CHAPTER - III
PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN ANDHRA PRADESH
AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS OF BACKWARD CASTES

One of the tasks of nation building and development, writes Milton J. Esman is to bring members of the national community into a network of relationships and institutions which enable them to participate actively in decisions affecting their individual and group welfare while this is true of all nations, it has posed a considerable problem to the developing nations like India. The principle that members of the national community should have and opportunity to participate actively in decisions affecting their lives is accepted by most of the persons charged with the responsibility of shaping the policies.¹

In this context Panchayati Raj as a system of rural local administration has come a long way since its inception in the late 1950s as a corrective to the lapse noted in the working of the bureaucratically dominated community development program initiated in the early 1950s as a corrective to the lapse noted in the working of the bureaucratically dominated community development program initiated in the early 1950s². An organically linked –up three –tier system of village panchayats. Panchayat samithis and zilla parishads was installed in quick succession in several states³ as a sequel to the recommendation of Balwant Ray Mehta study team report of 1957. With the introduction of the panchayati Raj institutions there was a shift from bureaucratic administration to democratic administration. The idea of adopting this system was to have a democratic approach and to place the administration in the hands of both the officials and
elected representatives so as to make them partners in the development process. This was a new experiment in the sphere of rural local government administration. The system formulates and executes development programmes through people’s participation and instills political consciousness among the rural people\(^4\). These panchayati raj institutions emerged as the institutions of socio-economic, political and cultural development with the provision of effective people’s participation in policy formulation and implementation at the grassroots level.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the first two states\(^5\) in the country to establish the panchayati raj set-up in 1959 much on the lines of the Balwant Ray Mehta Committee Report. The experience of Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh is nearly three and a half decades old during this period\(^6\), the Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed several commissions and committees and made attempts to improve the functioning of the Panchayati Raj have become moribund (and) they have been denuded of their promise and vitality.\(^7\) The committee felt that the institutions of Panchayati Raj ‘have to be viewed as institutions of self-government which would naturally facilitate the participation of the people in the process of planning and development flowing from and as a part of the concept of self government\(^8\). This committee reiterated the conceptualization of Panchayats embodied in Article 40 of the constitution\(^9\). The committee recommended that “local self government should be constitutionally recognized, protected, preserved by the inclusion of a new chapter in the constitution\(^10\)”.

106

Thus, the new Act reintroduced a three tier system of panchayati raj constituting zill parishads (ZPs) at the district level, Mandal Parishads (MPs) at the intermediary level and Gram Panchayat (GPs) at the village level by merging the Andhra Pradesh Gram panchayats Act, 1964 and Andhra Pradesh Abivrudhi and Sameseeksha Mandals Act 1986.

The present pattern of panchayati raj in the state is functioning under the Andhra Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act 1994. Keeping in view the past experiences it became imperative to provide constitutional status to local self-government to impart certainty, continuity and strength. The Constitution’s 73rd Amendment essentially lays down certain ground values with basic structural framework so that it can sustain against external interference and could establish themselves as effective and strong people’s institutions.

The powers and functions of the panchayati raj institutions are on the lines of the 73rd Amendment Act All the 29 items included in the Eleventh Schedule inserted by the 73rd constitutional Amendment Act find a place in Schedule I of the Andhra Pradesh panchayati raj Act, 1994. The subjects
mentioned in schedule I of the Act are common to all the three tiers of the panchayati raj Institutions.

**Structure of the Panchayati Raj System:**

**Gram Panchayat:**

**Constitution of a Gram Panchayat:**

The Gram panchayat is the body constituted for a village the administration of a village is vested in Gram panchayat Every Gram panchayat is a body corporate by the name of the village with a perpetual succession and a common seal. As a corporate body it can sue and can be sued in a court of law. It can acquire and hold and transfer its property and can enter into contracts to discharge its duties under the Act. The term of office of the Gram panchayat is five years.

**Strength of A Gram Panchayat:**

According to a provision of the Act A Gram panchayat shall consist of such number of elected members inclusive of its Sarpanch as may be notified from time to time, by the commissioner. The number of members notified in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat with a population at the time of last Census</th>
<th>Number of members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 300</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 300 but not exceeding 500</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 500 but not exceeding 1,500</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 1,500 but not exceeding 3,000</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 3,000 but not exceeding 5,000</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 5,000 but not exceeding 10,000</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 10,000 but not exceeding 15,000</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 15,000</td>
<td>Between 19 and 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AP Panchayati Raj Act. 1994 P. 15
Election of Members:

All members of the Gram Panchayat are elected by the registered voters in the ward by the method of secret ballot\textsuperscript{15}. The act has adopted two children norm as a qualification for the members of the panchayat. In addition, all other members except women who are absent for a period of ninety days from the date of the commencement of the term of office or absent for three ordinary meetings continuously are disqualified. In the case of women a period of not less than four months at a time is excluded if the lady is physically disabled or due to advanced stage of pregnancy and delivery.

Reservation of seats of members of Gram panchayat:

In every Gram panchayat out of the total strength of elected members the seats are reserved\textsuperscript{16} to Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes subject to the condition that the number of seats so reserved shall bear the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by the direct election to the Gram panchayat. Such reserved seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are allotted by rotation to different wards in a Gram panchayat, besides, allotted by rotation to different wards in a Gram panchayat. Besides, One-third of seats are reserved for women\textsuperscript{17} who include those belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes based on their population ratio. The amendment No.5, dated February 3\textsuperscript{rd} 1995 to the Act. Stipulated reservation of not less than thirty-four per cent of the seats for the backward classes.\textsuperscript{18}
The Sarpanch

Election & Term:

The Sarpanch of the Gram panchayat is directly elected by the people enrolled in electoral rolls for the Gram Panchayat\(^{19}\) through the method of secret ballot on non-party basis. The election of the Sarpanch may be held at the same time and in the same place as the ordinary elections of the members of the Gram Panchayat.\(^{20}\) As per the Act, the term of office of the Sarpanch who is elected at an ordinary election shall be five years from the date appointed by the election authority for the first meeting of the Gram Panchayat after the ordinary election.\(^{21}\) Any casual vacancy in the office of the Sarpanch shall be filled within 120 days from the date of occurrence of such vacancy by a fresh election. And a person elected as Sarpanch in any such vacancy shall hold office only so long as the person in whose place he is elected would have been entitled to hold office if the vacancy had not occurred.\(^{22}\)

It is to be noted that no casual vacancy in the office of the Sarpanch shall be filled within six months before the date on which the ordinary election of the sarpanch shall be held\(^{23}\) unless the competent authority (Commissioner appointed for that purpose under the Act) so directs. The Act clearly lays down that a person is not qualified\(^{24}\) to contest for the office of the Sarpanch, if he is less than 21 years of age; and if his name is not included in the electoral rolls of the village to which he contests. A person shall be disqualified for election as Sarpanch if he is in arrears of any dues, or is interested in a contract within the jurisdiction of the mandal Parishad in which his village lies.
Reservation:

The office of the Sarpanch is again reserved for different categories of people like scheduled Castes, scheduled Tribes, women and Backward Classes on the scale of reservation adopted for electing the members.

Upa- Sarpanch:

One of the persons is elected as the Upa-Sarpanch from amongst the members. When the office of the Sarpanch is vacant, the upa-Sarpanch exercises the powers and performs the function of the Sarpanch until a new Sarpanch is elected and assumes office.

Powers & Functions of the Sarpanch:

The Sarpanch has powers and functions specified by the Act, besides, the Sarpanch has the emergency powers.

The Sarpanch:

a. Is responsible for making arrangements to the election of the upa-Sarpanch.

b. Has access to the records of the gram panchayat.

c. Exercise administrative control over the executive officer for the purpose of implementation of the resolutions of the Gram Panchayat or its committee.

d. Has power to get information from any village secretary of any village within the jurisdiction of the Gram panchayat.

e. Is responsible for intimating to the District Panchayat Officer as to the disqualifications of the members of the panchayat.
f. Acts within the resolution of the Gram panchayat.

g. Can devolve the powers and functions to Upa-Sarpanch as per the Act.

h. Can direct any executive work of the gram panchayat in the interest of
general public. However, he is required to inform the same to the gram
committee in the ensuing meeting. This refers to the emergency powers
of the Sarpanch.

Classification of Gram Panchayats:

Coming to Gram panchayats in the state, they are, interestingly,
classified into (a) notified Gram Panchayats, and (b) non-notified Gram
panchayats on the basis of their annual income. The notified Gram
Panchayats are again classified into (a) group-I notified Gram panchayat with
an annual income of over Rs. 60,000 and (b) group-II notified Gram
Panchayats (with an annual income of more than Rs. 40,000 but less than
Rs. 60,000). The notified Gram panchayats have an executive officer and
assisted by clerks-cum-bill collector’s bill collectors, sanitary inspector etc.
The staffing pattern of the non-notified Gram Panchayats comprised part-time
bill collectors and part-time sweepers only.

Functions of Gram Panchayat:

Apart from the functions mentioned in the eleventh Schedule of the
constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, the Panchayat Act listed out a wide array
of functions of the Gram panchayat. They included 12 obligatory functions
and optional functions. The obligatory functions include the civil functions of
construction, lighting of roads and sanitary services, records relating to births
and deaths, prevention and remedy of epidemics etc. While development and welfare measures such as maintenance of dispensaries, primary schools, libraries parks, family relief, public markets etc., are included in the discretionary list of functions.

The duty of gram panchayat is to carry out the requirements of the village for example. construction, repair and maintenance of all buildings of the gram panchayat and the panchayat public roads of the village, bridges, culverts, road dams and cause ways, the lighting of public roads and public places, the construction of drains and their maintenance, the cleaning of streets, and water resources, public latrines, maintenance of burial grounds and the disposal of unclaimed dead bodies etc.

**Functional Committees:**

The Act provides for the setting up of functional up of fictional committees including of joint committees of Gram panchayat on various subjects like agriculture, public health water supply, sanitation, family planning, education and communication. Interestingly, there is also a provision for a Beneficiary committee for the Gram panchayat. The Act says that for every gram panchayat there shall be a committee by name Beneficiary committee for the execution of the works of the Gram panchayat.

**Gram Sabha (GS):**

A Gram Sabha is constituted for every village and consists of all persons whose names are included in the electoral role of the Gram panchayat. The Gram Sabha meets at least twice in a year for considering the following matters.
a) Annual statement of accounts and audit reports,

b) Report on the administration of the proceeding year.

c) Programme of works for the year or any new programmes not covered by the budget as the annual programme.

d) Proposals for fresh taxation or for enhancement of existing taxes

e) Selection of schemes, beneficiaries and locations, and

f) Such other matters as may be prescribed.

The Gram Panchayat shall give due consideration to the suggestions made by the gram sabha.

All the meetings of the gram sabha are covered by the Executive officer and will be presided over by the Sarpanch, or in the absence of the Sarpanch, by the upa-sarpanch of the Gram panchayat it is to be noted that the sabha has an advisory role to play in respect of accounts and audit reports, annual administrative report on the working of the panchayat, imposition of new taxes, selection of beneficiaries under different programmes etc.

**Mandal Parishads:**

**Constitution and Composition of a Mandal Parishad:**

The Mandal Parishad (MP) is constituted for each Mandal. Every Mandal Parishad is a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to enter into contracts and may by its corporate names and be used.
A Mandal Parishad, inter alia consists of

a) Members elected from territorial constituencies,

b) Members of Legislative Assembly representing a constituency which comprises either whole or part of the Mandal concerned –ex-officio,

c) members of the House of the people representing a constituency which comprises whole or part of the Mandal concerned –ex-officio,

d) Member of the council of States who is a registered voter in a Mandal-ex-officio,

e) one member belonging to minorities and co-opted by the elected members, and

f) Sarpanch of Gram panchayats as permanent invitees.

Members of Mandal Parishad

Elected from territorial constituencies:

Each Mandal Parishad is divided into Mandal Parishad Territorial constituencies. For the purpose of election of members from territorial constituencies, each constituency consists of population between 3,000-4,000. One member shall be elected to the Mandal Parishad from each territorial constituency by the persons who are registered voters in the territorial constituency concerned. Any registered voter in the Mandal Parishad is eligible to contest from any territorial constituency of the Mandal Parishad. A person is eligible for election as member of a Mandal Parishad if completes the age of 21 years and must be enrolled as an elector in the offices of president/vice-president of Mandal Parishad. A member elected at an
ordinary election or a co-opted member shall hold office for a term of five years from the date of appointment.

Reservation:

In every Mandal Parishad, out of the total strength of elected members the seats are reserved to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes subject to the condition that the number of seats so reserved shall bear the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by the direct election to the Mandal Parishad. Such reserved seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Mandal Parishad. Besides one-third of seats are reserved for women who include those belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes based on their population ratio.

Mandal President:

The president and vice president of each Mandal Parishad are elected by the elected members of the Mandal Parishad. The term of office of the president or vice-president who is elected at an ordinary election is five years. The term of office of the president or vice-president has to be filled within a period of six months by fresh election.

Powers and functions:

The Mandal Parishad president has the power to ....

a) exercise the administrative control over the Mandal Parishad Development officer for implementing the resolution of the Mandal Parishad;
b) preside over and conduct meeting of the Mandal Parishad;

c) access all the records of the Mandal Parishad;

d) Direct the execution of any work in the interest of the general public subject to the provisions of the Act. This is the emergency power of the president of a Mandal Parishad.

The vice-president of a Mandal Parishad exercises powers and performs functions of the president, as the president may from time to time delegate to him in writing when the office of the president is vacant, the vice-president of a Mandal Parishad exercise the powers and functions of the president until a new president is elected.

The collector and the president of Agricultural marketing committees are the permanent invitees to the meetings of the Mandal Parishad with right to speak but are not entitled to vote in any meeting the Mandal Parishad Development officer (MPDO) is the overall in charge of administration. He is supported by the following personnel at the Mandal Parishad level - Mandal Engineering Officer Mandal Education Officer, Extension Officer (Rural Development) Village Development Officer (men) village Development officer (Women), senior Assistant, Junior Assistants, works inspector, Typist etc.

Power & Functions of Mandal Parishad

Every Mandal Parishad can exercise many powers and perform such functions as may be entrusted to it by rules made in this behalf in regard to the subjects enumerated in schedule I and particularly exercise powers and
perform functions specified in scheduled II. There are 29 items under 
schedule I whereas the function under schedule II are classified under broad 
categories of (1) community development (2) Agriculture (3) Animal 
Husbandry and Fisheries, and (4) Health and Rural sanitation. Under 
community development the execution of all programmes in association with 
panchayats, cooperative societies, voluntary organizations and the people. 

Under Agriculture, the doing of everything necessary to step up 
aricultural production and in particular multiplication and distribution of 
improved seeds, distribution of fertilizers, popularization of improved 
techniques etc.

Under Animal husbandry and Fisheries, comes upgrading local stock 
by introducing pedigree breeding gulls and castrating scrub bulls, improved 
breeds of cattle sheep, pigs and poultry, controlling contagious diseases, 
establishing and maintaining veterinary dispensaries etc.

Under Health and rural sanitation were included, expanding existing 
medical and health service and bring them within the reach of the people, 
establishing and maintaining primary health centers and maternity centre’s 
and centres; providing protected drinking water facilities; ensuring 
systematic vaccination controlling epidemics; providing drains etc in this 
way, a wide range of subjects have been entrusted to the Mandal Parishad 
without demarcating the sphere of action of each item. The Mandal Parishad, 
if need, with prior approval of the Zilla Parishad can levy contributions from 
funds of the Gram panchayats I and the Mandal. Broadly speaking the
functions of the Mandal Parishad consists of functions related to development, social welfare and social security. As per section 175 of the Act, each Mandal Parishad can appoint one or more joint committees for any activity.

**Mandal Parishad Fund:**

Every Mandal Parishad is equipped with Mandal Parishad fund all money received by a Mandal Parishad constitute a fund called the Mandal Parishad fund. All moneys received by the Mandal Parishad are lodged into the nearest government treasury. The Mandal Parishad development officer is empowered to sign all orders or cheques to withdraw moneys from and out of the Mandal Parishad fund.

The sources of income to the Mandal Parishad consist of:

1. The Government or heads of the Department of the government to the Mandal Parishad.
2. Funds relating to the community Development programmes, central and state aid received from the all India Bodies and Organizations for the development of cottage and village industries, khadi, silk coir, handy crafts and the like.
3. Donations and contributions received by the Mandal Parishad from Gram panchayats or from the public in any form.
4. Such income of Zilla Parishad as the Government may by order allocate to it:
5. Such share of the land revenue state taxes or fees as may be prescribed;
6. Proceeds from taxes, surcharges or fee which the Mandal Parishad is empowered to levy under this act; and

7. Any other income from Remunerative Enterprises and the like

**Mandal Development Officer:**

The Mandal Parishad Development officer is the chief executive officer of the Mandal Parishad. He is responsible for implementing the resolutions of the Mandal Parishad. He exercises powers of supervision over the gram panchayats. The Mandal Parishad development officer convenes the meeting of the Mandal Parishad with the approval of the Mandal Parishad president. He takes part in the meetings of the Mandal Parishad and is not entitled to vote or move any resolution. He exercises administrative control over the staff of the Mandal Parishad office. The political head of the Mandal Parishad is the president while the Mandal Development officer is the administrative head.

**Zilla Parishad**

**Constitution of a Zilla Parishad:**

A Zilla Parishad is constituted by the government by notification for a district. Every Zilla Parishad is constituted by the name of the district for which it is constituted. It is a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to enter into contracts. It can sue and can be sued in a court of law.
A Zilla Parishad consists of

a) Members elected from territorial constituencies which obviously are a Mandal.

b) Member of legislative Assembly of the state representing a constituency which forms a part or a whole of the district concerned.

c) Member of the House of the people representing a constituency which forms a part or a whole of the district concerned,

d) Member of the Legislative Council of the state who is registered voter in the district, and

e) Two members belonging to minorities and co-opted by the elected members of the Zilla Parishad.

The Chairman, District Cooperative Marketing Society, Chairman, Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha; Chairman, District Cooperative Central Bank; District Collector; and all presidents of Mandal Parishad in the district, are the permanent invitees to the meetings of the Zilla Parishad. These members are entitled to participate in the meetings of the Zilla Parishad without the right to vote.

**Power & functions of Zilla Parishad:**

According to the provision of the Act 1994 the Zilla Parishad is enjoined upon to perform the functions out of the 29 items entrusted to it by the rules the Zilla Parishad is also responsible for securing coordination between all the rural local bodies in the district besides advising the government on rural development works in the district besides advising the
government on rural development works in the district, ad distribution of funds between the 3-tiers of PR.

The zilla Parishad has power to

a. Examine and approve the budget of Mandal Parishad in the district.

b. Distribute the funds allotted to the district by the central and the state to the Mandal Parishad.

c. Coordinate and consolidate the plans prepared in respect of the Mandals in the district, and prepare plans in respect of the entire district.

d. Secure the execution of the plans, projects, schemes and other works either solely relating to the individuals, Mandals or common to two or more Mandals in the district

e. Supervise generally the activities of the Mandal Parishad in the district.

f. Exercise and perform the powers and functions of the district board including the powers to levy any tax or fees as may be transferred to it by the state Government.

g. Exercise and perform other powers and functions in relation to any development programme as the Government may by notification confer on it or entrust to it.

h. Advise government on all matters relating to development activities and maintenance of services in the district whether undertaken by local authorities or government.
i. Advise government on the allocation of work among grama panchayats and Mandal Parishad and coordination of work between the said bodies and among the various gram panchayats themselves.

j. Advise government on matters concerning the implementation of any statutory on executive order specially referred to it by the government.

k. Collect data ad publish statistics relating to local activities.

l. Require any local authority to furnish information regarding its activities.

m. Accept trusts relating to exclusively the furtherance of any purpose for which its funds may be applied.

n. Establish, maintain or expand secondary, vocational and industrial schools.

Broadly speaking, the function of Zilla Parishad can be classified into executive, supervisory, advisory and co-ordinate functions. The Zilla Parishad functions through various standing committees.

**Standing Committees:**

For every Zilla Parishad the following standing committees are constituted.

a) Standing Committees for Planning and Finance. The function of the committees is to evolve district plan, budget, taxation, finance proposal and coordination of the work relating to other committees.

b) Standing Committees for Rural Development. The committee looks after the poverty alleviation programme, area development
programmes, employment, housing, cooperation, thrift and small savings, industries including cottage, village and small scale industries and trusts.

c) Standing Committee for Agriculture. The committee looks after agriculture animal husbandry. Soil reclamation including contour bonding, social forestry, fisheries and sericulture.

d) Standing Committee for Education and Medical Services. The committee deals with education including social education, medical services, public health and sanitation, including drainage relief for distress in grave emergencies.

e) Standing Committee for Woman Welfare. The committee looks after development of women and welfare of children.

f) Standing Committee for Social Welfare. The committee looks after social welfare for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes and cultural affairs.

g) Standing Committee for Works. This committee looks after communications, rural water supply, power and irrigation.

Thus, here are seven standing committees for planning and finance rural development, agriculture, education and medical services, women’s welfare, social welfare, activities and Works of the Zilla Parishad.

**Chairman and Vice – Chairman of the Zilla Parishad:**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Zilla Parishad are elected by the elected members of the Zilla Parishad.
There is a provision of reservation to the office of the chairman of the Zilla Parishad. Out of the total number of offices of chairperson to the Zilla Parishads in the state the number of offices are reserved by to ration to the members belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population in the state, the reservation of offices in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Backward Classes and women and the unreserved offices in the three areas of the state viz., Coastal Andhra, Telengana and Rayalaseema:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Area</th>
<th>Scheduled Castes</th>
<th>Scheduled Tribes</th>
<th>Backward Classes</th>
<th>Unreserved Seats</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costal Andhra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Men or Women</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Women</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telengana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Men or Women</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Women</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rayalaseema</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Men or Women</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Women</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AP Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, p. 139-140

The above table shows that number of offices reserved for scheduled castes is approximately eighteen percent of the total number of offices of chairman in the state. The number of offices reserved for Scheduled Tribes is approximately eight percent of the total number of offices of chairman in state. The number of seats reserved for backward classes is approximately one third of the total number of offices of chairman in the state. The number of
offices reserved for women is approximately one third of the total number of offices reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and the Unreserved seats. The reservation of offices of the Chairman to all the categories put together is in the ratio of 2:2:1 in respect of the three regions of the state viz., coastal Andhra, Telengana and Rayalaseema respectively.

**Powers and Functions of Zilla Parishad Chairman and Vice-Chairman:**

The chairman of Zilla Parishad exercises administrative controls over the chief executive officer for the purpose of implementation of the resolutions of the Zilla Parishad or any of its standing committees. The chairman has the power to preside over and conduct the meeting of the Zilla Parishad the chairperson has full access of all records of the Zilla Parishad.

The Vice-Chairman exercises such power and performs such functions of the Chairman as the chairman may from time to time delegate to him in writing. When the office of the Chairman is vacant the Vice-chairman of the Zilla Parishad shall exercise the powers and performs the functions if the Chairman until a new chairman is elected if the chairman has been continuously absent from the district for more than fifteen days or is incapacitated for more than fifteen days. His powers and functions during such absence or incapacity shall devolve in the vice-chairman.

**Funds of the Zilla Parishad:**

Every Zilla Parishad is equipped with a Zilla Parishad Fund All money received by a Zilla Parishad constitute a fund caked the Zilla Parishad Fund all
moneys received by the Zilla Parishad are lodged into the nearest Government Treasury. The Chief Executive Officer is empowered to sung all orders of cheques to withdraw moneys from and out of the Mandal Parishad fund.

The sources of income to the Parishad Fund.

1) The central of State Government Funds allotted to the Zilla Parishad.
2) Grants from All India bodies and institutions for the development of cottage, and small scale industries and the like.
3) Prescribed Share of the State Taxes or Fees
4) Proceeds from taxes of fees levied and collected by the Zilla Parishad under law.
5) Income from endowments of trusts administered by the Zilla Parishad.
6) Donations and contributions from the Mandal Parishad or from the Public in any form.
7) Any other income from Remunerative Enterprises and the like.
8) Income through Grants-in-aid.

Chief Executive Officer:

There is a Chief Executive Officer in each Zilla Parishad. He is appointed by the state Government to oversee the administration of the Zilla Parishad. He is the administrative head if the Zilla Parishad who works under the control of the Zilla Parishad Chairman who is the Political head. The chief executive officer attends the meeting of the Zilla Parishad and its Standing committees. He takes part in the discussions of the council and its committees.
but he has on right to vote. He can call for any officer or servant of or holding office under the Zilla Parishad or a Mandal Parishad.

The chief executive officer has power to exercise supervision and control over the acts of the officers and servants holding office under the Zilla Parishad and its institutions in matters of administration. He is the custodian of all records of the Zilla Parishad and its Standing committees. He is responsible for the implementation of the resolutions of the implementation of the resolutions of the Zilla Parishad and its Standing committees. He is the competent authority to enter into agreements and to sing and execute them in the name and on behalf of the Zilla Parishad from time to time. This is made necessary for the continuity of administration.

The chief executive officer convenes the meetings of the Zilla Parishad with the approval of the Zilla Parishad Chairman. He is supported by the following personnel, viz., (1) Deputy CEO, (2) Accounts Officer, (3) Parishad Education Officer and (4) Executive Engineers. The subordinate staff at the Z.P. level includes Divisional Accounts Officer Superintendents, Senior Assistants, Junior Assistants, Typist Record Assistants etc.

The analysis of the system of the Parishad Raj institutions in Andhra Pradesh vide the new A.P. Panchayati Raj Act. 1994 indicates that it incorporates all the mandatory provisions of the 73rd constitution Amendment Act. Place of Farm Sabha, 3-tier institutions, uniform term of 5 years reservation for SCs and STs in proportion to their one-third reservations for women, similar reservation for chairpersons by rotation,
provision for election commission provision for state finance commission reconstitution of PRIs with six months in cases of their Dissolution and other related mandatory provisions find place. Institution building at the grass-roots is a democratic exercise 73rd constitutional Amendment, Act. 1992 has opened a new chapter of meaningfully promises and ideals, assurance and insurance of the existence and continuity of Panchayati Raj and hopefully its stability and sustainability.

However, political participation of backward caste in Andhra Pradesh became true after the amendment of panchayati raj act in 1986 by the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Late N. T. Rama Rao. Further, the participation of backward castes in PRIs was constitutionally recognized and more effective after the amendment of 73rd Act and Andhra Pradesh panchayat raj Act 1994.
References:


12. Ibid, P. 158.


15. Ibid, P. 29.


18. Ibid. P. 82.


20. Ibid. P. 145.


22. Ibid. P. 89.

23. Ibid. P. 91.


25. Ibid., P. 89.
