

Comparison between Manipur and Kerala Panchayat System

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Abstract: On conformity with the 73rd constitution amendment act different states of India have passed panchayat act. But the successful implementation of the panchayat raj institutions differs from state to state according to the state capacity and ability to implements this panchayat act. Therefore this study is taken to compare why some state has success in implementing while some state fail to know about the issues and problems in implementing the panchayat raj institutions. One of the top successful capable states of India in implementing the panchayat raj Kerala and one of the worst performing states in implementing this system Manipur has been purposefully selected for this study. This study is based entirely on secondary data collected from different sources such as government websites, reports, articles and publication of the study related area this study finds that effective devolutions of funds and functionaries, Independence of the units of panchayats and regular training of members of elected as well as functionaries plays a crucial role in the implementation for the success of panchayat.

1. Introduction

Formalized in 1992 by the 73rd constitution amendment act of India, Panchayat raj system of India is generally known as the system of local self government. This system of local government is found in all the state and union territories of India except Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Delhi. This system of local governance in India origin can be traced back to the era of reg veda enough evidence proved that local self governing village called "sabah's" existed during the period, gradually with the passage of time and government policy for effective utilization of resources and capacity of the local units and promotions of democracy at the grassroots levels the panchayat raj system was legalized and constitutionalize by the Government of India based on the recommendation of various study committee.

Panchayat raj has brought a lots of positive growth and change in the country political and democratic process through empowerment of the vulnerable section of the community particularly the women's, Schedule tribes, Schedule caste by making reservation of seats for women's and Marginalized group in the provision of the Panchayat Raj Act. India has now the largest Numbers of elected women's representative in the world with the 50% reservation of seat for women's in the local government. This system has promotes the awareness of the rural people about process of democracy facilitates the accountability, responsibility, and transparency of the government.

2. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is conducted to compare the Kerala and Manipur panchayat on the basic of the followings:

- 1) To compare about the Structure of the panchayat of Manipur and Kerala.
- 2) To compare about the devolutions of funds and functionaries.
- 3) To compare about the nature of budget system.
- 4) To study about the incentives used for the successful implementation of the panchayat.
- 5) Suggestion for the effective implementation of panchayat

Brief summary of system of local self government in Manipur

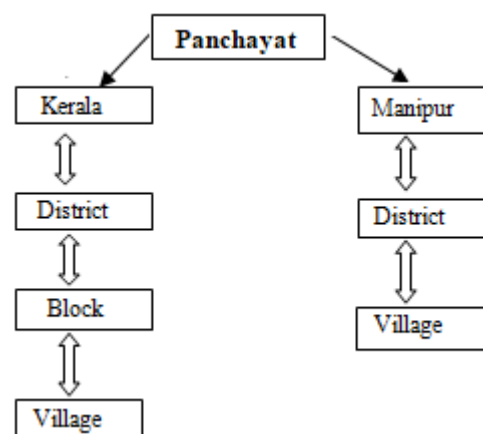
Manipur also known as the jewel land of India because of its limitless beauty is in the shape of oval surrounded by bluish green hills with serene valley, placid stream, rich art and culture, placid lakes, equisetica flora and fauna. Is divided into two hills and valley meitei, nagas, and kuki-chin mizo are the main tribal's community inhabiting in Manipur. In Manipur the System of local governance is divided in two systems:

- 1) Hills by the village authority and district council.
- 2) Plains by the panchayat raj system.

Hills which almost cover about 90% of the total area of Manipur have their own system of local self government the local institution of hills are the village and district council.

Comparison between Kerala and Manipur panchayat

Structure:



Kerala panchayat adopt three tier system of panchayat village, block and district panchayat with each tiers functioning differently and independently. Manipur have two tiers system of panchayat village and district panchayat.

Relation between the tiers:

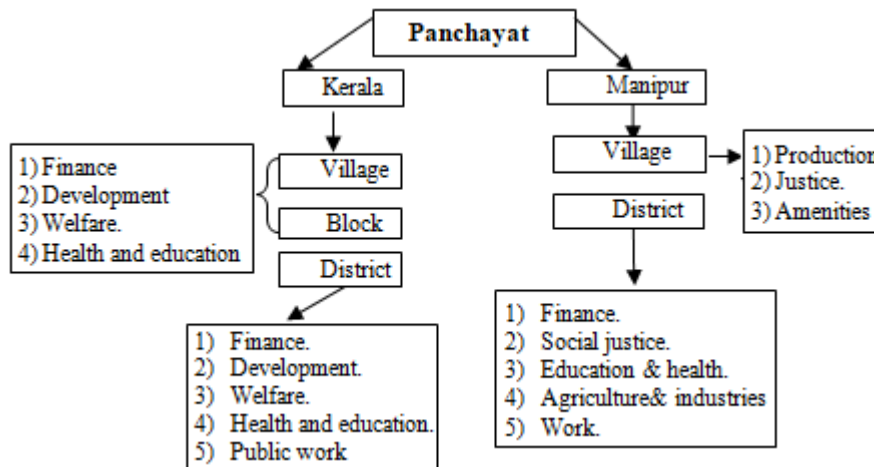
In Kerala the tiers are not hierarchical order each units function indecently from each other and are complimentary units for coordination president of gram and block are made member of block and district panchayat. Whereas in Manipur the upper unit that is the district panchayat have

control over the functioning and power and funds of village panchayat.

Reservation of seats

Kerala panchayat provides for 50% seats and office reservation for women in all level of local self governing

institution that is village, block and district panchayat. Whereas Manipur only give 33 % reservation of seat for women in the two tiers that is village and district panchayat. Committee system:

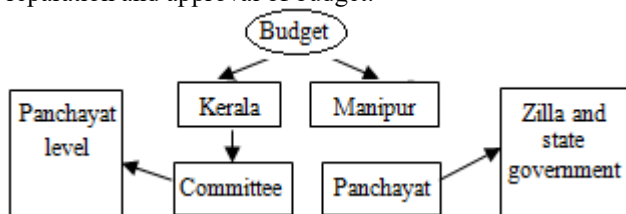


In Kerala panchayat system each of the committee have their own chairman elected among the member of each committee and vice president automatically become ex officio chairman of finance standing committee .whereas In Manipur panchayat committee system the member composition for each committee is not less than 3 and more than 5, pradhan and up-pradhan of the panchayat village for the village committee automatically becomes the chairman of the committee and the same for the district panchayat committee.

Sources of funds

| S.no. | state | Sources |
|-------|---------|---|
| 1 | Manipur | 1) Grants from the central and state. 2) Grants from zilla panchayat. 3) Grant made from the panchayat funds. |
| 2 | Kerala | 1) Grant in aides. 2) Assigned taxes. 3) 35-40% of state plan fund. 4) Loans and grant from central and state government |

Preparation and approval of budget:



In Manipur

Every gram panchayat at such a manner prescribe its estimates for each year and submit it to the district panchayat having jurisdiction of gram panchayat and get their approval for funds. The zilla panchayat may with such term as prescribe either approve the budget or return to the gram panchayat for modification. For the zilla panchayat the funds are approved by the state government.

In Kerala

It's more decentralized methods of budget system the budget are prepared by the respective committee and submit it to the finance standing committee of the village for village panchayat for its action approval from the president. The same ways budgets for the block and district are made by the respective committee and submit it to the block and district panchat for approval the budget are prepared and approved at the respective panchayat level.

In Manipur panchayat raj system the main sources of income is the grants from the state and central government other than that they don't have much source for their needs they solely depends on the government for the funds whereas in Kerala panchayat they have many sources for income for their works and needs such as grants in aides, assigned taxes collected, 35-40% of share from the state plan funds and others additional grants from the state and central government

Devolution of functions:

Kerala

| Sl no. | Tiers | functions | Total no. of function |
|--------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Gram panchayat | 1. Mandatory. | 27. |
| | | 2. General. | 14. |
| | | 3.sector wise | 19 |
| 2 | Block panchayat | 1. General. | 3. |
| | | 2.sector wise | 14 |
| 3 | District Panchayat | 1. General. | 3. |
| | | 2.sector wise | 16 |

Manipur

| Sl. No | Tiers | Total no. of function |
|--------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1 | village | 31 |
| 2 | District | 22 |

Kerala panchayat devolve 29 functions as stated in the schedule eleventh of the constitution. The function is decided into three name Mandatory function, General and

Sector wise functions. Village panchayat have all the three functions that is mandatory, general and sector wise while block and district perform general and sector wise functions. Whereas Manipur panchayat act consist of 31 functions for gram and only 22 function of for the district.

3. Findings from the Comparison

- 1) Kerala panchayat follow three tiers system of local self government whereas Manipur adopt two tier systems.
- 2) Effective devolution of funds, functionaries and function in Kerala panchayat while there limited in funds and functionaries in Manipur panchayat.
- 3) Independence and autonomy of each unit in Kerala that is gram, block and district. Manipur system is arranged on hierarchic order the district panchayat exercise control over the village on terms of funds and power.
- 4) 50% reservation for women in Kerala panchayat in all the three tier for membership and office bearer.
- 5) Manipur provide for 33 % reservation for women in membership and office in the two level of panchayat.
- 6) Training for the elected members and official on regular basis in Kerala whereas training was not given for the panchayat in Manipur.
- 7) Kerala governments have an institution for training the members and functionaries of panchayat. Manipur government has not made institution for training.

Points for the successful functioning of local self governing institution in Kerala

- 1) Transfer of functionaries adequate staff for the effective functioning of panchayat. And Training for the elected members and official on regular basis.
- 2) People participation and local level planning providing platform for people involvement and awareness.
- 3) Right to information and E- governance system promoting transparency and making service delivery faster.
- 4) Strong influence of political party. There is active competition between the political parties.
- 5) Right to information and E- governance system promoting transparency and making service delivery faster.
- 6) 50% of seats reservation for women in membership and office of president. Regular election in every 5years for the panchayat and by election for vacancy seat within 6months.
- 7) Regular funds for carrying out its plan and activities and budget preparation and approval at the panchayat level.

Suggestion for improving panchayat raj system in Manipur:

- 1) Proper funding on regular basics to the local bodies (panchayat).
- 2) Training for the elected leader and official. Manipur government should open a training a training institute for the training of panchayat .
- 3) Transfer of adequate functionaries.
- 4) Financial autonomy and budget system.
- 5) System for e-governance for transparency and fast delivery of service.

- 6) People participation and awareness programme should be given to the people about the panchayat systems and its act.

4. Conclusion

Kerala government give more importance to local self governance institution because these institutions bring effective empowerment of the marginalized section and women's and decentralization of power to the grassroots levels making people actively participate in the local levels governance system. For strengthening this institution Kerala government give lots of autonomous power to LSGIs. Effective transfer of functionaries and fund play an important role in making the local self governing institution of Kerala one of the top successful states in panchayat raj system. While the constitution have give enormous power and function to the local bodies the implementation of local self government is still a cry in states like Manipur due to lack of state government incentive and incapacity of this institution (panchayat) due to irregularity of the funds . Therefore there is a need in a strong policy and direction in the panchayat raj act to make the local self governing institutions strong and competent in all over the country.

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