

# **Project Report**

## **Promotion of Human Rights in the Rural Local Self Governance: Evidence from Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh**

Submitted To

**National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi**

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Dr. Puneet Pathak

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### List of Abbreviations

S. No.	Full Form	Abbreviations
1.	Accredited Social Health Activist	ASHA
2.	Anganwadi Helper	AWH
3.	Anganwadi Worker	AWW
4.	Ante Natal Care	ANC
5.	Antyodaya Anna Yojana	AAY
6.	Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife	ANM
7.	Average Daily Intake	ADI
8.	Backward Classes	BC
9.	Behaviour Change Communication	BCC
10.	Below Poverty Line	BPL
11.	Common Property Resources	CPR
12.	Community Health Centre	CHC
13.	Constitutional Amendment	CA
14.	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	CAT
15.	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	CEDAW
16.	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	CRPD
17.	Convention on the Rights of the Child	CRC
18.	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission	DAY-NRLM
19.	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	DWCRA
20.	Directive Principles of State Policy	DPSP
21.	Early Childhood Care and Education	ECCE
22.	Early Childhood Care and Education & Development	ECCED
23.	Fair Price Shop	FPS
24.	Food and Nutrition Board	FNB
25.	Ganga Kalyan Yojana	GKY
26.	Gram Panchayat	GP

27.	Gram Panchayat Development Plan	GPDP
28.	Gram Sabha	GS
29.	Health Worker (Female)	HW(F)
30.	Health Worker (Male)	HW(M)
31.	Human Rights	HR
32.	Human Rights Council Advisory Committee	HRCAC
33.	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme	IGNDPS
34.	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme	IGNOAPS
35.	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme	IGNWPS
36.	Infant and young child feeding	IYCF
37.	Integrated Child Development Scheme/Services	ICDS
38.	Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses	IMNCI
39.	Integrated Management Of Public Distribution System	IM-PDS
40.	Integrated Rural Development Programme	IRDP
41.	Integrated Water Resources Management	IWRM
42.	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	ICPAPED
43.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	ICERD
44.	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	ICMRW
45.	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	ICESCR
46.	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	ICCPR
47.	Iron Folic Acid	IFA
48.	Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram	JSSK
49.	Janani SurakshaYojana	JSY
50.	Lady Health Visitor	LHV
51.	Local Self-Government	LSG
52.	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005	MGNREGA
53.	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	MGNREGS
54.	Malnutrition Treatment Centre	MTC

55.	Medical Officer	MO
56.	Member of Parliament	MP
57.	Ministry Of Woman And Child Development	MWCD
58.	National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education	NP-NSPE
59.	National Rural Drinking Water Programme	NRDWP
60.	National Rural Health Mission	NRHM
61.	National Rural Livelihood Mission	NRLM
62.	National Social Assistance Programme	NSAP
63.	Non-Governmental Organization	NGO
64.	Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre	NRC
65.	One Nation One Ration Card	ONORC
66.	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	OPCCPR
67.	Panchayati Raj Institution	PRI
68.	Post Natal Care	PNC
69.	Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman	PM POSHAN
70.	Primary Health Centre	PHC
71.	Public Distribution System	PDS
72.	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan	RMSA
73.	Recommended Dietary Allowances	RDA
74.	Revamped Public Distribution System	RPDS
75.	Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act	RTE
76.	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	SSA
77.	Scheduled Castes	SC
78.	Scheduled Tribes	ST
79.	School Management Committee	SMC
80.	Self Help Groups	SHG
81.	Supreme Court Cases	SCC
82.	Sustainable Development Goals	SDG

83.	Swachh Bharat Mission	SBM
84.	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana	SGSY
85.	Take-Home Ration	THR
86.	Targeted Public Distribution System	TPDS
87.	Teacher Education	TE
88.	Teaching Learning Material	TLM
89.	Television	TV
90.	Tetanus Toxoid	TT
91.	Training to Rural Youth for Self-Employment	TRYSEM
92.	Union Territory	UT
93.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNESCO
94.	United Nations General Assembly	
95.	United Nations Organization	UNO
96.	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	UDHR
97.	Universalization of Elementary Education	UEE
98.	Village Health , Sanitation and Nutrition committee	VHSNC
99.	Village Health Nutrition Day	VHND
100.	With Effect From	WEF

## Executive Summary

One of the concerns in the largest democracy in the world is several challenges in the realization of human rights on multiple levels. This report on local self-governance and human rights status in India with a special focus on the Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the protection and promotion of human rights while keeping in mind their obligations under the Indian Constitution and relevant state laws. For the study, an analytical approach is being applied to know the implementation of existing government schemes and policies related to human rights issues as well as the human rights violations faced by the beneficiaries. The report converses about the status of rural LSG regarding respecting, protecting, fulfilling, and promoting human rights and the arduous challenges faced by rural local authorities so that new suggestions will be given to protect and promote human rights in an efficacious manner at rural levels. The study focused on the role and responsibility of the three-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) as per their obligations under the Indian Constitution and relevant state laws. A vast literature review has been undertaken on various topics and sub-topics of human rights and Local Self-Governance in India to explore the research objectives. Moreover, seven human rights were addressed in this report, such as *First*, the Right to Education (*Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and *Integrated Child Development Services*); *Second*, Right to Health (*National Rural Health Mission* and *Integrated Child Development Protections Schemes*); *Third*, Right to Work (*Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme*); *Forth*, Right To Gender Equality (*National Rural Livelihoods Mission* and *Self-Help Group*) *Fifth*, Right to Social Security (*Pension Schemes for Old Age/Widow/Disabled Person*, and *Public Distribution System*); *Sixth*, Right to Political Participation (*Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)* and *Vibrant Gram Sabha*); *Seventh*, Right to Safe Drinking Water And Sanitation (*Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC)* and *the National Rural Health Mission*. Further, the study aims to find if the above-mentioned human rights are being fulfilled at the village level by the panchayat, and governmental schemes were assessed. A number of questionnaires were conducted to the PRIs representatives of three states along with beneficiaries to assess the functioning of these schemes. After the literature review, these questionnaires were formed, keeping in mind the objective of the study. These annexures and schedules covered the objectives of the present research study in such a manner that every above-mentioned human right was correlated with respective governmental schemes. The report attempts to answer the

questions related to human rights, such as to understand the scope of human rights implementation in LSG and identify challenges faced by them along with a thorough analysis of the implementation of existing government schemes and policies related to human rights issues as well as human rights violations faced by the beneficiaries. The study demanded an explorative research approach where quantitative data supported qualitative data. The research study employed the content analysis technique and statistical analysis.

The area of study was north Indian states from where one district was selected from each of the three states, namely Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. The rationale for choosing three states is that the study seeks to identify and compare the variations in the protection and promotion of human rights in LSG across the northern states. Five panchayats were selected based on the criteria that they had at least 10 Panchayat members and representing the entire district geography. Data from all the members of the selected panchayats were collected with the help of an interview schedule and survey questionnaire. From each district, 300 beneficiaries were interviewed, and a total of 900 beneficiaries were interviewed across the three states. Later, all the data was cumulated in the form of tables. These tables contain the positive responses of the PRIs and beneficiaries in percentages. PRIs representatives' positive responses showcased awareness about their roles and responsibility at the panchayat level and over governmental schemes, which helps in the fulfillment of human rights. Afterward, the research team verified the data collected from PRIs and beneficiaries through onsite visits to institutions implementing governmental schemes at the panchayat level. The data concluded that there was a variation in the fulfillment of human rights under PRIs at the village level among the three states of North India, namely, Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. PRIs need to be strengthened in order to respect, protect, fulfill, and promote fundamental human rights at the rural level.



## Chapter- 1

### Introduction

#### 1.1 Defining Human Rights

“Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more.” (The relationship between business and human rights, 2020) The term "Human Rights" refers to the rights with regard to the basic principles of life, freedom, equality, and dignity that have been ensured by the Constitution or incorporated in the International Covenants and can be enforced through the judicial system in India. The concept of human rights involves a broad spectrum of rights, including civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and group/community rights.

As per the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, human rights are defined as rights that are intrinsic to all individuals, regardless of their nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. All individuals possess an equal entitlement to their human rights without any form of discrimination. (What are human rights? Retrieved from The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, n.d.)

According to Ernest Barker, “Rights are the external conditions necessary for the greatest possible development of the capacities of the personality” (Vijapur A. P., 2009). Human rights are generally considered to refer to a set of protections that each individual possesses by virtue of their existence and birth. Exploitation and discrimination are the biggest hindrances for a man to claim his rights, and the efficacy of the human rights model is to ensure that no individual shall be deprived of his will and dignity. Human Rights are those conditions of life that allow us to fully develop and use our human qualities of intelligence and conscience and to satisfy our spiritual needs. These are pre-condition for dignified human existence. Liberty to live or have an existence that consists of dignity signifies the nobility of human rights. The aspects that determine the core values of life, like inner conscience and intellect, have been developed and conditioned over the years to fulfill our spiritual needs for harmony, which enables us to coexist with peace and reliance. This reflects that these elements are universal in nature; without them,

we cannot live as human beings. (JANGAS, n.d.) To deny human beings their rights is to set the stage for political and social unrest, wars, and hostility between nations and between groups within a nation – and that denial leads to urgent demands for a better life in larger freedom. Human rights have been categorized in a variety of ways, but it's crucial to remember that international human rights law insists on the universality, indivisibility, and interrelationship of all human rights. (Demelash Shiferaw, 2022)

## 1.2 Evolution of Human Rights

The concept of human rights finds its origin in ancient Greek and Roman political systems in Europe, the Confucian system in China, the Islamic political system in the Muslim world, and the Hindu legal system in India. But the concept of human rights in those systems was not understood in the sense we know it today. However, prior to the beginning of the constitutional era, human rights provisions were articulated in British constitutional documents such as the Magna Carta, 1215, the Petition of Rights, 1628, and the Bill of Rights, 1689,<sup>1</sup> as they were the forerunners of the modern bills of rights. In the late 17th and 18th centuries, the necessity for written guarantees of human freedom was felt as a new philosophy of governance. During the 18th century, man's dignity and rights were the dominant themes of political philosophy. This was reflected in historic documents such as in the Virginia Declaration of Rights, 1776, the America Declaration of Independence, 1776, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789, and of more importance, the series of Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1791 as the American Bill of Rights<sup>2</sup>. The U.S. model of the Bill of Rights provided

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<sup>1</sup> Magna Carta (1215), the Petition of Rights (1628), and the Bill of Rights (1689) were the best-known historic documents. The other documents of importance were the Act of Settlement (1701), The Reform Act of 1832, and the Parliament Act of 1911. In 1998 the British Parliament passed a “Human Rights Act”, which became operational in October 2000. This Act incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The UK ratified the ECHR in 1951. Now the rights enumerated in ECHR have the status of domestic law.

<sup>2</sup> The first ten amendments to the constitution (in 1791) are popularly known as the Bill of Rights, which guarantees certain individual freedoms to US citizens. These classical rights and liberties are written into both federal and state constitutions. Following civil and political rights are recognized by the American system: the freedom of religion, speech, the press, peaceful assembly, association, and petition; security against unreasonable searches and seizures; protection against deprivation of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; protection against having private property taken for public use without just compensation; the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury; the right to choose counsel for one's defense; to subpoena witnesses in one's favor, and to have a trial that is fair in all respects and in accordance with due processes of law; security against excessive bail or fines and against cruel and unusual punishments; the equal protection of laws; protection against slavery, involuntary servitude, ex-post-facto laws, unwarranted suspension of the writs of habeas corpus, and various guarantees related to taxation. The original Bill of Rights of 1791 has been expanded from time to time. Later amendments prohibited human

a model for protecting human rights, followed by the constitutions of various states. Franklin Roosevelt's famous 1941 "Four Freedoms" speech included the freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. This trend of incorporating human rights and liberties in documents continued in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Now the overwhelming majority of states in the world have a written constitution providing restrictions against the abuse of authority and enshrining in one form or another human rights and liberties of individuals.

While the British, American, and French documents gradually elaborated only on civil and political rights, not giving importance to social, economic, and cultural rights, the revolution of Soviet Russia in 1917 brought to the forefront the social, economic, and cultural rights. The impact of this socialist revolution led to the development of a new concept of human rights that recognized economic, social, and cultural rights as human rights. Prior to the socialist revolution, the Western liberal countries did not recognize them as human rights.

The United Nations has accomplished a significant feat by establishing an all-encompassing framework of human rights legislation, which serves as a universally recognized and safeguarded set of guidelines that all countries can endorse and individuals can strive to uphold. The United Nations has established a comprehensive spectrum of universally recognized rights covering civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights. Furthermore, it has implemented mechanisms aimed at promoting and safeguarding said rights and providing aid to states in fulfilling their corresponding duties. The fundamental basis of this legal framework comprises the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in 1945 and 1948, respectively. Subsequently, the United Nations has progressively broadened the scope of human rights legislation to incorporate specific criteria for women, children, people with special needs, minorities, and other vulnerable groups. These groups are now endowed with rights that safeguard them against discrimination, which has been prevalent in numerous societies for an extended period of time. (What Are Human Rights?, 2008)

### **1.3 International Bill of Human Rights**

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slavery (1865), extended suffrage to racial minorities (1870), granted voting rights to women (1920), and provided equal rights to women and the non-denial or non-abridgment of equality rights on account of sex (1972).

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights proclaimed by the UNGA on 10 December 1948 by G.A. resolution 217 A (III) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.” (Dung, 2023) It proclaims that basic human rights should be preserved for everyone. The UDHR, along with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, and its two Optional Protocols (I-OPCCPR, 1966, Individual Complaints Procedure, and II-OPCCPR, 1989 Abolition of the Death Penalty), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, 1966, and its Optional Protocol (I-OPESCR, 2008), constitute the so-called International Bill of Human Rights. The field of international human rights law establishes the obligation of governments to engage in particular conduct or abstain from certain acts to promote and protect the human rights and basic liberties of individuals or communities. (Toner, 2017) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights represents an international consensus on the rights that all people and countries are obligated to recognize and preserve. It acknowledged civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. (Criddle, 2020) “Art 3 to 21 deals with civil and political rights, while Art 22 to 28 deals with economic, social, and cultural rights.” (Vijapur, 2018) These rights include the right to life, liberty, and security of person; to freedom of conscience, religion, opinion, expression, association, and assembly; to freedom from arbitrary arrest; right to a fair and impartial trial; to freedom from interference in privacy home or correspondence; to a nationality; to a secured society and an adequate standard of living; to education; and to rest and leisure. The declaration also affirms the rights of every person to own property; to be presumed innocent until proven guilty; to travel from a home country at will and return at will; to work under favorable conditions, receive equal pay for equal work, and join labor unions at will; to marry and raise a family and to participate in government and the social life of the community. The following table represents both categories of rights recognized under UDHR:

**Table No. 1.1: Human Rights under UDHR**

UDHR	
Civil and Political Rights	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Right against non-discrimination Right to life No slavery, torture and inhuman treatment Equal before the law No unfair detainment Right to fair trial Innocent until proved guilty Right to privacy Freedom to movement and residence Right to asylum Right to nationality Rights to marry and have family Right to own things (Property) Freedom of thought and religion <b>Freedom of opinion and expression</b> Right to <b>assemble</b> Right to democracy	<b>Right to social security</b> <b>Right to work</b> Right to rest and holiday Right of social service <b>Right to education</b> Right of cultural and art

After twenty years of adopting the UDHR, the United Nations adopted two human rights Covenants, ICCPR and ICESCR.<sup>3</sup> These Covenants constitute the most extensive *corpus* of international treaty law on the subject of human rights. The UNGA adopted the ICCPR on December 16, 1966, and came into force on March 23, 1976.<sup>4</sup> The ICCPR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the ICSCR and the UDHR.

The signatories to the ICCPR are obligated to respect individuals' civil and political rights. The Covenant's first section recognizes all peoples' right to self-determination, including the right to "freely determine their political status", pursue their economic, social, and cultural objectives, and administer and dispose of their own resources. (Article 1, ICCPR) Articles 2 through 5 of the

<sup>3</sup>. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights see, <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm>;

International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights see, <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>

<sup>4</sup> As of October 2011, the Covenant had 74 signatories and 167 parties.

Covenant require parties to enact legislation, if necessary, to give effect to the rights recognized in the Covenant and to provide an effective legal remedy for any violation of these rights. The Covenant enumerates civil and political liberties. These include rights to physical integrity, such as the right to life, freedom from torture, and freedom from slavery. (Articles 6, 7, and 8, ICCPR); liberty and security of the person, in the form of freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention (Articles 9 – 11, ICCPR); procedural fairness in the law, in the form of rights to due process, a fair and impartial trial, the presumption of innocence, and recognition as a person before the law (Articles 14, 15, and 16, ICCPR); individual liberty, in the form of the freedoms of movement, thought, conscience and religion, speech, association and assembly, family rights, the right to a nationality, and the right to privacy (Articles 12, 13, 17 – 24, ICCPR); prohibition of any propaganda for war as well as any advocacy of national or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence by law (Article 20, ICCPR); political participation, including the right to join a political party and the right to vote (Article 25, ICCPR); non-discrimination, minority rights and equality before the law. (Articles 26 and 27, ICCPR) Further, the Covenant provides for the establishment of the Human Rights Committee monitoring the implementation of the Covenant by state parties. (Articles 41 and 42, ICCPR)

The ICESCR obligates its signatories to work towards granting economic, social, and cultural rights, such as labour rights, the right to health, the right to education, and the right to an adequate standard of living to individuals. These include the right to work under "just and favorable conditions," as well as the right to form and join trade unions (Articles 6, 7, and 8, ICESCR); social security, including social insurance (Article 9, ICESCR); family life, including paid parental leave and the protection of children (Article 10, ICESCR); an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and the "continuous improvement of living conditions" (Article 11, ICESCR); health, specifically "the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health" (Article 12, ICESCR); education, including free universal primary education, generally available secondary education and equally accessible higher education. This should be directed to "the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity", and enable all persons to participate effectively in society (Articles 13 and 14, ICESCR); participation in cultural life. (Article 15, ICESCR) Further, the Covenant governs reporting and monitoring of the steps which the parties take to implement it. (Articles 16 – 25 ICESCR) The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights monitors the implementation of the ICESCR. It also allows

the monitoring body to make general recommendations to the UNGA on appropriate measures to realize the rights outlined in the Covenant (Article 21 ICESCR). The Optional Protocol to the ICESCR adopted by the UNGA on 10 December 2008, establishes the complaint and inquiry mechanisms for the ICESCR.

**Table No. 1.2: Human Rights under International Covenants**

ICCPR	ICESCR
Freedom from discrimination Right to equality between men and women Right to life Freedom from torture Freedom from slavery Right to liberty and security of person Right to be treated with humanity in detention Freedom of movement Freedom of non-citizens from arbitrary expulsion Right to fair trial Right to recognition before the law Right to privacy Freedom of religion and belief Freedom of expression Right of peaceful assembly Freedom of association Right to marry and found a family Right of children to birth registration and a nationality Right to participate in public affairs Right to equality before the law Minority rights	Freedom from discrimination Right to equality between men and women <b>Right to work</b> Freedom to <b>choose and accept work</b> Right to just and <b>favourable conditions at work</b> Right to form trade unions Right to strike Right to social security Right of mothers to special protection before and after birth Freedom of children from social and economic exploitation Right to an adequate standard of living Freedom from hunger <b>Right to health</b> <b>Right to education</b> Freedom of parents to choose schooling for their children Right to take part in cultural life Right to enjoy benefits of science Right of authors to moral and material interests from works Freedom to undertake scientific research and creative activity

The fundamental international human rights treaties establish international standards for protecting and promoting human rights, to which every nation (state) may become a signatory by complying with these treaties. (Amir, 2009) Each State party is required to ensure that everyone within its borders can enjoy the rights specified in the treaty. (Adela Carrasco, 2020) There are nine fundamental international human rights treaties (Treaty Body Capacity Building Programme, 2020) that address a variety of economic, social, and cultural rights, civil and political rights, the elimination of racial and gender discrimination, protection against torture and disappearances by force, and the rights of women, children, migrants, and individuals with disabilities. The human rights treaty system has grown considerably over the past few decades in terms of the authorization and ratification of international human rights treaties by states. Acceptance of the treaties imposes legal obligations on

state actors to protect against, prevent, and remedy violations of human rights. The treaty system establishes the international validity of supervision and accountability across the domestic implementation of these treaties, with treaty standards serving as the benchmark for assessments. There are nine essential international human rights treaties.

**Table No. 1.3: Core International Human Rights Treaties**

S. No.	Core International Human Rights Treaties	Date of Adoption
1.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)	21 December, 1965
2.	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	16 December, 1996
3.	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	16 December, 1966
4.	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	18 December, 1979
5.	Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)	10 December, 1984
6.	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	20 November, 1989
7.	International Convention on Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMRW)	18 December, 1990
8.	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	13 December, 2006
9.	International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPAPED)	20 December, 2006

#### 1.4 Indian's Human Rights Obligations

India was among the founding members of the United Nations who signed the United Nations Declaration in 1942 and also attended the 1945 United Nations Conference in San Francisco. As a founding member of the United Nations, India ardently supports its intentions and principles. (India and the United Nations, n.d.) (Preamble UDHR) The United Nations Charter recognizes that the world's freedom, justice, and peace are predicated on the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. This is the foundation upon which freedom, justice, and peace can exist. These liberties stem from the inherent worth of the human being. The ideal of free human beings savoring civil and political freedom as well as freedom from fear and want can only be realized if conditions are established so that everyone can enjoy his civil and political rights in addition to his economic, social, and cultural rights (ICCPR Preamble). As a signatory to the United Nations Charter, India is obligated to promote universal respect and observance of human rights and freedoms. The Indian government has ratified the following United Nations human rights treaties:



**Table No. 1.4: Human Rights Treaties ratified by India**

As a signatory to the above-mentioned international human rights conventions, India is bound to uphold and guarantee the rights enshrined in these Covenants to all individuals within its jurisdiction and territory. Moreover, each State Party to these Covenants undertakes, in accordance with its constitutional procedures, to take the steps and adopt the laws and other measures necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in these international human rights treaties. (Article 2 of ICCPR & ICESCR)

S No.	Name of the Treaties	Date of signature /ratification
1.	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966	10/04/1979
2.	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights 1966	10/04/1979
3.	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of discrimination Against women 1979	08/08/1993
5.	Convention on Rights of the Child 1990	11/12/1992
6.	International Covenant on elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination 1965	03/12/1968

### 1.5 Human Rights under Indian Constitution

India adopted its Constitution in 1949, which defined India as a sovereign democratic republic (Basu, 2018). India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and a party to various international human rights instruments. India adopted its Constitution on December 26, 1949, which was highly influenced by the UDHR 1948. The Constitution of India recognizes the right to equality, the right to freedom, the right against exploitation, the right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights, and the right to constitutional remedies under Part- III as Fundamental Rights. These fundamental rights are of the nature of civil and political rights. Those human rights which fall in the category of economic, social and cultural rights have been enshrined in Part IV of the Constitution as Directive Principles of State Policy. (Kothari, 2004).

**Table No. 1.5: Rights under UDHR and Indian Constitution**

<b>Right</b>	<b>UDHR</b>	<b>Constitution of India</b>
Equality and equal protection before law	Article 07	Article 14
Remedies for violation of fundamental Rights	Article 08	Article 32
Right to life and personal liberty	Article 09	Article 21
Protection in respect for conviction of offences	Article 11(2)	Article 20 (1)
Right to Property	Article 17	Article 300 A
Right to freedom of conscience and to practice, profess and propagate any religion	Article 18	Article 25 (1)
Freedom of Speech	Article 19	Article 19 (1) (a)
Equality in opportunity of public service	Article 21 (2)	Article 16 (1)
Protection of minorities	Article 22	Article 29 (1)
Right to Education	Article 26 (1)	Article 21A

**Table No. 1.6: Rights under ICCPR and Indian Constitution**

<b>Right</b>	<b>ICCPR</b>	<b>Constitution of India</b>
Right to life and liberty	Article 06 (1) & 09 (1)	Article 21
Prohibition of trafficking and forced labour	Article 8 (3)	Article 23
Protection against detention in certain cases	Article 9 (2), (3), (4)	Article 22
Freedom of movement	Article 12 (1)	Article 19 (1) (d)
Right to equality	Article 14 (1)	Article 14
Right not to be compelled to be a witness against own self	Article 14 (3) (g)	Article 14 (1)
Protection against double jeopardy	Article 14 (7)	Article 20 (2)
Protection against ex-post facto law	Article 15 (1)	Article 20 (1)
Right to freedom of conscience and to practice, profess and propagate any religion	Article 18 (1)	Article 25 (1), 25 (2)
Freedom of speech and expression	Article 19 (1) (2)	Article 19 (1) (a)
Right to assembly peacefully	Article 21	Article 19 (1) (b)
Right to form union/association	Article 22 (1)	Article 19 (1) (c)
Equality in opportunity of public service	Article 25 (1)	Article 16 (1)
Equality before law	Article 26	Article 14 & 15 (1)
Protection of interests of minorities	Article 27	Article 29 (1) & 30

**Table No. 1.7: Rights under ICESCR and Indian Constitution**

<b>Right</b>	<b>ICESCR</b>	<b>Constitution of India</b>
Right to work	Article 06 (1)	Article 41
Equal pay for equal work	Article 07 (a) (i)	Article 39 (d)
Right to living wage & descent standard for life	Article 07 (a) (ii) & (d)	Article 43
Humane conditions of work & maternity leave	Article 07 (b) & 10 (2)	Article 42
Faculties and opportunities to children for prevention against exploitation	Article 10 (3)	Article 39 (f)
Improving public health & raise the level of nutrition and standard of living	Article 11	Article 47
Compulsory Education of Children	Article 13 (2) (a)	Article 45
Protection of interests of minorities	Article 27	Article 29 (1) & 30

## **1.6 Rural Local-Self Governance**

### **1.6.1 Concept of Local Self-Governance**

The administration and regulation of local issues by a local entity or authority is known as local self-government (LSG). Local self-government constitutes both rural and urban local governance in India. The local self-governing entities can take the form of either municipalities in urban areas or panchayats in the rural areas. The concept of local self-government (LSG) in India can be traced back to the Vedic texts, the administration of Sodas-Mahajanpad, and the writings of Megasthenes. The existence of LSG is evident from these sources. (Panchayati Raj, n.d.) Therefore, it can be said that the notion of LSG is not a recent development in India. During 600 B.C., the region situated north of the river Ganga, which encompasses present-day north Bihar and eastern U.P., was governed by small republics known as Janapadas. Among these republics, the Lichhavis held the most dominant position. In these Janapadas, the affairs of the State were conducted by an assembly consisting of local chieftains. In the post-Mauryan times, there were also republics of Malavas and the Kshudrakas, where decisions were taken by “*sabhas*”. The contemporary structure of local self government institutions took shape in 1688 when the British established a Municipal Corporation at Madras, followed by the creation of similar bodies at Bombay and Calcutta (1726). Comprising a Mayor and a majority of

British-born Councillors, these Corporations were basically units of administration enjoying considerable judicial powers. During the next 150 years, municipal bodies were created in several mufasill towns, although their functions remained confined to the conservancy, road repairs, lighting and a few other items. In 1872, Lord Mayo introduced elected representatives for these municipalities and this was further developed by his successor, Lord Ripon, in 1882. By the 1880s, these urban municipal bodies had a pre-dominance of elected representatives in a number of cities and towns, including Calcutta and Bombay. The present structure of LSG came into existence with the passing of the Bengal Local Self Government Act 1885, which led to the establishment of district local boards across the entire territory of the then Bengal province.

The Minto-Morley (1909) and the Montague Chelmsford Reforms (1919) widened the participation of people in the governing process that existed till the late 1950s. LSG got the constitutional status by the 73<sup>rd</sup> (Panchayats) and 74<sup>th</sup> (Municipalities) Constitutional Amendment, 1992 (6th Report, Second Administrative Reforms Commission, 2007).

The term "local government" typically refers to the primary level of public administration within a specific jurisdictional area. Local government aims to facilitate the provision of government services to the community and empower individuals to actively engage in the decision-making process that impacts their everyday lives. In conceptual terms, local government, which is at the level closest to the people, is in a far better position to handle issues that call for local knowledge and regulation based on local needs and requirements. The principle of decentralization of governance serves as the foundation for local self-government.

The extent to which local authorities exercise self-governance can be considered a crucial component of authentic democracy. The localization of democracy and human rights necessitates the implementation of political, fiscal, and administrative decentralization. Remember that recognizing and protecting human rights is essential for establishing and maintaining a functional democracy and vice versa. However, the mere presence of local self-government does not necessarily guarantee the establishment of participatory democracy. Decentralization aims to enhance the authority of citizens in policymaking and decision-making. However, to enable democratic participation to be viable and efficient, it is imperative to establish secure measures and procedures. The establishment of a sound legal framework for local government is crucial in guaranteeing efficient local governance and satisfactory enforcement of human rights at the local level. The legal framework must clearly define an

entity's organizational structure, powers, and functions. (Role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights – Final report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, 2015)

The concept of local self-governance is bifurcated into two distinct categories, namely urban local governance, which is commonly referred to as Municipality, and rural local self-governance, which is known as Panchayat. In the context of urban regions, there exist three distinct categories of local governing bodies: Municipal Corporations or *Mahanagar Palikas*, which are responsible for administering areas with a populace exceeding one million; Municipal Councils/Municipalities or *Nagar Palikas*, which are tasked with managing regions with a population of less than one million; and Town Councils or Nagar Panchayats, which are entrusted with the responsibility of governing areas that are in the process of transitioning from rural to urban. (Indian Development Review, 2020) Rural local self-government in India is a three-tier system that looks after the necessities of the villagers and encourages developmental activity in the villages. The three tiers of rural local self-government are *Gram Panchayat*, *Panchayat Samiti*, and *Zila Parishad*.

The Gram Panchayat is a fundamental governing body within rural Indian communities. The aforementioned entity functions as a political institution, serving in the capacity of a village cabinet. The Gram Sabha serves as the primary governing body of the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat members are elected through a direct voting by the people. The Gram Panchayat is partitioned into wards, with each ward represented by a Ward Member or Commissioner, commonly known as a Panch or Panchayat Member, elected directly by the rural populace. The Panchayat, a local self-government institution in rural India, is presided over by the Sarpanch, who serves as the village president. The duration of the tenure for elected officials is five years. The Secretary of the Panchayat is a designated official who is not elected but rather appointed by the state government to supervise the activities of the Panchayat. Gram Panchayats are the key to the administration of village units across India. They hold discussions on various issues, including:

- ❖ Social issues
- ❖ Water problems
- ❖ Benefits and facilities rolled out to people falling under the BPL (Below Poverty Line)
- ❖ Tracking any misuse of public money

- ❖ Any other issue allotted to gram panchayats from time to time by the Government.

### 1.6.2 Functions of Gram Panchayat

Some important functions of a gram panchayat include:

- ❖ Administrative functions such as the welfare of the village and public works such as repairing and constructing roads, bridges, drainages, and wells; installing and maintaining street lamps; registering births and deaths; Providing primary education.
- ❖ Judicial functions, such as: Ensuring affordable and speedy justice; Imposition of fines up to ₹100
- ❖ Economic and social functions include the construction of marriage halls and libraries, establishing and running cooperative credit societies and fair-price shops, and establishing ponds, orchids, and gardens.
- ❖ Other functions include constructing and maintaining roads, drainage, water resources, school buildings, and Common Property Resources (CPR).
- ❖ Levying of local taxes and collecting them.
- ❖ Execution of government schemes related to employment.
- ❖ Any other function allotted to the Panchayat by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).

### 1.6.3 Gram Panchayat Funds

A significant segment of Part IX of the Constitution, encompassing Articles 243C, 243D, 243E, 243G, and 243K, pertains to the composition of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). However, the actual potency of these institutions, in terms of both self-governance and effectiveness, is contingent upon their financial status, which encompasses their ability to generate internal resources. Typically, Panchayats in our nation obtain financial resources through the following means:

1. Grants from the Union Government based on the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission as per Article 280 of the Constitution
2. Devolution from the State Government based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission as per Article 243 I
3. Loans/grants from the State Government
4. Programme-specific allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Additional

## Central Assistance

### 5. Internal Resource Generation (tax and non-tax)

#### 1.6.4 Promotion of Human Rights in Local Self-Governance

World Bank has estimated that 65.07% population in India is rural. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are responsible for rural local self-governance. PRIs function at the village, intermediate (block), and district levels. There are approximately 2,55,487 Village Panchayats at the village level, 6829 Intermediate Panchayats at the block level, and 659 District Panchayats at the district level in India. There are 31,88,981 elected representatives working at all three tiers of rural local self-government. (Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Annual Report, 2020-21). The power, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats are outlined in Article 243G of the Indian Constitution, which is subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Additionally, the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats in respect to the following (Rural Administration and the 73rd Amendment, n.d.)-

- (a) The **preparation** of plans for economic development and social justice;
- (b) The **implementation** of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them, including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

The Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution includes various responsibilities of Panchayats, which directly relate to the protection of the human rights of the rural population. It covers a wide range of economic and livelihood activities like agriculture, including agricultural extension, land improvement/land reforms/soil conservation, irrigation, water management, animal husbandry, dairying, poultry, fisheries, social forestry and farm forestry, and small-scale industries. Activities that ensure a dignified life include rural housing, drinking water, fuel and fodder, roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication, rural electrification including electricity distribution, non-conventional energy sources, markets, and fairs.

To ensure equality and a minimum standard of living conditions, the Panchayat have been entrusted with the implementation of poverty alleviation programme and management of public distribution system. Panchayats have also been tasked with the responsibility of ensuring educational rights, including primary and secondary education, technical training and vocational

education, adult and non-formal education, and libraries. It is also responsible for health, sanitation, and family welfare, including establishing and maintaining hospitals, primary health centres, and dispensaries. Social welfare projects and activities, such as those for women's and children's empowerment, the disabled and the mentally retarded, those who are economically deprived, and, in especially, the members of the marginalized groups known as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have also been delegated to panchayats. It has also been empowered to carryout cultural activities and maintenance of community assets.

According to the UN Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee (HRCAC), "the degree of self-government exercised by citizens and local authorities can be regarded as a key indicator of genuine democracy." Political, fiscal, and administrative decentralization, according to HRCAC, is critical for localizing democracy and human rights" (A/HRC/AC/13/L.4, 14 August 2014). As the first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said in 1948: "... Self-governance is and should be the basis of any truly democratic system. You cannot build a consolidated democracy if you don't build its foundation from below ... " (Aijaz, 2007).

The realization of human rights is measured in the terms of the "respect, protect and fulfill" framework by international human rights bodies. This typology though introduced by Henry Shue in 1980 is credited to Asbjørn Eide who introduced it in a slightly different form in 1987 when he functioned as a Special Rapporteur to the UN Sub-Commission. Although, this framework was devised in connection with the realization of social, economic and cultural rights, this framework is now used in connection of human rights in general. This framework was formally adopted only in 1997 when it was mentioned in the Maastricht Guidelines on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Later, the framework appeared in the General Comment 12 on the right to food (1999), General comment 13 on right to education (1999) and the General Comment 13 on the right to health (2000). The framework since then has been in use to categorize and to analyze responsibility of human rights, operationalize and measure responsibility of human rights, to understand the nature of human rights obligations of the state parties to the human rights treaties. The framework was defined in the following manner:

"Like civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights impose three different types of obligation on States: the obligations to respect, protect and fulfil. Failure to perform any one of these three obligations constitutes violation of these rights. The obligation to respect requires



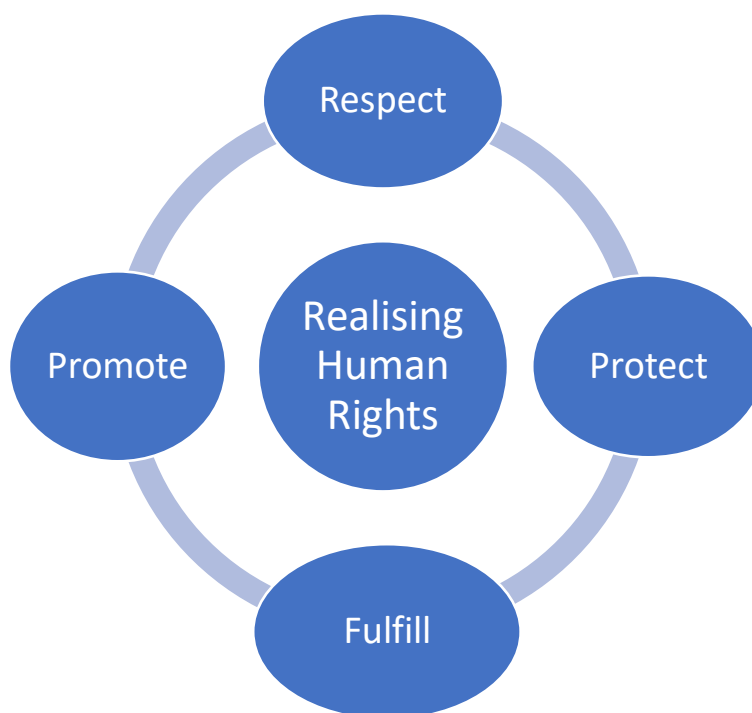
States to refrain from interfering with the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

Thus, the right to housing is violated if the State engages in arbitrary forced evictions. The obligation to protect requires States to prevent violations of such rights by third parties. Thus, the failure to ensure that the private employers comply with basic labor standards may amount to a violation of the right to work or the right to just and favorable conditions of work. The obligation to fulfill requires States to take appropriate legislative, administrative, budgetary, judicial and other measures towards the full realization of such rights. Thus, the failure to provide essential primary health care to those in need may amount to a violation.”

In absence of precise definition of the framework its meaning is not suited to all human rights particularly economic, social and cultural rights. Scholars like Van Hoof (1984); Steiner and Alston, (2000); Koch, (2005) and Karp, (2020) have challenged the application of respect, protect and fulfil framework and its current understanding. Van Hoof, 1984 argues in favour of a set of four obligations i.e., to respect, to protect, to ensure and to promote. Steiner and Alston, 2000 propose a set of five obligations which are: 1) to respect rights of others; (2) to create institutional machinery essential to realisation of rights; (3) to protect rights/prevent violations; (4) to provide goods and services to satisfy rights; and (5) to promote rights. Koch, 2005 argues that the typology of respect, protect and fulfil fails to provide full understanding of the issues connected with the implementation and enforcement of the human rights and therefore she contends that the framework should be reconsidered. Karp, 2020 asserts that the conception of respect in the tripartite framework needs to be widened. He argues that the ‘do no harm’ conception of ‘respect’ needs to be enlarged to include a duty to not to dehumanize.

The fourth aspect of human rights realization i.e., promote was added by van Hoof in 1984. The General Comments by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, however do not consider the obligation to “promote” separately. It conceives the obligation to “promote” as a part of obligation to “fulfil” itself since obligation to “fulfil” was taken to include three parameters i.e. obligation to “provide”, obligation to “facilitate” and obligation to “promote”.

This four-aspects framework (RPFP Framework) is understood as: to **respect** by not violating the human rights of the individual, to **protect** by preventing others from engaging in human rights violation, to **fulfill** by developing a system to realize human rights, to **promote** includes advertising/ raising awareness about human rights.



#### RFPF Framework for measuring the realization of Human Rights

For the purpose of the present study this framework is being applied in the context of rural local self-government. General decisions in rural local self-government regarding the various activities are directly linked to human rights implementation that enforces/weakens residents' ability to realize human rights. Such realization of human rights is being measured with four components of the framework i.e. respect, protect, fulfill and promote. The definitions of these four components in terms of measuring the realizing of Human Rights through PRI at rural level are as under:

An individual who possesses knowledge and understanding of human rights is capable of demonstrating **respect** for these rights by refraining from violating them. The **protection** of human rights can be achieved through the proactive intervention of PRIs members in order to prevent the infringement of individuals' human rights by external entities. In instances where an individual possesses knowledge of the potential infringer of a particular right, it becomes feasible for him to take remedial action promptly. In essence, an individual may safeguard the human rights of individuals by possessing knowledge regarding the provisions of a statute, programme, or scheme, as well as the individuals involved in its implementation. These individuals may potentially violate human rights by rejecting, delaying, or manipulating the rightful entitlements of the people. The

**fulfilment** aspects of human rights are closely tied to the actions undertaken by members of PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions) through the formulation of appropriate policies aimed at effectively implementing programmes and schemes pertaining to specific human rights.

The promotion of human rights is closely associated with the dissemination of information regarding government initiatives and projects that are directly aligned with certain human rights. Human rights offenders leverage the lack of knowledge among individuals in order to hinder their ability to exercise their fundamental human rights. The lack of knowledge among right holders on their rights renders them more susceptible to infringements perpetrated by others. In order to realize human rights at rural level, all components i.e. respect, protect and fulfill and promote are required to be complied.

### 1.7. Specific Human Rights and related Schemes

For the present research, seven human rights (education, health, gender equality, social security, employment (work), political participation, safe drinking water and sanitation) were identified as fundamental human rights. These rights include two civil and political rights (political participation and gender equality) and five economic social and cultural rights (education, health, social security, employment, safe water and sanitation) which concern the basic social and economic conditions needed to live a life of dignity.

**Table No. 1.8: Specific Human Rights and related Schemes**

S.No.	Human Rights	Related Schemes
1.	Right to Education	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Integrated Child Development Services scheme
2.	Right to Health	National Health Mission Integrated Child Development Services scheme
3.	Right to Gender Equality	Self Help Group
4.	Right to Social Security	Public Distribution System Old age/Widow/Disabled Pension scheme
5.	Right to Work	MGNREGS
6.	Right to Political Participation	Vibrant Gram Sabha Gram Panchayat Development Plan
7.	Right to Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation	National Rural Drinking Water Programme Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen

### 1.7.1 Right to Education

Education as the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits” (UNESCO). National Educational Policy 2020 proclaims education as fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. Right to education also finds a mention in the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. The goal further recognises that the right to education should not be restricted to a particular age group and hence calls for promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. Sustainable Development Goal 4.1: aims to ensure that all boys and girls complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

Right to education was a part of Directive Principles of State Policy up to 2002 when the 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment recognized the right to education as a fundamental right for children between 6-14 years by inserting Article 21A in Part III of the Constitution. To ensure the education of all children of this age group Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, Act 2009 was passed. Further, the amendment also brought changes to Article 45, which now reads as “The state shall endeavor to dispense early childhood care and free education for all children until they reached the age of 6 years” (prior to 86<sup>th</sup> CA 2009, it obliged the state to provide free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years). The amendment also added a new duty for parents to provide education to their children between the age of six and fourteen years (Article 51A (k)).

In regard to the role of Gram Panchayat in facilitating the right to education, Entry 17 of the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India entrusts Gram Panchayats with the responsibility of education, including primary and secondary schools. To attain the above objective, multiple governmental schemes were introduced, among which ‘Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Integrated Child Development Services’ were the ones being accessed in this research as the major schemes for the respect, promotion, fulfilment, and protection of the ‘Right to Education’ in the states of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

## **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a constituent of the Samagra Shiksha programme, which was introduced in 2018 as a comprehensive initiative for the school education sector. This programme encompasses the entire educational journey from pre-school to class 12 and incorporates three schemes, namely the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE). The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a prominent initiative of the Indian government, which was launched in 2001 with the aim of attaining Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE). The legal backing to SSA was provided when free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14 was recognized as a fundamental right in the Indian Constitution under Article 21 A. Further, the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 ensured free and compulsory education for all children. The initial aim of SSA was to meet its objectives by 2010; however, the timeline has been extended.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme was started in India on 15th August 1995 under the ‘National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE)’. In October 2007, NP-NSPE was renamed ‘National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools,’ popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme. In September 2021, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was renamed ‘PM POSHAN’ or Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman. PM POSHAN will extend the hot cooked meals to students studying in pre-primary levels or Bal Vatikas of government and government-aided primary schools, in addition to those already covered under the mid-day scheme.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme is implemented through Primary school (Class 1 to 5) and Upper Primary School (Class 6 to 8). SSA ensures establishment of schools to children within a reasonable walking distance. After the RTE Act came into force, the new concept of a neighborhood school defined by the States/UTs (in most cases 1 km for Primary and 3 km for Upper Primary) has become the norm. The provisions of RTE Act, 2009 also regulate teacher and student ratio, infrastructural facilities, teacher training, etc.,

The Mid-Day Meal scheme is one of its kind and the biggest feeding program launched by the Government of India. Under this scheme, all the students enrolled between the class 1st to 8th in government or government-aided schools and Madrasas are eligible to enjoy a one-time meal for at least 200 days a year. Mid-day meal scheme acts as a source of “supplementary nutrition” for students, which helps their healthy growth.

## **Integrated Child Development Services**

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme was initiated in 1975 to cater to the health, nutrition, and developmental requirements of young children and pregnant and lactating mothers. This programme is distinct in its approach toward early childhood development. Over 35 years of its operation, ICDS has expanded from 33 community development blocks selected in 1975 to cover almost all population across the country. However, the larger part of the expansion (more than 50%) has taken place post-2005. Recognizing that early childhood development constitutes the foundation of human development, ICDS is designed to promote the holistic development of children under the age of six years through the strengthened capacity of caregivers and communities and improved access to basic services at the community level. Within this group, priority is accorded to addressing the critical prenatal- under three years age group, the period of most rapid growth and development and also of greatest vulnerability. The programme is specifically designed to reach disadvantaged and low-income groups for effective disparity reduction. ICDS provides a convergent interface/platform between communities and other systems such as primary healthcare, education, water, and sanitation. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme provides a range of services, including nutritional support, early childhood education, primary education, healthcare, health assessments, immunizations, and referrals for children under the age of six and their mothers.

ICDS Programme is implemented through Anganwadi at Panchayat Level. For every population of 800 people, one Anganwadi centre is required to be established at the rural level. Through Anganwadi centres, pre-school education is imparted to children in the age group of 3 to 6 years. It is an important part of the integrated child development project. Anganwadi is the first step in education before children go to primary school. Its purpose is to ensure children's psychological, physical, and social development. Anganwadi centres conduct non-formal pre-school activities using local learning and play material, maintain toy banks, thus making learning joyful and interesting.

India is home to 158.7 million children in the age group of 0-6 years. With nearly 20% of the 0-4 years child population of the world, India harbors the greatest population of minors globally. Even while literacy and the economy are growing, there is still a lack of knowledge, assimilation, and

investment in children's holistic development, which is more vital. (Uplifting the social status of women and children in Assam, n.d.)

### 1.7.2 Right to Health

The WHO defines the right to health as “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family (art. 25 UDHR, 1948). Right to health includes several elements, such as the availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of health care goods and services (art. 12 ICCPR, 1966). Children are entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health (art. 24 UNCRC, 1966). Women are entitled to have free and accessible health services in relation to pregnancy and post-natal care (art. 12 CEDAW, 1966).

SDG Goal- 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages. Further, health and well-being are important at every stage of one’s life, starting from the beginning. This goal addresses all major health priorities: reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health; communicable and non-communicable diseases; universal health coverage; and access for all to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines. (<https://data.unicef.org/sdgs/goal-3-good-health-wellbeing/>)

Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which has been interpreted by the courts to include the right to health as an essential component. The Supreme Court of India has held that the right to health is a fundamental right inherent in the right to life, and the State is obligated to ensure that its citizens have access to adequate healthcare facilities and services. (*Consumer Education and Research Centre V. Union of India AIR 1995 SC 922*). Article 47 of the Constitution, Directive Principles of State Policy, directs the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health as among its primary duties. The National Health Policy, 2017 recognizes the right to health as a fundamental right and aims to ensure universal access to quality healthcare services without financial hardship. In regard to the role of Gram Panchayat in facilitating the right to health, Entry 23 of Schedule 11 of the Constitution of India provides that one of the functions of gram panchayat is to ensure health and sanitation of people, through hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries.

Two schemes were selected for the study of realization of Right to Health: Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). ICDS is implemented through Anganwadi at the panchayat level. These Anganwadi centres provides early childhood care education & development; care & nutrition counselling; health services; community mobilization awareness, advocacy & information, education and communication. NRHM is implemented through Sub-centres/Dispensaries at the panchayat level. Sub-centres offer a range of services pertaining to maternal and child health, family welfare, nutrition, immunization, diarrhoea control, and communicable illnesses prevention initiatives.

**Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS):** The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) was initiated in 1975 as an exceptional programme for early childhood development. Its primary objective is to cater to the nutritional, health, and growth-oriented requirements of young children, as well as pregnant and nursing moms. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) comprises of four distinct components: Early Childhood Care Education & Development (ECCED), Care & Nutrition Counselling, Health Services, Community Mobilisation Awareness, Advocacy & Information, Education and Communication.

#### **Early Childhood Care Education & Development (ECCED):**

**Early Childhood care and Education / Pre-school Non-formal Education:** The **beneficiaries** of this component include children aged 0-6 years and their parents/care givers. **Interventions** of this component include guidance to parents through home visits, early screening and referral, followed by monthly monitoring, promotion of child growth and developmental milestones by observance of fixed monthly village ECCE Days, imparting of non-formal pre-school education through activity based on semi-structured play & learning method. **Activities** of this component include providing non-formal pre-school education to channelize child's energy and also to offer substitute care to younger children in order to free older Siblings, especially girls, to attend school - Make children school ready with holistic development activities - Engage with Parents group / Mothers groups to enable them to train their children through play mode. Conduct ECCE day capacity building to parents and Grand Parents for increased parent-led child learning. Involve NGOs and School teachers in ECCE Days. Functionaries responsible include Anganwadi Worker (AWW)/Second AWW cum Child Care & Nutrition Counsellor Supervisor is required to attend at least 2 ECCE meetings per month.



**Supplementary Nutrition:** The **beneficiaries** are: - 6 months to 6 Yrs. - Pregnant and Lactating (P&L) Mothers. **Interventions** include Morning Snack, Hot Cooked Meal and THR as per norms. **Activities** include supplementary nutrition to be ensured for a minimum of 300 days in a year - Bridge between the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) and the Average Daily Intake (ADI) of beneficiaries - The Supplementary Nutrition Rules were issued by MWCD in 2017. **Functionaries Responsible:** AWW/ Second AWW/ Anganwadi Helper (AWH)/ Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Others

### **Care and Nutrition Counselling:**

**Infant & Young Child feeding (IYCF) Promotion & Counselling:** The **beneficiaries** are Pregnant and lactating Mothers - Mothers of Children under three years. **Interventions** include IYCF practices comprised of breastfeeding for the first six months of life and appropriate complementary feeding - Skilled one-to-one counseling through home visits. **Activities** include advice to women on Food intake - Advice on breastfeeding activities designed to give nutritional food to children - For optimal breast-feeding practices linked to growth monitoring - Complementary Feeding - Home visits and follow-ups. **Functionaries Responsible:** AWW/Second AWW cum nutrition Counsellor/ Supervisors/ Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) / Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM)

**Maternal Care and Counselling:** The **beneficiaries** are Pregnant and Lactating Mothers. **Interventions:** Early registration of pregnancy - Counselling on the diet, rest and IFA compliance during home visits - Monitoring Weight gain - Examination for pallor and oedema and any danger signs - Home-based counseling essential for newborn care, lactation support & counseling on spacing. **Activities:** Nutrition counselling to all the women in the age group of 15 – 45 years - Counselling and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) to women regarding basic Health Care, Nutrition, Maternal Care and healthy food habits of Childcare, infant feeding practices, utilization of health services, o Family planning and Environmental Sanitation - Lactation support includes support for initiation of breastfeeding through skilled counselling. **Functionaries Responsible:** ASHA/ ANM/ Medical Officer (MO) / Second AWW cum nutrition counsellor.

**Care, Nutrition, Health & Hygiene Education:** The beneficiaries of this service are P&L Mothers and other caregivers, - Community and families. **Interventions:** Monthly health and

nutrition education sessions - Education on improved caring practices – feeding, health and hygiene and psychosocial - Knowledge sharing for care during pregnancy, lactation and adolescence- Promotion of local foods and family feeding – Appropriate food demonstration - Celebration of Nutrition week, Breastfeeding week, ICDS day etc. **Activities:** Weighing of children 0-3 years on a monthly basis and 0-6 years children on a quarterly basis. - Maintain weight-for-age growth charts for all children 0–6 yrs. as per WHO Child Growth Standards. - Identifying growth faltering and appropriate counselling of care givers on optimal infant and young child feeding and health - Providing joint Mother and Child Protection card to each mother to track the nutritional status, immunization schedule and developmental milestones for both child and pregnant and lactating mothers. **Functionaries Responsible:** AWW/ Second AWW cum nutrition counsellor / Supervisor

**Community-based care and management of Underweight Children:** The **beneficiaries** of this service are: moderately and severely underweight children & their mothers/care givers. **Interventions:** 100% Weighing of all eligible children and identification of underweight children - Referral to NRCs/MTCs for children requiring medical attention - 12-day Nutritional counselling and care sessions for required children (Sneha Shivirs) & 18-day home care and follow-up during home visit. **Activities:** Providing hands-on training on caring practices is given at “Sneha Shivirs” to mothers and caregivers of underweight children at AWCs for 12 days, followed by 18 days of home practice. - Tracking of the weight growth of the children during the 18 days of home practice through home visits. **Functionaries Responsible:** Supervisors/ Mother’s Group/ PRIs/ SHGs/ MO Additional Anganwadi Worker / Nutrition Counsellor ASHA and ANM as facilitators.

## Health Services

**Immunization and Micronutrient Supplementation:** The **beneficiaries** of this service are: - 0-3 years - 3-6 years - P & PL Mothers. **Interventions:** - Regular fixed monthly VHNDs - Primary Immunization - Boosters - TT for Pregnant women - Vitamin A supplementation (9 months – 5 Years) - IFA supplementation (infants after six months of age) - Deworming as per guidelines & Counselling Activities: - Ensure immunization of pregnant women and infants. - Children to be given Vitamin A and Booster Doses as per the national immunization schedule - AWW to assist health functionaries for complete coverage. - Organising and conducting fixed-day immunization sessions, known as “Village Health Nutrition Days (VHND)” at the AWC. **Functionaries Responsible:** ANM/MO/ ASHA/ AWWs as facilitators

**Health Check-up:** The **beneficiaries** are 0-3 years-3-6 years - P & PL Mothers. **Interventions:** - Antenatal Care (ANC)/ Post Natal Care (PNC)/Janani Suraksha Yojna (JSY) - Support for Integrated Management of Neonatal & Childhood Illness (IMNCI)/ Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) - Identification of severely underweight children requiring medical attention& support community **Activities:** - Carry out regular health check-ups, recording weight, immunization, support to community-based management of malnutrition, treatment of diarrhoea, deworming and distribution of iron and folic acid and medicines for minor illness - AWC to control common ailments like fever, cold, cough, worm infestation etc. including medicines and basic equipment for first aid. **Functionaries Responsible:** ANM/MO/ASHA/ AWWs

**Referral Services:** The **beneficiaries** of this service are: - 0-3 years - 3-6 years - P & PL Mothers. **Interventions:** Referral of severely underweight to health facility / NRCs - Referral for complications during pregnancy - Referral of sick new-borns and sick children **Activities:** - During health check-ups and growth monitoring sessions, refer sick and malnourished children as well as pregnant lactating mothers in need of prompt medical attention, to the health facilities. **Functionaries Responsible:** ANM/MO/ASHA/ AWWs.

### **Community Mobilization, Awareness, Advocacy & IEC**

(IEC, Campaigns and Drives etc.) The **beneficiaries** of this service are: - Families & Community. **Interventions:** - Information dissemination & awareness generation on entitlements, behaviours & practices - Sharing of nutritional status of children at Gram Sabhas meetings - Linkage with VHSNC, Action Groups, Community **Activities:** - Sensitization and engagement of PRIs/SHGs/Mothers Committees on Nutrition & Child Development - Social mobilization campaign in partnership with Song and Drama Division in tribal areas, rural areas - Use of mainstream media to aware about components of ICDS Scheme - Interpersonal Communication through home visits, the mothers-in-law, mother and other care givers are also sensitised to ensure appropriate care and feeding practices at home. - Voluntary Action for promoting ICDS schemes are invited for undertaking home visits and counselling media channels like TV, Radio, print media, newsletter etc. for propagating good practices of child & women's health - Identifying local troupes to generate awareness. **Functionaries Responsible:** AWW/ Second AWW/ Supervisors/ Food and Nutrition Board (FNB)/ Dist. & Block Resource Centres/ ICDS Management

### **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM):**

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), a component of the National Health Mission, was established on April 12, 2005, with the goal of bringing accessible, reasonable, and high-quality healthcare to the rural population, particularly the most disadvantaged segments of society. In order to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of health determinants, such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social justice, and gender equality, the mission is to establish a fully operational, community-owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter-sectoral convergence at all levels. (National Rural Health Mission(NRHM), n.d.)

The three-tiered structure of the health care infrastructure in rural regions is as follows:

1. Sub Centre (Population norms 5000 in Plan Area 3000 Hilly Area): Most peripheral contact points between Primary Health Care System & Community are manned with one HW(F)/ANM & one HW(M)
2. Primary Health Centre (PHC) Population norms 30,000 in Plan Area 20,000 Hilly Area): A Referral Unit for 6 Sub Centres 4-6 bedded manned with a Medical Officer in charge and four subordinate paramedical staff (Ashwain Gambhir, 2021)
3. Community Health Centre (CHC) Population norms 120,000 in Plan Area 80,000 Hilly Area): A 30 bedded Hospital/Referral Unit for 4 PHCs with Specialized services

At the gram panchayat level, an institution known as a sub-center is responsible for protecting the right to health of the rural people living in the constituency of the panchayat. The primary health care system is the initial point of contact with the population at this most basic and fundamental level of treatment. Sub Centres are assigned tasks relating to interpersonal communication in order to bring about behavioural change and provide services in relation to maternal and child health, family welfare, nutrition, immunization, diarrhoea control and control of communicable diseases programmes.

It is necessary that each Sub Centre have at least one auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) or female health worker and one male health worker at all times. (Baralik, 2015) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), there is a provision for one additional second ANM on a contract basis. One lady health visitor (LHV) is entrusted with the task of supervision of six Sub Centres. The government of India bears the salary of ANM and LHV, while the salary of the Male Health Worker is borne by the State governments.

### **1.7.3 Gender Equality and Women Empowerment**

Females constitute 50% of the global populace, thereby signifying an equivalent proportion of its prospective capacity. The attainment of peaceful societies, complete human potential, and sustainable development is contingent upon gender equality, which is a basic human right and a crucial aspect. Furthermore, research has demonstrated that women's empowerment stimulates both productivity and economic growth. Therefore, it is crucial to put an end to the many types of gender violence and ensure that men, women, and girls have equal access to good healthcare, education, financial resources, and political involvement. Equal access to jobs, leadership roles, and decision-making positions at all levels must also be accomplished. (Anh, 2020)

The act of allocating resources towards the economic empowerment of women presents a clear trajectory towards achieving gender parity, eliminating poverty, and promoting economic growth that is inclusive. Females are known to make significant contributions to various economies, be it in the form of entrepreneurship, employment, farming, or business ventures. Additionally, they also undertake unpaid domestic care work.

Gender Equality was made part of international human rights law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, recognise that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” and that “everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, ... birth or other status.”

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) mandated that states parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy. Articles 10, 11 and 13, respectively, affirm women's rights to non-discrimination in education, employment and economic and social activities. These demands are given special emphasis with regard to the situation of rural women, whose particular struggles and vital economic contributions, as noted in article 14, warrant more attention in policy planning.

Women have a critical role to play in all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective and as part of the solution. Goal 5, to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," is known as the stand-alone gender goal because it is dedicated to achieving these ends.

The term equality is mentioned in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy under Indian Constitution. The Constitution not only guarantees women's empowerment but also encourages the State to adopt various measures of equality and empowerment in favour of women. Article 14, Article 15, Article 15(3), Article 16, Article 39(a), Article 39(b), Article 39(c) and Article 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in terms of gender equality and equality in the general sense.

For the purpose of the present study regarding the role of local self-governance in providing the right to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, scheme namely National Rural Livelihoods Mission was selected. Self-Help Group was the institution through which National Rural Livelihoods Mission is being implemented at the rural level.

### **National Rural Livelihoods Mission**

Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) was launched by the Government of India during the financial year of 1978 and implemented in 1980. IRDP scheme is an employment and self-employment promotion scheme run by the Government, under which the needy people living in rural areas, such as rural laborers, backward classes, women, small agricultural farmers etc., will be provided employment and self-employment in their area. The government also provides a subsidy for the expenditure incurred while starting self-employment.

Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched on 1 April 1999, under which Self-help groups (SHGs) were set up to provide self-employment opportunities. This Yojana brings together the previous six schemes, which are the Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM 1979), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA- 1982-83), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and other supply welfare schemes to rural artisans. The Objectives of SGSY include reducing poverty by setting up a large number of micro enterprises in rural areas across the country, capitalizing group debt, and a comprehensive program of micro-enterprises covering every aspect of self-employment. In which the organization of the rural poor has been included in Self Help Groups; integration of multiple agencies like District Rural Development Agencies, Banks, Line Departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGO's etc; providing mixed-income generating assets such as bank credit + government subsidies.

The government reorganized the SGSY into National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in the financial year 2010-11 to provide a faster and more focused approach to poverty reduction.

With the assistance of investment support from the World Bank, the objective of the mission is to establish institutional platforms that are efficient and effective for the impoverished rural population. This will enable them to enhance their household income sustainably and gain better access to financial services. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a new name given to Aajeevika – NRLM in November 2015. It aims to create effective and efficient institutional platforms to enable the rural poor to increase their household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and better access to financial services. The poor would also be able to attain improved access to rights, public services, and other entitlements. The mission aims to harness the inherent capabilities of the poor and equip them with capacities (such as knowledge, information, tools, finance, skills, and collectivization) for them to participate in the economy.

### **Empowerment through SHGs**

SHGS ensures economic independence through income-generating activities. Its regular meetings and discussion on many live issues help rural women in developing communication skills and build confidence to speak at the Grama Sabha and Public meetings. It brings success in their democratic, social and cultural spheres of life. Social development of women by creating equality of status encourages their participation, facilitates decision-making, and makes them self-sustaining in society. The country has now been turned over by the rapid growth of SHGs. The form of SHG has laid the foundation to address the above aspects of women's empowerment. SHGs enhance the social, economic, and social status of women. SHG is a small group of rural, economically, and socially backward people, especially women, to bring out their talents, skills, and their capabilities which go to enhance their empowerment.

SHGs comprise a maximum of 20 members; among them, one is selected as an 'Animator' for two years and two members are selected as representatives. SHGs have an elected chairperson, a deputy, a treasurer and other office holders. The group members meet every week to discuss about the group savings, rotation of funds, bank loan, terms to the repayment of loan, social and community action programmes, etc.

SHGs are formed only for the sake of savings and credit activities.<sup>5</sup> It creates a common fund by the members through their regular savings, which will be pooled in a democratic way. It conducts periodical meetings to make needed decisions. It provides small and reasonable loan with affordable interest rates varying from group to group, which helps easy repayment on time. Usually, the interest fixed will be a little higher than the bank rate but lesser than the money lenders. The judicious mix of Micro credit and other activities for development and empowerment have made it an effective weapon for holistic and integrated social and economic development of women. The majority of rural SHGs invest the loan for consumption and productive purposes. On SHGs reviewed that the beneficiaries had crossed the poverty line with an additional income ranging from Rs. 280 to 395, which improved their socio-economic status.

#### **1.7.4 Right to Social Security**

Social security is the protection that society offers to individuals and families to assure access to health care and guarantee financial stability, particularly in circumstances of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work accident, maternity, or the loss of a breadwinner. Social security ensures that individuals and households have access to health care and safeguard their income security. (Akhter, 2021) In other words, it is a measure of the protection society provides for its members through a series of public measures, against the economic and social trouble that might otherwise occur by the cessation or significant reduction of earnings because of old age, disability, death, or unemployment. Right to Social Security is part of economic, social and cultural rights. Such economic, social and cultural rights mostly developed in the 20th century, include the right to work, an adequate standard of living, education, maternity and childhood, social security, and the right to take part in cultural life. UDHR under article 22 specifically recognised right to social security.

Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, sets out minimum standards for the level of social security benefits and the conditions under which they are granted. It covers the nine principal branches of social security, namely medical care, sickness, unemployment, old age, employment injury, family, maternity, invalidity and survivors' benefits. Maintenance of Social

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<sup>5</sup> Lalitha N . "women Thrift and Credit Groups–Breaking the barriers at the grass roots" *peninsular Economist* . Vol . XII No . 2, pp . 188–195



Security Rights Convention, 1982 (No. 157) provides for certain social security rights and benefits for migrant workers, who face the problem of losing entitlements to social security benefits that they enjoyed in their country of origin. Right to social security can be said to be impliedly related to SDG 1 which calls for an end to poverty everywhere in all forms. Thus, it recognizes the right of individuals to a basic dignified living.

Indian Constitution under Article 41 recognized that the state shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want. Another Directive Principles of State Policy under Article 42 laid down that State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.

Social security and labour welfare fall under the Concurrent list, it means both union and state governments can make laws regarding these topics. Item No. 23 (List III in the Seventh Schedule) includes Social Security and insurance, employment and unemployment. Similarly, item No. 24 includes the welfare of labour, including conditions of work, provident funds, employers' liability, workmen's compensation, invalidity and old age pension and maternity benefits.

In reference to a right to social security pension scheme for Old Age People, Widows and Differently Abled people and system of public distribution systems in all three states were identified and analyzed. Beneficiaries of these schemes were as follows-

#### **Pension Schemes (Old age/Widow/disabled person):**

Table No. 1.9: Pension Schemes (Old age/Widow/disabled person) in Punjab

<b>Pension Schemes (Old age/Widow/disabled person) in Punjab</b>			
<b>Pension</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>
Old Age	Rs. 1500/- per month w.e.f 1st July, 2021	Women of 58 years of age and above and to men of 65 years of age and above.	Not be more than Rs. 60,000/- including business or rental or interest income.
Widow		Widows/Destitute women of the age below 58 years and unmarried women above the age of 30 years	
Disabled		Blinds, handicapped, deaf and dumb and mentally retarded persons who are unable to earn their livelihood. disability (50% or above) Mentally disabled eligible irrespective of disability.	

Table No. 1.10: Pension Schemes (Old age/Widow/disabled person) in Haryana

<b>Pension Schemes (Old age/Widow/disabled person) in Haryana</b>			
<b>Pension</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>
Old Age	2750 per month (w.e.f. 01-04-2023)	Person is of age 60 years or more (s domicile and resident of Haryana State)	his/her income from all sources together with that of his/her spouse does not exceed ` 3,00,000 per annum
Widow		Destitute (without husband, parents and son(s)/ desertion or physical/mental incapacity of Husband or Parents) or deserted women and widow of 18 years of age or above (domicile of Haryana and has been residing in State for the last 15 year)	Her own income from all sources is below 2,00,000 per annum
Disabled		Age 18 years and above (Domicile of Haryana & residing in Haryana State) Disability ranging from 60-100% a) Total absence of sight. b) Visual acuity not exceeding 3/60 to 10/200 (snellen) in the better eye with correcting lenses. c) A lose of sense of hearing to the extent that it is non-functional for the ordinary purposes of life. d) Orthopaedic disabled with a permanent disability of 60% and above. e) Mental Retardation with I.Q. not exceeding 50.	Self-income from all sources should not exceed the minimum wages of unskilled labour as notified by the Labour Department

**Table No. 1.11: Pension Schemes (Old age/Widow/disabled person) in Himachal**

<b>Pension Schemes (Old age/Widow/disabled person) in Himachal Pradesh</b>			
<b>Pension</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>
Old Age	Rs 750 per month to people aged 60 to 69 years and Rs 1300 per month to people above 70 years	Applicant should be a permanent resident of Himachal Pradesh.	The annual income of the family of the applying person should not exceed Rs. 35,000.
Widow	1000	The applicant must be over 18 years of age. Only Himachal Pradesh residents can benefit from this scheme.	The monthly income of the candidates must not exceed Rs. 35,000.
Disabled	750-1300	The person who has a disability from 40% to 69%, is given Rs 750 per month, and those who have a disability above 70%, are given financial assistance of Rs 1300 per month. Persons with disabilities both physically and mentally can take advantage of this scheme.	person who has a disability from 40% to 69%, their annual income should not exceed Rs.35,000. There is no limit on the income of the person who has more than 70% disability, that is, even if their income is more than Rs 35,000, then they can take advantage of this scheme.

**Centrally Sponsored Scheme: National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)**

1) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Schemes (IGNOAPS): The age requirement for IGNOAPS is 60 years old. The monthly pension for those between 60 and 79 years old is Rs. 200. The monthly pension for individuals who are 80 years or older is Rs. 500. (Ministry Of Rural Development- NSAP, 2007)

2) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS): The qualifying age is forty years old, and the amount of the pension is three hundred rupees (Rs.300) per month. When the recipient reaches the age of 80, they will begin receiving Rs. 500 per month in compensation. (IGNWPS, 2009)

3) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS): The pensioner must be at least 18 years old and have a disability level that is at least 80% to be eligible for the benefit. The beneficiary will initially get a sum of Rs. 300 per month, but that amount will increase to Rs. 500 per month after they reach the age of 80. This pension will have a category for those who are considered to be dwarfs. (Ministry Of Rural Development- IGNDPS, 2009)

### **Public Distribution System:**

The Public Distribution System (PDS) was started in the 1960s, wherein essential commodities were distributed. In June 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was launched to bring effectiveness to PDS and increase its reach. The scale under this system was 20 Kg. of food grains per ration card. The RPDS was replaced with Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June 1997. The focus under TPDS was on poor people. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched as a step to improve the implementation of TPDS in reducing hunger among BPL people. The scale of the issue of food grains under AAY was increased to 35 Kg per BPL family.

AAY has been expanded thrice till now i.e. in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. The AAY scheme is implemented at village panchayat by Fair Price Shops (FPS), earlier known as depot. The criteria for opening/allocation of FPSs is set as 1 FPS is opened on 300 ration cards (Punjab), 1 FPS is opened on 1000 ration cards (Himachal Pradesh).

Under the PDS, now only three items are being provided, namely (i) rice; (ii) wheat; and (iii) coarse grains (millets etc.). Every card holder is entitled to get an equal quantity of food grains i.e. 35 kgs. Under AAY, while under Priority House Holds (PHH), every card holder is entitled to get food grains at the quantity rate of 5 kgs. per person. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) was implemented during the year 2018-19 under the scheme 'Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) which helps the beneficiaries to get food grains from any FPS across the country with the existing single ration card.

### 1.7.5 Right to Work

Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions, and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration, ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. (art. 13 UDHR, 1948). In addition, India is a signatory to all the provisions of the ‘right to work’ of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts (art 6 ICESCR). Further, Convention recognizes the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favorable conditions of work (art 7 of ICESCR). Right to work has been recognized under SDG 8. It promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Article 39 of the Indian Constitution specifically requires the state to direct its policies towards securing the two principles which are related to the ‘right to work’, including equal rights of men and women to adequate means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work for both men and women. The Supreme Court, in its judgment in *Olga Tellis & Ors. V Bombay Municipal Corporation & Ors.* recognized the ‘right to work’ as a fundamental right inherent in the “right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MNREGA) – Every family in the nation would get at least one hundred days of guaranteed pay employment throughout the course of a fiscal year if its adult members are willing to volunteer to perform unskilled physical labour. The programme was initiated in February 2005 to improve the financial stability of those residing in rural parts of the country. The Agricultural Act applies to all of the country's rural areas. The MGNREGA is the most massive employment guarantee programme worldwide.

#### **MGNREGA at Panchayat level**

Adult members of any rural family prepared to perform public work-related unskilled manual labour at the statutory minimum pay are eligible for employment under the MGNREGA, which gives a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in each fiscal year. This legislation

was enacted with the purpose of increasing the purchasing power of those living in rural areas, particularly those who held semi-skilled or unskilled jobs in rural India and lived below the national poverty line. It attempts to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country. (art. 39 (b) (c) DPSP). Roughly one-third of the stipulated work force must be women. (Kumar, 2021)

Members of rural households who have reached the age of majority and are citizens of India must present a photograph along with their name, age, and residence when they register with the Gram Panchayat. Following the completion of an inquiry, the Gram Panchayat will register homes and issue an employment card. The employment card includes a photo of the adult member along with all of the member's identifying information. An application for employment must be made in writing to either the Panchayat or the Programme Officer, and it must be for at least fourteen days of continuous labour. (Karforma, 2012)

The Panchayat/Programme officer will receive and validate the application, subsequently issuing a dated receipt. A letter confirming the work will be dispatched to the applicant and also posted at the Panchayat office. The provision of employment will be limited to a radius of 5 kilometers, with additional compensation being offered for distances exceeding this threshold. The applicant will be provided with wage employment either within 15 days of applying or from the day work is requested. Individuals have the right to receive unemployment assistance if gainful employment is not secured within fifteen days after the submission of the application or from the date of job inquiry. The remuneration for services rendered shall be received by the employee within fifteen days from the completion of the work. Individual beneficiary-focused projects may be undertaken on the cards of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minor or marginal farmers, beneficiaries of land reforms, and beneficiaries of the Government of India's Indira Awaas Yojana. (Rout, 2022)

The Gram Sabha serves as the primary platform for labourers to express their opinions and assert their requests. The approval of the shelf of works is granted by the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat is responsible for the identification and planning of works and the development of a project shelf that involves determining the order of priority for each project. The allocation of priority for works shall be determined by the Gram Panchayats during the convening of the Gram Sabha.

Schedule-I, Paragraph 1 of the MGNREGA, 2005, specifies the activities covered by the MGNREGA. The majority of the MGNREGA projects announced by the Union Rural

Development Ministry are dedicated to agriculture and associated activities, in addition to those that would significantly aid rural sanitation programmes. The projects have been broken down into ten major categories, such as watershed, irrigation, and flood control works, agricultural and livestock-related activities, fisheries and coastal-area works, and rural drinking water and sanitary works. (Stutee Gupta, 2021)

According to the Rural Development, the inclusion of 30 additional projects in Schedule 1 will facilitate Rural sanitation initiatives such as the construction of toilets, soak pits, and management of solid and liquid waste.

### **1.7.6 Right to Political Participation**

Political rights are those basic rights that allow an individual to participate directly or indirectly in the political activities of the state. Political rights include the right to vote (article 326 of Indian Constitution), the right to be elected, the right to take part in public affairs, etc. These rights help individuals to be part in the formation and working of Government.

Article 21 of the UDHR provides that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his country, either directly or indirectly, through freely chosen representatives. Periodic and genuine elections shall be open to every citizen of the country, with universal and equal suffrage. Article 25 of the ICCPR states that every citizen has the right, without unreasonable restrictions, to take part in the conduct of public affairs and to vote and be elected at genuine periodic elections. It also requires equal access to public services in the country. Article 19 of the UDHR & ICCPR provides for the liberty of opinion and expression and consequently the liberty to hold opinions without any interference. The right to freedom of expression includes the right to seek, receive and impart information (UDHR article 19)

Right to political participation can be said to be linked to SDG 16 which deals with peace, justice and strong institutions. The goal promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. It not only calls for access of justice to all but also aims to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, thus ensuring equal participation of all individuals. Grass root level democracy ushered in by a constitutional amendment at the village level defines the legal framework of the Rural Development Institutions in India. It has a close link with the rights-based approach to development.

Popular participation is the very backbone of democracy (Santha-1999). It is the Key concept of Self-governance (Rai Manoj 2002), because, in one democracy, the decision-making process begins and ends with the people (Samantray, 2015). Local Self Governments (Panchayat at the village level and Municipalities and Municipal Corporations in cities and large municipalities) have been given additional powers and responsibilities since the passage of Constitutional amendment in 1992.

### **Panchayati Raj Act and Political Participation**

The Gram Sabha is a collective entity comprising individuals whose names are enlisted in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level. Article 243(b) of the Constitution of India provides the definition of the aforementioned term. (Samajdar, 2023) The Gram Sabha is open to all eligible voters residing in the village. As per the Constitution, the Gram Sabha is empowered to exercise certain powers and carry out specific functions at the village level, subject to the provisions laid down by the Legislature of a State through law. The Gram Sabha's decisions are irrevocable by any external entity except for the Sabha itself.

This scheme of the PRI system increases cooperation among people, democratic participation and decentralization. Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been entrusted to provide basic services in the villages and plan for local economic development.

The Gram Sabha (GS) discusses the development work plans of the GP called Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and the elected representatives execute the plans. The formulation of GPDP improves the efficiency of public services.

Gram Panchayats are responsible for ensuring good governance. The principles of "consensus-oriented" and "participation" are integral to the concept of good governance, and the PRI serves as a means of upholding these principles. The approach employed in this context is a bottom-up strategy that aims to align with the requirements of diverse stakeholders. (Rajeshwar, 2023)

For the purpose of the present study, the Right to Political Participation was analyzed on the basis of the working of gram Panchayat.

#### **1.7.7 Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation**



The availability of safe consumable water and sanitation facilities is a fundamental aspect of leading a life based on dignity and uplifting standards of living and human rights. However, a significant proportion of the global population is still deprived of these essential entitlements. The human rights to water and sanitation require drinking water, water for domestic usage, sanitation and hygiene facilities to be available, accessible, safe, acceptable and affordable for all without discrimination. This issue disproportionately impacts the most disadvantaged and marginalized members of society.

International human rights law requires States to seek to ensure that everyone has access to clean water and sanitation, without any form of discrimination, while giving priority to those who need it the most. The key elements of the rights to water and sanitation are availability; accessibility; affordability; quality and safety; and acceptability. The human right to safe drinking water was first recognized by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council as part of binding international law in 2010 (64/292). (UN, 2010). The human right to sanitation was explicitly recognized as a distinct right by the UN General Assembly in 2015 (UN, 2016). Safe water and access to proper sanitation are essential to eradicate poverty, build peaceful societies and ensure that no one is left behind on the path toward sustainable development (UN World Water Development Report, 2019)

“Access to water was a condition for the enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living, inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of health, and therefore a human right” (General Comment 15 of UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2002) Resolution of the UNO passed during the United Nations Water Conference in 1977 as under: “All people, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantum and of a quality equal to their basic needs.”

Sustainable Development Goal 6 is about "clean water and sanitation for all". It ensures availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." The goal has eight targets to be achieved by 2030. Progress toward the targets will be measured by using eleven indicators. The six outcome targets include: Safe and affordable drinking water; end open defecation and provide access to sanitation and hygiene, improve water quality, wastewater treatment and safe reuse, increase water-use efficiency and ensure freshwater supplies, implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), protect and restore water-related ecosystems. The two means of

implementation targets are to expand water and sanitation support to developing countries and to support local engagement in water and sanitation management.

The right to water it is not enshrined in the Indian Constitution as an explicit Fundamental Right but the Indian Judiciary, both at the state as well as at the center, has, in several judgments, interpreted Article 21 of the Constitution to include a right to clean and sufficient water, a right to a decent and well life. In 2014, the Government of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), its flagship programme on sanitation. This has triggered a significant momentum in the sanitation sector in India. Although the SBM is more or less a continuation of the erstwhile policy framework on sanitation in India (the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan in the rural sanitation context), it did manage to bring sanitation to the forefront in the agenda of implementation agencies.

The Constitution of India does not recognize the right to sanitation explicitly. However, the Constitution recognizes the right to sanitation indirectly in different forms. The higher judiciary in India (the Supreme Court and High Courts) has interpreted the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution to include the right to sanitation. The right to sanitation is, therefore, a part of the fundamental right to life and is a justiciable right.

Sanitation is also a part of the 'Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in Part IV of the Constitution. More specifically, it can be read as part of Article 47, which provides that it is the duty of the government to raise the standard of living. Sanitation is undoubtedly a factor that contributes to a decent standard of living. Sanitation is also a part of Article 48A, which makes it a duty of the state to 'protect and improve the environment'. Directive Principles are not enforceable and therefore no individual can approach a court against the government for its failure to give effect to the above-mentioned provisions. However, it is important in the sanitation context because they are fundamental norms for the government to implement.

Virender Gaur v. State of Haryana, Supreme Court of India (1995)2 SCC 577 Article 21 protects the right to life as a fundamental right. Enjoyment of life and its attainment, including the right to life with human dignity, encompasses within its ambit...sanitation without which life cannot be enjoyed.

LK Koolwal v. State of Haryana, High Court of Rajasthan, AIR 1988 Raj. 2 The preservation of sanitation, maintenance of health, and protection of the environment are encompassed by Article

21 of the Constitution, as these factors have a detrimental impact on the life of citizens and can lead to a gradual decline in health due to the hazards that arise if left unchecked.

Municipal Council, Ratlam v. Vardhichand, Supreme Court, AIR 1980 SC 1622 A municipal council that is accountable for safeguarding public health and improving financial stability cannot evade its primary responsibility by stating financial inability. The fundamental principles of human rights include the essential elements of decency and dignity, which are imperative and cannot be subject to compromise. These principles are of utmost importance and should be given priority by local governing bodies. In a similar vein, if the municipality wants to justify its existence, it must not be negligent in providing proper drainage systems. These systems do not need to be extravagant or aesthetically pleasing; rather, they need to be in good functioning order and be adequate to satisfy the demands of the people.

### **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC)**

The Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) constitutes a crucial component of the National Rural Health Mission. A committee has been established to collaboratively address matters pertaining to health and its social determinants within the village set-up and hierarchy. The NRHM has identified them as crucial components of "local level community action," which aims to facilitate the Decentralised Health Planning process. The committee is envisioned to assume a leadership role in establishing a platform for enhancing community health awareness and accessibility to health services. Its objectives include addressing specific local needs and serving as a community-based planning and monitoring mechanism. (Ved R, 2018)

The formation of the committee is initiated at the revenue village level with the intended purpose of serving as a sub-committee of the Gram Panchayat. It should have a minimum of 15 members, which should comprise an elected member of the Panchayat who shall lead the committee, all those working for health and health-related services should participate, community members/beneficiaries and representation from all community sub-groups, especially the vulnerable sections and hamlets/ habitations. ASHA residing in the village shall be the member secretary and convener of the committee. The roles and responsibilities of VHSNC are as follows:

- Create awareness about nutritional issues and the significance of nutrition as an important determinant of health.

- Carry out a survey on nutritional status and nutritional deficiencies in the village, especially among women and children.
- Identify locally available foodstuffs of high nutrient value as well as disseminate and promote best practices (traditional wisdom) congruent with local culture, capabilities and physical environment through a process of community consultation.
- Inclusion of Nutritional needs in the Village Health Plan – The committee will do an in-depth analysis of causes of malnutrition at the community and household levels by involving the ANM, AWW, ASHA and ICDS Supervisors.
- Monitoring and Supervision of Village Health and Nutrition Day to ensure that it is organized every month in the village with the active participation of the whole village.
- Facilitate early identification of malnourished children in the community; coordinate referral to the nearest Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) and follow-up to ensure a sustained outcome.
- Oversee the operations of the Anganwadi Centre (AWC) located within the village and facilitate its efforts to enhance the nutritional well-being of women and children.
- Act as a grievances redressal forum on health and nutrition issues.

The committee may, preferably, act as a sub-committee of Gram Panchayat and function under the overall supervision of Gram Panchayat. States are accordingly advised to issue the necessary notifications and guidelines on the constitution of VHSNC to all concerned. States are also requested to consider notifying VHSNC as a subcommittee of Gram Panchayat.

### **1.8 Significance of the Study**

Institutions of local self-governance (LSG) are the grassroots of democracy in India. Engaging in the governance and operation of organizations offers individuals a noteworthy level of exposure to both the political and social domains of life. The institutions of LSG ensure participation, the rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity, effectiveness and efficiency, accountability, strategic vision, etc. The roles of local authorities and governments in respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights are indispensable to fulfill the human rights obligations of the state. All spheres of government, thus, have common human rights obligations but differentiated roles. Local governments and local authorities have a greater potential role in the delivery of services and maintaining the local

machinery necessary to respect, protect and fulfill the bundle of human rights.

In a rural local self-governance practical implementation of human rights does not need to be more complicated than in other policy areas. It is rather a matter of acknowledging their importance, clarifying the responsibilities and interpreting these into everyday rural local self-governance decisions, policies and practices. Human rights framework that is accepted internationally and the ability to strengthen policy formation and assessment, starting from the empowerment of individuals at the core of human rights, then confirms that states are legally obliged to meet their human rights responsibilities. Thus, rural Local Self Governance is seen as vibrant centres and must function as an active agency of the state for the protection and promotion of the human rights of the rural population. Hence, the promotion of human rights in rural Local Self Governance is one of the priority directions of research.

## **1.9 Scope of Study**

The scope of the study is limited to the promotion of human rights in rural local self-governance. The study will focus on the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to respect, protect, fulfill and promote human rights in three states Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. Protection and promotion of human rights will be explored by focusing on the working of three tier systems of Panchayati Raj Institution as per their obligations under Indian Constitution and relevant state laws.

## **1.10 Objectives of the Study**

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To understand the scope of human rights implementation in LSG.
2. To evaluate the status of rural LSG in regard to respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights.
3. To identify challenges faced by rural local authorities in implementing human rights.
4. To document best practices of protection and promotion of human rights at the rural level.
5. To analyze the implementation of existing government schemes and policies related to the human rights issue, as well as the issues or human rights violations faced by the beneficiaries.
6. To make suggestions to effectively protect and promote human rights at the rural level.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Review of Literature**

A vast literature review has been undertaken on various topics and sub topics of Human Rights and Local Self-Governance in India. The literature review gives an insight about the role and scope of Rural Local Self-Governance on the implementation of various human rights.

The literature review is divided into the following themes:

1. Human Rights and Local Self-Governance in India
2. Socio-economic Status of PRIs and Local Self-Governance
3. Awareness Regarding Role and Responsibilities of PRIs
4. Caste, Ethnicity, Human Rights and Local Self-Governance
5. Education and Local Self-Governance
6. Health and Local Self-Governance
7. Gender Equality and Local Self-Governance
8. Social security and Local Self-Governance
9. Economic Development and Local Self-Governance
10. Political Participation and Local Self-Governance
11. Safe Environment (access to drinking water and sanitation) and Local Self-Governance
12. Human Rights-related government Programmes/Schemes at Local Self-Governance
13. Challenges in implementation of human rights at Local Self-Governance

## 2.1 Human Rights and Local Self-Governance

In terms of Section 2 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 - "Human Rights" means the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the constitution or embodied in the international Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

"The role of Panchayats and the local bodies is very important in promoting and protecting of human rights. They are the agencies through which the welfare schemes/programme of the Government, which have a direct bearing on the socio-economic and development rights of the people, are implemented. So it can be said that they play an important role in promoting and protecting the rights of the people at the local level." (Response of India on Question asked by Human Rights Council resolution on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights).

Mathew (2003) examined the state of human rights in Panchayati Raj in India since its beginning and discovered that the decentralization process that has gained traction in India over the last decade or so has serious consequences for the country's human rights situation. The system of local self-government, as embodied in panchayati raj institutions, has made significant progress in ensuring a life of dignity and respect for citizens at the small village level. Local governments are the finest places to implement social justice ideals based on gender equality and liberty. In various issues, the author described the state of human rights in local self-government. Issue of caste- The author comments that the caste system has constructed impermeable walls between groups of human beings, with birth determining only one's social status in society. Even now, the caste system, in his opinion, is one of the worst forms of societal breaches of human rights in India. Economic factor- Despite the existence of a variety of programmes aimed at improving the lives of the rural poor, there has been little change in poverty levels throughout the years. Dalits' conditions- Following the elections, reports from states revealed that dalits' human rights were infringed in more than one way, despite the strengthening of local bodies. State of Tribals- The implementation of the Extension Act and an examination of the extent to which the 1996 Act was able to establish grass root democracy in scheduled areas in accordance with the ethos of the tribal people reveal that nothing notable has occurred in these areas and that the tribals' condition remains more or less the same as before. Empowerment of women- Women's political empowerment has exploded several myths in the last nine years, such as the belief that they are passive and disinterested in political institutions; that only the well-to-do, upper-strata women will come through the

reservation; that only the kin of powerful politicians will enter panchayats through political connectivity to keep the seats for them; and, finally and most importantly, that women are only proxies - 'namesake' Without dismissing the existence of certain women in panchayats who do fit into this patriarchally orientated structure, these misconceptions have finally been buried. Women can do it, is the current buzzword. States' response- In most situations, opposition parties join forces with the incumbent party to postpone elections because of their apprehension of facing the panchayat voters. Political leaders from opposing parties are outspoken in their support for devolving power to local governments, but once in power, they behave differently. In some circumstances, they indirectly sponsor writ petitions in the high courts to obtain injunctions preventing elections from being held. This is a critical component of the formal institutions of governance denying the people the right to elect their representatives. The author concluded that the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj systems since the 1990s, which has given greater impetus to the decentralization movement, has also had far-reaching ramifications for India's human rights situation. Even as the democratic process has expanded, changes in traditional culture have been fraught with strife. However, the author contends that, as media, technology, and spatial mobility continue to break down village isolation, the new panchayat structure will only assist in knitting the village into the larger social fabric. Concern for human rights will take its appropriate position alongside a robust democracy as democratization and civil society institutions expand. Satyanarayana (2014) discovered in his study on Local Self-Governments and Human Rights in India that the system of small self-government in India had taken a significant step forward in ensuring a life of dignity and respect for citizens at the local village level. In a formal sense, all states in India have complied with the constitutional duty of ensuring participation in local self-governments to formerly excluded groups through the reservation system. This institutionalization of local self-governments since the 1990s, which has given additional impetus to the decentralization movement, has had deeper consequences for India's human rights situation. Even as the democratic process has expanded, changes in traditional culture have been fraught with strife. On the other hand, despite India's tremendous initiatives to increase decentralization and local self-governance, human rights breaches at all levels have not lessened. It is ironic that elections in India have become a venue for grave human rights breaches. Although it occurs during elections to the states and Parliament, violence is more prevalent in municipal elections due to the greater polling percentage. Furthermore, violence has



escalated at the village level because political power is the most powerful tool available at the local level, and everyone wants to wield it.

Inaugurating a seminar, Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, stated that the targets for social development might be met rapidly if better coordination is maintained with Panchayati Raj Institutions, which enables participatory democracy. The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution, which strengthened the structure and functioning of Panchayats, broadened and reinforced India's democratic representational base. According to Justice Balakrishnan, active participation in society raises people's understanding of their rights and responsibilities. However, it is a source of concern that people are sometimes denied their basic human rights for a variety of reasons, including, among others, abuse of authority, poverty, and social inequity. According to the NHRC Chairperson, economic prosperity without social justice leads to social unrest, violence, and terrorism, and Panchayats can play an important role in defending people's fundamental basic human rights. It demonstrated to the public that Panchayats are more than just a forum for politics; they are also a breeding ground for social development. That is why the National Human Rights Commission believes that Panchayats can usher in a social revolution by efficiently removing social problems from society.

According to Sukumar *et al.* (2019), the 73rd amendment to the Indian Constitution has grown as a crucial tool for power devolution and democratic decentralization. The template was designed to restructure power relations at three levels: family, community, and state apparatuses. Studies on the participation of underprivileged groups (caste, gender, and tribes) in panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) have revealed that these groups continue to face prejudice. The Author examines both enabling and hindering factors that influence the performance of elected representatives (ERs) from seven states who are members of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, or women. The finding emphasizes that education, election, leadership, political party support, norms and procedures, and training and capacity building are enabling characteristics shared by ERs from various social classes. Several disabling factors were discovered during the study, including non-intimation about the meeting, the gram panchayat's location far from SC localities, non-cooperation of other Panchayat members, lack of cooperation from the administration and an unwelcome attitude during meetings in the office, separate sitting arrangements, and even outright caste-based humiliation.

## 2.2 Socio-economic Status of PRIs

The socio-economic structure of panchayat members has an imperative impact on the role performance of the panchayat members. Socio-economic figures like Interaction style, participation, empowerment, family education, family income, House type, Social linkage, marital status, family type and age have a significant direct impact on the performance of panchayat members. (Kamari & Singh, 2015). A study conducted by Kumar (2011) on the role played by the caste and patriarchy on emerging women leaders in local self-governance found that most of the candidates of panchayat members were below the age of 46 years and only 5.89% were beyond the age of 56 years. This infers that most of the panchayat members are young. Caste wise distribution of members was 52% general. 27% OBC and 21% SC/ST. The educational status of members was very unsatisfactory since a significant number of members were illiterate (28.28%) and only 6% completed graduation. The study further states that most of the male and female elected panchayat members belong to the general caste. It also revealed that most of the general category women members had a political background. At the same time, most of the SC/ST members did not have a political background. Sathish (2019) conducted a study on minorities and local self-governance. This unfolded that the economic conditions of minorities influence their representation to PRI. It was found that minorities with much lower earnings are elected to the lowest levels of PRI and that better earning is going to better levels of PRI. The study additionally disclosed the role of religious Institutions in the Election of Minorities to PRIs and their members to occupy positions in PRIs. Sathish (2019). Using the data from the Census of India 2011 and applying a simple bi-variate analysis found that the sex ratio of the total scheduled caste population in Viluppuram is less than the state ratio and more than the national average. The child sex ratio of Viluppuram is less than Tamil Nadu and better in comparison to the countrywide average. The literacy rate among the scheduled caste population of Viluppuram District is lesser than Tamilnadu and slightly higher than the national average of the same. The work participation rate in Tamil Nadu, both in rural and urban areas, is higher as compared to that of the national averages (Kumar, 2020). Singh (2016) found in his study that the majority of the women representatives (47.37%) belong to young age, most of them were married (84%), only 10% were unmarried and 6 % were found widows. Most of the women representatives (62%) belonged to upper caste, 25% were from scheduled caste and 13% were from other backward caste. The majority (57.89 percent) of those surveyed have completed

high school. 17.89 percent were studied up to the metric level, followed by graduate level 15.79 percent and 8.43 percent had postgraduate and above. None of the respondents was illiterate. Most women-representative families are indulged in agriculture for livelihood, followed by government jobs, private jobs and other occupations. Negi, (2011) did a study on women empowerment in Himachal Pradesh using primary and secondary data. He found that most of the women members fall in the age group 26 to 35 years. Also, the maximum concentration of women members from SC/ST is 26 to 35 years. But in the case of the upper caste, their maximum concentration falls in 46 to 55 years. This shows that most of the SC/ST elected women members are young and that upper caste elected members are older. The distribution of elected members caste-wise was uneven. In some places, the upper caste was dominating and in some places, the lower class was in power. The research found that without mandatory reservations for women, it was very difficult for SC women to get elected in the panchayat. All elected women of GPs were found married. None of the women members were illiterate and none had attained education higher than the higher secondary. The study also found that most female members of the lower caste were more educated than the elected women of the upper caste, which is really overwhelming for the lower caste panchayat members. Further, data on occupation revealed that 40 percent of women were engaged in agriculture and 60 percent were housewives. Seventy-five percent of SC-elected women were in farming. In the case of upper caste education, 50% of them were housewives. Ghosh *et al.* (2015) did a study on Women's empowerment and education: Panchayats and women's Self-help Groups in India. He found that 39% are literate and are under eighth grade. Most of these women rely on the male members of the family financially. Eighty-eight percent of these women come from low-income groups, 57% live in mud houses, and 15% of these women do not go to school. In Western Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad District, **Singhal (2015)** carried out research. It is primarily based on primary sources of facts and information. The sample is 505 people. For the study, both primary and secondary data were gathered. According to the survey, 76.83 percent of the respondents were members of one or more political parties, with the BSP accounting for 40.72 percent of respondents, the SP for 31.95 percent, Congress for 11.34 percent, the BJP for 9.53 percent, and the Communist Party of India for 3.6% of respondents. The remaining 2.83 percent of respondents were found to be members of other political parties. Consequently, the majority of responders were affiliated with local political parties. Bhabhor *et al.* (2012) found that the performance of tribal women sarpanches were positively and significantly correlated with the independent variables of age, education, family size, political contact, media exposure, change agency contact, and achievement motivation,

but not with annual income and Cosmopolitaness. Kumari *et al.* (2016) conducted a study in the Samastipur district of Bihar on the challenges elected women members experience in carrying out their roles. Large majorities (98.66 percent and 97.33 percent) of EWVPMs were married and were housewives, respectively, and the majorities of the women in the gram panchayat were under 35 years old (73.33 percent), from forward caste (46.6 percent), and had low individual education levels (up to the eighth standard) but high family education levels (29.33 percent). They primarily had a nuclear family (64.00 percent), but the majority had 3-5 members (42.66 percent). These respondents owned up to 2.5 acres of land (58.66 percent) and had few material possessions (84.0 percent). More than half of the respondents (64.0percent) had a family income of less than Rs 20,000 per year, 42.66 percent lived in a mixed house, and 76.0 percent were not members of any social institution. According to the study Maisnam *et al.* (2018), approximately 90.5 percent of Gram Panchayat members belonged to the middle class and only 8.5 percent belonged to the upper-class socioeconomic status. According to research by Buch (2009), most women are younger and in the reproductive age range of under 45 years across all social classes, castes, and social groups. Agriculturists are a prominent representation of both male and female individuals. However, 37 percent of women reported only doing household work, while 58.1 percent reported working in agriculture, compared to 75 percent of male members who reported working as agriculturists. A substantial percentage of women legislators are married and either illiterate or literate without levels. Compared to 41.8 percent of male representatives who are similarly illiterate or literate without levels, 70.5 percent of them are literate without levels. More male representations had greater education levels among literate people as well. According to the socioeconomic profile, many of the women who entered the workforce were from landless or small-landholding families with few assets and modest family incomes. Moreover, 41.4% of female representatives had incomes that fell below this threshold. Male representatives make up 39% of this income category. According to Nandal's (2013) analysis of a sample of 50 female respondents, 66% of them were between the ages of 18 and 31 and 28% were between the ages of 32 and 50. Only 6% of responders were over 50, which is a small percentage. Out of the entire sample of 50 respondents, 29% of the women belonged to an upper caste, followed by 26% to a scheduled caste and 6% to other backward castes. 34% of our respondents were matriculated, which was the majority. 14% had completed senior secondary education. 13 percent of respondents had graduate degrees, 10percent had post-graduate degrees, and only 6 percent of women were illiterate. According to the study, the majority of women respondents' families were engaged in agriculture for a living, followed by 14 percent of

respondents' families in government jobs, and then 12 percent and 26 percent of respondents' families were engaged in private jobs and other work, respectively.

### **2.3 Awareness of the Role and Responsibilities of PRIs**

According to a study conducted by Bryld (2001) in Karnataka, 58% of women did not know who the chairman of the Gram Panchayat was, while only 12% of men did. In addition, there is very little awareness of Zilla Parishad chairmen and chief ministers among female panchayat members. According to Singh (2016), 50 to 70 percent of rural elected female members were aware of the structure, source of income, and functions of Panchayats. While 70% of elected members are aware of women's rights and seats reserved for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, state assemblies, and parliament, the level of knowledge and awareness among rural women respondents is very low in terms of function, powers of Panchayat, and women empowerment. Negi (2011) discovered that 80 percent of women members are aware of the development programme relating to child and women while the remaining 20 percent are unaware. Sixty percent of female members are unaware of the planning process. However, 40% of women members stated that they prepare plans with the help of Gram Sabha members. In terms of how women members perceive the use of their power, 80 percent of women representatives in GP Haat and GP Mohal want to use their power for social development and 70 percent for economic and women development. Only 20% of the women in GP Mohal and 70% of the women in GP Haat want to assist the underprivileged by providing them with housing, water, and other necessities. Malviya *et al.* (2013) found that there is a significant relationship between knowledge and awareness of any area of VHSC and the type of stakeholder. Many aspects of VHSC have been discovered to be completely unknown to PRI and SHG members. No official training has ever been provided to VHSC members about the operation of VHSCs at the village level. The community health plan was not known to any of the functionaries. A study conducted in J&K by Sheikh (2014) found that PRI has various problems in addition to militancy, such as a lack of awareness. Buch (2009) investigated women's awareness of reservations, panchayats' powers and duties, panchayat meetings, elected representatives' attendance, panchayat resources, their opinion on resource-raising, as well as their perceptions on the degree of success of development initiatives. According to research, most women are well-informed about issues pertaining to panchayats. Additionally, the chairpersons are more knowledgeable and aware than the members. The source of information about reservations for male and female panchayat members

was also probed. It was interesting to see that in the case of women, informal sources of information commonly included family members and neighbours. The media, public personalities, and panchayat office holders tended to be the sources of information that were more highly weighted in favour of the male members. Mankar (2011) performed research in the Maharashtra districts of Ratnagiri. To determine the knowledge and performance of the responsibilities in agricultural development, 315 panchayat members were chosen from 45 local panchayats. It was shown that only 50% of respondents were aware of the roles related to animal husbandry, while the same number (17.77%) were aware of operations under the forest, assuring the conservation of agrarian resources, creating compost, and selling manure. Deshpande (2013) discovered that the majority of Gram Panchayat members (70.00%) had a medium level of knowledge, while the remaining members were evenly distributed in (15.83%) "low" and (14.17%) "high" degree of awareness of agricultural development programmes. It was discovered that a collection of 12 variables explained, respectively, 70.50% of the difference in awareness. The results also showed that, out of the 12 variables, land ownership and exposure to the media significantly affected how aware Gram Panchayat members were. Gram Panchayat members' awareness of agricultural development programmes was significantly influenced by the three key independent variables of land ownership, media exposure, and leadership experience. A study conducted in Milkipur block of Faizabad district (U.P.) by Singh et al. (2019) found that the awareness level of most gram panchayat members about role performance in agriculture development programmes is medium (63 percent), followed by (19 percent) low and (18 percent) high, respectively. Sah *et al.* (2013) observed that awareness of the VHNSC, its functions and responsibilities was best among ANMs and AWWs in a study on the performance of the village health, nutrition, and sanitation committee in rural Wardha, Maharashtra, with VHNSC members from January to April 2011. ANMs and AWWs had the highest level of awareness of the VHNSC's goals, whereas panchayat members, ASHAs, and SHG members had the lowest level of awareness. Before being appointed to these committees, the majority of the members stated that they had not had any official training. They also admitted that they were uninformed of their tasks and responsibilities. The majority of VHNSC members were uninformed of how the money was used in terms of their utilization. The majority of VHNSC members claimed that the president or secretary made decisions on the usage of funds without seeking input from other members. Nandal (2013) found that women's constitutional knowledge and awareness were lacking. Women's participation in Gram Panchayats is minimal; they are only allowed to vote. Even some of the female respondents were unaware of how the Gram

Panchayat operated. Women don't get to choose who gets to vote in Gram Panchayat elections; their spouses and family make that decision.

## **2.4 Caste, Ethnicity, Human Rights and Local Self-Governance**

In terms of clause (4) of Article 243D of the Constitution, the offices of the Chairpersons in the Panchayats at the village or any other level shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide, provided that the number of offices of Chairpersons reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Panchayats at each level in any State shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of such offices in the Panchayats at each level as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State bears to the total population of the State, provided further that not less than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women. (PIB New Delhi. 2020)

According to research by Sathish (2019) conducted in the rural Tamil Nadu districts of Ramanathapuram, Tiruvallur, and Villupuram, just 3% of Christians are elected to PRIs without having caste affinity, compared to 97% of Christian MPs who have caste affinity. 0% of Muslim candidates are elected to PRIs without having any caste affinities, compared to 100% of Muslim candidates with caste affinities. None of the Scheduled Castes or Tribes encountered in Karnataka felt that they were in any way dissuaded from or discouraged from participating in local decision-making, according to Bryld's (2001) field research in the Kolar District of Karnataka. None of them consider that belonging to a low caste presents any issues with the Panchayat system. Regarding voting or other political activity, there is no discrimination between castes. There are no distinctions in terms of understanding of the Panchayat system either. Men from many castes would gather in a few of the villages and engage in casual chat in front of a small store, displaying the amicable nature of these interactions. The villages are still fairly physically divided, though. The various caste groups reside among one another or with villagers who belong to the same caste group. Inter-caste marriages are still frowned upon, with the majority of the villagers who were questioned turning to their own caste's elders for guidance. Walking through rural Karnataka villages, it was usually simple to see where low-caste and high-caste residents resided. The socioeconomic disparity is fairly evident. There were no indications of caste restrictions among the Panchayat

members for either men or women. During interviews, both male and female Panchayat members from the Scheduled Castes expressed the opinion that, with very few exceptions, caste did not play a significant role in the Panchayat system. According to a study by Sharma (2012) on the effects of religion, caste, and political parties on tribal voters in the Himachal Pradesh district of Kinnaur, caste and religion have an impact on social customs. The power of political parties, however, outweighs the first two in terms of politics. Kinnaur society is based on religion. Voters, therefore, evaluate this while deciding whether to support a politician who adheres to their particular religion. Additionally, Schedule Castes and women have only been able to run for office because of reservations. However, voters' perceptions of party politics are crucial. Essentially, it is a political advocacy group that supports the election of any politician. The political party considers the candidate's potential first and then the voter.

In conclusion, it can be said that in PRI elections, Kinnaur tribal society values political party and candidate potential more than it does caste or religion. According to Haokip (2018), Dalits have not been given the opportunity to engage in social, political, or economic institutions, receive proper education, or access resources necessary to support their way of life. Additionally, he discovered that a sizable proportion of scheduled caste (dalit) individuals had been elected to the panchayats. He went on to say that caste discrimination and crimes against scheduled caste households persist unabated in all parts of Indian society. While the reality of ongoing discrimination in society is complex, what is most concerning is that government officials also treat such elected panchayat representatives with contempt, disregard, and apathy. Thus, lower-level government workers on the ground encourage upper caste dominance and harassment of scheduled caste elected panchayat delegates. Such attitudes and actions hinder the efficacy of elected Panchayat representatives from scheduled castes even further.

According to Mathew (2003), the caste system has established impermeable boundaries between groups of human beings, where birth completely determines a social place in society. Even now, the caste system is one of the most heinous kinds of societal abuse of human rights in India. The caste system prevents lower castes and women access to basic education. This old custom has been passed down through the ages and continues to have an impact on the lives of rural people today. Further research revealed that people from the lower castes are compelled to live separately, away from the upper castes, generally on the edges of communities. They are frequently denied the ability to vote, and they are also compelled to work without pay and are considered as bonded labourers.



As a result, one sees the age-old caste system, which is being enforced in its most degrading form, on the one hand, and the Indian Constitution, which offers equality under the law based on democratic ideals, on the other. Since the local government system was reinforced by constitutional modifications, there has been a substantial increase in violent expressions of casteism in local communities. When the higher castes saw panchayati raj institutions as a means for the lower castes to express their rights as people living in a democratic society, the latter became subjects of caste-based discrimination and violence. This increasing local turmoil has become a typical occurrence. The higher castes have clearly been managing the operations of the village and the community, and the economy cannot bear the changes brought about by decentralized democratic institutions. When a result, as the panchayat system was being implemented, tensions and violence and deaths occurred in order to facilitate the transition. In a study conducted in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, Sukumar (2019) found that education, election, leadership, political party support, rules and procedures, and training and capacity building are incentivizing factors shared by ERs belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women. It was discovered that 99 percent of ERs emphasized education as an enabler in PRIs. The majority of ERs stated that the election is also an enabler in PRI. Furthermore, 82% of ERs recognized leadership as a necessary trait for successful participation in PRI decision-making. Around 60% of ERs said that political parties had a significant role in panchayat elections as well as everyday functions. 55% of respondents said that clarity in Panchayati Raj laws, norms, and processes had improved their participation. The majority of ERs cited stress, capacity growth, and skill development as enabling factors. Furthermore, caste was discovered to be an enabling component in PRIs. Numerous disabling factors were discovered during the study, including lack of notice of the meeting, the gram panchayat's distance from SC neighborhoods, the non-cooperation of other panchayat members, the administration's lack of cooperation and unwelcome attitude during meetings in the office, separate seating arrangements, and even overt caste-based humiliation. Poor peasants and agricultural labourers, as well as members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, have significantly risen to the forefront in the public sphere, according to Lieten's (1992) research on caste, gender, and class in panchayats in Bardhaman, West Bengal. It is a transition that is still in progress. Vincentnathan (1996) discovered in the study on Caste Politics, Violence, and the Panchayat in a South Indian Community that when castes competed for economic opportunities and improved caste statuses, animosities flared between a lowercaste, the Vanniyars, and an even lower caste, the Dalit caste, resulting in violence in and around Ennakulam, Tamil Nadu. The

Vanniyar movement raised the Vanniyars' demand for equality with the greater society and dominance over Dalits, while the Dalit movement strengthened the Dalits' need for equality and dignity. The teenagers that instigated the violence were more aware of trans-local movements. Local panchayat peacemaking attempts failed because outside caste identities and movements overpowered the conventional local governance system. Local caste division and local conflict were exacerbated by this regional horizontal integration to the point that the Dalits were expelled from the community. According to research done in the Bagalkot area of Karnataka in 2004, Sutar (2007) found that women leaders who come from the lower social strata are more democratic and people-centered, while those from the upper castes are more traditional and family-focused. The presence of more than one-third women elected members in panchayats can be explained by the fact that lower caste women leaders outnumber their male counterparts in the panchayats. In the study on Caste connections and government transfers: The Mahadalits of Bihar by Kumar *et al.* (2015), which used household survey data from 48 panchayats in four districts of Bihar, it was discovered that households that belonged to the same caste as the VikasMitra had a significantly higher chance of receiving programme benefits than Mahadalit households of other castes. They discover that this is accurate for programmes with significant one-time transfers, like the Indira AwasYojana, but not for transfers that happen more often, like subsidized food grains. Our findings imply that jati identity is still important among India's Scheduled Castes. According to Panini (2001), who conducted research on caste, race, and human rights, if we want to get more out of the Durban conference than just political capital, we must acknowledge the need for creative non-caste secular ways to combat the social ills of caste. The dalits' political empowerment must now be translated into socioeconomic empowerment. To educate and train dalits and other underprivileged and vulnerable groups of society, special efforts must be made by both the government and non-governmental organizations. We must make sure that when a new generation of dalits emerges, they serve as role models for the whole community, not just for those from their own castes. In their study on backward castes in panchayati raj institutions, Gooru *et al.* (2017) discovered that despite the state legislature's requirements, members of weaker sections are unable to function independently in panchayati raj institutions. In Andhra Pradesh, the social structure and caste system have a dominating influence over the actions of Backward Categories and control over PRIs. Some Backwards castes suffer because of the quota clauses in PRIs. People from lower castes within BCs have experienced economic hardship, lost their lives and possessions, and faced criminal charges in faction-prone districts like Anantapur. Therefore, the goal of the current study is to evaluate how the 73rd

Constitutional Amendment Act has affected the involvement of lower castes. It also looks at how BCs' social and economic standing affects their ability to win PRI seats.

## 2.5 Education and Local Self-Governance

According to their respective states' Panchayati Raj Acts of 1994, panchayats have a variety of roles related to education, including the Promotion of public awareness and participation in primary and secondary education; ensuring full enrolment and attendance in primary schools and its management; providing such educational facilities as may be deemed necessary and desirable.

Tyagi (2012) investigated how the Panchayati Raj Department and the Development Administration worked together to regulate school education in Madhya Pradesh. According to the report, Madhya Pradesh has handed over control of school administration to Panchayati Raj Institutions and developed a tight-knit system of development management for primary education in the shape of Shiksha Kendras. Although Panchayati Raj Institutions are typically given the responsibility of hiring, transferring, and making decisions, it has been discovered that they lack adequate capacity-building programmes; despite a significant increase in local community involvement in school administration, lakhs of children are still not enrolled in classes; and there is hardly any interaction between Panchayati Raj Institutions and Parent Teacher Associations at the school level. Another significant issue has been the coordination between Panchayati Raj Institutions and other educational administration authorities at the district, block, and habitation levels. The role of Panchayati Raj Institution Members in managing elementary education in Bihar was investigated by Kumar et al. (2017). The study discovered that only 19.23% of PRI members are involved in purchasing school infrastructure, primarily developing separate washrooms for boys and girls and hand pumps for drinking water. No PRI members are involved in developing boundary walls, classrooms, kitchens for midday meals, and bench desks. No PRI members are involved in purchasing TLM for schools, such as blackboards, chalk, dusters, charts, models, T.V.s, computers, etc. The survey also revealed that 90% of PRI members desire to participate in training about management roles in schools. The research made recommendations for PRI members' role and responsibility orientation in order for them to be more actively involved in school operations. According to Prasad and Gautam's (2013) research, the Panchayati Raj Institutions are the major mechanism for village development through the growth of agribusiness, primary education, health care, agriculture, and road transportation. Primary education is primarily developed by Panchayati Raj institutions through its *Shikshasamitis*, *Shikshamitras*, and other *Samitis*. The Sarva Shiksha

Abhiyan (SSA) is effectively implemented in part because of the Panchayati raj institutions. In fact, Panchayati Raj institutions are significant tools that are helping to significantly facilitate elementary education and eradicate illiteracy. According to Acharya (2010), the Panchayati system's sorry state of affairs is largely to blame for the disaster. Instead of leading the decentralization of the educational process, Panchayati Raj institutions were used as a weapon by the major political parties to enact populist policies like "no detention" rather than bringing about a comprehensive overhaul of the whole system.

According to Bhattacharya & Mohalik's (2015) research, only 34% of School Management Committee (SMC) members believe that increasing enrollment is hampered by parents' lack of interest, 46% think that providing quality elementary education is hampered by the teaching-learning process being subpar, and 50% believe that the implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation is hampered by teachers' lack of skill, 44 percent of SMC members agreed that lack of SMC member awareness is the main constraint in developing the "School Development Plan," while 34 percent of SMC members believe that lack of funding is the main constraint. Of the SMC members, 48 percent agreed that poor and illiterate parents' lack of interest is the main issue with participation in SMC meetings. Therefore, it is necessary to raise awareness among SMC members and parents/guardians of the many provisions of the RTE Act, 2009. SMC members must be inspired to participate in all school-related activities, such as finding students, recruiting students, persuading parents to bring their kids to school, Attending and participating in SMC meetings on a regular basis, creating school infrastructure and maintaining teachers' punctuality, etc. In the study Decentralizations of Elementary Education and Community Participation in Kerala, Aikara (2011) discovered that decentralization of education did not result in increased participation of stakeholders such as teachers and parents in schooling and, in particular, very little progress was made in improving the quality of school education. Tyagi (2016) discovered in his research on Decentralized Management of Elementary Education and the Role of Local Self-Government Institutions that decentralization is viewed as a means of improving the efficiency of education systems and the quality of educational services by involving local people in planning and decision-making. Deep (2020) discovered that SMC (School Management Committees) play a significant role in the universalization of primary education in India. It is impossible to achieve widespread universalization of elementary education without the active engagement of the community. It is the SMC members who encourage both parents and children to attend school. It is also obvious from a survey conducted by some Indian investigators that some

SMCs are operational while others have become inoperable over time. As a result, such provisions should be made so that village residents appreciate the importance of village education committees and their role in the universalization of basic education. As a result, the government should implement an awareness, sensitization, and training programme to enable villagers to understand their position and function, which will help realize the varied objective of universalizing elementary education. Rajni (2021) discovered that community leaders (Sarpanches) were completely unaware of school management committees and how they functioned. The lack of community participation at every level of school education, i.e. within the school and beyond, contributes considerably to the poor execution of State policy. One of the significant impediments was a lack of awareness among gram panchayat members regarding their school-related duties and functions. The Panchayat members received no training or awareness about what they could do for schools from any source. Furthermore, panchayat members were unaware of policies and programmes that could benefit children in education and sports. Similarly, community leaders (Sarpanches) were unaware of the existence and operation of School Management Committees (SMC). They did not take part in the SMCs. Furthermore, community leaders in their individual villages did not conduct an awareness campaign on the provision of free education in government schools, incentives, or information about the Right to Education Act. As a result, the role of Panchayat Secretaries and Block Development and Panchayat Officers (BDPO) in carrying out training programmes for Sarpanches and village panchayat members is being questioned. Kumar (2015) conducted research on the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in school management in Bihar and discovered that the involvement of panchayats with constitutional status would aid in achieving our long-cherished goal of providing free quality elementary education to all of our children without exception. However, no actual method for role implementation by Panchayats was devised. According to the Vidyalaya Siksha Samiti (VSS) Act, each elementary school has a VSS with a well-defined framework for operation. It also has a few members who have been nominated by Panchayats. They are unable to play any effective role in the absence of a well-established framework for panchayats to have constitutional standing and greater involvement in school management, enrollment of students, general awareness, and so on. In actuality, local bureaucracy has more authority over school administration because of VSS. Decentralization did not seem to be achieving its lofty goal.

Mishra and Gartia's (2013) investigation into the role perception of Village Education Committee (VEC) members with respect to their planning, attitude, and involvement in improving the quality of education and the actual activities or performances they were able to carry out revealed that

Regarding the administration of the school, implementation of government programmes, and maintenance of the school building, there was a significant discrepancy in how VEC members perceived their roles and how well they performed in them. However, the majority of the VEC members were aware of the need for more training in relation to the operations of the school's administrative functions. In a study conducted in Himachal Pradesh, Attri (2014) discovered that 3.33 percent of gram panchayat members believed they had been given roles and responsibilities regarding the ECCE, 0 percent believed they had no role in staff recruitment, and 40% believed they had a role in staff recruitment at Anganwadi centers, specifically in choosing helper and Anganwadi workers. The majority of gram panchayat members (74.17%) and all members of panchayat samiti (100%) stated that they have no influence over the study and play materials provided at Anganwadi centers. Infrastructure facilities: - most of the members of gram panchayat (91.67%) and panchayat samiti (90%) conveyed they assist in providing infrastructural facilities in Anganwadi centers only if funds are available or given by the department. The record-keeping for children aged 0 to 6 is done by the Gram Panchayat, which is made up entirely of members; panchayat samiti has no part in this process. (93.33%) of the gram panchayat members keep an eye on the Anganwadifacilities. The majority of gram panchayat (69.17%) and panchayat samiti (66.67%) members stated that they do not provide financial support to Anganwadi centers. According to Parasharet al. (2017), just 10% of Sarpanches in Mewat did not cite educational development challenges as a top priority. However, 40% of them did. Only 21% of Sarpanches in the Panchkula district cited educational development issues as their top priority, and 29% showed no interest.

## 2.6 Health and Local Self-Governance

According to John (2012)'s study, "A Study on Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Health Care System in the State of Kerala," several public health institutions were transferred to Kerala's three-tier panchayats in February 1996 as a result of the Panchayati Raj Act, but their employees and staff have not yet been moved to Panchayati raj institutions. Health professionals and Panchayati Raj Institutions share obligations, creating a system of dual responsibility and restrictions. According to the results of a field survey, 86 percent of Panchayati Raj Institutions carried out activities to improve the health delivery system of Public Health Institutions in their respective jurisdiction, and the system of dual controls and responsibilities produced good results

when elected representatives and officials of Panchayati Raj Institutions and medical officers were on good terms and maintained positive and cordial relationships. The engagement of PRIs in 2012 resulted in a significant improvement in health official attendance, availability of medicines, quality of services, and infrastructure quality when compared to 2005. The increased involvement and role of PRIs in the operation of Kerala's public health institutions have led to a significant improvement in the availability of health services and facilities, including medicines, health officers, and health infrastructure. Nanjunda (2020) discovered that the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) visualizes the provision of decentralized healthcare at the grassroots level in a study supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research in the state of Karnataka. However, this system has certain gaps in reaching the poor, particularly in rural India, due to PRIs' inefficient and non-participatory role in decision-making. This has been attributed to a failure to raise healthcare awareness and complicating and chaotic procedures for local Panchayats. A qualitative study is being conducted to determine how PRIs manage the public healthcare system, as well as its success and failure. According to the findings of the study, some caution is required when delegating necessary powers to the PRIs inside the NRHM.

Coordination between Public Health Institute officials and those of PRIs is virtually lacking, and the majority of PRI members are unaware of numerous health plans. Kumar & Mishra (2016) investigated the obstacles and benefits of using Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the provision of primary healthcare in India's decentralized health system. According to the research findings, there are various issues associated with PRI engagement, including prioritization of service providers and users, coercive immoral activity, and a lack of communication. However, there are certain advantages to using PRIs in service provisionings, such as increased availability and consistency of healthcare practitioners at health centers. According to Gupta (2010), the involvement of interested communities has led to the improvement of quality pharmaceuticals and other important medical products for PHCs/SCs on time. Furthermore, it is believed that Panchayats might play a significant functionary role by taking up final monitoring and oversight tasks in preventive and rehabilitative healthcare programmes. There is a widespread belief that many political parties are intervening excessively by influencing members and the Panchayat administration. As a result, a variety of steps are desirable in order to provide meaningful autonomy to Panchayats. Patel *et al.* (1998) examine the experience of PHC inside the panchayat system. The report is based on interviews with authorities and a few panchayat leaders, as well as the writers' own experience with the health system. The authors examine many topics and recount personal

experiences to demonstrate that there are numerous issues associated with the implementation of a PHC system under a district panchayat. At the same time, there are certain advantages to panchayat authority over PHCs. Overall, the research concludes that it is unclear if the benefits of turning over the PHC system to panchayats outweigh the hazards. There are various challenges and shortfalls in Gujarat's PHC system that the district panchayat has not been able to handle properly.

Strengthening the public health care system and raising the standard of public health service delivery were two of Kerala's main decentralization goals. In this study, Rajesh & Thomas (2012) attempt to assess the changes that have occurred in the healthcare industry over the past two decades and link them to the activities of Kerala's Local Self Governments (LSGs). Decentralization broadened access to healthcare by enhancing infrastructure and equipment in primary and secondary healthcare institutions. It was successful in giving the locals access to clean water and sanitary services. Additionally, the public health care system's accountability was improved. However, it was unable to solve problems with dietary imbalance, elderly care, lifestyle disorders, and the state's shifting pattern of morbidity. This article urges the creation of a comprehensive health policy to guarantee LSGs' functional autonomy in order to meet Kerala's expanding healthcare demands. Malviya *et al.* (2013) conducted a cross-sectional study to evaluate the current situation of formation, training, and operation of VHSCs in the Indore district as well as the method of utilization of combined funds in these VHSCs. Significant correlations between stakeholder type and knowledge and awareness of any part of VHSC have been found in the study. It has been discovered that many PRI and Self Help Group (SHG) members are completely ignorant of VHSC. The members of VHSCs have never received any official training regarding how VHSCs operate at the village level. It was discovered that none of the functionaries were aware of the local health plan. The effectiveness and influence of VHSCs have been shown to be extremely restricted. In order to provide comprehensive empirical evidence on health planning through Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) in India, Kumar *et al.* (2016) conducted a micro-level study utilizing a qualitative study approach. The findings of the study show that VHSNCs are essential to health planning. However, the committee members do not routinely organize the committee sessions. The majority of VHSNC participants do not create village health plans. The operation of VHSNCs faces a number of difficulties, including a lack of funding, a lack of public interest, a lack of substantial attention, and the unjust conduct of Panchayati Raj officials. The conclusions' ramifications imply that VHSNCs are crucial to health planning. However, the leadership is ineffective as a result of their limited abilities and strategy, which creates an



unfavorable climate. In his study, Ray (2007) discovered that the GPs in the studied areas had made unsatisfactory performance. They haven't been able to turn their knowledge advantage into a competitive advantage in efficiency. The aim has not been served by the creation of rules, legislation, or announcements. As a result, there is a discrepancy between the decentralized method of providing health services described on paper and its actual shape. The ineffective devolution of authority and resources to panchayats, the insufficient capacity building of GP members, and the limited participation of active civil society organizations have all been recognized as three separate yet connected sets of explanatory factors. The study emphasizes the political economy of decentralization and the necessity of strong political commitment or interest-group support for the success of these initiatives, which is more significant than all of the other points mentioned. According to Bhattacharyya (2015), the biggest obstacle to the effective execution of the sanitation programme in rural India is that a significant portion of the population is either under-informed or not consciously aware of the connection between sanitation and health. Therefore, educating rural residents about the benefits of using sanitary facilities will take precedence. In this regard, PRIs and Gram Sabhas play a crucial role because it has been demonstrated that these grassroots organizations are capable of successfully addressing these issues. Bora et al. (2014) discovered that PRIs in Assam in particular and India in general have a huge potential for improving health indicators and raising public knowledge about health initiatives and other important issues. However, there are significant restrictions to the PRIs' operations, such as a lack of accountability, political party dominance, the absence of regular periodic elections, and so on. Furthermore, unlike BTAD, PRIs are not in the Sixth Scheduled regions. The lack of PRIs in these places has had a negative impact on the popularity of healthcare facilities in Assam. The study by Barman (2009), which focuses mostly on Panchayat Samity members, investigates their knowledge, attitudes, engagement, and involvement in National Health and Family Welfare Programs. Respondents are divided into two groups: Panchayat Samity Health Committee members and health staff from Block Primary Health Center and Rural Hospital. With a positive attitude, they are reported to be involved in increasing health and family planning awareness, as well as giving child immunization and other health measures to largely agrarian populations.

## **2.7 Gender Equality and Local Self-Governance**

The Indian Constitution grants special reservations to women. Clause (3) of Article 243D of the

Constitution ensures the participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions by mandating not less than the one-third reservation for women out of a total number of seats to be filled by direct election and the number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats. (PIB New Delhi. 2020).

John (2007) investigated the gender-based proxy issue in local municipal governance politics. The study discovered that more than one-third (25 out of 73) of the women cited their spouses as their primary source of support for entering politics, with another 18 citing other family members (parents, in-laws, brothers, and so on). Only four males out of 61 mentioned family in this context. This demonstrates that women are more likely than men to use proxies to enter politics in small urban governance. Further research discovered that few women talked openly about public prejudice, such as being offered smaller jobs, being removed from responsible positions, or being harassed. Others stated that having a godfather was more important than their own social standing. A few ERs reported facing caste discrimination from colleagues and bureaucrats. Almost half of the female ER patients said that their family responsibilities had been disrupted. Some have stated that they receive support from family members, particularly their husbands, in terms of family chores. According to a study conducted by Sumithira (2021) in Tamil Nadu, SC, women panchayat presidents have done amazing work, such as laying roads, building tiny bridges and threshing floors, and attending training programmes. Because they routinely participated in meetings, provided solutions to their concerns, and collaboratively involved them in panchayat operations, the women panchayat president had an excellent relationship with the SHGs women. It has also been noticed that village panchayats prioritize cleanliness. The Sweepers clear the garbage on time, and the drainage is kept clean. The majority of SCs women were successful in their endeavours due to the assistance and participation of others. Bhaskar (1997) on Women Panchayat Members in Kerala notes specific characteristics of the women panchayat members and also demonstrates how certain factors like age and marital status are crucial in making a structural analysis of political leadership of women in grassroots democracy in the Kerala context. Caste and community representation in local politics is in line with the state's body politic. When the poll was conducted three years after the women respondents had assumed office, Jos Chathukulam (2000) discovered that the majority of them had acquired the knowledge and abilities necessary for elected office. The style and practices of the larger political arena, particularly those of the political parties, were considered as being unchangeable by these women delegates. They discovered that the local party apparatus, particularly that of the Leftist parties, had significant power over them and prevented them from acting freely or impartially when it came to dealing with development-related issues. In stating that

local body quotas alone are insufficient to ensure women's political presence, the study comes to a conclusion. Therefore, more fundamental adjustments are required to create a political atmosphere that is more welcoming to women. Singh (2000) discovered that rural women's participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Seraj Development Block of the Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh is similar to that of women's status in other regions of India. This is because of reservations, and it was discovered that women simply follow the orders of their male counterparts, such as their husbands, brothers, or fathers, etc., to participate. In the name of the female elected member, the male counterpart handles all of the gram Panchayat's operations. When women do join in the meeting, the elected female members of the gram panchayat do not have voting rights. According to Negi (2011), 80 percent of women representatives in GP Haat and GP Mohal aim to utilize their authority for social development, 70 percent for economic development, and 20 percent for women's development. 70% of women members in GP Haat and just 20% in GP Mohal want to aid the needy by providing basic necessities such as shelter and water. According to field research, 80 percent of women members are aware of the child and women development programme, while the remaining 20 percent are unaware. Sixty percent of female members are unaware of the planning process. However, 40% of women members stated that they develop plans with the help of Gram Sabha members. Except for one SC lady in GP Haat and three general caste women in GP Mohal, the view of women respondents, particularly SCs, concerning democratic government at the grassroots level is not very encouraging or inspirational. It demonstrates that patriarchal norms and caste rigidity are still prevalent in rural communities. Negi (2000) discovered that all the women members of both GPs received help from a variety of sources, including training from the government and party, assistance from husbands and other family members, assistance from the secretary, assistance from villages, etc. In addition to receiving training from the government, women members said that their families help them out with household chores and panchayat duties. Villagers also assist with sanitation projects, take part in ShramDhan (free physical labour), and work on forestation or other project associated to a school. Malik *et al.* (2020) have demonstrated that the engagement of women representatives, particularly those from the poorer sections of society, appears to have expanded significantly over the years and that women's preferences are now taken into account when improving general government policies. According to a survey, women representatives are educated and rely on their husbands and other family members, particularly when making decisions that would benefit the community and empower women. As a result of the influence of their husbands and other male family members, women representatives are

not free to function at the gram panchayats. Additionally, it was discovered that their spouse spent more time engaging in political activities than their wife did. Sutar (2007) discovered that women leaders from lower socioeconomic groups are more democratic and people-centered, while those from upper castes are more traditional and family-focused, based on a study conducted in the Bagalkot region of Karnataka in 2004. The fact that lower caste women leaders outnumber their male counterparts in the panchayats can be used to explain why more than one-third of elected members in panchayats are female. According to Mathew (2003), the activity of women's groups has increased awareness of gender equality and women's rights in many states, particularly in those where human rights movements have made it a priority to safeguard the interests of women in society. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that municipal governments function more effectively and transparently in areas where women hold leadership roles. The two-child rule's widespread use as a qualification for running in elections worries human rights advocates greatly, particularly in the states of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh, where it is now in effect. In this context, it should be highlighted that early childbearing is typical in rural India, which translates to a high fertility rate. This makes it difficult for many women to participate in politics. According to Ghosh's (2015) research, the majority of women are reliant on the male members of their families, Panchayats, or political parties in order to make decisions. Few people made all choices on the Panchayat on their own, without seeking any advice. According to the research, the majority of women who join panchayats do so under pressure from their families and local political groups. While the women just serve as nominal representatives with posts but no real authority, the party members and the male family members make crucial decisions regarding the Panchayat. According to Kumari and Singh (2016), the majority of elected women members of Gram Panchayats (78.64 percent) could only accomplish a limited amount of duties when seen as a whole and in comparison to their obligations. At a 1% level of probability, the relationship between role performance and interaction style, involvement, empowerment, family education, and family income was positive and very significant. The partial regression coefficients for interaction style and personal education are quite substantial. Participation, family income, family size, house style, social ties, marital status, family type, and age all had a sizable direct impact. According to Kaul & Sahni (2009), neither the women's reservation nor the participation of women in the Panchayat has increased awareness of the issues affecting rural women. Not usually are elected women given the respect they deserve. Many elected women complained that neither their opinions nor those of other women were taken into consideration while choices were being made. Some thought that the only

reason their opinions weren't heard was because they were women. They occasionally felt pressured by their spouses to concur with the decisions that the male-dominated Panchayats made. According to Bhabhor *et al.* (2012), more than half of the tribal women sarpanches performed their roles as administrators at a medium level, compared to less than half who performed their roles as communicators, representatives, initiators, harmonizers, helpers, executors, opinion makers, and motivators up to a medium level. Negi (2011) discovered that poor quality and short-duration training, poor education, and little honoraria are obstacles women members of panchayats must overcome in order to carry out their duties. One of the representatives also said that GPs, which are led by opposition party pradhans and are not in power in the state, have trouble obtaining the necessary funding for village development. Research on the difficulties women panchayat members have in carrying out their roles was conducted by Kumari *et al.* (2016). They discovered a lack of resources for development work (90.66%), a lack of funding for projects on time (88.00%), a lack of knowledge among members (82.66%), a lack of people knowledge about rural projects (80.0%), a lack of interest in Mukhiya for developmental works (80.0%), carelessness among villagers for development work (74.66%), and a lack of education among panchayat members (69.33%). The majority of EWVPMs said that financial limitations were the biggest obstacle to their ability to execute their roles (93.33%).

## 2.8 Social Security and Local Self-governance

According to The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the right to social security is of central importance in guaranteeing human dignity for all persons when they are faced with circumstances that deprive them of their capacity to fully realize their human rights. The right to social security encompasses the right to access and maintain benefits without discrimination in order to secure protection from lack of work-related income caused by sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, old age, or death of a family member, unaffordable health care; and insufficient family support, particularly for children and adult dependents. Social security plays an important role in reducing and alleviating poverty, preventing social exclusion and promoting social inclusion.

Chopra & Pudussery (2014) examined India's social security pensions. According to the report, social security pensions in India are a critical source of stability for around 2.6 crores aged, handicapped, and bereaved people today. A 10-state poll conducted in 2013 found that the pension

programme was doing well. There is a considerable indication that the funds are reaching their intended recipients with no notable leakages. The patterns of pension use indicate the relevance of the pension in the lives of the recipients. An examination of the system also brings to light difficulties such as the small amount, inefficient disbursement process, collecting costs, and the lack of a consistent payment pattern. Paul *et al.* (2019) investigated the Community- Based Inclusion and Rehabilitation (CBIR) programme model of the Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development (CORD) in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. The goals were to identify PwDs with all forms of impairments in 10 Himachal Pradesh panchayats affiliated with the CORD's CBIR programme. The study discovered that PwDs were marginalized in a variety of ways, ranging from data to dignity concerns at the panchayat level. At the Panchayat level, the CORD's CBIR model encourages the "empowering inclusion and development" of PwDs in mainstream society. Agarwal and Mehrotra (2013) conducted research to better understand the function of Panchayati Raj Institutions in empowering children with disabilities at the village, block, and district levels. They discovered that Panchayati Raj Institutions have a significant impact in molding the environment for impaired children. The Panchayati Raj Institutions guarantee that all impaired children are identified and that a count of all those present in the community, school, etc., is recorded because early detection of impairment in an individual can lessen the negative influence on the individual's capacities and mental level, preventing profound handicap. Panchayati Raj Institutions that have an influence on children with disabilities at the district level are involved in the design of numerous plans that are enormously connected to the education and rehabilitation of children with disabilities in order to benefit these children in the future. They identify delivery systems for the education and rehabilitation of children with disabilities under various programmes and schemes with the help of block-level panchayats, and they ensure the convergence of the various programmes that are meant to benefit disabled children as well as other disabled people. Village panchayats are in charge of overseeing the operation of services, rehabilitation centers, and vocational rehabilitation centers for the disabled, as well as promoting links with their outreach efforts. Additionally, the Gram Panchayat finds non-governmental groups that are interested in working with handicapped people, exhibit empathy, have a solid track record, and have a proven track record of success. It also provides a method for monitoring the operation of the many non-governmental organizations operating in a given region and encourages their accountability to the community.

## 2.9 Economic Development and Local Self-Governance

Singh (1999) sought to critically study the different elements of Panchayat Udyogs and provide solutions to eliminate obstacles in their operation. The report describes a one-of-a-kind experiment in microenterprise growth that has been going on for three decades in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. This experiment, inspired by Gandhi's economic concept of gram swaraj, has given birth to a separate collection of firms owned and run by panchayats, the grassroot level self-governments. These initiatives, dubbed panchayat udyog, have demonstrated that decentralization of industrialization becomes more significant when economic and political entities at the local level collaborate with one another. Jeengar et al. (2006) conducted research on "Knowledge of Rural Youth on Vermi Composting Enterprise Promoted Through Krishi Vigyan Kendra" in ten villages of two Panchayat Samities in Bhilwara districts of Rajasthan that Krishi Vigyan Kendra has accepted (MPUA&T-Udaipur). Forty-five rural adolescents who had adopted the technology and received instruction from KVK made up the sample. The findings show that all respondents had decent knowledge about vermin-enterprise, with 55.55 percent having higher knowledge and 44.44 percent having medium knowledge. The majority of respondents were well-informed on the benefits of Vermi enterprises, crucial raw materials, processing, and maintenance. Therefore, the training provided by KVK had a positive effect on rural youth, and they were successfully managing the business. In order to understand the social engagement, media access, and financial advantages enjoyed by women entrepreneurs in the food business, Mamatha et al. (2020) performed a study. The findings showed that most entrepreneurs in both districts participated as members of one or more organizations and did not rely heavily on line departments for assistance with business setup, technical direction, or marketing. This may be the result of a lack of knowledge about government programmes and the lengthy application processes for grants, subsidies, and working capital. Poor investment may be one of the causes of reduced economic advantages, but it can be changed by raising awareness. A study on "constraints in adoption of entrepreneurial activities experienced by rural women in Udaipur district of Rajasthan" was undertaken by Mertiya et al. in 2020. The investigation was carried out in the Rajasthan state's Udaipur district's Mavli and Girwa panchayat amenities. From every panchayat samiti where the ICICI- Rural Self Employment Training Institute, Udaipur, has encouraged entrepreneurial activities. For a sample of 100 respondents, 50 rural women from each Panchayat Samiti were randomly chosen from the list. The data collection approach employed was the interview method. For data analysis, frequency and percentage

were employed. The study finds that 58% of respondents had engaged in various entrepreneurial activities, with the majority of them choosing to make bricks, phenyl & liquid soap, and hand embroidery as ways to make money and support their families. Dayya & Bansal (2017) conducted research to pinpoint the difficulties NGOs trainees have when pursuing entrepreneurial endeavours. In the Udaipur district of Rajasthan state's Gogunda and Kherwara Panchayat Samities, the study was carried out. According to the survey, the main challenges that all respondents had in starting various businesses included a lack of funding, a lack of irrigation infrastructure, a lack of transportation, a lack of access to healthcare, and a shortage of water. Therefore, it is advised that focus be placed on education campaigns on sources of funding and loan application processes, which should be implemented at the village level in order to lessen the challenges.

## **2.10 Political Participation and Local Self-Governance**

According to United Nations, Participation in electoral processes involves much more than just voting. Political participation derives from the freedom to speak out, assemble and associate; the ability to take part in the conduct of public affairs; and the opportunity to register as a candidate, to campaign, to be elected and to hold office at all levels of government. Under international standards, men and women have an equal right to participate fully in all aspects of the political process.

Political participation includes a broad range of activities through which people develop and express their opinions on the world and how it is governed and tries to take part in and shape the decisions that affect their lives. These activities range from developing thinking about disability or other social issues at the individual or family level, joining disabled people's organizations or other groups and organizations, and campaigning at the local, regional, or national level to the process of formal politics, such as voting, joining a political party, or standing for elections. (Khasnabis *et al.*, 2010).

Bardhan *et al.* (2008) have presented evidence based on a rural household survey in West Bengal regarding political engagement (turnout, awareness, attendance at meetings, campaign activity, and voting) and its relationship to local government in a developing country. They found that reported participation rates varied with socio-economic positions relatively low, with the exception of education and immigration status. Benefits provided by local governments did not correlate with wealth, caste, education, gender, or political connections



within villages. In contrast, higher-level governments' distribution of benefits showed bias against low caste and impoverished groups; these biases were more pronounced in communities with uneven land ownership and lower rates of village meeting attendance. Voters' political allegiance to the major Left party was positively connected with receiving ongoing benefits and assistance from local governments during times of need, but not with receiving long-term one-time benefits or local public goods. Kaur & Singh (2021) have studied women's political engagement and the main obstacles they confront with particular reference to Punjab. The majority of the data used in this study were secondary sources. The results show that women's engagement in voting has significantly increased over the past few years in this state but that their participation in other political activities has been quite low. Candidates who are elected as women represent their families' male members. It has highlighted the main obstacles that women in this state face while trying to participate in politics, including psychological, socio-cultural, and political hurdles, to mention a few. In its conclusion, this essay makes recommendations for improving women's actual political engagement in this portion of India. Patnaik (2005) examines the 'representation' of elected representatives—specifically those from disadvantaged groups—by examining their involvement in the governance process, responsiveness to the interests of their constituents, and accountability in gram panchayats. This is done by drawing on empirical data from four Gram Panchayats in Orissa. The conclusion was that, despite the potential for empowerment and inclusion, affirmative action in decentralization has not been successful in guaranteeing enough representation of underrepresented groups regarding the aforementioned qualities. Panda & Sahoo (2019) have made an effort to investigate the level of political engagement of women in operation and election of panchayats, as well as their issues. A sample of 80 female respondents from the Kharida Binayakpur Gram Panchayat of Basudevpur Block in the Bhadrak District of Odisha served as the study's subject in July 2018. The study concluded that while women's political engagement in panchayat elections is generally excellent, their political indifference is quite evident in assembly and parliamentary elections. The poor level of education, mala-dominated culture, and society all has a significant role in the backwardness of women. Krishna (2002) has attempted to answer questions such as; what causes a more politically engaged and active populace? Various studies have emphasized macro-national institutions, micro-level impacts (such as an individual's income and education), and meso-level influences, notably social capital. How do these various elements compare to one another? In comparison to the other variables, what contribution does social capital make? Furthermore, how is social capital used to address problems of democratic

participation? With the use of an original data set comprised of interviews with more than 2,000 respondents gathered over two years for 69 rural communities in two north Indian states, these topics are investigated here. Analysis shows that social capital and institutions cooperate to foster active involvement. When competent agents are also present who can aid people and communities in connecting with public decision-making processes, the impacts of social capital are amplified. Kaul & Sahni (2009) have studied the level of involvement and difficulties experienced by women elected as Panchayat representatives. Thirty-three elected female legislators from Kathua and Jammu's two districts made up the sample. The sample was chosen from several blocks using the purposeful sampling approach. An interview schedule served as the information-gathering method. The study concluded that neither the gender-specific reservation nor women's actual participation in the Panchayat had increased their sensitivity to issues affecting village women. The treatment of elected women is not always done with the appropriate respect. Many elected women complained that neither their opinions nor those of other women were taken into consideration while choices were being made. Some thought that the only reason their opinions weren't heard was because they were women. They occasionally felt pressured by their spouses to concur with the decisions that the male-dominated Panchayat made. Panday (2010) conducted a both primary and secondary research and attempted to answer questions such as; what amount of political engagement do women now have in Bangladesh and India's local governments? What causes prompted both governments to start a number of positive steps to increase women's participation? What obstacles prevent them from participating in politics? What happens to women in both nations once they join local government organizations? The evidence suggests that women continue to experience structural, religious, and cultural barriers despite affirmative action initiatives by both administrations. The results also seem to indicate that their political opponents do not warmly welcome them once they enter the political arena. Even while few NGOs and women's groups have spoken out in favour of women's equal rights, their actions continue to be insufficient. The inability of women members to influence local decision-making is another crucial conclusion. They frequently become targets of victimization, violence, and harassment once they demand their legal rights.

**2.11 Safe Environment (access to drinking water and sanitation) and Local Self-Governance:** According to Bhattacharyya (2019), in most countries around the world where local governments play a very serious role in providing people with the two basic human rights - water and sanitation - the PRIs in our country have also been directly involved in

extending these basic services among the village people, particularly the poor, by implementing various schemes and program funded by upper-tier governments, both state and central. Various studies in various areas of India reveal that Panchayats have a significant great potential to change water and sanitation service delivery and play an active role in promoting community participation in water supply enhancement and hygiene promotion. The most significant issue for successful sanitation program implementation in rural India is presently thought to be that a big portion of rural people is either poorly informed or are not explicitly aware of the relationship between sanitation and health. The aim would thus be to raise awareness and sensitize rural people about the benefits of using hygienic toilets. The participation of PRIs and Gram Sabhas is especially significant in this context because it has been demonstrated that these grass-roots organizations can effectively address such challenges. According to Rajendran *et al.* (2014), the government has taken many steps to protect individual health, but field observation shows that people are fairly towards using toilets, water, soaps (hand wash), rainwater harvesting, and dustbins, noting that Pakkanadu GP was awarded NGP in 2008 and CVC in 2011. It implies that the government and grassroots-level leaders must monitor their operations. At the same time, because children are the next generation, teachers must teach them about clean drinking water, hygiene, and trash disposal. This form of activity is intended to produce a healthy and excellent youthful generation in the world, resulting in a large human resource stock.

According to Reddy and Batchelor (2012), despite recent high levels of public spending, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) service levels in rural India remain persistently low. In many locations, this is because service standards have declined due to factors such as poor water source protection (quantity and quality) and a focus on construction spending rather than operational and capital maintenance. This study contends that implementing a life-cycle cost approach (LCCA) might play a key role in correcting this by offering a framework for detecting and filling gaps in the current expenditure pattern. It is believed that LCCA would give a solid foundation for executing the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission's WASH Guidelines, which were issued in 2010. These guidelines represent a shift from viewing WASH service provision as primarily an engineering challenge to one that necessitates activities such as source protection, institution building, long-term support, and pro-poor planning, all of which must be budgeted for by WASH service providers and/or users. According to preliminary findings, LCCA may be used to analyze the true life-cycle costs of providing sustainable, equitable, and efficient WASH services. The task now is to figure out how best to include LCCA in WASH planning and other governance procedures.

Krishnan (2019) addresses challenges in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) during recovery by documenting relief and recovery efforts by Oxfam to improve WASH behaviour changes after the 2013 Cyclone Phailin and floods in Odisha. The quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and the qualitative data was interpreted using an inductive Framework approach. Agency interventions focused on communal water supply and shared sanitation facilities. Although households readily adopted safer water-related practices, there were no changes in open defecation prevalent in these districts. This study suggests that if WASH recovery programmes are to be instrumental in improving community health, sanitation and resilience, they need to emphasize on health education, addressing social norms, attitudes and preferences for open defecation through community participation and an interconnected approach.

**2.12 Human Rights-related government programmes/Schemes at Local Self-Governance:** According to Saxena and Srivastava *et al.* (2009), India's exceptional economic growth over the previous two decades has had minimal influence on its children's nutrition levels. Its primary intervention, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme, has yet to reduce childhood malnutrition. The programme reaches just around one-third of all youngsters. In addition, ICDS suffers significant operational issues, such as a lack of monitoring. The study addresses the shortcomings in the ICDS architecture and offers practical solutions to enhance its execution. It contends that the ICDS scheme's fundamental character should be modified from center-based to outreach-based, with an emphasis on children under the age of two. The challenging tasks of modifying child-rearing methods and controlling and treating infectious illnesses should be prioritized. The paper contends that providing packaged meals is unpopular with young children and has resulted in corruption. Mandal *et al.* performed research at 20 Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) facilities (Center-A) and 15 primary schools (Center-B) in Bali Gram Panchayat, Arambag, Hooghly District, West Bengal, India, every three to four years (2014). It was discovered that the nutritional condition (both in cases of underweight and wasting) was better in Center B than in Center A in West Bengal's Hooghly District. In general, boys had higher nutritional status than girls. Center had a very large influence on both WAZ and WHZ, regardless of age or gender. Only WAZ is affected by sexuality. Surprisingly, neither WAZ nor WHZ had a significant sex-center interaction. The children in the neighborhood received Mid-Day Meals from the school officials, which was superior to the food supplements provided by the ICDS centers. Improved monitoring of nutritional supplements

in elementary schools might be a significant impact. Only the Anganwadi worker runs and implements the government's initiatives in ICDS centers. However, in primary schools, the active participation of all teachers in running the program may have resulted in higher results. Furthermore, the government's attention should not only be on expanding the region covered by the ICDS program, but also on improving the quality of food delivered, properly monitoring implementation, and increasing funding allocation. Authorities may take appropriate action in this regard. The study's findings will aid policymakers in lowering the prevalence of under-nutrition. Gragnolati *et al.* (2006) investigate the efficacy of the Integrated Child Development Services programme in tackling the problem of child malnutrition in India. It concludes that, while the ICDS programme appears to be well-designed and well-positioned to address the many causes of malnutrition in India, there are significant misalignments between the program's design and its actual execution that hinder it from attaining its full potential. These include an increasing emphasis on providing supplementary feeding and preschool education to children aged four to six years at the expense of other programme components that are critical for combating persistent under-nutrition: a failure to effectively reach children under three; and ineffective targeting of the poorest states and those with the highest levels of under-nutrition, which tend to have the lowest levels of programme funding and coverage. Furthermore, ICDS is confronted with significant operational issues. Nair *et al.* (2009) performed research to determine the prevalence of developmental delay, deformity, and disability among children aged 0 to 5 in Pattanakkad rural ICDS block, which was chosen at random from among the ICDS blocks in Alappuzha District, Kerala, India.

There were 311 children with developmental delay, deviation, deformity, or impairment out of 12520 children up to 5 years old in this block, indicating a prevalence of 2.5 percent. The prevalence of developmental impairments was 2.31 percent for children under the age of two, and 2.62 percent for children aged two to five. The study's prevalence has substantial policy implications for recognizing childhood impairments in the community. Chanchani (2017) studies procedures in ICDS implementation based on research in two states - densely populated Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in central India. The study discovered that ICDS in Uttar Pradesh exhibits overwhelming implementation problems due to corruption and significant staff absenteeism from duty, rendering the ICDS nearly dysfunctional. Aside from providing a center for monthly immunization procedures, the Anganwadi offers a few noteworthy services. Chhattisgarh is clearly ahead of Uttar Pradesh in terms of ICDS reach

and quality. Aanganwadi centers are open on a daily basis, offer basic services, and have improved infrastructure. In comparison, Chhattisgarh inherited more effective administrative structures than Uttar Pradesh. It has stronger local governance authorities, and state-instituted improvements in service delivery procedures have increased ICDS accountability. Similarly, processes that promote decentralization and community engagement, as well as processes that raise understanding of entitlements, strengthen accountability. This study emphasizes the necessity of deconstructing politics and power in order to better understand ICDS implementation and panchayats. Strengthening grievance redressal processes, as well as initiatives to raise community knowledge of entitlements and provide formal spaces for community engagement, will improve ICDS functioning. Rao (2009) assesses the performance of the school education management committee in a tribal region in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district. It demonstrates that community engagement in enhancing education is minimal and that members of the SEMCs are unaware of the SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan). The SEMC members proposed numerous methods to improve the operation of their village's education committees. Almost 17% of respondents said that raising knowledge among indigenous parents will enable them to engage in school-related activities. Other proposals included instituting a regular mid-day meal programme in schools, making drinking water available on campus, requiring instructors to utilize TLM materials, providing better school infrastructure, and so on. All of these options show that tribal community members are involved in school-related activities in some way. However, to organize them on a common platform, it must focus on raising awareness among tribals to maximize the benefits of their involvement. Rai (2013) researched the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in identifying and assessing special needs children in Uttar Pradesh. The findings indicate that the intervention tactics used by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, India, for early detection and identification of impairment, are inadequate. More than half of the representatives stated that they did not conduct a poll. On the other hand, some of the children assessed had simply been sent to Primary Health Care Centers for identification. Furthermore, no effort had been made at any level to organize training for employees involved in the identification, equipment for identification, or raising awareness among school instructors about general indications of impairment. The findings about the duties and responsibilities of PRIs members in the assessment of children with special needs show that no work has been done to ensure that the assessment team is sufficiently trained, nor has training has been organized for people participating in assessment work. At the grass-roots level, it is the responsibility of PRIs to urge parents to participate in assessments, but the

majority of PRI representatives (65 percent) had not made any steps in this regard. According to Kainth (2006), the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has achieved great advances in ensuring universal basic education since its beginning in November 2000. However, development has differed among states, and the goal of achieving gender parity remains elusive, particularly in the most backward states. Monitoring of SSA funding may be ensured by defining disaggregated objectives for each state, with programmes and timetables tailored to the needs of specific states. Sharma (2013) discovered many obstacles in the execution of the SSA programme in Manipur beginning in 2004. Some of the program's constraints include difficulties in mobilization due to the inhabitation of scattered remote hilly areas, data collection problems among the various communities in hilly areas, a lack of communication facilities, an insurgency problem, law and order situation, high rates of blockades, bandhs, agitation, and uncertainty of personal security in any development work, particularly in educational development work. Other impediments to the development of the SSA programme include faulty rationalization of instructors, bad infrastructure, the absence of Experts resource persons, and the lack of coordination among the intervention, coordinators, and the program's exposure.

Decentralization through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) is widely believed to create more accountability in the Indian healthcare system. Health decentralization is specifically designed to promote people's engagement, transparency, and accountability in order to deliver comprehensive and high-quality health services at the grassroots level. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) envisions decentralized healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. However, this system has certain gaps in reaching the poor, particularly in rural India, due to PRIs' inefficient and non-participatory role in decision-making. This has been attributed to a failure to raise healthcare awareness and complicating and chaotic processes for local Panchayats. A qualitative study conducted by Nanjunda (2020) on Panchayati Raj and the Rural Health Care Delivery System in Karnataka, supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research, tries to learn how PRIs manage the public healthcare system and its success and failure. According to the findings of the study, some caution is required when delegating necessary powers to the PRIs inside the NRHM. Coordination between Public Health Institute officials and those of PRIs is virtually lacking, and the majority of PRI members are unaware of numerous health plans. Bora et al. (2014) conducted research on the roles and duties of PRIs in the implementation of the National Rural Health Mission in Assam. According to observations from the field, several of the ASHAs they questioned are dissatisfied with the PRI members because they are not cooperative. According to their information, the Panchayat

members are corrupt and do not use the untied fund on a regular and honest basis. Some of the BPMs who have been questioned have also stated that PRI members and department officials are not very helpful. However, PRIs in Assam and India generally have tremendous potential for improving health indicators and raising public knowledge about health initiatives and other important issues. However, there are significant restrictions to the PRIs' operations, such as a lack of accountability, political party dominance, and the absence of regular periodic elections. Nanjunda (2018) conducted a study in Karnataka state to conduct an in-depth review of the structural, organizational, and operational frameworks of selected PHCs, as well as to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of their management systems. The study discovered that many PHCs in rural areas are still dealing with various administrative and technical issues. It was also discovered that impediments hamper the functioning of PHCs in rural areas and require further improvement for the effective implementation of the NRHM scheme. PHCs are essential to the healthcare system, and their operation in rural regions is fraught with difficulties. Several impediments to the PHCs' functioning were observed during fieldwork, including people's illiteracy, negligence, a lack of response from beneficiaries, a lack of one-time funding from the government, a lack of staff at the PHCs, and a lack of interest on the part of people in positions of authority. These concerns have a significant impact on the overall functioning of the PHCs. They also influence people's attitudes regarding embracing the services provided by PHCs. However, not all PHCs face the same level of these constraints. As a result, it is critical to recognize the particular constraints that each PHC faces in rural areas. Kumar (2005) found in his paper, Challenges of maternal mortality reduction and opportunities under the National Rural Health Mission-a critical evaluation, that the NRHM provides chances and strategic choices for reducing high levels of MMR. However, the recommended interventions and assistance require an efficient and empowered Panchayati Raj System, which is yet to be achieved in the majority of our country's states. As a result, substantial work needs to be done to strengthen PRI capacity and establish an enabling environment for the implementation of NRHM principles and plans to reduce maternal mortality. Mohanty & Nayak (2021) conducted research on Revamped Thrust on Women's Participation for NRHM Entitlements: A Study of Pipili Block in Odisha's Puri District. The study's findings indicate a need to increase grass-roots initiatives, such as building sub-centers and involving Gram Panchayats in achieving the country's health mission objectives. To guarantee the program's effectiveness, the report recommends having effective monitoring and evaluation systems in place at all levels, with clearly defined indicators and ways of verification. Sugathan (2020) performed a survey in the Kerala



panchayaths of Mulanthuruthy and Mulavukadu. They discovered that the majority of people in both Panchayaths are unaware of the NRHM programmes. People in disadvantaged areas like Mulavukad sensed the necessity for proper implementation of NRHM compared to Mulanthuruthy gram panchayath, a reasonably well-off region. As a result, a shift in approach is required, focusing on backward regions while executing the NRHM programme. Much can be done to improve the synergy between local self-government organizations and NRHM authorities in terms of increasing service delivery. Finally, NRHM programmes other than ASHA should be improved to make them more appealing and beneficial to those in need.

The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, or National Health Insurance Scheme, attempts to enhance impoverished people's access to excellent healthcare. Rajasekhar *et al.* (2011) examine the scheme's implementation in Karnataka, focusing on a comprehensive survey of eligible families and interviews with state-accredited hospitals. Six months following the scheme's inception in early 2010, an outstanding 85 percent of eligible homes in the sample were aware of it, and 68 percent had joined. However, the plan was barely functioning, with almost little use.

Many recipients have yet to get their cards, and many were unsure how and where to seek care under the system. Furthermore, hospitals were not prepared to treat RSBY patients. Hospitals polled complained about a lack of training and long wait times for reimbursement. Many refused to treat patients until the concerns were rectified, and others demanded cash payments from cards. Many of the issues, as is customary for the execution of a government initiative, may be attributed to a mismatch of incentives. Sarwa *et al.* (2018) conducted a study to analyze individual, family, and community-level characteristics linked with RSBY programme enrollment. The study discovered a substantial relationship between the socio-economic position as evaluated by the mean per capita consumer expenditure quartile and the RSBY awareness level of the head of a family with RSBY enrolment. Individuals in the higher age group, higher consumption expenditure quartile, and with more awareness of RSBY were more likely to join. Children and unmarried members were more commonly barred owing to enrollment limits, although previously enrolled members and chronically sick members with favourable health-seeking behaviour were favoured for enrolment. Furthermore, the study revealed that promptly updating the BPL list and distribution of the smart card is required to improve enrolment. It is vital to increase knowledge about the active participation of community leaders and to distribute a list of empanelled hospitals to all enrolled households. Finally, the study concluded that, given the great potential and expenses

associated with NHPM, an enhanced form of RSBY, it would be advisable to use learning lessons from earlier RSBY experiences. According to a study conducted by Rathiet al. (2012) of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana in 2009-10 in the Amaravati district of Maharashtra, there are critical concerns in the program's design and implementation that may make it difficult for RSBY to reach its target of below-the-poverty-line population. As the premia paid for all are the same, the impoverished in more rural blocks and villages may be overlooked for easier-to-reach potential registrants. Empanelled hospitals are typically located near district headquarters, boosting access expenses for the poor over what is covered by the programme, and packages fail to account for treatment and care uncertainty, which incentivize hospitals to treat simpler and less severe conditions.

Furthermore, insufficient preparation for a change in insurance carriers causes needless service interruptions. Despite these flaws, users grade this application highly, emphasizing the significance of providing the impoverished with access to a working healthcare system. Gupta et al. (2021) did a study to assess the medium-term impact of B3P implementation in Haryana from 2015 to 2019. A civil registration system was used to collect monthly statistics on SRB for the whole state of Haryana. With the aid of Winter's additive interrupted time series model, segmented time series regression analysis was utilized to estimate the fluctuations in SRB following the B3P programme. In Haryana, the SRB climbed from 876 females per 1000 boys in 2015 to 923 in 2019. The model findings showed that there was a significant monthly change in SRB of 0.217 (95 percent confidence interval: 0.144-0.290) prior to the start of the intervention (pre-slope). Following the B3P programme, SRB increased by 0.835 per month, implying that the B3P programme is responsible for an increase in SRB of 0.618 (confidence interval: 0.338, 0.898) per month. As a result of the B3P initiative, SRB for the state of Haryana rose at a pace of 7.42 units each year. B3P has resulted in a major improvement in Haryana's SRB. The continuation of efforts in the same direction, with a persistent focus on behaviour modification, will contribute to the achievement of gender parity in births and child survival.

## **2.13 Challenges in the Implementation of Human Rights at Local Self-Governance**

Several previous studies have revealed that Panchayat confronts a variety of challenges while implementing human rights-related schemes. This study used 6 Human Rights as a range of study to determine the obstacles experienced by the Panchayat in executing various human rights initiatives. These six human rights are the right to education, the right to health, the

right to gender equality, the right to work, the right to economic development, and the right to water and sanitation.

Negi (2011) conducted a study on Women's Empowerment: A Critical Assessment of Reservation for Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions at the Gram Panchayat Level, Himachal Pradesh, India. According to the study, the main hindrances faced by women members in performing panchayat tasks are a lack of quality and shorter duration of the training, a lack of quality education and a meager amount of honorarium, and not being in power in the state, which makes it difficult to obtain the necessary funds for village development. Sukumar *et al.* (2019) conducted research on "Inclusiveness in Panchayati Raj Institutions" in seven states, including Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. They discovered various handicapping variables affecting the performance of elected representatives (ERs) from seven states belonging to scheduled castes, tribes, and women. Disabling factors discovered during the study are non-intimation about the meeting, the gram panchayat's location far from SC localities, non-cooperation of other Panchayat members, lack of cooperation from the administration and an unwelcome attitude during meetings in the office, separate sitting arrangements, and even outright caste-based humiliation.

Bhattacharya & Mohalik (2015) did research on Problems Faced by SMC Members in Implementing the RTE Act 2009. They found that only 34% of SMC members believe that increasing enrollment is hampered by parents' lack of interest, 46% think that providing quality elementary education is hampered by the teaching-learning process being subpar, and 50% believe that the implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation is hampered by teachers' lack of skill, 44 percent of SMC members agreed that lack of SMC member awareness is the main constraint in developing the "School Development Plan," while 34 percent of SMC members believe that lack of funding is the main constraint. Of the SMC members, 48 percent agreed that poor and illiterate parents' lack of interest is the main issue with participation in SMC meetings. Therefore, it is necessary to raise awareness among SMC members and parents/guardians of the many provisions of the RTE Act, 2009. SMC members must be inspired to participate in all school-related activities, such as finding students, recruiting students, persuading parents to bring their kids to school, and Attending and participating in SMC meetings.

Kumar & Mishra (2016) investigated the obstacles and benefits of using Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the provision of primary healthcare in India's decentralized health system. According to the research findings, there are various issues associated with PRI

engagement, including prioritization of service providers and users, coercive immoral activity, and a lack of communication. Insufficient staff, a lack of training, and little awareness of agricultural development programmes were the main obstacles facing gram panchayat members in their role performance in agricultural development programmes, according to Singh et al. (2019)'s study in Milkipur block of Faizabad district (U.P.). Mankar *et al.* (2011) performed a study on Panchayat members' awareness and performance of their duties in agricultural development in order to identify the primary difficulties and restrictions they encounter. According to the survey, the main issues faced by panchayat members were a lack of enough personnel, insufficient and irregular monetary distribution to the panchayat, and a lack of timely and competent guidance. Paul and Chakravarty (2016) did a study in the Hooghly district of West Bengal to identify and prioritize the restrictions in Gram Panchayat's role performance in agricultural and dairy farming.

The total number of respondents chosen for the research (Gram Panchayat members, including Pradhans) was 80. An open-ended timetable was established to identify the restrictions, and the Garrett ranking approach (1981) was utilized to prioritize them. The study's findings indicate a lack of resource inventory maintenance, provision of funds mostly by the end of the fiscal year, non-availability of committed cash and kind in the matching amount at the appropriate time, sub-standard quality of production inputs, insufficient availability of technical and non-technical man-power, insufficient and lack of timely availability of production inputs, a lack of technical know-how, and a lack of viable and need-oriented projects.

Kumari *et al.* (2016) investigated the difficulties that panchayat members encounter in carrying out their roles. The study found that panchayat members faced several challenges in their roles, including a lack of resources for development work, a lack of funds on time to carry out project work, a lack of knowledge among members, a lack of persons well versed in rural projects, a lack of interest in Mukhiya for developmental work, carelessness among villagers for development work, a lack of education among panchayat members, and bribery and misappropriation. The majority of EWVPMs found economic restrictions to be the most significant impediment to their duty performance. Sheikh (2014) performed research on the obstacles and challenges faced by Panchayati Raj Institutions in J&K. Apart from militancy, the survey indicated that PRI faces a number of obstacles, including a lack of understanding, participation, accountability, and transparency.

## Chapter 3

### Research Methodology

The chapter discusses the research design and methodology for the present study. This research attempts to answer intellectual and practical questions through the application of systematic methods. This chapter deals with the research design, sampling, tools used and procedure of data collection.

#### 3.1 Research Design:

The research presented is intended to investigate the promotion of human rights in the rural local governance in the study. The study demands explorative research, so a mixed method was used in the study where qualitative data was supported by quantitative data in order to evaluate and understand challenges faced by rural local authorities in implementing human rights.

#### 3.2 Area of Study

As per the proposed sampling method, one district each from all three states of North India, namely Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, was selected. The rationale for the selection of three states is due to the fact that the study seeks to identify and compare the variations in the protection and promotion of human rights in LSG across the northern states.

**Table No. 3.1: List of selected Gram Panchayat**

S.No	State	District	Block	Gram Panchayat
1	Punjab	Bathinda	Bathinda	Deon
			Sangat	Jassi Baghwali
			Nathana	Tungawali
			Maur	Burj
			Phul	Selbrah
2	Harayana	Sirsa	Dabwali	Assa Khera
			Ellenbad	Thobariyan
			Odhan	Panniwala Motta
			Nathusari Chopta	Rupwasa
			Baragugha	Surtia
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi	Mandi Sadar	Seyog
			Gopalpur	Khudla
			Bali Chowk	Nagwain
			Chauntra	Bhadyara
			Balh	Sakroha

Five panchayats were selected from the districts of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, with at least 10 Panchayat members representing the entire district geography.

### 3.3 Sample Size

At the first stage, all the Members of the selected Panchayats were interviewed regarding the implementation of human rights with the help of Annexure and schedule. The primary data was collected using the convenience sampling technique. The convenience sample consists of research subjects who were chosen for the study because they could be recruited easily. The secondary data was collected from various governmental websites/Documents/ Research papers/ Journals/newspapers/magazines etc. Moreover, the data for beneficiaries was collected with simple random techniques. Thus, the total number of panchayat members interviewed was **150** across the three states. Also, **60 beneficiaries** availing the different govt. schemes through panchayats were identified and interviewed in order to find out the level of awareness and protection of their human rights. Thus, from each district, **300** beneficiaries were interviewed and a total of **900** beneficiaries were interviewed across the three states.

Total Sample Size (for three states)	1050 (150 Panchayat Members+900 beneficiaries)
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### 3.4. Pilot Study

In the beginning, the pilot study was conducted in the month of August and September 2022. The interview was conducted in the Manakkhana and Guddha villages of Bathinda with four PRIs, and five Beneficiaries, and three Self-help groups, along with three Anganwadi workers and three pensioners, respectively. A letter of informed consent was given to each informant and the researcher obtained verbal approval from all informants. In the village Manakkhana, the sarpanch, Shishandeep Kaur, was interviewed as she was the youngest elected sarpanch so far, who won multiple awards in regard to the best work at the panchayat level. The interviews ranged in time between approximately 32 to 40 minutes at the beginning of the study. The interview should not exceed 90 minutes to consider other commitments of participants (Jacob & Furgerson, 2012). Including the social conversation, it was noticed that

each session did not exceed the recommended time frame. The aim of the pilot study was to test the appropriateness of the questions and to provide the researcher with some early suggestions for the viability of the research. Besides, it also facilitated the researcher to obtain experience in conducting in-depth, semi-structured interviews and building rapport with the informants. Importantly, the pilot study assisted the researcher in learning the skills of interviewing and the flow of conversation.

Jacob and Furgerson (2012) suggest that building a good rapport with the participants could facilitate better responses. Thus, the interview began with a social conversation before the interview. Although the general issues were deeply discussed, the purpose was mainly to develop good relationships with participants. Participants were given an opportunity to discuss freely based on the questions asked and the researcher used probing questions to elicit further in-depth information. During the interview, participants were asked the same set of questions. The interviews were carried out in the Hindi language, as it was more casual for the interviewer and interviewees to have comfortable discussions. However, the interviewer did not ask the question in an orderly form but rather the flow of the discussion. Importantly, through the pilot study, the researcher learned that it was almost impossible to determine precisely how the participants were going to answer the questions. Sometimes, the answers were meant for subsequent questions or added to the point mentioned earlier in the previous discussion. That is to say, each interview incorporated a unique way to probe, thus, the researcher could improve the interviewing skills and further probing in important areas. After the pilot study was completed, it helped researcher to improve the interview guide and form a better set of questions that later on were added to the annexures and schedules. Additionally, some changes e.g. some questions were rephrased and sequentially aligned, and topical probes were made due to the issues that emerged during the pilot study. The annexure and schedule were later on modified in accordance with the above-mentioned issues concerning the objectives of the study in regard to respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights in Rural Local Self Governance.

### **3.5 Tools used:**

The following tools are prepared to collect the data as per the objectives of the study.

- The Survey questionnaire was administered to know the status of rural LSG and the challenges faced by them in regard to respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights. The survey questionnaire was developed in an easy-to-understand

language and translated into Hindi for the convenience of respondents/ interviewers. It was developed in such a way that all relevant information could be collected from respondents while interacting with them. It was conducted on respondents in the panchayat itself. It was structured with open-ended and close-ended questions.

- The interview schedule was administered to understand the status and challenges faced by LSG in implementing human rights. The semi-structured open-ended interview was conducted with Sarpanch and Panchayat members of all the selected Gram Panchayats, and beneficiaries. The interview was conducted face to face the majority of the time and other methods were used, such as phone calls and emails, where the data was **empirical and systematic**.

### 3.6 Data Collection

The qualitative and empirical aspects have been taken into consideration for the study. The study is based on primary and secondary data where Primary data was collected from one district of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, states of India, and five Panchayats from each block of this district were finalized to understand the scope of human rights implementation in rural local governance. At least ten panchayat members from rural local governance were interviewed using different annexures and schedules, designed based on the factors associated with the functioning of gram panchayat under the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

**Table No. 3.2 List of Annexures with related schemes/rights**

S. No.	Questionnaire	Annexures
1.	Survey questionnaire for Elected Representatives in PRIs	Annexure- I
2.	Challenges faced by Members of PRIs in Implementing Human Rights	Annexure- II
3.	Survey questionnaire for Beneficiaries	Annexure- III

S.No.	Rights	Related Schemes	Annexures
4.	Right to Education	Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan	Annexure- IV-A
		ICDS	Annexure- IV-C
5.	Right to Health	National health mission	Annexure- IV B
		ICDS	Annexure- IV-C
6.	Right to Gender Equality	Self Help Group	Annexure- IV-H
7.	Right to Social Security	Public distribution system	Annexure-III
		Old age/widow/disable pension	Annexure-IV-I



8.	Right to work	MGNREGS	Annexure- IV-D
9.	Right to political participation	Vibrant gram sabha	Annexure- IV-G
		GPDP/Snapshot of People Plan Campaign	Annexure- IV-F
10.	Right to safe drinking water and sanitation	NRDWP/Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC)	Annexure- IV-E
		Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen	Annexure-III

These annexures and schedules covered the objectives of the present research study in such a manner that every above-mentioned human right was counterbalanced along with governmental schemes. However, the secondary data were collected from official records, documents, published reports and other available literature. The study focused on Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) ' role in protecting and promoting human rights by focusing on the working of three tier systems of Panchayati Raj Institutions as per their obligations under the Indian constitution and relevant state laws. A total number of respondents were interviewed from each panchayat, which makes the total of people interviewed in the study. In addition to this, a detailed observation was conducted in the study area. Five types of structured/ semi-structured annexures were used to collect the information at the Panchayat level.

The first annexure was particularly related to the evaluation of Rural Local Self Governance in regards to respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights with a set number of qualitative questions in which they asked about government schools, their infrastructure, food facilities, drinking water, and sanitation to see the right to education and health is being respected along with the issues of gender disparity and violence against women and young girls under the right to gender equality where panchayat members were asked about the prevention of child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage, with what efforts they have made to eradicate them and the abuse of disabled and aged women. This survey questionnaire where also concerned with the right to social security among the old and weaker section of society and what help was provided at the panchayat level to ensure maximum care and protection of vulnerable individuals or households like the homeless, women-headed, chronically ill, bed-ridden or the physically or mentally challenged. Questions were added in order to get a clear picture of their efforts and input for the well-being of a certain population. The involvements in political campaigns for voting, joining a political party, or standing for elections were important for the right to political participation, among other things, so there

were questions in the annexure about their work in terms of the right to political participation along with the right to work, and how they ensure these rights are not violated. The MGNREGS work was checked and data was collected from the muster roll and the site of work was visited by the research team and also, some questions in relation to the right to work were asked in this Annexure.

The second annexure had a qualitative set of questions created for a glimpse of the challenges faced by Rural Local Authorities in implementing Human Rights. In this, a Likert scale was used to assess the strength of the attitude, i.e. on a continuum from strongly agree to agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree. This annexure covered the areas of conceptual clarity, finance allocation, political interference in fund allocation and policy formation to panchayats, as well as literacy rate, caste-based politics and baseless agitation and strikes. The annexure discussed member's opinions and attitudes as a Likert scale is used in accordance to Panchayat member's knowledge of their roles in Panchayat Raj Institute.

Annexure 3, which is a survey questionnaire for beneficiaries, was designed to see the status of the implementation of government schemes among the rural population. These schemes ensured the fulfillment of human rights at the rural level with the help of local self-governance, while Annexure 4, on the other hand, discussed the performance and implementation status of these schemes. Annexure 4 was divided into sub-types where they covered all of the human rights pertaining to these schemes. Annexure 5 took a detailed profile of Gram Panchayat. It involved multiple questions related to a Gram Panchayat social infrastructure, immovable properties, movable properties, and civil society organizations. At the end, semi-structured questions were asked to see their best practices of protecting and promoting human rights in rural LSG.

### **3.7 Statistical Techniques Employed**

The researchers have employed the Content Analysis technique and statistical analysis. Content analysis is a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words or concepts within texts or sets of texts. In this study, the researchers have quantified and analyzed the presence, meanings and relationships of words and concepts relating to human rights and then made inferences about the messages within the texts. A simple statistical analysis using averages and percentages was carried out for quantitative data. At the same time, the researchers have also used Descriptive Analysis to represent the data in a structured, coherent and logical manner.

## Chapter 4

### Survey Result and Data Interpretation

#### 4.1 Profile of Elected Representatives

To assess the status of Gram Panchayat Members as Elected Representatives in PRIs, Annexure-I was formed where multiple variables such as (1) Respecting, (2) Protecting, (3) Fulfilling, and (4) Promoting, along with their socio-economic status were taken.

**Table No. 4.1: Gender-wise distribution of ER**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Average</b>
Male	52	52	52	52.67
Female	48	48	48	47.34

In the above socio-economic tables, 52% of the representatives were males in the three states and 48% representative were females in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, and 48% in Haryana. In the above socio-economic tables, the male representative's percentage remained at 52% throughout the three states when it came to the PRI, whereas Females representatives were 48%, which was the standard in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh and Haryana.

**Table No. 4.2: Age-wise distribution of ER**

<b>Age</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Average</b>
Young (Up to 35 years)	14.00	20.00	30.00	21.33
Middle (35-50 years)	64.00	78.00	50.00	64.00
Old (>50 years)	22.00	2.00	20.00	14.67
Average Age (Years)	<b>33.33</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>33.33</b>	<b>33.33</b>

The 'middle-aged' representatives were, on average highest by 64%; the percentage of Haryana representatives was 78%, Punjab representatives were 64%, and Himachal Pradesh representatives were 50%. On the other hand, Haryana's old age representative was only 2% in PRI whereas, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh's percentage was 22% and 20%, respectively. However, young representatives were falling behind the old age, with 14% in Punjab, 20% in Haryana, and 30% in Himachal Pradesh.

**Table No. 4.3: Caste-wise distribution of ER**

Caste	PB	HR	HP	Average
General	58.00	36.00	42.00	45.33
BC	4.00	28.00	8.00	13.33
SC/ST	38.00	36.00	50.00	41.33

It is evident from the above table that most of the representatives were from the General category, wherein 58% (Punjab), 42% (Himachal Pradesh), and 36% (Haryana), followed by the BC category, where Haryana showed the highest representative were 28%, but then Punjab and Himachal Pradesh showed only 4% and 8% representatives, individually. However, there was only a 2% difference between Punjab and Haryana representatives among SC/ST categories since the highest participation was in Himachal Pradesh by 50%.

It is evident from the above table that most members of PRI are from the General categories in Punjab, but when it comes to BC and SC/ST categories, Haryana showed 28%, and Himachal Pradesh showed 50% representatives from the BC categories, respectively. Overall, on average highest representatives of PRIs were from general categories at 45.33%, SC/ST at 41.33, and then 13.33 by BC categories.

**Table No. 4.4: Distribution of ER based on Marital Status**

Marital Status	PB	HR	HP	Average
Unmarried	2.00	0.00	16.00	6.00
Married	96.00	96.00	84.00	92.00
Widowed	2.00	4.00	0.00	2.00
Divorces	0	0	0	0.00
Total %	100	100	100	100

In the three states, Married representatives showed the highest percentage of 96% in Punjab and Haryana, and then 84% in Himachal Pradesh, among which 2% of representatives were unmarried and widowed in Punjab while only 16% of representatives were unmarried in Haryana.

**Table No. 4.5: Education-wise distribution of ER**

<b>Personal Education</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Average</b>
Illiterate (No formal Education)	22.00	2.00	6.00	10.00
Low (up to 8th Standard)	44.00	28.00	22.00	31.33
Medium (Matric and intermediate)	24.00	56.00	56.00	45.33
High (Graduate & above)	10.00	14.00	16.00	13.33

Personal education was divided into four parts where most of the representatives were from medium (matric and intermediate) as Haryana (56%) and Himachal Pradesh (56%) had the highest percentage. On the other hand, Punjab representatives mainly were up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard educated with 44%. 16% of representatives were graduates or had higher education in Himachal Pradesh, 14% in Haryana, and 10% in Punjab.

**Table No. 4.6: Family-wise distribution of ER**

<b>Family Type</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Average</b>
Nuclear	4.00	16.00	40.00	20.00
Joint	96.00	84.00	60.00	80.00

In family types' of representatives majority of them live in a joint family setup in Punjab (96%), Haryana(84%), and Himachal Pradesh (60%), whereas the representatives from nuclear families had a fall of 40% in Himachal Pradesh to 16% in Haryana and then to 4% in Punjab.

**Table No. 4.7: Distribution of ER on the basis of Family Education**

<b>Education</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Average</b>
Illiterate (No formal Education)	6.00	4.00	16.00	8.67
Low (up to 8th Standard)	46.00	40.00	58.00	48.00
Medium (Matric and intermediate)	48.00	56.00	26.00	43.33
High (Graduate & above)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Similarly, On Family size, the representatives were largely from medium and low (up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard) educational basis. The highest percentage was Low, 58% (Himachal Pradesh), followed by ‘Medium,’ 56% (Haryana), and 48% (Punjab). A considerable amount representative was from low (up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard)’ educational backgrounds as the average percentage was 48% and then 43% in the ‘medium’ educational background.

**Table No. 4.8: Occupation-wise distribution of ER**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Average</b>
Household Work	00	06	28.88	11.62
Family Occupation	00	00	2.22	0.74
Small scale industries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Independent profession/ Business	6.00	9.00	15.5	10.16
Construction work/Labour	28.00	36.00	26.66	30.22
Private Job	6.00	3.00	4.44	4.48
Farming	60.00	46.00	17.77	41.25
Government Job	0	0.00	4.44	1.48

In occupation, ‘farming substantially occupied 60% of Punjab, 46% in Haryana, and only 18% in Himachal Pradesh. Furthermore, ‘Construction work/ labor work’ was second highest in the list of occupations from which most of the representatives were from. Haryana had 36% of representatives from construction work/labor, 28% from Punjab, and 27% from Himachal Pradesh. However, in Himachal Pradesh, 28% of representatives had ‘household work’ as their occupation and very few representatives had ‘private job’ as their occupation because of that, the percentage laid back to 4.48% as an average of the three states.

**Table No. 4.9: Land Holding wise distribution of ER**

Land Holding	PB	HR	HP	Average
Landless (No. Land)	38	56.00	16.00	36.67
Marginal (up to 2.5 acre)	16	16.00	68.00	33.33
Small (1.5 to 5 acre)	26	16.00	14.00	18.67
Medium (5.a to 10 acre)	20	6.00	0.00	8.67
More than 10 acre	0	6.00	2.00	2.67

Haryana had the highest percentage of 56% in ‘landless (No land).’ In contrast, Himachal Pradesh had the highest percentage in ‘Marginal lands,’ which was 68%, and Haryana had a standard of 16% on ‘Marginal’ and ‘Small land.’ However, most of the representatives of ‘No land’ were from Punjab (38%), while ‘No land’ also had the 36% on average, the highest compared to the categories mentioned in land holding.

**Table No. 4.10: Type of House wise distribution of ER**

Type of House	PB	HR	HP	Average
Kutcha	8.00	22.00	8.00	12.67
Pucca	76.00	64.00	50.00	63.33
Mixed	16.00	14.00	42.00	24.00

Most of the representatives had a ‘Pucca’ type of house with an average of 63%, out of which representatives from Punjab had 76%, the highest in the three states and from all three categories. Nonetheless, the ‘Mixed’ type of house was the second most favored type as it had an average of 24%; among the three states, Himachal Pradesh had the highest percentage of 42% in the ‘Mixed’ category.

**Table No. 4.11: Family Income wise distribution of ER**

<b>Family Income (Monthly)</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Average</b>
LIG (up to Rs. 20,000)	82.00	96.00	86.00	88.00
MIG (Rs. 20000 – Rs. 35000)	8.00	4.00	12.00	8.00
HIG (>Rs. 35000)	10.00	0.00	2.00	4.00

The majority of the representatives from the PRIs belong to ‘LIG (up to Rs.20,000)’ family income as the average of three states was 88%, out of which Haryana (96%) had the most representatives from ‘LIG(up to Rs 20,000)’ that being the case second highest was Himachal Pradesh with 86% and Punjab(82%). ‘HIG (> Rs.35000)’ kind of family income had 10% as the highest in Punjab only, whereas Himachal Pradesh's highest family income was 12% in the ‘MIG (Rs. 20000-35000)’. On the other hand, the least percentage of ‘HIG (> Rs.35000)’ was only 2% in Himachal Pradesh and 4% (in Haryana) in MIG (Rs. 20000-35000).

**Table No. 4.12: Social Linkage wise distribution of ER**

<b>Social Linkage</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Average</b>
No. Membership	98.00	92.00	70.00	86.67
Membership in one organization	0.00	6.00	26.00	10.67
Membership in more than one organization	2.00	2.00	4.00	2.67

On average, representatives had ‘No membership’ in any social linkage, with 86.67%, and only 2.67% of representatives had ‘membership of more than one organization.’ 98% of representatives from Punjab had ‘No membership’ close to Haryana (92%); however, Himachal Pradesh had only 70% representatives of ‘No membership’ linkage. Himachal Pradesh had 26%, the highest among the three states with a ‘Membership of at least one organization.’



## 4.2 Status of Rural LSG about Respecting, Protecting, Fulfilling, and Promoting Human Rights

To assess the status of Gram Panchayat Members as Elected Representatives in PRIs, Annexure-I was created where multiple variables such as (1) Respecting, (2) Protecting, (3) Fulfilling, and (4) Promoting, along with their socio-economic status were taken.

### 4.2.1 Right to Education

**Table No. 4.13: Status regarding Respect of Right to Education**

S.No.	Respect: Right to Education	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Are you aware of the right of children to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education in a neighborhood school?	96	98	100	98.0
2.	Do you check Drinking water, sanitation, books, infrastructure, mid-day meals, etc., facilities in government schools?	70	98	100	89.3
3.	Do you monitor the enrollment, retention, and dropout rates of Government schools in the jurisdiction?	20	68	76	54.7

To ensure the “Respect” aspect of the right to education, a set of three questions were asked to the representative of the three states, and the above data showcases the percentage of positive responses of these representatives, where Himachal Pradesh gave a positive response 100% of the time when they were asked. “About the awareness of free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education’, whereas the percentage turned 96% in Punjab and 98% in Haryana. However, ‘the check of drinking water, sanitation, books, infrastructure, mid-day meals, etc. facilities in government schools were 98% in Haryana and 96% and 70% in Punjab. The EA3, which asked about “the enrollment rates of retention and dropout of Government school in the jurisdictions,” where on average, a positive response was 54.7% out of which the highest percentage of positive response was by Himachal Pradesh representatives (76%) and the lowest was of Punjab representatives (20%).

**Table No. 4.14: Status regarding Protection of Right to Education**

S. No.	Protect: Right to Education	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you Ensure a non-admitted child is admitted to a neighborhood school?	94	72	96	87.3
2.	Do you ensure primary and secondary education access for vulnerable groups like children from disadvantaged, disabled, or minority backgrounds?	86	96	96	92.7
3.	Do you ensure the Prevention of Child Labour in the Panchayat?	78	50	94	74.0

To ensure the protection of “the right to education,” a set of three questions were asked to each representative, to which Haryana and Himachal representatives had a positive response to ‘primary and secondary education for vulnerable groups like children from disadvantaged, disabled or minorities background,’ likewise Himachal Pradesh representative responded with a positive response of 96% to ‘inurement of a non-admitted child to be admitted in a neighborhood school’, but Punjab representative showcased 94% and Haryana 72%, but when they were asked about “the prevention of child labour in the panchayat” the average of the three states came down to 74% the least among the three questions.

**Table No. 4.15: Status regarding Fulfilment of Right to Education**

S. No.	Fulfill: Right to Education	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you ensure government schools exist within nearby houses of children in the panchayat?	100	100	100	100.00
2.	Have you made efforts to ensure Government schools are equipped with modern educational facilities?	60	100	80	80.00
3.	Have you done Maintenance of the Drinking water facility, sanitation facility, books facility, infrastructure, mid-day meals, etc. of government schools through Panchayat Fund?	60	100	100	86.67
4.	Do you ensure by checking or developing that Government schools in panchayat have Separate toilets for boys and girls?	80	80	80	80.00

5.	Have you developed the Anganwadis infrastructure in Panchayat?	80	100	80	86.67
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To ensure the fulfillment of the “Right to education,” five questions were asked to representatives with a yes/no response. The ‘inurement of the government schools exist within nearby houses of children in the panchayat’ was responded with 100%, and the “inurement of the separate toilets for boys and girls” was 80% in all the three states. The representatives of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh on “maintenance of drinking water facility, sanitation facility, books facility, infrastructure, mid-day meals, etc. of government schools through Panchayat Fund” responded with 100% positive score; however, Punjab representatives had only 60% positive response to “inurement. Haryana representatives had a positive response of 100% in ‘Anganwadi infrastructure,’ although Punjab and Himachal Pradesh representatives had a similar percentage of 80% regarding fulfilling the right to education.

**Table No. 4.16: Status regarding Promotion of Right to Education**

S. No.	Promote: Right to Education	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Have you run an Awareness campaign about the right of children to free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education?	60	80	100	80.00
2.	Have you made any campaign to Promote 100 percent enrolment and retention of students in schools?	40	40	100	60.00
3.	Have you made any campaign or promotional activity for Total Literacy Campaign (TLC)?	40	40	100	60.00
4.	Have you organized any special Gram Sabha Meeting for Education?	60	60	80	66.67

To ensure the “Promotion” of the Right to education, a set of four questions were asked with yes /no responses, out of which Himachal Pradesh representative had a positive response of 100% in ‘Awareness campaign and 80% in the ‘organization of special gram Sabha meeting education’. However, Punjab and Haryana representatives had a positive response, with “60% in the organization of special gram Sabha meeting for education and 40% in ‘campaign to

promote 100 percent enrollment and retention of students in schools’ and ‘campaign or promotion activity for total literacy campaign (TLC).

#### 4.2.2 Right to Health

**Table No. 4.17: Status regarding Respect of Right to Health**

S. No.	Respect: Right to Health	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you check the Drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure, and food facilities in the Primary Health Centre of Panchayat?	86	98	100	94.7
2.	Do you Inspect the attendance of health officials, availability of medicines, and quality of services in the Primary Health Centre?	34	96	94	74.7
3.	Do you Map vulnerable populations based on age, reproduction, occupation, and area and assess health needs for each category?	30	94	94	72.7
4.	Are you aware of GPDP?	10	20	72	34.0
5.	Do you address local public health issues through GPDP?	24	20	72	38.7
6.	Do you address local public health issues through Gram Sabha?	72	92	98	87.3
7.	Do you Map people with mental health problems and substance, drug and alcohol abuse?	74	98	94	88.7
8.	Do you Supervise care providers like ASHA, ANM & AWW?	98	100	100	99.3

To ensure the “Promotion” of the right to health, a set of eight questions were asked with yes/no responses, out of which Himachal Pradesh and Haryana had a positive response of 100% in the Supervision of care providers like ASHA, ANM & AWW. In contrast, Punjab had 98%; therefore total average rose to 99.3%, the highest. However, after the Drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure, and food facilities in the Primary Health Centre of Panchayat, the positive response was second highest, with a total average of 94.7 %. People's awareness of

GPDP showed the lowest percentage of 10% in Punjab, making it the least percent of positive responses among the three states in the right to health, followed by Haryana with 20%, the second least positive response. In mapping of vulnerable populations and people with mental health problems, 94% of representatives had a positive response in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, whereas 70% of representatives of the Punjab state had a negative response. However, in mental health problems, representatives' responses changed to a positive response of 74% in Punjab to 98% in Haryana, yet 94% of representatives said in Himachal Pradesh.

The HA2 question was “to inspect attendance of health officials, availability of medicines and quality of services in the primary health center,” where the Haryana representative had a positive response of 96%, the highest, and 34% in Punjab.

**Table No. 4.18: Status regarding Protection of Right to Health**

S. No.	Protect: Right to Health	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you help all people with disabilities in the panchayat get treatment at the Primary health center/Sub Centre?	90	94	100	94.7
2.	Do you restrict Extractive and manufacturing industries from polluting water, air, and soil?	48	86	90	74.7
3.	Do you raise the issue of pollution, food safety, and control of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs in panchayat Meetings/Gram Sabha Meetings?	88	88	88	88.0

To ensure the “Protection” of right to health, three questions HB1, HB2, AND HB3 were asked. In which, Himachal Pradesh was the only one which had a 100% positive response to HB1, whereas Punjab (90%) and Haryana (94%). In the HB2 question, again, Himachal Pradesh representatives had a 90% positive response, followed by 86% in Haryana and 48% in Punjab. However, 88% of the representatives raised issues like pollution, food safety, and control of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs in panchayat meetings.

**Table No. 4.19: Status regarding Fulfillment of Right to Health**

S. No.	Fulfill: Right to Health	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Have you made an effort for infrastructure development of Primary Health Centres/Sub-center in Panchayat?	100	80	100	93.33
2.	Do you ensure the effective functioning of the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC)?	60	40	80	60
3.	Do you review every maternal death/neonatal death/child death in the Gram Panchayat and identify actions for the future?	20	60	100	60
4.	Have you tried to ban and restrict the sale of tobacco/illicit drugs?	80	60	100	80
5.	Do you Maintain and Monitor Overall cleanliness in the village to combat malaria, waterborne diseases, vector-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases?	80	60	100	80

To ensure the “Fulfillment” of the right to health, five questions were asked, in which development of sub-center, VHSNC, Maternal death, neonatal death, restrictions on the sale of illicit drugs, and overall monitoring of cleanliness in the village were covered. Himachal Pradesh scored 100%, a positive response to the efforts made for the infrastructure development of primary health centers. Sub-center in panchayat along with maintaining and monitoring of overall cleanliness in the village to combat malaria, waterborne diseases, vector-borne disease, the review of every maternal death/neonatal death/ child death, and the efforts which were made for the banishment on the sale of tobacco/illicit drugs. And the only positive response of 80% was in the inurement of effective functioning of the village health sanitation and nutrition committee (VHSNC). On the other hand, Punjab and Haryana representatives had a similar response, where Punjab representatives had a 100% positive response in the infrastructure development of primary health centers, and Himachal Pradesh scored 80%. Haryana representatives scored 60% consecutively for the review of every maternal death/neonatal death/child death, the banishment of illicit drugs, and the overall cleanliness of the village. Punjab representatives 100% to infrastructure development of primary health

centers, 60% to village health sanitation, 20% to the review of maternal death/ neonatal death/ child death, and 80% to the banishment of illicit drugs and overall cleanliness.

**Table No. 4.20: Status regarding Promotion of Right to Health**

S. No.	Promote: Right to Health	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you Promote and inform all health-related schemes to people?	80	100	100	93.33
2.	Do you organize social awareness campaigns on tobacco control/alcohol/illicit drugs/ Hygiene, and sanitation?	60	80	100	80
3.	Do you Promote Smokeless chulhas, improved cooking stoves, and adequate ventilation?	60	80	100	80
4.	Do you Promote immunization in Panchayat?	100	100	100	100

To ensure the “Promotion” of right to health, the questionnaire had four questions, most of which had a 100% positive response by the representatives of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. However, in Haryana, the representatives had an 80% positive response to the organization of social awareness campaigns on illicit drugs and the promotion of smokeless *chulhas*. On the contrary, Punjab representatives had a regular response of 60% to the organization of social awareness campaigns on illicit drugs, 80% to the promotion and information of all health-related schemes, and 100% to the promotion of immunization in Panchayat.

#### 4.2.3 Right to Gender Equality

**Table No. 4.21: Status regarding Respect of Right to Gender Equality**

S. No.	Respect: Right to Gender Equality	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you bring the issue of gender disparity and violence to the attention of Panchayat Committees/Gram Sabha for action?	96	100	100	98.7
2.	Do you check the enrolment and attendance of all girl children of the panchayat to Anganwadis?	58	100	98	85.3
3.	Do you monitor Self Help Groups functioning in Panchayat?	88	96	100	94.7

To ensure the “Respecting” aspects of the right to gender equality, three questionnaires were included. Haryana representatives had a positive response of 100% to the issue of gender disparity and violence and the enrollment and attendance of all the girl children, whereas 96% of representatives had a positive response to monitoring and functioning of self-help groups. Similarly, in Himachal Pradesh, the representatives responded with 100% “yes” responses on the issue of gender disparity, with 98% as a response to enrollment and attendance of all the girl children. On the contrary, Punjab representatives’ responses varied as they said 96% yes to the issue of gender disparity, 58% to the enrollment and attendance of all the girl children, and 88% to the monitoring of self-help groups.

**Table No. 4.22: Status regarding Protection of Right to Gender Equality**

S. No.	Protect: Right to Gender Equality	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you ensure that No girl child is deprived of free education or appropriate health facility in panchayat?	92	100	100	97.3
2.	Do you work against women's harassment/exploitation/violence/Discrimination in the panchayat?	92	98	98	96.0
3.	Do you ensure Combat domestic violence in the panchayat?	96	100	100	98.7
4.	Do you ensure the Prevention of child marriage, Early marriage, and Forced marriage female feticide?	94	100	100	98.0
5.	Do you make efforts to Eradicate the Abuse of Disabled and Aged women?	78	72	98	82.7

To ensure the “Protection” of the right to gender equality, five questions were there in the Annexure. To ensure that no girl child is deprived of free education, Punjab representatives had a 92% yes response, whereas Haryana and Himachal Pradesh representatives had 100% as positive responses. Likewise, Punjab representatives had a variation of 96% and 94% in combat domestic violence and in the prevention of child marriage, early marriage, and forced marriage female feticide, respectively, then Haryana and Himachal Pradesh representatives who had 100% yes as a response to domestic combat violence and the prevention of child marriage. In Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, representatives had a similar response of 98% again then Punjab (92%) to the action against harassment/exploitation/violence/discrimination. In GB5, a



question about eradicating abuse of disabled and aged women, Punjab represented a positive response of 78% of the time, Haryana (72%) and Himachal Pradesh(98%).

**Table No. 4.23: Status regarding Fulfillment of Right to Gender Equality**

S. No.	Fulfill: Right to Gender equality	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you check equal wages for equal work in Panchayat (Gender wise)?	100	100	60	86.67
2.	Do you encourage women for equal participation in local governance and decision-making (Voting & Participating in elections)?	80	100	100	93.33
3.	Do you conduct meetings with different line departments/ Agencies/community organizations to address gender issues?	80	100	100	93.33

To ensure the “fulfillment” of the right to gender equality, a set of three questions were asked to representatives; where Punjab and Haryana representatives had a 100% positive response to all of the three questions, whereas Himachal Pradesh representatives had 60% positive response to equal wages for equal work. Similarly, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh representatives had 100% as a response in encouraging women for equal participation in local governance and decision-making and the conduction of meetings with different lines of the department. However, Punjab representatives had an 80% as a response to it.

**Table No. 4.24: Status regarding Promotion of Right to Gender Equality**

S. No.	Promote: Right to Gender Equality	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Have you raised Awareness regarding the Philosophy of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in panchayat?	80	100	100	93.33
2.	Have you raised Awareness against women's harassment/exploitation/violence/Discrimination/child marriages?	80	80	100	86.67
3.	Have you made any campaign program to Promote School enrolment and retention of girls?	40	60	100	66.67

To ensure the “Promotion” of right to gender equality, three questions were included, and Himachal Pradesh representatives had a 100% positive response to all three questions. Punjab and Haryana had 80% positive responses to raising awareness against harassment/exploitation/violence/discrimination/child marriage. The awareness of the “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” philosophy had 80% positive responses from Punjab and 100% in Haryana. However, the campaign program to promote school enrollment and retention of girls was only 40 to 60% in Haryana and Punjab.

#### 4.2.4 Right to Social Security

**Table No. 4.25: Status regarding Respect of Right to Social Security**

S. No.	Respect: Right to Social Security	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you help entitled persons availing of old age pensions, widow pensions, disability pensions, livelihood programs, and other benefits?	98.0	100.0	96.0	98.0
2.	Do you help persons who require an Aadhar card, Health Card, or Bank account?	96.0	100.0	96.0	97.3
3.	Do you ensure maximum care and protection of vulnerable individuals or households like the homeless, women-headed, chronically ill, bed-ridden, or the physically or mentally challenged?	58.0	96.0	98.0	84.0
4.	Do you actively monitor and facilitate the Public Distribution System in the Panchayat?	94.0	100.0	100.0	98.0

To ensure the “respect” aspect of the right to social security, a set of four questions were asked, where Haryana representatives had a positive response of 100% to the availment of all kinds of pensions along with monitoring a facilitating of a public distribution system, and if help is being provided with Aadhar card, Health Card, Bank account and 96% in the inurement of the maximum care and protection of vulnerable individuals. Punjab representatives reacted with 98% yes response to the availment of all kinds of pensions, 96% to if the help is being provided with an Aadhar card, health card, and bank account, 58% in the inurement of the maximum care and protection of vulnerable individuals, and 94% in monitoring an facilitating of the public distribution system. However, Himachal Pradesh representatives reacted with 96% in

an ailment of all kinds of pensions and if help is being provided with Aadhar cards, Health cards, and Bank accounts while getting a 100% positive response in monitoring a facilitating a public distribution system.

**Table No. 4.26: Status regarding Protection of Right to Social Security**

S.No.	Protect: Right to Social Security	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you ensure no one is excluded from social security schemes in the Panchayat?	92	100	100	97.3
2.	Do you check if the health worker /ASHA worker assists poor pregnant women during their Antenatal and post-delivery period?	88	100	100	96.0
3.	Do you make an effort to provide Employment opportunities for persons with disabilities?	74	96	94	88.0
4.	Do you Check that no child below 14 years of age is working on wage in panchayat?	82	100	98	93.3

To ensure the “protection” aspect of the right to social security, a number four questions were included, in which Haryana and Himachal Pradesh representatives had a 100% response positive in the inurement that no one is excluded from social security and is the ASHA worker present during antenatal and post-delivery period, **so did Punjab representatives had 92% and 88% positive response in the same question.** However, 96% of representatives in Haryana said **yes to provide** employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and only 74% in Punjab and 96% in Himachal Pradesh. Haryana representatives had 100% positive responses to see if any child below 14 years of age is working on wage, while 84% positive response by Punjab representatives and 98% by Himachal Pradesh.

**Table No. 4.27: Status regarding Fulfillment of Right to Social Security**

S. No.	Fulfill: Right to Social Security	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you identify persons who are entitled to old age pensions, widow pensions, disability pensions, livelihood programs, and other benefits and ensure they avail it?	100	100	100	100

2.	Do you Identify the poor, destitute, and critically vulnerable and prepare operational guidelines?	80	100	100	93.33
3.	Do you Converge funds towards social security programs under Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)?	40	80	100	73.33
4.	Do you Facilitate SHG formation, handholding, and training?	60	100	100	86.67
5.	Do you undertake a Needs assessment for skills and employment?	40	80	100	73.33
6.	Do you ensure the selection of beneficiaries and implementation and monitoring of various employment or poverty alleviation programs, including the MGNREGA scheme?	80	100	100	93.33

To ensure the “Fulfillment” of the right to social security, a set of six questions was included in the questionnaire. Himachal Pradesh representatives had 100% positive responses” in all of the six questions. In contrast, Haryana had a perfect response rate of 100% in identifying persons who are entitled to pensions, critically vulnerable people and preparing guidelines, facilitating SHG formation, handholding and training, and monitoring of selection of various employment and the convergence of funds towards social security programs and assessments for the skills and employment had 80% positive response by Haryana representatives.

**Table No. 4.28: Status regarding Promotion of Right to Social Security**

S. No.	Promote: Right to Social Security	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Have you run strong campaigns in the panchayat for social security programs such as old-age, widow, and disability pensions?	60	100	100	86.67
2.	Have you educated SHGs about poverty reduction, employment, and social security programs?	60	80	100	80.00
3.	Do you Mobilize the Gram Sabha regarding the promotion of social security-related schemes?	80	80	100	86.67

4.	Do you disseminate information about schemes for the poor and vulnerable through ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and school teachers?	60	100	100	86.67
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The questionnaire had four questions to ensure the “Promotion” of the right to security. Himachal Pradesh again had a 100% positive response by the representatives in all of the questions asked, and so did Punjab, except in the education of SHG and mobilization of the Gram Sabha regarding the promotion of social security, where the representative response was 60%. Similarly, Punjab representatives said positively, as a response to the campaign for the social security programs and the education of SHG, and dissemination of information about various schemes, only the mobilization of the gram sabha meeting regarding the promotion of social security-related schemes had 80%.

#### 4.2.5 Right to Work

**Table No. 4.29: Status regarding Respect of Right to Work**

S. No.	Respect: Right to Work	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you monitor the MGNREGS work by checking the Muster roll and visiting Worksite?	96	100	100	98.7
2.	Do you help people in getting MGNREGS work?	100	94	100	98.0
3.	Do you participate in Rozgar divas held every month?	22	16	30	22.7
4.	Do you encourage Potential candidates to set up enterprises?	72	94	98	88.0

To ensure the “Respect” aspect of the right to work including economic development where four questions were asked, out of which Himachal Pradesh and Haryana representatives had a 100% positive response to the monitoring of the MGNREGS work, while Punjab had 96% positive responses by the representatives. Same as monitoring the MGNREGS work and getting help to people in getting MGNREGS work Himachal Pradesh and Punjab representatives had a 100% positive response; however, Haryana had a 94% positive response from the representatives. If the participation happens in Rozgae divas, the three states had the lowest positive response by the representatives as Haryana(16%), Punjab( 22%), and Himachal Pradesh (30%) had a response rate in descending order.

**Table No. 4.30: Status regarding Protection of Right to Work**

S. No.	Protect: Right to Work	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you facilitate the Prevention of child labor?	86	28	66	60.0
2.	Do you check whether the first-aid Facility & Drinking Facility available at the MGNREGS Worksite?	84	64	74	74.0
3.	Do you make efforts to Prevent manual scavenging in the panchayat?	100	62	92	84.7

To ensure the “Protection” aspect of the right to work, including economic development, which had three questions. In the presentation of child labour, Punjab representatives' positive response was 86%, followed by 66% in Himachal Pradesh, but then 28% in Haryana. In comparison, to see if the first-aid facility and drinking facility available at the MGNREGS worksite had a 10% difference in all three states, where Punjab representatives had a positive response of 84%, 74% in Himachal Pradesh, and 64% in Haryana. In the facilitation of drinking water and first-aid at the MGNREGS worksite, the total average response of the representatives was 84.7%, out of which Punjab had a 100% response rate, followed by Himachal Pradesh (92%), and then Haryana (62%).

**Table No. 4.31: Status regarding Fulfillment of Right to Work**

S. No.	Fulfill: Right to Work	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you Map Micro, small, and medium enterprises within the panchayat area?	40	100	100	80.00
2.	Do you Identify Skilled candidates who are interested in working?	80	100	100	93.33
3.	Do you Facilitate Handholding or guiding support for new enterprises?	20	100	100	73.33
4.	Do you Maintain a Database on labor and employment?	20	60	100	60
5.	Do you hold Rozgar Diwas Every Month?	0	20	40	20

To ensure the “Fulfillment” of the right to work including economic development, a set of five questions were asked where a majority of 100% positive responses were from Himachal Pradesh, except Rozgar Diwas happening every month, where only 40% of representatives said “yes.” Haryana representatives also responded positively to the mapping of mentioned enterprises, identification of skilled candidates, and facilitation of handholding for new enterprises. At the same time, database maintenance of labors and employment and the Rozgar Diwas celebration had 60% and 20% positive responses. Punjab representatives had an 80% response rate in identifying skilled candidates interested in work, an increase from mapping enterprises within the panchayat (40%) and facilitation of handholding for new enterprises (20%).

**Table No. 4.32: Status regarding Promotion of Right to Work**

S. No.	Promote: Right to Work	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Have you made any campaigns to promote MGNREGS in Panchayat?	100	100	100	100.00
2.	Do you Promote and encourage people regarding skill development programs in the Panchayat?	100	100	100	100.00
3.	Do you Facilitate Entrepreneurial development training in the panchayat?	20	80	100	66.67
4.	Do you Promote awareness of the prevention of child labor in panchayat?	80	100	100	93.33

To ensure the “Promotion” of right to work including economic development, four questions were included in the questionnaire, in which Himachal Pradesh representatives had a 100% response of yes in all of the questions, while Haryana and Punjab only in the campaign promotion of MGNREGS and encouragement of skill developing programs. In facilitating entrepreneurial development training, Haryana representatives showed positive responses to 80% and Punjab to 20%. Although, in the awareness on the prevention of child labour, Punjab representatives' positive response was 80%, Himachal Pradesh was 100% again.

#### 4.2.6 Right to Political Participation

**Table No. 4.33: Status regarding Respect of Right to Political Participation**

S. No.	Respect: Right to Political Participation	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you make a campaign for voting, join a political party, or stand for elections?	98	100	98	98.7
2.	Do you attend Gram Sabha meetings regularly?	98	94	98	96.7
3.	Do you facilitate the Process of contacting officials?	92	98	100	96.7
4.	Do you allow and facilitate Peaceful protests in the Panchayat?	60	94	98	84.0
5.	Do you ensure people's participation in public policy-making?	90	100	96	95.3

To ensure the “Respect” aspect of the right to political participation, a set of five questions were asked to three states representatives, where Punjab representatives had a positive response if there are campaign to vote, joined a political party, or stood for election, and the attendance of gram Sabha meeting was 98%, the facilitation process of contacting was 92%, are they allowed peaceful protest was 60% and then, the inurement of people participation in public policy-making was 90%. Haryana representative's positive responses were 100% to the campaigning for voting, joining a political party, or standing, 94% to the attendance of gram sabha meetings, 98% to the facilitation of contacting officials process, 94% to facilitating peaceful protest, and 100% to the inurement of people participation in public policy-making. Since Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh representatives responded similarly to the question.

**Table No. 4.34: Status regarding Protection of Right to Political Participation**

S. No.	Protect: Right to Political Participation	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Have you made any special campaigns for SC/ST/Women/Minorities/Lower caste/other marginalized people to participate in voting, joining a political party, or standing for elections?	64	78	90	77.3
2.	Have you made any special campaign for SC/ST/Women/Minorities/Lower caste/other	60	78	90	76.0



	marginalized people to participate in Gram Sabha Meeting?				
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To ensure the “Protection” of the right to political participation, these questions were asked to representatives of Himachal Pradesh, who had 90% positive responses, while Haryana representatives had a positive response of 78% to the special campaign for elections and participation in the gram sabha meeting. However, Punjab representatives' response to the special campaign for elections was 64% and 60% to the special campaign for participation in the Gram Sabha meeting.

**Table No. 4.35: Status regarding Fulfillment of Right to Political Participation**

S. No.	Fulfill: Right to Political Participation	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you conduct Gram Sabha Meeting Regularly?	80	100	100	93.33
2.	Do you Inform People about Gram Sabha Meetings?	100	100	100	100.00
3.	Do you endeavor to implement the resolution taken in the meeting of GS?	100	100	100	100.00

To ensure the “Fulfillment” to right to political participation, a set of three questions were formulated for the representatives among the three states Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, and Punjab had a 100% positive response to all questions, except Punjab when it came to the conduct of Gram Sabha regular meeting where the response was 80%.

**Table No. 4.36: Status regarding Promotion of Right to Political Participation**

S. No.	Promote: Right to Political Participation	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you run a campaign for People to actively and regularly participate in gram sabha meetings for Public policy-making?	80	100	100	93.33
2.	Do You run a campaign to Encourage people to vote and stand for elections?	80	100	100	93.33

To ensure the “promotion” of the right to political participation, the representatives of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had 100% positive responses to both questions. Similarly, Punjab representatives had 80% respond yes to both questions.

#### 4.2.7 Right to Water and Sanitation

**Table No. 4.37: Status regarding Respect of Right to Water and Sanitation**

S. No.	Respect: Right to Water and Sanitation	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you Identify households without toilets for corrective action?	96	98	100	98.0
2.	Do you raise water and sanitation issues in Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)?	32	24	76	44.0
3.	Do you raise water and sanitation issues in Gram sabha Meetings?	78	94	98	90.0
4.	Have you individually helped people in avail toilet facilities at home?	98	96	96	96.7
5.	Do you regularly check the quality of water supplied to each household?	92	94	98	94.7
6.	Do you regularly attend Village water & sanitation committee meetings?	38	22	74	44.7

To ensure the “ Respect” aspect of the right to water and sanitation, questions were asked to three states representatives, out of which, on average, 98% positive responded, identifying those households that had no toilets for corrective actions, where Himachal Pradesh representatives had 100% positive response, whereas raising water and sanitation issues in Gram panchayat and the regular attendance to village water and sanitation committee had 44% as an average response of yes; however, Himachal Pradesh still had the highest percentage of 76% and 74% in the above-mentioned question. In the ailment of toilet facility at home, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana representatives had 96% of positive response, and Punjab had 98% in raising water and sanitation issues in Gram Sabha meetings, Punjab representatives yes response was only 78%, while Haryana had 94% and Himachal Pradesh had 98%.

**Table No. 4.38: Status regarding Protection of Right to Water and Sanitation**

S. No.	Protect: Right to Water and Sanitation	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you regularly check the quality of available water sources from contamination?	90	98	100	96.0
2.	Do you check the toilets, water, and sanitation facility at public places, e.g., markets, and bus stands, are operational?	90	98	98	95.3

To ensure the “protection” of right to water and sanitation, the questions were answered by representatives in which Punjab representatives had a common yes response rate of 90% in both questions, same as Haryana had 98%. On the other hand, Himachal Pradesh representatives had 100% positive responses on the regular check on the quality of available water sources, while their response shifted to 98% in the checkup of toilets, water, and sanitation facility at public places.

**Table No. 4.39: Status regarding Fulfillment of Right to Water and Sanitation**

S. No.	Fulfill: Right to Water and Sanitation	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Do you facilitate the Construction of toilets in every house in the panchayat and its maintenance?	80	100	100	93.33
2.	Have you provided Piped water facility to people in the village?	80	100	100	93.33
3.	Have you done any maintenance of toilets in public places and Gram Panchayat premises?	80	100	100	93.33
4.	Have you provided solid and liquid waste management facilities to people?	40	40	20	33.33

To ensure the “Fulfillment” of the right to water and sanitation, a set of four questions were asked, where Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had 100% positive responses. In contrast, Punjab had 80% to facilitate the construction of toilets and piped water in the village with the maintenance of these toilets. On the other hand, Punjab and Haryana representatives had a 40% positive response rate in the facilitation of solid and liquid waste management and only 20% by Himachal Pradesh representatives.

**Table No. 4.40: Status regarding Promotion of Right to Water and Sanitation**

S. No.	Promote: Right to Water and Sanitation	PB	HR	HP	Average
1.	Have you made any campaigns to Promote Environment & Hygiene education?	80	100	100	93.33
2.	Have you Promoted Toilets for all households and institutions in the panchayat?	60	100	100	86.67
3.	Have you made any special campaigns to promote rational water use?	20	100	100	73.33

To ensure the “Promotion” of the Right to water sanitation with three questions, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were the only ones whose representatives had a 100% positive response. Punjab representatives responded 80% to promoting environment and hygiene education, 60% to promoting toilets for all households and institutions, and 20% to a special campaign to promote rational water use.

#### **4.3 Profile of Beneficiaries (Annexure-III)**

To analyze the implementation of existing government schemes and policies related to the human rights issue and the issues or human rights violations faced by the beneficiaries. Annexure-III was created to assess the awareness of the government schemes among the general population, with socio-economic and eight governmental schemes.

**Table No. 4.41: Gender-wise distribution of Beneficiaries**

Gender	PB	HR	HP
Male	30	48.33	31
Female	70	51.67	69

In the socio-economic status of beneficiaries, the male population is 30% (Punjab), 48.33% (Haryana), and 31% (Himachal Pradesh), whereas the female population is 70% (Punjab), 51.67% (Haryana), and 69% (Himachal Pradesh).

**Table No. 4.42: Caste-wise distribution of Beneficiaries**

Caste	PB	HR	HP
General	6.67	0.33	34.00
BC	17.00	10.67	8.33
SC/ST	77.00	89.00	57.67

Punjab had 6.67% general category in the collected data, whereas Haryana had 0.33% and Himachal Pradesh had 34%. In Punjab state, the BC category is 17% and 10.67% in Haryana, and then in Himachal Pradesh, it was 8.33%. However, SC/ST in Punjab were 77%, 89% in Haryana, and 57.67% in Himachal Pradesh.

**Table No. 4.43: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Marital Status**

Marital Status	PB	HR	HP
Unmarried	7.67	6.33	2.67
Married	87.33	84.33	92.67
Widowed	4.33	9.00	4.33
Divorces	1.33	0.00	0.00

The marital status of Punjab for the unmarried population was 7.67%, the married population was 87.33%, the widowed population was 4.33%, and the divorced population was 1.33%. In Haryana, the unmarried population was 6.33%, the married population was 84.33%, and the widowed population was 9%. In Himachal Pradesh, the unmarried population was 2.67%, the married population was 92.67%, and the widowed population was 4.33%.

**Table No. 4.44: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Personal Education**

Personal Education	PB	HR	HP
Illiterate (No formal Education)	69.67	69.33	30.67
Low (up to 8th Standard)	20.33	18.33	25.33
Medium (Matric and intermediate)	8.00	7.67	39.67
High (Graduate & above)	2.33	4.67	4.00

In personal education details of Punjab, 69.67% were illiterate, 20.33% were low (up to 8th standard), 8% were medium (matric and intermediate), and high(Graduate and above). In Haryana, 69.33% were illiterate, 18.33% were low (up to 8th standard), 7.67% were medium (matric and intermediate), and 4.67% were high (Graduate and above. In Himachal Pradesh, 30.67% were illiterate, 25.33% were low (up to 8th standard), 4% were medium (matric and intermediate), and high(Graduate and above.

**Table No. 4.45: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Family Type**

<b>Family Type</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>
Nuclear	42.33	43.00	53.67
Joint	56.00	54.67	46.00
Up to 3 members	2.00	2.33	0.00
3 – 5 members	0.33	0.00	0.00
>5 members	0.00	0.00	0.00

Of the five different types of families, 42.33% belonged to the “Nuclear” family in Punjab, 43% in Haryana, and 53.67% in Himachal Pradesh. 56% belonged to the “Joint family” in Punjab, 54.67% in Haryana, and 46% in Himachal Pradesh. However, only 2% belonged to the “up to 3 members “type and 0.33% to “3-5 members” in Punjab, 2.33% in Haryana at “up to 3 members” family type.

**Table No. 4.46: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Family Size**

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>
Illiterate (No formal Education)	25.00	18.67	34.33
Low (up to 8th Standard)	36.67	27.00	36.33
Medium (Matric and intermediate)	38.33	54.33	28.67
High (Graduate & above)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Illiterate (No formal Education)	0.00	0.00	0.00

Of the family size in Punjab, 25% belonged to the illiterate category ( No formal Education), 36.67% to Low(up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard), and 38.33% to Medium(Matric and intermediates). In Haryana, 18.67% belonged to the illiterate category (No formal Education), 27% to Low (up

to 8<sup>th</sup> standard), and 54.33% to Medium(Matric and intermediates). In Himachal Pradesh, 34.33% belonged to the illiterate category (No formal Education), 36.33% to Low (up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard), and 28.67% to Medium(Matric and intermediates).

**Table No. 4.47: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Occupation**

Occupation	PB	HR	HP
Household work	20.00	5.67	5.00
Family Occupation	1.33	0.33	1.00
Small Scale Industries	2.00	0.33	0.33
Independent Profession/ Business	0.33	0.33	1.34
Construction Work/Labour	62.00	88.33	74.34
Private Job	1.00	2.00	0.00
Farming	6.00	2.00	17
Government Job	7.3	1.00	1.34

In Punjab, 20% population worked in “Households,” 1.33% in “Family occupations,” 1 % in “small-scale industries,” 0.33% in “independent profession/business,” 62% in “construction work/labor,” 1% in “private jobs,” 6% in “Farming,” 7.3% in “government job.” In Haryana, 5.6% population worked in “Households,” 0.34% in “small scale industries,” 0.33% in “independent profession/business,” 88.33% in “construction work/labor,” 2% in “private jobs,” 1% in “government jobs.” In Himachal Pradesh, 5% population worked in “Households,” 1% in “family occupations,” 0.33% in “small-scale industries,” 74.34% in “construction work/labor, and 0% in “private jobs.”

**Table No. 4.48: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Land Holding**

Land Holding	PB	HR	HP
Landlers (No. Land)	91.67	97.00	20.67
Marginal (up to 2.5 acres)	1.67	2.33	47.67
Small (1.5 to 5 acres)	2.67	0.33	26.33
Medium (5 to 10 acres)	2.67	0.00	3.33
More than 10 acre	2	0.33	0.00

The majority of the population belongs to “Landless (No. Land)” as Punjab had 91.67%, Haryana had 97%, and Himachal Pradesh had 20.67%. In Punjab, “Marginal (up to 2.5 acres)” was 1.67%, whereas “Small and Medium land holding” belonged to 2.67%, and only 2% to “More than 10 acres”. In Haryana, “Marginal (up to 2.5 acres)” was 2.33%, whereas “Small and more than 10-acre land holding” belonged to 0.33% of the population.

**Table No. 4.49: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Family Income**

Family Income	PB	HR	HP
LIG (up to Rs. 20,000)	83.00	98.67	85.67
MIG (Rs. 20000 – Rs. 35000)	5.67	1.00	11.33
HIG (>Rs. 35000)	11.67	0.33	2.33

The family income of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh were 83%, 98.67%, and 85.67%. However, only 5.67% had an income of MIG(Rs.20000-Rs.35000) in Punjab, 1% in Haryana, and 11.33% in Himachal Pradesh, while 11.67%(Punjab), 0.33%(Haryana), and 2.33% (Himachal Pradesh) in HIG (>Rs.35000).

**Table No. 4.50: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Type of House**

Type of House	PB	HR	HP
Kutcha	70.00	65.67	33.67
Pucca	18.67	10.33	47.00
Mixed	12.00	24.00	18.67

Haryana state had 65.67% of beneficiaries who lived in the “kutcha” type of house and 70% in Punjab, while only 33.67% in Himachal Pradesh. 18.67%, 10.33%, and 47% lived in the “Pucca” type of house in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, respectively. However, only 12%(Punjab), 24% (Haryana), and 18.67% (Himachal Pradesh) are in “Mixed” type of houses.

**Table No. 4.51: Distribution of Beneficiaries as per Social Linkage**

Social Linkage	PB	HR	HP
LIG (up to Rs. 20,000)	83.00	98.67	85.67
MIG (Rs. 20000 – Rs. 35000)	5.67	1.00	11.33
HIG (>Rs. 35000)	11.67	0.33	2.33



Haryana state had 98.67% beneficiaries with LIG (up to Rs. 20000) social linkage and 83% in Punjab, and 85.67% in Himachal Pradesh. On the other hand, 5.67%, 1%, and 11.33% in MIG (Rs. 2000-Rs. 35000) in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, respectively. However, only 11.67%(Punjab), 0.33% (Haryana), and 2.33% (Himachal Pradesh) in “ HIG(>Rs. 35000).

#### 4.4 Implementation of Governmental Schemes and Policies

Our research examines the government initiatives that are structured after the Constitution and prioritize protecting basic rights for rural people. Such governmental schemes ensure the human rights aspect of respect, protection, fulfillment, and promotion at the Panchayat level. Such government schemes ensure the basic human rights of people at Gram Sabha.

##### 4.4.1 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a constituent of the Samagra Shiksha programme, which was introduced in 2018 as a comprehensive initiative for the school education sector. This programme encompasses the entire educational journey from pre-school to class 12 and incorporates three schemes, namely the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE). Here, the positive responses of beneficiaries are mentioned in percentage form.

**Table No. 4.52: Status of Awareness: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

S.No.	Status of Awareness: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme	PB	HR	HP
1.	Are you aware of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme?	38.67	54.00	79.33
2.	Are you aware of the school education management committee?	32.67	61.00	84.67
3.	Are you aware of compulsory elementary education for children till 14 years of age?	49.00	66.33	84.33

**Table No. 4.53: Indicators of Implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

Indicators of Implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme										
		Fulfilled			Partially Fulfilled			Not Fulfilled		
	Indicators	PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP

1.	Do you have access to government schools?	90.67	82.00	93.67	5.67	18.00	4.33	4.33	0.00	1.67
2.	Does Construction/ maintenance of school buildings/ classrooms take place?	86.67	65.67	90.00	9.67	33.33	9.67	4.33	1.00	0.00
3.	Does the government school have a Drinking water facility/ Midday Meal facility?	87.67	66.67	92.33	9.00	29.33	7.33	4.00	4.00	0.00
4.	Does Construction/ maintenance of toilets in government schools take place regularly?	86.67	65.00	91.67	9.33	33.33	8.00	4.67	1.67	0.00
5.	Are you satisfied with the Quality of education provided by government schools?	86.00	65.00	89.00	10.00	30.67	10.00	4.67	4.33	0.67

The above table focuses on “the status of implementation of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme” with three sets of questions to gather the necessary information from the beneficiaries, such as the A1 question asked about the awareness of this governmental scheme and 38.67% of beneficiaries were aware of the Sar Shiksha Abhiyan scheme in Punjab, 54% in Haryana, and 79.33% in Himachal Pradesh. In A2, Haryana had 61%, Punjab 32.67%, and Himachal Pradesh 84.67%. Moreover, Himachal Pradesh also had 84.33% positive response in A3; Haryana had 66.33% and 49% in Punjab.

In addition to implementation status, the Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan's outcome indicator was also accessed, in which a set of eight questions were asked to beneficiaries. It initially started from

“having access to governmental school to quality of education provided by the governmental school.” The “yes” response was divided into three parts; Fulfilled, Partially fulfilled, and not fulfilled.

In the outcome indicator of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, most beneficiaries responded “yes” under “Fulfilled” in Punjab, although in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, the percentage had a huge drop of decline. 90.67% of beneficiaries agreed that there is access to the government school; however, this percentage was 82% to 93.67% in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. 86.67% of beneficiaries gave a positive response in Punjab, 65.67% in Haryana, and 90% in Himachal Pradesh to “Does regular maintenance of school buildings take place?” along with “does maintenance of toilets of government schools take place?”. 86% of beneficiaries in Punjab agreed upon the quality of education provided by government schools, 30% in Haryana, and only 87.67% beneficiaries positive response in Punjab to the facilitation of drinking water and midday meals, and in Haryana 66.67% in Himachal Pradesh.

However, in the “Partially fulfilled” option, 5.67% beneficiaries of Punjab admitted to having access to the government school, after which there was a gradual decline in the percentage of positive responses in Punjab. Overall, in Haryana and Punjab, the responses of beneficiaries were not optimum to the questions which were asked to assess the outcome of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan. Whereas beneficiaries from Haryana and Punjab had a low percentage of “not fulfilled” compared to Punjab.

#### **4.4.2 National Health Mission**

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), a component of the National Health Mission, was established on April 12, 2005, with the goal of bringing accessible, reasonable, and high-quality healthcare to the rural population, particularly the most disadvantaged segments of society. In order to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of health determinants, such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social justice, and gender equality, the mission is to establish a fully operational, community-owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter-sectoral convergence at all levels. (National Rural Health Mission(NRHM), n.d.)

**Table No. 4.54: Implantation of National Health Mission**

S.No	Implantation of National Health Mission	PB	HR	HP
1.	Are you aware about ANM/MO/AWW at Panchayat?	78.67	95.00	98.67
2.	Do ANM/MO provide Vaccination and health services to you at Panchayat?	94.67	94.67	99.67
3.	Are you aware about Sub-Centre/PHC available at your panchayat?	74.33	82.00	98.68
4.	Do you go to Sub-Centre/PHC for health services?	66.33	78.00	96.67
5.	Does panchayat have Access to good hospital care, availability of doctors, drugs and quality services at PHC/CHC level and assured referral-transport-communication systems?	37.00	57.33	93.33
6.	Does health Centre has Availability of generic drugs in panchayat?	47.00	59.67	98.00
7.	Do you receive service/Drugs at Sub-Centre/PHC for free?	46.00	62.00	98.00
8.	Do you face any problem at health center in availing services? Please specify	50.67	30.00	7.67
9.	Does panchayat have facilities for institutional deliveries subsidized under the Janani Surakshya Yojana (JSY) for the below poverty line families.	49.00	55.00	97.33
10.	Do you have Health Insurance under any scheme/Mission? If yes. Name one	34.00	24.00	73.00
11.	Do you have Ayushman card?	39.33	43.00	69.33
12.	Do you have access to safe drinking water?	60.33	81.67	96.33
13.	Do you have access to household toilets?	61.67	75.67	98.67
14.	Does awareness campaign take place about preventive health including nutrition at your Panchayat?	16.67	29.00	93.33

In the national health mission schemes, fourteen questions were asked of beneficiaries to gather information. In question B1, Himachal Pradesh had 98.67%, Haryana had 95% of “yes” responses from the beneficiaries, and Punjab had 78.67%. Haryana had 94.67% along with Punjab in the vaccination and services which ANM/MO provides. Himachal Pradesh had the majority of 90 above positive responses to the questions from the beneficiaries except in the

question of the service B7, B9, and B10, where only 7.67%, 73%, and 69.33% percent of “yes” responses were received.

In the national health mission schemes, fourteen questions were asked of beneficiaries to gather information in regard to the scheme. In the B1 question, Himachal Pradesh had 98.67%, and Haryana had 95% of “yes” responses from the beneficiaries, while Punjab had 78.67%. Haryana had a 94.67% percentage of “yes” responses along with Punjab in the B2 question, still, Himachal Pradesh had 99.6%. However, there is a decline in the “yes” response from Punjab (74.33%) and Haryana (82%) in B3, yet Himachal Pradesh had a 99% “yes” response. After this, there was a gradual decline in Punjab and Haryana's percentages; however, Himachal Pradesh, on the other hand, had a decline in B7 of 7.67%, B9 of 73%, and then of 69.33% in B10.

In the national health mission schemes, fourteen questions were asked of beneficiaries to gather information. 78.67% of beneficiaries were aware of ANM/MO/AWW at the Panchayat level in Punjab, 95% in Haryana, and 98.67% in Himachal Pradesh. According to the survey conducted, 94.67% of beneficiaries agreed upon vaccination and health service being provided by ANM/MO in Punjab and Haryana, while 99.67% in Himachal. The availability of sub-center/ PHC at Panchayat level “yes” response of beneficiaries is 66.33% in Punjab, 78%, and 96.67% in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. However, only 37% of beneficiaries go to the sub-center in Punjab and 57.33% in Haryana. Punjab state beneficiaries said “yes” to good hospital care, availability of doctors, drugs, and quality service at the PHC/CHC level. The generic drug's availability was highest in Himachal Pradesh at 98%, followed by Haryana(62%), and then by Punjab(46%), while only 7.67% agreed that they receive service/ drugs at sub-center for free in Himachal Pradesh and 97.33% beneficiaries said “yes” to facing problem at the health center in availing services. During the same time, only 30% said “yes” to receiving service/drug in Haryana, and 55% said “yes” that they face problem at health center which is close to Punjab(49%) than Himachal Pradesh. Under the Janani Surakshya Yojana (JSY), Panchayat of Punjab facilitates only 34% of beneficiaries said, which is 10% more than Haryana(24%), although Himachal Pradesh had 73% “yes” response to it. Nevertheless, 69.33% of beneficiaries had a “yes” response to having health insurance under any of the schemes/missions amid Haryana(43%) and Punjab(39.33%) for that, 96.33% of beneficiaries in Himachal Pradesh agreed that they have “Ayushman Card” than 81.76% in Haryana and 60.33% in Punjab. As the survey goes, 98.67%and 93.33% of beneficiaries said “yes” to the

access to safe drinking water & access to household toilets in Himachal Pradesh even though Punjab and Haryana percentage spoke otherwise.

#### 4.4.3 Participation in Gram Sabha Meeting

**Table No. 4.55: Status of Participation in Gram Sabha**

S. No.	Status of implementation of Gram Sabha	PB	HR	HP
1.	Are you aware of the open Gram Sabha meeting?	17	18.67	96.00
2.	Are you aware that you are an active member of open Gram Sabha meetings?	22.67	13.00	95.33
3.	Do you know the frequency of Gram Sabha meetings (4) in a year?	17.33	10.00	85.33
4.	How are you informed about the Gram Sabha meeting? ( in %)			
	<i>Sarpanch</i>	6	1.67	62.00
	<i>Lound speaker/Dug Dugi</i>	70.67	15.00	5.67
	<i>Villagers</i>	0.67	1.67	2.67
	<i>Other</i>	1.67	0.33	27.33
	<i>Not Informed</i>	2.67	0.67	1.33
5.	When are you informed Gram Sabha meeting?			
	<i>Before one Week</i>	6.00	1.33	9.67
	<i>Before one day</i>	72.00	12.33	88.67
	<i>Same day</i>	2.67	5.67	0.00
6.	Do you attend Gram Sabha meetings regularly?			
	<i>Always</i>	8.33	3.67	57.00
	<i>Sometimes</i>	66.00	14.00	41.67
	<i>Never</i>	7.33	1.67	0.33
7.	Do you get ample opportunity to speak on any issue in the meeting?	9.67	11.67	66.33
8.	Do you face any discrimination at the meeting?	9.67	1.33	1.33
9.	How is any resolution passed at the open Gram Sabha meeting?			
	<i>By a majority of Gram Sabha members</i>	9.33	11.33	37.33
	<i>By sarpanch and ward members</i>	64.67	4.67	61.67
	<i>Sarpanch only</i>	7.33	3.33	0.00
	<i>Parties related to the resolution</i>	0.33	0.00	0.00

10.	Does the sarpanch answer the questions raised by members at the Gram Sabha?	15.33	11.33	93.00
11.	Is your opinion taken on the allocation of GS land for lease to the lessee?	8.33	4.67	6.00
12.	Do you know that budget and the annual report must be presented before Gram Sabha for approval?	4.67	4.67	30.33
13.	Which kind of functions takes place at open Gram Sabha meetings?			
	<i>The budget and the annual report were presented before the Gram Sabha for approval</i>	7.00	8.33	5.00
	<i>Rendered assistance in the implementation of the development scheme</i>	62.33	2.67	9.33
	<i>Identified beneficiaries for the implementation of the development scheme</i>	1.67	1.33	22.00
	<i>None of these</i>	10.67	7.00	62.67
14.	Were the resolutions passed at Gram Sabha get implemented at ground level?			
	<i>Partially</i>	8.67	10.33	46.00
	<i>Fully</i>	60.67	1.33	7.67
	<i>Not at all</i>	10.00	7.33	45.33
15.	How is your attendance considered at the open Gram Sabha meeting?			
	<i>Raise hand</i>	2.33	3.00	8.33
	<i>Signature</i>	66.67	8.00	87.67
	<i>finger print</i>	7.67	3.67	1.67
	<i>Other</i>	5.00	4.67	1.33
16.	Is there any malpractice in the attendance procedure at the Gram Sabha meeting? (% of yes)	3.33	4.00	33.00

To assess “The Status of Gram Sabha,” a set of sixteen questions were addressed to Beneficiaries, among which 96% were aware of open Gram Sabha meetings in Himachal Pradesh along with Haryana (18.67%) and Punjab (17%), and out of all three states, Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries had 95.33% as a “YES” response to being an active member of open Gram Sabha meeting while only 13% of beneficiaries agreed upon it in Haryana. However, 17.3% of beneficiaries were “aware of the frequency of Gram Sabha meeting in a year” in

Punjab and 10% in Haryana, although 85.33% of beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh were aware of it. Conventionally, the attendance considered at open Gram Sabha meetings is done by “Signature” as 66.67% in Punjab, 8% in Haryana, and 87.67% of beneficiaries favored it among the other options. Yet, 33% of beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh accepted that there was malpractice in the attendance procedure at Gram Sabha Meeting; however, only 3.33% in Punjab and 4% in Haryana accepted this malpractice.

In Punjab and Haryana, “loudspeakers/ Dug-dugi” were the most famous forms of spreading information as 70.67% in Punjab and 15% in Haryana used it, while in Himachal Pradesh, 62% of beneficiaries said “Sarpanch” informed about Gram Sabha meetings. In Himachal Pradesh, 88.67% of beneficiaries agreed with the option “before one day” to the question, “when are you informed about Gram Sabha meeting?.” Similarly, Haryana(12.33%) and Punjab (72%) beneficiaries picked the same option as the mode of information about the Gram Sabha meeting. The majority of the beneficiaries from Punjab(66%) and Haryana(14%) said they attend Gram Sabha meetings; sometimes, while 57% of beneficiaries said they “always” attend the meeting of Gram Sabha. The beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh had a “yes” response of 66.33% regarding their opportunity to speak on any issue in the meeting. On the other hand, only 9.67% (Punjab) and 11.67%(Haryana) were to other states. Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had a similar percentage of “yes” response of 1.33% when it came to facing any discrimination at the meeting, having said that the most preferred way of a resolution passed at the open Gram Sabha meeting is “by Sarpanch and ward members” in Punjab (64.67%) and Himachal Pradesh (61.67%). In contrast, in Haryana, most resolutions are done “by most Gram Sabha members. However, these resolutions passed at Gram Sabha get implemented at the Ground level only 60.67% - FULLY in Punjab, 46% and 10.33% -PARTIALLY in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, respectively.

After answering the above questions, beneficiaries were asked about the role of the Sarpanch in these Gram Sabhas meetings, to which 93% of beneficiaries responded " yes " to whether the sarpanch answers the questions raised by members at the Gram Sabha? While in Punjab and Haryana, beneficiaries’ responses declined in the “yes” response of 15.33% and 11.33%, respectively. But only 4.67% of beneficiaries in Haryana gave a “yes” response to their awareness and opinion of the allocation of GS land for lease or the fact that it is mandatory to be presented before Gram Sabha.



Different kinds of functions take place in the Gram Sabha meeting, among which Punjab beneficiaries said, “Rendered assistance in the implementation of development scheme” is ideal with 62.33%, along with “none of these” in Himachal Pradesh with 62.67%. Haryana beneficiaries’ response to these questions was preferred by “budget and the annual report presented before Gram Sabha for approval” with 8.33%.

#### 4.4.4 Integrated Child Development Scheme

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is comprised of four distinct components, namely: Early Childhood Care Education & Development (ECCED), Care & Nutrition Counselling, Health Services, Community Mobilisation Awareness, Advocacy & Information, Education and Communication. Here, a selected number of questions were filtered to ask beneficiaries.

**Table No. 4.56: Status of Integrated Child Development Scheme**

S No	Status of the delivery of services to the beneficiaries by ANM/MO/AWW under ICDS									
	Service	Fully Received			Partially Received			Not Received		
		PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP
1.	Do Pregnant & Lactating Mothers and children below six years old receive Supplementary Nutrition from Anganwadi Workers?	50.3 3	67.33	96.0 0	22. 7	18	3.6	27. 7	14. 7	0.0 0
2.	Do Pregnant & Lactating Mothers and children below six years old receive vaccination from ANM?	89.3 3	68.67	96.3 3	7	20. 6	3.3	4.3	10.7	0.0 0
3.	Does Health check-ups by ANM/Anganwadi workers for Pregnant & Lactating Mothers and children below six years old occur in panchayat?	71.3 3	59.67	94.6 7	11. 3	20. 3	4.3	18	20	0.6 7
4.	Does ANM/Anganwadi identify sick or malnourished and disabled children and refer them to the	43.0 0	41.33	89.0 0	9.3	28. 3	7.0	48. 3	30.3	3.6 7

	Primary Health Centre or its sub-Centre?									
5.	Do Pre-School Education provided by Anganwadi workers to 3 to 6 years children in Anganwadi Centre?	63.67	47.67	95.33	12.7	21.3	4.0	24.3	31	0.33
6.	Do ANM/Anganwadi workers provide education about Nutrition & Health to Women (15-45 years)?	23.00	25.00	94.33	8	14	3.6	69.7	61	1.67

To assess “The status of implementation of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS),” a set of six questions were asked to evaluate the scheme service where they were given options of “Fully Received,” “Partially received,” or “Not Received” services among which majority of the service was “fully received” in the three states by the beneficiaries where 96% of Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries gave a “yes” response when they were asked, “do women and children received supplementary nutrition from Anganwadi worker?”, 67.33% in Haryana and 50.33% in Punjab. Similarly, Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries' response “yes” was 96.33% to “do they receive vaccination from ANM?” to which Haryana beneficiaries had 68.67%, and Punjab had 98.33% percent “yes” response. In Himachal Pradesh, 94.67% of beneficiaries agreed to a health check-up by ANM/Anganwadi workers, and 89% of beneficiaries said they even identify sick or malnourished children and disabled child and refers them to primary health care. On the other hand, this percentage is 59.67% in Haryana regarding health check-ups and 41.33% in identifying sick or malnourished children and disabled children by Anganwadi workers. Furthermore, only 23% of Punjab beneficiaries agreed that education about nutrition and health is provided by Anganwadi workers, which was doubled by 63.67% when it came to “Pre-education” by Anganwadi. However, Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries showed a consistent result of 95.33% in “pre-education” and 94.33% in nutrition and health education.

However, the three states' beneficiaries had low “yes” responses to these questions when it came to options of “Partially Received” or “Not received,” indicating that they received these services provided under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).

#### 4.4.5 National Rural Drinking Water Programme

The Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) constitutes a crucial component of the National Rural Health Mission and here, a set of selected questions were asked to the beneficiaries to gather the information in regards to their rights being fulfilled.

**Table No. 4.57: Status of National Rural Drinking Water Programme**

S No	Status of implementation of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)	PB	HR	HP
1.	Do you have access to and use safe and adequate drinking water within a reasonable distance?	57.33	91.33	99.33
2.	Do you enable communities to monitor and monitor their drinking water sources?	51.00	76.33	98.00
3.	Do you have access to a piped water supply?	79.67	92.67	92.33
4.	Do government schools and Anganwadi have access to safe & clean drinking water?	50.67	88.33	92.33

To assess the “Status of the implementation of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), a set of four questions was included in the survey. As the data suggests, 99.33% and 91.33% of beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana had a “yes” response to access to safe and adequate drinking water within a reasonable distance. However, Punjab beneficiaries agreed upon it only 57.33% and 79.67% of a piped water supply. On the other hand, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries gave a “yes” response of 93%. As 57.33% of beneficiaries confirmed that they keep surveillance on their drinking water sources in Punjab, the percentage increased to 76.91.33% and 98% in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. In addition to this, the percentage remains high in Himachal Pradesh (92.33%) and, Haryana (88.33%), then Punjab (50.67%).

#### 4.4.6 Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)

In 2014, the Government of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), its flagship programme on sanitation. Hence a set of questions were asked to beneficiaries were asked to see if this scheme is functioning properly.

**Table No. 4.58: Status of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen**

S No	Status of implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen	PB	HR	HP
1.	Are you aware of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)?	20.67	23.00	63.67
2.	Do you have access to individual household latrines (IHHL)?	69.67	72.67	97.67
3.	Do you have access to Plastic waste Management/Biodegradable waste management?	11.00	21.33	6.67
4.	Do you have access to Liquid waste Management?	13.33	28.33	2.67

To assess the “Status of implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen,” a set of four questions were included in which beneficiaries’ awareness and access to this scheme were questioned. Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries had a ‘yes” response of 63.67% to their awareness of VWSC, while Punjab and Haryana had only 20.67% and 23%. On the other hand, Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries had a 97.67% “yes” response to the access to individual household latrine, 6.67% to plastic waste management, and 2% to liquid waste management. After the access to individual household latrines, there was a gradual decrease in the percentage of the following question.

**Table No. 4.59: Status of Public Distribution System in Panchayat**

S No	Status of Public distribution system in Panchayat	PB	HR	HP
1.	Do you avail entitled quantity of commodities under PDS from Fair price shop?	82.67	87.00	99.33
2.	Do you get commodities from a Fair price shop regularly?	62.00	85.00	99.00
3.	Do you get good quality commodities from Fair price shops?	70.00	84.67	94.67
4.	Is the entitled/Received quantity fulfill the requirement of the household?	26.00	46.33	39.33
5.	Do you avail the entitled commodities from Fair price shop without any difficulties?	44.00	50.00	92.33
6.	Are you charged higher than the entitlement price at FPS?	10.67	15.00	1.33
7.	How much is the distance of FPS from the household?	19.33	0.00	0.00
8.	What is the average transaction time to avail of Ration at FPS?	19.00	0.00	99.33

		Good			Fair			Poor		
9.	What is the dealers' attitude towards Beneficiaries at FPS?	PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP
		43.6	57.3	6	45	43.65	5.34	11	7	1

		PB	HR	HP
10	How much is the distance of FPS from the household?	18.33	10.00	7.33
11	What is the average transaction time to avail of Ration at FPS?	14.67	5.00	18.67
12	Do you receive an SMS on the phone on any update regarding availing of ration from fair price shops	3.67	9.33	65.33

		Through the local people			Through the Kotedar			Fixed date of the month			Others		
13	Sources of Information	PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP	PB	HR	HP
		27	7.3	71	17	28	3	70	3.67	16.33	56	65	9

To assess the “Status of implementation of Public Distribution System in Panchayat, ” fourteen questions were included in the survey. 82.67% in Punjab, 87% in Haryana, and 99.33% in Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries admitted in availing entitled quantity of commodities under PDS from fair price shop, and 62%(Punjab), 85%(Haryana), and 99% (Himachal Pradesh) beneficiaries got commodities from fair prices shop regularly. 70% in Punjab, 84.67% in Haryana, and 94.67% in Himachal Pradesh confirmed with “yes” responses that they get good quality commodities from fair price shops; however, only 26%(Punjab), 46.33% ( Haryana), and 39.33%(Himachal Pradesh) beneficiaries admitted on receiving quantity that fulfilled the requirement of household.

Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries by 92.33%, Haryana beneficiaries by 50%, and Punjab beneficiaries by 44% had a “ yes” response to availing the entitled commodities from a fair price shop without any difficulties. Only 10.67% in Punjab, 15% in Haryana, and 1.33% in Himachal Pradesh gave a “yes” response to the charges being higher than the entitlement price at FPS. However, Punjab beneficiaries by 11% agreed on the “POOR attitude” towards them

at FDS, whereas Haryana (57%) and Himachal Pradesh (6%) agreed upon the “Good attitude” of dealers towards them.

65.33% of Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries said they received an update on the phone via SMS regarding the availment of ration from fair shop price shops. The source of information for beneficiaries of Haryana and Punjab was 70% and 3.67%; however, 70% of beneficiaries from Punjab also admitted to getting a fixed date of the month for collecting PDS.

#### 4.4.7 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee

The programme was initiated in February 2005 with the goal of improving the financial stability of those who reside in rural parts of the country. The Agricultural Act applies to all of the country's rural areas. The MGNREGA is the most massive employment guarantee programme worldwide. So it was important to get feedback on this scheme from the beneficiaries; hence a set number of questions were asked.

**Table No. 4.60: Status of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee**

	Status of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee in the Panchayat	PB	HR	HP
1.	Are you (rural unskilled labor) Provided 100 days of guaranteed wage employment?	33.67	21.67	41.67
2.	Have you faced any problems in registering yourself in MGNREGS?	21.33	24.67	4.33
3.	Do you have Job Card (JC)?	92.33	77.67	98.00
4.	Did you obtain a dated receipt for the application made for work?	29.00	27.67	7.67
5.	Do you get a choice of time and duration of the work applied for?	16.67	14.67	15.00
6.	Do you get work within fifteen days of application?	46.00	18.67	58.00
7.	Do you get Facilities for crèche, drinking water, first aid, etc., on the worksite?	9.67	21.33	24.00
8.	Do you get a 10 percent extra wage in case of employment provided beyond a 5 km radius?	5.00	5.67	2.00

9.	Does panchayat allow you to check their Muster Rolls (MRs) and to get all the information regarding their employment entered in their Job Cards?	26.67	10.33	47.00
10.	Do you get paid weekly and within two weeks of the date on which work was done?	62.67	25.67	48.67
11.	Do you get an unemployment allowance if employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application?	5.33	2.00	0.33
12.	Do you receive payment of compensation for the delay, at the rate of 0.05 percent of the unpaid wages per day beyond the sixteenth day of closure of muster roll?	4.00	0.33	0.00
13.	Do you receive medical treatment in case of injury in the course of employment, including the cost of hospitalization if required and ex gratia payment in case of disability or death?	4.33	1.67	19.00
14.	Does the Information Display Board with details available at the work site?	8.00	1.00	31.00
15.	Is Rozgar Diwas held every month?	6.00	1.33	5.67

To assess the “Status of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee in the Panchayat,” a set of fifteen questions were included where 92.33% of the beneficiaries in Punjab said they have “Job Card” and only 33.67% of beneficiaries said they are provided 100 days of guaranteed wage employment. The problem faced in registering in MGNREGS was only 21.33% of the beneficiaries from the selected sample and 29% of the beneficiaries in Punjab obtained a dated receipt for the application made for work. However, 46% of the beneficiaries got work within the fifteen days of application, and 9.67% got creche facilities, drinking water, first aid, etc., on the worksite. Beneficiaries gave a “yes” response of 62.67% to getting paid weekly and within two weeks of the date on which work was done.

Furthermore, only 5% of the beneficiaries said they get extra wage in case of employment is provided beyond a 5km radius or get unemployment allowance; in case within two weeks of the date work was done. After this, there was a deterioration in the percentage of the “yes”

response from the beneficiaries. They don't receive payment compensation or medical treatment, or information is not displayed on the board with details available at the worksite.

Whereas in Haryana, 77.67% of beneficiaries had a "job card" in comparison to Punjab (92.33) and Himachal Pradesh (98%)

#### 4.5 Institutional Performance for Implementing Human Rights

##### 4.5.1 Status of Schools

**Table No. 4.61: Status of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Schools**

S No.	Performance and Implementation status of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)	PB	HR	HP
1.	No. of Students in Schools (Average)	224.56	133.4	56.9
2.	No. of teachers	Male	2.78	3.8
		Female	3.33	1.5
		Total	5.56	5.3
3.	No. of the classroom in Schools	6.33	4.9	3.5
4.	Non-Teaching Staff	1.56	1.8	1.5
5.	Do Schools approachable by all Road? (% of yes response)	88.89	100	88.89

**Table No. 4.62: School Infrastructure in Punjab**

<i>Rating of school infra.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<b>Condition of School infra.</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Excellence</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Playground Facility	11.11	11.11	11.11	44.44	0.00	22.22
Boundary Wall	0.00	0.00	33.33	44.44	22.22	0.00
Girls Toilet	0.00	11.11	44.44	44.44	0.00	0.00
Boys Toilet	0.00	11.11	44.44	44.44	0.00	0.00
Drinking Water	11.11	11.11	22.22	44.44	11.11	0.00
Mid-Day Meal	0.00	0.00	22.22	55.56	22.22	0.00



Electricity	0.00	33.33	22.22	33.33	11.11	0.00
Computer/Computer Centre	11.11	11.11	22.22	22.22	22.22	11.11
Ramp (Disable students)	0.00	11.11	33.33	11.11	22.22	22.22
Library	0.00	33.33	33.33	11.11	11.11	11.11
Kitchen-SHED	22.22	0.00	22.22	44.44	11.11	0.00
Over all Class Room	0.00	0.00	55.56	44.44	0.00	0.00
Kitchen	0.00	11.11	66.67	22.22	0.00	0.00
Toilets	0.00	11.11	66.67	22.22	0.00	0.00
Play Ground	44.4	22.22	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smart Class Room	22.22	0.00	33.33	44.44	0.00	0.00

**Table No. 4.63: School Infrastructure in Haryana**

<b>Haryana</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Condition of School infra.</b>	<b>Bad</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Excellence</b>
Playground Facility	0	20	50	20	0	10
Boundary Wall	0	20	40	30	10	0
Girls Toilet	40	10	30	20	0	0
Boys Toilet	40	20	20	20	0	0
Drinking Water	20	10	40	30	0	0
Mid-Day Meal	0	30	50	20	0	0
Electricity	0	40	40	10	10	0
Computer/Computer Centre	10	10	10	20	0	50
Ramp (Disable students)	10	0	50	30	0	10
Library	40	20	20	10	0	10
Kitchen-SHED	0	0	60	40	0	0
Over all Class Room	20	20	30	30	0	0
Kitchen	0	30	50	20	0	0
Toilets	20	40	40	0	0	0
Play Ground	0	20	70	10	0	0
Smart Class Room	0	20	30	10	0	40

**Table No. 4.64: School Infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh**

Himachal Pradesh	1	2	3	4	5	6
Condition of School infra.	Bad	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellence
Playground Facility	10	20	50	10	10	0
Boundary Wall	10	20	40	10	10	10
Girls Toilet	0	40	30	20	10	0
Boys Toilet	0	40	30	20	10	0
Drinking Water	0	30	40	20	10	0
Mid-Day Meal	0	30	40	20	10	0
Electricity	0	10	60	20	10	0
Computer/Computer Centre	10	0	10	0	20	60
Ramp (Disable students)	20	10	40	0	20	10
Library	30	50	0	10	10	0
Kitchen-SHED	0	10	60	20	10	0
Overall, Class Room	20	20	30	30	0	0
Kitchen	0	30	50	20	0	0
Toilets	20	40	40	0	0	0
Play Ground	0	20	70	10	0	0
Smart Class Room	0	20	30	10	0	40

**Table No. 4.65: School management Committee**

Questions (% of Yes responses)	PB	HR	HP
School management Committee	100	100	100
Does management Committee meeting take place as perm norm?	100	100	100
Does Panchayat member of SMC attend the meeting?	100	100	100
Does other members attend the meeting?	100	100	100

**Table No. 4.66: Other Activities in Schools**

Questions (% of Yes responses)	PB	HR	HP
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	38.06	28.19	18.04
Student- Class Room Ratio	3.89	1.6	1.7
Female Teachers	87.33	81.2	29.78
Girls Enrolment	100.00	88.89	100
Text Books Provided to (All, SC, ST)	100.00	100	100
Uniforms Provided to (All, SC,ST)	69.96	29.17	19.17
Teacher Training	100.00	100	100
Awareness Campaign by School	100.00	88.88	100

**4.5.2 Status of sub-Centre (Health Centre)**

a Sub-health Centre (Sub-centre) is the first contact point between the primary health care system and the community, hence a overview of Sub-centre (Health centre) was important to take from beneficiaries.

**Table No. 4.67: Performance and Implementation Status of sub-Centre (health Centre)**

S No.	Performance and Implementation status of Sub-Centers (Health) in Sample Panchayat	PB	HR	HP	Total
1.	Total population covered by the Sub-Centre: (AVERAGE)	5418.5	7284.4	4563	5755.3
2.	Distance from the PHC	6-13 km	5-10km	3-8 km	6 km
3.	<b>Availability of the Staff in the Sub-Centre (% of Yes Response)</b>				
4.	Following staff appointed in the Sub-Centre?				
5.	Health Worker-Female (ANM) – 2	50.00	80	75	0.00
6.	Health Worker-Male (MPW) – 1	75	20	25	40.00
7.	Staff Nurse (or additional ANM if Staff Nurse not available for Type B Sub-Centre only)	50.00	0	25	25.00
8.	Contractual Safai-Worker – 1	50.00	40	25	38.33

9.	<b>Availability of Infrastructure at Sub-Centre (% of Yes Response)</b>				
10.	Designated government building available for the Sub-Centre?	50.00	100	100	83.33
11.	Water regularly available in the Sub-Centre?	75	100	100	91.67
12.	Whether regular electricity supply to the Sub-Centre?	75	100	100	91.67
13.	Examination table in working condition in the Sub-Centre?	75	100	100	91.67
14.	Is the sterilizer instrument in working condition in the Sub-Centre?	100	40	75	71.67
15.	Is the weighing machine in working condition in the Sub-Centre?	100	100	100	100.00
16.	Are the disposable delivery kits available in the Sub-Centre?	50	60	25	45.00
17.	<b>Availability of Services at the Sub-Centre (% of Yes Response)</b>				
18.	Does the doctor visit the Sub-Centre at least once in a month?	100	100	100	100.00
19.	Is the day and time of this visit fixed?	50	60	25	45.00
20.	Are the residents of the village aware of the timings of the doctor's visit?	100	60	25	61.67
21.	Is the Antenatal care (Inj. T.T. IFA tablets, weight, and BP checkup) provided in the Sub-Centre?	100	100	100	100.00
22.	Is the facility for referral of complicated cases of pregnancy/delivery available at the Sub-Centre for 24 hours?	50	100	100	83.33
23.	Does the ANM/ASHA have any trained personnel accompanying the woman in labor to the referred care facility at the time of referral?	75	60	75	70.00
24.	Are the immunization services as per the government schedule provided by the Sub-Centre?	100	100	100	100.00

25.	Is the treatment of diarrhea and dehydration available in the Sub-Centre?	100	100	100	100.00
26.	Is treating minor illnesses like fever, cough, cold, etc., available in the Sub-Centre?	100	100	100	100.00
27.	Is the facility for taking Peripheral blood smears in case of fever for detection available in the Sub-Centre?	25	100	50	58.33
28.	Are the contraceptive services like insertion of Copper – T, distribution of Oral contraceptive pills, or condoms provided by the Sub-Centre?	75	100	100	91.67
29.	The total number of beneficiaries of all the services provided by the Sub-centres in the last quarter (Average)	517.125	301.4	71.33	296.61

To assess the “performance and implementation status of Sub-Centre (Health)” in sample Panchayat, a set of 26 questions were included, and on average, the population covered by three states was 5755.3, where Punjab covered 5418.5 population, Haryana covered 7284.4, and Himachal Pradesh covered 4563. Out of which, the services of the Sub-Center being utilized by beneficiaries of other categories (ST/SC or Other Backward) were 517.12 in Punjab, 301.4 in Haryana, and only 71.34% in Himachal Pradesh, and an average distance from PHC was of 6km in all the three states. Female health workers (ANM) were 80% in Haryana, 75% in Himachal Pradesh, and 50% in Punjab. On the other hand, there were only 20% male health-worker (MPW) in Haryana, 25% in Himachal Pradesh, and 75% in Punjab. However, the staff nurse and contractual safari-worker percentage was 50% in Punjab, 25% in Himachal Pradesh, and only 40% of contractual safari-worker in Haryana.

The governmental buildings were designed 100% of the time in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and 50% in Punjab. 100% of the time in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, water was regularly available along with electricity, and even the examination table was in working condition. However, this declined to 75% in Punjab.

The weighing machine was in working condition in the three states; however, the sterilizer instrument, on the other hand, worked 100% of the time only in Punjab and was in poor

condition in Haryana (40%). In comparison, the disposable delivery kits are 60% available in Haryana, 50% in Punjab, and 25% in Himachal Pradesh.

The services at Sub-Centre were available 100% of the time in terms of minor illness treatment, diarrhea and dehydration, immunization services as per government schedule, and antenatal care among the three states, and so was the doctor's monthly visit. However, the 'day and time of these visits were not fixed as the doctor visits showed no regularity in the three states. In Haryana, 60% of the time, the doctor visited on time, which was fixed, whereas in Punjab, it was 50% of the time, and in Himachal Pradesh, it declined to a quarter (25%). Moreover, 25% of the time in Himachal Pradesh, the village residents were aware of the timing of the doctor's visit, which increased to 50% in Punjab and then to 60% in Haryana. And the contraceptive services were also provided by the Sub-Centre 100% of the time in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and only 75% in Punjab.

The facilities for complicated cases of pregnancy and taking peripheral blood smears in case of fever for detection were available 100% of the time in Haryana and 50% of the time in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. But in Punjab, the facility of taking peripheral blood was only 25%, the least. Along with this, the percentage also deteriorated when it came to ANM/ASHA accompanying the women in labor which was only 60% of the time in Haryana to 75% of the time in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

#### 4.5.3 Status of Anganwadi

Its primary objective is to cater to the nutritional, health, and growth-oriented requirements of young children, as well as pregnant and nursing moms. So the beneficiaries were the vulnerable population hence a set of questions were asked in order to get a clear picture of this scheme.

**Table No. 4.68: Performance and Implementation Status of ICDS**

S.No.	Implementation of ICDS (% of Yes responses)	PB	HR	HP	Total
1	AWCs have Pucca Building	80	90	90	86.67
2	AWCs own Building / Provided by State Government	80	100	20	66.67
3	AWCs have adequate availability of Outdoor Space	90	100	70	86.67
4	AWCs have adequate availability of Indoor Space	80	100	70	83.33
5	AWCs have Drinking water facilities	50	80	100	76.67
6	AWCs having Usable Toilet Facility	50	70	100	73.33
7	AWCs have Separate Storage Space	30	80	60	56.67

	<b>ICDS Training</b>				
8	AWCs have Adequate Cooking Space	50	90	70	70.00
9	ICDS Training AWWs received Job Training	100	100	100	100
10	Supervisors received Job Training	100	100	100	100
	<b>ICDS Personal Profile Index</b>				
11	CDPOs received Job Training	90	100	100	96.67
12	AWW Educated till Metric and Above	100	80	100	93.33
13	AWW Belonging to Local Area	100	100	100	100
14	Filled-in Position of AWWs	100	60	100	86.67
	<b>ICDS Service Delivery Index</b>				
15	Filled-in position of Supervisors	90	100	100	96.67
16	AWCs having interruptions in the Distribution of Supplementary Nutrition	40	70	70	60.00
17	AWCs having acceptability of Supplementary Nutrition	90	100	100	96.67
18	Pregnant Women with Ante-Natal Check up	90	90	90	90.00
19	Children getting Health Check-up	100	90	100	96.67
20	AWWs have Accuracy in Growth Monitoring	90	100	100	96.67
21	AWWs giving counseling sessions based on Growth Monitoring	90	100	100	96.67
22	Children Attending PSE Session	100	100	100	100
23	AWCs provide good quality Supplementary Nutrition	100	100	100	100
24	AWCs having adequate availability of Educational Material for NHed	80	100	100	93.33
	<b>ICDS Continuous and Comprehensive Monitoring and Supportive Supervision Index</b>				
25	AWCs maintaining Health Cards	90	90	100	93.33
26	CDPOs monitor the AWCs by Paying visits only	80	90	100	90.00
27	CDPOs monitor the AWCs by using checklists during visits	70	100	100	90.00
	<b>ICDS Community Mobilization and IEC Index</b>				
28	CDPOs monitoring the AWCs by using MPR Performance Reports	70	100	100	90.00

29	ICDS Projects the involvement of PRI Institutions	60	50	50	53.33
30	ICDS Projects Organizing Continual Education Sessions	80	80	100	86.67

To assess the “implementation of ICDS, ” 30 questions were included in Annexure IV, where the participants were given a choice between YES/NO. Himachal Pradesh and Haryana had a 90% of Pucca buildings, while Punjab had 80% of ‘Pucca buildings and ‘buildings provided by the state government. Haryana had 100% of the building the state government provided, whereas Himachal Pradesh had 20%. 100% in Haryana and 70% in Himachal Pradesh had adequate outdoor and indoor space; however, in Punjab, 90% to 80% had outdoor and indoor availability. Himachal Pradesh had 100% drinking water facilities and usable toilet facilities. On the other hand, Punjab participants had only 50% of the above facilities, and Haryana 70% to 80% when these participants were asked about ‘separate storage space’ Haryana (80%), Himachal Pradesh (60%), and Punjab (30%).

In the ICDS training participants of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh had 100% of AWCs and Supervisors received job training, but to have adequate cooking space, participants in Haryana had 90%, 70% in Himachal Pradesh, and 50% in Punjab. In ICDS personal profile index, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana had 100% job training, while Punjab had 90%. Haryana had 80% of AWW-educated personnel, and Punjab and Himachal Pradesh had 100%. Similarly, in filled - positions, AWWs had 100% in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. However, Haryana had only 60%. Whereas in all three states, AWW belonged to local areas.

In the ICDS service delivery index, supervisors’ position was filled 100% in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and only 90% in Punjab. There was an interruption in the distribution of supplementary nutrition by 70% in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana and 40% in Punjab. However, good supplementary Nutrition was available at 100% in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh compared to Punjab, where the availability was only 80%-90%. Health checkup for children was given 100% of the time in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh and only 90% in Haryana. However, pregnant women with ante-natal got a 90% of the time checkup. The accuracy in growth monitoring and giving counseling sessions based on those growth monitors was on point, with Haryana and Himachal Pradesh by 100% while Punjab had 90% of it. 100% of the children attended PSE sessions in the three states, and there was adequate educational material for NHED of 100% in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana while only 80% in Punjab.



In ICDS continuous and comprehensive monitoring and supportive supervision index, AWCs maintained health cards 90% of the time in Punjab and Haryana and 100% in Himachal Pradesh. The CDPOs monitoring the AWCs by paying visits only and by using checklists during visits was 100% in Himachal Pradesh however,

In ICDS community mobilization and IEC index, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana had 100% for the CDPOs monitoring of MPR performance reports; similarly, in ICDS projects being involved of PRI institutions had 50%, however in Punjab and Haryana, 80% of the time education session were continually organized in ICDS projects.

#### 4.5.4 Implementation of MGNREGA

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MNREGA) – Every family in the nation would get at least one hundred days of guaranteed pay employment throughout the course of a fiscal year if its adult members are willing to volunteer to perform unskilled physical labour. It is a good initiative to create employment, hence the beneficiaries were asked a number of questions to make sure there are getting benefits from it.

**Table No. 4.69: Status of the Implementation of MGNREGA**

	Information	PB	HR	HP	Total
1.	Total Number of job cards in the Panchayat?	771.8	535.6	680.8	662.73
2.	Total Number of demands for work under MGNREGS in the last Year?	255.6	566	299	373.5
3.	Total Number of Job Provided by Panchayat under MGNREGS in Last Year?	292.6	338.4	294.4	308.4
4.	Is there a process to register demand for work and give receipts?	100	100	100	100
5.	Are muster rolls maintained at the worksite?	100	100	100	100
6.	Is compensation paid for delayed payment of wages?	0	0	0	0.00
7.	Is unemployment allowance paid for non-provision of work within 15 days?	0	0	0	0.00
8.	Are wage slips given to people?	20	40	40	33.33
9.	Was Rozgar Diwas held every month?	0	0	60	20.00

10.	Have citizen information boards been erected for community works?	80	60	80	73.33
11.	Have citizen information boards been erected for IBS works?	60	60	80	66.67
12.	Have 'wall writings' been done in the panchayat?	40	60	80	60.00
13.	Is there a grievance redressal process?	80	60	100	80.00
14.	Are the seven registers being maintained at the gram panchayat level?	100	100	100	100.
15.	Date of the last labor budget gram sabha-	2022	2022	2022	<b>2022</b>
16.	Number of people who attended the last labor budget Gram Sabha	146.4	108	120.8	125.0 6
17.	Did the gram sabha approve a prioritized list of schemes to be taken up under MGNREGS?	100	80	80	86.67
18.	If yes, were the works taken up as per the priority?	80	100	100	93.33
19.	Is drinking water provided at the worksite?	60	100	100	86.67
20.	Are Chaya/Snacks provided at the worksite?	0	0	20	6.67
21.	Is a first-aid kit available on the work site?	0	40	80	40.00
22.	Is a woman worker been appointed in places with more than five children?	80	40	0	40.00
23.	Have all Supervisors been selected through state norms?	100	80	100	93.33
24.	Have Supervisors been trained?	100	80	80	86.67
25.	Is there adequate manpower to implement MGNREGA at the panchayat level?	100	60	40	66.67
26.	Is there a person in charge of MGNREGS at the panchayat level (not holding an additional charge)?	80	40	20	46.67
27.	Are the personnel in charge of MGNREGS at the panchayat level been trained?	100	60	60	73.33
28.	Does the gram panchayat have adequate technical support personnel?	40	60	20	40.00

In Annexure IV-D, the assessment of MGNREGS schemes is being conducted by the research team. A total of 771.8 people had a job card in Punjab under this scheme which is the highest

among the three states, whereas Himachal was the second highest with 680.8, followed by Haryana with 535.6. However, in Punjab, the demand for work under MGNREGS in the last year was only 255.6. On the other hand, in Haryana, it was 566, and in Himachal Pradesh, it was only 299. In Haryana, the most significant number of people were provided jobs by panchayat under this scheme last year, 338.4, although, in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, the number was closer to 295.

In 2022, the last labor budget gram Sabha meeting was held, and the average number of people who attended the last Labor budget gram Sabha meeting was 125.06. Under this scheme, it was seen 100% of the time that muster rolls were maintained at the worksite, and the seven registered ones were maintained at the gram panchayat level. So did the process to register demand for work and give receipts; however, in these three states, no compensation was paid for the delayed payment of wages, nor was unemployment allowance paid for non-provision of work within 15 days. 40% of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had a 'wage slip,' and only 60% of the time Himachal Pradesh 'Rozgar Diwas' was held every month. 80% of the time in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, citizen information boards have been erected for IBS works, whereas 'wall writing' has been done 80% of the time in Himachal Pradesh, 69% of the time in Haryana and the only 40% of the time in Punjab. There is a grievance redressal process 100% of the time in Himachal Pradesh, 80% of the time in Punjab, and then 60% of the time in Haryana.

The Gram Sabha approved a prioritized list of schemes 100% of the time in Punjab and 80% in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. Whereas 100% of the time this work was taken up as per the priority in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, which was only 80% in Punjab. Drinking water was provided to workers 100% of the time in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, and 20% of the time, Chaya/snacks were also given, but only in Himachal Pradesh. However, in Punjab and Haryana, no service was provided other than drinking. Not even of 'First-aid kit' was available in Punjab. However, Haryana (40%) and Himachal Pradesh (80%) had this service.

The woman worker with more than five children has been appointed 80% of the time in Punjab, 40% of the time in Haryana, and not at all in Himachal Pradesh. In Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, the supervisors were selected through state norms 100% of the time; however, that percentage was reduced to 80% in Haryana state. On the other hand, 80% of supervisors were trained in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, whereas in Punjab, 100% were trained. The personnel in charge of MGNREGS at the panchayat level (not holding an additional charge)

were 100% in Punjab and 60% in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. However, 60% of Haryana had adequate technical support personnel at gram panchayat, only 40% in Punjab, and then 20% in Haryana. Even so, there was 100% of the manpower in Punjab for implementing MGNREGS at the Panchayat level, which was declining in the other states to 60% in Haryana and 40% in Himachal Pradesh.

#### 4.5.5 Status of Self-Help Group

**Table No. 4.70: Status of the Self-Help Group**

	<b>Schedule for SHG</b>	<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	SHG Type				
	<i>New</i>	100%	100%	0%	66.67%
	<i>Pre NRLM</i>	0%	0%	100%	33.33%
	<i>REVISED</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
2	Promoted By				
	<i>New</i>	90%	80%	70%	80%
	<i>Pre NRLM</i>	10%	0%	30%	13.33%
	<i>Revised</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	Bank linked				
	<i>SBI</i>	50%	20%	20%	30%
	<i>PNB</i>	50%	40%	20%	36.67%
	<i>Canara</i>	0%	20%	0%	6.67%
	<i>Gramin Bank</i>	0%	0%	30%	10%
	<i>Cooperative Bank</i>	0%	0%	30%	10%
4	<i>Date of formation</i>	2019	2019	2017	2019
		% Yes Responses			
5	<i>Total no of members in SHG</i>	10.2%	10.13%	9.6%	9.98%
6	<i>Micro Plan Prepared</i>	40%	40%	60%	46.67%
7	<i>Basic Training Received</i>	20%	50%	50%	40%
8	<i>Standard Bookkeeping practices</i>	100%	80%	90%	90%
9	<i>Bookkeeper identified</i>	90%	80%	80%	83.33%
10	<i>Meeting Frequency in %</i>				

	<i>weekly</i>	30%	50%	0%	26.67%
	<i>monthly</i>	60%	0%	80%	46.67%
	<i>fortnightly</i>	10%	30%	20%	20%
11	<i>Was the meeting scheduled (% of yes response)</i>	100%	70%	100%	90%
12	<i>Total member presence in the SHG last five meetings</i>	9.4	9.8	9.6	9.60
13	<i>Duration of the meeting (in minutes)</i>	52	93.75	52	65.91
14	<i>Total number of meetings held every Month (including the ongoing)</i>	2	4.75	1.2	2.65
15	<i>Total funds with SHGs</i>				
	<i>Cash in Hand/ Box</i>	4000	14066.67	15750	9938.89
	<i>Amount in inter loaning</i>	48388	153666.67	74444.44	92166.37
	<i>Bank deposit</i>	32300	29214.28	29100	30204.76
	<i>Total Corpus of SHG</i>	0	14066.67	15750	9938.89
16	<i>Disbursement of RF (% of yes response)</i>				
	<i>less than a month 3-month-old</i>	90%	80%	50%	73.33%
	<i>no bank account</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
	<i>not following Panch Sutra</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
	<i>idle cash lying with SHG</i>	0%	0%	0	0%
	<i>eligible but still not provided</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
	<i>any other reason, please specify</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
		% Yes Responses			
17	<i>CIF disbursement to SHG</i>	0%	80%	0%	26.67%
18	<i>CIF disbursement to Members</i>	50%	70%	20%	46.67%
19	<i>CIF amount disbursed to Members</i>	40.00	30.00	0	23.33
20	<i>Total No. of members</i>	35000	350000	300000	228333.34
21	<i>Total Amount (Rs.)</i>	4	40	12	18.67
22	<i>Bank Credit Linkage of SHG (% of yes response)</i>	90%	80%	100%	90%
23	<i>Type of Bank Credit Linkage</i>	90	80.00	100.00	0
	<i>Term Loan</i>	0	0	0	13.33

	<i>Amount</i>	10.00	0	30.00	0.00
	<i>Duration</i>	0	0	0	0.00
	<i>Date of linkage</i>	0	0	0	0.00
	<i>Cash Credit</i>	0	0	0	26.67
	<i>Amount</i>	60.00	0.00	20.00	6.67
	<i>Duration</i>	0	20	0	0.13
	<i>Date of linkage</i>	0	0.4	0	0
	<i>If yes, Has the group withdrawn the loan amount from the bank</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
	<i>If Yes, Has the group started repayment?</i>	100%	80%	80%	86.67%
24	The fund received from any other source				
	<i>Source (% of yes response)</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
	<i>Amount (in Rs.) (% of yes response)</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%
25	Is there VO in your village (% of yes response)	0%	0%	0%	0%
26	Date of joining of the SHG in VO (% of yes response)	80 %	80%	80%	80%
27	Has the group started the Repayment of CIF money to VO (% of yes response)	90%	70%	70%	76.67 %
28	Payment to Bookkeeper Whether payment is being made by SHG (% of yes response)	60%	80%	80%	73.33%
29	Has the group received the SHG kit (% of yes response)	30%	40%	40%	36.67%
30	Training received by SHG (% of yes response)	40%	60%	60%	53.33%
31	Has the Group received any amount to organize training (% of yes response)	50%	70%	70%	63.33%
32	Cash book (% of yes response)	10%	70%	70%	50%
33	Loan ledger (% of yes response)	60%	50%	50%	53.33%
34	Weekly MIS sheet (% of yes responses)	60%	30%	30%	40%

35	Visit of any external person (BPM, DPM, DM, and others) in the Last three Months (excluding AW, BK. CC, CLC) to SHG (% of yes response)	60%	50%	50%	53.33%
36	Did the following persons attend the last meeting (excluding This meeting) (% of yes response)	70%	50%	50%	56.67%
37	Conflict among members (% of yes response)	30%	20%	20%	23.33%

Annexure IV-H was a questionnaire to evaluate the working condition of the “Self-Help Group (SHG),” which had 27 questions. In Punjab and Haryana, the SHG types were ‘New’ whereas Himachal Pradesh had ‘Pre NRLM’ SHG type.

In 2019 SHG was formulated in Punjab and Haryana; however, SHG formation in Himachal Pradesh happened in the year 2017. Punjab (10.2%) and Haryana (10.13%) had a similar number of people in SHG, and Himachal Pradesh (9.6%), on the other hand, had fewer members.

These SHGs were linked to different banks, and as the data shows, the ‘choice’ for the bank varied in the three states. SBI and PNB banks were most preferred in Punjab, where 50% of the SHG chose them as their Banks while 30% of SHG chose ‘Gramin and cooperative banks’. On the other hand, Haryana's most preferred bank was PNB (40%), and then SBI (20%) and CANARA (20%). The number of average members in Punjab and Haryana was 10.2. In Himachal, Pradesh average was 9.6 in SHG, of which 9.4 and 9.8 members were present in the last 5 SHG meetings, and 48.58 minutes was the average duration of these meetings in all three states. However, the total number of meetings held every month (including the ongoing) on average was highest in Haryana (4.75), followed by Punjab (2), and then Himachal Pradesh (1.2).

Basic training received by the SHG members was only 50% in Haryana and Punjab, which declined to only 20% in Punjab. The micro-credit plan or family investment plan, where an objective process is prepared by SHGs for their family and households to estimate financial needs, we're only functional 40% of the time in Punjab and Haryana and increased to 60% in Himachal Pradesh. In Punjab, standard bookkeeping practice was functional 100% of the time,

followed by 90% in Himachal Pradesh and then 80% in Haryana, of which 80% of the bookkeepers were identified in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana.

The total fund with SHGs, which was given in the form of 'Cash in Hand/Box,' was 0 in Punjab, whereas in Haryana, it was 14066.67₹, and in Himachal Pradesh, it was 15750₹. The 'amount in inter loaning' was highest in Haryana at 1,53,666.67₹, so did in 'bank deposit' of 29214.28₹ and 'total corpus of SHG' of 14066.67₹.

Fund to SHG was received by many sources, among which 'The disbursement of RF' (revolving fund) where revolving funds of ₹ 10000 to ₹ 15000 were returned in 'less than three months 90% of the time in all the three states. CIF disbursement to SHG was 80% in Haryana, and to members, it was 70%. The CIF number of members was most in Haryana, then 12 in Himachal Pradesh, and only 4 in Punjab, whereas the total amount they had was 228333.34₹ on average.

There are no VO in any of the selected villages, even though 80% of the time date of joining the SHG in VO was available, out of which 70% of the group in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have started repayment of CIF money to VO. 80% of the time in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, payment to bookkeepers was made by SHG. However, only 30-40% of the group received the SHG kit. 60% of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh SHG members received training, whereas only 40% received training in Punjab. The group received 70% to organize training in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, and 70% of the time, they were given a cash book", 50% of the time a 'loan ledger,' 30% of the time 'Weekly MIS sheet. Although the group in Punjab has received only 50% amount to organize, out of which 'cash book' was only 10%, 'loan ledger' and 'Weekly MIS sheet' was 60% of the time. There were 50% visits from external personnel (BPM, DPM, DM, and OTHERS) in the last three months (excluding AW, BK, CC, and CLC) to SHG in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, which was 60% in Punjab. The conflicts among members were only seen 20-30% of the time.

#### 4.5.6 Village Water & Sanitation Committee

**Table No. 4.71: Status of Village Water & Sanitation Committee**

S. No.	Village Water & Sanitation Committee		PB	HR	HP	Total
1.	Members of VWSC	Chairman	100	100	100	100.00



	Panchayat Members	4.8	9	8.8	7.53
	Women	3.4	6	5.8	5.07
	Others	1.8	2.6	3	2.47
	Total	11.8	15.6	11.4	12.93
	SC	3.8	3	5.4	4.07
	ST	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.20
2.	Frequency of Meeting Per Month?	1.2	1	0.2	0.80
3.	Does VWSC/its members take up the issues related to the VWSC program in each Gram Sabha meeting? Yes/no	80	80	100	86.67
4.	Does VWSC ensure community participation and decision-making in all scheme activities related to Water & Sanitation? Yes/no	100	80	100	93.33
5.	Does VWSC conduct regular sanitary surveys of the village? Yes/no	40	80	100	73.33

Annexure IV-E covers the questions of the three states' Village water and sanitation committee. The meetings are held on average by 0.8% per month in all the states, among which Punjab had an average of 1.2, the most meeting was held here. Himachal Pradesh members take up the issues related to the VWSC program in each Gram Sabha meeting 100% of the time, whereas, in Punjab and Haryana, this percentage was 80%. Punjab and Himachal Pradesh ensured community participation and decision-making in all scheme activities related to water and sanitation 100% of the time; however, Haryana community participation was only 80%. Himachal Pradesh (100%) conducted of the time regular sanitary survey of the village, followed by Haryana (80%), and then Punjab (40%). Haryana fell behind on the village water and sanitation committee compared to the other two states.

However, on the contrary, Haryana had an average of 15.6 members, which is somewhat more than the average of the other two states, with nine members from panchayat on average and six on average being women. In contrast, 2.6% belonged to others (social workers, retired people, etc.), whereas Punjab and Himachal had more panchayat and women as VWSC members.

To assess the “Performance and Implementation status of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Sample Panchayat.” A set of 32 questions were included in Annexure IV- A. In these schools,

on average, there were 138.29 students among the measurement of the number of students. Punjab had the highest number of 224.56, Haryana 133.4, and Himachal Pradesh 56.9. Hence the number of classrooms is also more in Punjab (6.33  $\mu$ ) if compared to Haryana (4.9 $\mu$ ) and Himachal Pradesh (3.5 $\mu$ ). Similarly, the number of teachers was 5.56 $\mu$  in Punjab, out of which female teachers (3.33 $\mu$ ) had a bigger number. In Haryana, the total number of teachers was 5.3 $\mu$  closer to Punjab (5.56  $\mu$ ). However, Haryana had more male teachers (3.8 $\mu$ ) with a higher average than female teachers (1.5 $\mu$ ). And so did the Himachal Pradesh male teacher (2.6 $\mu$ ) average, which is higher than female teachers (1.6 $\mu$ ). Overall, the pupil-teacher ratio was most optimum in Punjab (69.96 $\mu$ ) and then in Haryana (29.17 $\mu$ ) and Himachal Pradesh (19.17 $\mu$ ). And the classroom ratio to students was similar to the Pupil-teacher ratio.

There were no schools in all three states established after 2001, among which Haryana was the only school with an approaching road, whereas Punjab and Haryana had 88.89% of the time a road approaching the school. Punjab and Haryana had a school management committee that took place as per norm, where panchayat members of SMC attended along with other members 100% of the time; however, in Himachal Pradesh, this percentage declined to only 10%. On the other hand, an awareness campaign by the school was regularly held in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, but only 88.88% of the time in Haryana. Similarly, the textbooks were provided 100% of the time to All, SC, and ST, but only 88.9% of the time in Haryana. Whereas uniforms were provided in all three states, and so was the teacher training.

In the end, the school infrastructure of three states was discussed on a 6-point scale wherein Punjab, the most 'Excellent condition' was of 'playground and Ramp (Disable students)' with 22% and 'boundary wall, midday meal, and computer/computer center' had a 'very good' response of 22%. However, kitchen- SHED and smart classrooms by 22% of the time, along with 'playground and drinking water' by 11%, were in 'bad condition.' However, most of the infrastructure was 'fair' according to the criteria.

On the other hand, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had 50-60% 'Excellent' responses to computer/computer centers and 10% to 'Ramp (disabled students). Again, most of the percentage was between 'fair' and 'good' in both states. Whereas 'toilets, library, and overall classroom' were in a 'bad condition.'

#### 4.5.7 Snapshot of People's Plan Campaign

People's Plan campaign was structured where gram sabha meetings were held. In this campaign, gram sabha activities are monitored. Hence a, these questions were asked.

**Table No. 4.72: Snapshot of People's Plan Campaign**

S. No.	Snapshot of people's plan campaign 2020-2021 (Response Yes/ No)	PB	HR	HP	Total
1.	Baseline survey of gram panchayats (Mission Andyodaya)	100	100	80	93.34
2.	Appointment of facilitator for every gram panchayat / rural /local body	100	100	100	100
3.	Finalization of Gram-Sabha wise calendar organizing Gram-Sabha	100	100	100	100
4.	Appointing front-lines workers of all departments related to 29 subjects to be deputed	100	100	100	100
5.	Organizing special Gram-Sabha FOR GP DP	100	100	100	100
6.	Display of public information board in every gram panchayat and upload in Geotagged photograph of it on the PPC Campaign	100	100	100	100
7.	Uploading of Geotagged photographs (s) of Gram Sabha meetings in progress	80	0	60	46.67
8.	Preparation of GPDP	100	100	100	100
9.	Publishing of approved plan on e-Gram Swaraj Portal	20	60	40	40

Annexure IV-F was created to get a snapshot of people's plan campaign 2020-2021. So, the questionnaire had nine questions to get a clear picture of the status of villages. The baseline survey of gram panchayats (Mission Andyodaya) showed that Punjab and Haryana had this 100% of the time, whereas Himachal Pradesh had only 80%, leading to an overall average of 93.34%. 100% of the time, the three states had the appointment of facilitators and frontlines workers in all departments, the display of public information board in every gram panchayat, calendar-wise organization of gram Sabha and special gram Sabha for GPDP, and preparation of GPDP. However, there were 0% of geotagged photographs of Sabha meetings in Haryana, 60% in Himachal Pradesh, and 80% in Punjab. The publishing of approved plan one e-Gram

Swaraj portal was least in Punjab with Only 20%, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 40%, and then 60% in Haryana.

#### 4.5.8 Vibrant Gram Sabha

**Table No. 4.73: Status of Vibrant Gram Sabha**

S.No.	Vibrant Gram Sabha		PB	HR	HP	Total
1.	Number of Gram Sabha Meetings in the Last Year?		7.4	3	2.8	4.40
2.	Total Number of People attended Meeting?	Women (30%)	74.6	13.6	118.2	68.80
		SC/ST	81	12.6	106	66.53
		Panchayat Members	5	15.4	30.4	16.93
		Others	13	1.2	60	24.73
		Total	307.8	42.8	219.8	190.13
		Yes/No				
3.	Were all Panchayat members present at the Meeting?		20	40	100	53.33
4.	Subject/Theme covered in the Meeting?		60	100	60	73.33
5.	Number of Group A & Group B Officers Present in the Meeting?	Group A	60	80	0	46.67
		Group B	60	60	0	40.00
6.	Gram Sabha Function (% of yes response)	Budget and the annual report presented before Gram Sabha For approval?	100	80	100	93.33
		rendered assistance in the implementation of development schemes	100	100	100	100.00
		Identified beneficiaries for the Implementation of development schemes	80	100	100	93.33

			<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
7.	All resolutions were passed by a majority of votes of the members present and voting in the meeting of the Gram Sabha.		100	100	100	100.00
8.	Was the Tagline "Gram Sabha Hamari Shaan, Gaon ki ye Pahchaan" displayed in the Gram Sabha Meeting?		60	20	40	40.00
9.	Other stakeholders present in the gram sabha meeting	SHGs	60	80	100	80.00
		Asha Workers	80	80	100	86.67
		Rozgar Sahayaks	60	100	100	86.67
		Voluntary/Youth Organisation	80	60	40	60.00
10.	Available Standing Sub-committee in Panchayat	School	80	40	0	40.00
		Teachers/ANM/Anganwadi/others				
		General standing committee	80	60	40	60.00
		Village Health, Sanitation & Nutrition Committee (VHSNC)	60	40	100	66.67
		Planning and Development Committee	40	40	80	53.33
		Education (School Management) committee	100	80	100	93.33
		social Justice Committee	60	20	20	33.33
11.		Water Supply, Water & Environment Conservation Committee	60	40	100	66.67
12.	Has Panchayat Designated one Ward Member as “Day Officer”?		40	60	40	46.67
13.	Have the last two general Meetings (December & June) been held?		100	100	80	93.33

Annexure IV-G is about the Vibrant Gram Sabha Portal, an integrated real-time online monitoring system where all the major performance parameters of the key focus areas at the GP/ village levels are tracked and displayed in the public domain. Twelve questions were addressed to understand the Gram Sabha better. The two general meetings (December and June) were held in Punjab and Haryana 100% of the time, and the number of Gram Sabha

meeting on average was held 4.4 of the time in the three states in the last year among the three states Punjab was the only which held the greatest number of meetings. Hence, this was the reason number of people who attended these meetings was highest in Punjab (307.8) on average, followed by Himachal Pradesh (219.8) and, last, Haryana (42.8).

However, the data shows only in Himachal Pradesh, 100% of the time, all panchayat members were present at the meeting and only 40% in Haryana, and 20% in Punjab. Whereas Haryana covered 100% of the theme in the meeting and 60% of the time, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, having said that the Group A and Group B officers were not present in these meetings in Himachal Pradesh, on the other hand, their attendance was marked by 60% in Punjab whereas Group A (80%) and Group B (60%) in attendance varied in Haryana. At the Gram Sabha function, 100% of the time, these budget and annual reports were presented before Gram Sabha for approval in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh and only 80% in Haryana. Although 80% of the time in Punjab, beneficiaries were identified for the implementation of developmental schemes and 100% of the time in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, along with rendered assistance in the implementation of development.

To see if other stakeholders were present in the Gram Sabha meeting, a section was added to the questionnaire where different stakeholders, such as SHGs, were present 100% of the time in Himachal Pradesh, 80% in Haryana, and then 60% in Punjab. ASHA worker was present 100% in Himachal Pradesh and 80% in Haryana and Punjab. Rozgar Sahayaks were there too, 100% of the time in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana and only 60% in Punjab. Youth organizations were present 80% of the time in Punjab and 60% to 40% in Haryana and Himachal. However, this percentage declined to 40% in Himachal Pradesh when it came to the presentation of School teachers/ANM, whereas Punjab ANM attended 80% of the time these meetings along with Haryana 40% of the time ANM was there too.

The availability of a standing sub-committee in panchayat showcased that general standing committees were available 80% of the time in Punjab, 60% in Haryana, and 40% in Himachal Pradesh. 100% of the time, village health, sanitation and nutrition and water supply, water & Environment conservation committee were available in Himachal Pradesh, 60% in Punjab, and 40% in Haryana. Planning and development committees were present 40% of the time in Punjab and Haryana, whereas 80% in Himachal Pradesh. However, the school management committee was present 100% of the time in Punjab and Himachal, whereas Haryana fell back

by 80% if compared. On the other hand, social justice committees were present in all three states, 60% in Punjab and 20% in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

#### 4.6 Profile of Gram Sabha

**Table No. 4.74: Profile of Gram Sabha (General)**

<b>1. General</b>				<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
a.	Year of Constitution as current Gram panchayat	Year		1966	1966	1989	1989
b.	Area	Sq. Km/Acre		1887.2	1644.8	201.062	1244.35
c.	Population	2011 Census	Males	2569.8	2454.6	1211	2078.47
			Females	2337	2218.4	1191.2	1915.53
			Total	4906.8	4673	2402.4	3994.07
d.	Existing No. House holds	Nos.		972	842.6	593.2	802.60
e.	Existing No. Wards	Nos.		9.4	0	8.6	
f.	Slums	Notified		0	0	0	0.00
		Non-notified		0	0	0	0.00
g.	Slum Population			0	0	0	0.00

**Table No. 4.75: Income and Expenditure of Gram Panchayat**

			<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>
h.	The annual income of Gram Panchayat (incl. grants) during the last three years (Rs. In. Lakh)		12432134.8	25650000	1580206.4
i.	The annual expenditure of Gram Panchayat during the last three years (Rs. In. Lakh)		11733833.75	25650000	1252880.4

**Table No. 4.76: Social Infrastructure of Gram Sabha**

<b>2. Social Infrastructure (Nos)</b>			<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
a.	Government Hospitals		1	0.4	1	0.8
b.	Primary Health Centers		0.4	0.2	0.5	0.37
c.	Private Hospitals		0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4
d.	Schools					
	Primary schools	Maintained by Govt.	1.6	1.2	9	3.94
		Private Schools	0.6	0.6	1.4	0.87
	Elementary schools	Maintained by Govt.	0.8	1	2.2	1.34
		Private Schools	0.6	0.6	1.4	0.87
	High schools	Maintained by Govt.	0.8	1	1.2	1
		Private Schools	0.8	0.6	1.4	0.94
	Senior Secondary Schools	Maintained by Govt.	1	1	1	1
		Private Schools	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
	Colleges	Maintained by Govt.	0.4	0.4	0	0.27

**Table No. 4.77: Other Infrastructure Facilities of Gram Panchayat**

e.	Others:		<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Agricultural Market Committee Yards	Nos.	1	0.2	0	0.4
	Burial grounds	Nos.	1.8	1.4	8.6	3.94
	Vegetable Markets	Nos.	0.4	0	0.25	0.22
	Slaughterhouse	Nos.	0.4	0	0	0.14
	Parks	Nos.	1.2	0.6	1.4	1.07
	Playgrounds	Nos.	1.4	0.8	2.4	1.54
	Community Halls	Nos.	1	0.6	2	1.2
	Lakes/tanks	Nos.	0.4	0.2	0	0.2
	Community Toilet complexes	Nos.	1	0.8	0.6	0.8
	Industries	Nos.	0.6	0	0.2	0.27
	Solid Waste Dumping Yard	Nos.	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.27
	Ponds	Nos.	1.2	1.6	0.2	1
	Mandi	Nos.	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.47



**Table No. 4.78: Immovable Properties with Gram Panchayat**

<b>3. Immovable Properties</b>				<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
a.	Buildings	Nos.		0.8	0.8	1	0.87
b.	Library	Nos.		0.8	0.8	0	0.54
c.	Panchayat Ghar	Nos.		0.8	1	1.2	1
d.	Dharamshala	Nos.		2.6	1.2	0.2	1.34
e.	Open Lands	Acre	Area	7.8	32.4	5.374	15.19
f.	Farming Lands	Acre	Area	7.75	32.4	2.374	14.17
g.	Parks	Nos.		1	0.8	1.4	1.07
h.	Shops owned by Gram panchayat	Nos.		0	0	0	0
i.	Others Specify	Nos.		0	0	0.34	0.12

**Table No. 4.79 Movable Properties with Gram Panchayat- I**

<b>4. Movable Properties</b>				<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
a)	<b>Vehicles</b>	Nos		0	0	0.2	0
b)	<b>Furniture</b>	Table	Nos	2	4.2	4.4	4.40
		Chairs	Nos	14	32.2	59	59.00
		Water Cooler	Nos	0	0.6	0.2	0.20
		Cooler	Nos	0	0.4	0.2	0.20
		Water Purifier	Nos	0	0.6	0.2	0.20
c)	<b>Electronics</b>	Computer	Nos	0.2	0.6	1.8	1.80
		AC	Nos	0	0	0	0.00
		WIFI	Nos	0	0.2	0.8	0.80
		Fan	Nos	1.4	3.2	5.8	5.80
d)	<b>Sports</b>	Sports Kit	Nos	0	0.6	1.4	1.40

**Table No. 4.80 Civil Society Organization**

<b>5. Civil society organizations</b>			<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
a.	SHGs	Nos.	4.4	2.6	17.6	8.2
b.	Voluntary Organizations	Nos.	0	1.6	0.6	0.74
c.	Colony Welfare Associations	Nos.	0	0	0	0
d.	Civic Exnora Societies	Nos.	0	0.2	0.6	0.27
e.	NGOs	Nos.	0.2	0.2	0	0.14

**Table No. 4.81 Key Infrastructure Parameters**

<b>6. Key Infrastructure Parameters</b>			<b>PB</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>HP</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	Availability of banks (% of yes response)		80	40	80	66.67
2.	Availability of ATM? (% of yes response)		40	20	40	33.34
3.	Whether the village is connected to A weather road (% of yes response)		100	100	80	93.34
4.	Whether village has an internal cc/ brick road? (% of yes response)		60	100	100	86.67
5.	Availability of Public Transport	Bus	40	100	100	80
		Van	0	0	0	0
		Auto	0	0	0	0
		None	20	0	0	6.67
6.	Availability of Internet Café/Common Service Centre (Yes/No)		80	100	100	93.34
7.	Availability of electricity for domestic use	1-4 hrs	0	0	0	0
		1-4 hrs	0	0	0	0
		5-8 hrs	0		0	0
		9-12 hrs	100	100	100	100
		>12 hrs	0	0	0	0
		No electricity	80	100	100	93.34
8.	Availability of Public Distribution System (PDS)		100	100	80	93.34

	(Yes/No)					
9.	Availability of markets	Mandis	40	20	0	20
		Regular market	40	40	0	26.67
		weekly <i>Haat</i>	40	0	0	13.34
		None	0	0	40	13.34
10.	Availability of Piped tap water	100% habitations covered	80	100	0	60
		50 to 100%	0	0	0	0
		habitations covered	0	0	0	0
		<50% Habitation Covered	0	0	0	0
		Not Covered	0	0	0	0
12.	No households with kuccha walls and kuccha roof		40		0	
13.	Availability of Post office/Sub-Post office Yes/No		100	60	100	86.66
14.	Availability of school	Primary	80	60	20	43.33
		Middle School	40	60	10	0
		High School-	20	60	10	0
		Senior Secondary school	40	60	10	0
		No school	40	10		0
15.	Availability of Vocational Educational center/ITI/RSETI/DDU-GKY (Yes/No)		0	20	40	20
16.	Availability of Health Centre	Sub Centre	80	40	20	40
		PHC	0	60	0	20
		CHC	0	20	10	6.67
		None	0	20	0	6.67
17.	If not available in the village; the distance range code of the nearest place where Health facility is available is given		20	0	0	6.67
18.	Availability of Veterinary Clinic Hospital Yes/No		80	80	0	53.33

19.	If not available in the village; the distance range code of the nearest place where facility is available is given		0	0	0	0
20.	Availability of drainage facilities	Closed drainage	0	40	20	13.34
		Open pucca drainage covered with tiles slab	40	20	0	20
		Open pucca drainage uncovered	40	20	20	20
		Open kuccha drainage	20	0	20	6.67

**Table No. 4.82 Economic Development and Livelihoods Activities at Gram Panchayat**

Economic Development and Livelihoods			PB	HR	HP	Total
1.	Availability of soil testing centers	Yes/No	0	0	0	0
2.	Availability of government seed centers	Yes/No	0	40	0	13.34
3.	Availability of fertilizer shop	Yes/No	20	80	0	33.34
4.	Community waste disposal system	Yes/No	0	0	40	13.34
5.	Community bio gas or recycling of waste for production use	Yes/No	0	0	0	0
6.	Is the village Open Defecation Free (ODF)	Yes/No	80	80	100	86.67
7.	Availability of Aanganwadi Centre	Yes/No	80	100	100	93.34

Annexure-V was created to get an accurate picture of the 'Profile of Gram Sabha' where general questions regarding its Population, Social Infrastructure, Immovable properties, Movable properties, and Key Infrastructure parameters were asked to different government officials (panchayat secretary).

At first, the 'General' records of its 'year of the constitution as current gram panchayat' were asked in which it was seen most of the gram Sabha of Punjab and Haryana was made in the year 1966; however, the majority of Gram Sabha in Himachal Pradesh was made in the year 1989 and most 'Area' was covered by the villages of Punjab (1887.2 Sq. Km/Acre), then Haryana (1644.8 Sq. Km/Acre) and Himachal Pradesh (201.062 Sq. Km/Acre) in which the population of Punjab was 4906.8, the closer Haryana population of 4673. The male population in Haryana and Punjab was more compared to Females, whereas on the contrary, in Himachal

Pradesh, the number of males was 1211 compared to the number of Females, which was 1191.2. As Punjab had the largest population, the number of houses existing was more in comparison to Haryana and Himachal Pradesh so was the number of wards. There were 'NO' slums in any villages the research team visited to gather data.

Social infrastructure data showed that, on average, there were only 0.8 government hospitals and only 0.37 primary healthcare centers in these three states, similar to private hospitals, whose average was 0.4. Moreover, the school's conditions were no different than hospitals, as elementary and high schools, which the government maintains, had a low average throughout Punjab and Haryana. Whereas Himachal Pradesh schools were somehow better as the government maintained nine primary schools on average; on the contrary, there were only 1.4 private schools. And if compared to elementary and high school.

However, on average, there were 3.94 burial grounds in the three states, of which Himachal Pradesh had 8.6, Punjab had 1.8, and Haryana had 1.4. After that, playgrounds and community hall numbers were highest, with 1.54 and 1.07. These three states had almost no industries, lakes/tanks, slaughterhouses, mandi, solid waste dumping yard, and vegetable markets, as their average is the lowest of 0.2 and below.

Looking at the immovable properties, Punjab had the most Dharamshala with an average of 2.6, whereas Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had a higher number of Panchayat Ghar with an above average of 1 per village. Furthermore, the number of shops owned by gram panchayat didn't exist. The open and farming lands were most in Haryana, where on average, their area was 32.4 acres. After that, it was Punjab with 7.8 acres, and then Himachal Pradesh with 2.37 to 5.37 acres of area. On the other hand, properties like the building hand library had an average of 0.8 and 0.5 number of immovable properties. Moreover, movable properties number lowest in Haryana state where they had 0.6 average of sports properties only.

In the civil society organizations, the number of SHGs and NGOs was the most in Punjab. 4.4 was the average number in Punjab of SHG, whereas this average was reduced to 0.2 in NGOs. Moreover, Punjab had no other civil societies, such as voluntary organizations, colony welfare associations, and civic honor societies. The highest number of SHGs was in Himachal Pradesh, where the average was 17.6. In addition to this, the average of voluntary organizations and civic honor societies was 0.6 throughout Himachal Pradesh. However, Haryana had the least number of SHGs (2.6) if compared to other states but had the greatest number of voluntary organizations (1.6).

According to the Key Infrastructure parameters, 80% of the villages had banks in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, while the percentage dropped to 40% in Haryana in terms of availability of banks and then to 20% in the availability of ATMs which were 40% in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. However, 100% of the villages were connected to all-weather roads in Punjab and Haryana and 80% in Himachal Pradesh. 100% of villages had internal cc/brick roads in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, public transport, and internet café. However, Punjab had a drop in the percentage. The electricity was available for 9-12 hours in all three states. 100% of the time, PDS was available in Punjab and Haryana and 80% of the time in Himachal Pradesh. However, Mandis and the regular marketplace were available 40% of the time in Haryana and only 20% of the time in Haryana. And Himachal Pradesh, on the other hand, had 0%. Haryana was the only one with 100% availability of piped tap water and 80% in Punjab. Surprisingly Himachal Pradesh had none. Whereas the availability of post office/ sub-post office was 100% in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh and 60% in Haryana. The number of primary schools was 80% in Punjab, 60% in Haryana, and 20% in Himachal Pradesh. In Himachal Pradesh, the number of others was 10% consequently. However, Himachal Pradesh had vocational education 40% of the time and Haryana 20% of the time. The greatest number of health centers were in Haryana, where 40% of the villages had sub-center, 60% had PHC, and 20% had CHC, while 80% of the time, Punjab villages had only sub-center. There was the availability of veterinarians in the three states, out of which 80% of the village had them in Punjab and Haryana and only 20% in Himachal Pradesh. Villages in three states had closed drainage facilities, but some had, like, 40% of the villages in Punjab had open pucca drainage covered and uncovered, while this percentage was 20% in Haryana.

#### 4.7 Challenges to PRI in Implementing HR

The identified challenges faced by rural local authorities in implementing human rights. A set of options were given out of which PRIs representatives had to choose which were the most difficult challenges they had to face.

##### 4.7.1 Punjab

**Table No. 4.83: Challenges in Implementing Human Rights in Punjab**

	<b>Challenges in Implementing Human Rights</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
1.	Absence of conceptual clarity (the role, concept, and primary objectives)	82	12	0	4	2

2.	Proxy presence of female gram <i>Pradhan</i> (if applicable)	12	24	52	0	12
3.	Lack of computer-based infrastructure and knowledge	74	26	0	0	0
4.	Inadequate finance allocation	62	34	0	4	0
5.	Non-utilization of sanctioned funds	42	30	4	12	12
6.	Political interference in fund allocation and policy formation to panchayats	50	32	6	12	0
7.	Poor coordination among different administrative bodies	12	30	18	20	20
8.	Lack of cordial relations between officials and people	8	24	18	24	26
9.	Corruption in all levels of administration:	28	30	14	20	8
10.	Attitude of villagers	10	22	36	22	10
11.	Lack of manpower	58	32	4	6	0
12.	Lack of awareness about roles and responsibilities among panchayat members:	48	30	18	2	2
13.	Less literacy rate:	14	46	22	14	4
14.	Baseless agitation and strikes:	6	10	50	20	14
15.	Caste-based politics:	18	22	34	14	12
16.	Absence of regular periodic elections	10	14	6	4	66
17.	Non-availability of data and information	46	42	8	4	0
18.	Other-climate crises, migration, and inequalities	6	8	54	18	14
19.	Lack of transferred and communication facilities,	10	34	38	12	6
20.	Law and order situation	28	22	16	18	16
21.	absence of experts resource persons,	46	50	2	0	2

To assess the “challenge faced by rural local authorities in implementing human rights,” a separate questionnaire was added at the end of Annexure-I with twenty-one questions. It was a five-point Likert scale where five variables of ‘agreement’ was taken; 1. Strongly agree, 2. Agree, 3. Neutral, 4. Disagree, and 5. Strongly disagree.

In Punjab, 82% of beneficiaries ‘strongly agree’ with the absence of conceptual clarity. 52% of beneficiaries were ‘neutral’ about the proxy presence of female Gram Pradhan. Of representatives of Punjab, 74% ‘strongly agreed’ that there was a lack of computer-based

infrastructure and knowledge along with inadequate finance allocation, favored by 62% of representatives. 42 % ‘strongly agree’ on the non-utilization of sanctioned funds, while 50% on political interference in fund allocation and policy formation. 30% of representatives ‘agree’ that there is poor coordination among different administrative bodies. The representatives ‘strongly disagree’ 26% on the lack of cordial relations between officials and people; however, 24% ‘agree’ on it. 30 to 28% of representatives ‘agree’ that there was corruption in all levels of administration. 58% of the representative chose ‘strongly agree’ that there is a “lack of manpower” for implementing human rights, and 48% of the representative lacked awareness about roles and responsibilities among panchayat members. 50% of representatives were ‘neutral’ about the baseless agitation and strikes, and 34% were on caste-based politics. When asked about the absence of regular periodic elections, the representative chooses ‘strongly disagree’ as a 66% option. Non-availability of data and information was ‘strongly agreed’ upon by 46% of representatives, whereas 54% were ‘neutral’ on other-climate crises, migration, and inequalities, along with 38% on a lack of transferred and communication facilities. PRI representatives, 28% chose ‘strongly agree’ on a law-and-order situation and 50% on the absence of expert resource persons.

#### 4.7.2 Haryana

**Table No. 4.84: Challenges in Implementing Human Rights in Haryana**

	<b>Challenges in implementing Human Rights</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
1.	Absence of conceptual clarity (the role, concept, and primary objectives)	86	10	0	2	2
2.	Proxy presence of female gram Pradhan	0	12	86	0	2
3.	Lack of computer-based infrastructure and knowledge	14	82	4	0	0
4.	Inadequate finance allocation:	10	84	4	0	2
5.	Non-utilization of sanctioned funds	12	50	20	14	4
6.	Political interference in fund allocation and policy formation to panchayats:	0	56	28	12	4
7.	Poor coordination among different administrative bodies	2	42	42	12	2



8.	Lack of cordial relations between officials and people	4	14	52	28	2
9.	Corruption in all levels of administration:	4	28	22	40	6
10.	Attitude of villagers	18	34	14	18	16
11.	lack of manpower	44	48	2	2	4
12.	Lack of awareness about roles and responsibilities among panchayat members	8	80	4	0	8
13.	Less literacy rate:	6	42	26	16	10
14.	Baseless agitation and strikes:	4	30	32	26	8
15.	Caste-based politics:	6	42	26	16	10
16.	Absence of regular periodic elections	4	30	32	26	8
17.	Non-availability of data and information	8	38	14	22	18
18.	Other-climate crises, migration, and inequalities	50	38	8	2	2
19.	Lack of transfer and communication facilities,	4	74	16	6	0
20.	Law-and-order situation	0	24	46	18	12
21.	Absence of expert resource persons,	0	40	38	18	4

In Haryana, 86% of representatives chose 'strongly agree' that conceptual clarity was absent, and 86% chose 'neutral' for the proxy presence of female Gram Pradhan. 84% of representatives 'agree' that there was a lack of computer-based infrastructure and knowledge, and 84% on the non-utilization of sanctioned funds. 56% of representatives 'agree' that there was political interference in fund allocation and policy formation to panchayat and poor coordination among different administrative bodies 42% however, 42% of representatives were also 'neutral' on this, and 52% on the fact that there was a lack of cordial relation between officials and people. On the other hand, 40% of representatives 'disagree' that there was any corruption among different administrative bodies, but 48% of representatives 'agree' for the lack of manpower along with the lack of awareness about roles and responsibilities among panchayat members by 80%.

32% of representatives were absolutely neutral on baseless agitation and strikes, while 42% agreed on caste-based politics. The non-availability of data and information was 'agreed' upon by 38% of representatives with other-climate crises, migration, and inequalities. However, 46% of representatives were 'neutral' on the lack and order situation, and 40% 'agreed' about the absence of expert resource persons.

### 4.7.3 Himachal Pradesh

**Table No. 4.85: Challenges in Implementing Human Rights in Himachal Pradesh**

	<b>Challenges: Implementing Human Rights</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>S D</b>
1.	Absence Of Conceptual Clarity (The RoI, Concept and the Primary Objectives)	62	20	12	2	4
2.	Proxy Presence of Female Gram Pradhan	0	4	46	0	50
3.	Lack Of Computer Based Infrastructure and Knowledge	24	60	6	0	10
4.	Inadequate Finance Allocation	26	44	8	8	12
5.	Non- Utilization of Sanctioned Funds	4	20	6	24	46
6.	Political Interference in Fund Allocation and Policy Formation to Panchayats	0	18	4	34	44
7.	Poor Coordination Among Different Administrative Bodies	0	6	6	46	42
8.	Lack Of Cordial Relation Between Officials and People	0	4	8	42	46
9.	Corruption In All Levels of Administration	2	10	2	44	42
10.	Attitude Of Villagers	4	6	18	36	36
11.	Lack Of Manpower	38	56	2	2	2
12.	Lack Of Awareness About Roles and Responsibilities Among Panchayat Members	16	48	18	10	8
13.	Less Literacy Rate	0	16	26	48	10
14.	Baseless Agitation and Strikes:	0	8	22	42	28
15.	Caste-Based Politics:	2	4	8	38	48
16.	Absence Of Regular Periodic Elections	4	10	0	18	68
17.	Non-Availability of Data and Information	10	52	4	14	20
18.	Other-Climate Crisis, Migration and Inequalities	0	4	40	38	18
19.	Lack of Transferred and Communication Facilities,	2	18	28	38	14
20.	Law and Order Situation	0	8	12	16	64
21.	The Absence of Experts, Resource Persons	32	60	4	2	2

In Himachal Pradesh, 62% of representatives ‘strongly agree’ on the absence of conceptual clarity, while 46% were ‘neutral’ regarding the proxy presence of female Gram Pradhan. The lack of computer-based infrastructure and knowledge was ‘agreed’ by 60% of the

representatives and 44% on inadequate finance allocation. However, the representatives of Himachal Pradesh ‘strongly disagree’ with the non-utilization of Sanctioned funds by 46% and political interference in funds allocation and policy formation to panchayat by 44%. The lack of cordial relations between officials and people was ‘strongly disagreed’ upon by 46% of the representatives and 44% of representatives ‘disagreed’ with the corruption in all levels of administration. The lack of manpower was ‘agreed’ by 56% of representatives and 48% of representatives in their lack of awareness about the roles and responsibilities among panchayat members. 42% of representatives disagree with the baseless agitation and strikes, whereas 48% strongly disagree with caste-based politics. 68% of representatives ‘strongly disagree’ with the absence of regular periodic elections. 52% of representatives ‘agree’ with the non-availability of data and information. In comparison, 40% of representatives were ‘neutral.’ 38% disagree’ regarding other-climate crises, migration and inequalities, and a lack of transferred and communication facilities. 64% of representatives ‘strongly disagree’ about the law and other situations, while 60% of representatives ‘agree’ on the absence of expert resource persons.

## Chapter 5

### Discussion

Human Rights are the basic entitlements required to live as human beings. Human Rights can be divided into civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural Rights, and collective rights. Various international human rights treaties guarantee the recognition, protection, and promotion of human rights in general and specific to vulnerable groups like children, women, old age, and disabled persons. With the emergence of the concept of a welfare state, human rights and personal liberties are part of every democratic State. Indian Constitution explicitly recognizes certain civil and political rights as fundamental rights of Indian citizens under Part III. In contrast, Part IV of the Constitution laid down some of the directive principles of state policies that are required to be applied by the State while making governance policies. The State is also primarily responsible for respecting, protecting, promoting, and fulfilling people's human rights per their international obligations and constitutional mandate.

Article 40 of the Indian Constitution obliges the State to take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such power and authority to enable them to function as units of self-governance. For generations, the Gram Panchayat has served as rural India's dominant political body. The panchayat raj institution's existing structure was ordained by the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment in 1992. The Act inserted Part IX, titled "The Panchayats" (Articles 243 to 243 O) and the Eleventh Schedule, which lists the 29 panchayat functions in the Constitution. Villages have panchayats, blocks have Panchayat Samitis, and districts have zila parishads as part of an institutionalized three-tiered framework. The Panchayati Raj system relies heavily on the Gram Sabha. It is a village assembly comprising all the eligible voters in that particular region. Gram Panchayat is an executive body of Gram Sabha, and representatives are elected to manage and govern Gram Sabha's local affairs.

As per the directive principles of the State policy, the State is obligated to ensure the incorporation of various human rights aspects like education, health, employment, availability of potable water and sanitation facilities, and social security for the vulnerable section in the government policies and programs. Our research examines the government initiatives that have been brought pursuant to the Constitutional mandate and prioritizes the protection of basic rights for rural people. Such governmental schemes ensure the respect, protect, fulfill and promotion of human rights at the Panchayat level. Such government schemes ensure the basic human rights of people at the village level. As the lower unit of self-governance, Gram

Panchayat is well-suited to address the needs of the local populace (beneficiaries of government schemes).

One of the study's objectives was "to evaluate the status of rural LSG in regard to respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights" with the help of PRIs via governmental schemes regarding the seven human rights which have been selected. And the fifth objective was "to analyze the implementation of existing government schemes and policies related to the human rights issue, as well as the issues or human rights violations faced by the beneficiaries". Keeping the above objectives in mind, the study addressed PRIs who acted as facilitators of governmental schemes at the village level for the attainment of fundamental human rights of the people, and the local population of that village was taken to be the beneficiary of these schemes. So, a relation between PRIs and beneficiaries implies the inurement of these human rights. The research team verified the data collected from PRIs and beneficiaries through onsite visits to institutions implementing governmental schemes at the panchayat level. This chapter is divided into three parts where each of the research questions was answered. The first part discussed the respect, protect, fulfil, and promote aspects of human rights realization. The second part of the chapter discusses the challenges faced by the members of PRIs in the implementation of human rights at the panchayat level. At the end, the best practices which were observed during the study were documented regarding respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights at the rural level.

## **1. Respect, Protect, Fulfill and Promote Aspects of Selective Human Rights**

### **a. Right to Education**

"Education as the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits" (UNESCO). India's National Educational Policy 2020 is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. Initially, the Indian Constitution did not recognize the right to education as a fundamental right. However, later on, the Constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 added Article 21-A as a fundamental right which says that- 'The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the state may, by law, determine and Article 45 was amended which earlier read as 'The state shall endeavor to provide, within ten years from the commencement of this constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years' which is

now substituted by the following- 'The state shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.'

To attain the above objective, multiple governmental schemes were introduced regarding education, among which *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and *Integrated Child Development Services* are the ones being studied in this research as the central schemes for ensuring the respect, promotion, fulfillment, and protection of the 'Right to Education' in the states of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. The Annexure-I: Survey Questionnaire for elected representatives in PRIs was addressed to the members of Gram Panchayat to get ideas on these schemes and how they fulfilled the right to education in the village. Moreover, later Annexure -III: a survey questionnaire for beneficiaries, was addressed to beneficiaries to see if the PRIs members could protect, promote, fulfill, and respect the right to education.

**Right to education has been respected:** As the data suggests, most of the PRI representatives in the three states were aware of the government schemes that guarantee 'free and compulsory elementary education for children till 14 years of age' called Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Moreover, the awareness status of SSA was 84.33% among beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh; however, it declined to 66.33 % in Haryana and 49% in Punjab. However, awareness among the PRIs representatives regarding this scheme is more compared to beneficiaries as it should be, which was contrary to the (Rajni, 2021) discovery. Her research revealed that many sarpanches and other community leaders had never heard of the School Management Committee before. Lack of community involvement in education, both inside and outside of schools, is a major factor in the ineffective implementation of state policy. Lack of knowledge among Gram Panchayat members about their roles and responsibilities in educational settings was a major barrier. While there has been some progress toward the attainment of the goal of universal primary education since the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's inception in November 2000, much more work remains (Kainth, 2006).

Furthermore, 89.3% of PRIs representatives supervised government-provided school facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, books, infrastructure, mid-day meals, etc. It was later confirmed by 88% of Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries and 93% of Punjab beneficiaries that these facilities of drinking water and mid-day meals were fulfilled. However, only 66.67% of beneficiaries in Haryana confirmed that these facilities' needs were fulfilled.

Nonetheless, the average enrollment rate, retention rate, and dropout rate of government schools was 54.7%, which means that PRIs were aware of the activities mentioned above.

However, according to (Tyagi, 2012) findings, even though there was a rise in community involvement in school management, enrollment in school was low and there was little communication between Panchayati Raj institutions and Parent Teacher Associations. It was obvious that just because they were aware of the suggestion did not guarantee that the optimal number of students would sign up.

Moreover, in this regard, the involvement of PRIs in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana was better than that of Punjab. Besides this, only 20 % of Punjab's PRIs representative admitted their participation in monitoring and involvement in the above-mentioned tasks.

**The Right to Education has been protected:** PRIs representatives protected- the right to education with the help of multiple elements, majorly from ensuring the admission of non-admitted children in neighborhood schools and the accessibility of vulnerable groups to primary and secondary education, preventing child labor. Our survey of three states that PRIs primarily protected human rights at the panchayat level. Their average inurement and accessibility were above 85%. Consequently, the beneficiaries had an equal say. Their percentage average was more than 83% throughout the states, except in Haryana, where only 50% of the PRIs representatives agreed to prevent child labor.

**The right to education has been fulfilled:** PRIs representatives of three states ensured the establishment of government schools near the houses of children. In comparison, the beneficiaries agreed 87.83% of the time upon easy access to government schools. 90% of PRIs representatives of both Haryana and Himachal Pradesh admitted to checking or maintaining drinking water and mid-day meals, infrastructure, book facilities, sanitation, and separate toilets for boys and girls. (Adukia, 2016), stresses on the importance of toilets in elementary schools. In her study, it was found that accessibility of school latrines has a positive impact on enrolment ratio and drop-out ratio. However, sex-specific toilets have a greater impact on the female enrolment ratio. However, Punjab PRIs representatives had an average of 70% when it came to maintaining the activities mentioned above, but 87.17% of beneficiaries admitted to having received these facilities contrary to the opinion of PRIs representatives.

PRIs representatives of Haryana were the only ones to have a 100% positive response in terms of the development of Anganwadi infrastructure when compared to Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Punjab and Haryana PRIs representatives fulfilled the development of Anganwadi infrastructure only 80% of the time, which led to the overall average of the three states to be 86.67% which is equivalent to the beneficiaries' percentage of 86.67%, indicating school

buildings and classrooms were maintained. Moreover, PRIs representatives were also asked to answer about modern educational facilities and if they put efforts into the availability of modern equipment again; only Himachal Pradesh had a 100% positive response, Himachal Pradesh followed with 80% positive response, and Punjab came lagged behind with the least percentage of 60%. Data above showed that Punjab PRIs representatives were far behind the other two states in fulfilling the right to education.

**The right to education has been promoted:** Data shows the PRIs representative of Himachal Pradesh maintained an average of 95% throughout in promoting campaigns for the right to education. Whereas Haryana and Punjab PRIs representatives didn't promote 100% enrolment and retention of students in schools along with the promotion of Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) as the PRIs representative average was 40%, which meant the least promoted campaigns were TLC and enrolment & retention in all three states.

The most promoted campaign was about the right of children to free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education. PRIs of Himachal Pradesh had 100% positive response, followed by Haryana PRIs representatives with 80% and Punjab PRIs representatives 60%. The promotional campaign for the right to education was, overall, the least promoted in Punjab.

Integrated Child Development Scheme is a unique program for early childhood care and development aimed at addressing malnutrition, as well as the health and development needs of young children and pregnant and nursing mothers. Its status was also evaluated to see if this scheme could benefit the beneficiaries of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh in terms of education for children aged 1 to 5 years.

The data showcased that Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries enjoyed the ICDS service most efficiently. Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries said they were satisfied as 96% of beneficiaries were given supplementary nutrition and vaccination, whereas this percentage declined from 67% to 68% in Haryana. However, 89.33% of Punjab beneficiaries admitted to receiving vaccination from ANM regarding Supplementary nutrition; the percentage declined to 50.33% only. Moreover, ANM workers fail to identify sick, malnourished, and disabled children to refer them to PHC less than 50% of the time in Haryana and Punjab. Furthermore, it was seen that Himachal Pradesh also had the least percentage of beneficiaries agreeing with this. In addition, beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh received excellent pre-school education services. Women were even given nutritional and health education, as only 5% said they were unsatisfied.



On the contrary, this percentage was completely different in Haryana and Punjab. In Haryana, only 48% of beneficiaries admitted that their children do get a pre-school education at Anganwadi Center, with a decline of 23% in the nutrition and health education of women. Moreover, only 60% of the beneficiaries received regular check-ups from Anganwadi workers for pregnant and lactating mothers and their children under six. Similarly, Punjab beneficiaries admitted receiving 72% of the time service of regular check-ups from the ANM workers, and 64% of the children did go to Anganwadi Centre for pre-school education. However, women didn't get nutrition and health education, and 70% of the beneficiaries were unsatisfied.

With all the data we have collected, the fundamentals of the right to education are being achieved in all three states. PRI representatives and beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh agreed upon such things, and the data collected by the researcher showed that most of the villages had the proper infrastructure for schools regularly maintained.

### **In-situ Verification of Schemes**

PRIs and beneficiaries' data above have shown us a clear picture of a correlation between PRIs and beneficiaries and to see if their correlation is related to actuality. The research team went to every selected village to get real numbers. To see if these schemes mentioned above are meeting the government guidelines of right to education (RTE, 2009) and looking at the data, it is clear Himachal Pradesh and Haryana villages had better-maintained pre-schools and primary schools than the other states. The right to education was respected, protected, fulfilled, and promoted there. The ICDS was implemented satisfactorily as most of the services were delivered, such as Anganwadi workers (AWW) having educational material for Nutrition and Health Education (NHed.) and children attending Pre-School Education (PSE) sessions. Children's growths were monitored, and children got regular health check-ups too. However, Punjab lagged behind these two states in the *service delivery* field. Even Punjab PRIs representatives and beneficiaries agreed with it. Their percentage shows that PRIs representatives cannot completely fulfill the right to education guidelines. Regarding *infrastructure*, there was not much difference either, as the only issue faced by Himachal Pradesh villages were outdoor and indoor space, and that too because of their geographical location. Most of the villages were uphill stations.

Moreover, it was the only State where the AWW was 100% trained and educated till matriculation or above, whereas Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) maintained health cards and were monitored by Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs). On the contrary, Punjab and

Haryana villages had AWW from nearby localities. This finding was like Kumar et al. (2017), which found that only 19.23% of PRI members spent money on school infrastructure, mostly on building restrooms for boys and girls and hand pumps for drinking water, and that no PRI members erected boundary walls in classrooms, kitchens for midday meals, or bench desks. However, our study showed that even though PRI members were not involved, a majority of ICDS in the three states had all these things as the AWW ensured all these facilities.

Furthermore, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's (SSA) implementation was satisfactory throughout the three states. In all three states, the *pupil-teacher ratio* was up to mark; however, the male population of teachers was higher in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana than in Punjab. Moreover, the student population was larger in Punjab. On average, 224.56 students were present in the primary schools of Punjab. However, due to the population of students in primary school, the number of classrooms varied in the three states. Himachal Pradesh's population of students was the least among the three states, with an average of 57; along with this, the average number of classrooms was 3.5, which was closer to Haryana (4.9).

On the contrary, in Haryana, the average population of students was 133. Although the student population was good, girls' enrollment in school was less than in Punjab and Haryana. Moreover, according to the report, "In countries where girls experience significant difficulty participating in education due to cultural and social barriers, increasing the number of female teachers has been shown to have a positive effect on girls' schooling. the presence of women teachers can allay parents' concerns over safety and help increase demand for girls' schooling." (UNESCO,2015).

However, in addition to this data, Haryana was the only state where all the schools were accessible by roads, while in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, schools were accessible 88.89% of the time. The School Management Committee (SMC) is essential in expanding access to elementary education in India (Deep,2020). Without people working together, it will be very difficult to make primary school available to everyone. All the villages of the three States had a school management committee where management committee meetings took place as per norm, and panchayat members of SMC attended the meeting most of the time; even children of SC/ST category received textbooks, whereas the uniforms weren't provided by the authorities 19.17% of the time in Himachal Pradesh. This percentage increased to 29.17% in Haryana and 69.96% in Punjab. Yet teacher's training and awareness campaigns were conducted throughout the states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh except for Haryana, where

the data suggests that only 88.88% of the time, awareness campaigns were organized by the schools. The above data was supported by the findings of **Bhattacharya & Mohalik's (2015)** research indicated that SMC members considered that the lack of engagement from parents hindered the outcome, that the teaching-learning process was inadequate, that teachers lacked the necessary abilities, and that SMC members were unaware of the importance of their role in creating the "School Development Plan." It was seen that awareness campaigns are required on a larger scale for attending and participating in SMC meetings regularly, creating school infrastructure, and maintaining teachers' punctuality.

As per the guidelines of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the infrastructure was good in Punjab as the data suggested they had good mid-day meals, playground facility, boundary wall, separated girl/boy toilets, and drinking water. Similarly, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh's school infrastructure was fair to good when it came to its conditions. However, 50% to 60% of people said the computer facilities were excellent in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, with smart classrooms.

#### **b. Right to Health:**

The Constitution of India guarantees the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21, and the right to health is inherent to a life with dignity; to preserve this right, the State should ensure that its citizens have access to adequate healthcare facilities and services (*Consumer Education and Research Centre V. Union of India AIR 1995 SC 922*) and for this purpose, national government programs which support quality access to essential health services for all were created, such as ***National Rural Health Mission*** and ***Integrated Child Development Services scheme***.

As per Entry 23 of the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, one of the functions of gram panchayat is to ensure health and sanitation, including hospitals, primary health centers, and dispensaries. ***The National Rural Health Mission*** is implemented through sub-centers/dispensaries at the panchayat level. Sub-centers provide services to maternal and child health, family welfare, nutrition, immunization, diarrhea control, and control of infectious disease programs. And then, the ***Integrated Child Development Services scheme*** was implemented through Anganwadi at the Panchayat level. This Anganwadi provides early childhood care education and development, care & and nutrition counseling; health services; community mobilization awareness, advocacy & and information, education, and communication.

These schemes are discussed below, along with the data collected from the beneficiaries and by the research team later.

**Right to health has been respected:** Himachal Pradesh PRIs representatives were the most active among the three states and the same was confirmed by Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries. As the data suggested, PRIs of the three states had an excellent record of looking after the issues of drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure, and food facilities in primary health centers along with the supervision of ASHA, ANM, and AWW workers. It was later confirmed by beneficiaries that they did receive vaccination and health services with access to safe drinking water facilities. Similarly, **Sah et al. (2013)** observed that researchers in rural Wardha, Maharashtra, surveyed VHNSC members in the months of January through April 2011 and found that ANMs and AWWs had the highest levels of knowledge of the VHNSC, its role, and its obligations.

PRIs representatives of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had above satisfactory levels for the mapping of vulnerable populations and people with mental health problems, and so was their inspection of the attendance of health officials, availability of medicines, and quality of services. In contrast, beneficiaries of Himachal and Haryana received a good number of generic medicines. Similarly, in their respective regions, 86% of PRIs conducted work to enhance the Public Health Institutions' healthcare delivery system. (John, 2021) found that the dual controls and duties system worked well when there was mutual respect and cooperation between elected representatives, officials from Panchayati Raj Institutions, and medical officers. However, Punjab representatives, on the other hand, put less effort in the inspection and mapping of vulnerable populations and people with mental health problems; even the availability of generic medicine was not good. Moreover, PRIs' representative awareness regarding GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) was low overall in three states, and they failed to address local public health issues correctly through GPDP. (Nanjunda, 2020) conducted similar research and found that there is almost no coordination between the officials of public health institutes and those of PRIs and that PRI members are generally unaware of the many health plans available to them.

**Right to health has been protected:** PRIs representatives of all three states admitted that they raised issues of pollution, food safety, and control on tobacco, alcohol, and drugs in Gram Panchayat and helped people with disabilities in getting treatment at Primary Health Centre along with the restriction on extractive and manufacturing industries from polluting water, air,

and soil. However, Punjab PRIs representatives' participation was below average when it came to the restriction of extractive manufacturing industries.

**Right to health has been fulfilled:** The status of rural LSG regarding fulfilling the right to health was satisfactory in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana as PRIs representatives admitted that they put reasonable efforts for infrastructure development of PHC and for the banishment and restriction on the sale of illicit drugs along with the effective functioning of the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC). However, Punjab PRIs failed to take appropriate action toward the right to health. The majority of PRIs from Punjab denied reviewing every maternal death/ neonatal death/ child death in the Gram Panchayat and identify actions for the future, and in Haryana, the PRIs response rate was below average in the effective functioning of the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC). At the same time, 59.67% of beneficiaries confirmed that they do have access to good hospital care, availability of doctors, drugs and quality services at the PHC/CHC level and assured referral-transport-communication systems that because Sah et al. (2013) finding suggested that most of the ANMs and AWWs had the highest level of awareness of VHNSC's goals. In contrast, those who were involved in panchayats, ASHAs, and SHGs had the least amount of awareness, so it was clear that beneficiaries got an excellent service at PHC or VHNSC even though the PRIs response rate was below average. Moreover, most VHNSC members complained that they received no official training.

**Right to health has been promoted:** PRIs of all three states had an average of 88%, which meant they admitted that they had done everything required to promote the right to health. From promoting MGNREGS to an awareness campaign on the prevention of child labor to encouraging activities regarding skill development programs. Except for Punjab PRIs representatives, who admitted only 20% of facilitation entrepreneurial developmental training.

However, beneficiaries confirmed in Punjab that most of them didn't go to sub-centre/PHCs for health services as they didn't have proper facilities for the institutional deliveries subsidized under the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JYS) for those below the poverty line. Moreover, their access to safe drinking water wasn't up to the mark. Compared to Punjab, Haryana beneficiaries were no different; they had the same complaint, and when it came to Himachal Pradesh, the only complaint under the National Rural Health Mission scheme was they didn't receive service/essential medicines at the sub-centre. Moreover, **the findings of Kumar et al. (2016)** showed that VHSNCs are very important to the process of health planning.

## In-situ Verification of Schemes

The data collected by the research team suggested that staff in Haryana were available most of the time, most of whom were female, as in Himachal Pradesh. At the same time, male health workers predominated in Punjab. Moreover, the infrastructure of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana was in excellent condition except for the sterilizing instruments and disposable delivery kits. However, the infrastructure of Punjab's sub-centres was satisfactory compared to that of the other two states.

Furthermore, the service was also great in all three states, but the day and time of the visit weren't fixed, along with less trained ANM/ASHA workers. Besides this, the Punjab Sub-centres didn't have proper service contraceptives 35% of the time, along with the facilitation of taking peripheral blood smears in case of fever for detection. After reviewing the aforementioned information, it was unclear if the benefits of transferring the PHC system to the Panchayat would exceed the risks, as Patel et al. (1998) had proposed.

### c. Right to Work

Article 39 of the Indian Constitution specifically requires the State to direct its policies towards securing the two principles related to the 'Right to work,' which includes equal rights of men and women to adequate means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work for both men and women. This right to work was to give free choice of employment, to just and favorable work conditions, and to protect against unemployment. For such reasons, our study *chooses Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005(MNREGA)*; this scheme desires to enhance the livelihood security of people living in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Roughly one-third of the stipulated workforce must be women.

These schemes are discussed below, along with the data collected from the beneficiaries and the research team later.

**Right to work has been respected:** The status of rural LSG regarding respecting human rights does not seem up to mark as PRIs representatives of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh professed that they do help people in getting MGNREGA work; however, beneficiaries of these states spoke otherwise. Haryana beneficiaries admitted only 21.67% of the time they provided one hundred days of guaranteed wage in the Panchayat. This percentage slightly increased from

33.67% in Punjab to 41.67% in Himachal Pradesh. However, findings of (Patra and Dash, 2023), stated in their research of the post-MGNREGA scheme that after this scheme was introduced the reform was seen as the unemployment reduced from 33.33% to 13.88% and the labourers who worked outside of the locality their percentage reduced from 26.11% to 5.55%. Moreover, the beneficiaries also revealed they do not get 10% extra wage if employment is provided beyond a 5km radius. Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs representatives proclaimed that they encourage potential candidates to set up enterprises. Still, the reality was contrary as most beneficiaries denied this, throughout the three states. Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal, Pradesh PRIs representatives, monitored the MGNREGS work by checking the muster roll almost 100% of the time, and their participation in Rozgar divas was less than 30%.

**Right to work have been protected:** Data suggested that 84% PRIs representative of Punjab professed that first-aid and drinking water was available at the worksite, whereas only 9.67% of beneficiaries of Punjab admitted to receiving these facilities. However, representatives from the two states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh reported a minor decline in the above facilities. In comparison, more than 20% of the beneficiaries of these two states said otherwise. PRIs representatives had an average of 84.7% in three states concerning the prevention of manual scavenging in the Panchayat. Moreover, the PRIs of Haryana didn't facilitate the prevention of child labor compared to Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, which led the average to be 60% of PRIs representative of three states in terms of child labor prevention.

**Right-to-work has been fulfilled:** Haryana and Himachal Pradesh PRIs have fulfilled almost every right-to-work criterion, while PRIs failed in most of the tasks such as mapping small and medium enterprises, guiding support for new enterprises, and maintaining the database of labor and employment. Yet 80% of PRIs representatives in Punjab agreed with their proper identification of skilled candidates who were interested in working. Furthermore, beneficiaries of three states agreed that they are allowed to check muster rolls. Still, the percentage is low as only 11% of the beneficiaries in Haryana admitted to it, and that percentage went to 26.67% in Punjab and 47% in Himachal.

**Right to work has been promoted:** The PRIs of the three states had the same response to promoting the MGNREGS campaign and encouraging skill development programmers, which was 100% as they admitted its promotion. However, Haryana and Punjab lagged behind Himachal when facilitating entrepreneurial development training. But beneficiaries of the three states admitted that the percentage of those receiving MGNREGS scheme was below 10% in

case of unemployment allowance, receiving payment of compensation for the delay, and medical treatment in case of injury.

### **In-situ Verification of Schemes**

The above data of PRIs and beneficiaries suggested that in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab MGNREGS, the scheme's working was pretty good; however, there were fluctuations between PRIs and beneficiaries' outlook in Haryana over this scheme. The data advocated that the right to work was below a satisfactory level. Most of the guidelines weren't met as most states didn't receive any compensation for the delayed work, and if the work was provided beyond a 5 km of radius, no 10% extra wage was provided. Even on the **work site**, drinking water or first aid was not facilitated. People carried their water bottles to the worksite. The beneficiaries of Himachal agreed 41.67% of the time that they do get wages under 100 days, while 33.67% of Punjab beneficiaries admitted it, and the percentage declined to 21.67% in Haryana.

Moreover, the data suggested that Haryana PRIs representatives professed that they promote awareness of preventing child labor. In contrast, the efforts made by the PRIs to prevention of child labor weren't adequate. The study done by the research team suggested that **work and wage** were up to the mark as, indeed, there was a process to register demand for work, and even a receipt was given in all three states. Still, later the figures suggested otherwise, as 60% of the time, the receipts weren't given in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, and the percentage in Punjab was 20% less than in both states. The **record was maintained** as the muster rolls were maintained throughout the three states and fifteen panchayats.

Moreover, there were citizen information boards for community works, and IBS works in more than half of the Panchayat. All over, the **transference & accountability** was in good State as mainly the grievance redressal process was conducted in the three states, out of which Himachal Pradesh had the best record. Punjab's overall performance of **personnel training** was good except in technical support, which was inadequate in any of the three states. However, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were not up to mark, but their performance was still above average as supervisors were trained and selected according to state norms.

### **d. Right to Gender Equality:**

Indian Constitution mandates the state not to deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of laws within the territory of India. The concept of equality has been taken from the "equal protection clause" of the American Constitution. Article 14 precludes



discrimination on a basic level. According to Article 14, the State cannot refuse equality to any person, and it can neither decline the protection of individual laws within the territorial limits of India. The principle of gender equality in the Constitution can be found in its preamble, fundamental rights, fundamental duties, and directive principles of state policy. The Constitution guarantees women's empowerment and encourages the State to adopt various measures of equality and empowerment in favor of women. Article 14, Article 15, Article 15(3), Article 16, Article 39(a), Article 39(b), Article 39(c), and Article 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in terms of gender equality and equality in the general sense.

For the present study regarding the role of local self-governance in providing right to gender equality and women empowerment scheme namely *National Rural Livelihoods Mission* was selected. *Self-Help Group* was the institution through which National Rural Livelihoods Mission was Implemented at the rural level. *National Rural Livelihoods Mission* was reorganized from Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana in 2010-11. It was to provide a faster and more focused approach to poverty reduction. The mission aims to create efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancement and better access to financial services can be created.

*The Self-Help Group* comprises 20 members, including the elected chairperson, deputy, treasurer, and other office holders. The group members meet weekly to discuss group savings, rotation of funds, bank loans, terms to the repayment of loans, social and community action programs, etc. SHGs are formed only for the sake of savings and credit activities. Its judicious mix of microcredit and other activities for development and empowerment has made it an effective weapon for women's holistic and integrated social-economic development. In this section, the right to gender equality regarding the *Self-Help Group* was only addressed to PRIs to see their participation and attitude at the Gram panchayat level of this scheme. Later, these schemes were corroborated by the research team.

**Right to Gender Equality has been respected:** The data shows that Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs representatives respected the right to gender equality while Punjab lagged behind. The issues of gender disparity and violence were raised among Gram Sabha along with girl child enrolment and attendance in Anganwadi. PRIs of Punjab didn't do much when it came to girl enrolment and attendance, as only 58% of PRIs admitted their participation. Moreover, the PRIs of Punjab were the least interested in monitoring Self-Help Groups, after Haryana and

Himachal Pradesh PRIs, even though it was seen in Mathew's (2003) research that in many countries, especially those where human rights movements have put a focus on protecting women's interests, the work of women's organizations has helped raise public awareness of the importance of promoting gender equality and women's rights. Having women in municipal leadership positions has also been shown to improve government efficiency and openness. Our findings matched those in a similar industry where women held top positions. Qualitative evidence, however, revealed that their involvement was restricted, with men filling the majority of responsibilities.

**Right to Gender Equality has been protected:** Data suggested PRIs of Punjab ensured the right to gender equality up to optimal level compared to the other two states as Himachal Pradesh and Haryana both had better averages than Punjab. In Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, No girl was deprived of free education and appropriate health facilities. Moreover, strong opposition was ensured against domestic violence and child marriage, early marriage, and even forced marriage, and female feticide was prevented, and appropriate action was taken by the PRI representative. However, the PRI's representatives average of the three states was 96% when they were asked about their actions regarding harassment, exploitation, violence, and discrimination against women. However, all three states' PRIs collectively had the least response rate when it came to efforts that were required to eradicate abuse of the disabled and aged.

**Right to Gender Equality has been fulfilled:** The majority of the tasks were fulfilled by the PRI representatives in the three states. However, 60% of Himachal Pradesh PRIs admitted that they do check equal wages for equal work (Gender wise), and this percentage was 100% in the other two states. Although Punjab and Haryana PRIs made sure of it. But Punjab PRIs admitted that they don't encourage women for equal participation in local governance and decision-making as much as Haryana and Himachal Pradesh PRIs, which was contrary to the research done by **Buch (2009)** where his research indicated that "women are well-informed about issues about panchayats." The above result was not observed in rural Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, or Punjab.

**Right to Gender Equality has been promoted:** The data propose an excellent promotion of the right to gender equality by Himachal Pradesh PRIs who raised awareness regarding the 'philosophy of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and harassment/ exploitation/ discrimination/child marriage.' Himachal Pradesh PRIs made the most significant percentage of the campaign

program to promote school enrolment and retention of girls. After this, Haryana PRIs made efforts to promote school enrolment and retention of girls, and then the least percentage of campaigns were promoted by Punjab PRIs.

### **In-situ Verification of Schemes**

The data collected by the research team indicated that most SHG types were 'NEW' in Punjab and Haryana. In contrast, in Himachal Pradesh, it was 'Pre NRLM' where these SHG were linked to banks of SBI in Punjab, PNB in Haryana, and Gramin Bank and Cooperative Bank in Himachal Pradesh. In all three states, the minimum number of members was ten, and the meeting was conducted once a month. It was scheduled before the event in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab; however, a Haryana meeting was held every week. However, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh SHG have received a certain amount of training, whereas Punjab, on the other hand, was a little behind in the training field.

The data showed that Haryana was more active in the Self Help Group program than the other two states, even though the funds received within the SHG program were more in Haryana. Furthermore, the number of meetings helped was higher in Haryana, and they were held more regularly. Women of Haryana are more independent in terms of *Self-Help Group*.

### **e. Right to Social Security**

Right to social security is a measure of the protection that society provides for its members through a series of public measures against the economic and social distress that otherwise would be caused by the stoppage or substantial reduction of earnings resulting from old age, disability, death, or unemployment. India's Constitution under Article 41 recognized that State should, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provisions for securing the right to work, education, and public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disablement, and other cases of undeserved want. And for this, India's government has introduced schemes, namely, *Pension schemes (old age/widow/disabled person) and a public distribution system*.

According to the Constitution, especially Article 41, the State shall, within its economic capacity, make adequate provisions of social security to provide certain benefits to entitle people. One such social security scheme is a pension scheme that aims to provide some monetary relief to underprivileged persons. Social security, like pension schemes, comes under the concurrent list, so union and state governments are empowered to make laws. In India,

pension schemes mainly target old age people, widows, girl children, differently able people, etc. State pension schemes are not uniform and vary according to economic capacity. In Punjab, the pension amount for old age, widows, and differently able people is 1500/- rupees per month, while in the neighboring State Haryana, it is 2750/- rupees per month. In Himachal Pradesh, the pension amount of old age people vary from 750/- to 1300/- rupees per month according to age, and for a widow, it is 1000, and for the differently able person, it is 750/- to 1300/- as per disability.

Public distribution system of the government ensures the right under

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, coupled with Articles 39(a) and 47, safeguards the right to food and makes it mandatory for the State to ensure that it is effectively realized. The Public Distribution System (PDS) in India is a government-run program aimed at providing subsidized food grains and essential commodities to the poor population. The government implements various schemes under the PDS to ensure food security and address poverty and hunger. Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS): TPDS was introduced in 1997 to improve the targeting of food subsidies to people in need. Under this scheme, the government categorizes beneficiaries as "Below Poverty Line" (BPL) and "Above Poverty Line" (APL). The BPL households receive food grains at a highly subsidized rate, while the APL households receive food grains at a relatively lower subsidy.

**The right to social security has been respected: Chopra & Pudussery (2014) conducted a survey of 10 states that showed that the pension system is healthy.** There is an abundance of evidence suggesting that the allocated money are actually being dispersed as planned. This study proved it as the PRIs of three states have ensured all aspects of the right to social security, including availing of pension, care, and protection of vulnerable individuals or households; even PRI actively monitored and facilitated the Public Distribution System and helped people who required Aadhar card, Health card, Bank account. Moreover, 80% of beneficiaries confirmed the above statement in all three states. However, 42% of Punjab PRIs admitted that they could not ensure maximum care and protection of vulnerable individuals or households.

**The right to social security has been protected: The PRIs of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh worked better than** the PRIs of Punjab in terms of social security. Himachal Pradesh PRIs and Haryana PRIs were able to ensure Health worker proficiency at the ground level. Moreover, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs emphasized efforts to provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities than Punjab PRIs. Similarly, only 82% PRIs of

Punjab admitted to keeping a check on no child labors in Panchayat; compared to Haryana and Himachal Pradesh PRIs, the percentage is low. Moreover, it was seen in Agarwal and Mehrotra's (2013) research that Panchayati Raj Institutions have a considerable impact on shaping the environment for disabled children, as demonstrated in Himachal Pradesh but not the other two States.

**The right to social security has been fulfilled:** Data estimated that Haryana and Himachal Pradesh PRIs were the only ones to fulfill the right to social security task. PRIs from these states were able to identify persons who were entitled to pensions along with those people who were critically vulnerable and prepare operational guidelines. They ensured the selection of beneficiaries and implementation and monitoring of various employment or poverty alleviation programs, including the MGNREGA scheme. However, Punjab PRIs failed to fulfill the right to social security on many levels as they didn't converge funds towards social security programs under the Gram panchayat development plan (GPDP) along with needs assessment for skills and employment. Punjab PRIs facilitation of SHG formation was not good compared to the other two states.

**The right to social security has been promoted:** Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs were able to promote the right to social security with a strong campaign of pensions, SHG, and ASHA workers. On the other hand, Punjab PRIs campaigns were stuck, as only 60% admitted to running these social security campaigns. 80% of PRIs of Haryana and Punjab professed that they promote social security-related schemes. Furthermore, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh PRIs admitted that they strongly promote various schemes for the poor and vulnerable through ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and school teachers.

Furthermore, the beneficiaries' account was taken only on *the public distribution system*, where it was seen that beneficiaries of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh confirmed that this scheme was fully functional, the same as PRIs of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh said earlier. Beneficiaries of three states availed of a quantity of commodities under PDS from Fair Prices shop. However, this scheme in Punjab was behind at so many levels as the quality of commodities was not so good comparatively, and they faced difficulties more than 40% of the time. In comparison, the quantity of commodities was less throughout the states. Moreover, beneficiaries of Punjab and Haryana said they are charged higher than entitled prices at FPS.

#### **f. Right to Political Participation**

The Constitution of India in 1993 did the division of powers and functions, which have been further trickled down to local Self Governments (Panchayat at village levels and Municipalities and municipal Corporations in towns and large cities). The Constitution of India under Article 243(b) defines the term Gram Sabha and states all eligible village voters can participate in the Gram Sabha. To ensure political participation rights, the Panchayati Raj Act was passed, under which Gram Panchayats (GPs) were entrusted to provide basic services in the villages and plan for local economic development. The Gram Sabha (GS) discusses the development work plans of the GP, which are called ***Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)*** and ***Vibrant Gram Sabha***.

**Right to political participation has been respected:** Data suggested that PRIs ensure that the right to political participation is respected throughout the three states as Gram sabha meetings were regularly held along with the inurement of people's participation in public policy-making. PRIs even made campaigns for voting, joining a political party, or standing for elections, allowing peaceful protest. However, only 60% of Punjab PRIs admitted to allowing peaceful protests, whereas this percentage was more than 95% in the other two states.

**Right to political participation has been protected:** In this, Himachal Pradesh PRIs admitted 90% of the time that they have made a unique campaign for marginalized people's participation in elections and Gram Sabha meetings. However, it declines to 78% in Haryana and 62% in Punjab. This suggests that overall, the right to political participation was protected according to the PRIs statements.

**Right to political participation has been fulfilled:** The PRIs of the three states ensured the fulfillment of the right to political participation by conducting regular Gram Sabha meetings, and they even informed them about the meeting before the date of the meeting and put a lot of effort in the implementation of resolutions taken in the meeting of Gram Sabha.

**Right to political participation has been promoted:** In Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, 100% of PRIs representatives actively campaigned for the promotion of the right to political participation for the participation of Gram Sabha in election and policy-making, whereas only 80% of Punjab PRIs admitted their participation on the campaign mentioned above.

### **In-situ Verification of Schemes**

According to the ***Vibrant Gram Sabha*** data, Punjab state held the greatest number of meetings in the last year, out of which the greatest number of people belonged to the SC/ST community

in Punjab among the majority was from the male gender. However, women are only allowed to vote in Gram panchayat elections (Nandal, 2013). Even among female respondents, he discovered ignorance about the gram panchayat's procedures. Voter eligibility in Gram panchayat elections was typically determined by a woman's husband or other male relatives. Consequently, there were fewer women than males in the active gram Sabha. It was also clear from the research (Sharma, 2012) that social customs are influenced by factors such as caste and religion. Nonetheless, both male and female members of the Scheduled Castes who were interviewed for this article agreed that caste was not a major factor in the Panchayat system.

In Himachal Pradesh, data showcased that all panchayat members were present at the meeting, whereas the percentage changed to 40% in Haryana and 20% in Punjab. However, in Himachal Pradesh, group A & B officers weren't differentiated, and the other two state officers' percentage was low. Most of the time, subjects were covered in the meeting. The data suggested that in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, budget and annual reports were presented before Gram Sabha for approval; however, there was a 20% decline in the Haryana states. Moreover, assistance was provided in the implementation of development schemes in all three states. On the other side, beneficiaries were identified for implementing development schemes in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, whereas in Punjab, the percentage was 80%, which was 20% less than the other two states. Furthermore, as the PRIs of three states claimed that they put their efforts onto the implementation of a resolution taken at the Gram Sabha meeting, it was later confirmed as the data collected by the research teams suggests that all resolutions were passed by a majority of votes of the members presents and voting in the meeting of the Gram Sabha. However, the "*Gram Sabha hamari Shaan, Gaon ki yeh pahchaan*" tagline wasn't really used. Most other stakeholders were present in the Gram Sabha meeting in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, but the percentage fluctuated between 60% to 80% in Punjab. Similarly, the percentage fluctuated among all three states regarding the availability of sub-committee members.

To ensure that the GPDP is working at an optimal level, a ***Snapshot of people's plan campaign 2020-2021*** was collected, where the majority of the details were filled except the publishing of the approved plan e-Gram Sabha portal and uploading of a geotagged photograph of it on the PPC campaign. In these, the details were partially filled.

#### **g. Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation**

The right to safe drinking water is not enshrined in the Indian Constitution as an explicit fundamental right, but the Indian judiciary, both at the State as well as at the center, has, in

several judgments, interpreted Article 21 of the Constitution to include a right to clean and sufficient water, a right to a decent and well life.

In 2014, the government of India launched *the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)*, its flagship program on sanitation. Although the SBM is a continuation of the erstwhile policy framework on sanitation in India (the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan in the rural sanitation context), it did manage to bring sanitation to the forefront of the agenda of implementation agencies.

The Constitution of India doesn't explicitly recognize the right to sanitation. However, the Constitution recognizes the right to sanitation indirectly in different forms. The higher judiciary in India (the Supreme Court and High Courts) has interpreted the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution to include the right to sanitation (Box 1.7). The right to sanitation is, therefore, a part of the fundamental right to life and is a justifiable right.

Sanitation is also a part of the 'Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in Part IV of the Constitution. More specifically, it can be read as part of Article 47, which provides that it is the duty of the government to raise the standard of living. Sanitation is also a part of Article 48A, which contributes to decent living standards. Sanitation is also a part of Article 48A, which makes it a duty of the State to 'protect and improve the environment.' Directive Principles are not enforceable, and therefore, no individual can approach a court against the government for its failure to give effect to the provisions mentioned above. However, it is essential in the sanitation context because they are fundamental norms for the government to implement.

Later, the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) scheme was introduced to ensure the right to life. One of the critical elements of *the National Rural Health Mission* is the Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC). It can also be considered a platform through which all the identified village-level needs are fulfilled. Generally, each VHSNC has a strength of 12-15 members, where the PRI member plays the role of the president, and the ASHA is the convenor or member secretary of the concerned VHSNC. Each VHSNC is granted an untied fund of Rs 10000/- every financial year to mitigate the village-level needs drawn through the village health plan.

**Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation has been respected:** Data collected professed that PRIs representative of three states admitted that PRIs were able to identify households without a toilet for corrective action and they have individually helped people in availing of toilet facility at home, which was later confirmed by Beneficiaries that they have access to the



individual household latrine (IHHL). However, there was a decline in beneficiaries' response among the three states; still, most beneficiaries agreed with the PRIs of their State. Furthermore, PRIs said they regularly check the quality of water supplied to each household and the access to and use of safe and adequate drinking water within a reasonable distance, which was confirmed by Haryana and Himachal Pradesh beneficiaries. On the other side, Punjab and Haryana PRIs didn't raise water and sanitation issues in Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and didn't even regularly attend village water and sanitation committee meetings. Besides this, even beneficiaries weren't aware of the village water and sanitation committee (VWSC). Beyond all this, a positive relationship between knowledge and awareness among any area of VHSC and the PRI representatives is a must.

Moreover, it was seen no official training was ever given to VHSC/ VWSC members about its procedure at the village level. It was seen in the study conducted by Malviya et al. (2013), who came at the same conclusion. Sheikh (2014) also discovered that PRI was generally unaware, impatient, and naive.

**Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation has been protected:** PRIs of the three states said that they indeed regularly check the quality of available water sources from contamination along with toilets, water, and sanitation facilities at public places, e.g., markets, bus stands, are operational. Furthermore, beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana enabled communities to monitor and keep surveillance on their drinking water sources. However, Punjab PRIs and beneficiaries both had a low percentage of agreement on almost everything.

**Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation has been fulfilled:** the data suggests that PRIs of the three states claimed to facilitate the construction of toilets in every house in the Panchayat and the maintenance of these toilets in public places and the Gram Panchayat premise. PRIs also provided piped water and solid and liquid waste management facilities to people in the village. The beneficiaries also confirmed that they have access to piped water supply, and the government schools and Anganwadis had access to safe and clean drinking water. However, all three states didn't provide solid and liquid waste management facilities to people; at least, the PRI representative didn't admit that, which the Beneficiaries confirmed.

**Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation has been promoted:** Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs actively promoted Environment and Hygiene education and rational water use. PRIs also promoted toilets for all households and institutions. However, Punjab PRIs

performance was passive compared to the other two states, especially regarding rational water use.

### **In-situ Verification of Schemes**

The research team verification confirmed that every committee had a 'Chairperson'; among the members were women and people from the castes and tribes. The meeting was conducted at least once a month, and VWSC members took up the issues related to the VWSC program in each Gram Sabha meeting. The community also participates actively in decision-making regarding all scheme activities related to water and sanitation. VWSC members conducted regular sanitary surveys of the village except in Punjab.

## **2. Challenges in the Implementation of Human Rights**

The above data collected from PRIs representatives and beneficiaries made it apparent that rural local authorities faced challenges in implementing human rights. Moreover, previous research has revealed that Panchayat confronts various challenges while implementing human rights-related schemes. This research study has focused its attention on seven fundamental rights as a range of studies to determine the obstacles experienced by Panchayat in executing various human rights initiatives. Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh were selected for these three states, out of which five panchayats were chosen to analyze the function of fundamental human rights in governmental schemes.

Some of the common challenges that PRIs are facing in the implementation of human rights among the three states are explained below:

### **1. Absence of Conceptual Clarity (the role, concept, and primary objectives):**

The data collected by the research team demonstrates a lack of clarity regarding the concept of Panchayati Raj Institution, its role, and the objectives for which it stands. Gram Panchayat is a primary governing institution in Indian villages. It is a political institution, acting as a village cabinet. Hence, they need to know their roles and responsibilities. The four-fold functions of PR institutions are 1. The right of self-government, 2. Rural development, 3. Economic development, and 4. Political development. And as the data suggest, most PRIs members 'agreed' that their information on their roles and responsibilities is unclear and limited. Regarding this PRIs primary objective of establishing the third tier of the government (PRI) was to increase democratic participation, articulate local needs and

priorities better, and ensure more efficient use of local resources along with greater accountability and transparency below average in all three states. Moreover, Haryana PRIs were least aware of their roles and responsibilities, as 86% of PRIs admitted to their ignorance towards conceptual clarity (Role, concept, and primary objectives).

## **2. Lack of computer-based infrastructure and Knowledge**

Some of the Gram Panchayat lacked infrastructure and computer-based knowledge, and the result was they didn't have their building, and they shared spaces with schools, Anganwadi center, and other places; because of that, most of the time, meetings were held in the 'Sarpanch house' due to that female members don't join these meetings. At the time of data collection, when Sarpanch/ Members/ Secretary were connected for a meeting, they insisted that the meeting should be held at the residency of 'Sarpanch Ghar.' Some villages indeed have their building, but without basic facilities like toilets, drinking water, and electricity connection, forget about computer-based infrastructure. However, the Gram panchayat, which has computers or internet connections, is often not functional. Furthermore, panchayat officials had to visit Block Development offices for data entry purposes, which delayed the work.

## **3. Inadequate finance allocation**

To augment the consolidated funds of the State to supplement the resources of local bodies (Panchayat & Municipalities) and recommend Grant-in-Aid under Article 275 of Constitutions of India. Assured transfers to the local bodies for planning and delivering essential services smoothly and effectively within the functions assigned to them under relevant legislation. Despite the constitutional empowerment, the local bodies face problems of inadequate finance allocation, which means that transfers made through the state finance commission are not being used as they should be for the activities that require it. 'Haryana PRIs representative data showed that they were the ones who agreed most that 'inadequate finance allocation' has been a challenge that affects the fulfillment of human rights.

After this, Punjab PRIs, the same as Haryana PRIs, admitted that they stood in the way of the successful work of the Panchayati Raj.

The fund allotted by the State or central government are 'tied' and 'untied' funds, and their allocations have been a problem because of the lack of awareness of their role and responsibility; most of the PRIs aren't aware that these funds can be used interchangeably

after approval from the funding agency. So, most of the time, these are not used and sent back to the government by the officials. However, in most states, Gram Panchayats are found reluctant to raise their source of revenue (OSR). Only a few Gram Panchayats can generate OSR through tax or non-tax revenue by renting shops, paying house taxes, and paying clean water fees. But this can only work for those Panchayats which have more assets. In contrast, those panchayats with no assets are the most affected by the 'inadequate finance allocation' as they don't have enough funds to develop four-fold functions of PRIs.

#### **4. Lack of Manpower**

The respondents mentioned that they experience a lack of manpower as various parallel schemes are running at the villagers' levels, and they find themselves helpless to execute many of them at the parallel level efficiently. Thus, more manpower is required to work faster and cover the implementation schemes at the grass root level. This complaint was raised pre-eminently in Punjab. The number of Health worker-male (MPW)-1 is more than health workers- females. Additionally, the staff nurse is unavailable in Haryana as none of the villages has staff nurses at the sub-centers. Even the percentage of female teachers was lower in Haryana, and it was lower in Himachal Pradesh, too. Furthermore, the percentage of female members in the 'Village Water & Sanitation Committee' in Punjab was lower.

Moreover, the data showed a severe lack of support staff and personnel in panchayats, such as secretaries, junior engineers, computer operators, and data entry operators. This affects their functioning and delivery of services by them. The PRIs representatives had this complaint most of the time one secretary has multiple responsibilities from many panchayats that hinder their pace of work and delay the outcome of any action. This was seen most prominently in Haryana and Punjab villages. PRIs agreed that a 'lack of manpower' was an issue. PRIs also complain about the attitudes of officials like Block Development Officers, District Officers, etc. Again, the officers fail to discharge the developmental duties more efficiently and sincerely.

#### **5. Non-availability of data and information**

One obvious problem was the non-availability of data regarding governmental schemes, as after the primary data was collected, the rest was secondary. Hence the problem was evident in the research study. It was not easy to reach certain government officials in Haryana and

Punjab, and even if they were available, they didn't have accurate data. This led to delayed work and the data wasn't enough for the proper assessment. There are so many places where the data was unavailable simply because the registers were not maintained, and if the registers were maintained, they were not in good condition. Because of the non-availability of data and information, misconceptions regarding human rights policy and schemes have been built. Furthermore, PRIs admitted that the 'non-availability of data and information' is challenging.

## **6. Absence of an experts resource person**

Every village needs an 'Expert' in terms of knowledge and awareness to guide the Panchayat and representatives of PRIs about Government policies and schemes. Their absence complicates the decision-making process as experts can provide knowledgeable information regarding central government policy schemes.

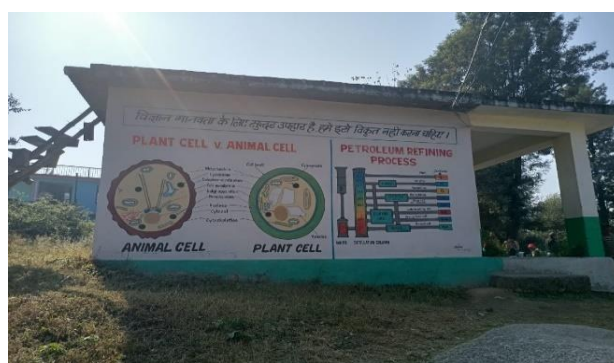
Apart from the above challenges of PRIs representative, it was observed by the research team that other than these challenges, we as a community suffer from the lack of 'Female Gram Pradhan', which in the long term, becomes a problem for the overall development of the village. However, after all the analysis and discussion, the research team noted down that PRIs didn't think the 'Proxy presence of female gram Pradhan' was a challenge as, to them, no such thing existed or they never participated in it. Nonetheless, observation analysis said differently, as when calls for female Pradhan were made, they were answered by their spouses or male members of the family. In fact, during personal interaction, male members answered all the questions and females kept joining or doing their household chores. This showed that the 'Proxy presence of female gram pradhan' is an issue in the Panchayati Raj system in the sampled location. This was similar to John's (2007) finding, in which he found that more than a third of the women mentioned their husbands as the key source of support for entering politics, while another 18 cited other family members (parents, in-laws, brothers, etc.). Only four men out of sixty-one made any reference to relatives. Malik et al. (2020) conducted similar research and came to the same conclusion: women representatives are unable to fully participate in gram panchayats because they are constrained by the influence of their husbands and other male family members. It was also found that the husband was more politically active than the wife was.

## **3. Best Practices**

Best practices are sets of methods and techniques that increase efficiency and develop structured processes with available resources. It is the efficient use of time, energy and resources that produce optimal results. Such practices are unique and innovative, ensuring respect, protect, fulfill and promote human rights at panchayat level. The best practices which were observed during the course of the study are as follows:

### 1. Interactive Learning Environment in Schools:

The Model School in Selbrah, Punjab, the Public School in Sakroha, Himachal Pradesh and the school at Khudla, Himachal Pradesh, which were visited in the course of the study, had classrooms where the walls were adorned with beautiful murals. These murals depicted various things such as alphabets, mathematical formulas, human body systems, the national anthem, the national song, animals, chart of tenses, list of magic words, states and capitals, water cycle, a season cycle, parts of speech etc.



These schools had charts listing the career opportunities which were open to students who had opted for Arts in the XIIth standard. A school also had a mural dedicated to the RTE Act 2009, listing the duties of the State, the parents and guardians and those of the Heads of the

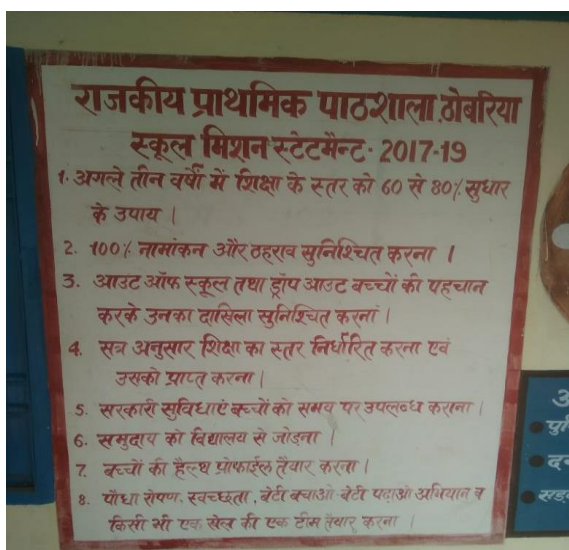


school concerned. The school at Sakroha, Himachal Pradesh, also had a daily attendance board displaying the number of students present that day.

The Gram Panchayats are responsible for the maintenance, improvement and efficient running of the schools situated within their jurisdiction. The Gram Panchayats of Selbrah, Punjab and Sakroha, Himachal Pradesh deserve praise for beautifying the public schools within their jurisdiction. These murals have made the class child-friendly and acted as learning aids, thus allowing children to learn all the time. Such drawings stimulate creativity and imagination in children and also boost their engagement in class. Interactive classrooms also help increase enrollment.

## 2. Mission Statement in Schools:

The Government Primary School at Thobariya, Haryana, displays the school mission statement on its walls. The mission statement lays down the objectives that the school must accomplish. The statement states that the school shall aim to improve the level of education by 60-80 percent in the next three years. The statement further urges the schools to ensure 100 per cent enrollment of children and a reduction in dropouts. It further states that efforts should be made to identify out-of-school and dropout kids and then enroll them. It further requires the school to define its curriculum for the academic year and to ensure that the same is achieved. It also aims to ensure the timely availability of governmental benefits to the enrolled children. The statement further seeks to ensure that the school is linked to the community, the health profile of the children is prepared and plantation, sanitation and awareness about *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* schemes is encouraged.



### 3. Construction of Ponds, Wells and Drinking Water Facilities:

The Panchayats of the states are responsible for the construction, repair and maintenance of public wells, tanks and ponds for the supply of water for drinking, washing, and bathing purposes. The Panchayat at Deon, Punjab, has constructed a pond for water management purposes within its jurisdiction. A public well was maintained at Tybhwali, Punjab, which was adorned with beautiful murals and surrounded by a brick wall. Common drinking facilities were being maintained in Haryana.



Panchayat- Tunjwali Punjab



Panchayat- Sailbrah Punjab



Water preservation through Pond in Panchayat- Deon Punjab

### 4. Construction of Stadiums, Playgrounds and Libraries

The law mandates that Panchayats must ensure the establishment, administration and maintenance of libraries, reading rooms, and playgrounds for the benefit of the village residents. The study found that certain Panchayats had engaged in the construction of common facilities for the benefit of residents. The public schools in Haryana had attached



playgrounds for the children. The Panchayat at Assa Khera, Haryana, had built a mini stadium to encourage sports. The Panchayat Bhawan in certain panchayats had built libraries for the use of the common public.



## 5. Construction and Maintenance of Model Schools:

The schools at Selbrah, Punjab, and Sakroha, Himachal Pradesh, were found to be model schools as their example deserves to be replicated in other panchayats as well. The school at Selbrah Punjab had classrooms equipped with amenities such as whiteboards, desks, and digital screens. It also had a health lab for providing first aid to the students. Government Senior Secondary School at Jassi Baghwali, Punjab, had a fully functional computer lab for students. The public school at Batwara, Himachal Pradesh, had smart labs for the kids. The mid-day meals at the school in Selbrah, Punjab, were served in a clean, open space. The school also had a huge column on the school grounds, which informed the people about the direction of the classrooms. The schools were also equipped with libraries and also had a security lab for disaster management.



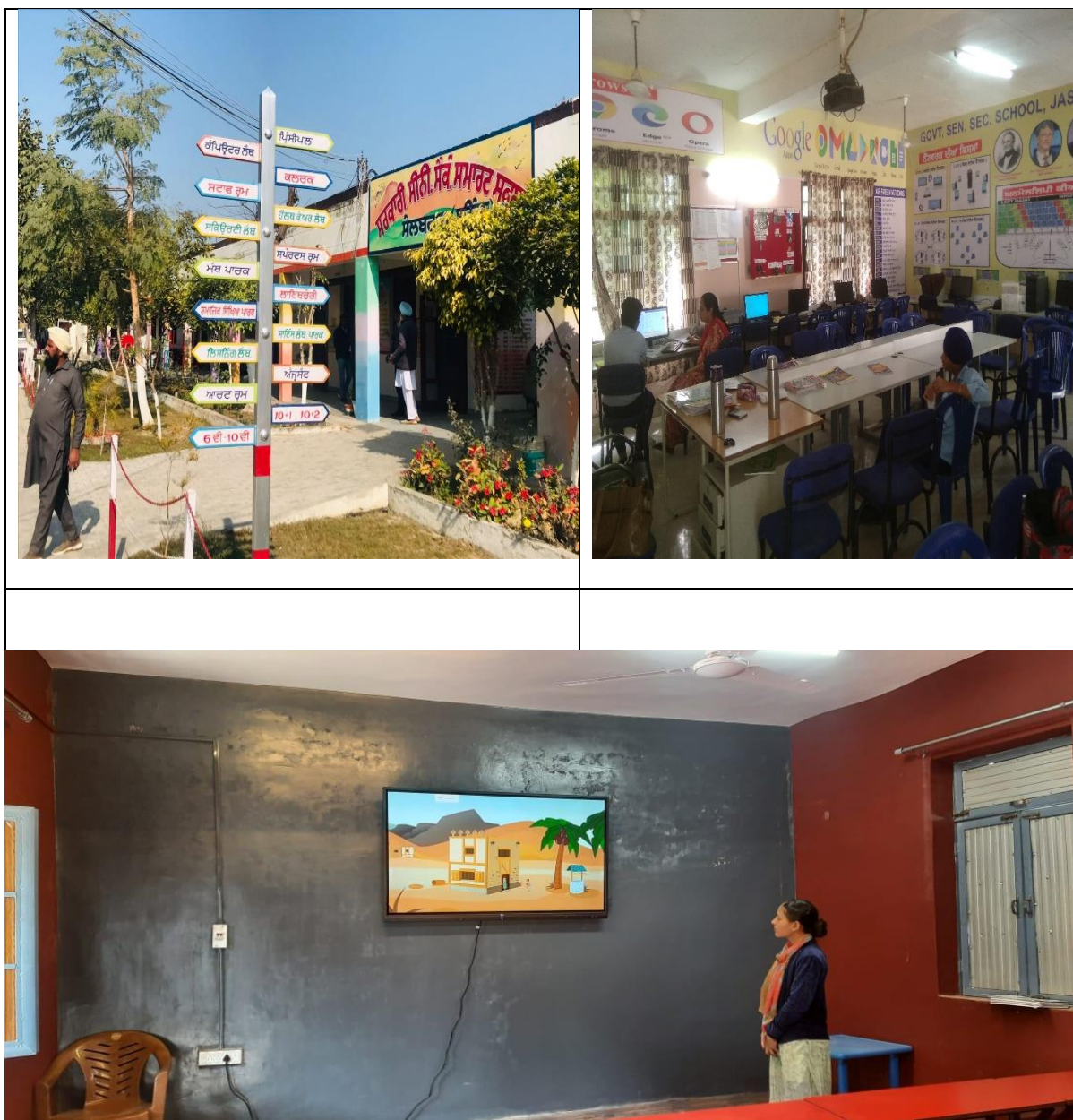
ਸਰ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ ਜੇ ਸੰਸਾਰ, ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਕਰੇ ਧਿਆਰ।

ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਪਾ ਕੇ ਆਈ, ਜਿੰਨੇ ਸੁਣੋਗੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਸੁਣੀ।

ਨਾ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਲੜੀ ਚੱਲੇ, ਜੱਸ ਰੱਜ ਕੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਪੜ੍ਹੀ ਚੱਲੇ।

ਪੜ੍ਹ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬਣੇ ਮਹਾਨ, ਉੱਚੀ ਕਰਲੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਸ਼ਾਨ।

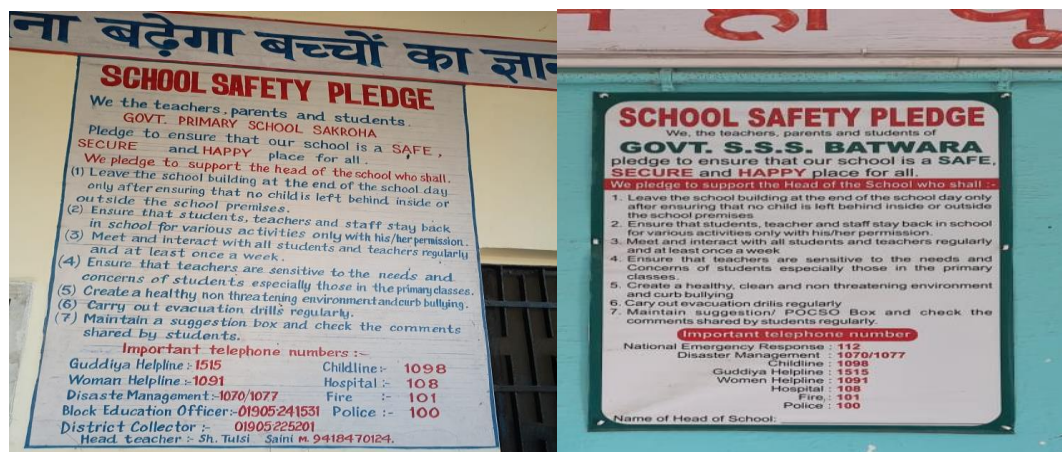




## 6. Display of Safety Pledge in Schools:

The outer wall of the Government Senior Secondary School at Batwara, Himachal Pradesh, displayed a safety pledge. The pledge urged the Head of the school to leave the school building only after ensuring that no children were left inside or outside the school premises. The pledge also required the head of the school to ensure that no one stayed back inside the school premises after the usual hours without his permission. The pledge also stated that the head of the school must interact with the students and teachers regularly. He must also ensure that the teachers are sensitive to the needs of the students and that the school environment is healthy, clean, and non-threatening, as well as measures to curb bullying. The pledge also urged the head of the school to carry out evacuation drills and to provide a

POCSO/suggestion box for the redressal of complaints raised by students. The safety pledge also had important helpline numbers.



## 7. Ramps for Differently-abled Persons:

The school at Tubgawali Gram Panchayat had ramps for differently abled individuals making the school accessible. The construction of ramps in public places was a practice which must be emulated by other panchayats as well.



Ramp for disable children

## 8. Complaint Box at Panchayat Bhawan:

The Panchayat Bhawan at Batwara, Himachal Pradesh, had a complaint box on its outer wall. Such complaint boxes enable the village residents to make anonymous complaints, which ensures that whistleblowers and complainants are not unduly harassed when airing their grievances. Such complaint boxes should be provided at other gram panchayats as well. Batwara Panchayat Bhawan also had a board showing the names of the beneficiaries of the Indira Awas Yojana who were on the waiting list. Such boards should be set up at all the panchayats as they ensure transparency and accountability.





Complaint box Panchayat- Batwara Himachal Pradesh

## 9. Maintenance of roads and Plantation of trees;

It is the duty of Gram Panchayats to plant and preserve trees on the sides of roads and public lands. The MGNREGA workers of the Selbrah Panchayat were engaged in the construction of streets. They had also planted trees on the side of the roads.



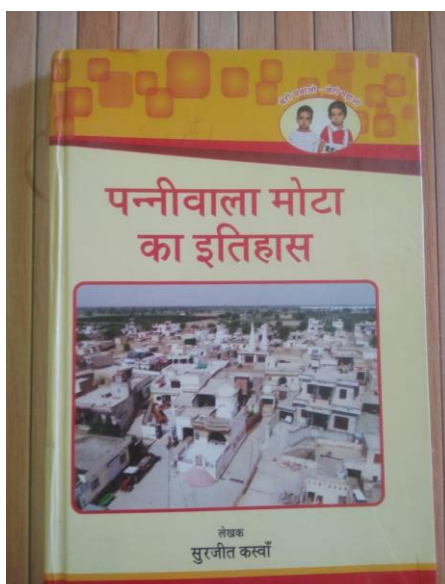
## 10. Dissemination of Information through Pamphlets and Charts at Health Centres:

The health centre at Panniwala Motta, Punjab, had several pamphlets and brochures for its visitors. The pamphlets provided information about diseases and the various government health-related schemes. The health centre also had a number of photographs on its notice board which showed the activities which had been taken in the past year. The wall of the health centre at Khudla, Himachal Pradesh, displayed a month-wise progress chart.



### 11. Compilation of the Historical Background of the Panchayat:

The Gram Panchayat of Panniwala Motta has compiled a book laying down its historical background. Other panchayats which were visited during the course of the study in Himachal Pradesh also displayed information about their Gram Panchayat on the walls of the Panchayat Bhawan. Such practices should be encouraged in other panchayats, which will help visitors and village residents gain perspective about the panchayat, its practices, and its culture.




### 12. Display of phone numbers of Panchayat officials and information about schemes- The outer wall of the Panchayat Bhawan at Thobaria, Haryana, displayed the names of the

Panches, Patwari, ANM, Sanitation workers and Chowkidars with their mobile numbers. This was a very welcome step as it ensured transparency. The Sakroha Panchayat Bhawan, Himachal Pradesh, had charts on its walls that provided information about government schemes and their intended beneficiaries. It also had a board that showed the grants which the Gram Panchayat had received under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan scheme.



- 13. Display the notice of Gram Sabha Meetings-** The Sakroha Gram Panchayat circulated a notice of the upcoming Gram Sabha meeting to ensure that more and more Gram Sabha members attended the same. The notice was pasted outside the office and was also circulated through the mode of WhatsApp for maximum participation. The notice also contained the agenda to be taken up at the upcoming meeting so that the Gram Sabha members were aware of the proceedings.


 <p style="margin: 0;"><b>कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत सकरोहा</b> वि. खण्ड बल्लू जिला मण्डी हि.प्र.।</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">प्रधान श्री देवकीशंकर मो. नं. 98173-77647</p>	<p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">उप-प्रधान श्री पंचक मो. नं. 70182-26734</p>
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**कार्यालय सूचना**

सर्वसाधारण जनता ग्राम सभा सकरोहा को सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्राम सभा सकरोहा की ग्राम सभा बैठक खण्ड विकास अधिकारी, विकास खण्ड बल्लू के कार्यालय अंदेश संख्या – वि.ख. (ग्राम सभा) - 15138-181 DT 24/09/2022 अनुसार होनी निर्धारित हुई है। अतः ग्राम सभा सकरोहा की जनता को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 02/10/2022 को कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत सकरोहा में प्रातः 11:00 बजे रखी गई है। अतः समस्त ग्राम सभा सदस्यों को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 02/10/2022 को उपरोक्त स्थान व समय पर उपस्थित होने कि कृपा करें। इस ग्राम सभा बैठक के दौरान कोविड-19 के नियमों का कठोरता से पालन किया जाएगा। इस ग्राम सभा बैठक में निर्धारित एजेंडा पर चर्चा होगी। चिकनप निम्नलिखित प्रकार से है :

- 1) गठ ग्राम सभा बैठक की कार्यवाही की पुष्टि।
- 2) गठ ग्राम सभा पर चर्चा तथा अनुमोदन।
- 3) विकास कार्यों पर चर्चा तथा अनुमोदन।
- 4) ग्राम पंचायत के विवेक वर्ष 2023-24 हेतु बजट अनुमोदन बारे।
- 5) स्वच्छता के लिए टोल व् तरल कचरे के उचित निपटारे बारे जागरूकता।
- 6) परिवार खाते अलग करने बारे।
- 7) हथारी पंचायत हथारी योजना के लिए वर्ष 2023-24 हेतु के लैण्ड अनुमोदन बारे।
- 8) वर्ष 2023-24 मनरेगा योजना के लैण्ड पारित करने बारे।
- 9) अन्य मुद्दे आवश्यक सटीक की अनुमति व विभाग से प्राप्त होने वाले पत्राचार चर्चा व अनुमोदन।

प्रधान 

कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत सकरोहा  
वि.ख. बल्लू जिला मण्डी हि.प्र.।



## Chapter 6

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Human rights attach to a person irrespective of nationality, race, gender, colour, caste, language or religion. All the attributes that can be said to be essential for a dignified living form part of these rights such as namely, the right to life, liberty and security of a person, right to equality, right to privacy, family, freedom of movement and residence, freedom of thoughts, conscience, and religion, right to health, right to nationality, right to participate in political processes, and right to education etc. have been recognized since time immemorial. After the formation of the United Nations, the abovementioned rights were adopted via UDHR in 1948, and various international covenants like ICCPR and ICESCR and same have been incorporated into the Constitution of India. ICCPR elaborates on civil and political rights, enabling participation in the civil and political life of the society and the state. ICESCR elaborates upon individuals' social, cultural and economic rights, which assure the availability of privileges and entitlements required to live a life of dignity. These human rights are being implemented via various government schemes and laws. Earlier, only central and state governments are implementing agencies for these schemes. However, soon it was realized that in order to make changes at the grass root level, the residents would have to be engaged at local levels. Therefore, the system of panchayats and municipalities was envisaged. Even Mahatma Gandhi had advocated for Gram Swarjya (village self-governance) and viewed that there must be a decentralized system in place where a village is responsible for its affairs. Thus, local self-governance becomes crucial in improving the living conditions of the residents and respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights.

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments Acts 1992 constitutionally recognized the concept of local self-governance. These amendments inserted Articles, notably Article 243G and Article 243W & schedules XI and XII, laying down powers, authority and responsibilities of the panchayat and the municipalities to prepare economic development and social justice plans. Some essential functions for which Gram Panchayat is responsible include rural housing, drinking water, health and sanitation, family welfare, women and child development, social welfare, the welfare of the weaker sections, public distribution system, education including primary and secondary school and poverty alleviation programs which are intrinsically related to fundamental human rights.

This study is done with the objectives of understanding the scope of human rights implementation in LSG, evaluating the status of LSG regarding respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting human rights, to analyze the performance of existing government schemes related to human rights, identifying the challenges, best practices and to suggest measures for effectively respect, protect, fulfil and promotion of human rights. To achieve these objectives broadly, seven fundamental human rights and corresponding schemes being implemented through PRIs are selected.

Right to education ensures free and compulsory elementary education to children between the age group of six years to fourteen years. This right was incorporated under the Constitution in 2002 by the 86th Constitutional amendments in Article 21A. Further, Article 45, Article 51A(k), and even Article 41 of the Constitution deal with different facets of the right to education. Parliament enacted the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, to implement the right to education. Under this Act government launched the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), a comprehensive initiative for school education. Another scheme, Integrated Child Development Services, was initiated to cater health, nutrition, and developmental requirements of young children and pregnant and lactating mothers. ICDS programme provides for the establishment of Anganwadi at the panchayat level. These Anganwadi ensure that pre-education is provided to children in the age group of 3 to 6 years. Item 17 of the XIth schedule of the Constitution lists education, and by Article 243G, the panchayat must implement education-related schemes. Thus, the primary responsibility to ensure the right to education lies with the panchayats.

Right to health comprises the availability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare goods and services. The Constitution of India guarantees every citizen the right to life and personal liberty through Article 21. Article 39 (e) and (f) of the Indian Constitution oblige the state to formulate policies so that the health and strength of the workers are not abused and the children grow healthy. Article 42 provides for occupational health and maternal health. Further, Article 47 of the Constitution directs the state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health as part of its primary duty. To fulfill this obligation, the government has launched policies such as ICDS, NHRM, ECCED etc. Entry 23 of the XIth schedule mandates the gram panchayat to function for health. This study discussed two schemes: ICDS and NHRM. LSG implements both schemes. The Anganwadi is implementing ICDS at the panchayat, and NHRM is implemented through sub-centers at the panchayat level. PRIs are

implementing agencies for these schemes, which are essential to respect, protect, fulfil and promote the human right to health.

The right to gender equality has been enshrined under the Constitution in Articles 14,15,16. Article 15 provides that state shall make no discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. Similarly, Article 16 provides that no citizens shall be discriminated against on grounds only of religion, race, sex, caste, descent, place of birth, or residence regarding any employment or office under the state. Articles 14, 15 and 16, therefore, mandate that the state cannot discriminate on the basis of gender of the person concerned. To ensure gender equality, the government launched various schemes, one of which is the National Rural Livelihoods Mission. This scheme is implemented by Self- Help Group at the rural level. Another programme named as Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana was launched in year 1999, under which SHGs were set up to provide self-employment opportunities. Therefore, the PRIs are main agency to implement the health schemes at rural level different means and help in respect, protect, fulfill and promote the right to gender equality.

Article 38 of Constitution requires the states to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people. Article 41 provides that state is under obligation to provide social security benefits To ensure the social security benefits government started National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in the year 1995 represents a significant step towards the fulfilment of the Directive Principles in Article 41. These schemes are the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Schemes (INGOAPS), to provide a pension for those who attained 60 years of age, the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), which provide pension to a widow who reached the age of 40 years and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) which provide disability pension for people of age 18 years or more. Another scheme is Public Distribution Scheme which was launched in early 1960s to provide food security to people below poverty line.

Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions, and to protection against unemployment. Article 39 of the Indian Constitution requires the state to direct its policies towards 'right to work', including equal rights of men and women to adequate means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work for both men and women. To fulfill this obligation government had launched the MGNREGA in February 2005 to improve the financial stability of those residing in rural parts of the country. Members of rural households who have reached the age of majority and are citizens of India must present a picture along

with their name, age, and residence when they register with the Gram Panchayat. Following the completion of an inquiry, the Gram Panchayat will register homes and issue an employment card. The Gram Sabha serves as the primary platform for labourers to express their opinions and assert their requests. Thus, PRIs acts as prime vehicle to respect, protect, fulfill and promote the right to work.

Political rights are those basic rights that allow an individual to participate directly or indirectly in the political activities of the state. The Gram Sabha is a collective entity comprising individuals whose names are enlisted in the electoral rolls for the panchayat at the village level. Gram Panchayats are responsible for ensuring good governance. The principles of "consensus-oriented" and "participation" are integral to the concept of good governance, and the PRI serves as a means of upholding these principles. The approach employed in this context is a bottom-up strategy that aims to align with the requirements of diverse stakeholders. For the purpose of the present study, the Right to Political Participation was analyzed on the basis of the working of gram panchayat.

The right to safe drinking water and sanitation is not enshrined in the Indian Constitution as an explicit fundamental right but the Indian Judiciary has in several judgments, interpreted Article 21 of the Constitution to include a right to clean and sufficient water, a right to a decent and well life. In 2014, the Government of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), its flagship programme on sanitation. This has triggered a significant momentum in the sanitation sector in India. To improve the village health and sanitation government had launched the National Rural Health Mission under which Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) was constituted. The formation of the committee is initiated at the revenue village level with the intended purpose of serving as a sub-committee of the Gram Panchayat. Thus, at the panchayat level VHSNC act as important machinery by which PRIs are respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the right to safe drinking water and sanitation a important facet of human right.

In this report, we have discussed fundamental Human rights which are required to live as a human being, along with multiple Governmental schemes to see how these schemes help in the attainment of these rights. Various international Human Rights treaties guarantee recognition protection and promotion of human rights in general and specific to vulnerable groups like children, women, old age and disabled person. This report also discussed it. It was a brief overview of all the fundamental rights in relation to these schemes that cater to every right.

One of the primary rights was, the “Right to Education” which according to UNESCO, “Education as the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits”. The constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 Article 21-A specified that state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of age of six to fourteen years and later it was added that the state shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years. The PRIs representatives of the three states have done a satisfactory job in terms of respect, protect, fulfillment and promotion of Human rights. It was seen throughout the three states that right to education was respected as the awareness of the PRIs about the government schemes such as SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) and moreover, the inurement of this scheme was more than average if compared. Furthermore, PRIs representatives’ supervision over governmental schemes such as school facilities of drinking water, sanitation, books, infrastructure, midday meals, etc. was at an optimal level, which were later confirmed by beneficiaries. Afterwards, the survey of the three states that PRIs primarily protected the right to education in terms of human rights at the panchayat level. In addition to this, the Right to education was fulfilled by the PRIs of three states where they ensured the existence of government schools within nearby houses of children along with their maintenance. Even the right to education was promoted to an optimal level when it came to PRIs performance. Overall, Himachal Pradesh's performance was excellent in terms of education. Along with SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), ICDS implementation was also at a satisfactory level. In the three states, children’s growth was monitored, and children got regular health checkups under ICDS. With all the data, which was collected, the fundamentals of human rights were being achieved. However, field data showed that Himachal Pradesh and Haryana villages had better condition of pre-schools and primary schools than other states.

The “Right to health,” was defined as “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health,” by the constitution. The constitution of India guarantees the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under article 21, the right to health is inherent to a life with dignity. Regarding this the three states' performance was excellent when it came to the “right to health. PRIs representatives were positively aware and active over “the National Rural Health Mission was selected as through sub-centers/Dispensaries at the panchayat level & Integrated Child Development Protection Schemes were implemented through Anganwadi at the panchayat level”. Hence, the right to health was respected by the PRI of three states among which Himachal Pradesh representatives were the most active and then the performance of Haryana

was above satisfactory levels. Moreover, the right to health was protected in three states as the PRI admitted that they had raised issues related to food, drugs, and Primary Health Centres facilities. Besides this, the right to health was fulfilled in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs admitted that they put reasonable efforts. However, Punjab PRIs as they refused to admit that they reviewed every maternal death/Neonatal death/ child death in gram panchayat. Nonetheless, more than half of beneficiaries confirmed that they had access to good hospital care. Whereas, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs had a satisfactory performance. Himachal Pradesh's performance was outstanding compared to Punjab and Haryana. Nevertheless, PRIs representatives of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had above-satisfactory levels for the mapping of vulnerable populations and people with mental health problems. Moreover, the right to health was promoted throughout the three states as PRIs awareness campaign on the prevention of child labor along with encouraging activities regarding skill development programs. The services of ANM/ASHA was great in all three states, the data suggested.

The “Right to Work” in Article 39 of the Indian constitution directed the state towards such policies that secures the two principles of including equal rights of men and women to adequate means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work for men and women. Keeping all this in mind, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005(MNREGA) came into forces. As this scheme desires to enhance the livelihood security of people by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The data collected showed that the right to work was unsatisfactory as the PRIs representative's and beneficiaries’ opinions differed, which showed a collision. PRIs representatives of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh didn’t seem to set a positive set for respect aspect of the right to work. As they professed that PRI don’t help people in getting MGNREGA work. Haryana had the worst case as only 21.67% of the time they were provided one hundred days of guaranteed wage in the Panchayat. In addition to that 84% PRIs representative of Punjab professed that first-aid and drinking water was available at the worksite whereas only 9.67% of beneficiaries of Punjab admitted to receiving these facilities so the right to work. Moreover, the right to work was not protected as the beneficiaries were not satisfied with the work of PRIs in Punjab. Whereas Haryana and Himachal Pradesh had a minor decline in the above facilities. However, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh PRIs fulfilled every criterion in terms of right to work. On the contrary, Punjab PRIs were able to fulfill the right-to-work aspect. However, the promotion of the work campaign

was spot on. As the right to work was promoted in all three states PRIs promoted Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005(MNREGA).

The “Right to gender equality”, come under article 14, where the state can’t refuse equality to any person, and it can neither decline the protection of individual laws within the territorial boundary of India. The constitution guarantees women’s empowerment and encourages the state to adopt various measures of equality and empowerment in favor of women. For the presents study, national rural livelihoods mission and self-help group schemes were used where it was seen that right to gender equality was respected by the PRIs of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, women groups were very active if compared to Punjab, which lagged even at girl child enrollment in Anganwadi. On the contrary, Punjab PRIs representatives admitted that they do ensure gender equality because of this right to gender equality was protected. As the combat was ensured against domestic violence and child marriage, early marriage and even forced marriage, and female feticide was prevented, and appropriate action was taken by the PRIs representative. Furthermore, right to gender equality was fulfilled by the PRIs representatives of all three states. moreover, all three states admitted that they do check equal wages for equal wages for equal work (gender wise). The data also showed that right to gender equality was excellently promoted by Himachal Pradesh, after which Haryana made efforts to promote school enrollment and retention of girls. Punjab had the least percentage of campaigns that were promoted. Overall, the data indicated that in recent years SHG was opened in these three states in increasing order, out of which Haryana was more active even though the funds received were more in Haryana.

The “Right to social security” is measure of protection which society provides for its members through a series of public measures against the economic and social distress that otherwise would be caused by the stoppage or substantial reduction of earnings resulting from old age, disability, death, or unemployment. And for this, India's government has introduced schemes, namely, Pension schemes (old age/widow/disabled person) and public distribution system. The Right to social security was respected PRIs and later, it was confirmed by the beneficiaries, the research data suggested. After that the right to social security was protected too as Himachal Pradesh PRIs, along with Haryana PRIs, were able to ensure Health worker proficiency at the ground level. However, Punjab PRIs failed to fulfill the right to social security as PDS (the public distribution system) scheme lacked behind in the quality of commodities and beneficiaries complained that they faced difficulties in receiving the commodities. Even the quality was less throughout the three states. However, the right to social security was promoted

with a stronger campaign of pensions, SHG, and ASHA workers by Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs.

The “Right to political participation” was in the constitution of India under article 243(b) defines the term Gram Sabha and states all eligible village voters can participate in the Gram Sabha. To ensure political participation rights, the Panchayat Raj Act was made under which Gram panchayat (GPs) were entrusted to provide basic services in the villages and plan for local economic development. The right to social security was respected as the elections were held regularly along with Gram Sabha meetings. Moreover, Himachal Pradesh PRIs admitted 90% of the time the PRIs made a unique campaign for marginalized people’s participation in elections and Gram Sabha meetings which protected the right to social security. To fulfillment of the right to social security all the necessary actions were taken to ensure political participation, such as people of villages were informed prior to the date of the meeting and efforts were made for the implementation of resolutions taken in the meeting of Gram Sabha. Although PRIs ensured active campaigns for the promotion of the right to political participation. All of this was verified by the research team as the data suggested that in fact, all the Gram Sabha meetings were held indeed, and everyone participated in the elections too.

The “Rights to safe drinking water and sanitation” is not enshrined in the Indian constitution as an explicit fundamental right, but the Indian judiciary, both at the state as well as at the centre, has, in several judgements, interpreted Article 21 of the constitution to include a right to clean and sufficient water, a right to a decent and well life. And all this the government of India launched the Swacch Bharat Mission (SBM) and the national rural health mission. The “right to safe drinking water and sanitation” was respected as all the PRIs of the three states were aware of their responsibility regarding sanitation and clean water. Moreover, the beneficiaries confirmed that they received most of the facilities, such as piped water and access to safe drinking water was provided PRI. PRIs of three state protected the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as they regularly check the quality of available water sources from contamination along with toilets, water, and sanitation facility at public places, e.g., markets, bus stands, are operational. Furthermore, even the right to safe environment was fulfilled as the three states PRIs claimed that they facilitated the construction of toilets in every house in the panchayat and the maintenance of these toilets in public places and the Gram Panchayat premise. Besides this, the Right to Safe Environment has been promoted by Himachal Pradesh and Haryana PRIs actively about Environment and Hygiene education and rational water use.



The report concluded that in the states of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, most of the schemes were working at a satisfactory rate, out of which Himachal Pradesh functionary was above average. However, it has been stated by Satyanarayana (2014) that despite India's tremendous initiatives to increase decentralization and local self-governance, human rights breaches at all levels have not lessened. Moreover, he added that it was ironic how elections in India have become a venue for grave human rights breaches, which was evident.

Additionally, PRIs faced some common challenges in the implementation of their duties. The research data suggested that the majority of PRIs were affected by the 'Absence of Conceptual Clarity, Lack of computer-based infrastructure and Knowledge, Inadequate finance allocation, Lack of Manpower, Non-availability of data and information, and The absence of experts' resource person ' apart from them, it was seen that there was a lack of Female Gram Pradhan and how the PRIs didn't think 'Proxy presence of female gram Pradhan' was a challenge as to them no such thing existed or they never participated in it.

The report also highlights the best practices which were observed in the three states during the course of the study. These practices were found to be unique and innovative as they secured the optimal use of the resources and thus ensured that the human rights were respected, protected, fulfilled and promoted at the Panchayat level. These best practices included interactive classrooms, display of mission statement and safety pledges in schools which highlighted the objectives to be accomplished by the school and ensured safety of the children, construction of stadiums, playgrounds, ponds, wells and libraries for the benefit of the general public, maintenance of model schools for providing well-rounded education, construction of ramps for differently-abled individuals, provision of complaint boxes in panchayats, compilation of the historical background of the concerned panchayats and display of names and mobile numbers of Panchayat officials outside *Panchayat Bhawans*.

The study reported that performance of the PRIs working in Himachal and Haryana is better in comparison to those working in Punjab. While the PRIs of Himachal and Haryana consistently reported favourable responses, the responses of PRIs of Punjab were found lacking in certain parameters. Prima facie the report might suggest that Punjab had a long way to go in order to catch-up with its neighbouring counterparts, but it must not be understood to say that the human rights were not being respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled in Punjab. The report stresses that the realization of human rights is a work in progress and all the states and their PRIs must continue to endeavour for the realization of the same.

## Recommendations:

Following are the recommendations for better implementation of human rights across the three states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh through local self-governance:

1. **Right to Education-** The study reveals that there is still a lack of awareness about the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan among the beneficiaries. For the benefits of the schemes to trickle down to the beneficiaries, it is essential that they are well informed about their entitlements under it. The policy makers must devise ways to ensure that the beneficiaries are informed about the existence of these schemes so that they are able to avail the benefits.

Further, the study also shows a disparity in the level of satisfaction of beneficiaries regarding additional facilities in schools such as those related to the availability of books, drinking water, clean toilets etc. The studies have shown that the availability of additional facilities has a positive impact on the enrolment ratio and drop-out ratio. Thus, efforts must be made to ensure the availability of these basic amenities in all the schools across the states. Timely disbursement of books and uniforms is essential to the fulfillment of the right to education. The monitoring and involvement of PRI representatives in school activities go a long way in ensuring zero drop-outs and boosting enrollment in the schools. The responses show scope for improvement in this regard; not all of the representatives actively monitor school activities, and this needs to be addressed immediately to effectively realize the right to education.

Further, the PRIs representatives must take steps to ensure that schools progressively switch to modern educational facilities so that the students of public schools are at par with the students of private schools. The PRI representatives must also take steps to promote Total Literacy Campaigns, as imparting basic literacy to the adult illiterates of the Panchayat area also falls within the ambit of the right to education. Even though the states have fared well when it comes to imparting school education, the facilities for pre-school education need an overhaul. The responses reveal that less than 50 percent of children availed pre-school education at Anganwadi centres. Also, the beneficiaries did not get the requisite nutrition and health education from the Anganwadi centres. Pre-school education forms the foundation of psychological, physical and social development of child and therefore, it is important that it is imparted to all the children without any distinction. Steps must be taken to identify the reasons for low enrolment in Anganwadi centres, and the same must be remedied.

2. **Right to Health-** The study reveals that there have been fewer efforts in the inspection and mapping of vulnerable populations and people with mental health problems. The PRIs must take steps to ensure that mental health conditions are not disregarded. People with mental illnesses need to be provided equivalent support as provided to those suffering with physical ailments. Efforts must be made to help them in their recovery and to destigmatize the issue of mental health. The availability of generic medicines and contraceptives must be ensured at sub-centers and PHCs, as the right to health cannot be realized without the availability of essential medicines. The responses also showed that in the state of Punjab, all the PRIs could not review maternal death/ neonatal death/ child death in the Gram Panchayat and this is worrying as the PRIs must be aware about such deaths and the reasons behind the same.

The responses revealed that VHNSC members received little to no training, and this needs to be addressed as soon as possible as the VHNSC members are tasked with the responsibility of maintaining records of vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, and malnourished children and events such as births, deaths and immunization at the Panchayat level. The responses also revealed that the beneficiaries in Punjab did not utilize sub-centres/PHCs as these establishments lacked proper facilities. The PRIs representatives must take steps to ensure that the sub-centres/PHCs have proper amenities including sterilizing instruments and disposable delivery kits.

3. **Right to Work-** The study reveals tha there is a disparity across the three states in the fulfillment of the entitlement of one hundred days of guaranteed wage under the MGNREGS scheme. This shows that the state has been unable to fulfill its statutory promise of providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled work.

Beneficiaries also reported that they do not get 10% extra wages if employment was provided beyond a 5 km radius. This is contrary to what has been provided in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, which clearly provides that in case the employment is provided outside the radius, the labourers shall be paid ten percent of the wage rate as extra wages to meet additional transportation and expenses for living. The PRIs representatives must also ensure the availability of drinking water and first aid facilities at the worksite, as several beneficiaries cited a lack of these facilities.

Further, the PRIs must take steps to check child labor and discourage the employment of child laborers at the Panchayat level. They must also ensure timely disbursement of the wages of the workers working under the scheme. Another aspect that needs looking into is the practice of non-issuance of receipts. The PRI representatives must ensure that all the records, including muster rolls, are properly documented and receipts are issued promptly to the workers.

4. **Right to Gender Equality-** The study revealed that all the states were taking active steps to ensure gender equality. However, PRI representatives of all three states have the least response rates when it comes to the efforts to eradicate abuse of the aged and disabled. Disabled and aged women are more vulnerable when compared to disabled and aged males and therefore it was important that their concerns were heard and promptly addressed. Further, the PRI representatives can also take steps to address the gender wage gap so that men and women are paid equally for their work.

Further, in Punjab, the PRI representatives' responses showed that they did not encourage women to equally participate in local governance and decision-making, and this is ironic as the state of Punjab has reserved fifty percent of seats for women at the Panchayat level. The efforts for gender sensitization need to be carried out at the grassroots level in Punjab to ensure the effective participation of women in local self-governments.

5. **Right to Social Security-** The study revealed that even though there was ample evidence of pensions being disbursed yet much more could be done to maximize care and protection of vulnerable individuals or households. More efforts are needed at the Panchayat level to provide employment opportunities to differently-abled persons. The responses also revealed that in Punjab, the PRI representatives were not able to converge funds towards social security programs under the Gram Panchayat Development Plan, and this hampers the inurement of entitlements to the concerned beneficiaries.

Further, the public distribution system and the Fair Price shops need to be scrutinized in Punjab as beneficiaries complained about commodity quality and difficulties in accessing the scheme.

6. **Right to Political Participation-** The study reveals that PRI representatives across the three states need to be more proactive when it comes to the right of political participation of individuals belonging to marginalized communities. Further, the PRI representatives of Punjab must ensure the right to peaceful protest to the Gram Sabha

members as it is not only a human right but also a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution.

7. **Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation-** The study revealed that the realization of right to safe drinking water and sanitation was hampered as the PRIs representatives failed to raise the water and sanitation issues in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and didn't even regularly attend village water and sanitation committee meetings. Steps must be taken to sensitize PRIs representatives about the importance of such issues.

The beneficiary responses revealed that they weren't aware of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC). The PRIs representative must remedy this by informing the beneficiaries about the workings of the committee and how these committees are indispensable for achieving drinking water security at the Panchayat level. The study also revealed that there is an urgent requirement to address the provision of solid and liquid waste management facilities at the Panchayat level across the three states.

In addition to the above recommendations, which are specific to the rights concerned, certain other steps may improve the overall realization of rights. Young and highly educated people from diverse disciplines should be encouraged to run for elections at Panchayat levels. There must be provision for training of newly elected PRI representatives to brief them about their duties and responsibilities. Help of experts and resource persons from various fields must be encouraged to ensure the realization of human rights at the Panchayat level. The Panchayat members must be trained to converge funds under various schemes for optimum utilization. Panchayats must also be encouraged to generate their own funds which can be then be used for developing common resources. At present PRIs are overburdened as they have multiple functions to perform, there must be some manpower at their disposal to ensure that all their duties are discharged effectively. Also, the establishments and offices through which PRI representatives work should be modernized so that the benefits of technological advancement reach the local populace.

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### Data Collection during field visit in Punjab



Panchayat: Sailbrah (Block- Phul)



Panchayat: Jassi Baghwali (Block- Sangat)



Panchayat: Tunjawali (Block- Nathana)



Panchayat: Burj (Block- Sangat)



Panchayat: Deon (Block- Bathinda)



<b>Data Collection during field visit in Himachal Pradesh</b>	
	
<b>Panchayat: Sakroha (Block: Balh)</b>	<b>Panchayat: Bhadyara (Block: Chauntra)</b>
	
<b>Panchayat: Seyog (Block- Mandi Sadar)</b>	<b>Panchayat: Nagwain (Block- Bali Chowk)</b>
	
<b>Panchayat: Khudla (Block: Gopalpur)</b>	



### Data Collection during field visit in Haryana



Panchayat: Thobaria (B- Ellenbad)



Panchayat: Rupawas (B-Nathusari Chopta)



Panchayat: Panniwala Motta (Block- Odhan)



Panchayat: Surtia (Block- Baragugha)



Panchayat: Assa Khera (Block- Dabwali)