

Paper : Grass Root Level Democracy In India

Paper code : 15BPO52C

Class : III BA Political Science

Faculty Name : Dr. M. PRAVIN KUMAR

Contact Number : 98405 47205

UNIT II

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES :

- Community development in India was initiated by Government of India through Community Development Programme (CDP) in 1952.
- The focus of CDP was on rural communities. But, professionally trained social workers concentrated their practice in urban areas.

DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION :

- Democratic decentralization is the **process of devolving the functions and resources** of the state from the centre to the elected representatives at the lower levels so as **to facilitate greater direct participation of citizens in governance.**
- Devolution, envisioned by the Constitution, is not mere delegation.
- It implies that precisely defined governance functions are formally assigned by law to local governments, backed by adequate transfer of a basket of financial grants and tax handles, and they are given staff so that they have the necessary wherewithal to carry out their responsibilities.

BALWANTRAI MEHTA COMMITTEE (1957) :

- It was set up to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the Nations Extension Service (1953).

Recommendations:

- (i) **Three-tier Panchayati Raj system:** Gram Panchayat at the Village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, Zila Parishad at the district level.
- (ii) Village Panchayat is directly elected, while the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad constituted with indirectly elected members.
- (iii) Panchayat Samiti is the executive body, while the Zila Parishad is the advisory, coordinating and supervisory body.
- (iv) The District Collector should be the Chairman of the Zila Parishad.

ASHOK MEHTA COMMITTEE (1977):

In **December 1977**, the Janata Government appointed a Committee on Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Chairmanship of Ashok Mehta. It submitted its report August, 1978 and made recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining Panchayati Raj System in the country.

Recommendations :

- i. The three-tier system of the Panchayati Raj should be **replaced by two-tier system, that is, the Zila Parishad at the district level and below it the Mandal Panchayat** consisting of a group of villages comprising a population upto 20,000.
- ii. The Zila Parishad should be the executive body and be made responsible for planning at the district level.
- iii. The Panchayati Raj Institutions should have Compulsory powers for taxation to mobilise their own financial resources.
- iv. The **Nyaya Panchayats should be kept as separate bodies** from that of development Panchayats.
- v. A minister for the Panchayati Raj should be appointed in
- vi. the Sate Council of Ministers to look after the affairs of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- vii. **Seats for the SCs and the STs should be reserved** on the basis of their population.

PANCHAYAT SYSTEM IN INDIA :

In **India**, the **Panchayati Raj** now functions as a **system** of governance in which gram **panchayats** are the basic units of local administration. The **system** has three levels: Gram **Panchayat** (village level), Mandal Parishad or Block Samiti or **Panchayat Samiti** (block level), and Zila Parishad (district level).