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## ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM OF VILLAGE IN ANCIENT INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

In the administrative system in ancient period, different system of administration of India to be has existed at different period. The earliest reference can be traced to the Indian valley civilization- From excavation, scholars have come to conclusion that government in Indian valley Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa was systematic its important was naturally very great in age when communication were slow and industrialization unknown. Town played a relatively unimportant part in ancient Indian life; the Vedic hymns frequently pray for the prosperity of the villages, but rarely for that town and cities while describing the



prosperity of the kingdom Jatakas proudly give a large number of prosperous villages included in it, but the all together oblivious to the existence of town and cities that may have flourished in it. In the Vedic age, as shown already, status were small and there circumstance for their enhanced the importance of the village. In later times, ever when kingdom became large, they was no change in the situation, become the village was natural pivot of administration in the rural society.

**KEY WORDS:** Vedic, Visha, Jan, Gram, Kula, Gopa, Council,

### INTRODUCTION

In Indian valley equalization was followed by the Vedic period. In the Rig Vedic period administration units were known as 'Kul', 'Gram' and 'Vish' Gram or village consisted of the neighbouring hours hold. In the political system of the Rig Vedic period the smallest unit was the family. The eldest person in the family became in head. The village consisted of a group of families. The head of the village was known as 'Gramini' who acted as administrative head. Group of village was known as the 'Vish' and its head was 'Vishpati' Nemerous 'Vishas' constituted a 'Jan' who key officer was known as 'Gopa' this was an important office and usefully the king himself became 'Gopa'. The village was main part of the administration.

There is no doubt that villager were the real centres of social life and important units in the Country's economies. The sustained the edifice of national culture, property and administration.

### Village Council:

The Village councils appear to have evolved in to regular bodies in the 'Gupta' period at least same part of India. They were known as 'Panchayats' or 'Grampanchayat' in contrail India and Graayanapadas in Bihar. The large number of sealing of the different village council (Janapadan) have been discovered at Nalanda which

doubtless sealed the letter sent for them to the administrator of Nalanda university. It seems almost certain that the village council in Bihar had developed into formal bodies, meeting regularly to transact administrative business and communicating their decisions to outsiders in formal and sealed communications.

Village elders known as Mahattaras functional in the Pallava and Vakataka kingdom. But one does not know whether they had developed a regular council. Inscriptions from Gujarat and Deccan, however, show that from 600 AD the village elders used to appoint a formal executive committees of their own, variously known as - Mahattaradhikarns either expression meaning village elder in office or power. Rajputana also shown where the executive of the village assembly was known as 'Panchkula', it worked under the guidance of a headman known as Mahanta. It was a very important body.

Inscriptions of Chalukya dynasty enable us

### The Village Headman:

The village government was usually carried out under the supervision and direction of the village headman. He is called 'Gramini' in the Vedic literature and figures frequently in the Jataka. The Arthashastra of Kautilya attests to his important part in the administration and inscriptions of almost all the provinces refer to him during the first millennium of the Christian era. He was called 'Gramika' or 'Grameyaka' in northern India. By caste, he was usually non-Brahmin. He was the leader of village militia, and therefore he may have often belonged to the Kshatriya.

The headman was the most important officer in the village administration. His order was represented as the council of elders in the Vedic period. Defence of the village was the most important duty of the village headman; he was the officer in charge of its militia and with the ward. He was the most influential person in the village. 'Shukraniti' said that, "he was like the father and the mother of the villagers is substantially true." Though responsible to the central government, he was generally a man of the people and kept to protect their interest.

The village headman and accounts were the two usual officers of the village government. Jatakas inform us that neither the village headman for the village, accountant ruled over the village community according to their sweet will. They both are guidance to administration to present a more detailed picture of the constitution and function of the village assemblies and their executive committee in Tamil Nadu village.

### Village Administration

The village administration system was very important the administration maintain peace and order and perform duties of magistracy and judiciary. In this aspect it was an autonomous unit and instrument was the village panchayat.

The government of this village was carried out on by five sub-committees of Sabha. All members worked in the honorary capacity and held office of one year. They could however, be removed earlier. If found guilty of misconduct, it was felt that all experienced and qualified residents on the village get an opportunity to serve on the various sub-committees person whose character was loose, or who had been found guilty of misappropriation of public funds, were debarred from membership as also their near relatives. It is not to be supposed that these rules about the qualifications of members were of rigid and universal application even in case of 'Agrahara' village.

### Village Sabha and Sub-committee

The village sabha has gradually evolved out of popular gathering of earlier period which discussed social, religious and political matters indiscriminately at their meetings as there was hardly any distinction made in such matters of the time. The minimum age qualification for member was 35 in others too. In some cases members became re-eligible for election after three years, in other after five or even ten years. The number of functions of the sub-committees also differed according to the needs of the situation and the locality.

Each sabha was usually the architect of its own constitution. The earliest known constitution, that of the 'Mahasabha' was formed by the body itself at a special meeting of villagers convened by the beat of drums.

When amendment became necessary in the constitution, they also were usually considered and passed the 'Sabha' itself members of different sub-committees were selected by drawing lots. Several nominations were made of each the thirty words of the village, the name of each nominee being put on the separate ticket.

The first sub-committee was the large if garden and orchards, the second supervised the village tank and the distribution of water; the third discharged the important function of setting disputes. The fourth committee was known as the gold committee; its function was as say gold for all people impartially. This committee naturally consisted for expert in the art. The fifth subcommittee was known as 'Panchwara' committee; its functions are not clear.

In addition to their five committees there was a general committee of supervision known as Annual committee only experience and elders, who had previously served an other committees were eligible for the membership of the body. The numbers and functions of the sub committees naturally varied according to the needs and circumstance of each village and land survey is disclosed by on record its function must have been survey and clasiy lands and see to it that the government's assessment was fair and equitable. A temple committee is referred to in another. Some agrahara villages had their own colleges; the had probabli an education committee. The village assemblies had developed a regular council in Bihar, Rajputana, Contral India, Maharashtra and Karnataka at least in the Gupta period and post Gupta period. In the south India in case of climates like famines, they used to raise a public loan by Moral aging the common lands at least in Cholas age.

The village council used to organize several works of public utility. Efforts were made to bring forest and waste lands under cultivation in order to increase the wealth of the village. The village office had to kept record of rights and transferred to village land also papers connected to village lands and revenue.

## CONCLUSION

Ancient India had a large numbers of the administration systems. The ancient Indian history extended over several centuries and we need not be surprised if we do not find uniformity in the administrative system. Before we consider the provincial, divisional and district level it could necessary to understand the village administrative system in ancient India. as in modern so in ancient day some districts and divisions were small while some others were large, but the village administration were played major role in expanding the importance of the ancient state.

In ancient India village has been pivot of administration. Its importance was naturally very great in the period when communication was very slow and industrialization was unknown. While describing the prosperity of kingdom, Jatakas proudly give the large numbers of prosperous villages included it. In the Vedic age as shown already, states were small and its circumstance further enhanced the importance of the village. In the modern times governors often convince a conference of collators to discuss the important issues of administrative policy. In ancient times kings take Bimbisara and Ashoka used to convince a meetings of village headmen for similar purpose. There are no doubt the villages were real centres of social life and important units of the country's economy.

The village government was usually carried under the supervision and direction of village head men he is called Gramini. The collection of the government revenue was the next important duty of the village administration. The village was the custodian of necessary records. The village councils Maharashtra, Karnataka and Northern India enjoyed such considerable powers concerning the collection and remission and land revenue as where possessed by the chola council.

The settlement of the village disputes was one of the most important functions of the village council. The theory of some early writers that the village council of panchayat owed their judicial powers to prevailing anarchy. It is most important that the central government exercised only a great supervision and control over the village assemblies and their councils.

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