



ISSN: 2249-894X
IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631 (UIF)
UGC APPROVED JOURNAL NO. 48514
VOLUME - 8 | ISSUE - 8 | MAY - 2019



DEVELOPMENT OF PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN KARNATAKA: A STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PRIS

Dayanand S. B.¹ and Dr. T. Gurubasappa R.²

¹Research Scholar Department of Economics Gulbarga University Kalaburagi.

²Research Guide and associate Professor and Head Govt. College Kalaburagi.

ABSTRACT:

Karnataka comprises 5627 Gram Panchayats, 176 Taluk Panchayats and 30 Zilla Panchayats. The State has to its credit entrusting major responsibilities and devolving all the 29 functions (a first State to do so in the country as a whole) to Panchayats as enlisted under the Eleventh Schedule of the

Constitution. In recent years, the Karnataka Government was taking a proactive stance to strengthen the decentralized governance and planning process and to that effect has introduced many administrative innovations. For this instance the government of Karnataka introduced the number of schemes in Panchayat sector and budget for Panchayats re-allocated. The new size of budget is now reduced to about 324 (200 plans and 124 non plans). Minor schemes were merged into larger ones, giving greater flexibility to Panchayats to address their priorities to simplify the district sector fund transfer mechanism. Therefore this paper attempts to analyse the Phase wise development of panchayats Raj Institutions in Karnataka state, to study the schemes and programs of panchayat Raj Institutions to agricultural sector and also its study the growth and performance of Panchayat Raj institutions in Karnataka.

KEYWORDS :

Panchayat Raj institutions, agriculture sector, development programs etc.

1) INTRODUCTION:

Panchayati Raj Institutions that work as grass-root units of decentralized democratic self government has been considered as an instrument of socio-economic transformation in rural India. Involvement of people at the grass-roots level is the most important means of bringing about socioeconomic development. Decentralization of power to the Panchayat is

seen as a means of empowering people and involving them in decision-making process. Local governments being closer to the people can be more responsive to local needs and can make better use of resources. The democratic system in a country can be ensured only if there is mass participation in the governance. Therefore, to achieve this objective, a system of democratic decentralization popularly known as Panchayati Raj has been introduced in India.

The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India, particularly

after independence. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans, specially the second five-year plan, laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments. Second five-year plan envisaged a panchayat as responsible for village development keeping transformation of social and economic life of rural areas as its goal of development. It says that, the rural progress depends

entirely on the existence of an active organization in the village which can bring all the people, including the weaker sections, in to common programmes to be carried out with the assistance of administration. To achieve this objective the second Five year Plan entailed the Panchayats to perform civic, developmental, land management, land reform and judicial functions. Subsequent plans and policy pronouncements of national leader to emphasized the role of Panchayats in village development.

The role of panchayat Raj institutions as instruments of rural reconstruction and development needs no emphasis. They have been reorganized with wider powers and financial resources not merely as institutions of political participation but institutions of social and economic development. Panchayat Raj has come to be associated with two broad images. First, it is a government by itself and second it is an agency of the state government. In the integrated exercise of planning for social and economic development, co-ordinate roles, the present set up is a three-tier representative structure of government where the administrators, elected leaders and local population participate in the developmental effort.

2). OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the Phase wise development of panchayats Raj Institutions in Karnataka state
2. To study the schemes and programs of panchayat Raj Institutions to agricultural sector
3. To study the growth and performance of Panchayat Raj institutions in Karnataka

3). METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

This study is based on the data obtained from secondary sources. The secondary data has been collected from various journals, articles, books, government reports, etc. This study has analyzed the Development of Panchayat Raj Institutions in Karnataka: a study of agricultural development through PRIs.

4) PHASE WISE DEVELOPMENT PRIS IN KARNATAKA STATE:

1) First phase 1978-82:

The first phase began in 1978 by building up the most important elements of district planning. To begin with, at the district level, two development planning committees were created, that is 'District Planning Committee' (DPC) and District Development Councils (DDC). DPC comprises professionals, planners, and district heads of departments and other technical experts in this subject, with the Deputy Commissioner of District as its chairman. This committee prepared the draft district plans for the districts. DDC were reconstituted with people's representatives like, MLAs, MLCs MPs and people's representatives at grassroots level, with a number around 100 people in a district. Deputy Commissioner of the district is the chairman of the Council.

2) Second phase 1983-86:

The second phase of district planning starts from 1983 to 1986. In this period, more control and devolution of funds and schemes were brought according to the well wishes of state level heads and planning machinery. The district plans presented to the state government in the first phase underwent drastic changes at the heads of state planning department. This phase was major change, instead of releasing lump-sum allocation for all sectors for the district, minor-head wise outlays under each sector were provided.

3) Third phase 1986-1993:

The third phase of District Planning in Karnataka starts with the implementation of the Act of 1985. The Act of 1985 received Presidential assent on 10th July, 1985 and was gazetted on 2nd August 1985. The necessary rules and orders under the relevant provisions of the Act were issued from 1985 onwards for the implementation of the Act. And finally the Act was implemented on 1st April 1987. When the Act of 1985 was implemented, there were 19 ZPs, 2525 Mandal Panchayats and 27024 Grama Sabhas covering a population of 264 lakhs by which 71 per cent of the rural population of the State

came under the purview of the Act. This Act gives institutional arrangements for decision making with people's participation, administrative arrangements for delegation of power and financial arrangements for devolution of funds and schemes to the lower levels from the state for decentralized planning in Karnataka. The set-up for the district planning was changed altogether along with the change in Panchayati Raj system.

In the Karnataka Zilla Panchayats, Taluk Panchayats, Mandal Panchayats, the Nyaya Panchayats Act 1983 was brought into operation from 1st April 1987. It was modeled on the Ashok Mehta Committee. It was an ex-officio body of elected bodies at the village and district levels and ex-officio body at the taluk level. Elections to these bodies were held in January 1987 establishing 2,489 Mandal Panchayats for a cluster of villages having a population between 8,000 and 12,000. A body of village elected and called the 'Grama Sabha' was intended to be a body to oversee the functioning of Mandal Panchayats was also legally established as a novel feature. One of the major responsibilities of the Department is in the realm of implementing the provisions of the Karnataka Panchayati Raj Act 1993 to achieve democratic decentralization in the governance of the state's rural areas. The Department coordinates the process of the establishment of Panchayati Raj Institutions under the above legislation and monitors their functioning in order to ensure that Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State function as viable and vibrant institutions of Local Self-Government.

Karnataka has the distinction of enacting a comprehensive Panchayati Raj Act which incorporates all the essential features of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. The Act came into force from May 10, 1993, within a few days of 73rd Constitution amendment was adopted. The Karnataka Panchayati Raj Act 1993 provided for a elected three-tier system at the village (Grama Panchayat), taluk (Taluk Panchayati Samiti) and district (Zilla Panchayat) levels (KPR Act 1993). Panchayati Raj system in Karnataka has mainly a three tier structure, spatially speaking panchayat at village/group of village's level, Taluk Panchayati Samiti (TPS) at the taluk level and Zilla Panchayat (ZP) at the district level. At present, there are 5,628 panchayats, 175 taluk panchayati Samitis and 30 Zilla Panchayats in the state.

The system of local self-governance in the state had remained stagnant for quite some time following irregular elections to the local bodies and their supersession by bureaucratic control. Member of all the three tiers i.e., Grama panchayats, Taluk Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Panchayat were directly elected. But the Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha (President and Vice president) of the Grama panchayats, Taluk panchayat samiti and Zilla Panchayats were elected indirectly from among the elected members. It is worthwhile to mention here that, compared to earlier PRIs in the state, the 1993 Act provide reservation of seats for SC and ST according to their population and for women.

5) PERFORMANCE OF PRIS IN KARNATAKA:

Karnataka has 56682 rural habitations including 27017 Revenue villages. According to 2011 Census, about 61130704 was total population, out of a total population of 37552529 people live in these rural habitations. That constitutes about 61.43 per cent of the State's population and about 23578175 people live in urban habitations that constitute about 38.57 percent. 62 lakhs households who live in the rural areas, depending mainly on agriculture the distinguishing features of the State's rural society are the following.

- (a) The existence of a large number of scattered habitations;
- (b) Dependence on agriculture and related activities;
- (c) Low share in the state domestic product as compared to its population, which means that it is characterized by low per capita incomes;
- (d) Low levels of infrastructure like roads, electricity, housing and water supply; and
- (e) Lower rank than the urban areas of the State in terms of human development parameters like literacy, health services and skill endowments.

Development of rural areas in the State would therefore imply improving the productivity of agriculture and other economic activities in the rural areas, improving the coverage and quality of infrastructure, and improving the quality of services, which contribute directly to upgrading the quality of human resources. The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is implementing a

number of schemes for improvement of living conditions of the people, to create economic and political awareness in rural areas.

Karnataka comprises 5627 Gram Panchayats, 176 Taluk Panchayats and 30 Zilla Panchayats. The State has to its credit entrusting major responsibilities and devolving all the 29 functions (a first State to do so in the country as a whole) to Panchayats as enlisted under the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. In recent years, the Karnataka Government was taking a proactive stance to strengthen the decentralized governance and planning process and to that effect has introduced many administrative innovations. For this instance the government of Karnataka introduced the number of schemes in Panchayat sector and budget for Panchayats re-allocated. The new size of budget is now reduced to about 324 (200 plans and 124 non plans). Minor schemes were merged into larger ones, giving greater flexibility to Panchayats to address their priorities to simplify the district sector fund transfer mechanism.

The District sector plan size is increasing over the years. The District sector plan size which was at Rs.441676 lakh during the year 2008-09 rose to Rs.604165 lakh during the year 2011-12 to Rs.780893 Lakh during 2012-13 in Karnataka. Sectors like education, rural employment, welfare of women and children, welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; rural housing were receiving better allocation compared to other sectors. It can also be seen that there is a perceptible increase in the allocation made to these sectors across the plan years.

Table 1
Three -Tier Panchayat system and elected Members in Karnataka at present

Panchayat Level	No. of Panchayats	SC	ST	OBC	Others	Total	Women members
Village Panchayats	5628	16997	9880	29944	34581	97030	39318
Taluk Panchayat Samitis	176	678	347	841	1842	3884	1519
Zilla Panchayats	30	184	84	245	492	1035	373
Total	5833	17859	10311	32030	36915	102948	41210

Source: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Bangalore 2017-18

6) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PRIS:

The Panchayat Raj Institutions implemented different programs for development of agriculture sector in the state. Karnataka state has also achieved notable development in the field of economy. Practically, the development programmes increase the national output, national income, gainful employment generation, poverty reduction, sustainable livelihood and improvement of the socio-economic status of the people. These economic development programmes are related to the three sectors of the economy such as agriculture and allied activities, industries and services connected to infrastructure. The economic development programmes of Centre and State governments are being implemented through the PRIs and few important programmes have been discussed as below.

a) Agriculture and Allied Sector Programmes:

As per the land utilization statistics for 2011-12, out of the total 190.50 lakh hectares geographical area of the state, the net cropped area was 99.41lakh hectares accounting to 52% of the total geographical area. Gross cropped area was 120.59 lakh hectares including 21.18 lakh hectares area sown more than once this works out to 121.30 % cropping capacity. Around 16% of the area was covered under forests, 7.5% area was under non-agricultural uses, 4.1% land was barren and uncultivable land and 2.16% land was cultivable waste. Permanent pastures, grazing land and

miscellaneous tree crops constituted 4.77% of the total geographical area. About 8.77% of the total area falls under current fallow land, according to latest statistics furnished by the State Planning Commission (2015).

DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZERS

The government is providing subsidized fertilizers to the farmers in the state to promote agricultural activities. The State Government had projected the requirement of various grades of fertilizers as 24.44 lakh tonnes which include DAP-5.00 lakh tonnes, MOP - 2.90 lakh tonnes, Complex-7.50 lakh tonnes, Urea-8.00 lakh tonnes and others - 1.04 lakh tonnes {(Mono Ammonium Phosphate, Potassium Schemata (PS), Ammonium Sulphate, Ammonium chloride (AC), Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN), Rock Phosphate (RP), Single Super Phosphate (SSP)}.

Distribution of Seeds at Subsidized Rates to Farmers

An allocation of Rs.156.42 crores was made for subsidy seed distribution under the scheme, 'Supply of seeds and other investments' during Kharif 2013 to farmers. It was planned to distribute 12 crop seeds viz., Paddy, Ragi, Jowar, Maize, Bajra, Cowpea, Green gram, Black gram, Red gram, Groundnut, Sunflower and Soybean crops at subsidized rates to farmers under state sectors seeds supply and other investments scheme and Rastriya Krishi Vikasa Yojane. Totally 4,83,577 qtls seeds were distributed and Rs. 9221.52 lakhs subsidy amount was utilized for this purpose. Totally 17.57 lakh farmers were benefited. During Rabi 2013 as on 17-12-2013, totally 1, 25,773.7 qtls seeds were distributed, Rs. 2361.91 lakhs subsidy amount was utilized and 3.75 lakh farmers were benefited.

Swabeejabhivridhi Yojane:

The Swabeejabhivridhi Yojana is a scheme introduced by the State government to encourage farmers to undertake seed production for them. The government is encouraging the farmers to take up seed production in large area by allowing subsidy for foundation seed and creating infrastructure facilities for seed production. The government intends to extend various benefits to seed production farmers like subsidy for foundation seeds, creation of infrastructure facilities (seed storage godowns, threshing yards, processing equipments and tarpaulins) which are quite useful in seed production and thereby encourage more people to take up seed production.

Agricultural Implements - Farm Mechanization:

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Farm Mechanization Programme was implemented under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (Work Plan). Under this scheme, 25% subsidy was provided as per the assistance norms indicated by Government of India. The rate of subsidy was increased to 50% with the State share of 25% in addition to the Central share of 25%. From 2008-09 Central fund under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (Work Plan) is used as a matching grant to State fund. After exhausting the Central fund, the entire 50% subsidy for farm machineries was borne by the State fund. From 2013-14, the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (Work Plan) will not be implemented as per the Govt. of India Guidelines. Farm Mechanization Programme is also implemented as Karnataka Farm Mechanization Mission under Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. The total allocation for Farm Mechanization Programme for the Year 2013-14 is Rs.29252.90 lakhs. 50% subsidy is provided for the general category farmers and 90% subsidy is provided for the farmers belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers. The main objective of the scheme is to popularize mechanized farming in order to reduce drudgery in farm operations, labour use, to save time and to cover more area in short span of time. Mechanized farming helps to increase efficiency in farming operations and ultimately results in higher production and productivity.

National Mission on Micro Irrigation:

Agriculture sector needs expansion of irrigation and power generation facilities to maximize agricultural production and productivity. The state government laid emphasis on promoting the cost-

reducing micro-irrigation technology which helps conserve water, reduces fertilizer inputs and ensures higher productivity. The centrally sponsored scheme on micro irrigation is intended to provide 75 per cent subsidy to the farmers for adoption of micro irrigation systems in the state of Karnataka. The main objective is to achieve economic and judicious use of water. Under this scheme, drip and sprinkler units are provided to the general farmers at 75% subsidy and 90% subsidy to farmers belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. As per the Government of India guidelines, 40% of Government of India share is matched with 35% of Government of Karnataka share for big, small and marginal farmers. About 50% of Government of India share is matched with 25% of Government of Karnataka share. In 2013-14, an amount of Rs. 15876.97 lakh was earmarked for this scheme.

7) CONCLUSION:

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is implementing a number of schemes for improvement of living conditions of the people, to create economic and political awareness in rural areas. These schemes are increase the income of households, empower the women status in social, political and as well as economically in the rural areas. The living standard of the rural peoples are significantly increased.

REFERENCES:

- 1) S. Thanikasalam, and Dr. S. Saraswathy (2014) "Role of Gram Panchayat in Rural Development: A Study of Vagurani Village of Usilampatti Block of Madurai District (Tamil Nadu)". International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention Volume 3 □ Issue 1 □ January 2014 □ PP.49-56
- 2) Gandhi Siga (2015) "Decentralized Democracy: Evaluation of Panchayati Raj in Arunachal Pradesh" International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies Volume-I, Issue-IV, January 2015, Page No.50-63
- 3) Amitabh Behar and Yogesh Kumar (2002) Working Paper on "Decentralization in Madhya Pradesh, India: from Panchayati Raj to Gram Swaraj (1995 to 2001)" Overseas Development Institute 111 Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7JD UK September 2002 PP-1-98
- 4) Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department of Karnataka Annual Report 2010 11 Edition Government of Karnataka.
- 5) Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department of Karnataka Annual Report 2011 12.
- 6) Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department of Karnataka Annual Report 2012-13.
- 7) Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department of Karnataka Annual Report 2013-14.
- 8) Nanjundappa (1998) "Panchayat Raj And Rural Development The Leadership Issue". Yojana May pp5-9
- 9) Reddy C.R, Dr A.V Ramana and Dr.G. Vidya SagarReddy (1999)"Participatory Management In Rural Development: A Critique" Kurukshetra Vol.47 April pp31-33.