

# 5

## Panchayati Raj

### Lesson Plan

#### Contents

- ▶ An overview of local self government in rural India
- ▶ Understanding the tiers of Panchayati Raj and their functions and roles

#### Objectives

- ▶ To understand the system of the Panchayati Raj in rural India
- ▶ To learn about the tiers of Panchayats and their functions and roles
- ▶ To know how they operate with each other and within the district
- ▶ To appreciate the participation of people in their local self government

#### Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Pictures
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

#### Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the need for local self government in far-flung rural India
- ▶ Explain the significance of ensuring that government policies are implemented in rural India
- ▶ Encourage projects: try decision making in class through participation of students. Take up topics that will interest them—what chart to make this week; shall we have an elocution competition in class; which day in the week should we have a session on learning soft skills; how shall we encourage public speaking; etc.

#### Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., stopping to examine and explain the data in the pictures and maps.
- ▶ Particularly focus on participation of students in the process of decision-making—prime focus of Panchayati Raj is people's participation.

## Panchayati Raj

Tiers	Level	Function
▶ Gram Panchayat	Village	Settles village matters through the Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat & Nyaya Panchayat
▶ Panchayat/Gram Samiti	Block	Link between Gram and Zila –for development of a group of villages. Implement plans through BDO [Block Development Officer]
▶ Zila Parishad	District	Supervises functioning of the Block and Gram Panchayats

## Gram Sabha

- ▶ All adults of 18 years and above –right to vote –members of Gram Sabha –a general body that can elect or remove members of the Panchayat –ensures Panchayat fulfils its duties –discuss village budget and development schemes.

## Gram Panchayat

- ▶ Panchayat divided into wards –elected representative of each ward is a Panch –Panchayat elected for 5 years –Head is the Sarpanch elected by Gram Sabha –reservation for SC/ST –Secretary of Gram Panchayat and of Gram Sabha appointed by the State Government
- ▶ Functions:
  - (i) maintain water sources, roads, street lighting, drainage systems;
  - (ii) develop agriculture, education, health, sanitation;
  - (iii) ensure welfare of children, social justice, settle disputes,, create employment opportunities;
  - (iv) charge and collect local taxes, tolls, fees;
  - (v) organise sports, open health centres and run immunisation programmes;
  - (vi) maintain and issue birth and death certificates
- ▶ Sources of Income:
  - ▶ Taxes on houses, shops
  - ▶ Sale of property
  - ▶ Funds from State Government
  - ▶ Raised by donations by villages and Nyaya Panchayats

## The Nyaya Panchayat

- ▶ Village court of justice –members appointed by Gram Panchayat –but members of Gram Panchayat cannot be on the Nyaya Panchayat
- ▶ Functions:
  - ▶ Hear petty cases like theft, family disputes, etc. –Impose fines upto Rs 100/-, cannot send to prison –helps quick settlement –appeal lies to High Court.

### Oral Assignment

- A. Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm right answers.  
Let the students write down the answers if they like.

### Written Assignment

- B–E. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask students to write the answers on their own. Then teacher can announce the correct answers and ask partners to cross check them.  
In either case, the answers can be written as homework and teacher can check in class.

### Think Tank

- G. **HOTS questions:** Discuss the questions in class and let students write the answers to F and G as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.