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IMPACTS OF PANCHAYATI RAJ IN JAMMU&KASHMIR

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Abstract:-The present paper reports the impact of Panchayati Raj in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. A study was carried out in 5 districts of the state to know about the various aspects of this system and record its impacts on various social and economic parameters of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It was found that this system has caused various changes in the life of people of Jammu & Kashmir, but the aspirations of people were not fully fulfilled. People are wishing for reforms in this system.

Keywords: Panchayati raj, Jammu & Kashmir, Parameters, Reforms

INTRODUCTION

Panchayati Raj is the oldest phlosphey of democracy in India since Vedic age (1200 B.C) "Panchayat" literally means assembly (ayat) of five (panchs) wise and respected elders chosen and accepted by the local community. Traditionally, these assemblies settled disputes between individuals and villages. The first five-year plan stress that the success of rural development largely depends on an active units in the village. This unit should represent the community as a whole with Govt support, this agency could also effectively unite the people in common project for village welfare. For this purpose, the village panchayat was to be the foundation of entire administration structure for national development. At the

Beginning of first five-year plan 83,000 Panchayats existed in Indian villages now it has raised to 25,0001 in (2011). To make Articl 40 operational, the Balwantrai metha committee was appointed in 1957 to study implementation of the Panchayati Raj. As a result of its recommendation, a three tire Panchayati Raj was introduced: The gram panchayat at the village level, Panchayati samiti at block level and zilla prishad at district level.



Jammu&Kashmir is the northernmost state of India. It is situated mostly in the Himalayan mountain, located between 33.45Nand76.24E, this beautiful valley has an average height of 1,850

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meters (6,070ft) above sea-level. The main valley is 100km (62mi) wide and 15,502.3 km2 (5,992.4 sqmi) in area. With 22 districts, during British period, while as in the rest of country the Panchayati Raj system passed through various phases, in the state of J&K it was only in 1935 when the first village Panchayat Act No.1 was promulgated by the Maharaja Hari Singh. The preamble of the Act, states "it expedient to establish in J&K state the village Panchayats to assist in the administrative, civil and criminal justice and also to manage the sanitation and other common concerns of the village. The Act of 1935 was amended in 1941, after independence several amendments were made in constitution of Panchayati Raj in J&K, in 1958, 1989 and 2004. In 1951, 540 Panchayats had been establish in state now, it raise to 4158 in (2011). The study was carried out with following objective to know the impact(s) of Panchayati Raj in Jammu & Kashmir.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried at in three phases (1) selection of target group. For selection of target group, 5 districts 3 from Kashmir division (Pulwama, Srinagar & Kargil) and two from Jammu division (Jammu & Doda). Were selected 4 villages from each district were selected randomly for study. Five peoples above the age of 50 years where selected belonging to different occupations. (2) Collection of information

Frequent visits were made into the study area from 2010-2011 and information from the people was collected by using questionnaires discussions were held with Pannchs and Sarpanchs for getting more information.

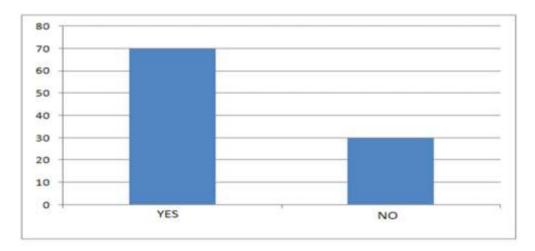
(3) verification and compilation of data.

The data was verified with available literature and by discussions with relevant authorities of each district and other sources like internet etc

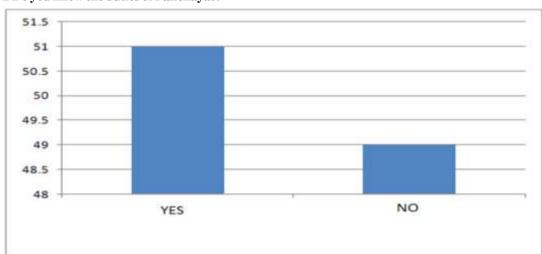
RESULTS

The responses obtained for questions used in the survey are given in the form of graphs, which are as under:-

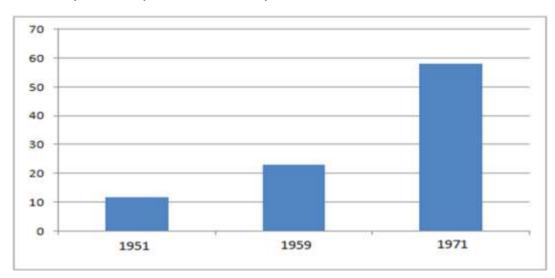
Q.No.1.Do you know about Panchayati Raj?



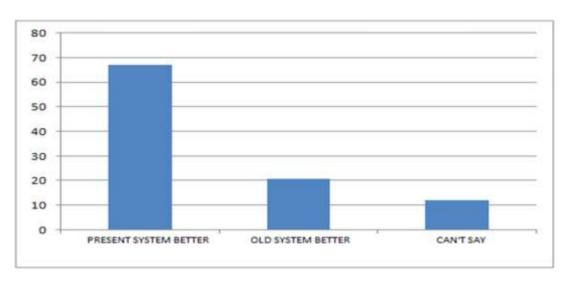
${\bf Q.No.\,2\,Do\,you\,know\,the\,duties\,of\,Panchayat?}$



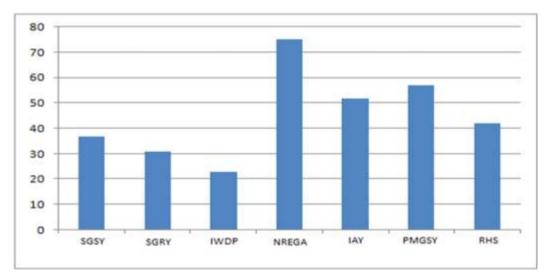
${\bf Q.\,No.\,3.\,In\,which\,year\,Panchayat\,was\,established\,in\,your\,area?}$



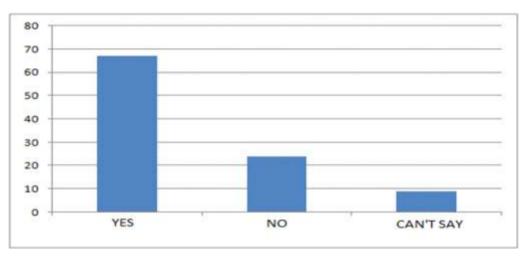
 $\label{eq:Q.No.4.} \textbf{What difference}(s) \ you see in the older system of Panchayat and now?$



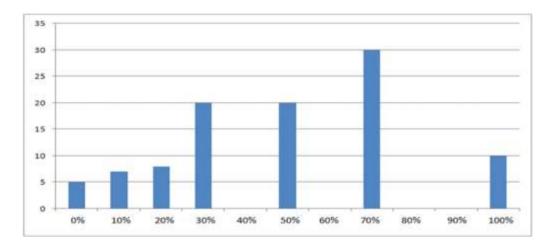
 ${\bf Q.\,No.\,5.\,Which\,schemes\,were\,implemented\,by\,the\,Panchayats\,in\,your\,area\,?}$



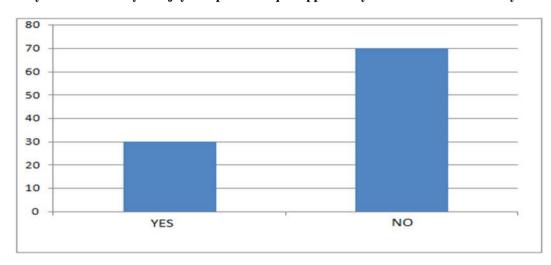
 ${\bf Q.\,No.\,6.\,Whether\,every\,section\,of\,society\,participate\,in\,the\,Panchayati\,Raj\,system\,?}$



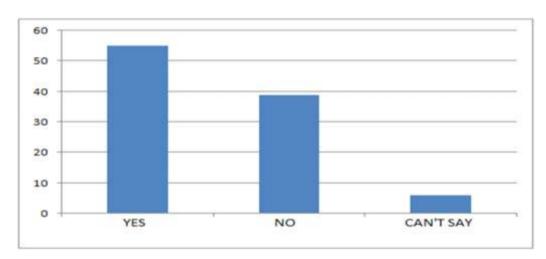
 ${\bf Q. No. 7. \, How \, much \, effective \, do \, you \, think \, is \, Panchayati \, Raj \, for \, reducing \, poverty?}$



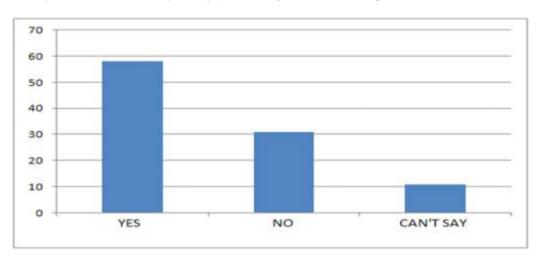
 ${\bf Q. No.\, 8.\, Do\, you\, think\, Panchayati\, raj\, system\, provides\, equal\, opportunity\, to\, all\, sections\, of\, the\, society?}$



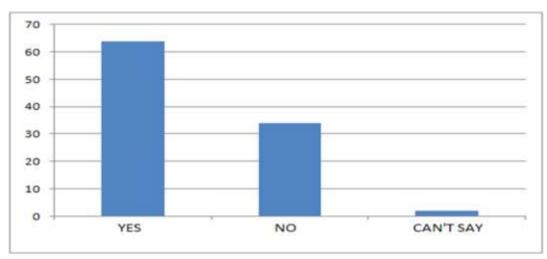
 ${\bf Q.\,No.\,9.\,Is\,there\,any\,power\,imbalance\,created\,by\,Panchayati\,Raj\,system\,in\,the\,society?}$



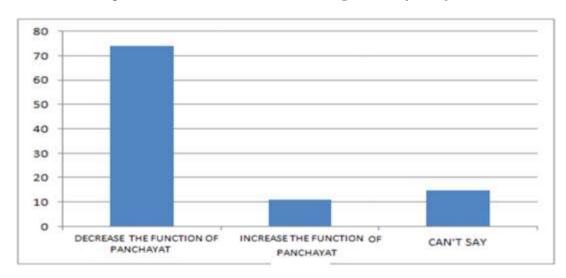
 ${\bf Q.No.\,10.\,Do\,you\,think\,that\,Panchayati\,Raj\,system\,has\,given\,rise\,to\,corruption\,at\,lower\,level?}$



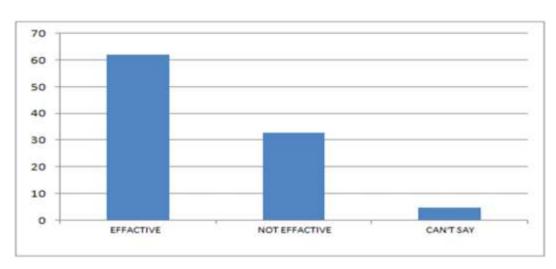
 ${\bf Q.\,No.\,11.} Whether the schemes implemented by Panchayat\,Raj\,system\,were\,beneficial\,to\,you\,?$



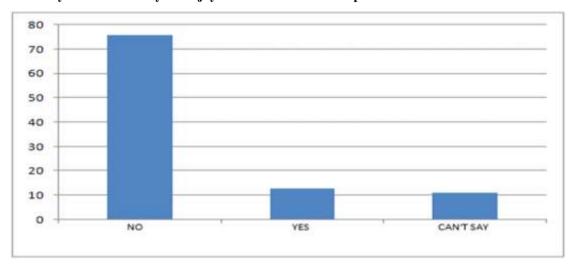
 ${\bf Q.No.\,12.\,What\,is\,the\,impact\,of\,social\,conditions\,on\,the\,functioning\,of\,Panchayati\,Raj?}$



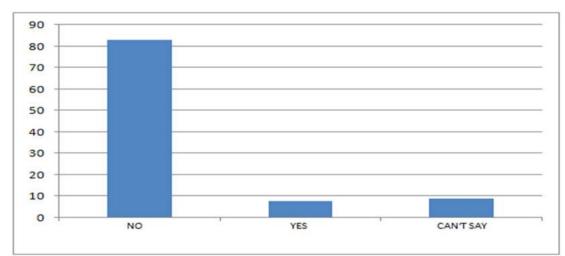
Q. No~13.~What~do~you~think~about~the~effectiveness~of~Panchayati~Raj~system~in~your~area?



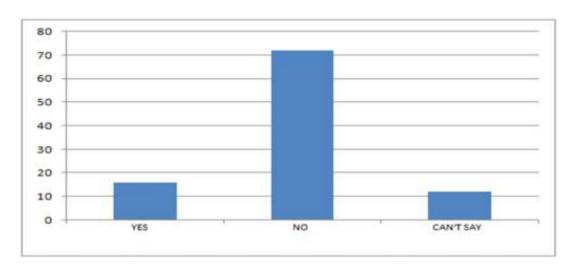
 ${\bf Q.No.\,14.\,Do\,you\,think\,Panchayati\,\,\,Raj\,system\,has\,added\,to\,the\,empowerment\,of\,the\,women\,?}$



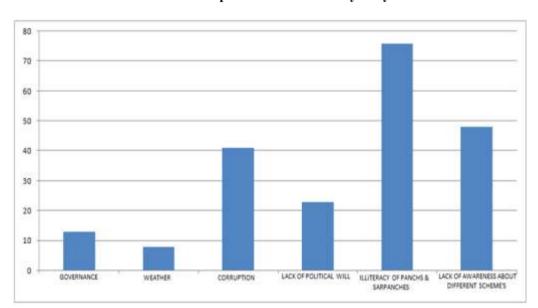
 ${\bf Q. No.\, 15.\, Do\, you\, think\, that\, Panchayati\, Raj\, is\, effective\, bringing\, social\, justice?}$



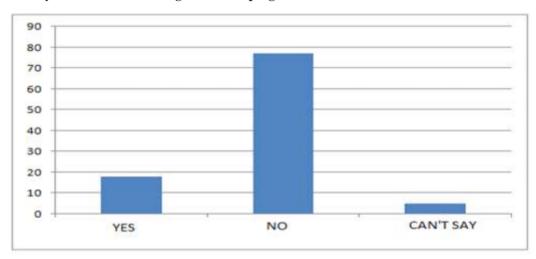
 $Q. No. 16. \ Do\ you\ think\ that\ Panchayati\ Raj\ is\ beneficial\ for\ conserving\ \ the\ culture\ of\ you\ rarea?$



 ${\bf Q.No.\,17.\,What\,are\,the\,factors\,that\,influence\,performance\,of\,Panchayat\,in\,your\,area?}$

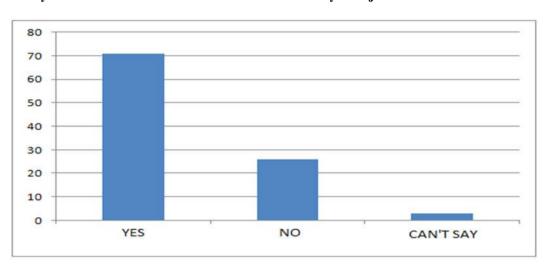


 ${\bf Q.No.\,18.\,Are\,you\,aware\,about\,the\,"right\,to\,know"\,program?}$



 ${\bf Q.No.\,19.\,What\,do\,you\,think\,about\,the\,quality\,of\,Panchayat\,functions?}$





Q.No. 20. Do you think that there should be reforms in the Panchayati Raj?

CONCLUSSION

In this study, it was found that most of people know about Panchayati Raj, although most of the areas were not covered Suntil recent year. In Jammu & Kashmir most of the people think that social conditions effects the influence of the Panchayat. Various factors like corruption, lack of political will, and illiteracy etc, also effect the functions of the system. People aspire more from the system. People think that the redaction of poverty, empowerment of women, social justice. Most of the people suggest reforms for this system. This system has contributed a lot to the society, but not upto the aspirants of the people.

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