Government Mechanism

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs

National Institute of Public Cooperation
and Child Development
Government Mechanism
What is a Panchayat

- Panchayat is the name of the local government system in India.
- Panchayat means a group of "Five Persons".
- In simple words, a Panchayat is a council of elders representing a village.
- The Panchayat system covers the village level (Gram Panchayat), clusters of villages (block Panchayat) and the district level (District Panchayat).

What is the Panchayati Raj System

- Panchayati Raj is a form of government at the village level where each village is responsible for its own activities.
- The Amendment Act of 1992 contains provision for passing the powers and responsibilities to the panchayat for preparation of plans for economic development and social justice.
Levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions

The 3-tier system of Panchayati Raj consists of:

1. **District Level Panchayat**
2. **Block Level Panchayat**
3. **Village Level Panchayat**

**Village Level Panchayat**

- It is a local body working for the welfare of the village.

- Panchayati Raj is a system of governance in which Gram Panchayat are the basic units of administration.

- The number of members usually ranges from 7 to 31; occasionally, groups are larger, but they never have fewer than seven members.

- The council leader is named Sarpanch in Hindi, and each of the five members is a Gram Panchayat Sadasya or Panch.

- In such a system, each villager can voice his opinion in the governance of his village.

- Decisions are taken without long legal procedure.
Block Level Panchayat

- The block-level institution is called the Panchayat Samiti.
- Panchayat samiti is a local government body at the tehsil or Taluka level in India.
- It works for the villages of the Tehsil or Taluka that together are called a Development Block.
- The Panchayat Samiti is the link between the Gram Panchayat and the district administration.
- The samiti is elected for 5 years and is headed by the chairman and the deputy chairman.


District Level Panchayat

- At district level, panchayati raj system is called as "Zila Parishad".
- It looks after the administration of the rural area of the district and its office is located at the district headquarters.
- It is headed by the "District Collector" or the "District Magistrate" or the "Deputy Commissioner".
- The Chairman of all the Panchayat Samitis form the members of Zila Parishad.
- It is the link between the State Government and the Panchayat Samiti.
The major functions of a district level panchayat is to provide essential services like supply of improved seeds, running schools, PHC’s and hospitals, construction of bridges and roads etc.

Role of Women in the Panchayati Raj System

- Bringing women into the mainstream of development is a major concern.


- Women members and Chairpersons of Panchayats, who are new entrants in Panchayats, have to gain the required skill which is imparted by training institutions for which the financial assistance is provided by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Household Survey and Redressal Forum

What is a Household Survey?
The Household Survey is a multi-purpose continuous survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to collect information on:

- household and family information
- housing tenure and household accommodation
- consumer durables including vehicle ownership
- employment
- education
- health and use of health services
- smoking and drinking
- family information including marriage, cohabitation and fertility
- income
- demographic information about household members including migration

**Steps in Conducting a Survey**

- The information collected is used by government departments and other organisations for planning, policy and monitoring purposes.

- To present a picture of households, families and people to society.

- The household survey predicts the major changes in households, families and people which have occurred over the past few years.

- It also records changes in housing, such as the growth of home ownership, and the increasing proportion of homes with household facilities and goods such as washing machines, microwave ovens and home computers.

**Steps in Conducting a Survey**
What is the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)?

- National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is conducted every 5 years by Indian Institute of Population Studies. It provides approximation of indicators of population, health, and nutrition by background characteristics at the national and state level.

- Information is collected about households, and individual interviews are conducted with women age group of 15-49 years and men 15-54 years. This survey also includes height and weight measurement and blood tests for HIV and anaemia.

What is BPL List?

- Depending on the cost of the basic needs of life, the government calculates how much money a person needs to live a decent life.

- Those who cannot earn even that much money are said to come under Below Poverty Line list (BPL list).

- A BPL family is decided on the basis of score based ranking on relative deprivations as indicated by 13 parameters - land holding, type of house, clothing, food security, sanitation, consumer durables, literacy status, labour force, means of livelihood, status of children, type of indebtedness, reasons for migrations, etc.
Benefits Provided by the Government

There are several schemes by the Government of India for the benefit of people below poverty line. Some of them are:

- **Indira Awaas Yojana** provides houses free of cost to BPL SC/ST families (40%), physically & mentally challenged (3%) and non-SC/ST BPL households staying in rural areas.

- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana** provides 35 kg of food grains per family at highly subsidised rates to 1.5 crore BPL families.

- **Annapurna Scheme** provides 10 kg of food grains per month free of cost to BPL persons.

- **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana** provides sustainable income to rural poor and BPL families. Under this scheme, credit-cum-subsidy is provided for self-employment, skill development, etc.

- **Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana** provides a demand-driven community village infrastructure including durable assets to enable poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment and generation of supplementary employment.
Redressal Forum

- One of the most important responsibilities of the government is to redress (rectify) various grievances (complaints) of the public.

- With the emergence of local bodies in rural and urban areas, people are largely dependent on the government.

The Objectives of the Redressal Forum

- To offer rural citizens an improved access to information on Government schemes and services.

- Facilitating process for any grievances.

- To enhance transparency in government functioning and offer scope for improved service delivery.
Redressal Mechanism

- Grievance (complaint) Redressal Mechanism is a part of the machinery of any administration.

- In fact, the grievance redressal mechanism of an organisation is the measure to determine its efficiency and effectiveness as it provides important feedback on the working of the administration.

- Allowing Citizens to register their grievance through toll free telephone, instant SMS to field staff, automatic FAX to the higher officials will ensure speedy corrective action. Disposal of grievance will dramatically improve.

- Access to information, backed with relevant infrastructure and services, not only allows rural population to improve its quality of life but also adds confidence on the government deliveries.
Briefly stated, the entire life cycle of a mechanism consists of:

- Access to different schemes run by different departments.
- Registering of the grievance by a citizen through phone or center.
- Receipts or acknowledgement of acceptance of grievance by organisation.
- Assessment of matter regarding follow up action.
- Forwarding and transfer; reminders and clarification.
- Monitoring of redress procedures and actions.
- Closure of the case.
- Warehousing the data.