



CURRENT STATUS OF GRAM SABHAS IN RATNAGIRI TALUKA

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(1) INTRODUCTION: - The. Gram Panchayat is the lowest level in the Panchayat Raj system suggested by Balvant Rai Mehta Committee for decentralization of democracy The Gram Sabha is important for the overall development of the area, for social cohesion, for informing about government schemes and for selecting the beneficiaries, for controlling the affairs and staff of the Gram Panchayat. An attempt has been made here to know the situation of such gram sabhas in Ratnagiri taluka.

(2) Gram Sabha - form, status. :- Gram Sabha is established as per Section No. 07 of Mumbai Gram Panchayat Act 1958. It includes all the voters in the village. Gram Sabha is important in creating awareness among the people and getting their cooperation in development work.

A) Gram Sabha times :- Gram Sabha is held six times in a year. The first Gram Sabha is held in April / May, the second Gram Sabha in November, and the remaining two Gram Sabhas are held on 15th August and 26th January. As per the rules of 16th October 2002, two more Gramsabhas are convened, one of which must be held in Harijan.

B) Notice of Gram Sabha :- Notice of Gram Sabha is issued seven days in advance and notice of extraordinary meeting is issued four days in advance and posted in public places in the village.

E) Right to convene Gram Sabha :- The right to convene Gram Sabha is vested in Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, Standing Committee, Panchayat Samiti, Chief Executive Officer.

E) Attendance :- 15% of the total electorate in the Gram Panchayat limits or at least 100 members should be present at the Gram Sabha. Otherwise the meeting is scheduled and held later.

A) Subjects before Gram Sabha : - (1) Annual Accounts Statement (2) Administration Report of the previous financial year (3) Development of plans to be done in the current financial year (4) Commentary of previous articles Examinations and answers given. (5) From senior citizens and Zilla Parishad, District Rural Development Agency Directed topics.

E) Powers of Gram Sabha : - (1) To maintain disciplinary control over the Gram Panchayat office (2) To report irregularities of staff to BDO. (3) To select beneficiaries for development schemes. (4) To approve annual accounts and administrative report of previous financial year. (5) To approve Gram Panchayat development programs and schemes. (6) To give guidelines to Gram Panchayat.

Powers of Gram Sabha in Scheduled Areas. : - (1) Preservation of tribal traditions, customs and cultural features. (2) Recognition of Panchayat-led development programs for socio-economic development. (3) Selection of beneficiaries for development schemes. (4) Prohibition on production and distribution of narcotics through Panchayats. (5) To ban the transfer of illegal land in the Scheduled Areas through the Panchayat. (6) To control the payment of loans to the tribals through the Panchayat.

(3) Current status of Gram Sabhas in Ratnagiri taluka. Reviewing the Gram Sabhas in selected four Gram Panchayats of Ratnagiri taluka (1) Kapad Gaon (2) Pali (3) Ambekod (4) Shirgaon, it seems that these Gram Sabhas are not organized in many places as there is a rule to hold minimum required meetings throughout the year. There are exceptions. Due to the loyalty of Gram Panchayat members and Gram Sevaks, voter awareness is high in this village, so the attendance of women in the Gram Sabha is significant like that of men.

In this Gram Sabha, all the schemes and works required for overall development are reviewed and discussed in detail. Features: Sant Gadge Baba Gram Swachhta Abhiyan, planning for implementation. Public and personal hygiene, school nutrition diet, responsibility of women self help groups, birth Death Record and Significance, Survey of People Below Poverty Line, Public Awareness, Role of Villagers in Family Welfare Programs, Importance of Dung Gas and Environment and Women's Health, Irrigation Facilities, Agriculture Development Scheme, National Drinking Water Scheme, Vanrai Dam, Sports Competition Various issues like rural employment scheme, ration shop, information on mentally retarded and handicapped children are discussed. Considering the presence of women, information about women's self help groups is given by the sarpanch himself.

If the villagers are aware about the Gram Sabha and there is a large number of well-educated people in it, they can ask the Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch and Gram Panchayat members about their administrative duties. The best example of this can be seen in the Gram Sabha of Pali Gram Panchayat. The meeting was attended by 150 men and 13 women. Especially in this meeting the villagers asked many questions to the Gram Sevak on the financial savings and expenses of the Gram Panchayat and he understood the balance of the accounts. So everyone decided to complain to the consumer forum.

If Gram Sabha meetings are attended by Panchayat Samiti or Zilla Parishad level officials, it has a different effect on the Gram Sabha. For example: Zilla Parishad members were

present at the Pali Gram Sabha and pointed out errors in the planning of Jalaswaraj Yojana. Why is the construction of the shed not completed? The villagers asked the answer.

With the exception of the above gram panchayats, the rate of detailed discussions in gram sabhas in other villages is very low. In most of the places, the Gram Sevak provides administrative procedures, technical issues, technical details of development work, etc. in the shortest possible time. One-sided information is given in the case and one of the smart members of the gram panchayat approves all these matters on behalf of the villagers. An example of this can be given to the gram sabha of banana ambekond.

80 men and 21 women were present at this Gram Sabha. Especially Gram Sevika Archana Kalambate was present at this Gram Sabha. Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch, other members, no one spoke in this entire Gram Sabha. The village maid herself informed the people in a one-way and philosophical manner. It should participate in water scheme, village cleaning campaign, ration card should be kept up to date, re-assessment, health scheme, tap water scheme etc. Briefly explained. Only the villagers have access to piped water schemes and s. T. Complained about bus times. The Gram Sabha ended in a quarter of an hour with promises of redressal.

Villages with political awareness or various influential groups have higher attendance of Gram Sabha. Many issues are also discussed; but since all these processes are motivated by political motives, this discussion is not used for village development, it is often used for political gain or obstruction. Often such gram sabhas have to be convened without taking any firm decision. An example of this is Shirgaon Gram Panchayat. As this village is close to Ratnagiri, there are villagers who are socially, economically and politically strong in this village. Especially since people of all political groups are there, all the meetings of this gram panchayat are controversial. 313 villagers attended one gram sabha and 207 of them were women. At the beginning, the villagers asked why the Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch did not attend the Gram Sabha on time. Also, the invitation letter was not sent consciously to the Agriculture Officer, Jalaswarajya Officer, why did the text in the previous memoirs change? It was argued that not all the farms have equal water supply, rich people misuse water for washing vehicles and gardens. Finally, due to the controversy among women over water use, Sarpanch Mrs. Vrushali Narvekar convened the meeting, so the attendees immediately called a press conference. In front of him, he demanded the resignation of the sarpanch.

(4) Measure plan. ; -

- (1) To create a vision in the administrative system to see development as a useful system for gram sabhas.
- (2) To create awareness among the common man about Gram Sabha.
- (3) Attended Gram Sabha by educated and Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad members.
- (4) Incentive reward scheme for good gram sabhas and financial penalty for hard working gram sabhas.
- (5) Special awareness should be created among the women and educated youth of the village.

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- (5)** Panchayat Raj Guide - Dr. Neelam Gorhe.