

# ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY, MUMBAI

## Class VI- Social Science

### Panchayati Raj- Handout -I

#### Objectives

To enable children to

- understand local level of government functioning,
- understand the workings of the panchayat raj and appreciate its importance,

#### Content

- I. Different Levels of Government
- II. Panchayati Raj
- III. Different levels of Panchayati Raj
- IV. Gram Panchayat
- V. Functions of Gram Panchayat

#### I. Different Levels of government

India is a vast country. It would be very difficult to solve the different problems sitting at the centre. So, to work more efficiently our government functions at different levels.

- The Central Government
- The State Governments
- The Local Government- Panchayati Raj and municipality

#### II. Panchayati Raj

- It is the local self-government in the rural area.
- Derived from panchayat (village council) and raj (rule )
- Panchayati raj is third level of Indian democratic system.
- The main objective of the Panchayati Raj is to improve the condition of the villagers and make them self-sufficient by ensuring economic development and social justice.
- It also aims to provide more and more space for people to participate in the decision-making process. Local people know their problems much better than anybody else
- The first Panchayat was inaugurated in 1959 in Rajasthan.
- It was constitutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. It is the basic unit of local administration and 1/3 of the seats are reserved for women
- It helps in strengthening the democracy at grassroot level and ensures the participation of the people in decision making process.

#### III. Different levels of Panchayati Raj

**Panchayati Raj** is a three-tier system which includes:

- **District Panchayat or Zila Parishad**- District Level,
- **Janpad Panchayat or the Panchayat samiti**- Block Level
- **Gram panchayat**- Village level

The Zila Parishad makes developmental plans and regulate the money distribution

#### **IV. Gram Panchayat**

- It is the grassroot level of the Panchayati Raj system.
- It is an elected body at the **village level**.
- Gram Panchayat is divided in to **wards**
- Each ward is represented by a **Panch** or ward member
- **Panch** is directly elected by the people above 18 years in a ward for **five years**.
- **The Sarpanch** or the president of the Gram Panchayat is the head of the Gram Panchayath
- The Sarpanch is elected by the **Gram Sabha**.
- **Panch** and **Sarpanch** make the **Garm Panchayat**.
- Gram Panchayat aims to ensures **economic development and social justice**

#### **V. Functions of Gram Panchayat**

- Responsible to implement various development programmes in the village
- Construction and maintenance of water resources, roads, drainage, school building and other common property resources
- Maintaining sanitation and public health.
- Provision of elementary education
- Supply of drinking water, Lighting on roads and public places.
- Executing various government schemes such and NREGS
- Levying and collecting local taxes.
- The works of the Gram Panchayath has to be approved by Gram Sabha

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