

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

Practice Worksheet — Set C

Name: _____ Class/Section: _____ Date: _____

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions (1 mark each)

- What does the term 'grassroots democracy' in this chapter mainly refer to?
(a) National elections (b) Local government in rural and urban areas (c) The judiciary (d) Foreign policy
- Which of the following is another name for the Gram Panchayat?
(a) Village Parishad (b) District Panchayat (c) Mandal Parishad (d) Zila Parishad
- Sangkhu Radhu Khandu, the child-friendly Gram Panchayat, is located in which State?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Sikkim (c) Maharashtra (d) Madhya Pradesh
- What did the Sangkhu Radhu Khandu Gram Panchayat build to make schools safer for children?
(a) Libraries (b) Compound walls (c) Playgrounds (d) Hostels
- The Children's Parliament in Rajasthan received which award in 2001?
(a) Padma Shri (b) Bharat Ratna (c) World's Children's Honorary Award (d) Nobel Peace Prize
- Who is credited with founding the 'Barefoot College' initiative?
(a) Anna Hazare (b) Bunker Roy (c) Popatrao Pawar (d) M.K. Gandhi
- Which model did Popatrao Pawar apply in Hiware Bazar?
(a) Anna Hazare's model (b) Bunker Roy's model (c) Kautilya's model (d) Gandhi's model
- What is the correct order of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system from the bottom up?
(a) District, Block, Village (b) Village, District, Block (c) Village, Block, District (d) Block, Village, District
- Which of these is a function of the Panchayat Secretary?
(a) Maintaining land records (b) Calling meetings and maintaining records (c) Collecting taxes at the national level (d) Conducting national elections

10. Who was Kautilya, the author of the Arthashastra, also known as?

- (a) Ashoka (b) Chanakya (c) Bunker Roy (d) Vishnugupta the Sarpanch

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

1. Panchayats bring governance _____ to the people, allowing them to actively participate in decision-making.
2. The Gram Panchayat elects a head or president called the ' _____ ' or 'Pradhan'.
3. In recent years, more and more _____ have become Sarpanchs.
4. The _____ keeps maps that are generations old in some parts of India.
5. Bal Panchayats in Maharashtra have worked to eliminate child labour and _____.
6. The Gram Panchayat in Sikkim constructed _____ in schools to ensure hygienically cooked midday meals.
7. The Panchayat Samiti coordinates matters across Gram Panchayats and helps in the allotment of _____ for development projects.
8. The Arthashastra explains how a whole _____ structure should be put in place from the village to the regional capital.
9. The Panchayati Raj institutions give people in rural areas a measure of _____.
10. The three-tier system covers almost all aspects of life in the district, from agriculture to _____ activities.

Section C: True or False (1 mark each)

1. Panchayats play a role in addressing local issues and promoting development. (True / False)
2. The Gram Sabha includes only men from the village. (True / False)
3. The Panchayat system is also known as Panchayati Raj. (True / False)
4. Bal Panchayats have no role in bringing children back to school. (True / False)
5. Sangkhu Radhu Khandu Gram Panchayat is in West Sikkim. (True / False)
6. The Children's Parliament used voter ID cards and campaigning like a real election. (True / False)
7. The Panchayat Samiti has no members other than those directly elected by local people. (True / False)
8. The three tiers of Panchayati Raj are Village, Block and District. (True / False)
9. The Arthashastra was written more than 2,000 years ago. (True / False)

10. The structure of Panchayati Raj institutions is exactly identical in every State of India. *(True / False)*

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

1. How do Panchayats help in local development?

2. What is the significance of the Bal Panchayat?

3. Mention one child-friendly initiative taken by a Gram Panchayat.

4. What was unique about the Children's Parliament's method of choosing leaders?

5. What kind of person, in your view, should be a Gram Panchayat member?

6. How can old land maps kept by the Patwari be useful?

7. What similarities exist between governance at the Central and Panchayat levels?

8. Why can't villagers rely on the State or national capital for every local issue?

9. What does 'lok seva, gram seva' mean, and who used it as a motto?

10. What is the basic aim of the Panchayati Raj system?

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

1. Explain the meaning and importance of the Gram Sabha.

2. Describe the functions and support system of the Gram Panchayat.

3. Discuss the Child-Friendly Panchayat Initiative and its impact on rural children.

4. Write a note on any two exemplary Sarpanchs and what makes their work notable.

5. Explain how the Panchayati Raj system reflects both ancient ideas and modern democracy.

ANSWER KEY — Set C

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. Local government in rural and urban areas
2. Village Parishad
3. Sikkim
4. Compound walls
5. World's Children's Honorary Award
6. Bunker Roy
7. Anna Hazare's model
8. Village, Block, District
9. Calling meetings and maintaining records
10. Chanakya

Section B: Fill in the Blanks

1. closer
2. Sarpanch
3. women
4. Patwari
5. child marriage
6. kitchens
7. funds
8. administrative
9. self-governance
10. cultural

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. Panchayats address local issues, promote development and ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach people at the grassroots level.
2. The Bal Panchayat gives children a platform to raise issues such as child labour and child marriage and to convince adults to send children to school.
3. The Sangkhu Radhu Khandu Gram Panchayat in Sikkim built compound walls for schools and constructed kitchens for hygienic midday meals.
4. It followed formal democratic procedures, including voter ID cards and campaigning, and elected representatives formed a 'Cabinet'.
5. A Gram Panchayat member should be honest, responsible and genuinely committed to serving the needs and welfare of the villagers.
6. Old land maps can help settle land disputes and provide information about how land use and ownership have changed over time.
7. Both involve elected representatives, decision-making bodies, and work towards public welfare, though the Panchayat level focuses on local, village-related matters.
8. Because it would be impractical and slow; local issues need quick, informed decisions, which is why a local government system like the Panchayat exists.
9. It means 'service to the village is service to the public' and was the motto of Sarpanch Dnyaneshwar Kamble.
10. Its basic aim is to enable people in rural areas to take an active part in the management and development of their own villages and local areas.

Section E: Short Notes (Model Answers)

1. The Gram Sabha is a group of adults from a village, or a group of neighbouring villages, who are enrolled as voters. In the Gram Sabha, women and men come together to discuss all matters related to their area and take decisions. It elects the members of the Gram Panchayat directly, making it the foundation of grassroots democracy. Through the Gram Sabha, ordinary villagers get a direct say in decisions

about resources, development and local problems, ensuring that governance genuinely reflects the will of the people.

2. The Gram Panchayat is the local government body closest to rural people, responsible for matters like agriculture, roads, water resources, education, healthcare, social welfare and cultural activities. It is headed by an elected Sarpanch or Pradhan and supported by a Panchayat Secretary, who manages administrative tasks such as calling meetings and maintaining records. In many parts of India, a Patwari also assists by maintaining villagers' land records, sometimes using maps that are generations old.

3. The Child-Friendly Panchayat Initiative recognises that children's voices matter in governance. Through Bal Sabhas and Bal Panchayats, children discuss issues affecting their wellbeing while village elders work towards solutions. In Maharashtra, Bal Panchayats have helped eliminate child labour and child marriage and bring children back to school. In Sikkim, the Sangkhu Radhu Khandu Gram Panchayat built safer school compounds and midday-meal kitchens. In Rajasthan, the Children's Parliament, linked to the Barefoot College, taught thousands of children about democracy through mock elections and a Cabinet, earning international recognition.

4. Vandana Bahadur Maida, from the Bhil community in Khankhandvi, Madhya Pradesh, became the first female Sarpanch of her village by defying patriarchal norms, encouraging women to attend Sabha meetings and addressing education and sanitation issues. Popatrao Baguji Pawar, Sarpanch of Hiware Bazar, Maharashtra, transformed a drought-hit village into a green, prosperous one through rainwater harvesting, watershed conservation and tree planting, earning him the Padma Shri in 2020. Both examples show how committed local leadership can bring lasting change to rural communities.

5. The chapter shows that organised local administration in India is not a new idea. About 2,300 years ago, Kautilya's Arthashastra described an administrative structure running from villages to the regional capital, with units for groups of 10, 100, 400 and 800 villages. Today's Panchayati Raj system continues this spirit through a modern

three-tier structure of Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad, combining direct participation through the Gram Sabha with representative democracy through elected Sarpanchs and Panchayat members, while adding safeguards like reserved seats for women and disadvantaged groups.

