

# **E Gram Panchyat**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Panchayat is an elected village council in India. Panchayat means “assembly” of five” panch” and raj means “rule”. In villages these assemblies settled disputes between individuals and between villages. But now to improve the quality of governance of these PRIs has initiated the e-governance scheme known as ePanchayats. E-panchayat is a functional and dynamic digital platform and working station designed and created for each Panchayat. The main objective of e-panchayat is to empower citizens of every panchayat with bottom up and top down information and content. Ramchandrapuram village near Hyderabad, has become India’s first e-panchayat, enabling villagers to settle disputes through an express web-enabled system. Communication technologies play an important role in village development. So e-panchayat is a need of present scenario. The objective of this paper is to know the e-panchayat for rural development. The paper also describes what are action taken by the government.

**Keywords:** E-Governance, Government-citizen relationships, E-Government, Gram Panchayat, Dakhala.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The panchayat raj is a south Asian political system found mainly in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Trinidad, Tobago and Nepal. Panchayat literally means assembly (yat) of five (panch) wise and respected elders chosen and accepted by the village community. The leader of the panchayat was often called mukhiya or sarpanch. Panchayats is the backbone of the Indian villages. Mahatma Gandhi advocated panchayat raj as the foundation of Indian’s political system. It’s a decentralized form of government where each village would be responsible for its own affairs. Panchayat or panchayati raj is a system of governance in which gram panchayat are the basic units of administration. It has 3 levels: village, block and district levels. In the history of Panchayati raj in India ,on 24 April 1993, the constitutional (73rd amendment) Act ,1992 came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati raj institutions. This act was extended in Panchayats in tribal areas of eight states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat , Himachal Pradesh , Maharashtra , Madhya Pradesh , Orissa and Rajasthan from 24 December 1996. Now Panchayati raj system exists in all the states except Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram and Also all the Ups except Delhi.

## **II. LITERATURE SURVEY**

A sentiments were expressed by Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. "India is poor because villages of India are poor. India will be rich if the villages of India are rich Panchayats should be given greater powers, for we want the villagers to have greater measure of swaraj (self-government)in their own villages[4] The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India, particularly after independence. Plan documents of government and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. panchayat is responsible for village development keeping transformation of social and economic life as its goal of development. the rural progress depends entirely on the existence of an active organization in the village which can bring all the people, in to common programmes to be carried out with the assistance of administration. To achieve this objective the second Five year Plan entailed the Panchayats to perform civic, developmental, land management and judicial functions. Subsequent plans and policy pronouncements of national leader to emphasized the role of Panchayats in village development[1] the role of grampanchayat are[4] –

- Implement schemes for the development of agriculture.
- Establishment of primary health centres and primary schools.
- Supply of drinking water, drainage, construction/repair of roads.
- Development of cottage and small. Scale industries and opening of cooperative societies.
- Establishment of youth organizations

## **III. BRIEF ABOUT OF START OF PANCHAYAT**

The genesis of Panchayat Raj dates back to 1958, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru popularized the ideas after the recommendations of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953), were approved by the NDC (National Development Council). Nehru coined this term as an extension of Gandhiji's belief, that each village should be made responsible for its own affairs. The objective behind establishing such a system is to take democracy to the village level, by delegating powers to the people at the grass roots level. The implementation of the act (PanchayatSamiti and ZilaParishadAct of September 2, 1959) came into effect from October 2 when Panchayati raj was formally launched from Nagaur . Andhra Pradesh had launch soon after,on October 11 while Assam , Karnataka ,and madras had it in 1960. The state of Maharashtra had launch in 1964. One by one all the other states follow the suit later.

## **IV. ROLE OF PANCHAYAT**

The role of panchayats varies from state to state in the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs), which are administered by Central Ministries. Further, since Panchayat is a states subject, states vary in the extent to which they devolve role and responsibilities to Panchayats in planning, implementation and monitoring of different CSSs. Among the major CSSs, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGS),

Saakshar Bharat Mission, Indira Awas Yojna (IAY) and National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), provide significant roles and responsibilities to Panchayats. Gram Panchayats are given financial aids on recommendations of state finance commission. Sampurna Swachhta Abhiyan (Complete Cleanliness Mission) is a programme financed by the Indian Government with an objective to provide toilets to all rural families by the end of year 2012.

## **V. E-PANCHAYAT**

Ramchandrapuram village near Hyderabad, has become India's first e-panchayat, enabling villagers to settle disputes through an express web-enabled system. The Andhra Pradesh unit of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has implemented the pilot project labeled as, "The Electronic Knowledge-based Panchayat (EK Panch) project." E-panchayat is a software product conceptualized, designed and developed by National Informatics Centre, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, as a part of its e governance initiatives. E-Panchayat has been designed taking into consideration all the information and knowledge management requirements in a Gram Panchayat. There are approximately 250000 panchayats in India mapped by NIC and ministry of Panchayati Raj on the Ministry website under the project called E-Panchayat. However, it is difficult to find any information about single Panchayat. With this background the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) initiated and rolled forward the concept of Digital Panchayat Programme across the nation. E-Panchayat means – a web based dynamic digital interface created for each and every panchayat in India, giving information about particular Panchayat in a two way flow of content. The objective is to facilitate and improve Panchayat functioning on day-to-day basis, through two way flow of information and content.

## **VI. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN E-PANCHAYAT AND PANCHAYAT**

The 73rd amendment of the constitution is a watershed development that could genuinely impact the role of panchayati raj institution in self-governance. The software facilitates generation of certificates. Rural local governments (henceforth referred to as Panchayats) have been given a wide range of powers and duties related to rural development, implementation of anti-poverty programs, job creation, rural marketing, social and political empowerment of weaker sections of the society, and so on. Panchayats are also instrumental in mobilizing the dwellers and other agencies for designing and implementing rural development initiatives that are more adapted to local needs payment gateway for citizens, E-sign facility for Panchayat functionaries SMS and email alerts. The computerization of all 3-tiers of PRIs i.e. Zila Praja Parishad, Mandal Praja Parishad (block) and Gram Panchayats. It creates an environment in which people feel empowered, establishes a system that ensures people can easily avail their fundamental rights to information, and broadens the scope of local government. Establishment of the e-Panchayat in every village across the country is an elaborate process. ICT intervention should not be understood in isolation. ICTs function in a socio-cultural, political, and economic milieu. Their efficacy is contingent on the various forces and realities that coalesce to shape the environment into which they are introduced. To equip every Panchayat with a computer and to provide it with Internet connectivity would not be an easy task, if we look at the current status of Internet connectivity and other prerequisites for ICT enabled system of governance in rural areas. A workable system of e-Panchayats warrants financial resources, computer applications, skilled human resource and political will.

## **VII. PLACES WHERE E-PANCHAYAT ARE CARRIED OUT IN INDIA**

Several state governments have also taken initiatives to set up the e-Panchayats to facilitate the development process and provide easy access to information to citizens. States such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Haryana have set up Panchayat portals to provide information regarding development schemes such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, organizational/departmental set up, developmental policies, annual reports, notification, evaluation reports of development programmes, status of development schemes, revenues etc. Ramchandrapuram village near Hyderabad, has become India's first e-panchayat, enabling villagers to settle disputes through an express web-enabled system. The Andhra Pradesh unit of NIC has implemented the pilot projects labeled as, "EKPanchproject." Now, taking the online services to the doorsteps of panchayats, the Telangana government has kicked off the e-panchayat initiative. Also called PalleSamagraSevaKendram(PSSK). These services would be available in 100 panchayats, including 23 in Karimnagar, 13 in Khammam and an 10 in Nizamabad districts. In an effort to take e-governance to the grass-roots level, Telanganapanchayat raj department is set to launch e-panchayat initiative soon in Domakonda Mandal of Nizamabad District. E-panchayat programme will cover 18 gram panchayats and all of them will be connected with internet, enabling them to offer a wide range of services to the rural people.

## **VIII. BEST E-PANCHAYAT IN INDIA 2015**

Maharashtra has won the first place for the best E-Panchayat in the country, and has bagged an award of 50 lakh, followed by West Bengal at the second position who was awarded Rest. 30 lakh. The third position was shared by Tamil Nadu and Bihar, each winning a cash amount of Rest. 20 lakh. The awards were given on April 24, 2015, on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day. 16 Gram Panchayats were awarded the RashtriyaGauravGramasabha(RGGS) Puraskar.

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## **X. CONCLUSION**

Lastly, I conclude that ePanchayats are the need of the hour as people in rural areas are still deprived of basic facilities for a decent life. They should be provided with adequate technological resources in order to be able to play a meaningful role in the course of development.

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