

POL SE 4014: Panchayati Raj in Practice

Course objective: This course acquaints students with the Panchayati Raj Institutions and their actual working. It further encourages a study of PRIs in their mutual interaction and their interaction with the people.

Course outcomes:

- This paper will help students understand the importance of grassroot political institutions in empowering people.
- This paper will highlight the complex challenges faced by PRIs in India and mechanisms involved to make it more participatory and inclusive in nature.

I. Strengthening Democratic Functioning of the Panchayats

(16 lectures)

- a. Participation at village level, action plan and participatory method
- b. Need assessment and Micro Planning
- c. Devolution

II. Panchayat Finances and Accounting (16 lectures)

- a. Constitutional Provisions on Panchayat Finances
- b. Fiscal Decentralisation and Audit system
- c. Social Audit

III. Problems and Needs of Disadvantaged Groups and Their Participation (16 lectures)

- a. Women
- b. Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Casts and Minorities
- c. Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act

Modalities for Practical Component: Project Report/Field Study Report based on any activity i.e. visit to Panchayat / local self bodies, local peoples' participation in the political system etc.

READING LIST

P. deSouza, (2002) 'Decentralization and Local Government: The Second Wind of Democracy in India', in Z. Hasan, E. Sridharan and R. Sudarshan (eds.) *India's Living Constitution: Ideas, Practices and Controversies*, New Delhi: Permanent Black

M. John, (2007) 'Women in Power? Gender, Caste and Politics of Local Urban Governance', in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 42(39)

Raghunandan, J. R (2012) *Decentralization and local governments: The Indian Experience*, Orient Black Swan, New Delhi

Baviskar, B.S and George Mathew (eds) 2009 *Inclusion and Exclusion in local governance: Field Studies from rural India*, New Delhi, Sage

M.Venkataramangaiya and M.Pattabhiram- *Local Government in India*, Allied Publishers-1969
SR Maheswari, *Local Government in India*, Lakshmi Narain Agarwal, 2008.

Bidyut Chakraborty and Rajendra Kumar Pandey, Modern Indian Political Thought – Text and Context, Sage, New Delhi, 2009.

Niraja Gopal Jayal and others, Local Governance in India – Decentralisation and Beyond, Oxford University Press, 2006.

Subrata K. Mitra. 2001. Making local government work: Local elites, panchayati raj and governance in India,

Atul Kohli (Ed.). The Success of India's Democracy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ghosh , Buddhadeb & Girish Kumar-State Politics and Panchayats In India New Delhi: Manohar Publishers, 2003

Sudhakar , V. New Panchayati Raj System: Local Self-Government Community Development -Jaipur: Mangal Deep Publications, 2002.

Biju, M.R.- Decentralisation: an Indian experience, Jaipur: National Pub., 2007