

Democratic Decentralization – Panchayati Raj System

- Peoples participation is must in developmental programmes
- If ultimate stakeholders are not involved in planning, implementation and evaluation phases, we cannot think of holistic development
- Shri. Balwantry G. Mehta submitted report in 1957

The recommendations of the committee

- Establishment of panchyat
- Entrusting planning developmental activities to the panchyats
- Transfer of adequate resources to discharge duties

Three tier structure

- Gram Panchyat (Village / cluster of villages)
- Panchyat Samiti or Taluka Panchyat (Tehsil / Taluka level)
- Zila Panchyat (District level) highest policy making body

The journey of panchyati raj 1957 to 1992

- Phase of ascendancy 1957 – 1964
- Phase of stagnation 1965 – 1969
- Phase of decline 1969 – 1977

72nd Constitutional amendment in 1992

Gained momentum again in the country and grass root level development became a reality

Stagnation and decline due to

- Rural Development programmes were kept out of purview of Panchyati Raj Institutions
- Reduced fund allocation
- Lack of adjustment of bureaucracy with Panchyati Raj Institutions
- Lack of political will
- Postponement of panchyat elections and in some states suspension of panchyat raj institutions
- Lack of conceptual clarity about Panchyati Raj Institutions and its objectives

Conclusion

Community development programme and Panchyati Raj Institutions were two such programmes which were experimented on people's participation at grass root level for ensuring development. The process of development is a continuous journey, we need to learn from our previous mistakes and make necessary modification in the approach and involve community for holistic development