

Grassroots Democracy – Part 2 Local Government in Rural Areas

Worksheet

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Children in a village in Maharashtra are worried because some of their classmates have left school to work, and two girls are being prepared for marriage. The students want to form a group to tackle this. Which of the following would be the most effective approach, based on the Bal Panchayat examples in the chapter?

- (a) Wait until the Zila Parishad takes up the matter on its own
- (b) Form a Bal Panchayat, meet the parents and convince them to send their children back to school
- (c) Ask the Patwari to change the village land records
- (d) Stop attending school until the Sarpanch agrees to help

2. Every year, Gram Sabha meetings are held in villages across India on special days such as Gandhi Jayanti (2 October), where villagers discuss development works, sanitation and local plans. Who can take part and speak in such a Gram Sabha meeting?

- (a) Only the Sarpanch and the Panchayat Secretary
- (b) Only members of the Zila Parishad
- (c) All adult villagers enrolled as voters, both women and men
- (d) Only farmers who own land in the village

3. Assertion (A): The Panchayati Raj system is called a form of self-government.
Reason (R): Villagers take part in decisions through the Gram Sabha and through the representatives they elect.

- (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.

4. Read the statements:

- 1. Members of the Gram Panchayat are elected directly by the Gram Sabha.

2. The Panchayat Samiti works as the link between the Gram Panchayat and the Zila Parishad.
3. The structure and functions of Panchayati Raj institutions are exactly the same in every State.

Which of the statements are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only

Q5. Five villages in a block have each prepared a plan to build all-weather roads. The plans must be put together and sent to the district and State levels so that funds can be released under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Which body should collect and present these plans?

- (a) Gram Sabha
- (b) Panchayat Samiti
- (c) Patwari
- (d) Bal Panchayat

6. News reports in recent years have highlighted the “Sarpanch Pati” practice. In it, a woman is elected Sarpanch on a reserved seat, but her husband or another male relative makes the decisions. Which purpose of the Panchayati Raj system does this practice weaken most directly?

- (a) Dividing the district into blocks
- (b) Giving women real participation and leadership in local decision-making
- (c) Maintaining land records
- (d) Collecting development plans at the block level

Subjective Question

7. Hiware Bazar in Maharashtra was once hit by frequent droughts and poor harvests. After Popatrao Pawar became Sarpanch, the village used rainwater harvesting, watershed conservation and large-scale tree planting, and it became green and prosperous.

- (a) What does this example show about the role of a Sarpanch?
- (b) Why was the villagers’ cooperation as important as the Sarpanch’s leadership?