



Research Paper

73rd Constitutional Amendment and Rural Society

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Abstract

Panchayats have been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning. 24th April, 1993 is a landmark day in the history of Panchayat Raj in India as on this day the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, was a crucial milestone in the history of decentralized governance, planning and development. It made panchayats the third tier of government with reasonable substance and contents in terms of powers and authority as well as creating adequate federal set-up. Though the Panchayat system has formally existed in most of the major states of India since the early 1950; in most states, the system was not an effective body of governance till the early 1990s. Elections were not held and the panchayats did not assume any active role. In 1992, the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India established the framework of a three-tiered Panchayat system with regular elections throughout India.

Keywords: *Impact, 73rd Amendment Landmark, Panchayat Raj, Rural Society*

RATIONAL OF THE PROBLEM:

73rd constitutional Amendment has been implemented in all P of the country. Panchayati Raj as a means of democratic decentralization has a deep impact on rural society. Power structure in rural society is acquiring a new phase. Now the power structure in rural society is not confined to older person only. Leadership in rural society is now with the people who come from the middle class or those who have no traditional family background in the power structure. **G.R. Reddy** says, village leadership is increasing in favour of younger people and political ambitions have weakened the traditional base related to caste, religion and Kinship. Evelyn Wood has clarified that as a result of the Panchayati Raj system, villagers have now get the right to vote and different castes how get many chances to get closer. **M.N. Srinivas** has stated in the early days of Panchayati Raj, lower castes, especially Harijans, experienced election in their status and self respect. **Andre Beteille**,

- The first question focuses on the social background of rural men, which includes caste, class, religion, age education, family type and life of family.
- The second question aims to find out the political background of men in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- The third question high lights the impact of 73rd Amendment on men in rural society in terms of changes in the patriarchal system i.e. the change in authority of father in the family, decision making in the village society

The aim of this ongoing study is to understand the place of men occupying in Panchayat Raj Institutions. The study will examine what are the conditions/factors which make it possible for men representatives to function effectively as representatives in the Panchayati Raj Institutions and what are the changing in men's thinking about themselves and society by political participation in rural society, what are the factors that affected their role Performance in family, rural society, caste class, education neighborhood, religion etc.

TERMS/CONCEPTS:

Panchayats in India:

India is a country of villages: Panch Parmeswar: has been society from times immemorial in our, Panch Parmeswar means in his studies, observes that political power in villages and outside villages is not connected with the ownership of land and upto certain extent; it is also independent of any caste and group. This scenario has further got a catalyst of change in the form of 73rd Amendment which was implemented since 1993, several studies has indicated its impact empowerment on women but they is hardly any study on its impact on men.

Thus, this study attempts to analyse Impact of 73rd Amendment on men in rural society. It highlights the factors, which influence participation and leadership of men in rural society. It also looks into different aspects of rural society that determine pattern of leadership of men.

In the light of the above background the present study focuses on the following specific questions/objectives:

1. What is the social background of men in rural society?
2. To analyse the political background of men in Panchayati Raj Institutions?
3. What are the impacts of 73rd Amendment on men in rural society?

The order of God through. Traditional village society always has the following three institutions- caste system, Joint family and village panchayat. On the basis of this structure, the importance of village Panchayat as a one unit has always been there.

Panchayats have been in existence in one form or the other from the days of the *Vedic* period. Panchayats were so powerful during the *Mahabharat* period that even the king could not interfere in their working. They were known as *Gana* or *Sabha*. Although the system during that period was autocratic, even then the king had to accept the decision of the members of the *Sabhas* on Panchayats. In *Manusmriti* and *Chankya's Arthashastra* the head of the village was called *Gramik*. During the *Mauryan* period (322 to 195 B.C.) Gram Panchayats existed and were very well organized. Village life was run by the Panchayats. They also worked as the administrative units. In *Rigveda* and *Atharveda* there are references to the ancient nature of the Panchayats. This system was started by king *Prihthee*. According to a 40th century *Shuk Neetisar* in ancient India members of the Panchayats were elected by the common men. Panchayats were given utmost respect. The head of the Panchayat was seen as a man of justice. The elder son of the head used to inherit his father. This way Indian rural society from the ancient times had Panchayats system which worked in a traditional manner. In India after the 10th century, when Muslim influence started increasing, there was a change in the traditional face of the panchayats. But the new ruling system did not change much outwardly. Tughlaks had instructed his men specially not to interfere in the working of panchayats and also not to harm them. But during the Mughal period, of innumerable battles and of the exploitation by revenue officials, there was a decline in the power of panchayats. The system of providing justice directly by the Muslim rulers was another reason for the decline of this system. This was a very crucial period for the exercise of panchayats.

During the British rule in India, from the very beginning Panchayats were better organised. "Committee of Secrecy" of East India Company accepted the fact that people of India have been leading a comfortable life from ages through this autonomous system of administration. Many a ruler who governed this country from time to time, revolutions, religious and social changes which took place, could not in any way replace the Panchayati system. But after the establishment of British rule, village Panchayats were ignored and in the process it did affect their powers. The reasons for this decline (1) Zamindari system (2) Establishment of Civil and Criminal Courts (3) Establishment of Police and their interference in the village life (4) Industrialization (5) Urbanisation (6) Western thoughts leading to individualism (7) New land system etc. Zamindari system led to the transfer of powers to the Zamindars which were traditionally with the panchayats. The directives of the panchayats were now ignored. Interference of the police almost finished the judicial powers of the panchayats and industrialization and urbanization increased the speed of life. In the field of civil and criminal matters, the powers of panchayats were limited. In this way, panchayats had no role to play in the village life, though they excelled theoretically. Not only this, their role gradually was confined to a group or a caste and restricted to their social matters only.

After independence, a new chapter began in the progress of Panchayats. Indian Constitution in its policy directives accepted to reorganize the Panchayats and give them the necessary powers so that they work for the people in villages. Work for re-organization of Panchayats started in Uttar Pradesh even before the new constitution was implemented. A bill was passed in 1947 and in 1948 and the first ever gram Panchayats of independent India were elected. Other states followed the Uttar Pradesh Panchayati Raj Bill. In 1954 'Congress Gram Panchayat Sanity' was formed and it suggested a number of points to reorganise the Panchayats.

Three Tier System of Panchayati Raj Institution:

Panchayati Raj Institution the grass-root units of self-government have been proclaimed as the vehicles of socioeconomic transformation in rural India. Community Development Programme which was run by the government with cooperation from the villages, was one programme which was recommended by Bha'want Raj Mehta Committee in 1957 in which it called for more and active participation of the local population. The most important suggestion of this committee was that in present a plan for the Panchayati Raj, which was generally referred to as democratic decentralization. National Development Council accepted this plan 20th January 1958. Mehta Committee suggested establishing *Gram Panchayat* at village level, *Panchayat Samiti* at block level and *Zila Parishad* at district level. This system came to be known as Three Tier systems. Thus, started the Panchayati Raj system as a medium of the democratic decentralization in 1959.

The three tier organization of Panchayati Raj Institution is as follows:

1. At district Level - Zila Parishad
2. At block level - Panchayat Samiti
3. At village level- (a) Gram Sabha
- (b) Gram Panchayat
- (c) Nyay Panchayat

73rd Amendment Act, 1992:

A bill was presented in 1989 by the Govt. of India to amend to constitution with the purpose to make extensive changes in the Panchayati Raj System. This bill was passed on the 22nd December 1992 as "Constitution (73rd Amendment) bill 1992" the implement of this started on 24th April as the 73rd ¹ amendment of the "Constitution Bill 1992". The aim of this bill is impiernetaion as the 73rd to implement the Panchayati Raj institutions equally all Over India and to make the system effective for rural development. This constitution amendment is also called "Central Panchayat Bill 1992". Within a year, all the states passed their own acts in conformity with the amended constitutional provisions. As a consequence, India has moved towards what has been described as 'multi-level federalism', which has widened the democratic base of the Indian Policy.

The salient features of the act are

- (a) To provide three tier system of Panchayati Raj for all the states having population of over 20 lakhs.
- (b) To hold Panchayat Election regularly every five years.
- (c) To provide reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward classes.
- (d) To reserve one-third posts for women in the Panchayati Raj **Institutions.**
- (e) **To** appoint State Finance Commission to make **recommendations** as regards the financial powers of the Panchayats.
- (f) To constitute District Planning Committee to prepare draft development plan for the district as whole.
- (g) States where the population is less than 20 Lakhs may not necessarily follows the middle level.

powers and Responsibilities:

According to the constitution, Panchayats shall be given power and authority to function as institution of self-government. The following powers and responsibilities are to be delegated to panchayats at the appropriate level:

- a) Preparation of plan for economic development and social justice.
- b) Implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice in relation to 29 subjects given in Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- c) To levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tools and fees.

Panchayat Raj System in Uttar Pradesh:

Uttar Pradesh passed the "Panchayat Raj Bill in 1947" itself and started re-organizing the Panchayats. As per this bill, the Gram Panchayats and Nyaya Panchayats were established in 1949 and from 15 August 1947 they formally started functioning in U.P in 1961, Uttar Pradesh Regional Committee and Zila Parishad Bill 1961 was passed in order in implement the three tier system of panchayat Raj.

To implement the new system of Panchayat Raj Uttar Pradesh panchayat law (Amendment) Bill 1994 was passed. Earlier, the Central Government had passed the Constitution Amendment Bill in 1992.

In order to move in the direction of democratic decentralization under the three tier system of Panchayat Raj. Gram Pan chayats were established at village level, level the Regional Panchayat at block and, at Zila Panchayat at district level. In the context of Uttar Pradesh, these institutions were organized in the following manner:

District Level	: Zila Panchayat
Block Level	: Regional Panchayat
Village level	: Gram Panchayat and Nyay Panchayat

Area of Study:

The present study would be conducted in Bulandshahr district. Bulandshahr district is one of the most important district of western region of Uttar Pradesh which lies between the holy river *Ganga* and *Jamuna* and it is very closed to the National Capital Region (NCR) Delhi.

The history of Bulandshahr begins even before 1200 B.C. this region is nearer to the capital of Pandavas –Indraprasth and Hastinapur. After of decline of Hastinapur, Ahar which is sittuation in the north east of Bulandshahr became an important place for Pandavas. With passage of time the king parm made a fort on this part of region and a king Ahibaran laid the foundation of a tower called baran (Bulandshahr) Since it was perched on a highland it come to be known as high –city which was translated into passion language as Bulandhsahr. At present this is called by this name

According to census of 2001 the population of the district is 29,13,122 (22,38,664 in Rural) out of which 22,51,976 Hindu and 6,13,660 are Muslim, 3,73 are Isai, 4,598 are Sikh 2,337 are Boddh, 2,360 Jains and 1,455 are others. In the present time in district Bulandshahr there are seven. Tehsils, 16 Development Blocks, 161 Nyay Panchayat, 889 Gram Panchayat.

APPROACHES/PERSPECTIVES:

To observe the social background of men respondents structural functional approaches has been used, and to analyse th impact of 73rd Amendment on men in rural society. Thus the study has undertaken the use of structural-functional approach to analyse the backgrounds of representative men in rural society.

UNIVERSE /SAMPLE

We selected two development Blocks and four villages panchayats in distric Bulandshahr. These development Blocks are Sikandrabad and Gulauti. The selected villages are Manobas, Pitobas Khawaspur & Kadirpur. On the basis of exploratory observation approximately 300 respondents has been selected. Out of these total men and women, 150 respondents has been selected randomly from each village Panchayat for thr purpose of the present study.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION:

Observation, interview and cast study mathed has been used for collecting first hand data at the first stage Books articles, published and unpublished research matter and government documents, reports etc. has been used as secondary sources, At the second stage schedule has been used for collecting data from 300 respondents.

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