

## **Democratic Decentralization In Jammu And Kashmir With Special Reference To Poonch District**

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### **Abstract:**

Democratic decentralization can be defined as meaningful authority devolved to local unit of governance that are accountable to the local citizenry, who enjoy completely political rights and liberty at grass root level to upper level. Panchayati Raj system is the only source which provides a great opportunity of complete democracy, local level development process, political awareness, protection of rights, democratic decision-making process, self-dependent, and political power to the village people. The present research work is divided into two parts. The first part pertains to the theoretical aspect covering the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 which provides for the establishment of Panchayats at the state level. The second part relates to the empirical findings of the study like the devolution of powers, process of decentralization, electoral process, socio- economic and political background of the elected members. Awareness of the elected members towards the different provisions of the act and the constraint faced by them while performing their duties. The study was conducted in 2017 in two randomly selected Panchayats from two blocks of District Poonch of state Jammu and Kashmir. In this paper I would like to explore the democratic decentralization process in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Keywords:** Decentralization, Representation, Panchayati Raj Act 1989, Jammu and Kashmir.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Democratic decentralization is a political concept. Through democratic decentralization process power is speeded from the top to bottom. The aim of such decentralization is to expand the field of authority Democratic decentralization is a political concept. Through democratic decentralization and specialization and to enable the people to make more and more participation in politics and administrative affairs. To achieve these objectives, new institutions are created and the old and existing institutions are reorganized or remodelled and reformed. The main purpose of democratic decentralization, however, is to bring fundamental changes in the traditional outlook about the power structure of the government. Thus, democratic decentralization means decentralization of power. The source from which this power is decentralized is based on the democratic structure and hence, such decentralization is called the democratic decentralization. Moreover, the authority on which the power is to be delegated is also organized democratically. Through this democratic decentralization a relation of closeness and co-operation is created between the governmental administrative system and the non-governmental leadership and controlled.

Democratic decentralization covers a system of governance in which citizens of any locality possess the right to hold local public officials accountable through various democratic means. In developed and developing countries authority is devolved to local units of governance that are accessible and accountable to its citizens. Policy planning and execution at local levels is a matter of concern for scholars engaged in local government research. During last few decades all democracies are moving towards more decentralization but the capability of local government institutions to serve their masses is continuously under question. This issue is more vital in developing countries where service delivery by local government institutions poses numerous challenges in mitigating the problems of vulnerable sections of the society. This problem is less

alarming in developed countries due to improved level of public participation. In all democracies decentralization process faces problems and discontents from its inhabitants. Papers on either national or cross national dimension are invited which focus on issues of local government reforms, democratic decentralization and its implications for public policy. Identification on the gaps between proposed reforms and actual practices and suggestions for improvement would also form the part of the deliberations of this panel. Has the nature of democracy really changed from representative to participatory or it is merely a change in the form and not in substance of governance is another theme we hope to address. The Panchayati Raj is an original and traditional concept in our country. The form may vary, but the strength of mind has always been part of our socio-cultural ethos. Its origin can be traced back to ancient ages where community strength of mind was the main force not only to keep village communities combined but the help them handle local affairs independently. Sir Charles Metcalfe characterised them as small “republics having nearly everything that they want within themselves” The birth of the new panchayats can be traced to the attempts through in colonial India with the panchayat laws enacted in the provinces and princely states in 1920 and later. These laws required to create panchayats as local bodies’ agreement with sanitation, regulation and maintenance of buildings, roads, etc. and to be capable with judicial powers for settlement of petty disputes. The after that stage of legislative action about panchayats was in 1940s when the Congress governments elected in the provinces under the Government of India Act 1935 legislated for new broad-based panchayats. It is, however, in Independent India that we see panchayats in their current life as local bodies with significant development course. Article 40 of the Constitution of India provides that the State shall take steps to classify village panchayats and give them with such powers and ability to permit them to function as units of local self-government. The two milestones in the progress of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were the reports of two Committees set up by the Central government in 1957 and 1978, namely, the B.R. Mehta Committee of 1957 and the Asoka Mehta Committee of 1978. Though, smooth after the recommendations of the

Balwant Roy Mehta Committee and Asoka Mehta Committee on panchayats had been set into power, some problems continued to worry the Panchayati Raj system in the country in the post-Independence period. There were lengthy delays in clutching of panchayat elections, many suspension/supersession/dissolution of the panchayat bodies, require of useful and financial autonomy, not enough account of marginalised and weaker sections and small and rare government grants. This crippled Constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> the performance of panchayats and did not permit them to function as institutions of local self-government as envisaged in the Constitution. Thus an very important require has for that reason emerged to protect in the Constitution of India, positive basic and necessary character of local self government so as to make possible local bodies to function as institutions of self-governance both in arrangement and execution of enlargement programmes. Therefore, Amendment) Act, 1992 was approved and was bring into force with result from 24 April 1993. The way of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 marks a new period in the federal democratic set-up of the country and provides lawful status to the PRIs. The main features of the Act are –

- A three-tier system of Panchayati Raj for all States having a population of over 20 lakh.
- Panchayat elections are to be thought commonly every five years;
- Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and women.
- Constitution of an independent State Election Commission to hold panchayat elections on a regular basis.
- Appointment of an independent State Finance Commission to make recommendation as regard the financial resources of the panchayats.
- Legal status to Gram Sabhas and Inclusion of Eleventh Schedule (11<sup>th</sup>) to the Constitution listing 29 Subjects in the jurisdiction of PRIs.

**PANCHAYATI RAJ IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

The Jammu and Kashmir state has its own single account as panchayati raj is concerned. The political crisis that has been occupying it for a long time at present has not authorized any helpful social rebuilding projects to go well in a designed way. The idea of grassroots empowerment in J & K emerged as part of the national movement that took the form of an structured mass movement since 1931. It was in the force of this popular movement that the Maharaja's government initiated a sequence of reforms. It promulgated the J& K Village Panchayat Regulation Act No. 1 in 1935. The National Conference that spearheaded the freedom movement in the valley provided for the institutional agreement for grassroots empowerment in its party agenda "*New Kashmir Manifesto*" adopted by the party in 1944. The National Conference came to power in March 1948. At that time, the development situation of the State was characterised by economic stagnation and educational backwardness. The Zamindars had accumulated great chunks of land all the way through management. The majority of the people were impoverished. In observation of this situation ending of landlordism become the top priority of the Government. It resulted in the introduction of huge Landed Estates Abolition Act, 1950. This was a milestone in the history of J & K as it was the first research of its kind in land reforms in the sub-continent. It provided a sound base for reactivation of the Panchayati Raj system in reshaping the rural economy in the State. Realising this, the Government replaced the Panchayat Act of 1935 (as amended in 1941) by Act-V of Samvat 2008 (equivalent to year 1951). The main characteristics of this Act were:

- Majority of the panchayat members were to be elected on the starting point of adult franchise;
- Panchayats were to make administrative, developmental, civic and judicial functions;
- Introduction of concept of Halqa Panchayat comprise 5-7 villages;
- Introduction of Panchayat Board at each tehsil

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Ashima Kaul (2012)** “*Political peace in Jammu and Kashmir*” in his article the Panchayat elections were an exercise in grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir. Intended to promote restore trust in politics and create a constituency for peace, the process as has led to dissatisfaction, anger and protest. Peace building in conflict regions has a context. The context is the theatre of overt cycle of violence and new structures of oppression that emerge to choke people’s freedom. Peace building therefore has to cut across the multiple layers of the conflict and divisive agendas of the various people involved and causes of the conflict to create constituencies of trust and deliverance. Peace therefore in this context becomes an expression of political freedom, justice, inclusion, representation, empowerment and accountability. All of these have to be protected, nurtured and secured for maximum gains.

**Yousif.A.Sheikh (2014)** “*Journey,hurdle and challenges before the panchayati raj institution in Jammu and Kashmir*” in his paper the term Panchayati raj in India signify the system of rural local self-government. It has been established in every states of India by the Acts of the state legislatures towards build democracy at the grassroots level. It is entrusted by means of rural development. It was constitutionalised all the way through the 73rd constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. Panchayati raj institutions grant opportunities to the local people to participate within the political as well as development process at grassroots level. But still Panchayati raj institutions are not functioning properly predominantly in J&K state of India. This studies the carried out journey and hindrances of Panchayati raj institutions in J&K and emphasises the consequence of militancy in the functioning of panchayats in Jammu & Kashmir state.

**A.H.Bhat (2016)** “*challenges before panchayti raj in Jammu and Kashmir*” in this paper Panchayati Raj plays an important role at grass-root level in Indian democracy. In Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj was enacted in Act of 1989 before four years of Panchayati Raj Amendment Act of 73rd of Indian union in 1993. To conclude there are

a variety of challenges before panchayati raj in Jammu and Kashmir viz; unprofessional conduct in the Panchayat system, political influence, corruption, lack of motivation, unsuitable use of funds, lack of responsiveness, lack of transparency, lack of skills and man power, lack of proper guideline. Panchayat system neither develops nor properly works because of these challenges.

### **THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR PANCHAYATI RAJ ACT, 1989**

An act to provide for the Constitution of Halqa Panchayats, Block Development Councils and the District Planning and Development Boards and matters connected there with. Whereas it is measure to support and build up Panchayat Raj in the State as an implement of strong Local Self Government to protected the successful participation of the people in the decision making process and for over-seeing implementation of developmental programmes. Be it enacted by the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature in the Thirty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—Short title, extent and origination.

1. This Act possibly will be called the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989. It extends to the sum total of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It shall come into force on such date as the Government may be notification in the Government Gazette, appoint in this behalf.
2. Definitions. - (1) in this Act, except the context otherwise requires,—
  - A. “Block” means the area comprising such contiguous number of Halqas as may determined by the Government from time to time ;
  - B. “Block Development Council” means Block Development Council constituted under section 27 of this Act;
  - C. “Building” includes any shop, house, hut, out-house, shed, stable, superstructure and land appertinent to a building whether used for the purpose of human habitation or otherwise and whether of masonry, bricks, wood, mud, thatch, metal or any other

Material whatever, and includes a wall and a wall but does not include mud-wall built round agricultural land not abutting on the public road;

- D. “Case” means a criminal proceeding in respect of an offence triable by a Halqa Panchayati Adalat;
- E. “Chairman” means the Chairman of—
- I. The Panchayati Adalat;
  - II. The Block Development Council;
  - III. The District Planning and Development Board;
- F. “Commission” means the ‘State Election Commission’ constituted under section 36 of this Act:
- G. “Constituency” means award for which a member is to be or has been elected:
- H. “District Planning and Development Board” means a District Planning and Development Board constituted under this Act: “Election Authority” means the ‘State Election Commission’ constituted under section 36 of this Act”
- I. “Electoral Roll” means the rolls as may be prepared in accordance with the provisions of this Act:
- J. “Halqa” means the area comprising a village or such contiguous number of villages as may be determined by the Government from time to time: “Halqa Majli’s” means all the voters of “Halqa Panchayat” Provided that the Halqas shall be determined in such a manner that the population of any Halqa does not ordinarily exceed 3,000 in the hilly areas and 4500 in the plain areas : Provided further that ordinarily the unit of a village shall not be disturbed:
- K. “Halqa Panchayat” means a Halqa Panchayat constituted under section 4 of this Act:
- L. “Naib-Sarpanch” means Naib-Sarpanch of the Halqa Panchayat:
- M. “Panch” means a member of Halqa Panchayat whether elected or nominated under this Act; “Panchayat Advisory Committee” means a Panchayat Advisory Committee constituted under section 8–A :
- N. “Panchayati Adalat” means a Panchayati Adalat constituted under section 47 of this Act for this purpose of trial of suits and cases:

- O. “Prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act:
- P. “Prescribed Authority” means such authority as may be appointed by the Government by notification, for all or any of the provisions of this Act:
- Q. “Rules” means the rules made under this Act:
- R. “Sarpanch” means the Sarpanch of the Halqa Panchayat:
- S. “Schedule” means the Schedule appended to this Act:
- T. “Suit” means a civil suit:
- U. “Vice-Chairman” means the Vice-Chairman of-
- I. the Block Development Council:
- II. the District Planning and Development Board.
- III. “Village” means a parcel or parcels of land having a separate name and known limits in the revenue records and not included in the limit of a Municipality, Cantonment or Town Area Committee or Notified Area Committee.

**BRIEF PROFILE OF PANCHAYATS**

S No	Component	Description
1	No. of Panchayats at each level Halqa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Panchayats- 4198. Elections are held to 4128 Halqa Panchayats only Elected Members- 33847</li><li>• Block Development Councils- 320, Elections yet to be held</li><li>• District Panchayats- 22, Elections yet to be held</li></ul>
2	Percentage reservation of women, SC,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women=33%</li></ul>

	ST, OBC as per State PR Act for Panch Constituency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC=11%</li> <li>• ST= 8%</li> </ul>
3	Number of elected representatives at each level including women, SC, ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Elected Representatives= 33847</li> <li>• Women=9000</li> <li>• SC=3723</li> <li>• ST= 2700</li> </ul>
4	Average Population of the District, Intermediate and Village Panchayat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Rural Population= 87.5 Lacs</li> <li>• District Rural Population=4.0 lacs</li> <li>• Block population= 70000</li> <li>• Halqa Panchayat Population= 2150</li> </ul>

<http://www.panchayat.gov.in/documents/10198/1389387/Halqa%20Panchayat%20Development%20Plan.pdf>

This above table has shown that the brief profile of panchayats including total no of panchayats and other administrative units.

<b>TABLE: DISTRICT WISE SARPANCH ELECTED MOREOVER PANCHES ELECTED</b>						
No. of districts	Total no sarpanch vacancies	Total no.of sarpanch elected	No.of sarpanch constituencies	Total no of panch vacancies ,	Total no of panch elected	Total no of panch constituencies
Annantnag	1	296	297	22	2694	2716

Bandipore	0	114	114	17	2037	2054
Budgam	1	282	283	47	2108	2155
Barmulla	15	350	365	554	2352	2906
Ganderbal	0	103	103	25	719	744
Kulgam	1	158	159	20	1040	1060
Shopian	0	103	103	143	620	763
Srinagar	0	10	10	1	78	79
Pulwamma	20	166	186	509	841	1350
Leh	0	93	93	16	588	604
Kargil	0	95	95	3	656	659
Kupwara	1	355	356	22	2694	2716
Doda	0	231	231	4	1420	1424
Jammu	1	295	296	7	2153	2160
Kathua	0	244	244	2	1642	1644
Kistwar	0	134	134	2	836	838
Poonch	0	189	189	3	1537	1540
Ramban	0	124	124	1	831	832
Reasi	1	146	147	22	992	1014
Rajouri	6	289	295	54	1972	2026
Samba	0	100	100	2	724	726
Udampur	0	204	204	1	1543	1544
Total	47	4081	4128	1477	30,077	31,554

<http://ceojk.nic.in/pdf/PRESS%20NOTE%20ON%20PANCHAYAT%20ELECTIONS%20%28CORRECTED%29.pdf>

**CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALIZATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR IN JAMMU & KASHMIR**

Some challenges of democratic decentralization in Jammu and Kashmir panchayati raj institution and its consequences. People of Jammu and Kashmir many more suffer from some challenges due to military, militancy and other internal political problem from everywhere.

**Lack of awareness**

Lack of awareness in implementing the organization, the bureaucratic delay, political intervention, economic reasons as well as social pressure has made the Panchayati Raj dysfunctional. If the J&K Panchayati Raj Act (which is measured to be weaker than what is in procedure in other states of India) is implemented in correspondence and spirit such far above the ground handedness of Sarpanches or Panches won't work.

**People Participation**

People's participation is much more necessary on the whole development of rural masses. People Participation means the participation all the spheres that's means the overall participations in all these activities of panchayati raj institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. People participation is primarily concerned with the most significant and rising the role of the citizens in choose their local leaders with in significant these leaders what to do in further words, provided that inputs into local governance. People Participation of all is obligatory, whether directly or indirectly (through people representatives), to make the system is more liable and transparent. The achievement of the panchayat raj in Jammu and Kashmir has essential merit and long-term ramification for our harmony. Jammu and Kashmir panchayati raj system has strong association being the only issue of essence that links the state three regions Jammu, Kashmir and ladakh otherwise the division of language ,culture, identity , food ,dress and other political connotations.

### **Accountability**

Accountability is vital requirement for the all developmental programmes to the improvement of the system on the whole sphere. It can be distinct as a justification of one's accomplishment or responsibility. Each and every one elected members be supposed to be accountable to the people. In other words, there should be an instrument by which these representatives are able to removed as well as or penalize in case they fail to carry out. They must not the government machinery in the direction of attain special favours or benefits.

### **Transparency**

Transparency is necessary for good governance. More transparency in local governance on the grass root democracy should represent less scope for corruption. In sequence about decisions moreover actions taken through various authorities apprehensive should be finished public. The right to information (RTI) is important for people to judge whether their representatives have completed justice to the work assign to them. This is the tool of transparency to the right to information has to be complete along with dispassionate.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study will be based on primary as well as secondary sources. Primary sources includes questionnaires and schedule interviews. It also involves empirical research in nature. Area of the research will be the poonch district in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Data will be collected keeping in mind the representation of all age groups, income categories, level of education, religion, occupation and sex. It will also include secondary sources based on governmental and non-governmental reports, records, books, magazines articles and journals relevant to the research.

**UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY**

Universe means the entire mass of observation which the present group is from the sample is to be drawn on the basis of appropriate population. According to 2011 census Poonch district was 476,820. District Poonch or Punc is one of the most remote district of Jammu and Kashmir. It is bounded by the actual line of control (ALC) boundary between India and Pakistan administered Kashmir (north, west and south). The district headquarters is in the Poonch district. Presently Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir has been divided into six tehsils and three sub divisions. Poonch district has a total of 189 villages. The topography of the district is mixed with both plains and mountains area. District Poonch is famous because of "Ragma" some holy places, tourist destinations and graveyard of Sufi saints the district is away from 260 km in Jammu city. In the time of 2011 panchayat elections the district only has only 6 blocks but now the creation of new administrative units by the government.

The present study is based on data obtained from the sarpanches and common people of two blocks Mankote and Mendhar of District. Sarpanches elected candidates has been taken as the unit variable for selecting the sample. The collection of data and analysis of data had been done along with certain important variables like age, education and income.

TABLE: 1. PROFILE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP		
S. No	ITEM	Magnitude
01	Sub division	03
02	Tehsils	06
03	Nayabats	19
04	Blocks	06
05	Municipalities	03
06	Panchayats	189

07	Population	746,820
08	Literacy rate	68.69
09	Rural population	91.9
10	Urban population	8.1
11	Sex ratio	833/1000

Source: 2011 census report J and k government.

The study was conducted approximately the two blocks of the district furthermore the subsequent halqa panchayats be selected as sample lying on the basis of random sampling. Because the scholar is the inhabitant of the area, and therefore quite recognizable with the socio-economic circumstances of the people along with quite particularly with parlance of the people, and to obtain more accurateness questionnaire was formulate in native language to keep away from error while interact. The mode of investigation adopted afterwards consisted of a personnel visit to the villages, telephonic conversation and extended interviews with a number of elected representatives as well as also interaction with common people. The research survey was conduct in the month of March 2017.

Table 1.2

S. No	Name of the Panchayat	Name of block	No. of ELECTED Representatives
01	Lower chajjla	Mankote	07
02	Uchhad	Mankote	06
03	Ghani(dharati)	Mankote	09
04	Chajjla(upper	Mankote	05
05	Dharana(upper)	Mankote	07
06	Gohald	Mankote	06
07	Mankote(upper)	Mankote	08
08	Salwah	Mankote	03
09	Pathanatheer	Mankote	05

10	Narool	Mankote	04
11	Balakote	Mendhar	03
12	Kalaban	Mendhar	06
13	Moori	Mendhar	05
14	Gohalad(town)	Mendhar	07
15	Ari kasab	Mendhar	04
16	Ari plasar	Mendhar	07
17	Kota kandi	Mendhar	06
18	Harni	Mendhar	05
19	Chunga	Mendhar	06
20	Balnoi	Mendhar	05
Total	20	2	114

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

After the significant elections, the lowest tier halqa Panchayat were accordingly constituted in July 2011, and consequently by September 2011, the procedure of empowerment began. Panchayats were empowered to prepare plans to certify better performance of rural development programmes. Though during my field work a majority of the members answered the question, do you develop a plan for the development of your Panchayat? Responded during negative, and said so as to the bureaucracy is manufacture planning and our judgment is not taken interested in considerations.

**ANALYSIS OF DATA**

		YES	NO	TOTAL
BLOCK	MENDHAR	02	08	10
		20%	80%	100.0%
	MANKOTE	04	06	10

		40%	60%	100.0%
TOTAL		6	14	20
		30%	70%	100.0%

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

The above table 1.3 reveals the reserved halqa panchayats in the selected panchayats. The data in the table shows that in the block Mendhar about twenty percent of the halqa panchayats are reserved. Basically, these panchayats are dominated by the Gujjar community so these are reserved for ST community members. While in the block Mankote about forty percent panchayats are reserved in which thirty percent are reserved for ST candidates and about ten percent are reserved for women. These panchayats of the study area also mostly dominated by the ST population so these are reserved on the bases of population.

TABLE NO 1.4 BLOCK WISE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER					
		YES	NO	Can't say	TOTAL
BLOCK	MENDHAR	5	3	2	10
		50.0%	30.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	MANKOTE	9	1	0	10
		90.0%	10.0%	0.0%	100.0%
TOTAL		14	4	2	20
		70.0%	20.0%	10.0%	100.0%

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

The above table 1.4 shows the knowledge and awareness of respondents of the study area about the decentralization. The data in the table shows that in block Mendhar about

fifty percent sarpanches are aware about the process of decentralization, because they are much engaged with the political parties and also involve in other political processes actively so they have knowledge about it, while about thirty percent sarpanches have no knowledge about the process of decentralization because firstly they not well qualified secondly they are not affiliated with any political party and do take part in any other political activity despite of their own panchayat. On the other hand, in block Mankote about ninety percent sarpanches are aware about decentralization as they are much involved in politics and educated also only few percent i.e. about fourteen percent do not know about it.

The below table 1.5 shows the relations between people’s representatives and bureaucrats. The data in the table interprets that about forty five percent of the sarpanches have good relations with the bureaucrats because they have dependent on officers like BDOs so they have to maintain the relations with bureaucracy. While the same number of sarpanches has not too much good relations with the bureaucrats because they thought that the officers do not behave them smoothly and properly. So, they do not too much attach with the officers. While some of the few remaining sarpanches are disinterested they cannot say properly about it they sometimes maintain good relations and sometimes do not.

TABLE NO 1.5 BLOCK WISE, RELATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLE’S REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICIALS					
		YES	NO	Can’t say	TOTAL
BLOCK	MENDHAR	4	4	2	10
		40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	MANKOTE	5	5	0	10
		50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%
TOTAL		9	9	2	20

	45.0%	45.0%	10.0%	100.0%
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Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

TABLE NO 1.6 BLOCK WISE,DO PANCHAYAT OFFERS PROGRAMMES WHICH HELP IN REDUCING POVERTY					
		YES	NO	UNDECIDED	TOTAL
BLOCK	MENDHAR	5	4	1	10
		50.0%	40.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	MANKOTE	7	1	2	10
		70.0%	10.0%	20.0%	100.0%
TOTAL		12	5	3	20
		60.0%	25.0%	15.0%	100.0%

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

The above table 1.6 shows the role of panchayats in eradicating the poverty. The data in the table shows that about sixty percent of the sarpanches launch the schemes which are helpful to reduce the poverty in the area. No doubt the state government is not serious towards the panchayats but the sarpanches themselves at the panchayat level launch some schemes and programmes for this purpose. While on the other hand some sarpanches have failed to launch poverty alleviation schemes because they claim that the state government do not support them so there is lack of funding and they are not able to offer or launch such schemes.

TABLE NO 1.7 BLOCK WISE HAVE YOU ANY INFORMATION ABOUT 73 <sup>rd</sup> AMENDMENT ACT				
	YES	NO	UNDECIDED	TOTAL

BLOCK	MENDHAR	1	8	1	10
		10.0%	80.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	MANKOTE	4	6	0	10
		40.0%	60.0%	0.0%	100.0%
TOTAL		5	14	1	20
		25.0%	70.0%	5.0%	100.0%

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

The above table 1.7 reveals the awareness of sarpanches about the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act. The data shows that only twenty five percent sarpanches are aware about the seventy third amendment act as they participate in all the political activities in the district and the state level also moreover most of them are educated. On the opposite side majority of the sarpanches do not know about the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act because it is not implemented in J &k state so in the absence of implementation of this act they do not know about it.

The below table 1.8 reveals the suggestions of the sarpanches. The data interprets that majority of the sarpanches i.e. about seventy percent sarpanches give the suggestion to the higher authorities for the upliftment of panchayats in order to make them more effective and functional. They demand from the state government to implement the Jammu and Kashmir panchayati raj act 1989 properly and some of them also demand for the implementation of 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act. while only few percent of sarpanches do not give any suggestion, or share any experience for the development of the panchayats. Because they are not too much aware about the whole system of the panchayats.

TABLE NO 1.8 BLOCK WISE DO YOU GIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING HALQA PANCHAYAT MORE EFFECTIVE				
	YES	NO	UNDECIDED	TOTAL

BLOCK	MENDHAR	6	2	2	10
		60.0%	20.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	MANKOTE	8	2	0	10
		80.0%	20.0%	0.0%	100.0%
TOTAL		14	4	2	20
		70.0%	20.0%	10.0%	100.0%

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

The below table 1.9 shows the education of the respondents of the study area. The data in the table interprets that in block mendhar majority of the people have acquired education up to Primary and upper primary level while only few people reach up to secondary and higher level. On the other hand, same condition prevails in the Mankote block in which majority of the people have acquired education up to primary and upper primary while few percent have reached up to secondary and above. The reason behind this is that some of them are economically backwards some people seasonally migrate from one place to another with their whole family so they have lack of opportunities to get education.

		PRIMARY	UPPER PRIMARY	SECONDA RY	HIGHER SECONDARY	GRAD UATE	OTHERD EGREE	TOTAL
BLOCK	MENDHA R	15	11	3	7	0	3	39
		8.5%	28.2%	7.7%	17.9%	0.0%	7.7%	100.0%
	MANKOT E	12	3	3	1	2	0	21
		57.1%	14.3%	14.3%	4.8%	9.5%	0.0%	100.0%
TOTAL		26	14	6	8	3	3	60
		45.0%	23.3%	10.0%	13.3%	3.3%	5.0%	100.0%

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

TABLE NO 1.10 BLOCK WISE DOES PANCHAYAT INVOLVE PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING OF GENERAL PEOPLES					
		YES	NO	UNDECIDED	TOTAL
BLOCK	MENDHAR	10	21	8	39
		25.6%	53.8%	20.5%	100.0%
	MANKOTE	2	12	7	21
		9.5%	57.1%	33.3%	100.0%
TOTAL		12	33	15	60
		20.0%	55.0%	25.0%	100.0%

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

The above table 1.10 shows the involvement of people in the decision-making process. The data shows that only twenty percent people of both the blocks are included in the decision-making process these twenty percent people belong to elite and higher class so panchayats give their first preference to these people while taking any decision. On the other hand, majority of the people i.e. about fifty five percent people are neglected by the panchayats in decision making process because sometimes panchayats want to do work for their own interest and sometimes they thought it is unnecessary. Rest of the twenty percent people are not in a position to say something on the point.

TABLE NO 1.11 BLOCK WISE DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR PANCHAYAT SYSTEM NEEDS IMPROVEMENT OF GENERAL PEOPLES					
		YES	NO	UNDECIDED	TOTAL
BLOCK	MENDHAR	17	16	6	39
		43.6%	41.0%	15.4%	100.0%
	MANKOTE	6	7	8	21
		28.6%	33.3%	38.1%	100.0%

TOTAL	23	23	14	60
	38.3%	38.3%	23.3%	100.0%

Source: - primary field survey of Poonch district J&K- 2017

The above table 1.11 shows the suggestions of the people about the improvement in the panchayats. The data reveals that about thirty-eight percent of the people suggest that there is need of the time to improve the panchayati raj institutions in the state of J&k. because the whole system of panchayati raj institutions in the state is very poor and non-functioning. While some people are satisfied with the existing system of panchayats because these people have no too much knowledge about the PRIs system. While some people do not argue on this point as they anything know about the panchayats and its activities.

**Conclusion**

Democratic decentralization had been documented as essential constituent of contemporary governance organism. On the whole of the countries of the world are at the present going through the procedure of decentralization and it has been develop into fashionable term within the contemporary world. Democratic decentralization has been acknowledged as one of the instruments in determines conflict. Dissimilar countries of the globe irrespective of their political organization are expermenitating decentralization in addition to it has developed addicted to an instrument of development and declaration of their conflict. Panchayati raj is working approximately in every state of India. The concept of governance in the context of Jammu and Kashmir need to be elaborate and detailed properly. Decision making process in panchayati raj institutions need to be better defined, to diminish the possibility of elite capture, substitute participation and single point decision making. Educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir should undertake the situation boldly and should work intended for the development of their areas. As a result even throughout normal times, the governance in the state was marked by unpredictability and lack of systems and precedent. Though interacting among the common people they had high hope from these elected representatives, we enclose

voted them to determine our local effort as the state minister is short of the time to address local issues. We have elected them on the assumption that these candidates are local moreover aware and can recognize our problems very well, other than at the present the people are now fed up these representatives because no services are provided towards them over the previous four years. It was learnt so as to panchayats have unsuccessful in fulfilling the requirements and ambition of the people.

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