

*Full Length Research*

## Need of Educated Leaders for Panchayati Raj in Jammu and Kashmir

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To built faith of the natives of the nation towards government and the development of the nation and to establish strong democratic foundation at grass-root level, Panchayats were established which is the focus of present report. Being a largest democratic nation in the world, government needs to reach common man and a common man must be connected to government and must feel part he can play in the governance is possible through Panchayats, a foundation and a sign of a democracy. In present paper the researcher also discussed the literacy percentage of Jammu and Kashmir through with different census report. The study also focused on qualities of leadership and leaders. Here the researcher also discussed the role of educated and uneducated Panchs and Sarpanchs and discussed their ability, sensitiveness, their status in society and educational qualifications are also discussed. Impacts on developmental process of the society and suggestions to improve working of Panchayats and attracting people to participate, their decision making and role in the governance from grass-root level are the focus of the study.

**Key words:** Democracy, literacy in Jammu and Kashmir, Qualities of Leadership, Importance of Educated Leaders and Qualification of Panchayati Leaders

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“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” (Nelson Mandela)

### INTRODUCTION

Independence must begin at bottom (grass-root) level. Thus, every village will be a republic or Panchayats having full powers. It follows, therefore, that every village has to be self-sustained and capable of managing its affairs even to the extent of defending itself against the whole world. Democracy is considered as one of the best form of government because it ensure liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and opportunity, fraternity as well as the right to participate in political decision making. Participation and control of governance by the people of the country is the essence of democracy. The real meaning of democracy is the importance to the people and self government is

the main sole of ruler development, management, financial control of village Panchayat and continued participation, co-operation of the local people to establish village Panchayats for self government *for the people, by the people and of the people*, to ensure participatory planning, implementation of ruler development programmes for self-sustains. Panchayati Raj Institutions is an important political innovation of India, for the establishment of grass-roots democracy and to ensure the greater peoples participations in political system of the country. It literally means an assembly of five (Panch) persons elected by body running the day to day affairs locally. Rajasthan was the first state to establish

Panchayati Raj in India. The Panchayati Raj was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru on October 2, 1959 at Degana village in Nagaur district of Rajasthan. At the same time, a Panchayat was created in Andhra Pradesh as well. Thereafter, most of the states adopted the system. In mid 1960s, Panchayats had been constituted in all parts of the country. More than 217,300 village Panchayats covering over 96% of the 579,000 inhabited villages and 92% of the ruler population had been established by this time. On an average, a Panchayat covered a population of about 2,400 in two to three villages. There was enthusiasm in the ruler areas and the people felt that for the first time they would have a say in affairs affecting their daily lives. As per the constitution of India provisions, all states reserved one third of the total number of seats and offices of chairpersons at each level for women. In recent years many states provided 50% reservations for women in the local bodies. Except only five major states viz. Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Naidu, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab did not provided 50% reservation for women. At the same time, women's reservations also helped the political elite to consolidate their position. It is quite common to find women from politically affiliated families in the third tier institution, of course, also in the state and national level politics.

*"My idea of village swaraj is that it is a complete republic, independent of its neighbors for its own vital wants, and yet interdependent for many others in which dependence is a necessity. Thus every village's first concern will be to grow its own food crops and cotton for its cloth."*  
(Mahatma Gandhi)

### **Panchayati Raj in Jammu and Kashmir:**

The Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act was enacted in 1989. The first election under the Act 1889 was held in 2001 after a gap of 12 years, although they could not be completed in all parts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir due to conflict. The Panchayat bodies could not, therefore, become functional in the state in the last two decades. In the intervening years, Panchayat institutions in other parts of the country have evolved with the backing of the 73rd Amendment Act 1993 to the constitution of India. The amendment envisions a larger and vibrant role for Panchayati Raj has been recognized with wider power and financial resources not merely as institutions of political participation but institutions of social and economic development. The strengthening of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), with properly defined role in local planning, decision-making and supervision, is being advocated as an essential part of the governance reforms agenda by both the government as well as civil society groups. Recently in 2011

panchayat elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir. The number of Sarpanchs and Panchs in the state were 4,130 and 29,719 respectively (as shown in figure 1) out of which 9424 were women, with state level average voter turnout of about 77.71 percent. All Sarpanchs and Panchs were duly elected in accordance with the provision of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Raj Act, 1989. This election shows the positive impact on women and youth in political participation at grass root level. The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in ruler development of Jammu and Kashmir, especially after 2011. It was the great achievement of National Conference government to make the Panchayati Raj elections possible as the conditions were not favorable in Jammu and Kashmir. This is the dream of Shiekh Mohammad Abdullah and NC fulfills it under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah. The NC has always believed that Panchayati Raj or local self government at the grass-root level should be institutionalized and strengthened to ensure peoples participation in decision making, which is the only way in which democracy can become effectively functional and bring about social transformation.

### **Detailed Statistics**

The detailed statistics of panchayat election 2011, i.e. Number of Blocks /Sarpanch Constituencies /Panch Constituencies /Electors in the Panchayat Halqas are given in Table 1

An approximate 5068975 voters will be eligible to exercise their right to franchise in the Panchayat elections. Jammu district has the highest number of voters 5, 66, 723, while Srinagar district has lowest number of 15,061 voters in the state. Ali Mohammad Sagar said, *"The fact is NC represents majority of Sarpanchs and Panchs, then INC and PDP has not more than 2000 representatives with it."*

National Conference spokesman Tanveer Sadiq said that, *"It is the dream of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to see that the Panchayati Raj system becomes strong, vibrant and successful, he (Omar Abdullah) is the one who initiated the slogan of "governance from secretariat to the doorstep of the people" and he is the one who along with the coalition will take it to its logical end"*.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY**

- The main objective of the study is to highlight the educational qualification of Panchayati leaders in Jammu and Kashmir.
- To highlight the importance of education is not regarded as an important factor for political participation, but still some others regard education as the most decisive factor for political

Table 1

S. No	Districts	No. of Blocks	%	No. of Sarpanch Constituencies	%	No. of Panch Constituencies	%	No. of Electors	%
1.	Jammu	8	5.60	297	7.20	2166	7.29	566723	11.20
2.	Kathua	8	5.60	244	5.91	1644	5.54	327733	6.45
3.	Udhampur	7	4.90	204	4.94	1544	5.20	279075	5.50
4.	Poonch	6	4.20	189	4.58	1540	5.19	247119	4.88
5.	Rajouri	9	6.30	295	7.15	2028	6.83	316527	6.25
6.	Doda	8	5.60	232	5.60	1428	4.81	213375	4.21
7.	Kishtiwar	8	5.60	134	3.25	838	2.82	123346	2.44
8.	Ramban	4	2.79	124	3.01	832	2.80	138690	2.74
9.	Reasi	4	2.79	147	3.56	1014	3.42	161132	3.18
10.	Samba	4	2.79	100	2.40	726	2.44	176231	3.48
11.	Kupwara	11	7.70	356	8.60	2716	9.14	330905	6.53
12.	Baramulla	12	8.40	365	8.84	2906	9.78	437714	8.64
13.	Bandipora	5	3.50	114	2.75	869	2.93	151089	2.99
14.	Ganderbal	4	2.73	103	2.50	744	2.51	121522	2.40
15.	Srinagar	1	0.70	10	0.25	79	0.27	15061	0.30
16.	Budgam	8	5.60	283	6.85	2155	7.26	335604	6.63
17.	Pulwama	5	3.50	186	4.50	1350	4.55	263398	5.20
18.	Shopian	1	0.70	103	2.50	763	2.57	134318	2.65
19.	Kulgam	5	3.50	159	3.85	1060	3.57	193074	3.81
20.	Anantnag	7	4.90	297	7.20	2054	6.92	401968	7.93
21.	Leh	9	6.30	93	2.26	604	2.04	62606	1.24
22.	Kargil	9	6.30	95	2.30	659	2.22	71765	1.42
Tot al	22	143	100	4130	100	29719	100	5068975	100

Source: Press Note Panchayat Election-2011

participation.

- To analyze the qualities and importance of good leadership and a leader.

### Literacy Percentage in Jammu and Kashmir

A well-educated and skilled population not only drives economic and social development but also ensures personal growth. The spread of education in society is at the foundation of success in today's globalised world, where the real wealth of a country or state is not in its tangible natural resources but in knowledge. As a consequence of sustained investment in education sector, there has been an exponential growth of the institutional network. The number of educational institutions in public sector reached to 24265 and those in private sector to 5292 in the state. The total enrollment has also increased to 27.41 lakh out of which the enrollment in primary classes is 10.97 lac, in middle 7.06 lac, in High / Higher secondary schools 9.38 lac.

### Gender Gap in Literacy between Male and Female

According to the census report of 2011, literacy rate of

the state is 68.74% with 78.26% male literates and 58.01% female literates. These figures show signs of improvement in the literacy when compared with the literate population of 2001 census. In comparison to male literacy, female literacy has improved at a faster rate i.e. against 11.66 percentage points in male literacy female literacy increased by 15.01% points. At all- India census report 2011 determined 74.04% population as literates with 82.14% (male literate population) and 65.46% (female literate population). With the improvement in the literate population of the state, the gender gap has also reduced to 20.25% in 2011 as against 23.60% in 2001. It is pertinent to mention that literacy rate is derived after excluding the children in the age group of 0-6 years, which are by the definition of census treated as illiterate. Table 2

### Features of a Leadership and a Leader:

Leadership is a Process by which an executive can direct, guide and influence the behavior and work of others towards accomplishment of specific goals in a given situation. Leadership is the ability of a manager to induce the subordinates to work with confidence and

Table 2

S. No	Census Year	Males	Do	Females	Do	Gender Gap in Literacy
		Male Literacy Rate	Increase in Literacy %age over the Preceding Census Year	Female Literacy Rate	Increase in Literacy %age over the Preceding Census Year	
1	1961	16.97	-	4.26	-	12.71
2	1971	26.75	9.78	9.28	5.02	17.47
3	1981	36.29	9.54	15.88	6.60	20.41
4	2001	66.60	30.31	43.00	27.12	23.60
5	2011	78.26	11.66	58.01	15.1	20.25

Source: Economic Survey of Jammu and Kashmir (2014-2015)

zeal. Leadership is the potential to influence the behavior of others. Leaders also need the confidence to build self-esteem on others and still maintain a strong degree of integrity in them. It is also defined as the capacity to influence a group towards the realization of a goal. Leadership is never an individual's directing, it's a cooperative effort fostered by listening, gathering a variety of opinions considering effective strategies and effectively generating a clear vision.

According to Follett, a leader is not the head of the department or president of the organization, but one *"who can see all around, who sees it as related to certain purposes and policies, who sees it evolving into the next situation, who understands how to pass from one situation to another"*.

A leader needs to achieve tough, demanding goals that he set himself in addition to those set by an organization, and focus on surpassing both objective. As important as flexibility contributes to this equation of leadership, it is important to sustain an entrepreneurial goal. When commitment is readership by leadership, it means that individuals agree with the idea and will make the greatest effort to executive effectively.

### Importance of Educated Leaders for Panchayati Raj in Jammu and Kashmir:

Education is very important to everyone especially for our leaders. Educated Sarpanchs may be more competent manager of development projects than less educated Sarpanchs, and may deliver public services more efficiently. One college-educated Sarpanch said, *"Whether it is the men, women or children of the village, if they are educated, they will learn to fight for what is right and if they know to read and write, [there is] little chance of them being taken for a ride."* A more educated Sarpanch may also be a model to citizens to increase their own educational attainment. Educated leaders are capable to discharge their roles and responsibilities in

implementing development works/schemes, managing finance, and maintaining various records. Educated leader is able to gain cooperation of members in achieving the goal of Panchayats. Educated leaders can help in enlisting participation of people in programmes of their own development. It is possible to organize people around concrete problems. Leaders can use their influence and skills to bring people together and empower them to take action for their development. An educated leader has all the relevant knowledge, keen mind, analytical ability. He has good interpersonal skills with sound relationships between rural and urban people. He is full of energy.

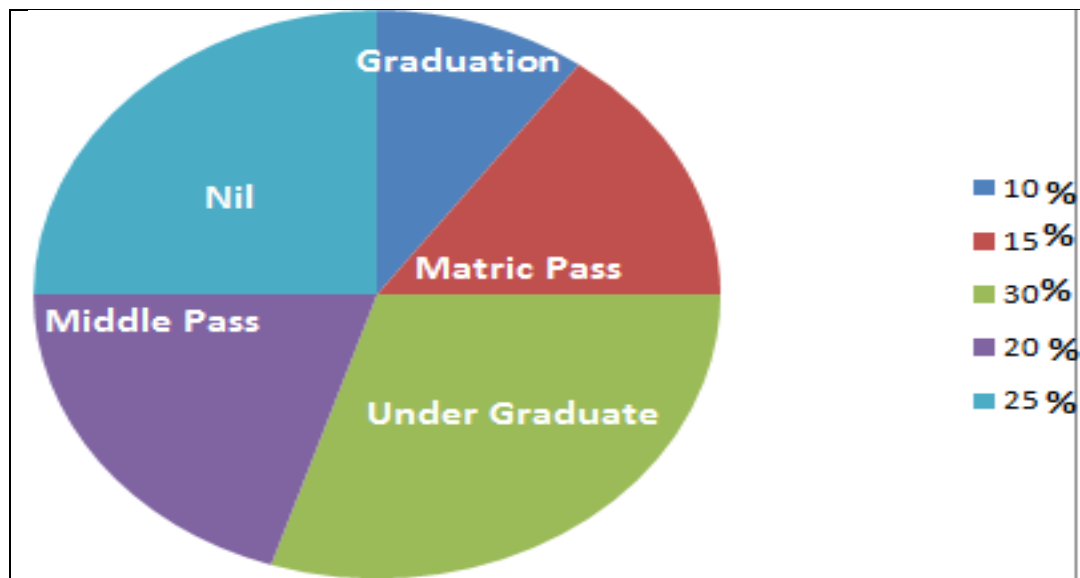
Education is the key that opens the door to life which is essential for good social character. In present society, capacity to understand the issues and problems facing the community and the ability to communicate one's ideas to others are important qualities of a leader. Education is one of the means of acquiring such a capacity. Education has significant positive effects on both voting behavior and contacts with politicians in both stable democracies and post communist states. Taking into consideration these facts an attempt has been made to analyze the Panchs and Sarpanchs in Jammu and Kashmir. The table 3 and figure 1 shows a brief survey made by the author of this paper that has been conducted in few districts of the said state to highlight the future of the Panchayati Raj in the region regarding the leaders of the said system.

### ***"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."* (Aristotle)**

The data in the table 3 and figure 1 shows the educational qualification of various Panchs and Sarpanchs in Jammu and Kashmir. The maximum numbers of Panchs and Sarpanchs (20) are collected from some districts of Jammu and Kashmir. In Jammu and Kashmir, for instance, 90% of Panchs and Sarpanchs do not have a college degree, 75% Panchs

**Table 3.** Showing the Educational Qualification of Panchs and Sarpanchs

S.NO	Educational Qualification	No of Panchs and Sarpanchs	Percentage
1	Graduation	2	10
2	Metric Pass	3	15
3	Under Metric	6	30
4	Middle Pass	4	20
5	Nil	5	25
Total		20	100

**Figure 1**

and Sarpanchs do not have a high school degree and near about 35% are unable to read a simple paragraph written at the 2nd grade level in the local language.

Most of the Panchs and Sarpanchs are unable to sign or write their name and rely on thumb impression. When such leaders are elected, one can guess that the electors are arrogant, unaware of the system, educated and awared people are not taking part in elections and responsible and well qualified people are not standing to lead and hence outcome cannot be expected to improve. Uneducated leaders are lack of understanding of government procedures, finance and accounts, implementing works, judicial processes or the Constitutional provisions. Uneducated elected representatives lack a vision of development expected from them under the Panchayati Raj system.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on primary as well as on secondary sources. I have endeavoured to frame the current move towards open data within the evolving relationships between the citizen and the local

governments in Jammu and Kashmir. For collecting primary data, mixed methods will be followed by sample survey and interview. In sample survey, 20 Panchs and Sarpanchs are respondents of the present study. Primary data has also been collected through phone calls and E-mails conversations with important actors in the said field, including local and state level government officials, transparency activists, '*civic hackers*' including both businesses and groups/ individuals and media organisations. The secondary data has been collected through books, journals, web links, magazines, articles etc.

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In present, every country of world wants to make significant progress and development in Science and Technology. For this purpose of progress and development, proper and educated leaders are very important. Educated leaders are basic need for making the democracy effective and efficient. Attitudes and opinions of educated leaders have great impact on our democracy. Educated leaders in rural areas are a key

dynamic force that motivates and capture the co-operation of people. Educated leaders must have a magnetic personality. A leader must often get people to change their minds or take actions they had not considered. Educated leaders are important since they help their followers to decide an important issue in villages. They give direction for group action. They resort to group decision making, participative decision making and consensus decision making. Educated leader can change the ideology and mentality of common man.

The basic need of Panchayati Raj system is that the villagers should think, decide and act for their own collective socio-economic interests. If people, as responsible citizens, people participate in the process of governance and decision making process through Panchayats most of the issues will be resolved at the village level and within the village itself, and if Panchayats function with the true spirit, then it is inevitable to achieve sustainable development in rural areas. Public meetings can be possible only in villages when Panchayati leaders are educated.

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