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7.1 Introduction

The Panchayat Raj Institutions came into existence in India to achieve the goals of political decentralization, integrated rural development and inclusive development of marginalized sections of society. Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar, Lohia and other nation builders advocated the cause of power to the people. They also firmly believed that strong rural areas constitute sound India politically, economically and otherwise. After independence, several committees were constituted to examine the issues of panchayat raj and rural development on the basis of sound administrative and developmental mechanisms. The committees also suggested several progressive measures for the expansion and development of Panchayat Raj System in the country. The present investigation was carried out on the basis of primary and secondary data generated by the field and relevant agencies connected with Panchayat Raj and rural development. The study also specifically examined the three aspects such as role of PRIs in economic development, financial resource mobilization of PRIs and contributions of PRIs for rural economic development with special reference to Karnataka state and Mysuru district, the findings of the study, implications of the study and suggestions for future research are presented in this chapter.

7.2 Summary of the Study

In the first chapter the local government at global level, local government in India, evolution of Panchayat in India, constitutional provisions for Panchayat Raj and rural development, local government in Karnataka, role of Panchayats in economic development has been analyzed. As per the 2011 census the total population of India is 1210.0 million. Of this, the rural population stands at 833.1 million and the urban population is 377.1 million. In absolute numbers, the rural population has increased by 90.47 million and the
urban population by 91.00 million in the last decade. India has abundant human resources and achieved progress in all walks of life during the last 67 years of political independence. India’s economy is predominantly rural in character. Rural development is the foundation of national development in India. But, India has not achieved commendable progress in the alleviation of rural poverty, development of rural infrastructural facilities, employment generation, agricultural development, small scale cottage industrial development, health and family welfare, human development and other sectors of rural development. The rural people have not achieved the goals of equality, freedom, self-reliance and collective development despite implementation of Panchayat Raj System and series of development programmes. The PRIs are established across the country after the 73rd amendment to the Constitution of India to facilitate social and economic transformation in the countryside. The present study evaluated the role of PRIs in the economic development of Karnataka state with an emphasis on Mysuru district.

In the second chapter the studies related to the Panchayat Raj Institutions and its issues such as decentralization of powers, financial resource mobilization, and women empowerment, role of PRIs in economic and social development of rural area are confined. Karnataka state is in the forefront from the point of view of Panchayat Raj System development in India. Karnataka State has also enacted progressive acts to improve the status of Panchayat Raj Institutions and rural development. Mysuru District is also a model district from Panchayat Raj System and attainment of the goal of rural development. The women and weaker sections are actively involved in the process of rural development through better representation in the Panchayat Raj Institutions. Most of the studies have dealt with the decentralization of democracy across India. Limited investigations are carried out on the role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the process of rural development in India. However, quite a few studies are distantly related with the main theme of the present study are briefly presented in this chapter. Prominent among them include– Ramanand (1969:85), Sarup (1969:91), Inamdar (1970:48), Umapathy (1985:101),

In the third chapter, the subject of the role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the process of rural development was widely investigated across the world by the scholars. In this chapter, the objective of the study, hypotheses oh the study are framed and based on the review of literature the research gap etc has been presented. There are several stakeholders of Panchayat Raj movement and rural development in a pluralistic country like India. Karnataka state has emerged as a model state in Indian Republic from Panchayat Raj and Rural Development points of view. The role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in economic development rural and tribal people in Mysuru district of Karnataka state is less understood mainly due to lack of comprehensive scientific studies. The primary data were gathered from 400 respondents drawn from Mysuru and H.D.Kote blocks. They were selected on the basis of purposive sampling, stratified sampling and incidental sampling methods. The present study approached the problem through a systematic survey method. Several tools and techniques like non-participant observation, informal discussion and secondary literature review were also used for the purpose of data collection. Prominent statistical analysis techniques such as percentage analysis, graphical representation and cross-tabulation were also employed in the present study. This investigation primarily deals with the systematic evaluation of the role of Panchayat Raj
Institutions of Mysuru district from the point of view of economic development in the rural and tribal areas.

In the fourth chapter the some important economic development programmes and human development programmes are analyzed to understand the role of PRIs in implementing these programmes to promote the economic development activities and to increase the standard of living of the rural masses. Karnataka state has registered an impressive economic growth during 2001-15. The annual growth rate of GSDP for the state was at 8% as compared to 9% at all India level during the present decade. The state has fairly well developed infrastructural facilities. The state has maintained about 18% of share of industrial sector and the average annual growth of industrial production stood at 7.01% during 2013-14. The central and state governments have provided financial assistance to the Panchayat Raj Institutions and other development departments to implement series of welfare programmes in the rural areas. Agriculture and animal husbandry have played an important complementary role in the rural economy. The State has also registered satisfactory progress with respect to the indicators of health and quality of life as compared to all India levels. Active mapping’, a first of its kind in the country, has evolved a detailed range of activities for all the three panchayats in order to streamline the process of active mapping which benefits the rural people.

In the fifth chapter, the financial resource mobilization efforts have been discussed in concern with the own revenue formation, the flow of grants to PRIs to promote the socio-economic development programmes are presented. The Constitution of India envisages the Panchayat as ‘units of self-government’ in the country. The issue of financial devolution to PRIs was examined by the Government of India. Experts have also suggested certain progressive measures for the economic self-sufficiency of PRIs. The State Finance Commissions are constituted periodically to allocate the funds for PRIs in order to undertake various administrative and developmental functions. The state governments
are responsible for monitoring the progress of their inter-governmental fiscal system and evaluate the impact of alternative reforms. The PRIs receive funds from both the consolidated fund of the state as well as central government to implement district sector and central schemes. The Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat depend on the government funds to implement district level and taluk level development programmes. But, The Gram Panchayat can generate their own funds apart from the funds given by the government for implementation of various development programmes. The consolidated funds received by the PRIs are not adequate for undertaking various development projects. The release of general basic grant of local bodies is also not adequate according to the latest statistics. Similarly, Mysuru district has also received inadequate grants under different headings till recently. The PRIs in Karnataka and Mysuru district do not enjoy the benefit of adequate financial resource mobilization due to certain in-built constraints and limitations. Serious efforts are required to improve the status of financial resource mobilization of PRIs in the state as well as Mysuru district.

The sixth chapter deals with the primary data collected in the study region with concern to the implementation of socio-economic development programmes in the study area. The role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the economic development of rural areas is an important subject from research and development points of view. Primary data were collected from about 400 respondents of Mysuru district on the role of PRIs in the economic development. The study reveals that PRIs are not fully equipped in terms of economic resources to undertake socio-economic development of rural people who are backward in many aspects of human life. The PRIs have not played a significant role in the process of economic development according to data analysis. These institutions have also remained malnourished economically due to inadequate financial sources and resources. The PRIs have not played a crucial role in the implementation of various rural development, economic development and human development processes. The study emphasizes that
PRIs have to go a long way in facilitating integrated rural development of Karnataka state in general and Mysuru district in particular.

The last but not the least in the seventh chapter summary of the present study, conclusion drawn from the study, major findings based on both secondary and primary data are presented and the important policy implications have been recommended at appropriate level.

7.3. Secondary Data Based Findings Related to First Objective, “To assess the Economic Development Programmes of PRIs in Karnataka State”.

To fulfill the first objective the economic development programmes implemented in Karnataka through PRIs are analysed in different heads such as programmes related to agriculture, industries, employment, education, economic infrastructures etc and also related to human development programmes such as health, education and housing etc have been presented below.

7.3.1 Secondary Data Based Findings Related to Agriculture

PRIs have not concentrated to bring the uncultivable land to cultivable, as the data reveals still the Karnataka state has 4.1% of uncultivable land which can be brought into the cultivation to increase the agricultural production. It is well known that PRIs are giving more importance to organic farming methods in the rural area by analyzing the decline in the consumption of NPK fertilizers in the state. PRIs are maintaining the buffer stocks regarding the certified seeds were found in the study, hence even there is a gap between production and distribution of certified seeds, the distribution of seeds stands high compare to production in Karnataka. The PRIs are effectively implementing the farm mechanization programmes to achieve the agricultural development in the state, where the subsidy amount had been increased could be found in the study period and the same effective implementation of micro irrigation is found in the study by analyzing the expenditure details of PRIs on micro irrigation projects.
The share of government of Karnataka in the Annual Action Plan for ISOPOM is very less compare to the share of Central Government, this shows that the government of Karnataka is depended more on Central Government. The data reveals that the PRIs in Karnataka had not created awareness regarding the importance of NAIS programme where the enrollment of farmers is declining. By analyzing all the agricultural development programmes, it shows the PRIs had performed better performance in promoting agricultural activities, where the agriculture production over the study period is satisfactory.

7.3.2. Secondary Data Based Findings Related to Industries

There is increasing in the registered SSI units in Karnataka state for every 5 years from 2001-02 to 2010-11 was found in the study, but the investment made to promote the SSI units is decreasing. It shows that there is no much involvement of PRIs in promoting SSI units in rural areas.

7.3.3. Secondary Data Based Findings Related to Employment

The data reveals that the PRIs expenditure on MNREGA scheme is significantly low due to the more dependency of PRIs on state and central governments grants and the data also shows the irregularity in the wage disbursement by PRIs under SGSY programme. This shows that the performances of PRIs are under employment generation programmes are not satisfactory.

7.3.4. Secondary Data Based Findings Related to Economic Infrastructures.

Even though the state government had implemented three major schemes to provide rural connectivity through PRIs, the performance of road connectivity is unsatisfactory where till the year 2012-13 the unconnected villages’ stands 2235. Data shows that there is slow progress in the rural electrification process of PRIs where the expenditure made on providing rural electrification is low.
7.3.5. Secondary Data Based Findings Related to Health Infrastructure

There are 30 districts in Karnataka state but there are only 20 district hospitals in the state. Not even one district hospital for each district was found in the study. It is due to the increase in the private super specialty hospitals in the state.

7.3.6. Secondary Data Based Findings Related to Education

The gap between the rural literacy rate and urban literacy rate was found during the study period. The rural literacy rate is 68.86% less compare to the urban literacy rate is 86.21%. This is because of PRIs are not showing much interest towards providing better infrastructures to the government schools. Even after implementing the Sarva Shikshana Abhiyan, Marali Baa Shalege, Nali kali etc programmes to promote education, still one can find the 2.37% of dropouts in lower primary school level and 2.54% in higher primary school level. It shows that the PRIs are not effectively monitored the above said programmes.

7.3.7. Secondary Data Based Findings Related to Housing

The unsatisfactory progress was found in the state in concern with the construction of houses for houseless people under different housing schemes were found. In the year 2009-10 each programme i.e., Ambedkar housing scheme and IAY scheme had been provided 40000 houses. In the year 2010-11, 50000 houses were provided under Ashraya and Ambedkar housing scheme. Totally between 2009-10 and 2013-14 under Ashraya scheme, 365000 houses, under Ambedkar housing scheme 90000 houses and under IAY 285000 houses were provided to houseless people in Karnataka. It also shows that PRIs have not identified the suitable houseless households to promote housing schemes.
7.4. Secondary Data Based Findings Related to Second Objective, “To Analyze the Financial Resource Mobilization Efforts of PRIs in Karnataka and Mysuru District”.

The data reveals that there is huge difference between the demand and collection of revenue of PRIs own revenue resource. This show the GPs is not creating the awareness of creating rural assets which may be help in the future for the rural areas by collecting the revenue. The PRIs own revenue resource is too low to promote their economic development programmes where it is enough for the day to day expenditure to maintain GPs and GPs are mainly depend on state and central governments grants to promote their economic activities and few GPs have not received the general basic grants due to the improper coordination between GPs and Higher level tiers was found in the study.

The Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat samitis do not have the powers to mobilize their own revenue like Gram Panchayats in Karnataka state. But, Zilla Panchayats and Taluk Panchayats are acting like the mediator between Gram Panchayats and State government and also monitoring the works implemented by the GPs and The number of schemes is more as 335 schemes looks a bigger number in terms of devolution of finance, where there could be an overlapping of functions between any two schemes and also adds to complications of accounting and tracking of the fiscal system was found in the study.

7.5. Primary Data Based Findings Related to Third Objective, “To Examine the Effectiveness of Implementation of the Development Programmes of PRIs in Karnataka and Mysuru District”.

To fulfill the third objective the economic development programmes implemented in Karnataka and in Mysuru district through PRIs are analysed in different heads such as programmes related to agriculture, industries, employment, education, economic infrastructures etc and also related to human
development programmes such as health, education and housing etc have been presented below.

7.5.1. Primary Data Based Findings Related to Agriculture

The respondents of H.D.Kote taluk have benefited more with concern to the agricultural development programmes rather than the respondents of Mysuru taluk. As it is due to Mysuru taluk is urbanizing more rather than the H.D.Kote taluk and also due to the environmental causes H.D.Kote taluk had benefited more from the agricultural development programmes. Here, the PRIs of H.D.Kote taluk is giving greater importance to agriculture and PRIs of Mysuru taluk is concentrating towards non agricultural activities.

7.5.2. Primary Data Based Findings Related to Employment

Most of the respondents of both Mysuru and H.D.Kote taluk have not benefited under employment generation programme namely MNREGA. Even if one can compare the both the taluks the H.D,Kote taluk respondents had benefited more than the Mysuru taluk respondents. This shows that the PRIs of both the taluks are not achieved the satisfactory level under this programme and it is due to the improper utilization of resources for the programme.

7.5.3. Primary Data Based Findings Related to Road Transportation.

Related to the road transportation PRIs of Mysuru taluk had worked out to connect puccha roads in their jurisdictions where as in this perception the performance of PRIs of H.D.Kote taluk is not satisfactory and also in the perception of management of roads is not up to the mark because of the improper coordination between the line departments.

7.5.4. Primary Data Based Findings Related to Health Infrastructure

The rural health infrastructure in Mysuru taluk is much better compared to health infrastructure avail in the H.D.Kote taluk due to the Mysuru taluk is effectively monitored by the higher authorities as it is near to the head quarters,
where the PRIs of H.D.Kote taluk have not made much impact on health infrastructure and it has not monitored by the higher authority regularly as it is far from the head quarters.

7.5.5. Primary Data Based Findings Related to Education

The field survey data shows that there are disparities in the field of education between H.D.Kote taluk and Mysuru taluk. In Mysuru taluk it is having more number of higher education institutions, better education facilities and low rate of dropouts whereas in the H.D.Kote taluk it is having very few higher education institutions, low quality of education and higher level of dropouts due to the improper management of education institutions and improper coordination of PRIs and other education departments which is found in the study area.

7.5.6. Primary Data Based Findings Related to Housing and Sanitation.

The respondents of Mysuru taluk are capable enough to construct their own houses as if we compare to H.D.Kote taluk respondents. Because of this the respondents of H.D.Kote taluk are more dependent on the different housing schemes implemented through PRIs rather than the Mysuru taluk was found during the study. Further the researcher had identified the open defecation system existing in H.D.Kote taluk due to the failure of PRIs in creating the awareness to construct the private toilets in rural areas.

7.6. Primary Data Based Findings Related to Fourth Objective, “To Explore New Initiatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions for the Economic Development of Karnataka State and Mysuru District”.

The respondents of H.D.Kote taluk have stated that the elected representatives are not very much cooperative in nature, they are not having the much awareness of socio-economic development programmes, they are not capable enough to implement the development programmes due to the lack of
information and the quality of governance is low. This perception shared by respondents of Mysuru taluk is otherwise.

7.7 Implications of the Study

The policy implications that emerge from this study are as follows.

Agriculture

Karnataka state has 4.1% of uncultivated land which can be brought under cultivation by introducing new schemes such as ‘More Land, More Food’ to enhance agricultural productivity and food security in Karnataka.

Industries

Karnataka government has to increase the investment on SSI units to promote SSI and Cottage industries in rural area through PRIs. The PRIs could help to reduce the more dependence of rural masses on agriculture sector and enhance their income.

Employment

PRIs has to implement the employment generation programmes effectively by utilizing the financial resource granted by state and central government to promote the standard of living of people through increasing their income and it has to decline the poverty in the rural areas.

Road Transport

The government has to give the responsibility for only one department to maintain and to manage the rural roads that too if the government gives it to PRIs it will be helpful to maintain road transportation.

Health

In Karnataka out of 30 districts only 20 districts have district hospitals. So that to provide health security the people of Karnataka should establish district level hospitals in remaining 10 districts.
Education

The state and central governments have to give more powers to PRIs to involve directly in the field of education to fulfill the literacy gap between rural and urban areas and to strengthen the schooling system upto secondary education in rural areas.

Coordination of Line Department

There is poor coordination between line departments at village level. The Government of Karnataka has to take measures to link these departments at Gram Panchayat level in order to increase the efficiency of the PRIs in delivering their services to the rural masses at the grassroot level. There should be proper cooperation between the line departments and PRIs to effectively deliver the services to the people, for which the government should establish monitoring institution to establish and to maintain coordination among the line departments.

There must be constitutional provisions to facilitate meaningful linkage among the line departments at the village level in order to ensure the direct involvement of PRIs in the implementation of various development programmes.

Financial Powers

The PRIs should improve the status of financial management and records management in order to ensure transparency, accountability and social responsibility in the implementation of various development programmes through suitable monitoring agency of the government.

Supervision

The State government, Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Gram Panchayat should be very well connected administratively and financially in
order to ensure proper monitoring of implementation of various development schemes at the grassroots level.

**Effective implementation of development programmes**

A district level monitoring and evaluation mechanism should be established for the purpose of strict implementation of various rural development projects at the village level to eliminate lapses in their implementation.

**Creating Awareness**

The PRIs should be equipped for launching suitable communication campaigns about various development projects in order to create awareness among the people about the development projects.

The government has to establish the call centers to guide the common people about the programmes implemented by PRIs and to know the status of work undertaken by the PRIs.

**Monitoring Regularity**

The government has to take measures to adopt the bio-metric system in all the three level of PRIs to monitor the regularity of officials and functioning of elected representatives, as there is absenteeism in the personnel of the PRIs.

**Training**

The government has to provide the training for the elected representatives to increase their administrative and developmental efficiency at the grassroots level.

**7.8 Epilogue**

In the present times, integrated rural development has to be achieved in India. The word ‘Integrated Rural Development’ is however defined differently by people, depending upon the particular objective in view. In the
Indian context, integrated rural development can be perceived as ‘integrated
development of the areas and inclusive development of the disadvantaged
sections of the rural society through optimum utilization of the resources –
physical, biological and human; and bringing about necessary institutional,
structural and attitudinal changes by delivering a package of services to
encompass not only the economic field but also the establishment of the
required social infrastructure and services in the areas of food, nutrition,
health, sanitation, housing, drinking water, literacy, vocational education, self-
employment opportunities, marketing of goods and services and so on.
Integrated rural development implies functional, spatial and temporal
integration of all these parameters. Thus, the goal of integrated rural
development has to be brought about in the state of Karnataka by involving
multi-disciplinary approaches at the grassroots level. The panchayat raj
institutions should be well organized, equipped and motivated to play an active
role in the process of integrated rural development which also includes the
economic development in the new millennium.
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