

Chapter 11: Grassroots Democracy – Part 2 (Local Government in Rural Areas)

Practice Worksheet — Set B

Name: _____ Class/Section: _____ Date: _____

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions (1 mark each)

- In which region is the village of Lakshmanpur, mentioned as an example in the chapter, located?
(a) Coastal plains (b) Foothills of the Himalayas (c) Thar desert (d) Deccan plateau
- Approximately how many villages does India have, as mentioned in the chapter?
(a) 60,000 (b) 600,000 (c) 6 million (d) 60 million
- Who said, 'The real India lives in its villages'?
(a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) M.K. Gandhi (c) B.R. Ambedkar (d) Sardar Patel
- Which institution is directly elected by the Gram Sabha?
(a) Zila Parishad (b) Panchayat Samiti (c) Gram Panchayat (d) State Legislative Assembly
- Vandana Bahadur Maida became the first female Sarpanch of which village?
(a) Tarangfal (b) Hiware Bazar (c) Khankhandvi (d) Lakshmanpur
- What did Popatrao Baguji Pawar's model of development mainly focus on?
(a) Industrial growth (b) Rainwater harvesting and tree planting (c) Building highways (d) Setting up factories
- The Children's Parliament in Rajasthan is linked to which initiative?
(a) Barefoot College (b) Digital India (c) Skill India (d) Right to Education
- In the Arthashastra, what was a 'karvatika'?
(a) A village head (b) A sub-district headquarters (c) A district headquarters (d) A provincial headquarters
- According to the Arthashastra, a sthaniya (provincial headquarters) was set up for how many villages?
(a) 10 (b) 100 (c) 400 (d) 800
- Which of these is NOT mentioned as an area covered by Panchayati Raj institutions?

- (a) Education and health care (b) Foreign policy (c) Roads and water resources (d) Cultural activities

Section B: Fill in the Blanks (1 mark each)

1. India has about 600,000 villages, 8,000 towns and over _____ cities.
2. About _____ of India's population lives in rural areas.
3. The Gram Panchayat is the institution _____ (closest/farthest) to the people in rural areas.
4. The Panchayat Samiti is also known as the Block Panchayat or _____ Parishad.
5. Members of the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad may also include Sarpanchs and local members of the State _____.
6. Dnyaneshwar Kamble's motto was 'lok seva, _____ seva'.
7. The Children's Parliament followed formal procedures including voter ID cards and _____.
8. Elected representatives of the Children's Parliament formed a _____ that oversaw school management.
9. In the Arthashastra, a _____ was established for every 400 villages.
10. The structure and functions of Panchayati Raj institutions differ across States because _____ have authority over them.

Section C: True or False (1 mark each)

1. India's population has crossed 1.4 billion. (True / False)
2. Most of the residents of Lakshmanpur village are engaged in fishing. (True / False)
3. The Gram Panchayat is closest to the people in rural areas. (True / False)
4. Panchayat Samiti members can only be directly elected by local people, with no other categories of members. (True / False)
5. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is related to the construction of all-weather roads. (True / False)
6. Dnyaneshwar Kamble defeated six other candidates to become Sarpanch. (True / False)
7. The Children's Parliament initiative began only in the last five years. (True / False)
8. The Arthashastra describes an administrative structure from the village to the regional capital. (True / False)
9. Kautilya is also known as Chanakya. (True / False)

10. The objectives of Panchayati Raj institutions differ completely from State to State. *(True / False)*

Section D: Answer in About Two Lines *(2 marks each)*

1. Describe the village of Lakshmanpur in brief.

2. What kinds of needs does a village like Lakshmanpur typically have?

3. How does democracy work in the Panchayati Raj system?

4. What is the composition of the Panchayat Samiti?

5. How did Vandana Bahadur Maida bring change to her village?

6. What did the Children's Parliament in Rajasthan teach children?

7. What does the Arthashastra describe?

8. Name any two administrative units mentioned in the Arthashastra.

9. Why are special rules made for disadvantaged sections in Panchayati Raj institutions?

10. What objective is common to Panchayati Raj institutions across all States?

Section E: Write Short Notes (5–8 lines) (4 marks each)

1. Why do villages in India need a system of local government? Explain with reference to Lakshmanpur.

2. Explain the significance of the Arthashastra in the context of local governance.

3. Describe how children participate in local governance according to the chapter.

4. Explain the role of the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad in strengthening local governance.

5. How do reservations for women and disadvantaged sections strengthen democracy at the grassroots level?

ANSWER KEY — Set B

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. Foothills of the Himalayas
2. 600,000
3. M.K. Gandhi
4. Gram Panchayat
5. Khankhandvi
6. Rainwater harvesting and tree planting
7. Barefoot College
8. A district headquarters
9. 800
10. Foreign policy

Section B: Fill in the Blanks

1. 4,000
2. two-thirds
3. closest
4. Mandal
5. Legislative Assembly
6. gram
7. campaigning
8. Cabinet
9. dronamukha
10. States

Section C: True or False

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True
7. False
8. True
9. True
10. False

Section D: Answer in About Two Lines

1. Lakshmanpur is a small village in the foothills of the Himalayas with about 200 houses and a population of around 700, most of whom are farmers.
2. Needs may include water for fields, repair of roads damaged by rain, maintenance of the village school, and resolving disputes over land or theft of crops.
3. Democracy works both through the direct participation of people, such as in the Gram Sabha, and through their elected representatives, such as the Sarpanch and Panchayat members.
4. The Panchayat Samiti's composition differs from State to State but generally includes members elected by local people along with Sarpanchs of villages and local MLAs.
5. She convinced women in her village to attend Sabha meetings and addressed critical issues like education and sanitation, becoming the first female Sarpanch of Khankhandvi.
6. It taught children aged 8 to 14 about democracy and social responsibility through night schools and parliament-like elections, including voter ID cards and campaigning.
7. The Arthashastra describes how a state should be structured and run, how its economy can prosper, the duties of the ruler, and how to conduct war.
8. Any two of: sangrahana (sub-district headquarters), karvatika (district headquarters), dronamukha, or sthaniya (provincial headquarters).
9. Special rules, including reserved seats, ensure that disadvantaged sections of the population can make their needs and problems heard in local governance.
10. Their common objective is to enable villagers to take an active part in the management and development of their villages and local area.

Section E: Short Notes (Model Answers)

1. Villages like Lakshmanpur face everyday needs such as water for irrigation, repairing roads damaged by rain, maintaining schools, and resolving land disputes. It

would be impractical for villagers to travel to the State or national capital for every such issue. A local system of government, the Panchayat, allows people to take decisions about matters that directly affect their daily lives, bringing governance closer to the people and enabling active participation in local development.

2. The Arthashastra is an ancient text on governance written by Kautilya, also known as Chanakya, around 2,300 years ago. It describes how a state should be organised and run, the duties of a ruler, and how the economy can be made prosperous.

Remarkably, it also lays out an administrative structure from the village level to the regional capital, with units like the sangrahana, karvatika, dronamukha and sthaniya, showing that the idea of organised, tiered local administration in India is thousands of years old.

3. Panchayats are meant to listen to everyone's voice, including children's. Through the Child-Friendly Panchayat Initiative, children take part in Bal Sabhas and Bal Panchayats to raise concerns about their wellbeing. In Maharashtra, some Bal Panchayats have worked to end child labour and child marriage and bring children back to school. In Rajasthan, the Children's Parliament, linked to the Barefoot College, engages children aged 8 to 14 in mock elections, voter ID cards and a 'Cabinet' that oversees school management, teaching them about democracy and responsibility.

4. The Panchayat Samiti, at the block level, and the Zila Parishad, at the district level, are institutions above the Gram Panchayat in the three-tier Panchayati Raj system. Their members are elected by local people and may include Sarpanchs and local MLAs. These bodies coordinate development plans collected from various Gram Panchayats and present them at higher levels, helping in the allotment of funds for schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Although their exact composition varies across States, their shared role is to strengthen the participation of local people in governance.

5. Panchayati Raj institutions have special rules to ensure that disadvantaged sections of society can make their needs heard, including a provision that reserves

one-third of seats for women at all three levels. This has led to more women, such as Vandana Bahadur Maida and Dnyaneshwar Kamble, taking up leadership roles as Sarpanchs. By ensuring representation for groups that may otherwise be excluded from decision-making, these reservations make grassroots democracy more inclusive and truly representative of the whole community

