

Chapter - 11

Grassroots and Democracy (Part 2)

Q.1 Facts that Matter

- 1. Importance of Panchayati Raj system :** Panchayati Raj System aims to bring governance closer to people. It enables self-government and direct participation in decision-making. Panchayati Raj gives people direct control over their local affairs. It encourages women and marginalized communities to participate in decision making. It also ensures equitable distribution of resources for village development.
- 2. Gram Panchayat :** A Gram Panchayat is the elected executive body of a Gram Sabha. It is responsible for governing the village or a group of village like provision of safe drinking water cleanliness etc.
- 3. The Sarpanch :** The Sarpanch or Pradhan or Mukhiya is a decision maker elected by the Gram Sabha. He keeps a watch over finance and administration of the Gram Panchayat.
- 4. Functions of Zila parishad :**
 - a. Agricultural development
 - b. Promotion of Rural area
 - c. Welfare Scheme for Marginalized communities
 - d. Disability and senior citizen welfare, upgrading education system
- 5. Hiware Bazaar :** Hiware bazaar is a village in the Ahilyanagar district of Maharashtra, India. It is noted for its irrigation system & water conservation program, it is able to combat the problem of drought and drinking water.
- 6. Sikkim - Child Friendly governance :** Panchayats like Sangkhu Radhu Khandu prioritize child needs by building school infrastructure, integrating children's voices into local development plans. SCPCR actively conducts awareness programs on rights & safety of children.

Q.2 Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. Which of the following is an example of grassroots democracy?**
 - a) Gram Panchayat
- 2. The Panchayati Raj system ensures_____.**
 - a) People's participation in governance
- 3. Which is the top-most body at the district level in Panchayati Raj?**
 - a) Zila Parishad
- 4. The Gram Panchayat is formed at the _____.**
 - a) Village level

5. Which body supervises the work of the Gram Panchayat?
b) Gram Sabha
6. The Sarpanch is _____.
c) the head of the Gram Panchayat
7. At which level does the Panchayat Samiti functions?
b) Block
8. Zila Parishad coordinates the activities of _____.
b) Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis
9. Which state's village Hiware Bazar became a model village for rural development?
b) Maharashtra
10. What does Bal Panchayat promote?
b) Child participation in governance

Q.3 Study the picture and answer the questions that follow-

- a. What does the picture depict?

Children's Parliament

- b. Define 'Children's Parliament'.

The Children's Parliament is a group of children of a particular village, neighbourhood, or region who express their ideas and opinions on matters that concern their well being.

- c. How does it empower underprivileged children ?

It empowers underprivileged children through education and democratic participation. They actively address issues such as access to education, sanitation and social equality, contributing to community development.

Q.4 Fill in the blanks

1. In many parts of India, **Patwari** maintains the villagers' land records.
2. The Gram Sabha consists of all **Adult members** of the village.
3. The Panchayati Raj system has **three** levels.
4. **Panchayat Samiti** is the intermediate level of the Panchayati Raj.
5. **Gram Sabha** ensures participation of people in decision-making at the village level.

Q.5 Match the items given in Column A with their correct pair in Column B.

Column A		Column B	
1.	Gram Sabha	e.	Members of the village
2.	Panchayat Samiti	a.	Block level body
3.	Zila Parishad	d.	District-level body
4.	Sarpanch	b.	Head of Gram Panchayat
5.	Gram Panchayat	c.	Village-level body

Q.6 Assertion & Reason based Questions

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

Choose the correct option

- 1. **Assertion (A)** : Gram Sabha is the foundation of grassroots democracy.
Reason (R) : It includes elected representatives only.
 - 2. **Assertion (A)** : Panchayati Raj empowers people.
Reason (R) : It allows local people to take decisions for their development.
1. c) **A is true, but R is false**
2. a) **Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

Q.7 Case Study Based Question

Read the paragraph and answer the questions given below.

a. **What is the purpose of Gram Sabha meetings?**

To allow villagers to participate in discussions and decisions about local development.

b. **How often are Gram Sabha meetings held?**

At least twice a year.

c. **What does this case tell you about Grassroots democracy?**

It shows how people's active participation in local governance leads to practical and beneficial development at decisions.

Q.8 Answer the following questions.

1. **What do you mean by 'grassroots democracy'?**

It refers to direct participation of people in decision-making at the local level.

2. **Who can attend the Gram Sabha meetings?**

All adult members of the village.

3. Highlight the contribution of Vandana Bahadur Maids in context of women empowerment ?

She convinced women in the village to attend the Sabha meetings and addressed critical issues like education and sanitation, earning, recognition far and wide.

4. Which village in Sikkim has been recognized for child-friendly governance?

Sangkhu Radhu Khandu Gram Panchayat village in Sikkim was recognized for child-friendly governance.

5. Who gave the slogan lok seva, gram seva, that is, 'Service to the village is service to the public.'?

Dnyaneshwar Kamble, a transgender person who was elected Sarpanch of Tarangfal village in the Solapur district of Maharashtra in 2017 gave the slogan.

6. What are the three levels of Panchayati Raj?

The three levels of Panchayati Raj are:-

Village Level: Gram Panchayat

Block Level: Panchayat Samiti

District Level: Zila Parishad

7. How does the Gram Sabha control the Gram Panchayat?

The Gram Sabha monitors and evaluates the work of the Gram Panchayat.

It approves budgets, and plans.

It ensures transparency and accountability.

8. What do you understand about the Child-Friendly Panchayat Initiative?

The Child-Friendly Panchayat Initiative creates opportunities for children to express their ideas and opinions on matters that concern their well being.

Steps are being taken in several States to encourage the participation of children in Bal Sabhas and Bal Panchayats on a regular basis.

In Maharashtra, for example, a few Bal Panchayats have worked to eliminate child labour and child marriage. They have brought many children back to school.

9. List the functions of the Gram Panchayat.

The functions of Gram Panchayat are:

- Maintenance of village roads, drainage, and sanitation.
- Implementing government schemes.
- Registration of births, deaths, and marriages.
- Organizing health and education programs.
- Promoting agriculture and welfare schemes.
- Recognition far and wide.

10. How did the village Hiware Bazar transform from a drought-hit village to a model village?

Hiware Bazar, a village in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, used to be affected by frequent droughts and poor agricultural yield.

After Popatrao Baguji Pawar became its Sarpanch, he started applying Anna Hazare's model of rainwater harvesting, watershed conservation and massive tree planting of lakhs of trees, all of which contributed to the recharge of groundwater.

With the collaboration of the villagers, Hiware Bazar became a green and prosperous village in a few years.

Let the Children critically analyse the problem of the peers and the classroom.

a) Mentorship Programs- Seek help from seniors to guide the juniors.

b) Wellness Wednesdays- Every wednesday, mindful activities to be conducted.

c) Coaching Clinics- Appointing best sports persons to coach juniors to improve their skills.

d) Inter- school Competitions- Motivate the students to participate wholeheartedly to foster healthy competition and teamwork.