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IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN GRAM SABHA: A CASE STUDY OF BARWA GRAM PANCHAYATS OF BHIWANI DISTRICT.

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Abstract: Probably the most crucial component that allows young people to advocate for their needs, fulfil their responsibilities and goals, and influence policy and bring about the change they want to see. They have the right to take part in and contribute to decisions that affect their life. Engaging youth provides benefits of its own, including improved human capital development, sustainable development, good governance, and future readiness. It also boosts young people's self-esteem and sense of responsibility as change agents. The problems and barriers to social change in general, the lack of resources, and the inadequate knowledge and conviction of adolescent ability and contribution can be used to summarise the issues facing youth engagement. Youth still have the chance to engage in and contribute to community development despite the challenges that lie ahead, by utilising the best practices and lessons discovered in nearby panchayats. To increase community understanding of the idea of youth engagement and its advantages, benefits, and importance. To raise awareness of the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of youth towards the Gramsabha as well as their roles in the creation of sustainable communities. It's also critical to recognise the importance of youth institutions in this context. Youth and their institutions should be the focus of capacity building programs so that they can showcase their potential and gain from successful experiences in Haryana. Youth involvement needs to be turned into a reality rather than just a catchphrase. Because they are more accessible to the public, panchayats play a crucial role because they may provide direct information about concerns. With the help of the Youth Coordination Committee, the Gram Panchayat is able to provide services to youth that are more thorough and efficient, especially when it comes to youth engagement. The Youth Coordination Committee in Barwa is crucial in assisting young people in their pursuit of development. This study also shows how ward and Gram panchayat members engage in educating the youth about civic duties and introducing them to the social, political, cultural, and

economic spheres of the panchayat.

Keywords: - Youth Involvement, Gram Sabha, Panchayat, Participation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Individuals People who participate in local governance evaluate their own needs and take part in local decision-making. Making public servants and political leaders answerable to the people is crucial for enhancing public resource management and decreasing corruption. In order for public involvement to be effective, members of the groups whose concerns are being addressed must be included in decision-making processes and government information must be transparent. Poverty is a result of denying the weak and helpless their rights and establishing uneven power relations through their exclusion from decision-making processes.

The youth of India make up a large section of the population and are crucial to the development of the democracy in that nation. However, current trends show that the majority of our kids have become disengaged from the nation's collective growth aim because they are so preoccupied with their personal and professional goals. As a result, the youth's potential to advance the community as a whole is progressively diminishing.

The youth bear the primary responsibility for the future of effective governance. It is essential that young people actively participate in both their own and their communities' development. A crucial component of democracy is youth participation in the political process. They have a bright attitude, are full of aspirations, and are lively with optimism. India has one of the highest rates of youth population worldwide. The next generation will be crucial to the country's development. In order to truly construct a nation, kids must be included in the process of developing and enhancing participatory democracy.

Gram sabha provides a platform for youth to connect with one another and work together to bring about constructive social change. It is possible to harness the incredible creativity and energy of young people to support their growth and make sure



they realise their full potential. The question that comes to light, though, is whether or not young people are actively participating in national decision-making and, more crucially, are they significantly contributing to the nation's democracy? The response is not particularly encouraging because many young people still don't know about all the different aspects of democracy. Young people are relocating away from the socio-political discourse surrounding "community development" in an effort to fulfil their personal obligations as well as their academic and professional goals. In addition, youth from lower socioeconomic strata face significant obstacles in integrating, including unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy. Furthermore, the democratic process excludes young organisations in rural areas. Thus, it is crucial to give children more chances so they can grow as people, become economically and socially relevant, and develop their personalities. Encouraging people to broaden their understanding of democracy and actively participate in its operations is equally crucial.

Meaning of Title

Youth involvement: Engaging young people in decision-making processes on a proactive basis is known as youth involvement. The idea is connected to concepts of civic engagement, personal growth, and citizenship. Youth involvement is the process of involving young people in organisations, government, community institutions, and social issues. It's about giving them important opportunity, appreciating their achievements, and giving them the potential to influence the course of history.

Gramsabha: A Gram Sabha is an assembly made up of all the individuals whose names are on the village-level Panchayat electoral records. Article 243(b) of the Indian Constitution defines the term.

II. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The decentralised system was established in order to promote increased community involvement in local government policy creation and execution. It is thought that when individuals actively engage in the creation, execution, and assessment of government policies, the government operates most effectively and efficiently. The youth, who make up over half of the population, are either marginalised or uninterested in participating in local government in this nation. Teenagers are not actively involved in the making or carrying out of choices pertaining to them.

Rural youth's level of active engagement in PRIs has been relatively low. It is important to support rural youth's role in the nation's democratic process. The young of rural areas must be sufficiently informed, given the chance to express their opinions, and included in village-level decision-making in order to ensure a brighter future for themselves and their communities. This will be necessary for grassroots progress. Gramsabha are crucial in enabling young people to guarantee

their active involvement in maintaining local development. Youth involvement is one of the best ways to preserve an excellent participatory local governance system and is strongly promoted.

In order to make Gramasabha more youth-friendly, this study—which was carried out in Barwa Gram Panchayat—aims to investigate the evidence of youth engagement in Gramasabha. This study aims to investigate the current state of youth engagement in the Barwa Gram Panchayat's Gram Sabha. It is crucial to remember that the study's objectives were not to evaluate or compare which organisation is taking more initiative to encourage youth involvement in Gramsabha, nor was it to extrapolate our findings to the entire Haryana population. This study presents pertinent information that could help clarify how young engagement in Gramasabha is taking place in the Barwa Gram Panchayat.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

1. To ascertain the current level of youth involvement in Gramsabha.
2. To comprehend how young people and public officials communicate.

3.2 Methodology

This study will aid in a deeper understanding of the facts because of its exploratory design and descriptive character. data acquired using both primary and secondary sources. Primary data gathered from interviews with the secretary, vice president, and president of the Gram Panchayat. Formal and informal discussions are included in the source data, along with selected officials and other Panchayat staff. The Gramsabha attendance register minutes, book panchayat plan reports, project blueprints, panchayat proposals, books, newspapers, souvenirs, etc. were reviewed in order to gather secondary data. Between March 2024 and May 2024, data was gathered.

3.3 Samples

Barwa Gram Panchayat in the Siwani block of the Bhiwani District in the state of Haryana was chosen for this investigation. There are 20 wards in Barwa Gram Panchayat. In the majority of Barwa Grampanchayat's 20 wards, youth panchs have been chosen. Members of the youth club and library who were between the 18–39 age range were chosen as youth respondents. Purposive sampling was used to choose responders who were youth and elected officials. In order to conduct this study, 80 youths and 10 elected representatives were specifically chosen. Youth from two wards and elected representatives from other wards were visited.

3.4 Data Collection Tools

For the purpose of gathering data, the researchers employed distinct semi-structured interview schedules for officials,

elected representatives, and youngsters. Through the examination of project blueprints, panchayat reports, and the Gramasabha minutes book, secondary data was gathered.

3.5 Study Limitations

Only four of the twenty wards could be covered by the researcher due to time constraints. This figure doesn't seem to be a good enough representation of the panchayat's population.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

As the next stage of the research process, the data collected using both qualitative and quantitative technique are presented, analysed, reported, and interpreted in this section in a methodical manner. In order to find trends and relationships that support the goals of the research, the data presentation and analysis procedure sought to provide the data in an understandable and interpretable manner.

Table 4.1 – Respondents distribution according to their Age.

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-30	36	45.0
30-40	44	55.0
Total	80	100

The data regarding the age distribution of respondents is provided in Table 4.1. Out of the 60 respondents in total, 36 samples, or 45% of the total, fall into the 18–30 age group,

and the remaining 44 samples, or 55% of the total, fall into the 30–40 age group.

Table 4.2 – Respondents Response on various questions.

Sr. No.	Question	Response	
		Yes	No
1.	Participation in Gram Sabha	32 (40)	48 (60)
2.	Invitation for Gram Sabha	16 (20)	64 (80)
3.	Youth awareness of their involvement in Gramsabha participation	20 (25)	60 (75)
4.	Youth Club Mambership	60 (75)	20 (25)
5.	Discussions	24 (30)	56 (70)
6.	Taking part in any village-organized social, political, or cultural events	68 (85)	12 (15)
7.	Visit to Panchayat as Beneficiary	24 (30)	56 (70)

The topic of discussion at this table is who has participated in the Gram Sabha previously. Of the total number of responders, 32 samples, or 40.0%, are involved in Gram Sabha, while the remaining 48 samples, or 60.0%, stated that they are not.

Propaganda comes in several forms to educate the beneficiaries about Gram Sabhas. Members of the Youth Coordination Committee, sociopolitical workers, and ward members are the ones who are receiving information about Gram Sabha and invitations. It is evident from the above table that 16 respondents received specific invitations to participate in Gram Sabha, while 64 respondents did not receive direct invitations from the ward members.

Youth have questions when they become aware of anything, and out of all the replies, 20 of them, or 25%, are aware of the significance of taking part in Gramsabha and the balance 75% samples, or sixty people, did not know the significance of joining Gramsabha or its duty.

Gram panchayats have arranged workshops, talks, and seminars. These are well-known programs in the community.

The preceding table indicates that 30.0% of the 24 responders, or 30 percent of the total, are taking part in the seminars and debates. 56 samples, or 70.0% of the total, do not take part in the programs.

The youth participation in socio-political-cultural programs run in their community is discussed in the above table. The majority of respondents (85.0%) take part in sociocultural activities such as the youth club's annual day celebration, the library, and self-help groups. Of the respondents, 15.0% are not involved in any of the programs that are held in the village where they visit, either as an audience member or as an invited guest. Youth political parties are crucial to the active engagement of young people at the village level. The engagement of youth coordination committees, political parties, and self-help groups in these programs all have an impact on how often a family participates in a platform together.

The table above discusses youth trips to GramPanchayats for a variety of reasons. Of the 56 samples (70.0%) that are not attending panchayats as beneficiaries, 24 samples (30.0%) are



visiting them as beneficiaries.

Table 4.3 - A forum for discussing local sociodevelopmental concerns.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Youth Club	32	40
Social Media	28	35
Self Help Group	20	25
Total	80	100

According to the above table 32 respondents, or 40.0% of the sample, said that they thought the youth club and library were good places to discuss socio-developmental issues in the community. Another 35 percent of the sample said they felt comfortable discussing socio-developmental issues on social

media because it allowed them to express their personal and socio-political opinions with more freedom. Twenty samples, or 25.0% of the total, are thinking about using self-help groups as a space.

Table 4.4 - Representatives Selected by Election Views regarding the Active Youth Membership in the Gram Sabha

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	28	35.0
No	52	65.0
Total	80	100

In this table, which discusses youth participation in Gram Sabha, 35% of the elected Panchayat members mentioned that young people in their ward are actively involved in the body. The majority of young people are aware of the Gramsabha date and time thanks to social media, ward members, notices, youth clubs, and the Youth Coordination Committee, but they are not interested in going. However, 65% of the elected Panchayat members made the observation that their children are not taking part in Gram Sabhas.

V. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION

The main conclusions and recommendations from the entire study are included in this section. This chapter presents an overview of the significant findings and insightful conclusion derived from both the quantitative and qualitative study. The following conclusions are based on the goals of understanding youth participation and nature in Gramsabha, identifying potential youth-friendly approaches in Barwa Gram Panchayats, and comprehending youth participation and nature in the planning and oversight of youth and development initiatives in Barwa Gram Panchayats. Lastly, to pinpoint the issues still facing their youth engagement, execution, and oversight, as well as offer solutions. This study examined the Panchayat's current youth development programs, noting its advancements and difficulties.

5.1 Results

- The youth in a few Bedadukka Gram Panchayat wards are not as conscious of the significance of youth engagement in Gramsabha.
- Although there are a lot of young people in youth organisations, not all of them willingly attend the Gramsabha. It demonstrates the lack of contact between

the panchayat and youth clubs. A key task for the Youth Coordination Committee is to close this communication gap.

- It is noteworthy that young people actively participate in socio-political and cultural programs, but their interest is not evident in how they participate in Gramsabha. It is important to raise awareness about youth participation in Gram Sabha through socio-political and cultural arenas.
- The majority of young people and youth organisations feel comfortable sharing knowledge and organising campaigns on social media.
- Ward members participate in their ward's youth club executive committees.

5.2 Recommendations

- Encouraging young people to participate in local government and include their opinions in issues affecting their communities. Developing young people's potential and improving their management, communication, and leadership abilities.
- There is virtually little formal understanding of local government procedures in youth organisations. Panchayats are able to hold workshops on this topic. A key part in this is played by the youth coordination committee.
- One of the well-respected panchayat programs is the annual Panchayath Development seminar and debate. It would be beneficial to extend the seminar's duration and include a special session for young people.
- Creating a youth coordination committee at the ward level encourages young involvement.
- In people's planning campaigns, literacy campaigns and



movements are noteworthy. In Haryana, social media literacy campaigns are now underway. There is a dearth of knowledge about cyber legislation, social media usage in a healthy way, and political education.

- The department of local self-government should utilise the youth icons that the Youth Welfare Board has announced as its advocates for Gramsabha empowerment.

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