



PANDAVESWAR COLLEGE

Pandaveswar :: Paschim Bardhaman
Department of Political Science (Hons)

Project work

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INTRODUCTION

Grassroot democracy in India is a concept that refers to the practice of promoting democratic participation at the local level, particularly in rural areas. India is the world's largest democracy, and the government is structured in a decentralised manner, with power distributed between the central government, state government and local self-governing bodies. The idea of grassroots democracy in India stems from the belief that local communities should have the power to make decisions that affect their lives and should be actively involved in the decision-making process. This approach emphasizes the importance of citizen participation, transparency and accountability in governance and has been hailed as a means of empowering marginalized communities and promoting social justice.

In this context, grassroots democracy plays a crucial role in enhancing political awareness and fostering civic engagement among citizens, particularly those living in rural areas. This topic is of great importance as it highlights the significance of democracy at the grassroots level and the potential for building a more inclusive

nd equitable society through local participation
nd empowerment.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The study of Grassroot Democracy is crucial in India for several reasons. Here are some reasons why the study of Grassroots democracy is important in India.

Empowering Local Communities: Grassroots democracy can help to empower local communities and promote active participation in the democratic process. By involving people in decision making process.

Enhancing Accountability: Local governments are more accountable to their constituents as they are closer to them and have a better understanding of their needs and challenges.

Strengthening Democracy: Grassroot democracy can help to strengthen the overall democratic system by promoting decentralizing and the distribution of power.

INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

The study of Grassroot democracy in India is of significant international importance because India is the world's largest democracy and is also a developing country that is undergoing a rapid social and economic transformation. India's experiment with grassroots democracy, also known as Panchayati Raj, is a unique and innovative approach to democratic governance. This is being studied and emulated by countries around the world.

The Panchayati Raj System in India was introduced in 1990s as a way of decentralised power and giving more decision making authority to local communities. It has been successful in empowering marginalized communities, improving access to basic services and promoting greater accountability and transparency of government.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. 'Robert Dahl' in his book 'Polyarchy, Participation and Opposition 1971.' "5th edition" Published by Yale University Press - Dahl, argues that Political competition among different individuals and group of power, and a system of civic liberties that allows citizen to express their opinions and participates in the political process.
2. Jay Prakash Narayan "The Print" 11 October 2018
He was the first Person to Popularised the Grassroot democracy. He was a strong advocate for Political decentralized and believed that true democracy could only be achieved by empowering local communities.
3. PK Datta "Exploring the dynamics of deliberative democracy in Rural India" 2014 SAGE Journals. -
Things looks awfully bad when the attendance of women is taken into account, which is as low as 7 percent. In this book he shows that the Participation of rural women in Panchayats is considerably low, sometimes 'Pradhan' types concepts can be seen frequently in rural areas.

1) A Parner Devi "Grass root Democracy" The need of the hour in india Editorial Hindustan Times. In this editorial writer tries to convey the concerns about the People's participation in the policy making framework. But also suggests the measures to overcome this situation such as cooperation, Amendments, Awareness spreading. Thus this entails the active Participation of citizens in their daily life.

P. M Bosa "Book Gandhian Concept of democracy Chapter 6. Published by Penguin Random House India - Gandhiji's Idea village belongs to the pre British Period, when Indian villages are small republics undisturbed by the periodical attacks of barbarous hordes. Therefore in Gandhian view of rural reconstruction the ancient republican village without any kind of exploitation served as a model.

RESEARCH GAP

While there has been a lot of research on grassroots democracy in India, there are still some research gaps that need to be addressed.

Some potential research gaps in doing this project were, old versions of books thus get difficulties to find out the latest data. A lot of content also confused to identify the most appropriate data for the project.

It took a lot of time to read journals and books > make gists out of it which is to be included in the project.

Overall, there is a need for more research on grassroots democracy in India that is beyond case studies and provides rigorous analysis of the impact of grassroots democracy initiatives on governance, service delivery and citizen participation.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the studying grassroots democracy in India is to understand the functioning of local governance systems in the country, and to examine how political power and decision making is distributed among various social groups.

Studying grassroots democracy in India can help us understand how power is distributed at the local level, how decisions are made, how elections are conducted and how citizens can participate in the democratic process. It can also shed light on the challenges and opportunities that exist in the functioning of local governance systems in India and help identify ways to strengthen and improve these systems.

Representation of women in politics their empowerment, and their ability to influence policy decisions that affect their lives and communities too an objective.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As I understand the concept of methodology having completed the project that political methodology is a subfield of political science that studies the quantitative and qualitative methods used to the study of politics.

Research type and goal: The proposed research is applied discipline, experimental and longitudinal.

Method and technique:— In this research we use the following methods to accomplish the proposed tasks. The historic-logic method was to determine the previous research that about of radiography images analysis process. The systematic-analytic method used to process the special obtained information from the special personnel (experts opinion).

Purpose of writing a project. It is blended programme that supports student in the using design thinking method to proto type their purpose. It also help to create a personal narrative about their discourses of self.

My attend project is to study the fundamental theory of the origin and impact of grassroots democracy in India.

Survey: I studied many books, journals and articles from Google.

Experiment: Study should be based on experiment study.

Existing data: Data should be collected from books, teachers, seniors, papers and I also collected data and made this project.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

The Panchayati Raj System in India was introduced through the 73rd constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. This Act provided for a three-tier system of Panchayati Raj Institution, namely the Gram panchayat samiti at the block, and the zilla parishad at the district level.

The Gram Panchayat is the basic unit of the Panchayati Raj system and is responsible for the administration of local affairs in village. The Panchayat is a group of Gram Panchayats in a block or taluka and is responsible for planning and implementation of development programmes in the block. The zilla parishad is the highest level of Panchayat Raj institution at the district level and is responsible for the overall development of the district.

73RD AMENDMENT ACT

This act has added a new part IX to constitution of India. This part is entitled as 'The Panchayats' and consists of Provisions from Articles 243 to 243(O). In addition, the act has also added a new 11 schedule to constitution. This schedule contains 9 functional items of the Panchayats. It deals with article 243(G).

The act has given a practical shape to article 40 of the constitution which says that: "The state shall take steps to organise village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self government." This article forms a part of the Directive principles of state policy. This act gives a constitutional status to the Panchayats institutions.

The act is a significant landmark in the evolution of grassroots democratic institution in the

country. It transfers the representative democracy
to participatory democracy.

ISSUES WITH PANCHAYAT

Financial Issues:— As per economic survey 2017-18 highlighted, there is low equilibrium trap which means the local bodies appear to be not collecting revenues from taxes to extent they can. This is because most of governments have not given enough taxation powers to panchayat.

• Issues related to functions:— Unscientific distribution of functions between different tiers. The roles defined due to the local government remain ill-defined due to the very little actual devolution of the functions and authorities by the states to panchayati raj institutions in several states.

• No standard Minimum qualification for elected and new members.

• Impact of Panchayat in Women Life

(a) Rural development

(b) Greater role in sexual and reproductive rights.

(c) increased in decision making

(d) Decreased domestic violence.

IMPORTANT COMMITTEE

Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957): - This committee recommended the establishment of Panchayati Raj institutions as a means to decentralize power and promote local self government.

Ashok Mehta Committee (1977): - This committee suggested measures to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system, including capacity building, regular elections and financial autonomy.

G.V.K. Rao Committee (1985): This committee recommended measures to improve the functioning of Panchayati Raj institutions, including capacity building, regular elections.

L.M. Singhvi Committee (1986): Recommendation of this committee were constitutional recognition and protection of Panchayati Raj institutions.

Venkaiah Naidu Committee (2000): This committee recommended measures to enhance the financial resources of Panchayati Raj institutions, including the devolution of funds from the center to the states.

PESA ACT

As per B.D Sharma, a former commissioner for schedule caste and schedule tribe, the provisions of PESA, appeared to come as a saviour which is designed to erase the historical injustices done to the tribal community. It was perceived as restoration of their dignity and tradition of self-governance symbolised by 'MAVA IVATE MAVARAJ' (our village our rule).

PESA (The Panchayat extension to scheduled areas act) 1996, has recently completed 25 years of its existence. It was enacted to empower local communities in tribal areas.

While 73rd, 74th amendment to the Indian Constitution were passed in 1992, the tribal dominated areas listed under the 5th schedule of constitution were passed in 1952, the tribal dominated areas listed under the 5th schedule the PESA Act enacted in 1996, expanded local self government in 1996 rules to the area listed under the 5th schedule.

CONCLUSION

Grassroot democracy are the instruments of the people created for governance with the participation of the people to achieve development. Panchayats can be prepared to achieve development and social justice. Capacity building, continuous support extended by the support structure, forming network with the media and NGOs and providing needed information could make them achievers and path finders. If state governments really want to achieve social development, it can be achieved through the Panchayats. People should be mobilized to participate in the development process. In the long run people will assert and claim their rights and entitlements through the panchayats.

SUGGESTION

1. Promote education and awareness:— Education and awareness are key to the success of local self governance.
2. Increase Participation:— Biggest challenge of grassroots democracy is low Participation. The government can take initiatives to increase participation by simplifying the voting process and making it more accessible.
3. Involvement of women:— involvement of women can make grassroots democracy successful in true sense. Awareness to women and reservation of seats can increase their Participation.
4. Use Technology:— Technology can play a significant role in promoting grassroots democracy. The government can use technology to improve communication, increase participation, and provide greater transparency.

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Internal

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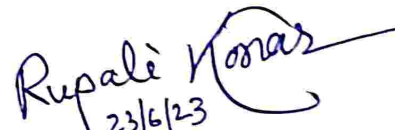
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Project Completion Certificate

This is to certify that, KHUSI KHMARI BURNWAL.....,
bearing Roll No ...1122006121034005..... and
Reg No. ...KNH20112000768..... of
.....2020-2021..... Sem6th..... In the
Department of ...Political Science....., completed his / her
project work on ...Grassroot democracy in India.....,
within specified time and to utmost satisfaction of the
supervisor.


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