

: I N T R O D U C T I O N :

The Panchayat Raj Institutions have been considered as the foundations of participatory democracy in India. They have been created to make the community development programmes relevant to the needs and problems of the people and to transfer decision making authority to villages regarding developmental work. The system of ' Democratic - Decentralisation ' is better known as Panchayat Raj. The word Panchayat Raj literally means a group of the persons elected by the people of a village. Panchayat Raj consists of democratic institutions at the local levels based on the decentralisation and devolution of power and resources. These institutions function as local self-governing bodies for the development of the people and area in their jurisdiction.

After independence the idea of village Panchayat gained ground. In the Directive Principles of State Policy, article 40 of the Indian constitution says that, ' the state shall take steps to organise village Panchayats and endow them with such power and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of local self-government. The Panchayat Raj was introduced in Karnataka state on 1st November 1959, after the enactment of the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959. But the first non-Congress Janata Government brought a new Act, called Karnataka Zilla Parishads, Taluka Panchayat Samitis, Mandal Panchayats and Nyaya Panchayat Act, 1983. Mandal Panchayats have been constituted in the year 1987.

The main intention of this dissertation is to show the working of Mandal Panchayat with special reference to Nidasoshi Mandal Panchayat. Since Mandal Panchayat has been introduced as a novel institution through Act of 1983 (Particularly with more financial powers). There has been no special study made except the study of working of the Mandal Panchayat, which does not highlight the financial powers and its impact for the development of the rural area. Hence, this study becomes necessary to point out whether the objective of Panchayat Raj system i.e. of speedier rural development has been achieved with more financial powers being allotted to the Mandal level. An attempt has been made to find out whether the Mandal Panchayat worked better than former village panchayats, specially due to its financial position that is very sound as compared to the financial condition of the village panchayat.

This study has been attempted through the five chapters. In the chapter I and II, which discuss the history of Panchayat Raj in India, and Panchayat Raj system in Karnataka respectively. This historical background is necessary in order to make comparative study of Panchayat Raj Acts of 1983 and 1993, particularly the 1983 Act in which the Mandal Panchayat was a new institution introduced through this Act. Hence, the study of this Act is of vital importance. While the 1993 Act is also necessary to be highlighted as this rejects the Mandal Panchayats and replaces with an altogether a new

composition based on elections making it more democratic. In chapter IV, the working of Hukeri Taluka Panchayat Samiti is studied as it becomes necessary to study the working of Nidasoshi Mandal Panchayat. This is because with the 1983 Act the Mandal Panchayats, supervised and advised by the Taluka Panchayat Samiti. Hence, an attempt is made to study the Taluka Panchayat Samiti followed by the study of Nidasoshi Mandal Panchayat and a brief conclusion is made.

In order to study this, the Methodology followed to collect the data is basically historical and a number of records, resolutions and Acts were referred. Besides in order to understand the working and implementation of the schemes at Mandal level a number of interviews of the members of the Mandal Panchayat were conducted. Books and articles relevant to the subjects were also referred.

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