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DECENTRALIZATION & PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS (PRIS)



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ABSTRACT

It is over a long time since the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act 1992 came into constrain. A large portion of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) constituted under the new Act are finishing their initial five-year residency. Along these lines, it is a fitting time for evaluating the working of PRIs in various States in order to think about rising patterns and to distinguish the hindrances that have risen during the time spent popularity based decentralization.

KEYWORDS : Panchayat, Decentralization, panchayati raj.

INTRODUCTION :

Empowering people is one of the major issues of Indian polity to-day. Panchayati Raj is an institution through which people can be empowered. The moment the bill was passed in Indian Parliament, debates and discussions were initiated as to whether the new system is an administrative reform or political reform. The new institution has been visualized from various perspectives and dimensions. Yet barring a few politicians at the higher order, administrative thinkers, and academics all those who have discussed Panchayat Raj system considered it as an administrative reform which aims at the delivery of some basic goods to the rural people. But it is not so. "It has got a greater responsibilities and functions to transform the rural society and urban society in many dimensions. From attitudinal change to behavioral change and from behavioral change to



performance change has to be brought about in the society by providing adequate powers to the people".⁷

Since independent India has been making continuous efforts to develop its rurality. The people group advancement programs was the principal endeavor to handle the issue of provincial India in an exhaustive way. Be that as it may, the "group improvement program, as has been seen by the Balwantrao Mehta Committee, couldn't convey the coveted results".⁸ Panchayati Raj in India owes its inception to the group advancement program started in 1952.

CONDUCT OF PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS:-

This will give a legitimate and Constitutional reason for PRIs in Arunachal Pradesh as per the socio-statistic ethos of the State. In Bihar and Pondicherry, the races to PRIs couldn't be held on the grounds that the issue is sub-judice. Assam has referred to lawfulness issues as an explanation behind not directing Panchayat decisions that fell due in 1997.

These Panchayats are being kept an eye on by around 34 lakhs chose delegates at all levels; of them 33% are ladies. This is the broadest delegate base that exists in any nation on the planet.

DEVOLUTION OF FINANCIAL POWERS TO PRIS:-

States where panchayats exist have constituted their individual State Finance Commissions (SFCs). Aside from Sikkim and Goa, SFCs have shown their reports to seclude State Governments. Suggestion of the SFCs have been perceived in all by ten States, viz; Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. If there should rise an occasion of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Maharashtra, the State Governments are 'in the not too distant past thinking about the reports. In Gujarat, the report is yet to be set before the State Legislature. The Government of Assam has recognized SFC's recommendations incompletely while the Orissa Government has recognized the report with a couple of alterations. Without a doubt the reports of SFCs have not pulled in veritable thought from many State Governments.

DEVOLUTION OF FUNCTIONS AND FUNCTIONARIES:

In regard of the 29 subjects distinguished in the Eleventh Schedule it is essential for the State Governments to obviously recognize what might be finished by the three levels of Panchayats at their levels. This should be established on the choose that what ought to be conceivable at the lower level should be done exactly at that level, no higher. In addition, departmental functionaries who are required to complete the undertakings at the Panchayat level must be set under their general supervision and control.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PANCHAYAT RAJ :-

Panchayat Raj is a local self-governing institution of a village or a group of villages, based on democratic principles. It establishes strong linkages between villages, talukas and districts. It is the base of democratic pyramid in the country. It involving people in decision making, bring in awareness and motivate people and understand the local problems, needs and to appreciate the local resources and skills. "Panchayati Raj institutions, being units of local self Government, came as a state subject under the constitution and the states and union territories were free to design their structure, powers and functions keeping in view their local resources. As a result, some states.

They were considered of incarnation of god (PanchParamershwar). The Panchayat had wide spectrum of activities covering executive, administrative, development and judiciary.

The real devolution of power to elected representative among rural people along with active participation in the process of decision making, responsibility and accountability in development and administration of local self-governments at grass root level is the real core of the philosophy of Panchayati Raj. The Panchayati Raj is both an end and means. It is the inevitable extension of democracy and also a means of achieving self-sufficiency and self-maintenance at grass root level. However after independence, the concept of Panchayati Raj System was not put to practice till 1956. Based on the recommendations of Balwant Ray Mehta Committee report, the standing committee of National Development Council in 1958 agreed in principle for the introduction of three tier Panchayati

Raj system. It however, left the task of implementation of the system to the state governments with any desired modifications. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru considered that Panchayati Raj Institution are going to be a bed rock for grass root democracy.

Since 1958-59 the growth of Panchayati Raj has shown phases of ascendancy (1959-65), stagnation and decline (1965-85). During these years more emphasis was given to land reforms. Abolition of Zamindari system and anti-poverty measures (GaribiHatavo) but soon it was realised that these programmes would be successful only with the village peoples active participation. Indira Gandhi in 1971 also felt the need of semi-autonomousPanchayat with greater powers. The unexpected developments like Indo-Pak war 1971, emergency rule (1975-77), emergence of janataParty rule for a short period and political uncertainty till 1980 pushed the development of Panchayati Raj backwards.

The interest in Panchayati Raj system was again revived at national political level and resulted in the introduction of 64th constitutional amendment bill in 1989. However due to various reasons (discussed later) the bill was defeated by Rajya Sabha. Several reasons like lack of political will, refusal on the part of leaders (state) to devolve their powers to village leaders, lack of faith in Panchayati Raj can be given for the failure of Panchayati Raj system. However several states like west Bengal, Karnataka and Maharashtra did show progressive improvement in the functioning of Panchayat Raj. With the increase in the political awareness of people, the central government was prevailed upon to amend the constitution, making the panchayati Raj Institutions as statutory bodies with regular elections.

The state government amended the existing laws governing the Panchayati Raj Institution in the light of the 73rd constitution amendment. Accordingly the Andhra Pradesh panchayati Raj Bill was, passed by the state legislative Assembly on March 30, 1994. "The new act called the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 came into effect on May 30, 1994, replacing the earlier acts. In accordance with the provisions of the act a three tier structure consisting of ZillaParishada the district level, MandalPrajaparishad at the inter mediate level and Gram Panchayat at the village level were constituted in the state. The act has been amended from time to time during the last five years of its operation to make it more effective."13

1. Objectives of Present Study

Significant changes have taken place both at central and state level about the concept, scope and functioning of Panchayat Raj Institution. These institutions have come to be hailed and applauded as a mighty experiment and a revolutionary step.

In the direction of national development and national reconstitution. It has been considered as an innovation in the field of political institution building at grass root level in developing nation. Hence social, economic and political development of rural people now entirely depends upon the successful and effective working of the Panchayat Raj Institution. In other words, people have lot of expectations in thesePanchayat Raj Institution. These facts makes the Panchayat Raj Institution a very important field of study and research from national perspective.

2. Scope of the Study

The present study proposes to evaluate the Panchayati Raj System in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, the Act Passed in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh from time to time, their functioning, concerned political process and developments. Hence the present study has the Socio Political relevance and significance. The study will help not only in the better theoretical understanding of the Panchayat Raj Institution, but also the point of ground grass root realities. The present study will from the form foundation for the future, detailed academic studies on the Panchayati Raj Institutions as per

the Acts passed in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

3. Purpose of the Study

The study is intended to evaluate the Panchayati Raj System in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to understand as to whether they are committed to towards the ideal principles of Panchayati Raj Institutions and as to whether they have been implemented with a real intention of transperring powers to people, to make people Panchayat in the effective decision making at village, taluka and district levels.

it will empower inborn society to accept control of its own fate to safeguard and save the customary rights over common assets. All States notwithstanding Bihar and Rajasthan have authorized State Legislation to offer impact to the arrangements contained in Act 40, 1996 as ordered under the Central Act. Rajasthan proclaimed a law in such manner as of late. PESA is a special enactment; it gives radical self-administration forces to the ancestral group and perceives its conventional group rights over normal assets. Before entry of this Act, laws go by focal and state governments were connected mechanically to ancestral regions notwithstanding when these negated customary innate practices and establishments. Be that as it may, under PESA the law concentrates on settlements which the innate individuals themselves see to be customary and natural substances. Actually this is the principal law that enables individuals to rethink their own particular regulatory limits. PESA gives that the ancestral gram sabha so characterized would be engaged to affirm all improvement designs, control all functionaries and foundations of every single social area and additionally control all minor water bodies, minor minerals and non-timber timberland assets. It would likewise have the specialist to control arrive distance, force restriction, oversee town markets and resolve inside clashes by conventional modes.

METHODOLOGY:-

The structure and suitability of organization meant for the implementation of rural development programmes for poor. He concluded that poverty and inequality are on the increase and that the basic reasons for the failure of poverty alleviation programmes are the exclusion of people from participation and ineffective decentralization. Harish (1986) 25 felt that the main reasons for the failure of Panchayati Raj Institution is that it was considered only as a tool of rural development. Too much of changes in acts and administrative setup in quick succession, lack of finances and trained persons and over burdening of work, were also cited as reasons for the failure of Panchayati Raj Institution.

CONCLUSION:-

Subsequent to the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act political decentralization has occurred in every one of the States where races have been held. In any case, advance on financial and practical decentralization has been blended. There are States which have found a way to lapse assets, capacities and functionaries to the PRIs. The procedure of devolution is at various levels of operationalisation crosswise over States. Shockingly, the States of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh who have had little understanding of decentralization, have rolled out the most major improvements in such manner. Further, it is basic that the PRIs have assets to coordinate the duties put on them. While State Finance Commissions have presented their proposals, not very many States have found a way to guarantee monetary feasibility of the PRIs. However, one can be confident that the experience of a few States and some PRIs inside States would give the important catalyst to more prominent devolution in

different parts of the nation.

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