

Paper : Grass Root Level Democracy In India

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Faculty Name : Dr. M. PRAVIN KUMAR

Contact Number : 98405 47205

Unit – I

IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT :

- The **purpose** of local government is to provide an organized system where councils exercise their power and responsibilities to work together for peace, order and good governance of their municipal districts.
- The **local self-bodies** are considered the best schools of democracy. These institutions develop the qualities of the citizens.
- They awaken the political consciousness of the people and they experience the feelings of liberty and equality.

EVOLUTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN INDIA :

- The foundation of the present local self-government in India was laid by the Panchayati Raj System (1992).
- But the history of **Panchayati Raj** starts from the self-sufficient and self-governing village communities. In the time of the Rig-Veda (1700 BC), evidence suggests that self-governing village bodies called ' sabha ' existed. With the passage of time, these bodies became panchayats (council of five persons).
- Panchayats were functional institutions of grassroots governance in almost every village. They endured the rise and fall of empires in the past, to the current highly structured system

CLASSIFICATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT :

- Urban Government
- Rural Government

The local self-Government includes both rural and urban government. It is the third level of the government. There are 2 types of local government in operation – panchayats in rural areas and Municipalities in urban area.

❖ **Lord Ripon is Known as the Father of the local self-Government.**

URBAN ADMINISTRATION :

- Urban Local government implies the governance of an urban area by the people through their elected representatives.
- 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 provided constitutional status to local urban bodies.
- **Urban administration is necessary** to provide the basic amenities like street lights, garbage collection, water supply, keeping the streets and the markets clean, collecting of house tax and water taxes, etc. They **are** responsible for cleaning of city drainage system, maintenance of parks, and market.

RURAL ADMINISTRATION :

- Rural Local government implies the governance of an rural area by the people through their elected representatives.
- 73th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 provided constitutional status to local rural bodies.
- **India** is said to be a country of villages. Majority of our people live in villages. Hence, village welfare is very important for the progress.
'Ruler **Administration**' is **needed** to look after the **need** of ruler people.

DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT :

- The people elect their leaders. These leaders take this decision about laws. This is commonly called representative **democracy**.
- **Local government** is the **government** at the village and district level involving the day- to-day life and problems of ordinary citizens.
- Under the **Government** of India Act 1979, Village Panchayats were established in a number of provinces and continued after the **Government** of India Act, 1935.