planning & management of water bodies by Gram Sabha or Panchayati Raj Institutions
- (k) Recommendation by Gram Sabha or Panchayati Raj Institutions before grant of prospecting license or mining lease
- (l) Recommendation by Gram Sabha or Panchayati Raj Institutions before exploitation of minor minerals
- (m) (i): Power to restrict the sale of intoxicants to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Gram Sabha

(ii): Ownership of Minor Forest Produce to Panchayati Raj Institutions and

Gram Sabha

(iii) Power to prevent land alienation to Panchayati Raj Institutions and

Gram Sabha

(iv) Power to manage village markets to Panchayati Raj Institutions and

Gram Sabha

(v) Control money lending to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Gram

Sabha

(vi) Control of social sector institutions & functionaries to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Gram Sabha

2. 7 PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS: -

STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS

GRAM PANCHAYAT IN ODISHA:

The Panchayati Raj Institutions currently constituted in the state of Odisha include 6794 Gram Panchayats, 314 Samiti Panchayats at the block level, and 30 Zilla Parishads at the district level. In Odisha, there are 30 districts, 58 subdivisions, 317 tehsils, and 51349 villagers as per the 2021 census. These 3 tier Panchayati Raj Institutions are originally linked, and each tier of the Panchayati structure has its own functionaries and its administrative structure commensurate with its statutory responsibilities.

THE GRAM PANCHAYAT

In accordance with the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act of 1964, the state government has the authority to designate any village or cluster of villages as a “grama” and assign a specific name to it. Each Grama must consist of a population ranging from 2000 to 10000 individuals. Furthermore, every Grama established

must have a Grama Sasan comprising all individuals registered under the Representation of the People's Act of 1950. This Grama Sasan is recognized as a legal entity capable of owning and managing property, entering into contracts, and participating in legal proceedings under its corporate name. Additionally, the government has the power to establish a Palli Sabha for each village designated as a Sasan ward.

The state government, by notification constitutes any village or group of villages as grama and assigns a name to such grama; each grama should be constituted with a population between 2000 to 10000, and for every grama, there shall be a Grama Sasan which shall be composed of all persons registered by virtue of the representation of the peoples act 1950 (43 of 1950) The Sasan shall be a body corporate hold and dispose of property to enter into contracts and to sue and be sued in its corporate name”. (Source Orissa Grama Panchayats Act, 1964).

By a notification code, the government constituted a Palli Sabha for every village within the gram, which was declared a ward of the Gram Sabha. The police are a cell consisting of all adult persons in the area, and they meet annually in February every year. It is the duty of the police at its annual meeting to give its recommendations to the Gram Panchayat relating to such Palli Sabha with respect to the development works and programs that may be taken during the ensuing year. The meeting of the Gram Sabha is called Gram Sabha. The meeting of the Gram Sabha is held twice a year, one in the month of February and the second in the month of June. The quorum is 1/10 of the members of the Grama Sasan.

The February session decides the programs and works to be undertaken by the executive wing based on proposals received from Palli Sabha. This is the budget session and acts only to give recommendations to the Gram Panchayat.

Formation of Gram Panchayat

Gram Panchayat is constituted under the amended Gram Panchayat Act of 1965. Gram Panchayat is headed by a Sarpanch, who is elected by all eligible voters of the Gram Panchayat. Again, the district collector divides each grama into 11 to 25

wards. Each ward elected a member to the Gram Panchayat who is called a ward member following the recent decision the elections are held on without political parties' symbols; the act also provides for reservation of seats for the STs and SCs in the Gram Panchayat on the basis of their population in the area, and such seats are allotted to different wards by rotation.

As mentioned earlier, the government of Orissa made a proclamation in 1991 reserving 1/3 of seats for women in the panchayats. These reserved seats for women are allotted by rotation to different wards of the Gram Panchayat area. As per Article 243-D of the constitution, the government of Orissa made provision for 27% reservation of seats in every Gram Panchayat for backward class of citizens.

Sarpanch is the chief executive of the Gram Panchayat. He is directly elected by all the eligible voters of the Gram Panchayat for a period of 5 years. According to section 11 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, in order to be elected as Sarpanch, a person should be 21 years of age, should have the ability to read and write Oriya, should not have also been a Sarpanch for any other Gram Panchayat or a candidate for election as such.

Section 24 of the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act says that the Sarpanch or the Naib Sarpanch can be removed from his office if 1/3 of the members of the Gram Panchayat initiate notice through a resolution having an expression of no confidence in him and address it to the Sub-divisional officer and if such a resolution is passed by 2/3 of the members for this purpose is convened by the Sub-divisional officer with 15 days notice which he or his nominee presides will pass the resolution so passed is sent to the collector who puts it on the office notice board to signify the enforcement of the removal.

Powers and Functions of the Sarpanch

The sarpanch acts as the president of the Gram Panchayat, being called as executive head of the organization. The powers, positions, and functions of the sarpanch, as outlined in section 19 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, are as follows:

- a) To arrange and act as chairperson in the meetings of the Gram Panchayat and conduct, regulate, and be accountable for the appropriate maintenance of the records of the proceedings of the meetings.
- b) To sign documents on behalf of the Grams Sasan.
- c) To assume responsibility for the proper custody of all records, papers, precious securities, properties, and assets owned by Sasan.
- d) To ensure the efficient functioning of the Gram Panchayat as established by law.
- e) To order the preparation of any statements and reports required by or under this legislation.
- f) To exercise supervision and control over the actions and proceedings of all officials and workers of the Gram Panchayat
- g) All correspondence are made on behalf of the Gram Panchayat
- h) To act or discharge all works assigned or allocated to him by this act.

Section 21 of the Act provides for the different powers and functions of the Naib sarpanch. The Naib sarpanch is the deputy chairman of the Gram Panchayat and shall exercise such powers and discharge such duties of the sarpanch as may be delegated to him in writing by the sarpanch. The Naib Sarpanch acts as the Sarpanch when the office of the sarpanch falls vacant until the election is over for a new Sarpanch.

The office of the sarpanch is vacant; the Naib sarpanch acts in the functions of the sarpanch until a new sarpanch is elected or nominated.

Section 22 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act provides for the rights of the individual members of the Gram Panchayat. These are as follows,

- a) to supervise the Gram Panchayat's records during office hours after notifying

the sarpanch.

- b) propose a resolution or raise an inquiry with any office bearer regarding matters pertaining to the administration of the Gram Panchayat.
- c) to inspect all projects carried out by the Gram Panchayat.
- d) to supervise all organizations operating under the Gram Panchayat's direction, management, and control.
- e) to report any irregularities observed during such inspection to the Sarpanch.

The present structural arrangement of the panchayats in the state of Orissa is no doubt revolutionary as it provides further reservation of historically disadvantaged groups such as SCs, other backward castes, and women.

Powers and functions of the Gram Panchayat

The Gram Panchayat constitutes the basis of Rural self-government. It is the real center of administration and development of rural areas. With the increased emphasis on a grassroots approach to community development, the scope of the panchayat functions has been vastly widened. It covers a wide range of subjects and powers. In Odisha, the Gram Panchayat's powers, duties, and functions are enumerated in detail in Chapter IV of the Gram Panchayat Act, 1964.

The functions of the Gram Panchayat can be grouped into two heads: Obligatory and Discretionary. The panchayat is bound to perform the obligatory functions. What carrying on the discretionary functions depends on the resources, necessity, time, and situations of the panchayat.

Obligatory functions:

Section 44 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1964 enumerates the panchayat's obligatory functions. The Gram Panchayat should undertake control and administrative job functions.

- 1 Construction, repair, maintenance, alteration, and improvement of public streets
- 2 Lighting, watering, and cleaning public streets and other public places,
- 3 The removal of unauthorized obstructions, projections, and encroachments upon public streets or places,
- 4 Construction maintenance and cleaning of drains, latrines, urinals, and disposal of drain water and sullage,
- 5 Construction and maintenance of waterworks and for the vision of water supply,
- 6 Scavenging, removal, and disposal of filth, rubbish, and polluted matters,
- 7 Reclaiming unhealthy localities and stating all nuisances.
- 8 Measures for preventing the spread of epidemics, infections, and other dangerous diseases,
- 9 Regulation and abstinent offensive or dangerous trades or practices,
- 10 Registration maintenance of marriage,
- 11 Guarding, keeping, and announcing all properties under the jurisdiction of the panchayat,
- 12 Establishing, administering, and preserving grazing lands for the benefit of the local populace
- 13 Managing records related to livestock sensors, population census, and other pertinent statistics.
- 14 Recording the sale of animals.
- 15 Controlling the population of stray and unclaimed dogs,

- 16 Providing support to the committee in communal matters such as the establishment and keeping of schools for primary education
- 17 Regular maintenance of the village and field boundary marks,
- 18 Maintenance of soil conservation,
- 19 Regulation of hats, fairs, and festivals and control of the market,
- 20 Preparation and execution of plans for agricultural development, including control and eradication of pests.
- 21 Fulfillment of any other obligation imposed by this act or any other law from time to time.

In addition to the obligatory functions, each Gram Panchayat is also required to perform certain discretionary functions. They are as follows:

- planting and maintenance of trees,
- development and maintenance of village forest,
- development of the livestock, construction maintenance, and regulation of slaughterhouses,
- Renovation of cultivable waste and fallen land,
- organization and management of multipurpose cooperative societies
- famine relief measures,
- establishment and maintenance of village libraries,
- organization of the fire services, and protection of life and property in case of fire,
- maternity and child welfare and establishment of centers for the purpose

- establishment and management of village akhara and clubs.
- Establishment and maintenance of fair-weather roads, cattle ponds, and imposition of fees, therefore establishment and maintenance of works for providing employment in times of scarcity and establishment of granaries organization,
- management and promotion of cottage industries,
- construction and maintenance of Dharamshala and rest houses,
- organization and maintenance of industrial and agricultural exhibitions,
- to keep the records about the employment,
- provision for public vaccination and inoculation.
- control over the disposal of adulterated food.
- spread of education and establishment of primary schools,

With the prior approval of the panchayat samiti, a body of Gram Swechha Sevakas will be organized to assist the Gram Panchayat in preventing gambling and implementing prohibition.

The discretionary functions mentioned above are merely illustrative but not exhaustive.

From the above analysis of two types of functions, it is evident that all the welfare and developmental functions in the rural areas are given to the Gram Panchayat. However, the very system of making a distinction between obligatory and discretionary functions does not appear to be conducive to the efficient working of panchayats.

Administration and staffing

The underlying principle and the basic idea of Panchayati Raj are people's

representatives and expert administrators. With this end in view, some administrative staff assist each tier in the Panchayati Raj structure.

At the lowest tier, a level one secretary or panchayat extension officer is appointed to assist the sarpanch. The PEO is appointed by the government of Odisha.

Appointment procedure

Section 123 of the Orissa Gram Panchayats Act, 1965, deals with the secretary's powers, functions, and duties. His main functions are to record the proceedings of the meetings of the Gram Panchayat and to be the custodian of all records, documents, cash, and valuable securities of the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat Secretary performs his duty and function under the direction of the Sarpanch; a secretary can be removed from office by the Gram Panchayat if he willfully omits or refuses to carry out the duties and functions entrusted to him.

Finance

The Panchayati Raj Institutions, in order to function as a genuine unit of rural local government, need a sound financial base. Financial Organisation is necessary for implementing development programs through electric local authorities' administration cannot deliver the goods without adequate financial resources at its disposal. In the past, Panchayat Raj could not be able to achieve the desired results due to its anemic financial condition. Hence, an inadequate financial base constitutes the backbone of Panchayati Raj's successful work.

Sources of income of the Gram Panchayat

Section, 83 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1965 offers for the sources of revenue of the Gram Panchayats in Odisha the Gram Panchayat levies and collects the following taxes and fees.

Taxes

- a) vehicle tax payable by the owners of the vehicle which are kept or used within the grama
- b) Tax on latrine or Conservancy
- c) Charges for water supplied by the Gram Panchayat
- d) Electricity charges for lighting facilities in the public streets and buildings
- e) drainage tax

Fees

- a) place and private markets, vehicle stands and slaughterhouses
- b) fees on animals brought for cell or sold in a public market
- c) fee for regulating the movement of cattle
- d) fee for use of any buildings or structures so stalls and stands in the market
- e) fee huge of slaughterhouses and card stands maintained by the Gram Panchayat
- f) Ground rent
- g) License fees on brokers, Commission agents, weighmen, and measures.

Grama Fund

Each Grama Panchayat shall have a Grama Fund, and the following items shall be credited to the Fund:

- i) All proceeds of taxes, tolls, fees, or rates collected by the Gram Panchayat:
- ii) All fines realized under the provision of the Act
- iii) All funds realized under the provision of the Act

- iv) All proceedings from the disposal of its properties
- v) All incomes acquired from any property, institution, undertaking or work
- vi) All amounts received by way of penalty or compensation
- vii) All incomes from any scheme undertaken by the Gram Panchayat
- viii) Money assigned by the state government or Panchayat Samiti
- ix) Such portion of the rent or proceeds of government property directed by the state government to be paid to the Gram Panchayat
- x) All pounds assigned by order of the state government from out of the government revenue
- xi) All sums received by way of loans, gifts, contributions or other grants
- xii) Receipt from cesses.
- xiii) All interests and profits from any investment or any transaction.

As per the Act, it is the duty of every Grama Panchayat to prepare the annual financial estimate of income and expenditure known as the annual budget and forward the same to the concerned panchayat samiti for its approval. The Panchayat Samiti has got the power to make necessary modifications and return the budget for its implementation by the Gram Panchayat.

Audit and Accounts

The basic principle of financial administration is that public money should be spent properly and on items for which due sanction has been accorded. This principle also applies to the Panchayat Raj bodies, which are expected to observe financial discipline. No money should be spent without the approval of the competent authorities, and it should not be spent for purposes other than those for which it has been duly sanctioned.

Section 100 of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act 1965 has provisions for auditing panchayat finance.

The local fund audit organization has been entrusted with the responsibility of auditing Gram Panchayat Finance, the examiner of local accounts each entrusted with the duty of audit and inspection relating to the accounts of gram panchayat with the help of auditors in case of irregularities and in the light of objections raised by the local fund audit organization proceedings may be started against such respective panchayat institution and person involved in it. Again, the provisions of Article 243-I of the setting up of the Finance Commission are required to study the financial position of Gram Panchayats and to give necessary recommendations to the governor of the state for the improvement of the financial position.

Government Control

Article 243-G of the Indian Constitution provides that Panchayati Raj institutions are designed to function as local self-government units. Panchayati Raj is the essence of government, but the perusal of Panchayati Raj legislations in various states of India, in general. And search list selection in Orissa. It is revealed that the way the state government controls these local bodies continues to be almost the same as it was during the days of the British Raj. In the State of Orissa Panchayati Raj Administration event today. The principle of Paternalism of state government and bureaucratic guidance and supervision.

The Odisha State Government exercises supervision and control over the Gram Panchayats through legislative and executive means. The structural arrangements of the Gram Panchayats and the various powers and functions conferred upon them are made by the laws enacted by the state legislature. The executive, to operationalize the legislation, makes innumerable rules and regulations having the same force of law for the functioning of the Gram Panchayat.

Gram Panchayats have been put under the supervision of a large number of government officials. The District Collector or any other. "Has been authorized by

the state government's orders to exercise general powers of inspection, supervision, and control over Gram Panchayats.” The district collectors. Power to inspect any book. Register the record of the documents in the name of Gram Panchayat to stop. He is also empowered to inspect any institution or property belonging to the Gram Panchayat or direct a Gram Panchayat to furnish statements, reports, copies of documents, or records of legislative registers relating to Gram Panchayats.

The Collector possesses the authority to instruct any government department officer involved in development work within the district to participate in the meetings of the Grama Panchayat and provide guidance and support to the panchayat on any issue related to the officer's departmental work. Suppose the Collector determines that a Grama Panchayat cannot carry out its duties per the requirements of the Act. In that case, the Collector has the authority to instruct the Panchayat Samiti to act on behalf of the Grama Panchayat for any or all purposes until the disability is resolved.

The district Collector is also empowered, under the provisions of the Act, to suspend the Sarpanch or the Naib-Sarpanch, if he feels that they are abusing their powers, and also report the matter to the State Government.

There are other, more serious aspects of the problem of Government control. Even the sub-divisional officer, under section 114 of the Orissa Grama Panchayats Act, 1965, has the power to cancel the resolution of the Grama Panchayat. A conventional feature of executive control is reflected in the provisions of the Act for reconstitution, dissolution, or 25 supersession of the Grama Panchayats. If the State Government feels that a Grama Panchayat lacks the ability to carry out its tasks, consistently fails to fulfill its obligations, or is excessively or improperly exercising its authority, the State Government has the authority to dissolve the Grama Panchayat by a Government notice. Upon dissolution, all the members of the Grama Panchayat, including its Sarpanch and Naib-Sarpanch, are required to promptly quit their positions. While the Grama Panchayat is not in operation, the State Government will decide how the functions and responsibilities of the Grama Panchayat and its Sarpanch will be carried out by the Chairman of the Panchayat

Samiti. Even after being reconstituted by a new election, a Grama Panchayat remains incapable of carrying out its duties or misusing its authority. In such cases, the State Government has the right to override the Grama Panchayat through a Government notice for a maximum duration of six months. If supersession occurs, all members of the Grama Panchayat, including the Sarpanch and Naib-Sarpanch, must immediately resign from their positions. There is a widely accepted understanding that some level of government oversight over Panchayat organizations is necessary to effectively manage their operations and address potential disputes. The 'controls', such as supersession and removal of members, serve as safety measures that are to be used only in critical situations to address any failures, misconduct, or corruption by the elected members of the Grama Panchayat.

Sarpanch

The Sarpanch occupies a place of preeminence in the setup of the Gram Panchayat. He is a multidimensional authority of the Gram Panchayat. “He is the presiding officer, the chief executive, the chief judge, and the chief representative of the panchayat.”

Powers, duties, and functions of the Sarpanch

The sarpanch is the executive authority of the Gram Panchayat. All executive powers of the Gram Panchayat are exercised by him. The sarpanch performs the following functions

- 1 He convinces and presides over the meetings of the Gram Panchayat.
- 2 He conducts, regulates, and remains responsible for the maintenance of records of the proceedings of the said meetings.
- 3 He executes documents relating to contracts on behalf of the Gram Sabha.
- 4 He is responsible for the proper custody of all records and documents.
- 5 He supervises and controls the functions of all employees.
- 6 He is responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the Gram

Panchayat.

- 7 He is the guardian of the Gram Panchayat's finances and funds. All payments are received and made under his authority.
- 8 He causes all reports to be prepared as required by competent authorities.

As a whole, the Sarpanch has a pivotal role to play not only at the Gram Panchayat level but also in the entire Panchayati Raj structure. As the direct representative of the villagers, the sarpanch is their leader and captain of the grassroots democratic unit. The effective role of the sarpanch depends upon the soundness of the structure, favorable socio-economic factors, and his behavioral style.

III. Legal Status

A Gram Panchayat is a corporate body having perpetual succession and a common seal. It has the power to acquire, hold, and dispose of property and to enter into contracts.

IV. Meetings

A Gram Panchayat is a deliberative cum executive body. It transacts its business by passing resolutions. The Sarpanch convenes, presides over, and conducts the meetings of the Panchayat. Upon the signed request of 1/3rd of the members of the Grama Panchayat, a requisitioned meeting can be held. The notice for the meeting of the Grama Panchayat, including the agenda of the proposed meeting, is to be sent to all the members. He exercises control over its administration. He exercises the powers that are delegated to him by the Panchayat. At least one Gram Panchayat meeting in a month is compulsory. The Panchayat functions through four or more committees. The Sarpanch is the ex-officio member and President of each committee. The other members are elected by the members from amongst themselves. The members of Panchayat can request the Sarpanch for a special meeting. A majority of members of the Panchayat constitutes the quorum. All decisions are taken by consensus or majority. The Sarpanch can cast in case of a tie.

CHAPTER- III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research methods are widely used in the social sciences and the humanities. Bhangu, S., Provost, F., & Caduff, C. (2023).

‘Qualitative research is necessary because it explores variables that are not predetermined in social studies’ (Khoa, B.T. et al., 2023).

When exploring the elements that cause a phenomenon to arise and persist, it is crucial to begin by asking two basic questions. The first inquiry, sometimes referred to as the "what" question, entails comprehending our existing knowledge on the specific phenomenon under consideration. This investigation aims to explore the current understanding and ascertain the factual components of the phenomenon.

The second inquiry, referred to as the "how" query, focuses on comprehending how we have obtained this information about the phenomenon. It explores the techniques and procedures used to collect information and acquire knowledge.

The "what" and "how" questions are crucial to the study efforts of both natural and social scientists. They are further classified as ontological and epistemological, respectively. By addressing these concerns together, we may develop a suitable research approach that allows us to fully understand the phenomena and the methods we use to understand them.

This technique serves as the fundamental phase in the research process, assisting researchers in establishing a robust framework for their studies (Bhangu S. et al., 2023).

This research employed the qualitative method during the course of the research. Methods like interviews, questionnaires, and focused group discussions were used for the qualitative aspect, and sampling was used for the quantitative

aspect. The primary data was collected with the help of these methods, and it was prepared in such a manner as to achieve the purpose of the research. The secondary data was collected with the help of various books, journals, newspapers, articles, and government archives. The primary data was collected in the form of a questionnaire, which was prepared in such a manner as to fulfill the objectives of the research.

While executing this research work, the following tools and techniques were used:

1.6 Research Design

In this research work, mixed methods were used. It was quantitative as well as qualitative in nature.

1.7 Sample Unit

The size of the sample was 400. The sample unit for collecting data were eligible beneficiaries of various programs and schemes of all villages coming under Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, including Officials of the Gram Panchayat and Officials of Kuchinda Block.

The respondents were accessed using **Stratified Sampling** methods as it was designed as multiple strata or groups, like i) eligible beneficiaries of various programs and schemes in all villages under Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, ii) Officials of Gram Panchayat and elected members, iii) officials of Kuchinda Block. This ensures that different key groups are adequately represented in the sample.

1.8 The Universe of the Research

The Research universe was the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat as a whole. The research population was drawn from Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat and Kuchinda Block of Sambalpur District. The Sample size was 400. The Gram Panchayat consists of three villages with a population of 3819 (2011 Census).

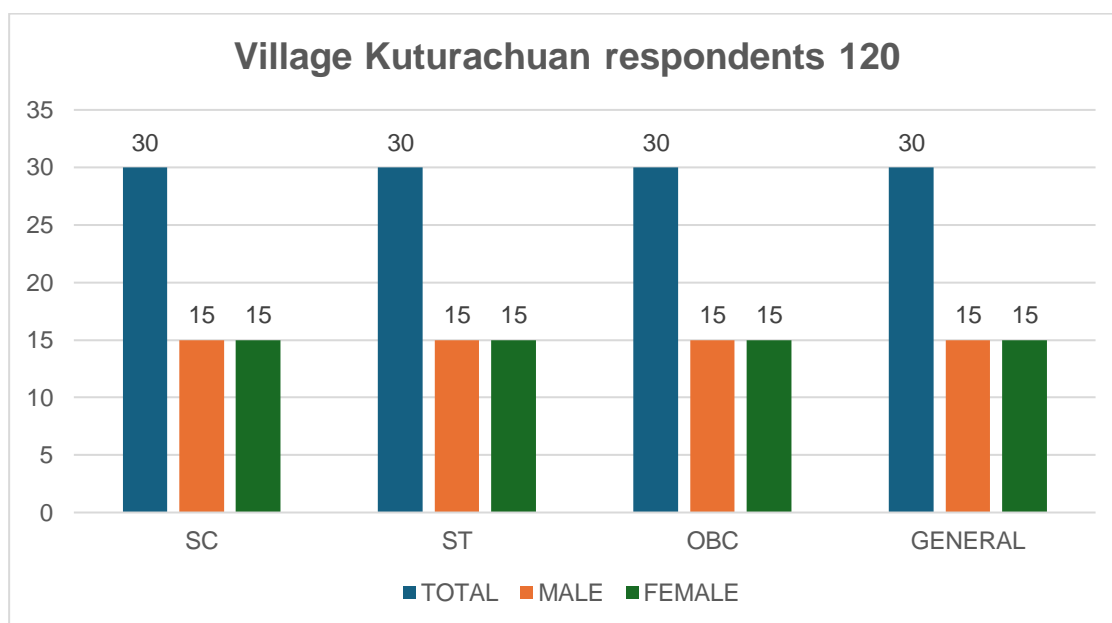
- 1) Kuturachuan
- 2) Kirasasan
- 3) Satakama

A random sampling technique was used to collect primary data from the respondents of a sample size of 400.

1.9 Distribution of Sample for collection of data-

a. 120 respondents from **Kuturachuan village**. The data collection was distributed equally among all sections of the Society, such as

- i) STs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15
- ii) SCs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15
- iii) OBCs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15
- iv) GENERALS = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15



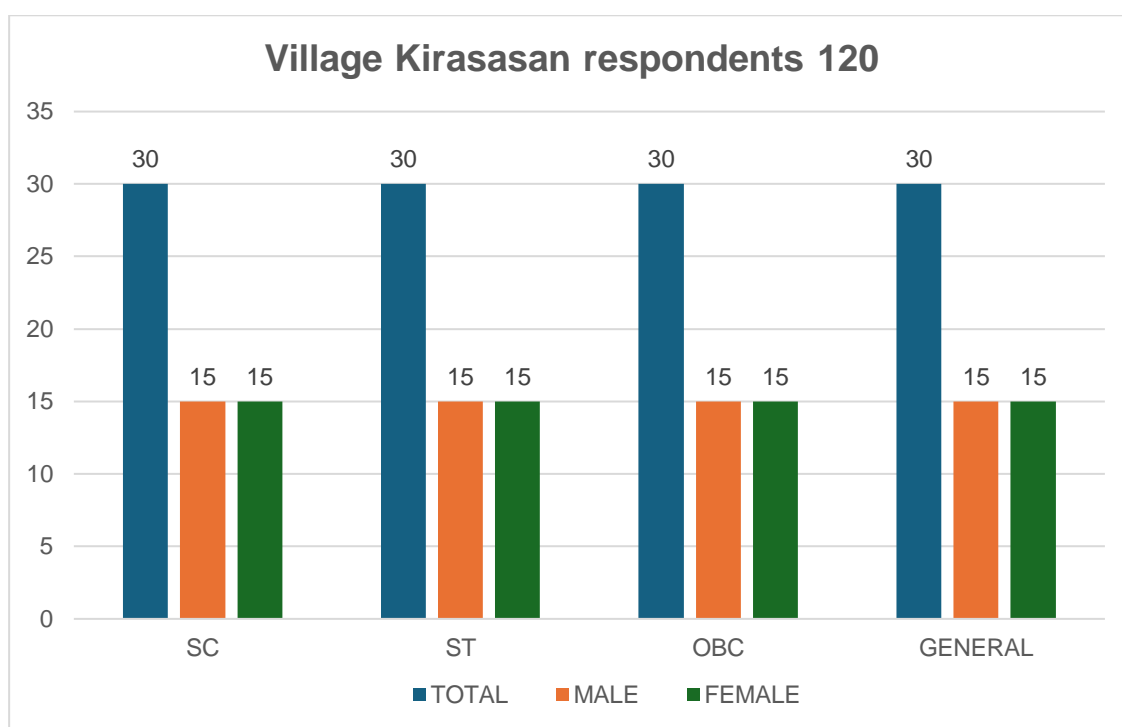
b. 120 beneficiaries from **Kirasasan village**. The data collection was distributed equally among all sections of the Society, such as

i) STs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15

ii) SCs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15

iii) OBCs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15

iv) GENERALS = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15



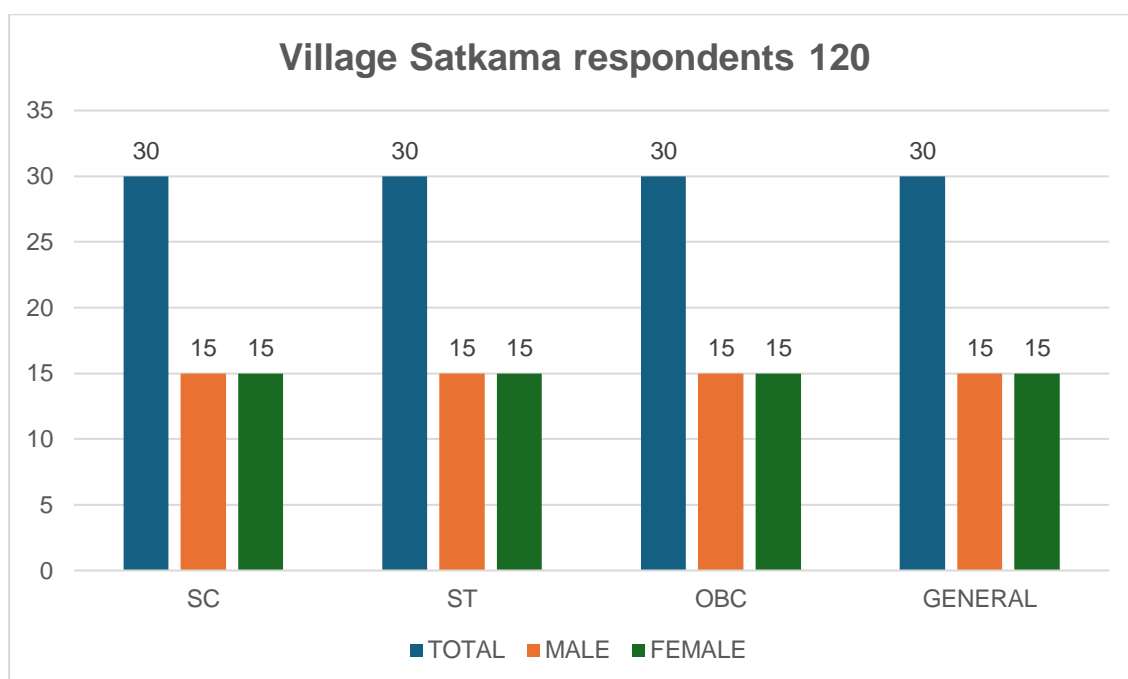
c. 120 beneficiaries from **Satakama village**. The data collection was distributed equally among all sections of the Society, such as

i) STs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15

ii) SCs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15

iii) OBCs = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15

iv) GENERALS = 30 covering Male- 15 + Female- 15



- d. 5 Official members from the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat office were covered under the Questionnaire to collect a sample of data.
- e. 12 Elected members from the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat office were covered under the Questionnaire to collect a sample of data.
- f. 2 persons, consisting of the Elected Sarpanch and Naib- Sarpanch of the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat office, were covered under the Questionnaire to collect a sample of data.
- g. 10 Elected Sarpanch and Officials of adjacent Panchayats were asked for a collection of data through a Questionnaire.
- h. 5 Block Officials' data were collected to know the effective functioning of PRIs.
- i. 6 District Officials' data were also analysed to understand the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions better.

The data was collected using interviews and questionnaires, as the study used both qualitative and quantitative methods.

CHAPTER - IV

TABULATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF THE STUDY (DATA ANALYSIS)

A survey was conducted using a questionnaire to collect responses from respondents based on the research sample design. This chapter focuses on the process of analyzing data. Data analysis involves connecting processed raw data and drawing meaningful observations, results, or conclusions from it, which are then presented in a structured manner. These findings can be utilized to formulate recommendations, identify key findings, and draw conclusions. The analysis in this study primarily relies on data collected through questionnaires, and the responses provided by participants are detailed below. The following is the data analysis of the findings.

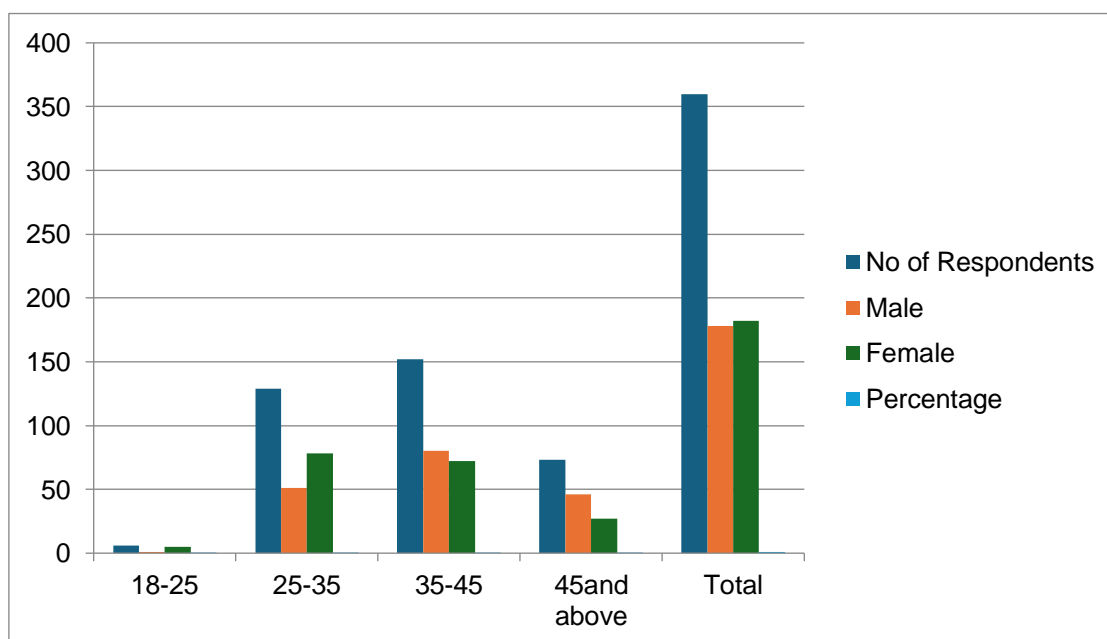
VILLAGE	CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
KUTURACHUAN	ST	15	15	30
	SC	15	15	30
	OBC	15	15	30
	GENERAL	15	15	30

VILLAGE	CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
KIRASHASAN	ST	15	15	30
	SC	15	15	30
	OBC	15	15	30
	GENERAL	15	15	30

VILLAGE	CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
SATKAMA	ST	15	15	30
	SC	15	15	30
	OBC	15	15	30
	GENERAL	15	15	30

Demographics of study participants

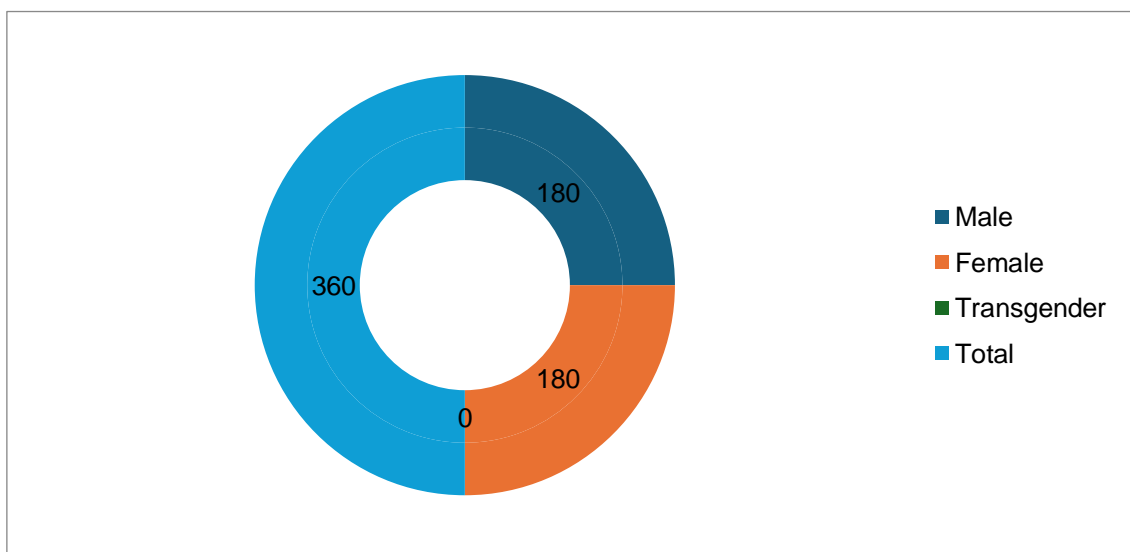
Age	No of Respondents	Male	Female	Percentage
18-25	6	1	5	1.66%
25-35	129	51	78	35.83%
35-45	152	80	72	42.22%
45and above	73	46	27	20.28%
Total	360	178	182	100%



A significant number of respondents (35.83%) are in the 25-35 age group. Another significant proportion of respondents (42.22%) are in the 35-45 age group. A smaller proportion of respondents (20.28%) are in the 45 and above age group. The smallest proportion of respondents (1.66%) are in the 18-25 age group. This data suggests that the majority of respondents are in the prime of their working lives. The fact that there is a relatively small proportion of respondents in the 18-25 age group suggests that the survey may have targeted a specific demographic. It is important to note that this is just a sample of 360 respondents, and so the results may not be generalizable to the entire population. However, the data does provide some insights into the age distribution of the respondents.

Sex Composition of Respondents

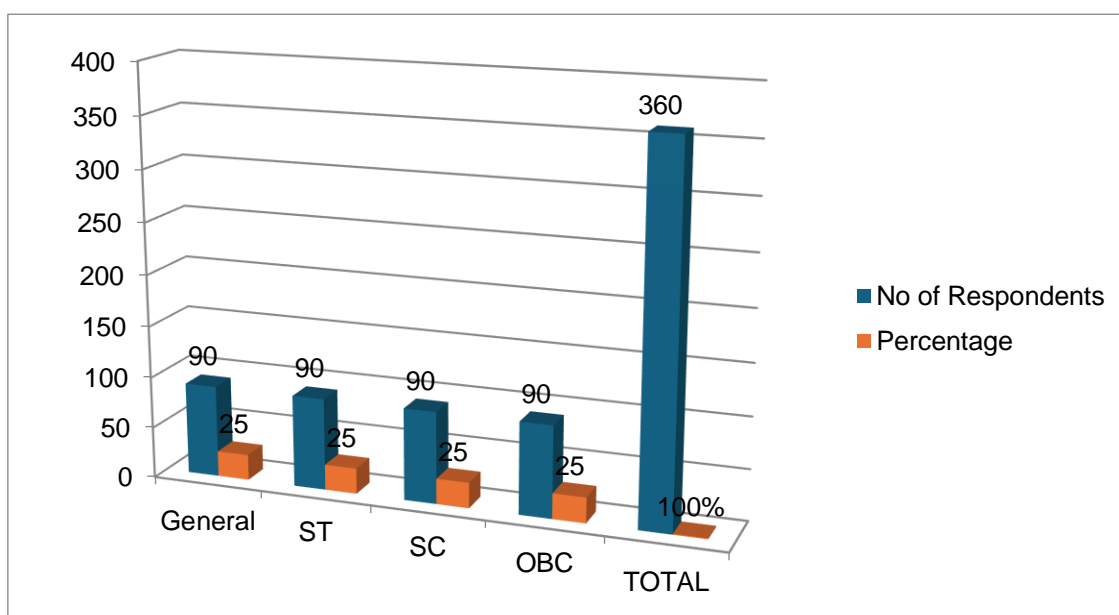
Sex	No of respondents	percentage
Male	180	50
Female	180	50
Transgender	0	0
Total	360	100



The above table shows that out of 360 respondent's 180 (50%) respondents are male and 180 (50%) respondents are female.

Social Category of the Respondents

Social Category	No of Respondents	Percentage
General	90	25
ST	90	25
SC	90	25
OBC	90	25
TOTAL	360	100%



The sample comprises individuals from all four social categories, namely General, ST, SC, and OBC, and each category constitutes an equal share of 25% among the 360 total respondents participating in the survey. The survey aimed to deliberately create a representative sample that encompasses voices from all social categories. This is crucial because it enhances the likelihood of the survey's findings being applicable to the broader population. It's essential to acknowledge that this

survey represents a sample of 360 respondents, so it might not perfectly mirror the entire population. Nevertheless, it signifies a genuine attempt to include a diverse range of perspectives in the sample.

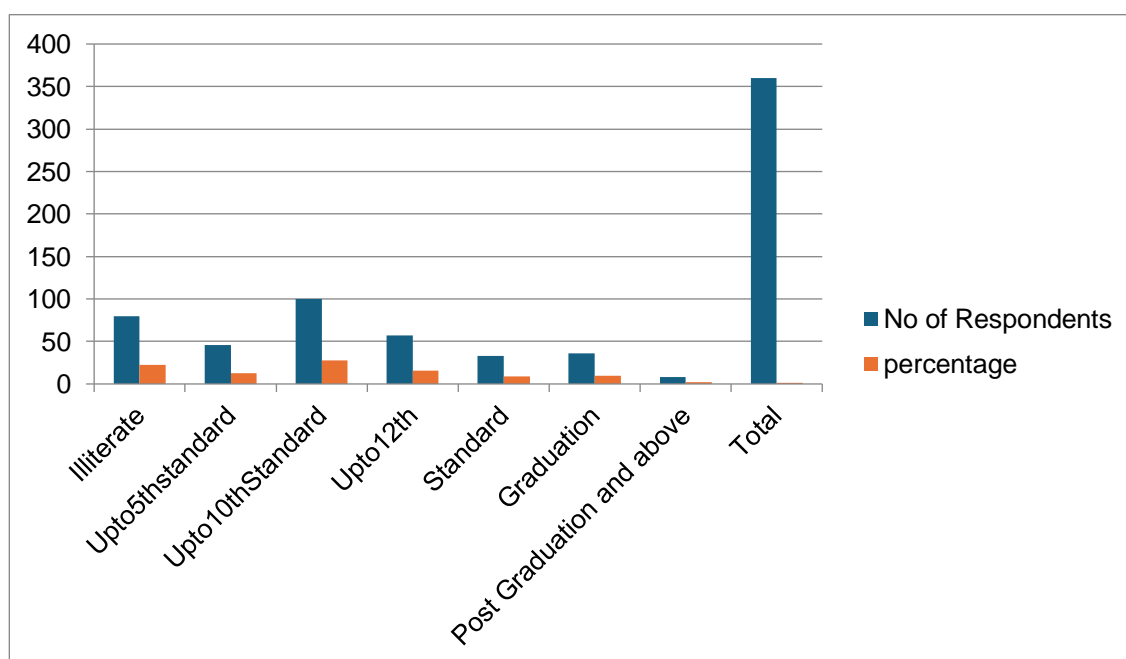
To ensure fair and inclusive representation of all major social categories in the study, namely General, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and Other Backward Classes a quota sampling method was adopted. This method involves dividing the total sample size into pre-determined proportions. Out of the 360 respondents, the sample was intentionally structured so that each of the four social categories contributed exactly 25%, i.e., 90 respondents per group. The objective of achieving social representativeness guided this deliberate distribution. Respondents were within each social category, from among the eligible beneficiaries of various government schemes across all villages under the Katurachuan Gram Panchayat. This is in relation to the study aiming to highlight equity, inclusion, and social diversity in policy implementation outcomes.

Level of Educational Qualification of Respondents

Qualification	No of Respondents	percentage
Illiterate	80	22.222
Upto5 th standard	46	12.777
Upto10 th Standard	100	27.777
Upto12 th	57	15.833
Standard	33	9.166
Graduation	36	10
Post Graduation and above	8	2.222
Total	360	100

A significant proportion of respondents (22.22%) are illiterate. Another significant proportion of respondents (12.77%) have studied up to the 5th standard. A slightly higher proportion of respondents (27.77%) have studied up to the 10th standard. A smaller proportion of respondents (15.83%) have studied up to the 12th standard. A very small proportion of respondents (9.16%) have a standard education. A slightly higher proportion of respondents (10%) have a graduate degree. The smallest proportion of respondents (2.22%) have a post-graduate degree or above.

This data suggests that the educational attainment levels of the respondents are generally low. The fact that a significant proportion of respondents are illiterate is particularly concerning. It is important to note that this is just a sample of 360 respondents, so the results may not be generalizable to the entire population. However, the data does provide some insights into the educational attainment levels of the respondents. Here are some possible explanations for the respondents' low



educational attainment levels. The respondents may come from poor families who cannot afford to send them to school. The respondents may live in a region with a

poor education system. The respondents may have dropped out of school due to economic reasons, family pressure, or other factors. It is also important to note that the data does not include information on other important factors, such as age, gender, and occupation. This information would be helpful in providing a more complete understanding of the educational attainment levels. Despite the low educational completion levels of the respondents, it is important to note that they are still participating in the survey. This suggests that they are interested in learning and improving their lives.

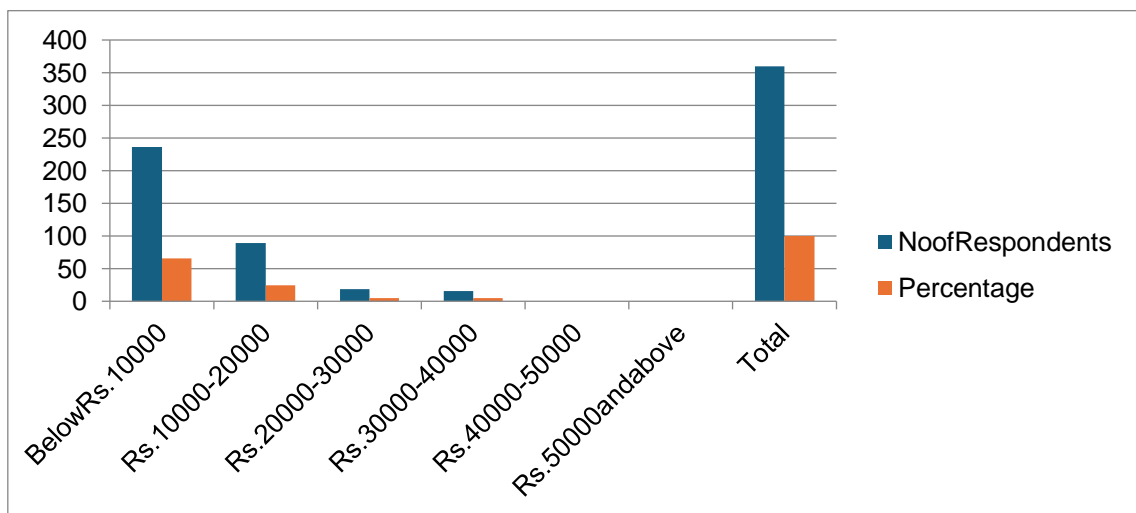
Employment and Occupation of the Respondents.

Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage
UNEMPLOYED	27	7.5
FARMER	78	21.7
GOVT.SERVICE	17	4.7
AGRICULTURE	75	20.833
COMPANY JOB	14	3.9
STUDENT	11	3.1
GRAM SATHI	1	0.3
SELF EMPLOYED	20	5.6
HOUSE WIFE	53	14.722
KRUSHI MITRA	1	0.3
LABOUR	52	14.4
WORD MEMBER	1	0.3
TEACHER	10	2.8

The majority of respondents are farmers (21.7%) and laborers (14.4%). There is a significant gender gap in the workforce, with males outnumbering females by 55% to 45%. Women are more likely to be unemployed (8.4%) or housewives (14.7%) than men (6.6% and 0%, respectively). Men are more likely to be employed in government service (5.9%), company jobs (4.7%), and self-employment (6.3%) than women (3.8%, 3.2%, and 3.8%, respectively). The majority of respondents in government service and company jobs are likely to be more educated and skilled than the majority of respondents in other occupations. The respondents' demographic profile suggests that most of the population is engaged in agriculture-related activities. There is a significant gender gap in the workforce, with women more likely to be unemployed or housewives than men. Men are also more likely to be employed in higher-skilled and higher-paying occupations.

Income level of the Respondents

Monthly Income	No of Respondents	Percentage
BelowRs.10000	236	65.555
Rs.10000-20000	89	24.722
Rs.20000-30000	19	5.277
Rs.30000-40000	16	4.444
Rs.40000-50000	0	0
Rs.50000andabove	0	0
Total	360	100

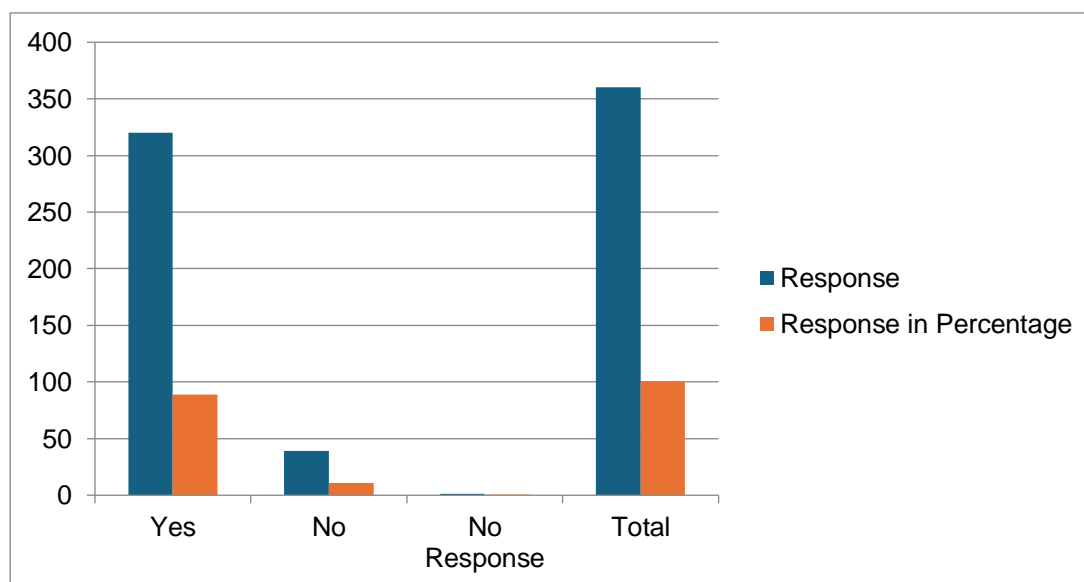


The above table shows the monthly income of 360 respondents, the following income distribution is observed as Rs. 10,000-20,000: There are 89 respondents in this income category, indicating that 89 out of 360 respondents have a monthly income in the range of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. Rs. 20,000-30,000: 19 respondents fall within this income bracket, suggesting that 19 out of 360 respondents earn between Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 30,000 per month. Rs. 30,000-40,000: There are 16 respondents in this income category, signifying that 16 out of 360 respondents have a monthly income in the range of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000. Rs. 40,000-50,000: The

data shows that none of the 360 respondents reported a monthly income falling between Rs. 40,000.00 and Rs. 50,000.00 Rs. 50,000.00 and above similarly, none of the 360 respondents have a monthly income of Rs. 50,000 and above. In summary, the majority of the respondents (89 out of 360) fall into the income area of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month, followed by 19 respondents in the Rs. 20,000-30,000 category and 16 respondents in the Rs. 30,000-40,000 category. There are no reported incomes in the higher income brackets, specifically Rs. 40,000-50,000 and Rs. 50,000 and above among the surveyed individuals.

1- Do you know about the role of Panchayati Raj?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	320	88.888
No	39	10.833
No Response	1	0.277
Total	360	100



The above table shows that 320 individuals responded affirmatively, signifying they are knowledgeable about the Panchayati Raj, constituting 88.888% of the respondents. 39 respondents replied negatively, indicating they do not possess knowledge about the Panchayati Raj, accounting for 10.833%. There was one

instance where the respondents did not provide a response, representing 0.277% of the total. The data exhibits that a significant majority, approximately 89%, are familiar with the Panchayati Raj system, while a smaller fraction, about 11%, lack knowledge. Only a negligible percentage did not respond.

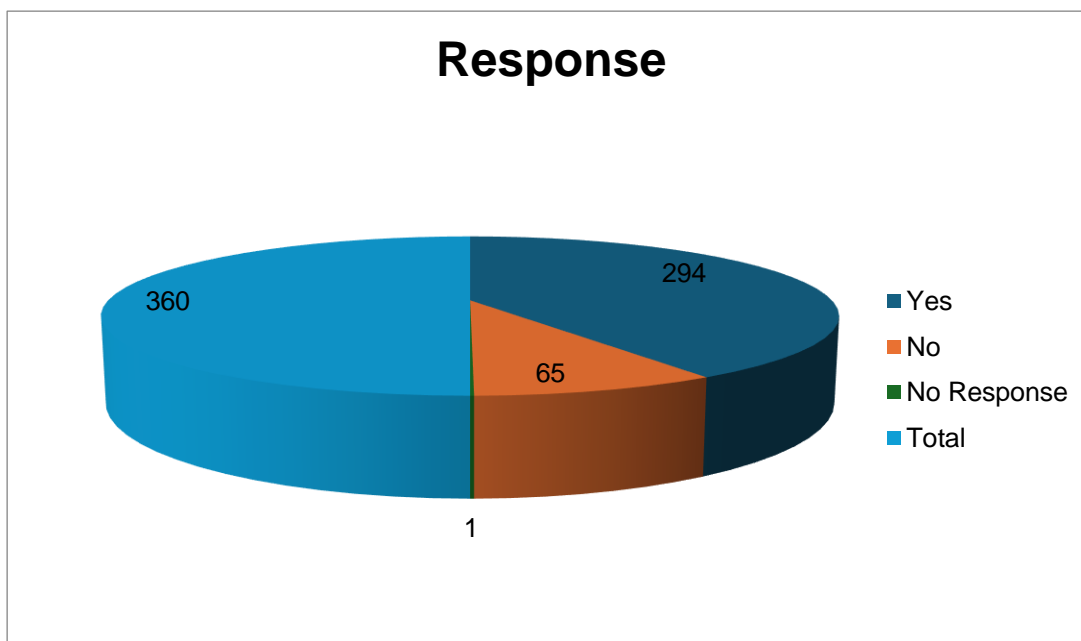
2. Do you know about the Functions of Gram Panchayat?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	322	89.444
No	38	10.555
No Response	0	0
Total	360	100

The table shows the results of a survey on whether people know about the functions of the Gram Panchayat. Of 360 respondents, 322 (89.444%) said that they know about the functions of the Gram Panchayat. This means that the maximum number of respondents are aware of the role of the Gram Panchayat in their community. However, 38 respondents (10.555%) said they did not know about the functions of the Gram Panchayat. This suggests that there is still some work to be done to educate the public about the importance of the Gram Panchayat. Overall, the survey results are encouraging. They show that a large majority of people are aware of the functions of the Gram Panchayat. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of educating the public about the importance of this local government body.

3. Do you know about the Functions of Panchayat Samiti?

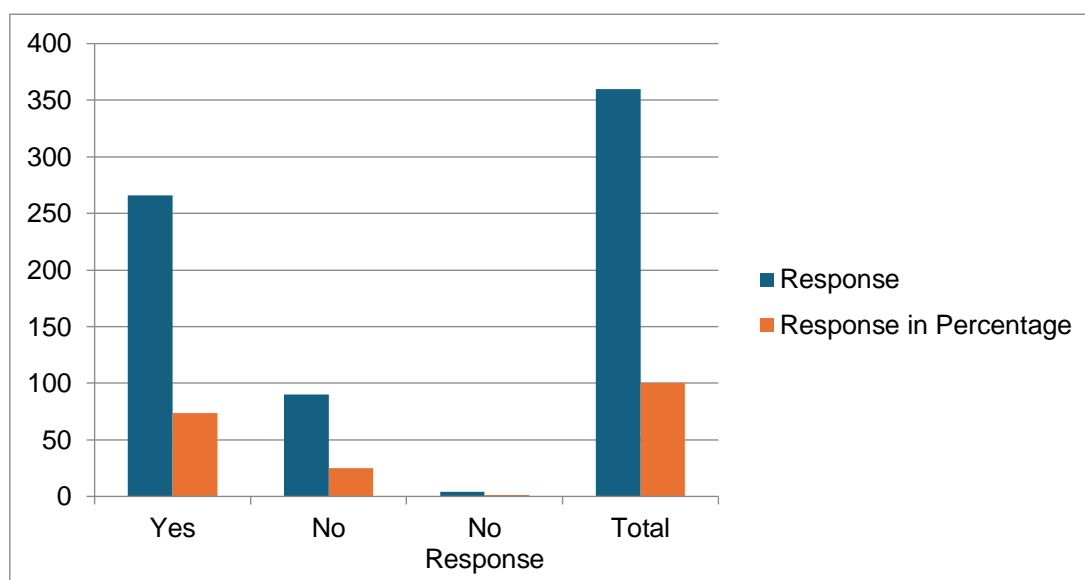
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	294	81.666
No	65	18.055
No Response	1	0.277
Total	360	100



The table shows the results of a survey on whether people know about the functions of the Panchayat Samiti. Out of 360 respondents, 294 (81.666%) said that they know about the functions of the Panchayat Samiti. This means that a majority of the respondents are informed of the role of the Panchayat Samiti in their community. However, 65 respondents (18.055%) said they did not know about the functions of the Panchayat Samiti. This suggests that there is still some work to be done to educate the public about the importance of the Panchayat Samiti. Overall, the survey results are encouraging. They show that a majority of people are aware of the functions of the Panchayat Samiti. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of educating the public about the importance of this local government body. Compared to the results for the Gram Panchayat, the percentage of respondents who said they know about the functions of the Panchayat Samiti is slightly lower. This could be because the Panchayat Samiti is a higher-level institution, and its functions are less well-known to the public. By understanding the role of the Panchayat Samiti, people can better participate in the development of their communities.

4. Do you know about the Functions of Zilla Parishad?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	266	73.888
No	90	25
No Response	4	1.111
Total	360	100



Out of 360 respondents, 266 (73.888%) said that they know about the functions of the Zilla Parishad. This means that a majority of the respondents are aware of the role of the Zilla Parishad in their community. However, there were also 90 respondents (25%) who said that they do not know about the functions of the Zilla Parishad. This suggests that there is still some work to be done in terms of educating the public about the importance of the Zilla Parishad. Overall, the survey results are encouraging. They show that most people are aware of the functions of the Zilla Parishad. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of educating the public about the importance of this local government body. Compared to the results for the Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti, the percentage of

respondents who said they know about the functions of the Zilla Parishad is the lowest. This could be because the Zilla Parishad is the highest-level institution of the Panchayati Raj system, and its functions are less well-known to the general public.

5. Do you participate in Gram Panchayat activities?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	223	61.944
No	131	36.388
No Response	6	1.666
Total	360	100

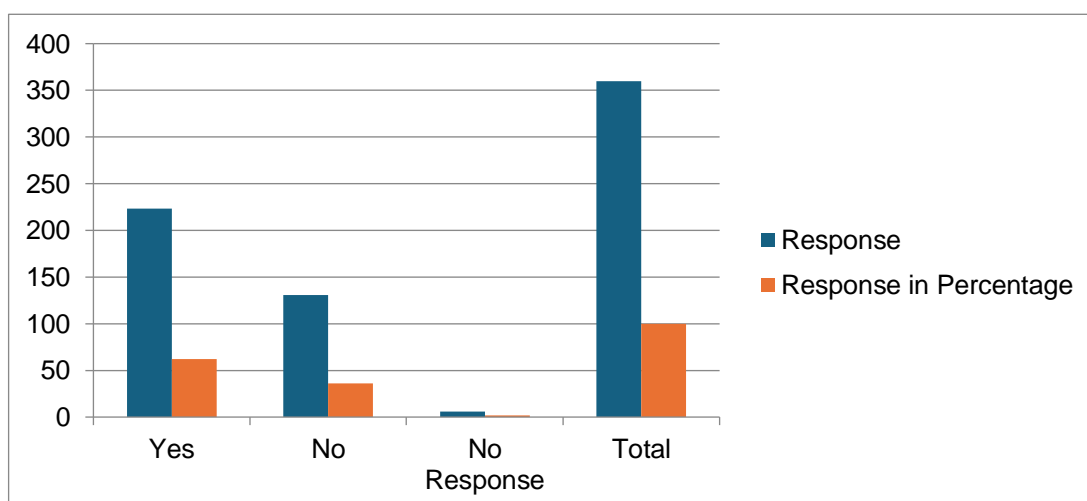


Table 5 shows that 131 (36.39%) of the 360 respondents stated they do not engage in Gram Panchayat activities, while 223 (61.94%) claimed they do. Six respondents, or 1.67% of the total, chose not to answer the question.

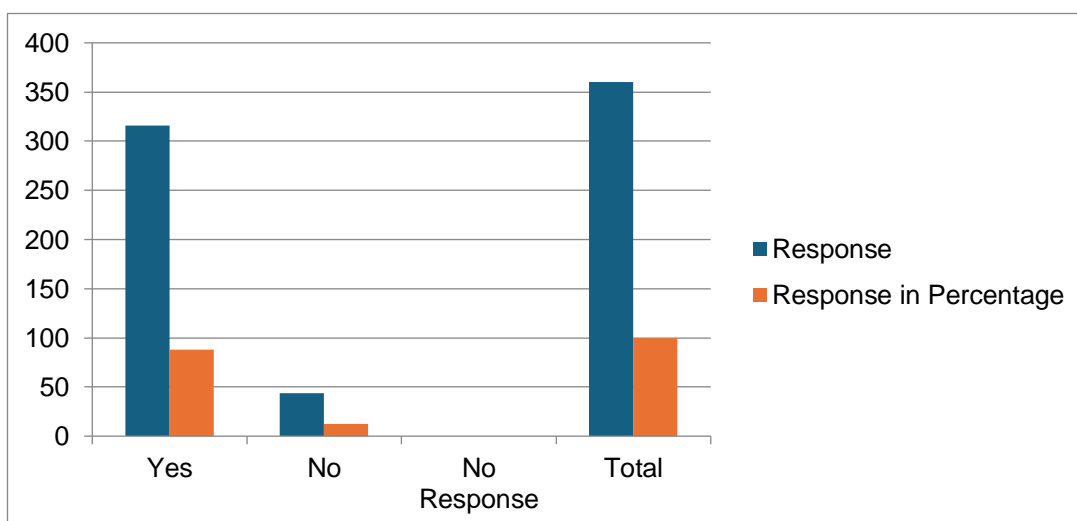
According to the statistics, most of the respondents appear to be aware of and involved in Gram Panchayat activities. Nevertheless, a sizeable proportion of people choose not to participate. This could be the result of ignorance, indifference, or missed opportunities.

It is crucial to remember that the results may not apply to the full population

because this is only a tiny sample. However, they do offer some insights about the degree of involvement in Gram Panchayat activities within this specific community.

6. Do you cast a vote regularly in Gram Panchayat elections?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	316	87.777
No	44	12.222
No Response	0	0
Total	360	100



It is significant from the above table No- 6 that most respondents replied that they are actively participating in the Gram Panchayat elections. 316 respondents (87.777%) said they frequently vote in Gram Panchayat elections.

No: A total of 44 respondents (12.222%) indicated that they do not frequently vote in Gram Panchayat elections by selecting "No".

These facts allow us to deduce the following:

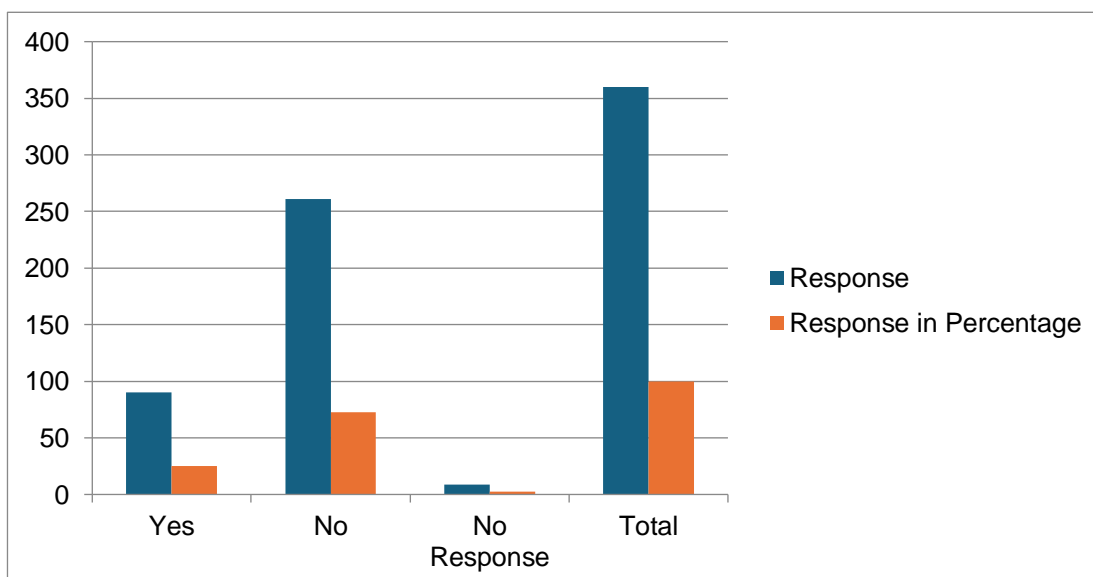
Most respondents, nearly 88% of the total, said they routinely vote in Gram

Panchayat elections. A lesser percentage of participants, around 12%, reported that they don't consistently vote in Gram Panchayat elections. There were no instances of "No Response"; instead, every respondent answered the question.

According to this assessment, the questioned population appears to participate in Gram Panchayat elections at a rather high level, with the majority reporting frequent voting. Some people still don't participate frequently, though. More research might examine the causes of this minority's irregular voting patterns and possible strategies for raising turnout for Gram Panchayat elections.

7. Have you ever contested in the election of Gram Panchayat?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	90	25
No	261	72.5
No Response	9	2.5
Total	360	100

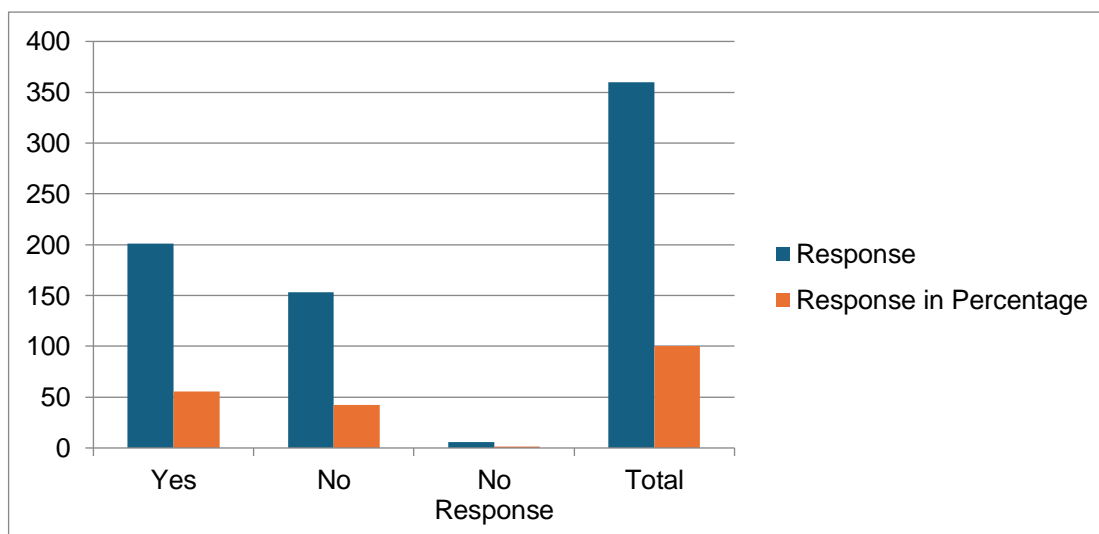


The table shows that out of the 360 respondents, 90 (or 25%) stated they had ever run for a Gram Panchayat seat, while 261 (72.5%) indicated they hadn't. Nine respondents, or 2.5 percent of the total, chose not to answer the question.

According to the data, a comparatively tiny fraction of the respondents had ever run for office in a Gram Panchayat. This might stem from various factors, including a lack of political interest, the conviction that their vote would have little impact, or ignorance about the significance of Gram Panchayats.

8. Do you participate in the meetings of Gram Sabha?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	201	55.833
No	153	42.5
No Response	6	1.666
Total	360	100



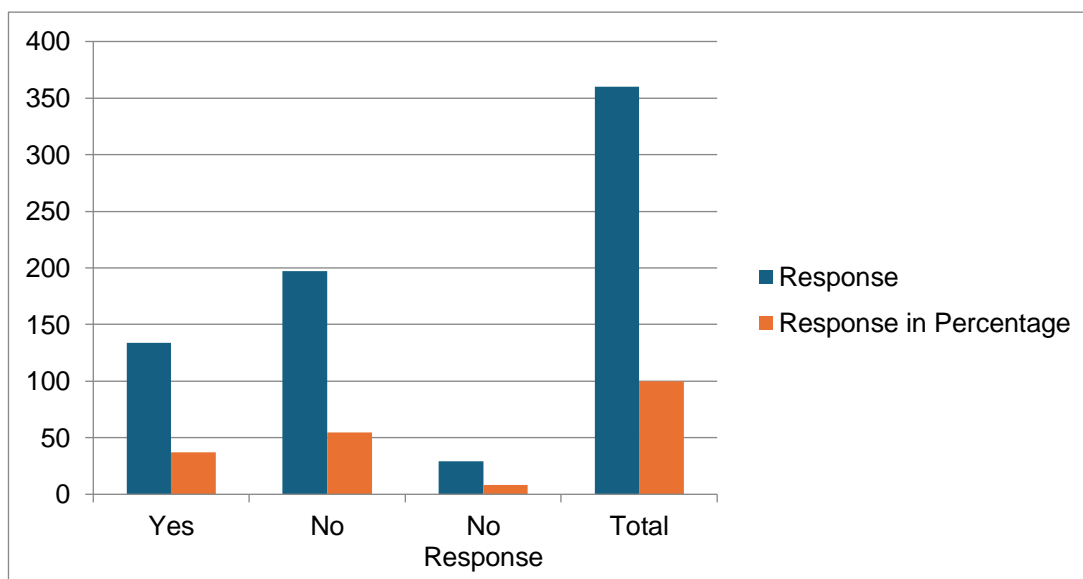
As the above Table shows the response of out of 360 respondents, 223 (61.94%) said they participate in Gram Panchayat activities, while 131 (36.39%) said they do not. The remaining six respondents (1.67%) did not respond to the question.

This data suggests that a majority of the respondents are aware of and participate in Gram Panchayat activities. However, a significant minority do not participate. This could be due to a lack of awareness, interest, or opportunity.

It is important to note that this is just a small sample of the population, and the results may not be generalizable to the entire population. However, it provides some insights into the level of participation in Gram Panchayat activities in this community.

9. Do you take decisions independently in Gram Sabha meetings?

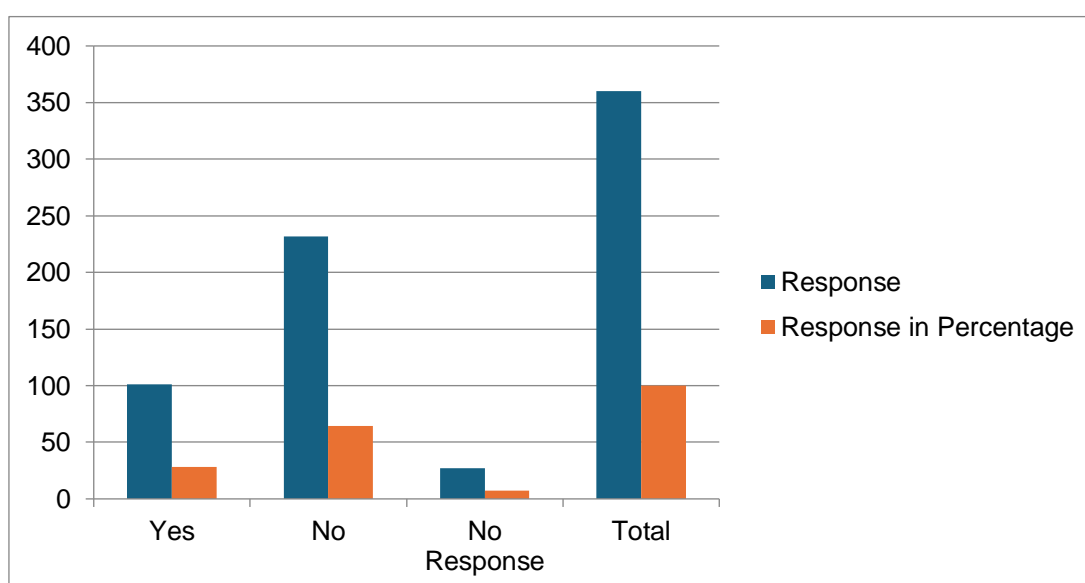
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	134	37.222
No	197	54.722
No Response	29	8.055
Total	360	100



The above Table shows the responses of 360 respondents. 134 (37.222%) agreed that they could make decisions independently, while 197 (54.722%) denied this. One of the main and important points is that most of the members of Gram Sabha could not take part even in the meetings. The remaining 29 respondents could not say anything about Gram Sabha Meetings.

10. Do you want to contest the election of Gram Panchayat Institutions??

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	101	28.055
No	232	64.444
No Response	27	7.5
Total	360	100



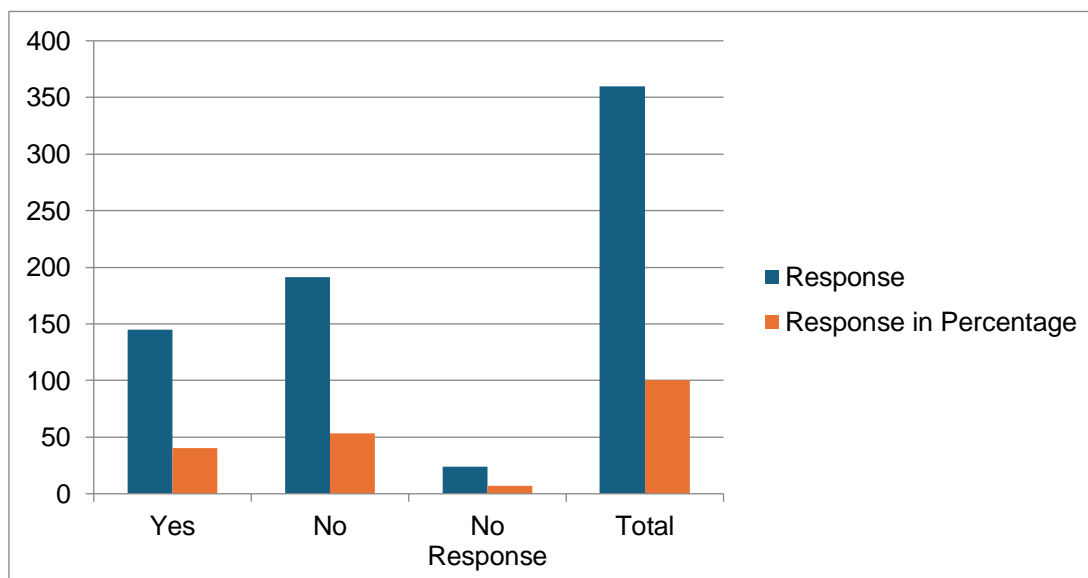
The above table shows that there were 360 responses in total. When the question was asked of the respondents, 101 respondents (28.05%) answered YES, indicating that they wanted to contest the election of Gram Panchayat Institutions. 232 respondents (64.44%) answered NO, indicating that they do not want to contest the election of Gram Panchayat Institutions. 27 respondents (7.5%) did not provide a response.

From this data, we can infer that A minority of respondents, comprising about 28% of the total, expressed a desire to contest the Gram Panchayat election. The majority of respondents, around 64%, indicated that they did not want to contest the election of Gram Panchayat institutions. A small portion of respondents, approximately 7.5%, did not provide a response to the question. This interpretation

suggests that the surveyed population has a relatively low interest in contesting elections for Gram Panchayat institutions. Further analysis could explore the reasons behind this lack of interest, such as perceived barriers to entry, lack of awareness about the process, or disinterest in holding such positions. Additionally, an approach could be made to increase organization and encourage more individuals to consider participating in the electoral process for Gram Panchayat Institutions.

11. Do political parties take part in Gram Panchayat elections?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	145	40.277
No	191	53.055
No Response	24	6.666
Total	360	100



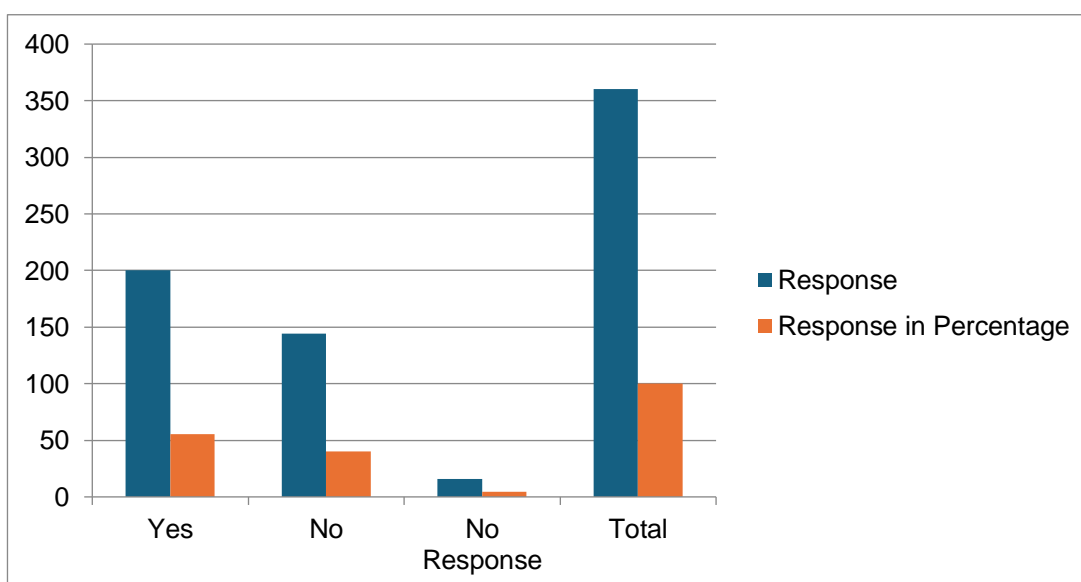
In response to the political party is taking part in the Gram Panchayat elections out of 360 respondents 145 (40.27%) they say yes but 191 (53%) respondents are not agree while 24 (6.6%) respondents they have nothing to say regarding the above question.

This interpretation suggests some ambiguity or different perceptions among the

surveyed population regarding the involvement of political parties in Gram Panchayat elections. Further analysis could explore the reasons behind these perceptions, such as the level of political engagement in the local context the influence of non party local leaders are the actual legal framework governing political participation in Gram Panchayat elections. Efforts to clarify the role of political parties in local governance and transparency in the electoral process may help to address these perceptions.

12- Are members of Gram Sabha take decisions in the meetings?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	200	55.555
No	144	40
No Response	16	4.444
Total	360	100

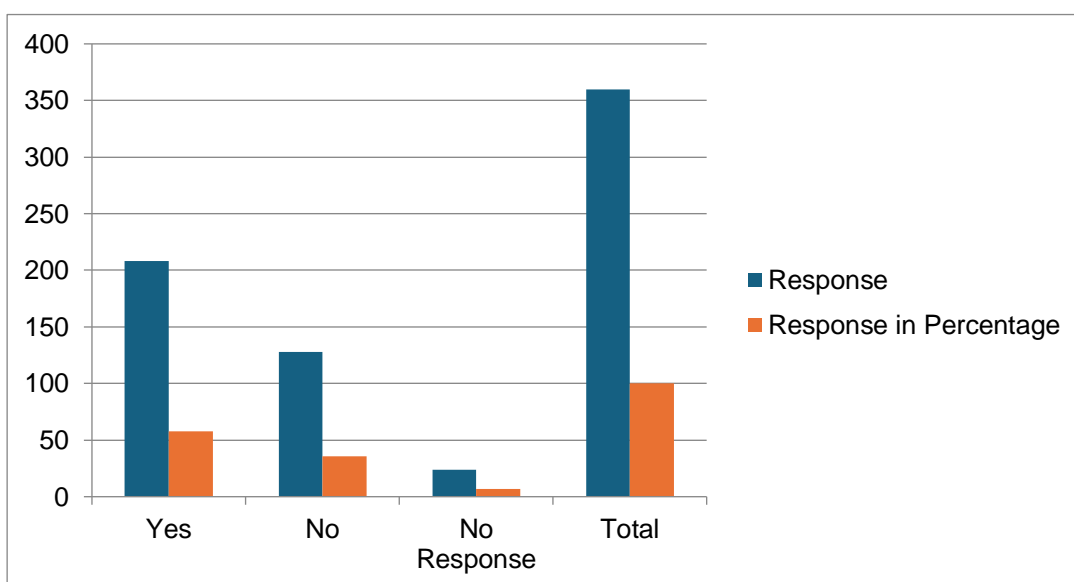


The above table Indicates that members present in the Gram Sabha take decisions of their own of 200 (55.55%) respondents out of 360 respondents. 144 (40%) respondents they are not agreed is the members of gram Sabha could take

decisions in the meetings of their own. 16 respondents could not say anything.

13. Are the Panchayat Officials interfering in taking decisions in Gram Sabha?

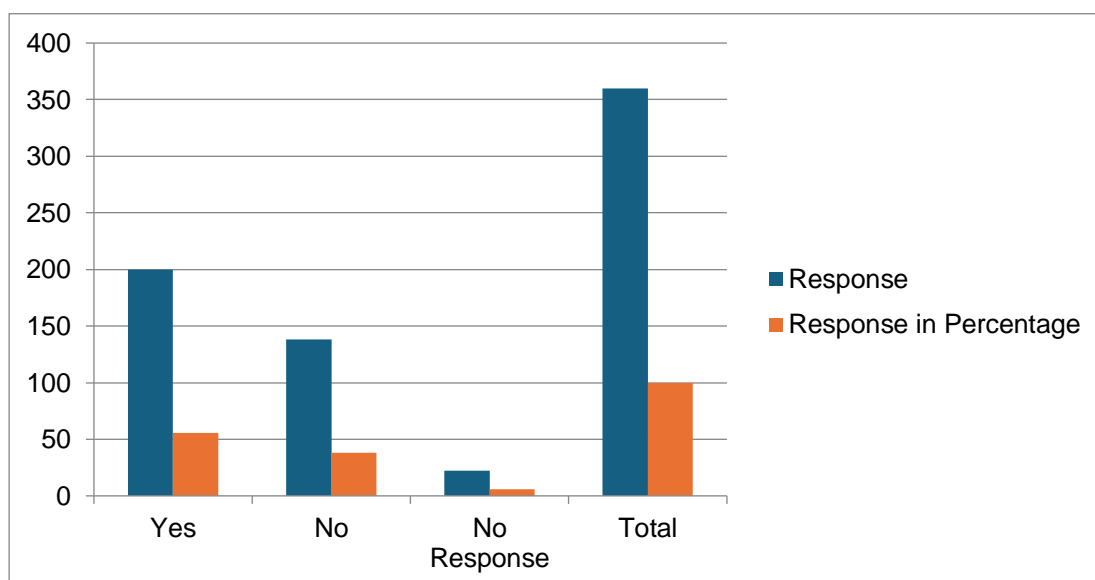
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	208	57.777
No	128	35.555
No Response	24	6.666
Total	360	100



The above table indicates that in the gram Sabha meeting officials interfere taking decisions because out of the 360 respondents 208 (57.78%) panchayat officials were meddling in Gram Panchayat decision making while 120 (35.56%) disagreed. 24 respondents or 6.6% of the total they do not to answer the question. According to the findings most respondents think that panchayat officials influence choices made by the Gram Sabha this is a worrying discovery since it raises the possibility that the decision making process lacks accountability and openness it is crucial to remember that the results may not apply to the full population because this is only a tiny sample of the population. It does not, however, offer some insights into the respondents attitudes in this specific group.

14. Was the annual plan discussed in the Gram Sabha?

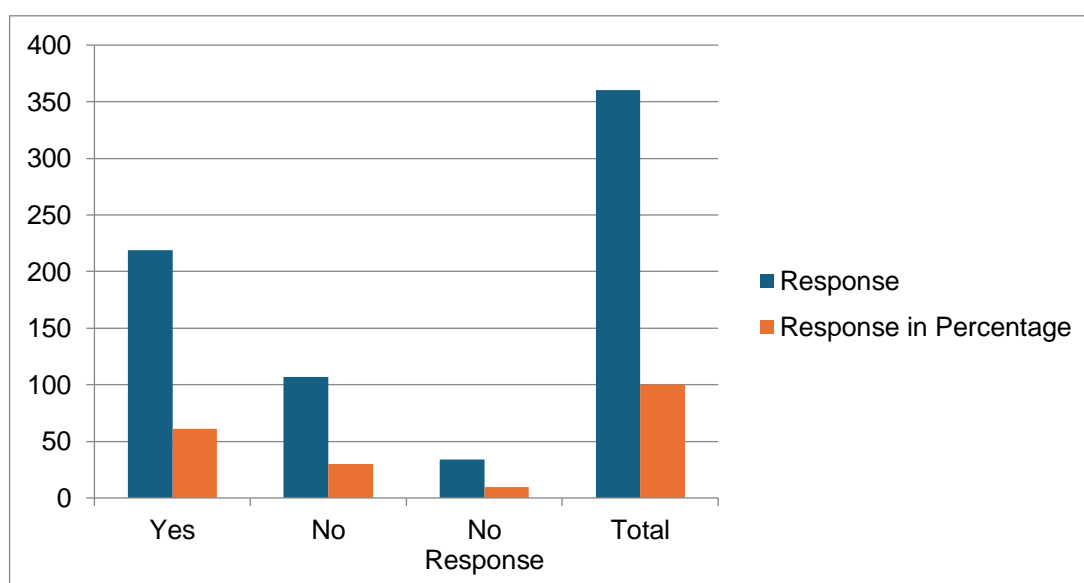
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	200	55.555
No	138	38.333
No Response	22	6.111
Total	360	100



The above table describes that when a question was asked about the annual plan is discussed in the Gram Sabha it is found that 200 (55.5%) respondents out of a total 360 agreed while 138 (38.33%) respondents said no and 22 (6.11%) respondents replied that they did not know anything. This small percentage might suggest either non participation or uncertainty regarding the discussion of the annual plan. Gram Sabha plays a crucial role in the Panchayati Raj system as A platform for and decision making. The data suggest that while a majority reported discussion in the Gram Sabha notable minority did not highlighting potential gaps in participatory democracy or governance processes at the grassroots level.

15. Do you think the reservation of seats in the Panchayati Raj for SC/ST/ OBC women helps them improve their position?

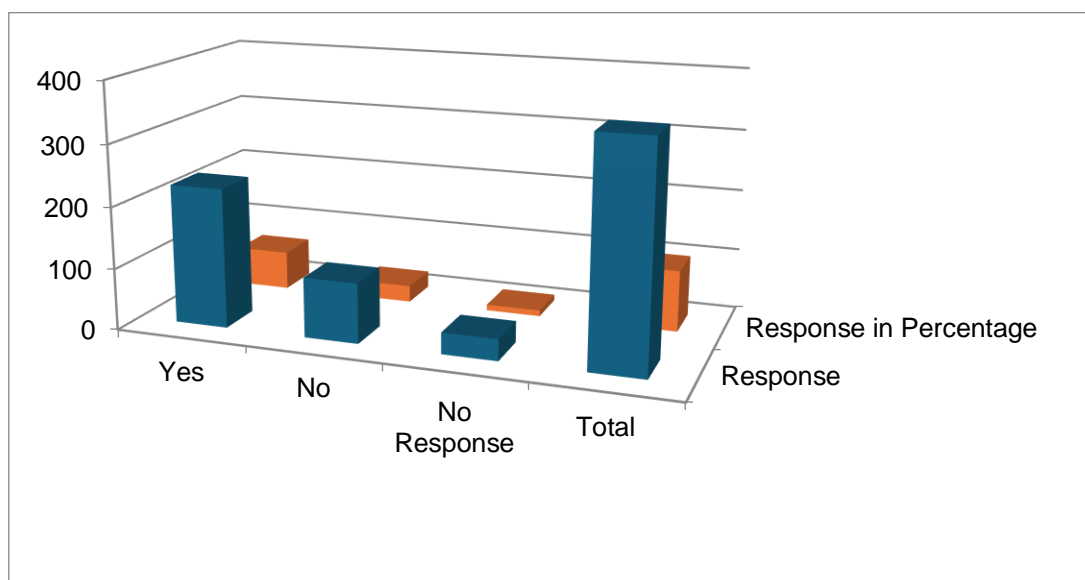
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	219	60.833
No	107	29.722
No Response	34	9.444
Total	360	100



The above table shows that the reservation of Seats for panchayat Raj plays a key role in improving the position of women. 219 respondents out of 360 Said yes, 107 respondents said no. 34 respondents replied that they did not know anything.

16. Do you think the reservation of seats has increased their participation in Panchayati Raj?

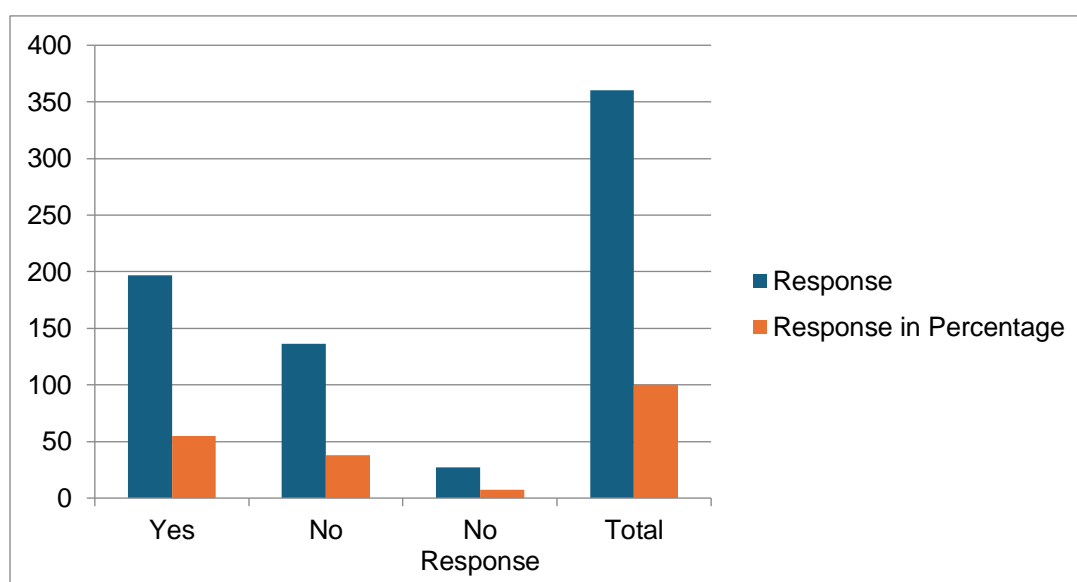
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	227	63.055
No	98	27.222
No Response	35	9.722
Total	360	100



Regarding the question on the increase of females in Panchayati Raj Institutions from above table 227 respondents a great and 98 respondents they do not agree while 35 respondents could not say anything.

17. Do you think that the 73rd Amendment Act has promoted the capabilities of weaker sections of society to take up leadership roles?

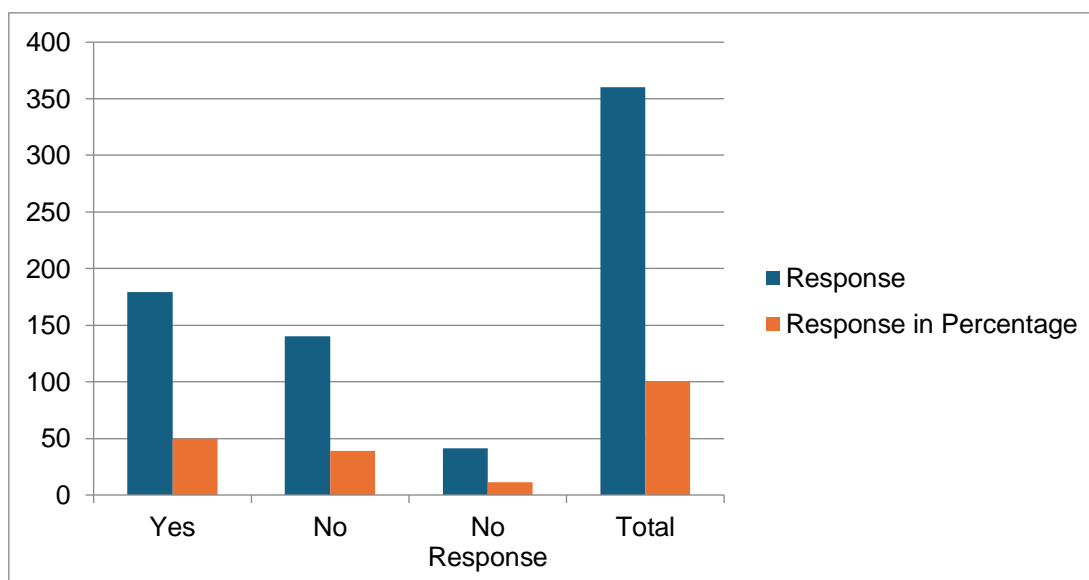
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	197	54.722
No	136	37.777
No Response	27	7.5
Total	360	100



In the question of the 73rd Amendment Act has promoted the capabilities of weaker sections of society to take up leadership roles the response shows on the above table mentions that 197 (54.722%) are agreed but 136 (37.777) disagree. Only 27 out of 360 respondents could not say anything.

18. Are Panchayati Raj Institutions working for women's empowerment?

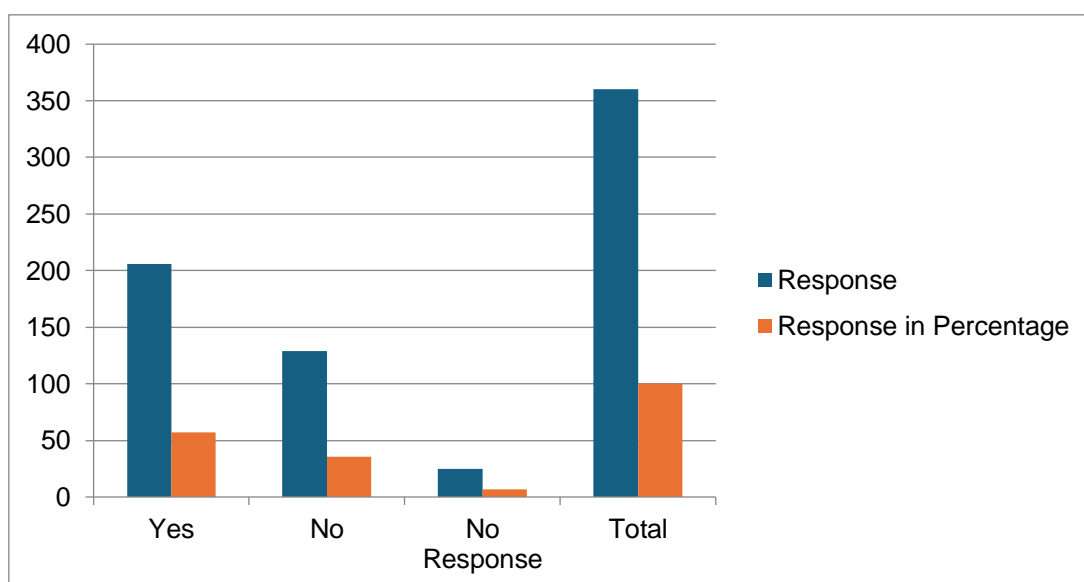
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	179	49.722
No	140	38.888
No Response	41	11.388
Total	360	100



The above table indicates the result of the query of whether Panchayati Raj Institutions working for women's empowerment, 179 out of 360 respondents said yes but 140 respondents said no and 41 of them have no response.

19- Are Panchayati Raj Institutions working to reduce the gender gap?

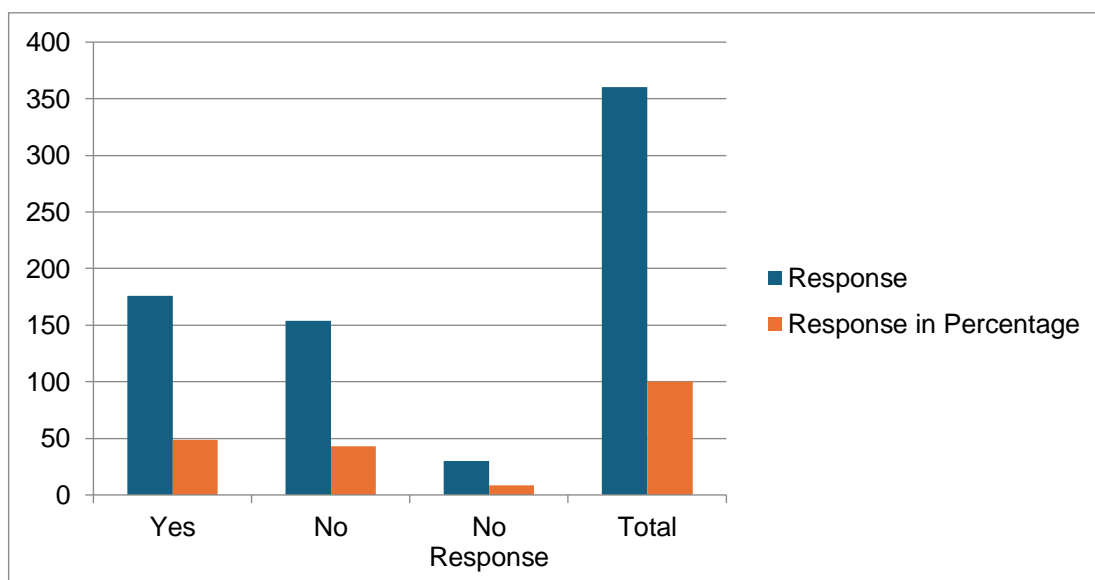
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	206	57.222
No	129	35.833
No Response	25	6.944
Total	360	100



With the implementation of multidimensional schemes and programs it is evident that the gender gap should be minimized, so to know about the real position of the gender gap a question was designed in the questionnaire and 206 (57.222%) out of 360 respondents agreed that the Panchayati Raj Institutions are working to reduce the gender gap, but 129 (35.833%) respondents said no to it. 25 (6.944%) replied that they can not say.

20. Are you getting the benefit of different schemes functioning under Panchayati Raj?

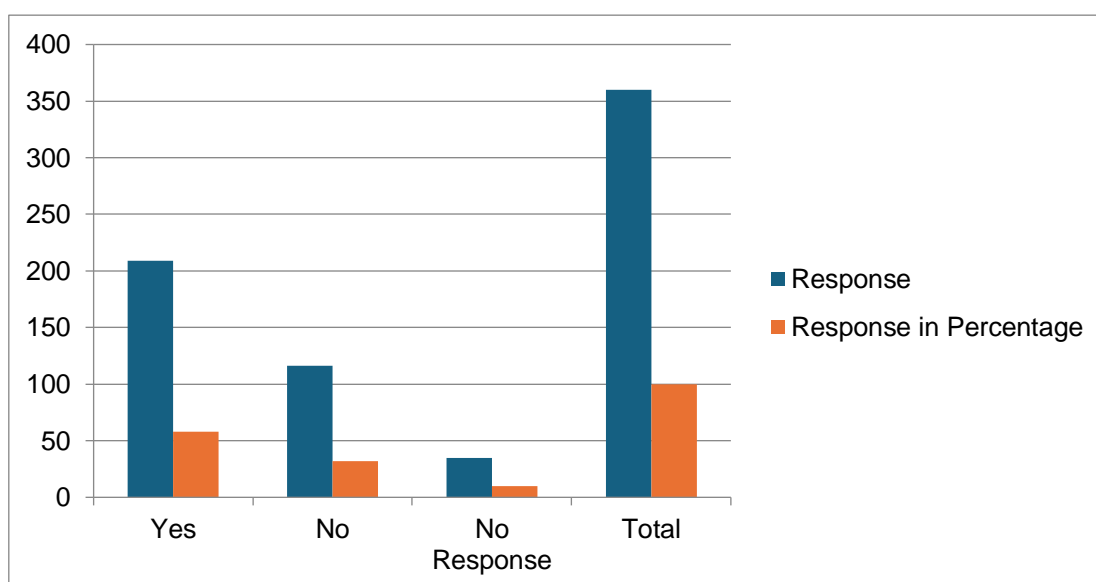
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	176	48.888
No	154	42.777
No Response	30	8.333
Total	360	100



The above table shows that about the question, Are you getting the benefit of different schemes functioning under Panchayati Raj the answers of the respondents are 176 (48.888%) Yes, 154 (42.777%) No, and 30 (8.333%) No Response.

21. Are Panchayat Raj Institutions playing the role of Rural Development?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	209	58.055
No	116	32.222
No Response	35	9.722
Total	360	100

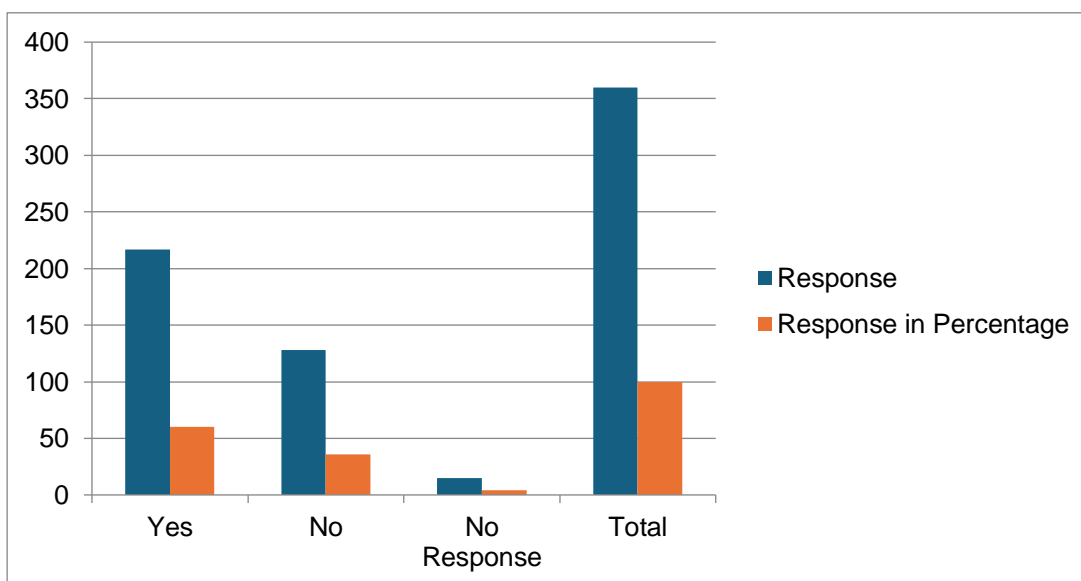


The above table a majority of respondents, 209 in total out of 360 (58.055%), believe that Panchayat Raj Institutions are actively contributing to rural development. This indicates a general consensus that PRIs play a crucial role in addressing rural development challenges. While a substantial number, 116 (32.222%) respondents, express doubt regarding the effectiveness of PRIs in rural development, it's important to note that there is still a significant portion that doesn't entirely agree as has role in rural development. A portion of respondents, 35 in total, did not provide a clear opinion on the matter. This could be due to a lack of information or neutrality regarding the role of PRIs in rural development. In summary, the data suggests that a majority of respondents believe that Panchayat Raj Institutions are indeed playing a role in rural development. However, there is still a

notable segment that remains skeptical about their impact. Further research and analysis may be required to understand the reasons behind these varying perspectives and to assess the actual effectiveness of PRIs in rural development.

22. Is Panchayati Raj Institutions helping in the promotion of education?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	217	60.277
No	128	35.555
No Response	15	4.166
Total	360	100

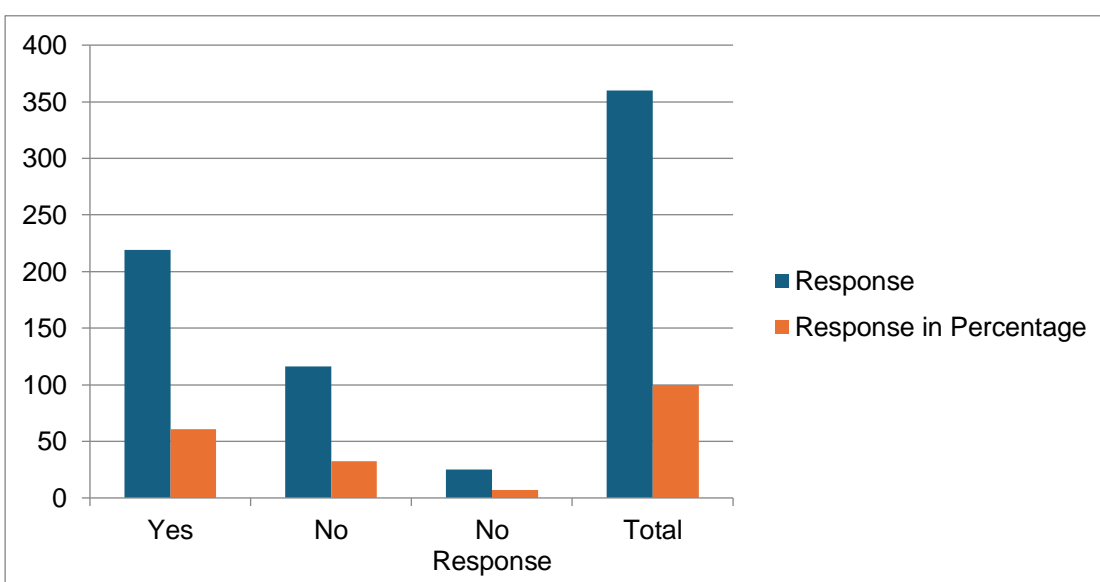


Based on the responses from 360 respondents regarding the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the promotion of education. Yes 217 (60.227%) A significant majority of 217 respondents believe that Panchayati Raj Institutions are actively involved in promoting education. This suggests that PRIs are perceived as playing a crucial role in enhancing educational opportunities in rural areas. No 128 (35.555%) While a substantial number of 128 respondents do not share the belief that PRIs are effective in promoting education, it's important to note that there is still

a significant portion that holds a contrary opinion. This indicates some skepticism regarding the effectiveness of PRIs in the field of education. No Response (15): A small number of respondents, 15 in total, did not provide a clear opinion on the matter. These respondents may either be unsure or neutral about the role of PRIs in the promotion of education. The data shows that a majority of respondents believe that Panchayati Raj Institutions contribute to the promotion of education. However, there is still a notable segment that remains skeptical about their impact. Further research and analysis may be needed to understand the reasons behind these varying perspectives and to assess the actual effectiveness of PRIs in promoting education.

23. Is Panchayati Raj Institutions playing as a tool of achieving Social Justice?

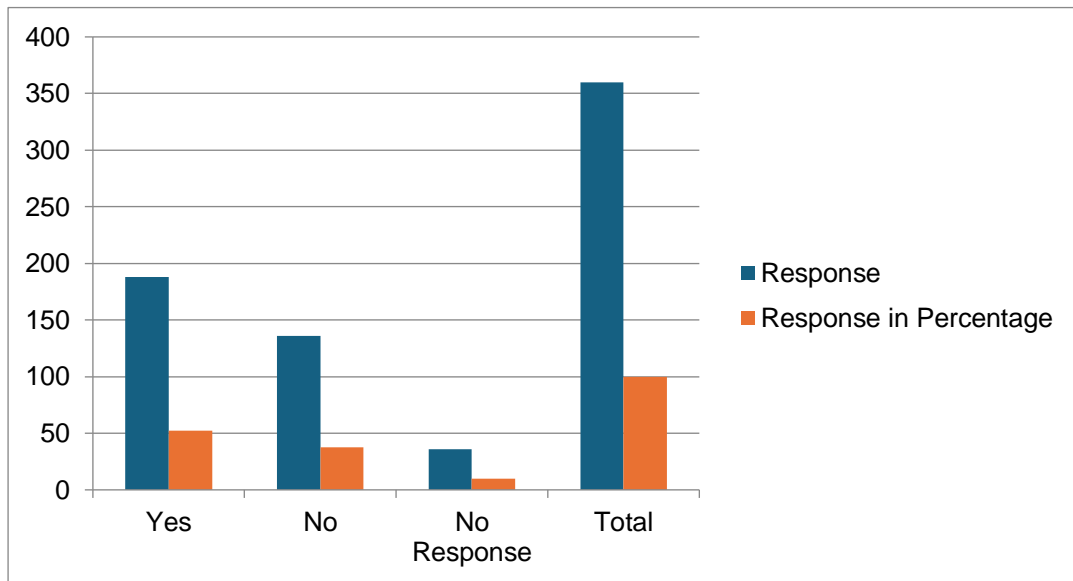
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	219	60.833
No	116	32.222
No Response	25	6.944
Total	360	100



Based on the responses from 360 respondents regarding the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as a tool for achieving social justice. Yes 219 (60.833%) A significant majority of 219 respondents believe that Panchayati Raj Institutions are indeed playing a crucial role in achieving social justice. This suggests that PRIs are perceived as effective instruments for promoting social justice in rural areas. No 116 (32.222%) While a substantial number of 116 respondents hold the opinion that PRIs are not effective in achieving social justice, it's important to note that there is a significant portion that disagrees with their role in this context. This indicates differing perspectives on the impact of PRIs on social justice. A smaller group of respondents, 25(6.944) in total, did not provide a clear opinion on the matter. These respondents may either be unsure or neutral regarding the role of PRIs in promoting social justice. The table shows that a majority of respondents believe that Panchayati Raj Institutions are instrumental in achieving social justice. However, there is a significant segment that holds a contrary view. Further research and analysis may be needed to understand the reasons behind these varying perspectives and to assess the actual impact of PRIs on social justice.

24. Is Panchayati Raj Institutions helping you in achieving Economic Justice?

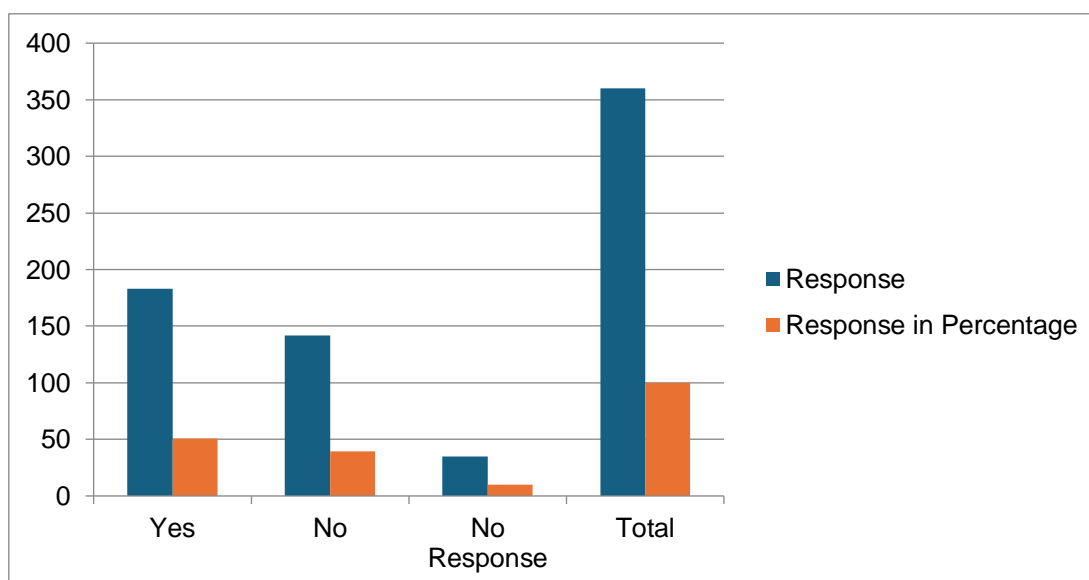
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	188	52.222
No	136	37.777
No Response	36	10
Total	360	100



Based on the responses from 360 respondents regarding the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as a tool for achieving economic justice. Yes, 188 (52.222%) A significant majority of 188 respondents believe that Panchayati Raj Institutions are indeed playing a crucial role in achieving economic justice. This suggests that PRIs are perceived as effective instruments for promoting economic justice in rural areas. No 136 (37.777%) While a substantial number of 116 respondents hold the opinion that PRIs are not effective in achieving economic justice, it's important to note that there is a significant portion that disagrees with their role in this context. This indicates differing perspectives on the impact of PRIs on economic justice. A smaller group of respondents, 36 (10%) in total, did not provide a clear opinion on the matter. These respondents may either be unsure or neutral regarding the role of PRIs in promoting economic justice. The table shows that most of the respondents believe that Panchayati Raj Institutions are instrumental in achieving economic justice. However, there is a significant segment that holds a contrary view. Further research and analysis may be needed to understand the reasons behind these varying perspectives and to assess the actual impact of PRIs on economic justice.

25. Do you know Panchayati Raj Department is known as “Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha”?

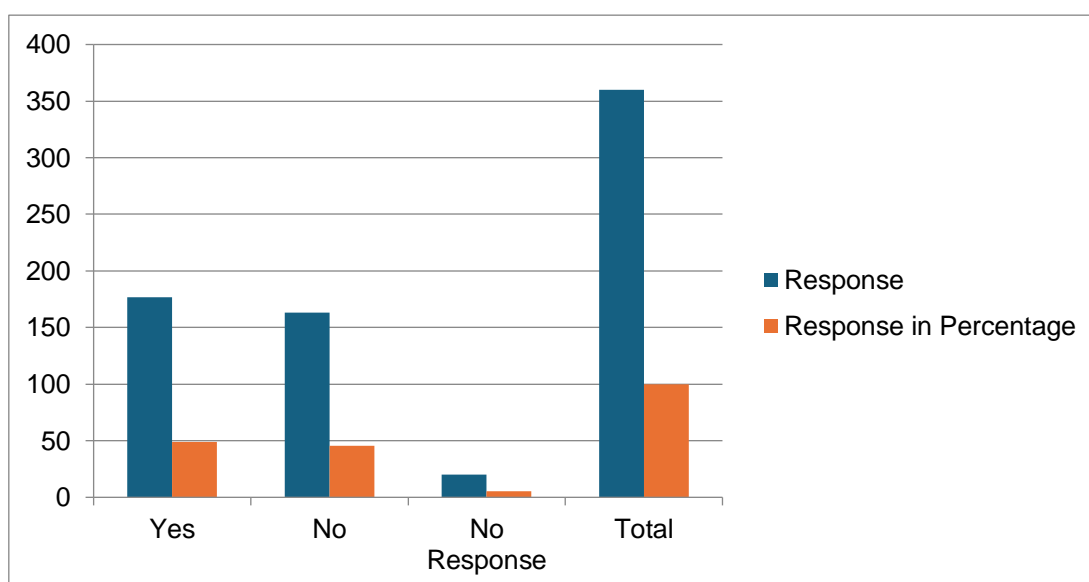
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	183	50.833
No	142	39.444
No Response	35	9.722
Total	360	100



The above table shows that out of 360 respondents asked that whether they know that Panchayati Raj Department is known as Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha, the response is like Yes 183 (50.833%), No 142 (39.444), and No Response 35(9.722%)

26. Is piped drinking water available to you?

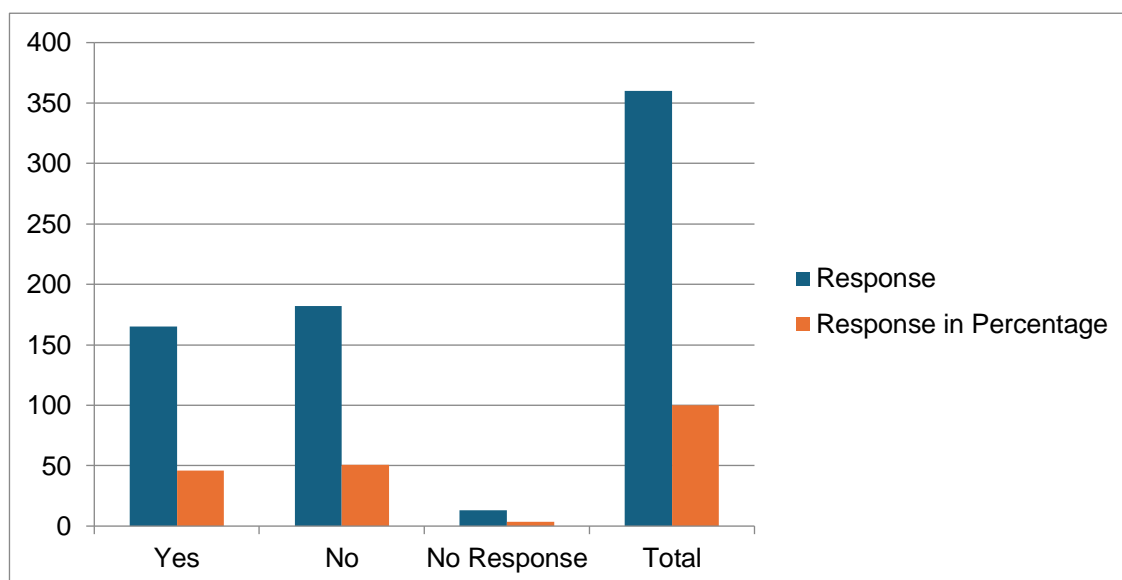
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	177	49.166
No	163	45.277
No Response	20	5.555
Total	360	100



The above table is a result of On the question on, Is piped drinking water available to you? The respondents replied as follows: Yes 177 (49.166%) No 163 (45.277%), And No Response 20 (5.555%). It indicates that a lot of effort is needed to supply drinking water to every household.

27. Is Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat playing a role in achieving the Swachh Bharat Mission?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	165	45.833
No	182	50.555
No Response	13	3.611
Total	360	100

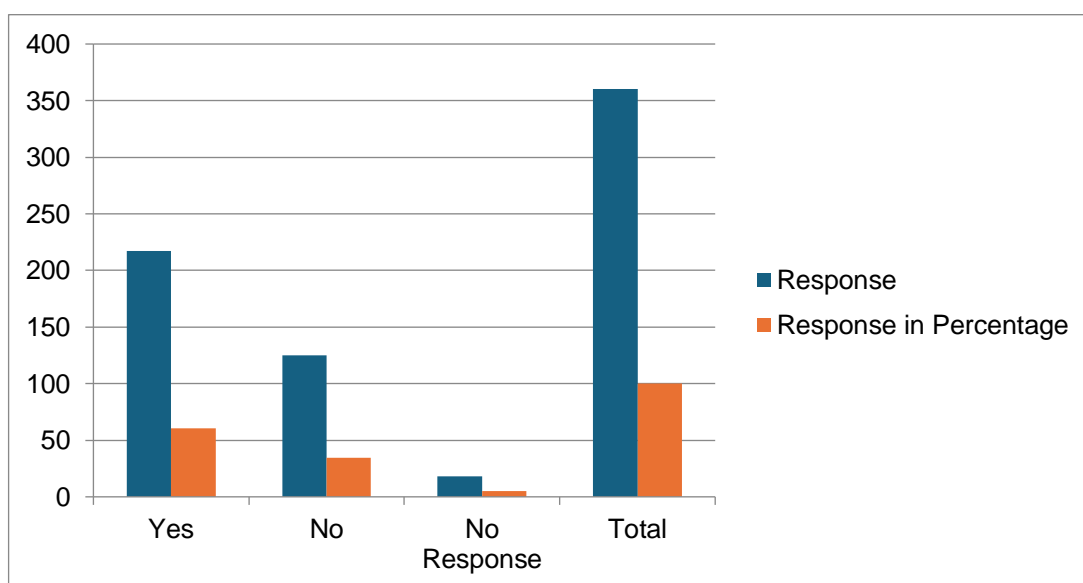


The above study shows data based on the responses from 360 respondents regarding the role of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in achieving the Swachh Bharat Mission. A significant number of 165 (45.833%) respondents believe that Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat is playing a role in achieving the Swachh Bharat Mission. This suggests that there is a perception that the Panchayat is actively involved in promoting cleanliness and sanitation in the area. A substantial number of 182 (50.555%) respondents do not share the belief that Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat is contributing to the Swachh Bharat Mission. This indicates that there is a considerable segment of respondents who do not see a direct correlation between the Panchayat's efforts and the mission's objectives. A small group of respondents, 13 (3.611%) in total, did not provide a clear opinion on the matter. These

respondents may either be unsure about the Panchayat's role in the mission or may not have enough information to form an opinion.

28. Do you know about Digital India?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	217	60.277
No	125	34.722
No Response	18	5
Total	360	100

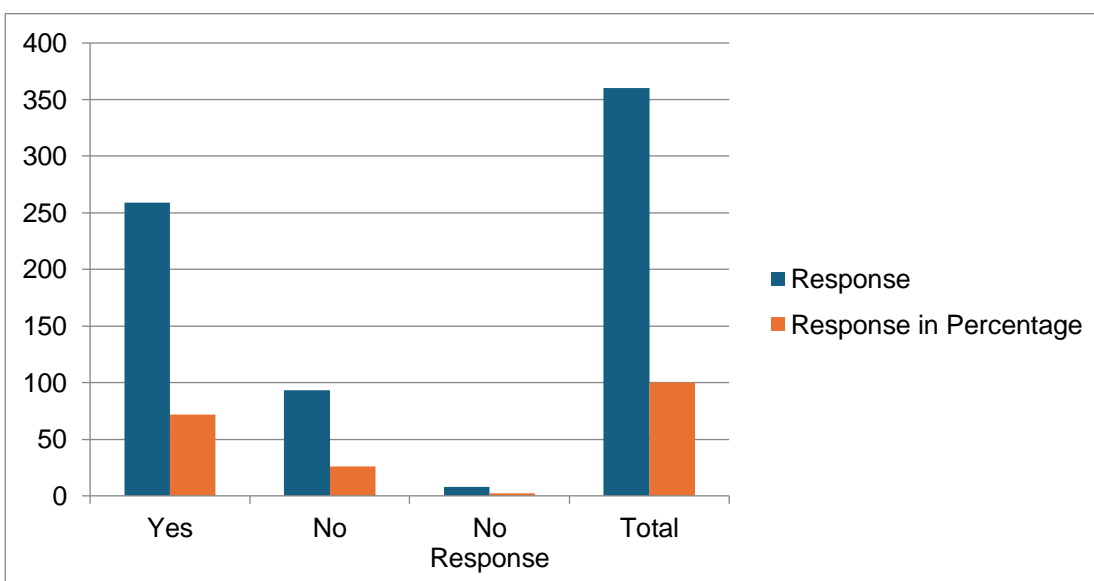


Based on the responses from 360 respondents regarding their awareness of the Digital India initiative. A significant majority of 217 (60.277%) respondents are aware of the Digital India initiative. This indicates that a substantial portion of the respondents have knowledge about Digital India, highlighting the reach and impact of this government initiative. A significant number of 125 (34.722%) respondents are not aware of Digital India. This suggests that there is still a notable segment of the population that lacks awareness about this initiative, and there is room for improving outreach and awareness efforts. A smaller group of respondents, 18 in

total, did not provide a clear response regarding their knowledge of Digital India. These respondents may either be unsure about their awareness or may not have enough information to form an opinion. the data indicates that while a majority of respondents are aware of Digital India.

29. Is there any necessity of Digital Services at Gram Panchayat in India?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	259	71.944
No	93	25.833
No Response	8	2.222
Total	360	100

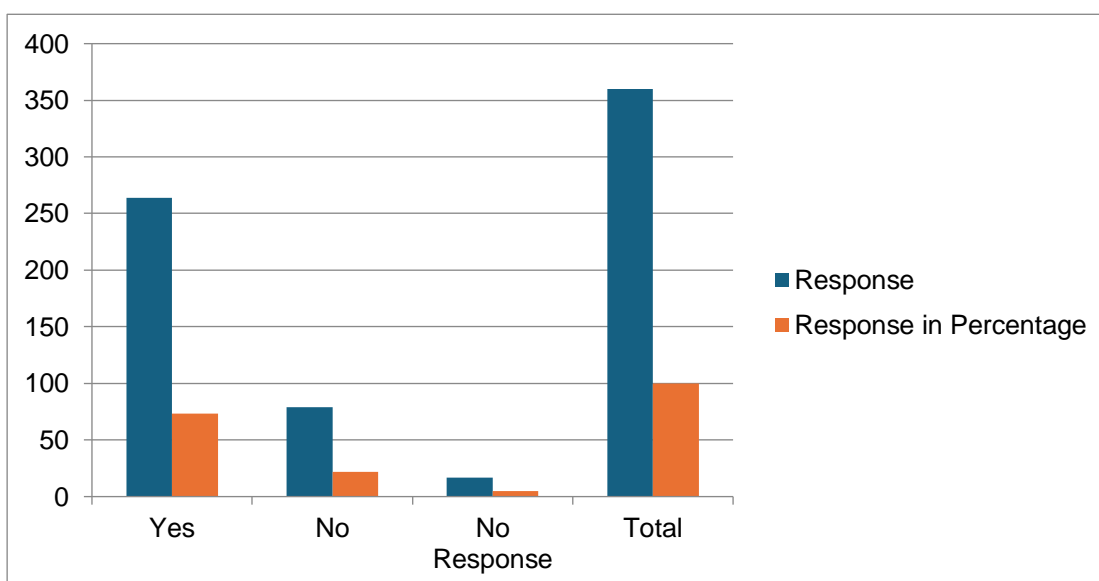


The responses from 360 respondents regarding the necessity of digital services at Gram Panchayats in India. A significant majority of 259 respondents believe that there is a necessity for digital services at Gram Panchayats in India. This indicates a strong recognition of the importance of digitalization in improving the functioning and services of Gram Panchayats. A notable number of 93 respondents do not see the necessity for digital services at Gram Panchayats in India. This suggests that there is a segment of the population that may have reservations or concerns regarding the implementation of digital services in this context. A small

group of 8 respondents did not provide a clear response regarding the necessity of digital services at Gram Panchayats. These respondents may either be unsure about the necessity or may not have enough information to form an opinion. the data indicates that a significant majority of respondents recognize the necessity of digital services at Gram Panchayats in India.

30. Do you think that devolution of power is granted to Panchayati Raj Institutions?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	264	73.333
No	79	21.944
No Response	17	4.722
Total	360	100

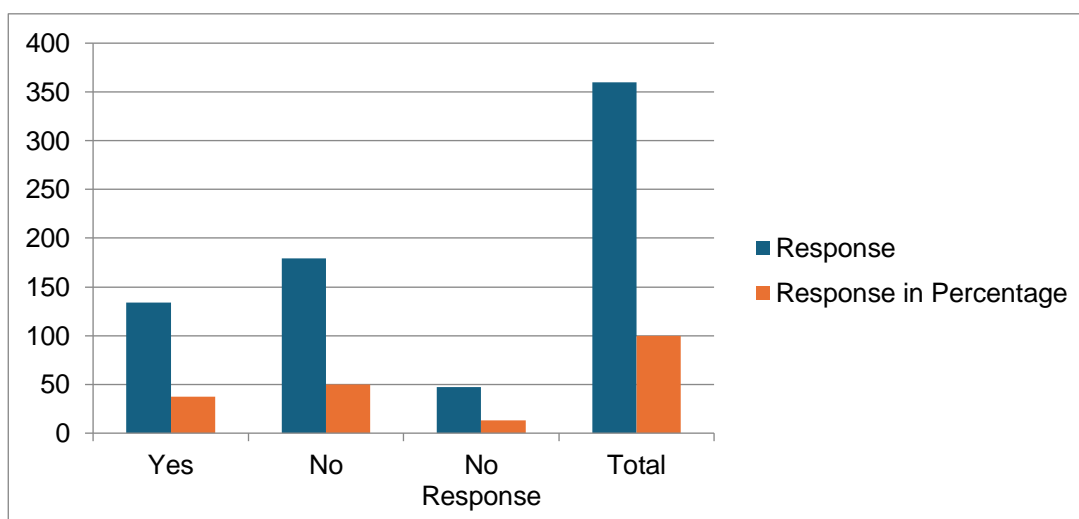


The responses from 360 respondents regarding whether they think that devolution of power is granted to Panchayati Raj Institutions. The majority of 264 respondents believe that devolution of power is granted to Panchayati Raj Institutions. This indicates that there is a strong perception that power has been decentralized and devolved to these institutions, which is a key aspect of local self-governance. A significant number of 79 respondents do not think that devolution of power is granted to Panchayati Raj Institutions. This suggests that there may be

skepticism or concerns among this group about the extent to which power is effectively decentralized. A smaller group of 17 respondents did not provide a clear response regarding whether devolution of power is granted to Panchayati Raj Institutions. These individuals may not have a clear opinion on the matter or may require more information to form an opinion. the data shows that a majority of respondents believe that there is devolution of power to Panchayati Raj Institutions, indicating a positive perception of decentralized governance.

31. Do Panchayat Extension to Schedule Area Act. 1996, (PESA) is implemented in Odisha?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	134	37.222
No	179	49.722
No Response	47	13.055
Total	360	100

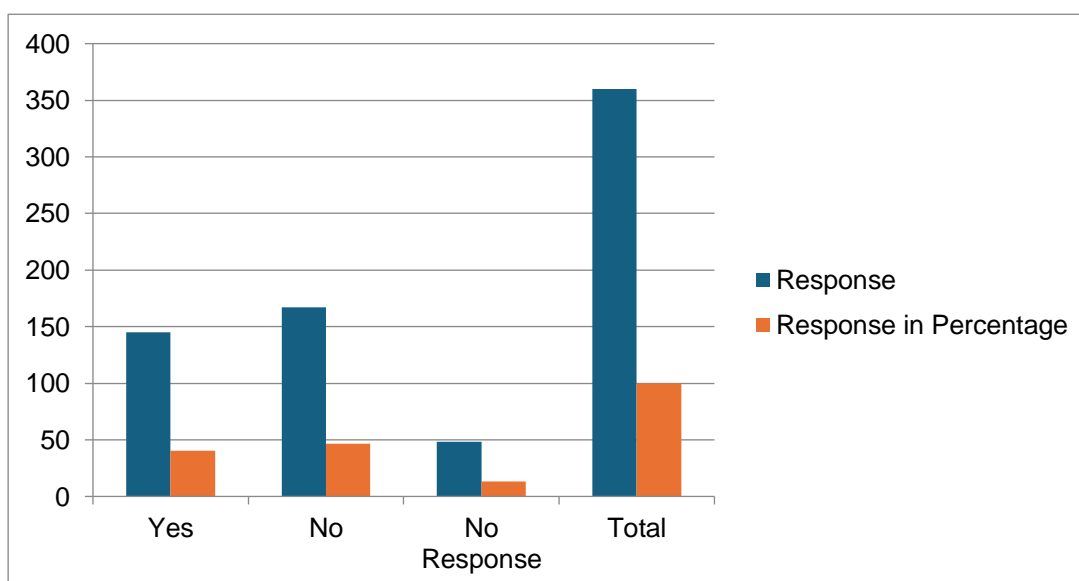


Based on the responses from 360 respondents regarding the implementation of the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 in Odisha. A total of 134 respondents indicated that they believe the PESA Act, 1996 is implemented in Odisha. This suggests that there is a perception among this group that the provisions of the PESA Act are being put into practice in the state. A larger group of 179

respondents expressed that they do not believe the PESA Act, 1996 is implemented in Odisha. This indicates a level of skepticism or concern among this segment about the effective implementation of the PESA Act in the state. A smaller group of 47 respondents did not provide a clear response regarding the implementation of the PESA Act in Odisha. These individuals may not have sufficient information or may be uncertain about the status of its implementation. the data reveals a division in opinions among the respondents. While a notable number believes in the implementation of the PESA Act in Odisha, a larger group expresses doubts about its effective implementation. This highlights the need for transparent and effective communication about the status and implementation of PESA in Odisha.

32. Was Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat successfully rendered health, awareness, on Communicable diseases?

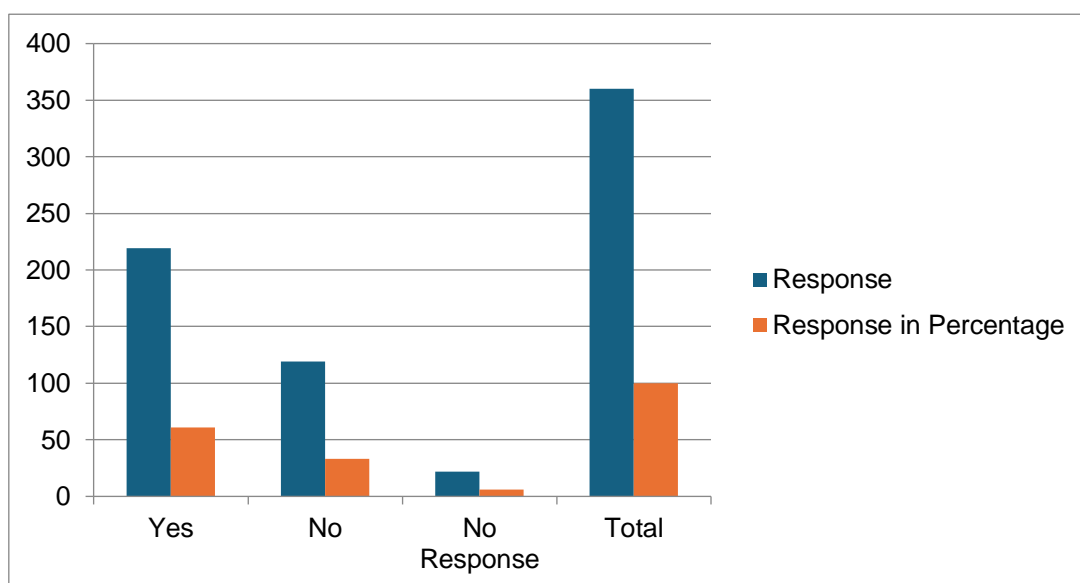
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	145	40.277
No	167	46.388
No Response	48	13.333
Total	360	100



The above table shows that 145 (40%) of the 360 respondents said that Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat successfully rendered health awareness on communicable diseases. 167 (46%) of the respondents said that it did not render such awareness successfully. 47 (14%) of the respondents did not respond to the question. The data shows that there is a significant proportion of respondents who believe that Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat did not successfully render health awareness on communicable diseases. This suggests that there is room for improvement in this area. It is important to note that 14% of the respondents did not respond to the question. This could be due to a variety of reasons, such as not understanding the question or not having enough information to provide an answer. It is important to keep this in mind when interpreting the data. Overall, the data suggests that there is a need for improvement in the way that Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat renders health awareness on communicable diseases. However, it is also important to note that 40% of the respondents believe that the Gram Panchayat is doing a good job in this area.

33. Do you get benefits under PEETHA (Empowerment- Enabling Transparency and Enhancing Accountability, a social awareness scheme)?

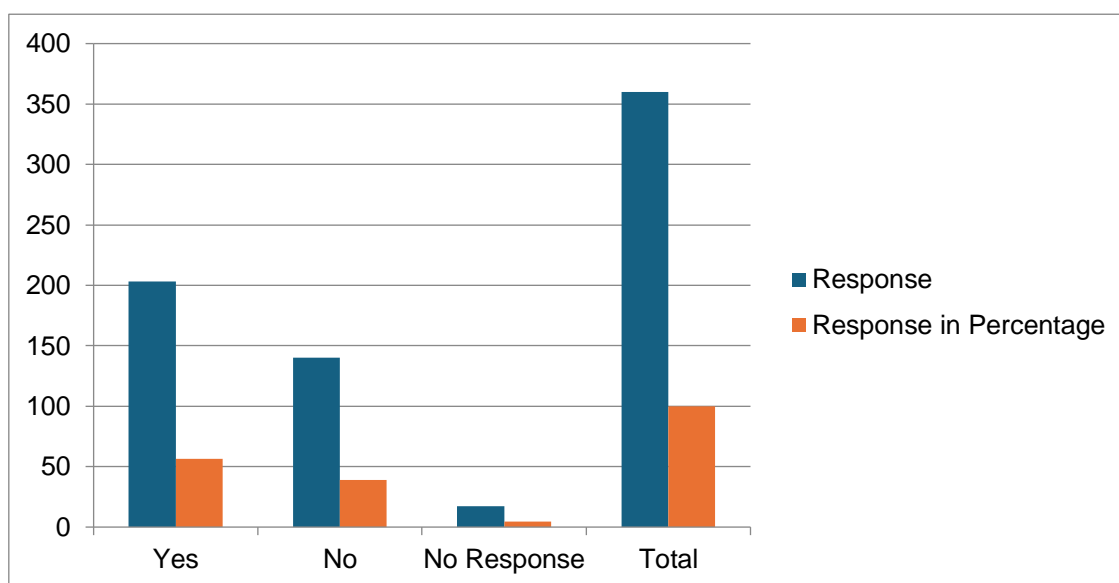
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	219	60.833
No	119	33.055
No Response	22	6.111
Total	360	100



PEETHA an indigenous program launched by Govt. Odisha to make everybody aware of the Government Schemes and programs that the government had undertaken for rural development should reach to the common men. In this regard, an enquiry was made through this questionnaire whether the respondents of the study area were well acquainted or not. The result of the response in Yes is 219 (60.833%), No 119 (33% , and 22 no response.

34. Do you agree that the 5t (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Transformation and Time) results in Panchayati Raj's successful work in Odisha?

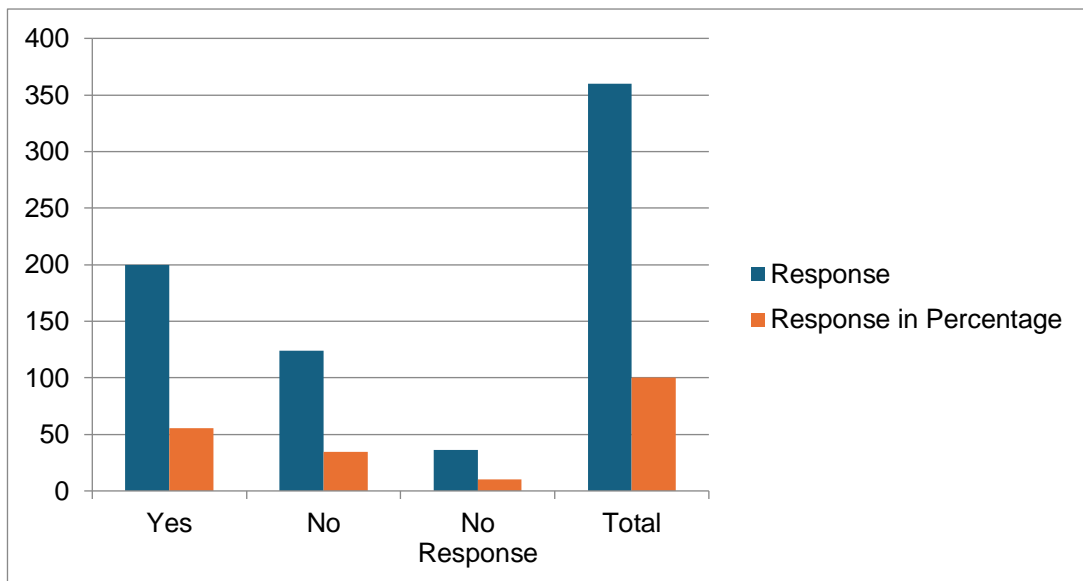
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	203	56.388
No	140	38.888
No Response	17	4.722
Total	360	100



The above table indicates that 5t an indigenous program launched by Govt. Odisha to make the Departments under the 5t are working with the principle 5t (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Transformation and Time). Through this questionnaire, it was asked whether the respondents of the study area were well known or not. The result of the response in Yes is 223 (56%), No 140 (38%), No Response 17 (4.7%).

35. Does “DDUGKY” (Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana) play a role in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat?

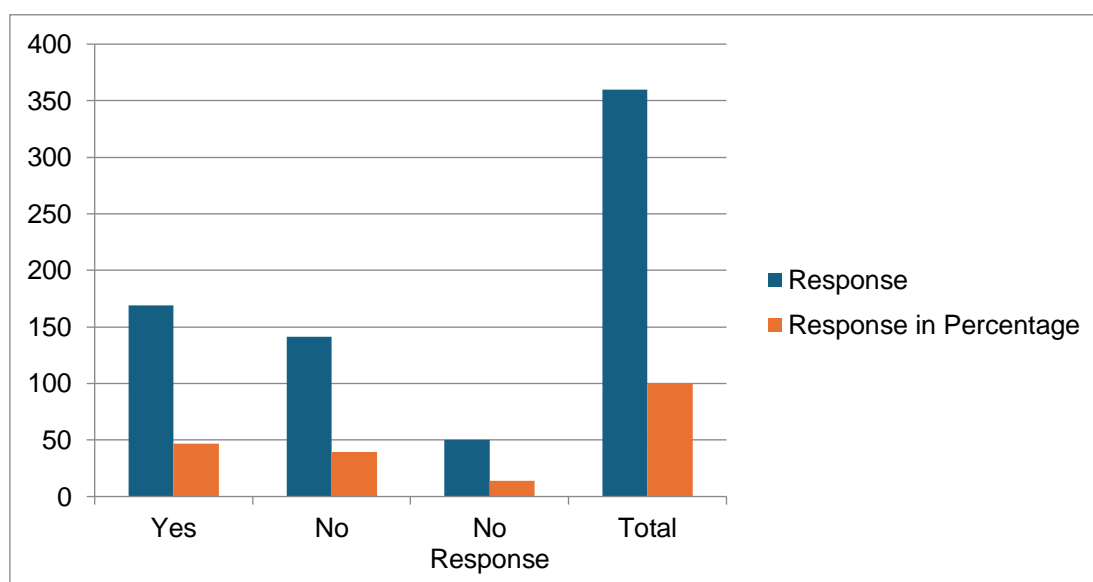
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	200	55.555
No	124	34.444
No Response	36	10
Total	360	100



The data above shows that 200 respondents (55%) said yes, 124 respondents (34%) said no, and 36 respondents (11%) did not respond to the question of whether "DDUGKY" (Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana) plays a role in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat. Given that 55% of respondents said yes, it is fair to conclude that "DDUGKY" does play a role in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat. However, it is also important to note that 34% of respondents said no, which suggests that there are some people in the community who do not believe that "DDUGKY" is effective or relevant. It is also important to consider the non-response rate of 11%. This could be due to a variety of factors, such as respondents not understanding the question or not having enough information to answer. It is possible that if these respondents had answered the question, the results would be different. Overall, the data suggests that "DDUGKY" does play a role in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, but there is room for improvement.

36. Is Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat doing well in agricultural development under KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income) scheme?

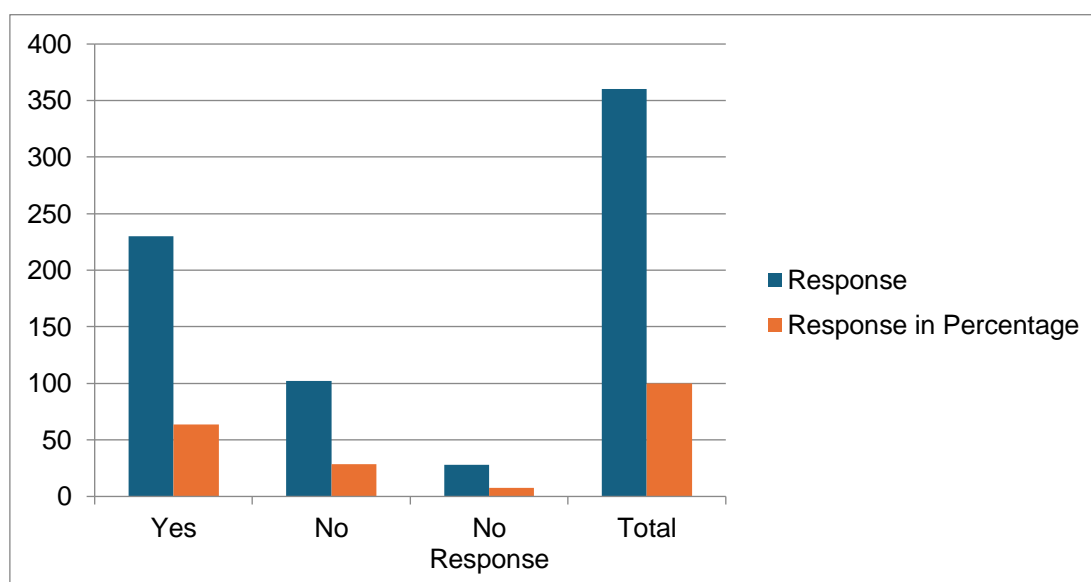
Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	169	46.944
No	141	39.166
No Response	50	13.888
Total	360	100



The above table indicates that KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income) scheme is an indigenous program launched by Govt. Odisha to help and promote Agriculture to small farmers, farmers coming under BPL, and Leased farmers (BHAGA CHASI). Whether this program is helping the people of Odisha in the upliftment of their standards, a study was conducted in the study area Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in Odisha and found that the result Yes is 169 (46.9%), No is 141 (39%), and No Response is 50 (13.8%).

37. Can women be ensured for employment under NREGS (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. 2005) in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	230	63.888
No	102	28.333
No Response	28	7.777
Total	360	100

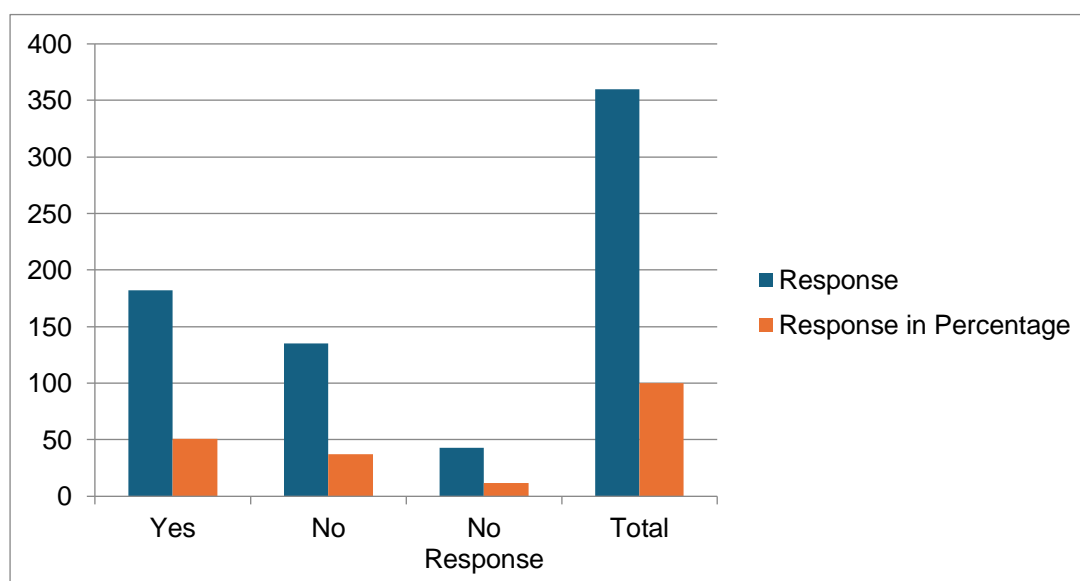


The above table shows that 230 respondents (64%) said yes, 102 respondents (28%) said no, and 28 respondents (8%) did not respond to the question of whether women can be ensured for employment under NREGS (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. 2005) in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat. Given that 64% of respondents said yes, it is fair to conclude that women can be ensured for employment under NREGS in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat. However, it is also important to note that 28% of respondents said no, which suggests that there are some people in the community who do not believe that women are able to access NREGS employment opportunities. It is also important to consider the non-response rate of 8%. This could be due to a variety of factors, such as respondents not

understanding the question or not having enough information to answer. It is possible that if these respondents had answered the question, the results would be different. Overall, the data suggests that women can be ensured for employment under NREGS in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, but there is room for improvement.

38. Do you think that Panchayati Raj contributes to rural development?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	182	50.555
No	135	37.5
No Response	43	11.944
Total	360	100

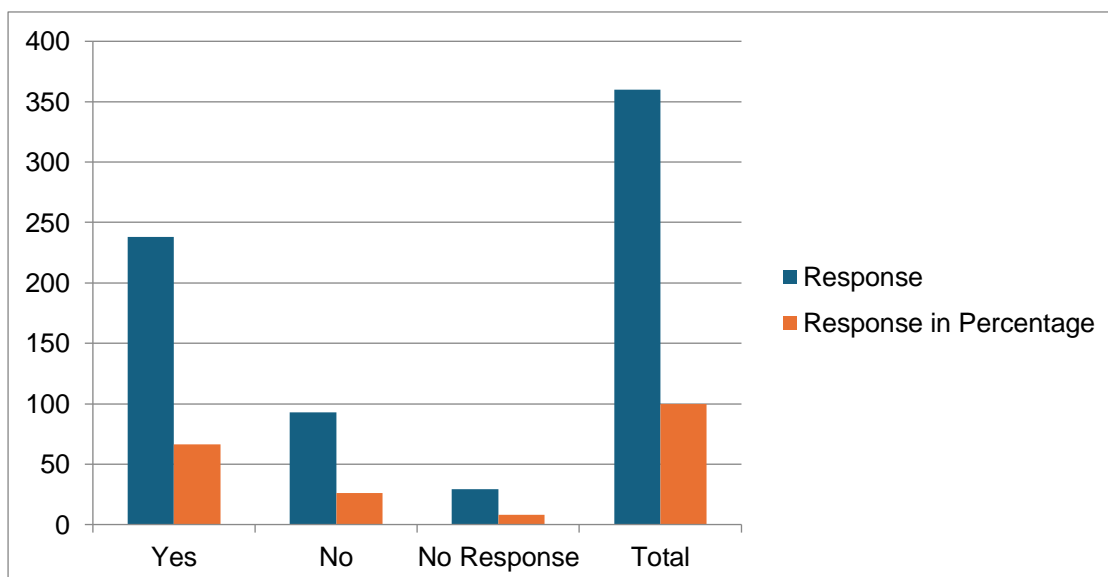


The data shows that 182 respondents (51%) said yes, 135 respondents (37%) said no, and 43 respondents (12%) did not respond to the question of whether they think Panchayati Raj contributes to rural development. Given that 51% of respondents said yes, it is fair to conclude that a majority of people in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat believe that Panchayati Raj contributes to rural development. However, it is also important to note that 37% of respondents said no, which suggests that there are some people in the community who do not believe that

Panchayati Raj is effective in promoting rural development. It is also important to consider the non-response rate of 12%. This could be due to a variety of factors, such as respondents not understanding the question or not having enough information to answer. It is possible that if these respondents had answered the question, the results would be different. Overall, the data suggests that Panchayati Raj is seen by a majority of people in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat as a contributor to rural development. However, there is room for improvement, as some people do not believe that Panchayati Raj is effective in this area.

39. Are you satisfied with the behavior of the official of Panchayati Raj?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	238	66.111
No	93	25.833
No Response	29	8.055
Total	360	100

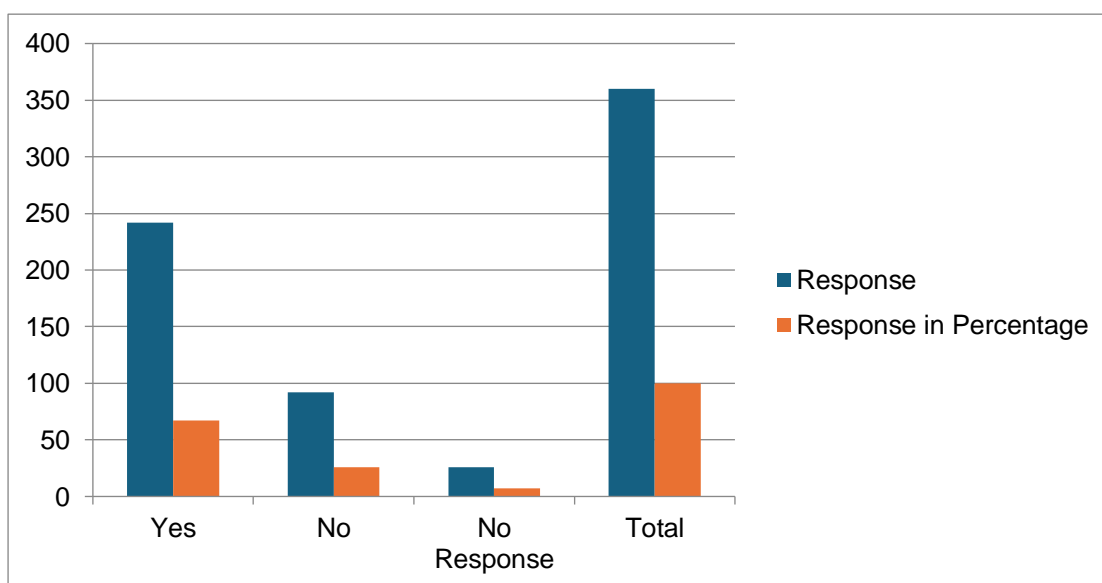


The table shows that about the behaviour of Office bearers of Panchayat Raj Institutions such as Gram Panchayat is satisfactory or not. The response in the form of Yes is 238 (66%) No is 93 (25.8%) and No Response is 29 (8%). The study

revealed that the officers are good enough in responding to the common men in the office or workplace. This type of commitment to work brings good results in implementing the schemes and programs of rural development.

40. Is panchayat Raj successful in providing overall development to Rural Areas?

Knowledge about Panchayati Raj	Response	Response in Percentage
Yes	242	67.222
No	92	25.555
No Response	26	7.222
Total	360	100



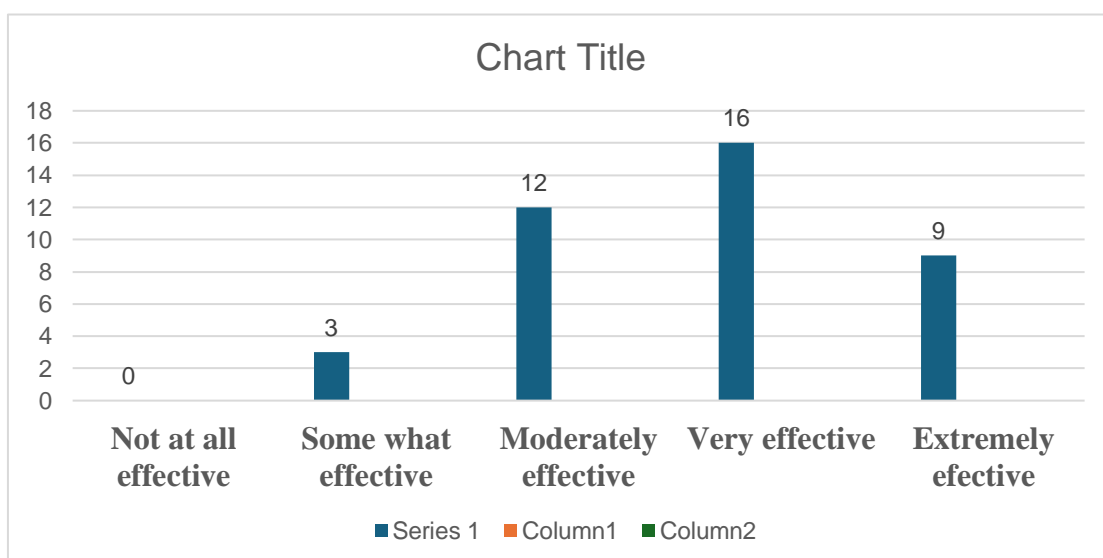
Based on the responses from 360 respondents regarding the success of Panchayati Raj in providing overall development to rural areas. Among the respondents, 182 (67%) believe that Panchayati Raj has successfully provided overall development to rural areas. This suggests a positive perception among this group that Panchayati Raj institutions have effectively contributed to the development of rural areas. A significant number of 135 (25.5%) respondents express disagreement, indicating that they do not believe that Panchayati Raj has been successful in providing overall development to rural areas. This group

questions the effectiveness of Panchayati Raj in fulfilling its developmental role in rural regions. 43 (7.2%) respondents did not provide a clear response to the question. These individuals may not have enough information to form an opinion, may be uncertain, or may have chosen not to express their views on this matter. the data reveals a mixed perception among the respondents regarding the success of Panchayati Raj in providing overall development to rural areas. While a substantial number believe in its effectiveness, a significant group questions its ability to fulfill this role. This data highlights the need for further evaluation and communication regarding the performance of Panchayati Raj institutions in rural development.

Data Interpretations of Collected data from Elected Representatives and Office bearers. The total number of respondents is 40.

1. To what extent does the Panchayat effectively plan and prioritize development initiatives, addressing the needs of the people of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat?

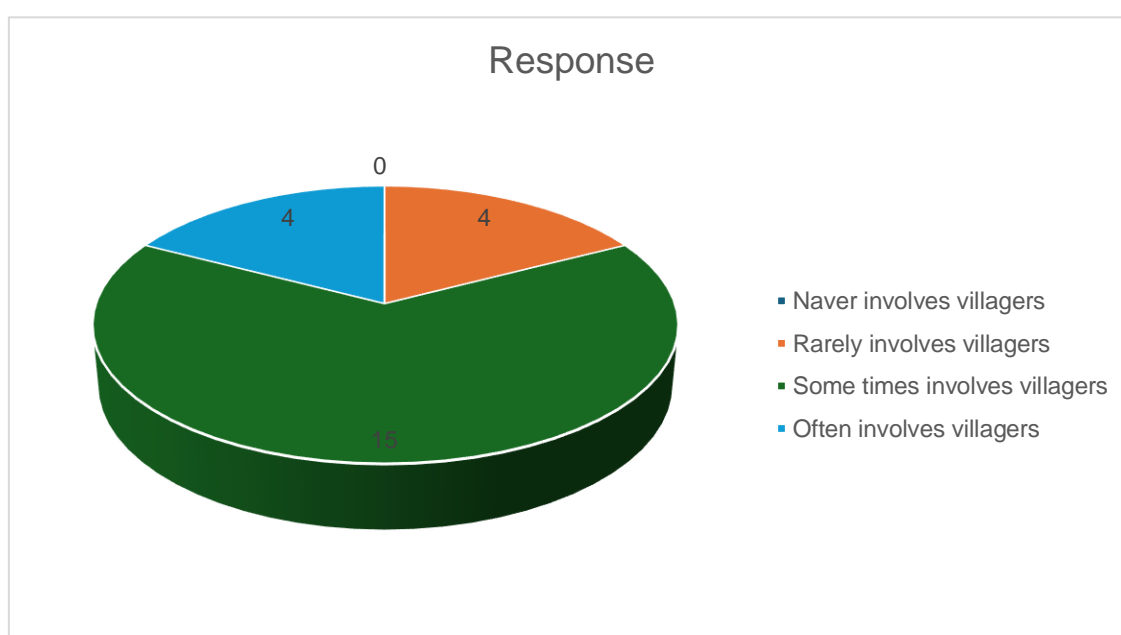
	Response	Response in Percentage
Not at all effective	0	0
Some what effective	3	7.5
Moderately effective	12	30
Very effective	16	40
Extremely effective	9	22.5



According to the findings, from the above table and diagram, the majority of respondents (40% + 30% = 70%) rated the Panchayat's ability to plan and prioritise development projects as extremely effective (40%) and somewhat effective (30%). A lower percentage (22.5%) that corresponds to "very effective". This implies that there are individuals who think the Panchayat is performing admirably. Conversely, just 7.5% of respondents thought the Panchayat's efforts were ineffective, while none of the respondents thought they were ineffective at all. This implies that while the work of the Panchayat is generally seen as satisfactory, there is still need for enhancement. Although there is always space for improvement, the data generally indicates that the Panchayat is doing a good job of planning and prioritising development efforts.

2. To what extent does the panchayat include the villagers in the decision making process when it comes to developmental process?

	Response	Response in Percentage
Naver involves villagers	0	0
Rarely involves villagers	4	10
Some times involves villagers	15	37.5
Often involves villagers	4	10



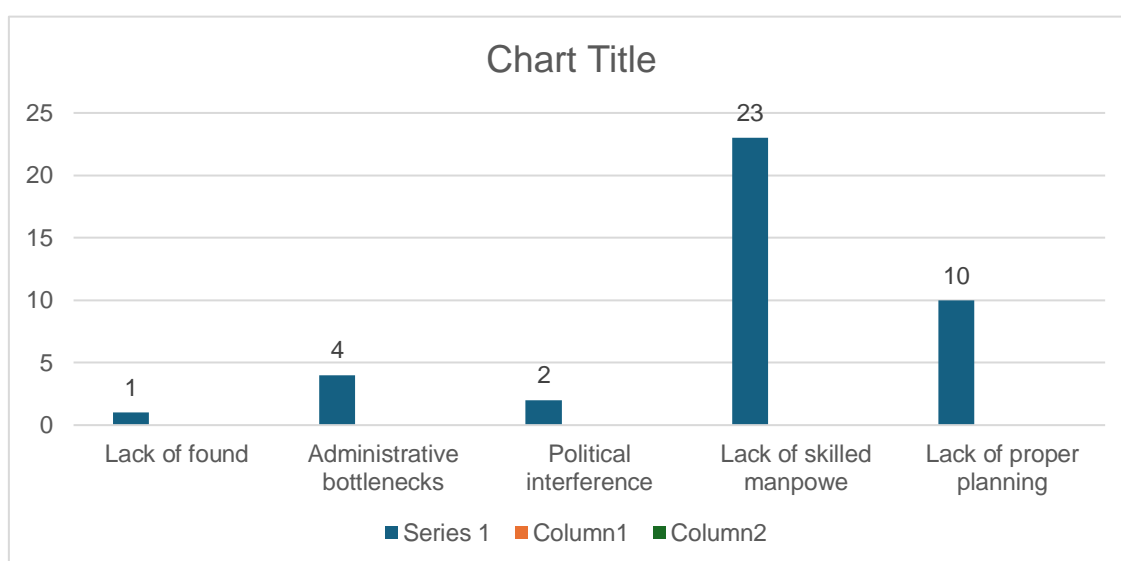
According to research, when it comes to developmental processes, the Panchayat almost always includes the villagers (42.5%) in the decision-making process. This implies that villagers are attempting to be involved in the decision-making process.

A lower percentage of participants (37.5%) indicated that villagers are occasionally involved in the panchayat. Few respondents (10%) or never (0%) claimed that the panchayat seldom or never involves locals.

In general, the data indicates that the panchayat effectively involves the people in making decisions.

3. What are the major challenges faced by Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in implementing rural development projects?

	Response	Response in Percentage
Lack of found	1	2.5
Administrative bottlenecks	4	10
Political interference	2	5
Lack of skilled manpower	23	57.5
Lack of proper planning	10	25



The data shows that the major challenges faced by Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in implementing rural development projects are lack of skilled manpower (57.5%) and lack of proper planning (25%).

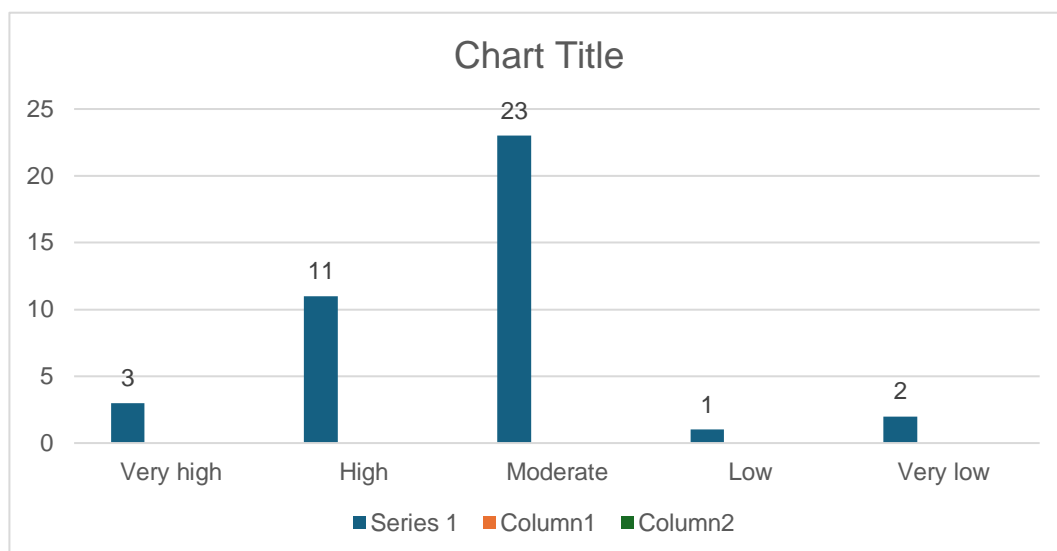
Lack of skilled manpower is the biggest challenge according to the data, with over half of the respondents (57.5%) indicating it as a major hurdle. This suggests that the panchayat may not have the necessary human resources to effectively carry out development projects.

Lack of proper planning is another significant challenge, as reported by 25% of the respondents. This suggests that the panchayat may need to improve its planning process to ensure that projects are well-designed and feasible.

Other challenges, such as administrative bottlenecks (10%), political interference (5%), and lack of funds (2.5%) were also mentioned by the respondents, but to a lesser extent.

4. How significantly do you believe that the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat's decision making procedures involve active community participation?

	Response	Response in Percentage
Very high	3	7.5
High	11	27.5
Moderate	23	57.5
Low	1	2.5
Very low	2	5



It seems from the data that different people have different opinions on how much the community participates in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat decision-making processes:

Seven percent of those surveyed think that community involvement in decision-making is "Very high." 27.5% of people think it's "High."

Most people, or 57.5% of those surveyed, consider it to be "Moderate."

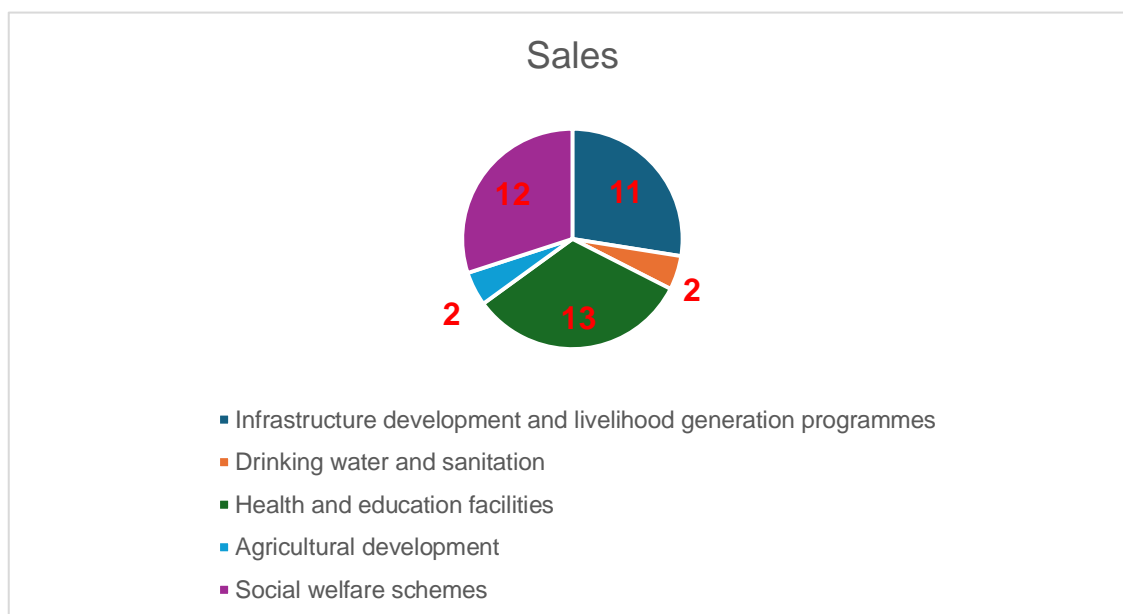
Merely 2.5% consider community involvement to be "Low."

Five percent more think it's "Very low."

It's noteworthy that some respondents rank their level of community participation as both high and extremely high, despite the fact that a large majority see it as moderate. On the other hand, a tiny proportion considers it to be poor or extremely low, indicating that there might be space for development in terms of encouraging more community participation in decision-making processes. But, taking into account the background and inherent biases in the data collection procedure, the interpretation should be done with caution.

5. In your opinion what are the primary responsibilities of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat towards rural development?

Infrastructure development and livelihood generation programs	11	27.5
Drinking water and sanitation	2	5
Health and education facilities	13	32.5
Agricultural development	2	5
Social welfare schemes	12	30



Ad on the data, the primary responsibilities of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat towards rural development appear to be:

Health and education facilities: This was ranked the highest priority with 32.5% of respondents indicating it.

Social welfare schemes: This was chosen by 30% of respondents, suggesting it's another important area.

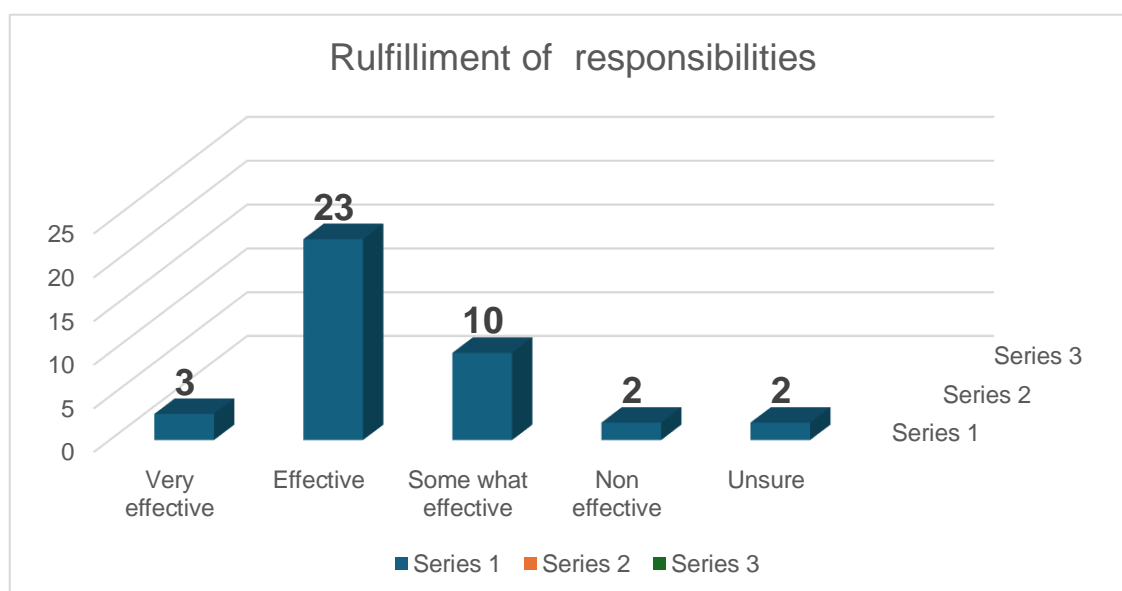
Infrastructure development and livelihood generation programs: This was mentioned by 27.5% of respondents, highlighting its importance.

While other areas like drinking water and sanitation (5%) and agricultural development (5%) were also mentioned, they seem to be less of a priority compared to the top three.

It's important to note that this is just a snapshot of residents' opinions, and the Panchayat may need to consider other factors such as government mandates or urgent needs when planning development initiatives.

6. How effective do you think Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat has been in fulfilling these responsibilities?

Very effective	3	7.5
Effective	23	57.5
Somewhat effective	10	25
Noneffective	2	5
Unsure	2	5

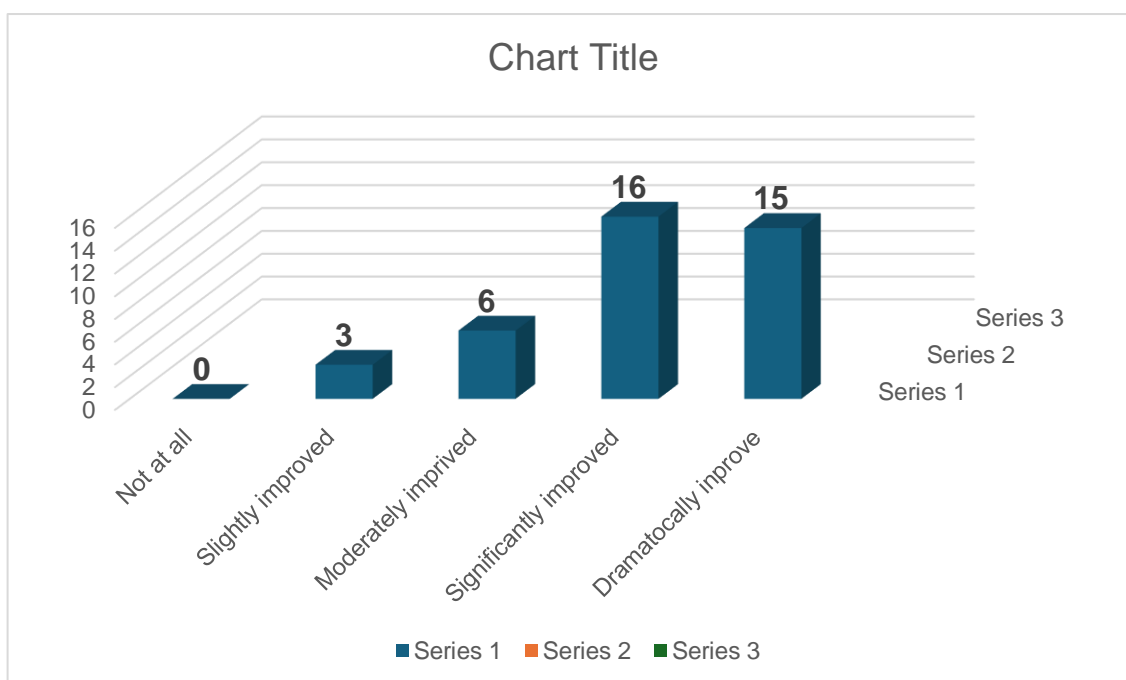


In general, 33 percent of participants think the Panchayat does a good job of carrying out its duties. This indicates that while there is certainly space for improvement, a sizable segment of the populace thinks the panchayat is doing effectively.

As you can see, the majority of respondents (23%) stated that the panchayat is effective, and 10% stated that it is only somewhat beneficial. Just 2% of respondents claimed that the panchayat is ineffective. It is crucial to remember that these are merely opinions held by the community; other factors can also be at work that have an impact on the panchayat's capacity to carry out its duties.

7. To what extent has the panchayat's work contributed to improving the overall standard of living of residents of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat?

Not at all	0	0
Slightly improved	3	7.5
Moderately improved	6	15
Significantly improved	16	40
Dramatically improve	15	37.5



From above table and diagram, it appears that the majority of respondents perceive the Panchayat's work as having contributed to improving the overall standard of living of residents in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat:

40% of respondents believe it has "Significantly improved."

37.5% perceive it as having "Dramatically improved."

15% think it has "Moderately improved."

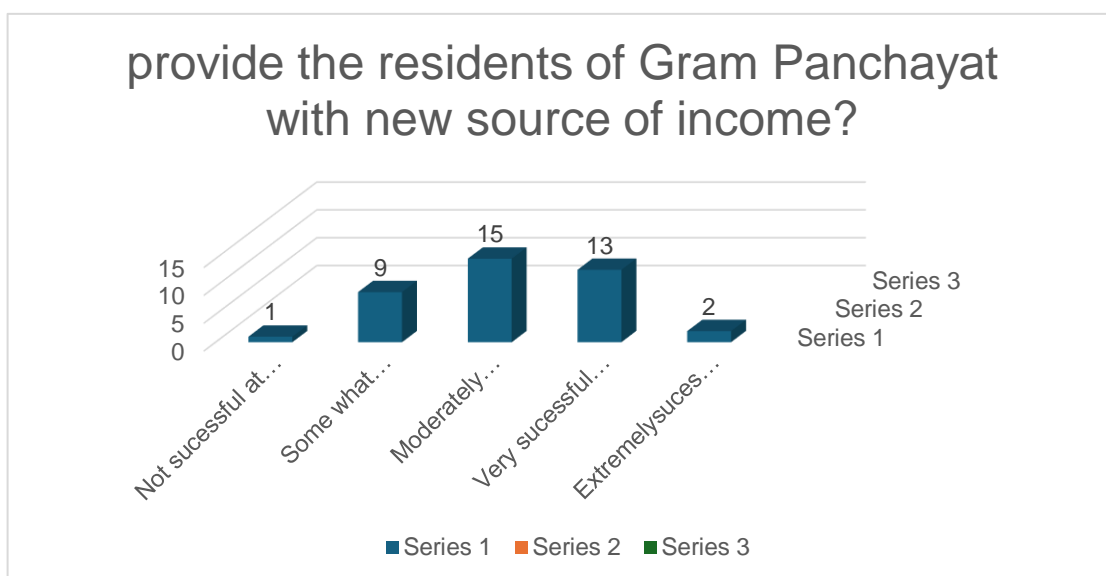
7.5% indicate it has "Slightly improved."

None of the respondents believe it has not improved at all.

This suggests that the efforts and initiatives implemented by the Panchayat are widely recognized as positively impacting the standard of living in the community. However, it's important to consider the context and potential biases in the data collection process before drawing definitive conclusions.

8. To what extent has the panchayat been able to provide the residents of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat with a new source of income?

Not successful at all	1	2.5
Somewhat successful at all	9	22.5
Moderately successful at all	15	37.5
Very successful at all	13	32.5
Extremely successful at all	2	5



Panchayat's efforts to provide new supports of income to the residents of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat as somewhat to very successful:

37.5% of respondents believe it has been "Moderately successful."

32.5% perceive it as "Very successful."

22.5% consider it "Somewhat successful."

5% indicate it has been "Extremely successful."

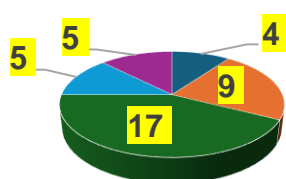
Only 2.5% believe it has not been successful at all.

This suggests that there is a significant portion of the community that acknowledges the Panchayat's efforts in introducing new sources of income, with a notable percentage considering it moderately or very successful. However, it's important to further investigate the specific initiatives undertaken by the Panchayat and any potential challenges or areas for improvement to ensure sustained and equitable economic development within the community.

9. Do you think that the Panchayati Raj system effectively represents the interest of rural communities?

	Response	Response in Percentage
Not successful at all	4	10
Some what successful at all	9	22.5
Moderately successful at all	17	42.5
Very successful at all	5	12.5
Extremely successful at all	5	12.5

Representation of the interest of rural communities



- Not successful at all
- Some what successful at all
- Moderately successful at all
- Very successful at all
- Extremely successful at all

The information above suggests that there are differing views on how well the Panchayati Raj system serves to reflect the interests of rural communities:

Of those surveyed, 42.5% said it is "Moderately successful."

Twenty-two percent think it's "Somewhat successful."

Of them, 12.5% say it's "Very successful."

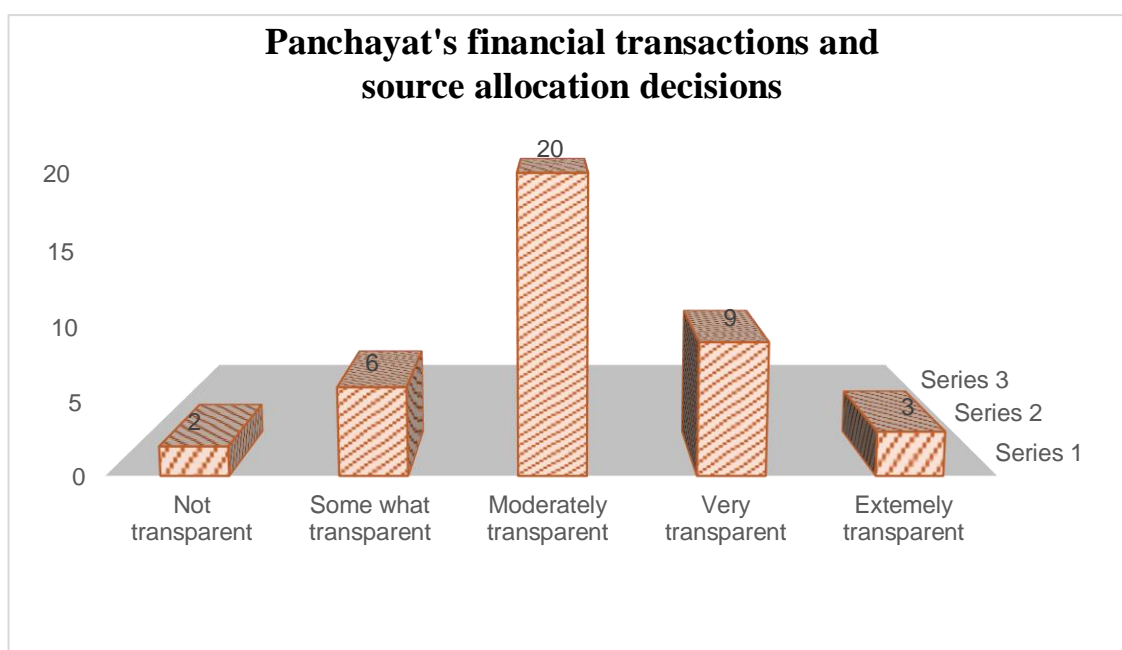
12.5% more people think it's "extremely successful."

Ten percent of those surveyed say it's "not successful at all."

According to the statistics, there are respondents who hold more critical views, with a noteworthy percentage claiming that the Panchayati Raj system is not successful at all. Yet, a significant portion of respondents see it as at least moderately successful in reflecting the interests of rural communities. This suggests a variety of viewpoints regarding the system's efficacy, which a number of variables like personal perceptions, sociopolitical dynamics, and local governance experiences may influence. Additional investigation into the causes of these beliefs may yield important information about regions where the Panchayati Raj system needs to be strengthened.

10. How transparent and accountable are the Panchayat's financial transactions and source allocation decisions?

Not transparent or accountable at all	2	5
Somewhat transparent or accountable at all	6	15
Moderately transparent or accountable at all	20	50
Very transparent or accountable at all	9	22.5
Extremely transparent or accountable at all	3	7.5



Based on the above table, it appears that opinions regarding the effectiveness of the Panchayati Raj system in representing the interests of rural communities are varied:

42.5% of respondents believe it is "Moderately successful."

22.5% perceive it as "Somewhat successful."

12.5% consider it "Very successful."

Another 12.5% view it as "Extremely successful."

10% of respondents believe it is "Not successful at all."

The data suggests that while a significant portion of respondents see the Panchayati Raj system as at least moderately successful in representing rural community interests, there are also respondents who hold more critical views, with a notable percentage indicating it as not successful at all. This indicates a range of perspectives on the effectiveness of the system, possibly influenced by various factors such as local governance experiences, socio-political dynamics, and individual perceptions. Further exploration into the reasons behind these perceptions could provide valuable insights into areas for improvement within the Panchayati Raj system.

CHAPTER- V

FINDINGS

Introduction

The study highlights that the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 made decentralization of power in India possible. Article 243 G of the Constitution of India entrusts the role of rural development to Panchayati Raj Institutions through the 11th schedule, which contains a list of 29 subjects. Decentralization, one of the administrative reforms for democracy and development, is on the global agenda. In India, democratic decentralization has been conceived since independence. People's initiative and participation are as important as involvement in rural development programs.

Over time, a series of significant measures have been put in place to ensure the effective functioning of Panchayati Raj, including active political participation in panchayats through regular elections, the introduction of five-year terms, increased and proactive involvement of women in all aspects of activities, reservations of seats for women and marginalized sections. These multifaceted efforts have borne fruit, leading to various positive outcomes, including women's empowerment. The passing of the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act. 1996 (PESA), increased financial allocations, and the delegation of various government departments to Panchayati Raj institutions have all contributed to promoting local governance and fostering inclusive development.

Furthermore, increased efforts are needed to attain the desired outcomes in areas related to the 29 Subjects and the PESA Act of 1996. While the preparation of action plans has become more accessible, a significant issue arises from the untimely interference of high-ranking officials in the process of transferring funds, a problem observed in many Gram Panchayats across Odisha. To address this challenge and ensure adherence to the annual action plan, the implementation of a stringent legislative principle in the form of an Act is essential.

The vast geographical size of India means that the country is divided into smaller units known as states and Union Territories. Managing affairs centrally proved challenging, leading to the adoption of a federal system. Following constitutional principles, these states are further subdivided into administrative divisions called districts and subdivisions to promote inclusive development. However, studies have revealed that development efforts often neglect lower-level administrative units. Consequently, the concept of local governance was introduced. Recently, this concept was solidified through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, which sought to enhance democratic processes at the grassroots level and boost public participation in the country's socio-economic development.

The 73rd Amendment Act constitutionally established Panchayat Raj Institutions. In contrast, certain northern states like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have non-constitutional bodies known as Khap Panchayats, which are unions of various villages. Over recent decades, Khap Panchayats have evolved into quasi-judicial bodies that impose harsh, often regressive punishments based on traditional social customs. Women's participation in Khap Panchayats is minimal, whereas their involvement in Panchayat Raj Institutions brings more progress.

In this context, the present chapter will examine the study's major findings regarding the Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development. These findings are derived from an analytical study of the available sources, such as books, journals, and literature, in addition to data analysis and interpretation from the previous chapter. The data, collected through questionnaires, observation, focused group discussion, and analysis methods, focuses on the functions of Panchayati Raj Institutions, providing insights specific to Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat and Odisha State in general. The findings aim to answer the research questions posed earlier and verify the variables and objectives outlined in the previous chapter.

Findings

Findings are the outcomes of a research project, encompassing all results rather than just conclusions or recommendations. In research, a finding is an empirical fact based on collected data. Citizen participation in the decision-making process is fundamental to democracy. This becomes feasible and faster when citizens are equipped with the necessary knowledge to make informed choices. Consequently, the government has made various bold attempts to enhance political participation at both the state and local electoral levels. The findings related to the Empowerment of women and the initiatives to improve their participation in local governance have been detailed in this study. In the previous chapter, it is observed that women's participation in each and every field has been increased satisfactorily. Obviously, more easy steps should be provided to them to encourage their participation in political and social activities.

These findings were intended to validate the hypothesis presented in the previous chapter. The various findings derived from the data analysis in the previous chapter have been summarized as follows:

Democratic Decentralization:

Democratic decentralization means extending decision-making to the grassroots level, which means decentralizing decision-making in local and regional communities. Decentralization is crucial for eradicating poverty, socio-political uplift, and long-term people-centered development.

Panchayati Raj and Rural Development:

The Panchayati Raj Institutions, as a mechanism for democratic decentralization, play a significant and transformative role in improving rural development (RD) and poverty alleviation. Their administrative role empowers local communities to take charge of their own development, instilling a sense of optimism for the future of rural India.

The involvement of people at the grassroots level has been considered the most effective way for economic development to meet people's aspirations and ensure that the benefit really percolates down to the lowest strata of society. This emphasis on community involvement inspires hope and instills confidence in the potential of grassroots initiatives for economic development. The National Development Council established a Committee on Plan Project. In 1956, a study team was formed under Balwant Rai Mehta's leadership to review ongoing services and projects such as the "Community Development Project" and the "National Extension Service." This committee was tasked with several significant objectives, including evaluating the community development movement and assessing economic and social conditions in rural life after the establishment of development institutions.

The basic principles emphasized by the Committee were: (1) There should be a three-tier structure of local self-governing bodies from the village to the district, with organic linkage among them well-defined and practical. (2) Adequate administrative powers may be entrusted to these bodies to avoid excessive state control. (3) There should be a real transfer of power and responsibilities to them so that they can discharge their duties. (4) Transfer of adequate resources to new bodies for proper functions. (5) All developmental programs should be processed through this body.

The main thrust of the Committee was the argument that development cannot progress without responsibility and power. Community involvement is the key feature of community development. Communities better understand their problems. So, it was felt that community involvement should be highlighted. Powers should be given to ordinary men through the concept of decentralization of power. Another committee, headed by Asok Mehta, was set up to study Panchayati Raj Institutions and prescribe measures for strong decentralization, planning, and implementation.

The Committee's top recommendation is a two-tier Panchayati Raj with Zilla Parishads at the district level as the first point of decentralization and Mandal Panchayats as clusters of villages, forging necessary linkages with schemes for

developing local points and growth centers to ensure efficient management of growing rural-urban linkages.

The Administrative Reforms Commission investigated district planning in 1967. Accordingly, the Planning Commission instructed the creation of a district plan. In 1972, Maharashtra began preparing district plans based on Planning Commission guidelines. It identified district planning schemes, set aside planned funds, and created district-level District Development and Planning Councils.

In October 2007, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, headed by M. Veerappa Moily, emphasized democratic decentralization and smooth functioning of both rural and urban government. The outcome was divided into three parts: the first part addresses common local governance issues that affect both rural and urban areas. C. H. Hanumantha Rao was appointed as a working group for district planning and was recommended for the '*stages approach*' in 1984. L.M. Singhvi, in 1986, was appointed as head of the committee and emphasized the Gram Sabha. As a result, the Gram Sabha is the main instrument of participatory democracy.

The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1988) opposed the L.M. Singhvi Committee's proposal to give the Panchayati Raj Institutions constitutional status and advocated for Panchayats' power to enact any law. The commission also requested uniformity in these areas of law across India.

In line with a consensus-based model bill created by the Inter-State Council, we suggest establishing this topic under the Act. 263.

- (ii) Parliament passed a statute under Art. 252(1) with the assent of all State Legislatures.
- (iii) A Parliamentary Law with provisions similar to Art. Articles 172 and 174 of the Constitution are equally applicable throughout India.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 is a milestone for Panchayati

Raj Institutions. Panchayati Raj Institutions are responsible for rural development under Article 243 G of the Indian Constitution's 11th schedule of 29 subjects. As per 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, Assam Panchayat Raj Act. 1994 was created on April 21, 1994. The Act incorporates much of the 73rd Amendment Act. Democracy relies on public engagement. Participatory democracy brings pride and wealth. The global agenda includes decentralization as an administrative reform approach for democracy and development. India has envisioned democratic decentralization since independence. Rural development projects rely as much on citizen engagement as on government institutions.

Democratic Decentralization:

Democratic decentralization means grass-roots decision-making. Decisions affecting local and regional communities must be decentralized. Decentralization is essential for poverty eradication, socio-political elevation, and long-term people-centered development. This highlights a state that is more sensitive to local needs and ambitions and provides more effective governing systems. Democratic decentralization is also based on the idea that increased engagement in local political matters would enhance government services, especially those for the poor and politically marginalized. Democratic decentralization brings democracy to village government via Panchayati Raj Institutions. It is thought to maximize rural development (RD) and poverty reduction.

Safeguarding of Rights: The study's findings have highlighted that including disadvantaged sections of society in local governance is crucial. As the world's largest democracy, India also has a significant number of backward and disadvantaged populations, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and women. Thus, incorporating these communities into the local governance structure is essential. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are pivotal in fostering inclusiveness in governance, creating an environment that facilitates effective and fair participation of SCs, STs, and women in elections, thereby advancing the democratic process.

Reservation of Seats: Panchayati Raj Institutions have promoted women's inclusion in local governance by providing 33 percent reservation through legislation. In Odisha and some other states, the reservation is 50 percent. However, despite this reservation, women's participation remains limited due to factors such as the patriarchal nature of society, financial dependence, and lack of family support. In However, the rise of media, especially social media, has revolutionized the political landscape by educating women about their political rights.

Political Participation: Democratic culture involves the desire and ability of individuals to actively participate in governance through free and fair means. It is characterized by active contribution, a focus on the common good, and collective decision-making. Recent trends show increasing voter turnout and participation rates. The media plays a significant role in shaping political opinions and the democratic fabric of the country by ensuring transparency and accountability. At the local level, the media educates people about the structure and functioning of PRIs, thereby enhancing civic involvement. Political participation is a fundamental right, including voting, forming a political party, and contesting elections. Factors motivating participation in local elections include rural development, family interests, and monetary benefits.

Promotion of Education: The significant findings from our study underscore the joint efforts of both the state and central governments in the continuous promotion of education. The data from the study reveals the establishment of specific schools in tribal areas, a testament to our commitment to providing education to the underprivileged students of scheduled tribes. In every block of tribal-dominated areas, TRW schools, operating under the ST and SC departments, are providing education to students free of cost and offering stipends for their academic advancement. The students are accommodated in hostels at no cost and are also provided with scholarships to meet their daily needs.

Economic Development through Poverty eradication Programs has become instrumental in implementing property eradication programs in a number of ways. a) Panchayati Raj Institutions enabled centralized planning and implementation,

ensuring that developmental programs and initiatives are properly implemented, and the desired programs address the specific needs of local inhabitants. The involvement of Locals in the development initiatives is more relevant and targeted. The marginalized groups in the decision-making process make them able to address their requirements. This inclusion ensures that the benefits of development programs reach all sections of society, particularly those who are most disadvantaged.

Poverty eradication initiatives are taken through various schemes and programs from time to time. The most important and popular program is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). It provides 100 days of wage employment to rural people as livelihood security. Infrastructure development conservation and land improvement activities are planned and implemented in Panchayati Raj Institutions. National Rural Livelihood Mission is a step towards the reduction of rural poverty by promoting self-employment. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are prominent among them. Through this program, Panchayati Raj institutions empower women to announce income levels and improve the overall socio-economic status of rural communities. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been proved to be a milestone in rural development by providing affordable housing to rural people. Panchayati Raj institutions have been given authority to identify beneficiaries, maintain transparency, and control the construction of houses. The living conditions of the rural people are being elevated through Awas Yojana, resulting in the socio-economic well-being of the rural population. Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin aims to improve rural sanitation. In order to achieve the run development goal, Panchayati Raj institutions help improve health and hygiene with the construction of toilets and the end improvement of sanitation facilities.

The execution of many development programs by Panchayat Raj has significantly transformed the socio-economic and political circumstances of the people. From an economic standpoint, the purchasing power of individuals has significantly grown. The living conditions of the inhabitants and the economic conditions of the communities have significantly improved. The implementation of

initiatives such as health, sanitation, rural connectivity, power supply, market linkage, banking simplification, agricultural support, migrant labor management, housing schemes, poverty eradication programs, and others has transformed Panchayati Raj into a tool that bridges the gap between rural and urban areas. Furthermore, there is still a significant distance to go in terms of advancing and implementing rights for rural individuals in our nation as a whole, specifically in the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat.

Information regarding the structure and functions of Panchayati Raj Institutions:

A significant majority of the respondents, 79.16 out of 360 individuals, are informed about the Panchayati Raj system and its structure and functions. Overall Insight: The data shows that the majority of the population surveyed is informed about the Panchayati Raj system, reflecting effective dissemination of information or education on this topic. This indicates that the Panchayati Raj System is always connected to the common mass.

Information regarding the participation in the activities of Panchayati Raj Institutions:

A significant majority of the respondents, 316 individuals (87.777%) out of 360, reported that they frequently vote in Gram Panchayat elections. This indicates a high level of active participation in local governance elections among the surveyed population. The above findings indicate that the percentage of political participation in rural and remote dwellings is very satisfactory, as intended in the Panchayati Raj Act, with provisions of Reservations of Seats for the promotion of active participation in democracy. On the other hand, in the matter of contests in the election as candidates, very few agreed, which is a very low percentage, like 25. Out of the 360 respondents, only 90 individuals (25%) have ever run for a Gram Panchayat seat. This indicates that a relatively small proportion of the respondents have actively participated in local governance by standing for election.

The finding regarding attendance at Gram Sabha meetings is not satisfactory. Making decisions in Gram Sabha is not yet a matter for villagers. It indicates that the officials are preparing meeting agendas and taking advantage of voters' low attendance. There might be many reasons, like the communication gap between the Gram Panchayat and members of Gram Sabha.

lack of communication between the Gram Panchayat and the members of the Gram Sabha may result in several adverse outcomes that can impede the efficiency and efficacy of local administration. The following are possible outcomes.

Decreased Trust and Confidence: Insufficiently transparent and coherent communication might erode the faith and confidence of Gram Sabha members in the Gram Panchayat. This might give rise to doubt or suspicion about the motives and behaviors of the elected officials.

Reduce Participation: Inadequate communication may deter Gram Sabha members from engaging in local government procedures. If individuals perceive a lack of acknowledgment of their opinions or a disregard for their input, they may experience a sense of disconnection and less inclination to attend gatherings or join in the process of making decisions.

Misinformation, misunderstanding, and lack of comprehension: Inadequate communication may propagate false information and misconceptions about policies, choices, and projects, which can generate ambiguity and discord among community members.

Ineffective decision-making: Successful governance depends on receiving input and feedback from the community. In the absence of efficient communication, the Gram Panchayat may formulate policies and programs that do not align with the requirements and goals of the Gram Sabha, resulting in ineffectiveness or mistaken decision-making.

Lack of Accountability and Transparency: Effective communication is essential for guaranteeing responsibility and openness in government. A communication gap

might hinder the transparency of the acts and decisions made by the Gram Panchayat, making it challenging for the members of the Gram Sabha to hold their representatives responsible effectively. Insufficient communication may lead to project and program implementation delays. Inadequate communication of resource allocation, project schedules, and responsibilities may result in inefficiencies and bottlenecks.

Social Fragmentation: Inadequate communication may worsen social divides and conflicts within society. Various factions may experience exclusion or marginalization, resulting in heightened discord and diminished societal unity.

Missed opportunities for development occur when there is a lack of effective communication, which hinders the exchange of ideas, feedback, and collaborative problem-solving. A lack of effective communication may lead to wasted chances to use local expertise and resources to develop the community.

Insufficient Resource Utilization: A lack of communication on priorities and requirements may hinder the proper utilization of resources. This might lead to the inefficient utilization of resources or the allocation of investments in non-essential sectors for the community's progress.

Decreased Responsiveness: The Gram Panchayat's ability to promptly address the community's urgent needs and concerns may be compromised without a frequent feedback loop. This might result in discontent and an impression that the local administration is disconnected from the people it serves.

The findings from Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, field study through data collection and interpretations show the following crucial aspects, such as,

Awareness and Participation

- i) 89% of respondents knew about the Panchayat Raj system, and 89.4% knew about the Gram Panchayat functions.
- ii) Participation is substantial, with 61.9% stating that they are engaged in gram panchayat activities, and 87.8% regularly cast votes in elections

iii) However, only 37.2% feel they can independently make decisions in gram Sabha meetings, and 54.7% admit that they cannot

Leadership

i) Due to several reasons, only 25% have contested panchayat elections; they just 28% express a desire to do so in the future.

ii) 57.8% of respondents believe officials interfere in Gram Sabha decisions.

Social Inclusion and Empowerment

i) 60.8% of respondents say the reservation of seats has helped improve the position of SC, ST, OBC, and women.

ii) A satisfactory majority of data found in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat says that Panchayati Raj institutions are contributing to women's empowerment and helping reduce the gender gap.

Developmental Role and Service Delivery

i) 58% believe that the Panchayati Raj Institutions contribute to rural development.

ii) 60.2% believe that Panchayati Raj Institutions are helping in education, and 60.8% believe they promote social justice by providing social goods like roads, market linkage, employment opportunities, education ect.

iii) 52.2% agree that economic justice is being promoted all over the country in general and in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in particular.

iv) With respect to the Swachha Bharat Mission, the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat is contributing a lot.

Implementation of Schemes

DDUGKY, KALIA, NREGS, and 5T principles are improving the effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions, which is clearly evident from Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat's field study.

Digital Awareness and Governance

71.9% support the necessity of digital services in Panchayats, while 60.2% are aware of the Digital India initiative.

The devolution of power to Panchayati Raj Institutions is a significant issue at any time, but the study in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat revealed that something more could be done in this regard. The PESA Act 1996 may be implemented as early as possible for the protection of tribal people.

Elected Representatives

70% find the panchayat effective in planning development projects. 57.5% report moderate community involvement in decision making. The top challenge is a lack of skilled manpower. 73% believe that the work of panchayats has improved the standard of living and has introduced new income sources.

Strategies to Overcome Communication Barriers:

Recurring gatherings: Establish a recurring schedule of meetings between the Gram Panchayat and the Gram Sabha to facilitate ongoing communication and get consistent input.

Optimal Utilization of Technology: Employ technological tools such as mobile phones, social media platforms, and community radio stations to efficiently distribute information and collect valuable input.

Transparency Measures: Enforce transparency measures by publicly showcasing meeting minutes, decisions, and financial data.

Community Engagement Programs: Coordinate community engagement initiatives to educate community members on governance procedures and promote active involvement.

Feedback Mechanisms: Implement structured feedback mechanisms, such as suggestion boxes, surveys, and public forums, to collect input from the community.

Capacity Building: Offer training and capacity-building initiatives to enhance the communication skills and governance practices of both Gram Panchayat members and Gram Sabha members.

By bridging the communication gap, the Gram Panchayat may cultivate a governing structure that is more inclusive, transparent, and efficient, so it better meets the community's requirements.

In a query mentioned in the Data set bearing questionnaire “Are the Panchayat Officials interfering in taking decisions in Gram Sabha?”, the response is unexpected; out of a total of 360 respondents, 208 about 57.77 agreed that panchayat officials interfere in taking decisions in Gram Sabha while they conduct meetings. At the time of group discussion, the majority of the participants replied that due to non-involvement in the affairs of Gram Panchayat by the village community and to make the meetings on the right track, the Gram Panchayat officials very often interfere in making decisions in Gram Sabha. This clearly shows that more proactive participation by members of the Gram Sabha can bring expected results in the planning and implementation of rural development programs and necessities. Even though the Gram Sabha always discusses the annual plan, the members sometimes fail to identify and address their requirements. So, the panchayat officials had to guide and actively participate in the Gram Sabha meetings to bring about the annual plan.

The result is satisfactory regarding reserving seats in the Panchayati Raj Institutions for STs, SCs, and women to help them improve their positions, but more results are expected. It is satisfactory because, till today, women have not come to the forefront of the political field as they face a number of restrictions in society and in their homes. However, with an intention to know about the reservation of seats having increased, their participation in panchayat Raj certainly most of them, around 63% out of 360 respondents, gave a positive note. Certainly, the reservation of seats for STs, SCs, and women under the new Panchayat Raj Acts hand made them enabled the majority of the women interested in participating in Panchayati Raj activities. The response regarding the 73rd Amendment Act and its successful

operation is quite positive. On the matter of query empowerment of women and Panchayati Raj, more than 50% of the respondents said yes. The government machinery each plan and implements various programs and schemes to further reduce poverty and poverty-stricken people to send their children to educational institutions for capacity building. The education system is reducing the gender gap by providing opportunities to all sections of society, including men and women. Nowadays, a girl child dreams of becoming a successful woman in every field. But it is realized that in soon part of the society more attention is to be given for the promotion of girl child.

Failures of Women's Self-Help Groups and Mission Shakti are small, voluntary organizations comprised of mostly women, aiming to promote savings and credits and eventually enhance livelihoods via self-employment. The government started Mission Shakti with the aim of enhancing the capabilities of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) via financial assistance, skill development, and integration with established banking institutions. Marketing possibilities and regulatory obstacles impede their efficacy. The execution and monitoring of Mission Shakti, which aims to empower women, should be improved. Although the SHGs under Mission Shakti initially experienced success and excitement, they have encountered substantial obstacles that have ultimately resulted in their collapse.

Insufficient knowledge in financial matters: A significant number of SHG members lacked the necessary understanding and skills in financial matters, which made them susceptible to mismanagement and fraudulent activities.

Inadequate Training and Capacity Building: Training programs were often irregular and inadequate, resulting in members lacking the required skills.

Access to Credit: Despite their efforts, some Self-Help Groups (SHGs) had difficulties obtaining official credit owing to rigorous banking processes and the absence of collateral. **Market Linkages:** Self-help groups had challenges establishing connections with markets to sell their goods, resulting in unsold stock and financial setbacks. Social barriers, such as patriarchal norms and gender prejudices prevalent

in rural regions, restrict women's ability to actively participate and make decisions within self-help groups (SHGs).

The failure of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Mission Shakti has resulted in a cascading impact and economic adversity. Numerous women have regressed to a state of financial vulnerability, reversing the strides in their economic empowerment.

Deterioration of Confidence: The government programs and initiatives have seen a decline in trust, which poses difficulties for future interventions.

Social Disempowerment: The dissolution of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has further entrenched gender norms, impeding the social empowerment of women.

Enhancement of Food Grain Procurement and Marketing Link

Efficient acquisition and promotion of food grains are crucial for guaranteeing food security and bolstering farmers' earnings. The Panchayat Raj Institutions play a crucial role in simplifying these procedures at the local level. Implementing decentralized procurement by empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions to oversee local procurement may result in cost savings on transportation, prompt payments to farmers, and less abuse by intermediaries.

Infrastructure Development: Allocating resources towards the construction of storage facilities, cold chains, and transport infrastructure may improve food grains' overall quality and longevity. Implementing digital platforms for procurement and marketing can enhance transparency, mitigate corruption, and offer farmers real-time information.

Farmer Training: Regularly organizing training sessions on optimal agricultural techniques and market trends may assist farmers in maximizing their productivity and profitability.

Implementing cooperative models may effectively boost farmers' negotiating power and streamline their market access. The aforementioned element would yield outcomes such as:

Decentralized procurement: Decentralized procurement has resulted in enhanced efficiency, with streamlined procedures and decreased payment delays.

Enhanced Pricing: Farmers benefit from improved pricing for their agricultural products due to fewer intermediaries and direct market access.

Improved storage and transit infrastructure have greatly decreased post-harvest losses, resulting in reduced wastage. Grant funds are allocated to sectors outside of the original plan for diversification purposes.

Allocation of Funds: Plan-allocated funds assigned to Panchayat Raj Institutions are often diverted for other purposes.

A significant proportion of funding is often given to predetermined or changing plans, restricting panchayats' authority to address local needs beyond designated areas such as agriculture or infrastructure. Nevertheless, there has been an increasing inclination to allocate this money to areas that were not originally intended, especially during the post-COVID era. Misallocation refers to the diversion of finances, which frequently leads to neglecting important planned areas such as health, education, and infrastructure.

The absence of transparency and accountability systems may result in mismanagement and corruption.

Development imbalances may occur when non-planned sectors receive excessive attention, key services are neglected, and development is distributed unevenly.

Rigorous surveillance: Enforcing rigorous monitoring and auditing methods may guarantee that funds are used in accordance with their intended purpose.

Community engagement: Engaging the community in decision-making processes may enhance accountability and openness. Achieving a balanced distribution of funding between planned and non-planned sectors is essential for comprehensive development.

Augment Public Services: Optimized allocation may result in enhanced provision of health, education, and infrastructure services. Transparent allocation of funding may enhance public trust in Panchayat Raj Institutions and government projects, hence boosting confidence. Sustainable Development: Achieving a state of balanced and equitable development across all sectors, ensuring long-term sustainability. Transfer of Forest Rights and Mineral Rights to Local Government Bodies Forest and mineral resources are crucial for the sustenance of several rural populations.

The Forest Rights Act (2006) and accompanying policies were implemented to transfer these rights to local communities and Panchayat organizations and facilitate sustainable management and use.

Obstacles in Execution: The presence of uncertainties and contradictions in the legal framework regulating forest and mineral rights has impeded the successful execution of these regulations. Insufficient Awareness: Numerous Panchayat members and local communities lack knowledge about their entitlements and the necessary steps to assert them.

Administrative obstacles: The transfer of rights has been delayed due to excessive bureaucratic processes and corruption. Simplifying the legal framework: The process of making the legal provisions more straightforward and clearer might make it simpler to apply them. Awareness efforts are essential to educate communities about their rights and processes. Capacity building involves providing training to Panchayat members to improve their efficacy in sustainable resource management and legal procedures.

Granting forest and mineral rights to Panchayats has bestowed local people with the authority and ability to effectively govern and profit from their resources. Implementing local management has resulted in the adoption of sustainable practices, therefore mitigating the negative impacts of exploitation and environmental degradation.

Economic Benefits: Communities have achieved economic advancement by effectively using and managing resources. Bureaucratic Interference: An Overview

Interference by bureaucratic entities in the operations of Panchayat Raj institutions has the potential to weaken their autonomy and hinder their efficiency. This interference often appears as an overbearing level of authority, prolonged periods of indecisiveness, and instances of corruption.

The autonomy of PRIs may be compromised when higher authorities exert excessive control, reducing them to mere implementers rather than self-governing entities.

Delays: Administrative bureaucracy and the sluggishness in granting permissions may impede the progress of developing initiatives and undermine the confidence of the public.

Corruption in the bureaucracy may lead to the misallocation of money intended for development and hinder the effectiveness of PRIs. Decentralization: Guaranteeing the authentic distribution of powers to PRIs is essential to enhancing their efficiency.

Implementing transparent processes and accountability measures helps mitigate bureaucratic delays and corruption by promoting openness and ensuring responsibility. Capacity development involves providing training and enhancing the skills of both Panchayat members and bureaucrats, which may promote a cooperative working atmosphere.

Minimizing bureaucratic intervention may result in Enhanced Efficiency. Prompt decision-making and project execution can enhance the efficiency of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Granting Panchayat Raj Institutions more authority may enhance their ability to solve local challenges successfully. Transparent and effective functioning of local government may bolster public confidence.

CONCLUSION:

The execution of many development programs by Panchayat Raj has significantly transformed the socio-economic and political circumstances of the people. From an economic standpoint, the purchasing power of individuals has significantly grown. The living conditions of the inhabitants and the economic conditions of the communities have improved considerably. The implementation of initiatives such as health, sanitation, rural connectivity, power supply, market linkage, banking simplification, agricultural support, migrant labor management, housing schemes, poverty eradication programs, and others has transformed Panchayati Raj into a tool that bridges the gap between rural and urban areas. Furthermore, there is still a significant distance to go in terms of the advancement and implementation of rights for rural individuals of our nation as a whole, and specifically in the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat.

REFERENCE:

- Rao, V.K. (1980). *Local Self Government in India*, S. Chand and Company Ltd., New Delhi, p.1.
- Majumdar, R.C. (1918). *Corporate Life in Ancient India*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp.76-88.
- Jain, S.C. (1967) *Community Development and Panchayati Raj in India*, Allied Publishers, Bombay, p.80.
- Dikshitar, V.R.R *Hindu Administrative Institution*, Oxford University Press, Madras, p.328.
- Khan, M.I. (2000), *Genesis Rural Self-Governing Institution and their Development Responsibilities in India*, Indian Journal of Politics, Aligarh, pp.3-4.
- Maheshwari, Dr. Sriram (1972), *Local Government in India*, Orient Longman, New Delhi, p.10.-11
- Bryce, James. (1992). *Modern Democracies Vol.3*, MacMillan, New York,
- Das, Hari Har. (1996). *Introduction to Panchayat Raj and Community Development in India*- Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi,
- Johari, H.C. (1997). *Indian Political System*, Anmol Publication Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- Orissa Grama Panchayat Manual, 1994.*
- Aiyar, M. S. (2010). *Local Government in India and China*. Brown J. World Affairs., 17, pp 221.

- Alam, S., & Thakuri, P. (2023). Legacy and Evolution of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Tribal Self-Governance in India. In *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Sustainable Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1201/9781003457619-48>
- Baric, C. Bishnu, and Sahoo. C. Umesh, Panchayati Raj Institutions and
- Bhalerao, C. N. (1964). Some Social, Political, and Administrative Consequences of Panchayati Raj. In *Source: Asian Survey* (Vol. 4, Issue 4).
- Björkman, L. (2015). Pipe politics, contested waters: Embedded infrastructures of millennial Mumbai. Duke University Press.
- Carpenter, D. (2019). Women panchayat leaders: Voices from assam, India. In *Social Welfare Policies and Programs in South Asia*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429323041-7>
- Chakraborty, D. (1980). *Panchayati Raj and Decentralization of Political Power: A Comment* (Vol. 9, Issue 5). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3520405?seq=1&cid=pdf->
- Chaturvedi, S. (2016). Empowerment of Marginalized Section (Women, Dalit, Tribal) and Their Participation Chaturvedi S. *Journal on Juristic Policy* (2016) (August)
- Chaubey, A. (2023). Panchayati Raj Institution in India: A Grass Root Level of Democracy. Issue 1 Indian JL & Legal Rsch., 5, 1.
- Chinnadurai, A. S., & Sakthivel, P. Empowering Panchayati Raj: Role of ICT in Strengthening
- Choudhary, R. (2024). ROLE OF WOMAN IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS: PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIONS TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT. *Innovative Research Thoughts*, 10(1), 1-4.

Dalal, R. S., & Dhilon, S. (2023). Decentralised Governance in India: An Evaluation in the Context of Panchayati Raj Institutions. *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, 69(3), 638-

Dalit, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2455328X231170747>

Datta, P. K., & Sodhi, I. S. (2021). The Rise of the Panchayati Raj Institutions as the Third Tier in Indian Federalism: Where the Shoe Pinches. *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, 67(1). Deep & Deep Publication- New Delhi-2002.p.44. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00195561211005569>

DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PULWAMA DISTRICT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR. DISTRICT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR. VIDYA –

Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Panchayati Raj in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh, ISSN (e):2321-7545, Vol-5, Issue-7, July-2017.

Dr. Ashish Shakya. (2023). Concept and Evolution of Panchayat Raj: A Study. *Knowledgeable Research: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 1(11). <https://doi.org/10.57067/kr.v1i11.98>

Dr. M. Y. (2022). Panchayati Raj: A Legacy of Indian Political System. *International Journal For Multidisciplinary Research*, 4(5). <https://doi.org/10.36948/ijfmr.2022.v04i05.889>

Dr. Nasarulla M Khan, Role of Grama Panchayat: A Special Reference in Uttar Kannada District, ISSN 2349-0373 / ISSN 2349-0381 Vol 4, Issue 2, February 2017 eISSN– 2583-6986, 2(09), 54–59. Retrieved from <https://journal.ijarps.org/index.php/IJARPS/article/view/113>

Gogoi, K. (2023). Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in Empowering Rural Women. *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology*, 41(12). <https://doi.org/10.9734/ajaees/2023/v41i122318> Governance: A Study Among Tiwas.

Grassroots Governance. IJFMR240113079 Volume 6, Issue 1, January-February 2024

Hirway, I. (1989). *Panchayati Raj at Crossroads* (Vol. 24, Issue 29).

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-5625-3_3

<https://doi.org/10.47413/vidya.v2i2.181>

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/a8577f0f9543ac05d3b675f9ded099487cdb7c52>

International Journal for Innovative Research in Multidisciplinary Field ISSN: 2455-0620 Volume- 7, Issue – 6, June 2021.

Iqbal. (1965). The Concept of Panchayati Raj and Its Institutional Implications in India. *Source: Asian Survey* (Vol. 5, Issue 9).

Issue 1 Indian JL & Legal Rsch., 5, 1.

Jatanta Dutta, Financial Management Of Panchayats: An Overview Of West Bengal, ISSN: 2278 – 0211, Vol 2, Issue 3, March 2013.

Katambli, Ramana. G. (2021) 'Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development'

Kumar, M. S., & Singh, M. (2022). Role Of Panchayati Raj In Rendering Social, Political And Economic Justice: A Study Of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, Odisha Paper. *Journal of Psychology and Political Science (JPPS)* ISSN 2799-1024, 2(01), 7-18.

Mahapatra, S., Singh, M. (2024). Political Empowerment of Scheduled Tribes Women through Panchayati Raj Institutions: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, Odisha. *Afr. J. Bio. Sc.* 6(6) (2024) 5935-5951 ISSN: 2663-2187 <https://doi.org/10.33472/AFJBS.6.6.2024.5935-5951> Volume 6, Issue 6, June 2024

- Maheswari S.R. (2004) 'Local Government in India'. Laxmi Narain Agrawal, 2004, p-8-9
- Maji, B. Role of Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions. RESEARCH DIRECTIONS ISSN NO – 2321-5488 UGC Sr. No. 45489 Vol.: 7/ Issue: 1, July 2018.
- Mohanty, B. (1996). ORISSA EXPERIMENTS WITH ITS PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS. In *Source: The Indian Journal of Political Science* (Vol. 57, Issue 4). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41855735>
- Mohanty, B. (n.d.). *Panchayati Raj, 73rd Constitutional Amendment and Women*. <https://about.jstor.org/terms>
- Mohapatra, B. P. (2018). "Panchayats under the PESA Act in Odisha – A Study of Two Gram Panchayats" published in the Journal of Governance & Public Policy ISSN 2231-0924 Volume 8, No 2, July-December 2018 pp. 46-59
- Mohapatra, J., & Misra, S. P. (1991). Municipal Finance in Odisha: A Case Study of Berhampur Municipality. *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, 52(4), 568-584.
- Mohd Ayoub Kumar. (2023). Panchayati Raj and women's empowerment: an overview. *Idealistic Journal of Advanced Research in Progressive Spectrums (IJARPS)*
- Mrs. Vani H, Prof. Ravindranath N. Kadam, Panchayat Raj Institutions and Rural Development in India: Structural and Functional Dimensions, ISBN: 978-93-86171-48-1, Jun-2017.
- Nadkarni, M. V., Sivanna, N., & Suresh, L. (2017). Decentralised democracy in India: Gandhi's vision and reality. In *Decentralised Democracy in India: Gandhi's Vision and Reality*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315105345>

- Nagaraju, Boska. (2022). International Journal of Humanities, Social Science and Management Nambiar, M. (n.d.). *Making the Gram Sabha Work* (Vol. 36, Issue 33).
- Narain, I. (1965). The Concept of Panchayati Raj and Its Institutional Implications in India. *Asian Survey*, 5(9), 456–466. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2642495>
- Nazmul Hussain Laskar: Panchayat Raj and People Participation: A Special focuses on North East India (A Case Study): ARJSS-282-282, Vol-3, Issue, 2/December-2012.
- Neog, R. (2014). Panchayat and Rural Development: A Case Study of Amguri under Siva Sager district, Assam, India. *International Journal of Advanced Research* (2014), Volume 2 Issue 1, pp.228-232.
- Nikhil Gopal Agarwal, Community Participation In Panchayati Raj Institutions, ISSN: 2456-0553, Vol.I Issue 4/August 2016, Pages 52-64.
- Nikhil Gopal Agarwal, Community Participation In Panchayati Raj Institutions, ISSN: 2456-0553,
- Oommen, M.A. (2009) *Economic and Political Weekly*, Jul. 18 - 24, 2009, Vol. 44, No. 29 (Jul. 18 - 24, 2009), pp. 17-21
- Pal, K. (2023). Evolution of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India. *Political Discourse*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.5958/2582-2691.2023.00007.x>
- Pal, M. (n.d.-b). *Panchayati Raj and Rural Governance: Experiences of a Decade* (Vol. 39, Issue 2).
- Parthasarathy, R., & Rao, V. (2018). Deliberative Democracy in India. In *The Oxford Handbook of Deliberative Democracy*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198747369.013.19>
- Prasad, A. (1977) *The Block Development Officer: Portrait of Rural Bureaucracy*. Patna: Associated Book Agency.

- Prasad, R. C. (1980). *Local Government and Development in India* (Vol. 1, Issue 2).
- Prasad, R. C. (1980). Local Government and Development in India. *International Political Science Review*, 1(2), 265-279.
- PRESENT SCENARIO OF PANCHAYATI RAJ IN INDIA.* (n.d.).
<https://doi.org/10.2307/26552737>
- Prof. Basavaraj S. Benni, A Study on Panchayati Raj Institutions In Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, ISSN: 2456:6381, Vol 2, Issue 3, Sept-2017.
- Rajiv, Information Needs of Gram Panchayat Members: A Study of Kurukshetra District, Haryana, ISSN: 2231-4911, Vol.8 (2) Apr-Jun, 20
- Ramya, T. (2014). "Role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in Rural Development: The Study of a Tribal Village in Arunachal Pradesh, *Modern Research Studies: An International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol. I. No.3, December 2014, pp. 25-29.
- Rural Development, Rawat Publication, Jaipur- 2008.p.227.
- Sagar N, H L Shilpa, E-Services of Gram Panchayat System, E-Services, ISSN: 2456- 3307, Vol-2, issue3/ may-jun-2017.
- Sahoo, J. (2023). Democracy, Governance, and Public Policy: The Trio for Ensuring India Towards Sustainable Development Agendas. In: Mishra, M., Saha, S., Sinha, M. (eds) *Public Policies and Sustainable Development in Post-Reform India. New Frontiers in Regional Science: Asian Perspectives*, vol 71. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-3696-0_3
- Saini, K. K. Issues and Challenges in Functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India. *AIJRA Vol. III Issue I* www.ijcms2015.co ISSN 2455-5967

- Sarma, A., & Chakravarty, D. (2018). Evolution of the Panchayati Raj in India. In *Integrating the Third Tier in the Indian Federal System*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-5625-3_3
- Sarma, A., Chakravarty, D. (2018). Evolution of the Panchayati Raj in India. In: *Integrating the Third Tier in the Indian Federal System*. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore.
- Shaikh, N. B. (2024). RURAL ASPECT OF INDIA: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. *Decision Making: Applications in Management and Engineering*, 7(1), 144-149.
- Shalini, Rajneesh, Rural Development through Democratic Decentralization,
- Shankar Aiyar, M. (n.d.). *Panchayati Raj: The Way Forward* (Vol. 37, Issue 31).
- Sheikh, Y. (2023). ROLE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS TOWARDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PULWAMA DISTRICT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR. VIDYA – A JOURNAL OF GUJARAT UNIVERSITY, 2(2), 89–95. <https://doi.org/10.47413/vidya.v2i2.181>
- Singh, H. (1994). Constitutional Base for Panchayati Raj in India: The 73rd Amendment Act. In *Source: Asian Survey* (Vol. 34, Issue 9).
- Sirsikar, V. M. (1966). *Political Role of Panchayati Raj* (Vol. 1, Issue 14).
- Soren, P., & Naik, I. C. (2023). Role of Panchayati Raj Institution and Tribal Rights in Forest Resources Management: A Study of Mayurbhanj District of Odisha. Contemporary Voice of Tripathi, Jyoti. (2023) Electronic Journal of Social and Strategic Studies Volume 4 Issue 2 Date of publication: 30 Sep 2023 Aug - Sep 2023, Vol. III Issue I www.ijcms2015.co ISSN 2455-5967 Vol.I Issue 4/August 2016, Pages 52-64.

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX- A

A1. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RESPONDENTS OF GRAM PANCHAYAT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

DECLARATION

I, Sri Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra, am pursuing my Ph.D. at Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab. My research Title is “Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat. Please respond to the following questions designed for research. All of your responses will be used for the purpose of research work only.

Topic:- **“Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat.”**

1- Name of The Gram Panchayat: -	KUTURACHUAN GRAM PANCHAYAT							
2- Name of The Village: -								
2- Name of the Block: -	KUCHINDA							
District: -	SAMBALPUR							
State: -	ODISHA							
3- Respondent's Name:								
4- Gender:	Male		Female		Neuter Gender			
5- Age: -	<20		21-40		41-60		>60	
6- Category: -	ST		SC		OBC		Gen.	
7- Education: Illiterate			Literate – Primary		Secondary			
	Higher Secondary		Graduate		Post- Graduate			
8- Employed: -								
Types of employment: - Government		Private		Self-employed				
9- Unemployed: -								
10- Monthly Income: - <Rs. 5000		< Rs. 5000 - Rs. 10000			>Rs. 25000			
	Rs. 15000 – 25000							
11- Voter List Serial No.								
12- Signature of the Respondent								

QUESTIONNAIRE

1- Do you know about the role of Panchayati Raj?

Yes () No () No Response ()

2-Do you know about the Functions of Gram Panchayat?

Yes () No () No Response ()

3- Do you know about the Functions of Panchayat Samiti?

Yes () No () No Response ()

4- Do you know about the Functions of Zilla Parishad?

Yes () No () No Response ()

5- Do you participate in Gram Panchayat activities?

Yes () No () No Response ()

6- Do you cast vote regularly in Gram Panchayat election?

Yes () No () No Response ()

7- Have you ever contested the election of Gram Panchayat?

Yes () No () No Response ()

8-Do you participate in the meetings of Gram Sabha?

Yes () No () No Response ()

9-Do you take decisions independently in Gram Sabha meetings?

Yes () No () No Response ()

10-Do you want to contest the election again?

Yes () No () No Response ()

11-Do political parties take part in Gram Panchayat elections?

Yes () No () No Response ()

12- Are members of Gram Sabha take decisions in the meetings?

Yes () No () No Response ()

13- Are the Panchayat Officials interfering in taking decisions in Gram Sabha?

Yes () No () No Response ()

14- Was the annual plan discussed in the Gram Sabha?

Yes () No () No Response ()

15- Do you think the reservation of seats in the Panchayati Raj for SC/ST/ OBC women helps them improve their position?

Yes () No () No Response ()

16- Do you think the reservation of seats has increased their participation in Panchayati Raj?

Yes () No () No Response ()

17- Do you think that the 73rd Amendment Act has promoted the capabilities of weaker sections of society to take up leadership roles?

Yes () No () No Response ()

18- Are Panchayati Raj Institutions working for women's empowerment?

Yes () No () No Response ()

19- Are Panchayati Raj Institutions working to reduce the gender gap?

Yes () No () No Response ()

20- Are you getting the benefit of different schemes functioning under Panchayati Raj?

Yes () No () No Response ()

21- Is Panchayat Raj Institutions playing the role of Rural Development?

Yes () No () No Response ()

22- Is Panchayati Raj Institutions helping in the promotion of education?

Yes () No () No Response ()

23- Is Panchayati Raj Institutions playing as a tool of achieving Social Justice?

Yes () No () No Response ()

24- Is Panchayati Raj Institutions helping you in achieving Economic Justice?

Yes () No () No Response ()

25- Do you know Panchayati Raj Department is known as Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha?

Yes () No () No Response ()

26- Is piped drinking water available to you?

Yes () No () No Response ()

27- Is Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat playing a role in achieving the Swachh Bharat Mission?

Yes () No () No Response ()

28- Do you know about Digital India?

Yes () No () No Response ()

29- Is there any necessity of Digital Services at Gram Panchayat in India?

Yes () No () No Response ()

30- Do you think that devolution of power is granted to Panchayati Raj Institutions?

Yes () No () No Response ()

31- Do Panchayat Extension to Schedule Area Act. 1996, (PESA) is implemented in Odisha?

Yes () No () No Response ()

32- Was Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat successfully rendered health, awareness, on Communicable diseases?

Yes () No () No Response ()

33- Do you get benefits under PEETHA (Empowerment- Enabling Transparency and Enhancing Accountability, a social awareness scheme)?

Yes () No () No Response ()

34- Do you agree that the 5t (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Transformation and Time) results in Panchayati Raj's successful work in Odisha?

Yes () No () No Response ()

35- Does “DDUGKY” (Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana) play a role in Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat?

Yes () No () No Response ()

36- Is Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat doing well in agricultural development under KALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income) scheme?

Yes () No () No Response ()

37- Can women ensured for employment under NREGS (National Rural
Employment Guarantee Act. 2005) in Kutturachuan Gram Panchayat?

Yes () No () No Response ()

38- Do you think that Panchayati Raj contributes to rural development?

Yes () No () No Response ()

39- Are you satisfied with the behaviour of the official of Panchayati Raj?

Yes () No () No Response ()

40- Is panchayat Raj successful in providing overall development to Rural Areas?

Yes () No () No Response ()

Signature of the Respondent

Signature of the Researcher

APPENDIX-1 B

B1. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RESPONDENT OF GRAM PANCHAYAT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

DECLARATION

I Sri Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra continuing my study for a Ph.D. from Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab. My research Title is “Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat. Please respond to the following questions designed for research. All of your responses will be used for the purpose of research work only.

Topic: - **“Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat.”**

1- Name:

2- Name of the office:

3- Position held:

4- Gender:

5- How long have you held your current position within the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat?

- i) Less than 1 year
- ii) 1-2 years
- iii) 3-5 years
- iv) 5-10 years
- v) More than 10 years.

6- Please specify your current position in Panchayat.

- i) Sarapanch
- ii) Naib- Sarapanch
- iii) Panchayat Samiti Member
- iv) Ward Member
- v) Secretary/ Panchayat Extension Officer/ Other

B 2- QUESTIONNAIRE:

1- To What extent does the Panchayat effectively plan and prioritise development initiatives, addressing the needs of the people of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat.

- i) Not at all effective
- ii) Somewhat effective
- iii) Moderately effective
- iv) Very effective
- v) Extremely effective

2- To what extent does the panchayat include the villagers in the decision making process when it comes to developmental process.

- i) Never involves villagers
- ii) Rarely involves villagers
- iii) Sometimes involves villagers
- iv) Often involves villagers
- v) Always involves villagers

3- What are the major challenges faced by Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat in implementing rural development projects?

- i) Lack of funds
- ii) Administrative bottlenecks
- iii) Political interference
- iv) Lack of skilled manpower
- v) Lack of proper planning

4- How significantly do you believe that the Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat's decision making procedures involve active community participation.

- i) Very high
- ii) High
- iii) Moderate
- iv) Low
- v) Very low

5- In your opinion what are the primary responsibilities of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat towards rural development?

- i) Infrastructure development and livelihood generation programmes
- ii) Drinking water and sanitation
- iii) Health and education facilities
- iv) Agricultural development
- v) Social welfare schemes

6- How effective do you think Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat has been in fulfilling these responsibilities.

- i) Very effective
- ii) Effective
- iii) Somewhat effective
- iv) Non effective
- v) Unsure

7- To what extent has the panchayat's work contributed to improving the overall standard of living of residents of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat.

- i) Not at all
- ii) Slightly improved
- iii) Moderately improved
- iv) Significantly improved
- v) Dramatically improved

8- To what extent has the panchayat been able to provide the residents of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat with new source of income.

- i) Not successful at all
- ii) Somewhat successful
- iii) Moderately successful
- iv) Very successful
- v) Extremely successful

9- Do you think that the Panchayati Raj system effectively represents the interest of rural communities?

- i) Not successful at all
- ii) Somewhat successful
- iii) Moderately successful
- iv) Very successful
- v) Extremely successful

10- How transparent and accountable are the Panchayat's financial transactions and source allocation decisions?

- i) Not transparent or accountable at all
- ii) Somewhat transparent and accountable
- iii) Moderately transparent and accountable
- iv) Very transparent and accountable
- v) Extremely transparent and accountable.

Signature of the Respondent

--

Signature of the Researcher

--

1- List of Publications:

Sl. No	Type of Paper (Journal Paper/Conference proceeding/Book Chapter)	Name of the Journal/Conference/Book	Journal indexing (Scopus/UGC/We b of Science)	Title of the Paper	Volume & Issue Number	ISSN/ISBN Number	Impact Factor/SJR	Log Request
1	Journal	African Journal of Biological Sciences	Scopus	Political Empowerment of Scheduled Tribe Women through Panchayati Raj Institutions: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat	Volume 6, Issue- 6, Afr.J.Bio.Sc. 6(6) 2024) 5935-5951 20-06-2024	ISSN: 2663-2187	SJR 0.15	70028
2	Journal	Journal of Psychology and Political Sciences	Peer Reviewed	Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rendering Social, Political And Economic Justice: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat, Odisha Paper	Vol: 02, No. 01 (2022): Dec 2021- Jan 2022	ISSN: 2799-1024 E-ISSN: 2799-1024		17459
3	Journal	Shodh Sarita	UGC Approved Care Listed Journal	Digital Education In Odisha: Opportunities And Threats In Post Covid- 19	OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020 Vol. 7, Issue 28	ISSN NO. 2348-2397		
4	Journal	Malayalam Research Journal	UGC Approved Care Listed Journal	Growing Significance of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development: A Study of Kuturachuan Gram Panchayat.	ACCEPTANCE LETTER	ISSUED ON DATE- 17-7-2024		

Conference Participation Certificates:

1-

LOVELY FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ARTS
[Under the Aegis of Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar-Delhi G.T. Road, Phagwara (Punjab)]

Certificate No. 208598

Certificate of Presentation


This is to certify that Dr./Mr./Ms. Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra

of Lovely Professional University, Phagwara

presented a paper entitled Digital Education in Odisha: Opportunity and Threats in Post Covid-19.

in **National E-Conference on Education and Development : Post COVID-19** organized on 26th September 2020 by School of Education, Lovely Professional University, Punjab.

Date of Issue : 05-10-2020
Place of Issue: Phagwara (India)


Prepared by
(Administrative Officer-Records)


Organizing Secretary


Conference Director

GOVT. OF INDIA- RNI NO. UPBIL/2014/56766
UGC Approved Care Listed Journal

ISSN - 2348 - 2397



SHODH SARITA

JOURNAL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

AN INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY QUARTERLY BILINGUAL
PEER REVIEWED REFEREED RESEARCH JOURNAL

Ref. No. : SS/2020/VVS39

Date : 28-12-2020

Certificate of Publication

Mr. Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra

Ph.D Scholar

Department of Political Science

Dr. Manvendra Singh

Assistant Professor

Department of Government and Public Administration

Lovely Professional University, Phagwara

TITLE OF RESEARCH PAPER

**DIGITAL EDUCATION IN ODISHA : OPPORTUNITIES
AND THREATS IN POST COVID- 19**

This is certified that your research paper has been published in
Shodh Sarita, Volume 7, Issue 28, October to December 2020



SHODH SARITA
Editor in Chief

CHIEF EDITORIAL OFFICE

• 448 /119/76, KALYANPURI THAKURGANJ, CHOWK, LUCKNOW -226003 U.P.

Cell.: 09415578129, 07905190645

E-mail : serfoundation123@gmail.com

Website : <http://www.serresearchfoundation.in> | <http://www.serresearchfoundation.in/shodhsarita>

2-

LOVELY FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ARTS		
[Under the Aegis of Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar-Delhi G.T. Road, Phagwara (Punjab)]		
Certificate No.234239		
Certificate of Presentation		
This is to certify that Dr./Mr./Ms. Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra of Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab presented a paper entitled Role of Panchayati Raj in rendering Social, Political and Economic Justice: A Study of Kutturachuan Gram Panchayat, Odisha. in International Conference on Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity: Issues and Concerns organized on 25 th September, 2021 by School of Education & School of Humanities, Lovely Professional University, Punjab.		
Date of Issue : 09-10-2021 Place : Phagwara (Punjab), India		
 Prepared by (Administrative Officer-Records)	 Organizing Secretary	 Conference Director

3-



4-



5-

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

[Under the Aegis of Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar-Delhi G.T Road, Phagwara (Punjab)]



Certificate No. 224563

Certificate of Participation

This is to certify that

Mr. Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra

Research Scholar

Lovely Professional University, Phagwara

successfully completed

REFRESHER COURSE ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA ANALYSIS

w.e.f **May 24, 2021** to **June 12, 2021** and obtained **Grade "A"**

Date of Issue : 12-06-2021
Place: Phagwara (Punjab), India

Prepared by
(Administrative
Officer-Records)

Mr. Sarabjit Singh Kwatra
Program Coordinator

Prof. (Dr.) Sunaina Ahuja
Program Convener

Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Modi
Program Director

Page 1 of 3

Note: The Grades reflected are based on the performance of the participant at the time of training and performance is subject to change subsequently.

Grade Description:

O : 90% and above

A : 75 % to less than 90%

B : 60% to less than 75 %

C : 50% to less than 60%

D : Below 50%

Page 2 of 3

REFRESHER COURSE ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA ANALYSIS

Modules	Hours	Day/s
Module 1: Research Methodology	8 Hrs.	2
Module 2: Systematic Literature Review	12 Hrs.	3
Module 3: Scale Development and Standardization		
Module 4: Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	6 Hrs.	1.5
Module 5: Statistical Analysis Techniques	32 Hrs.	8
Module 6: Data Visualization with Tableau	4 Hrs.	1
Module 7: High Impact Publication	2 Hrs.	0.5
Module 8 : Ethics in Research and Academic Integrity	8 Hrs.	2
TOTAL	72 Hours	18

Page 3 of 3

6-



LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY

Certificate of Participation

awarded to

Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra

for attending the **webinar on Emerging Dynamics in the Middle East and India's Options**
 conducted by the Department of Political Science, School of Humanities,
 Lovely Professional University
 Date: July 3, 2021


 Dr. Vinod CV
 Organizing Secretary
 School of Humanities


 Prof.(Dr.) Pavitar Parkash Singh
 Convener, Associate Dean & HOS
 School of Humanities


 Prof.(Dr.) Kirandeep Singh
 Co-convener & Head of Department
 School of Humanities

Authenticity of documents can be verified at <https://givemycertificate.com/verify/XNUM-WC3A-IJ1T-MXDB>

7-



8-



Lovely Professional University

Jalandhar-Delhi, G.T. Road, Phagwara, Punjab (INDIA) -144411

Certificate of Participation

This is to certify that

Mr. Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra

Has participated in Online Guest Lecture on **"Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions in India"** by
 Prof. (Dr.) Vibhuti Singh Shekhawat, Department of Humanities & Technology, Malaviya National Institute
 of Technology - Jaipur. The lecture was organised by Department of Government and Public Administration,
 School of Humanities, Lovely Professional University on 11th Mar 2022.

Prof. (Dr.) Pavitar Parkash Singh
 Convenor, Dean & H.O.S.,
 School of Humanities

Prof. (Dr.) Kirandeep Singh
 Co-Convenor, Head of the Department,
 School of Humanities

Dr. Manvendra Singh
 Associate Professor, Organising Secretary,
 School of Humanities

9-

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

[Under the Aegis of Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar-Delhi G.T Road, Phagwara (Punjab)]



Certificate No. 319436

Certificate of Participation

This is to certify that **Mr. Sudhansu Kumar Mahapatra** S/o Sh. Brusabhanu Mahapatra participated in **Workshop on Research Methodology and Data Analysis Using SPSS for Social Sciences** organized by Lovely Professional University w.e.f. **March 26, 2024 to April 04, 2024** and obtained **"O"** Grade.

Date of Issue : 02-05-2024
Place : Phagwara (Punjab), India

Prepared by
(Administrative Officer-Records)

Checked By
Program Coordinator

Head
Human Resource Development Center