



## Teacher's Guide

Local Government

Part 2

Based on the Karnataka State Board Curriculum for  
Standard VIII



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

Janaagraha's initiative to improve citizen engagement in India's democracy through their civic learning program

Developed in collaboration with Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)

## Local Government | Teacher's Guide (2/3) Part 2

Class VIII

Board – Karnataka State Board

Subject – Social Science

Textbook – Social Science Textbook for Class VIII (Karnataka Textbook Society)

Chapter 4 – Local Government

Number of parts – 03

Length – 75-90 minutes (estimated, for a class of 40-45 students)

*Note: Teachers may divide the lesson plan into as many periods as they see fit*

### Section I – What are we going to learn and why is it important?

#### Learning objectives

Students will:

- Learn about the composition of the local governing bodies in rural areas and the relationship between the different levels.

#### Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Understand how local governments function in rural areas in India.
- Understand the complex nature of governance at the local level in rural areas.

#### Key Terms

Grama Sabha	Wards & ward members	Gram Panchayat	Taluk Panchayat	Zilla Panchayat
President of Panchayat	Vice President of Panchayat			

#### Materials needed

- 10 prints of grama, taluk, and zilla panchayat each, one print for every student of the information table for activity describing each components of rural local government. (Printable sheets available in the appendix section)

## Section II – How are we going to learn?

### Opening Session: Building a hook

Time: 5 minutes

### Note to the teacher:

This activity is aimed at getting students to understand the need for a local body that can look after the everyday needs and concerns of people living in rural areas. This can be your prompt. Somewhere in between the prompt, you can show the picture on the right.

### Facilitation notes:

- So class, last week I met an old friend and she/he was talking about something that I felt fits well with our lesson today and that is why I am sharing it with you. May be we can come up with some solutions for her.
- So she/ he visited her village in Karnataka last week and she was surprised to see how 50 cases of Cholera had come up in her village recently. The village has a population of 200 people, so 25 % of the population is suffering from Cholera.
- For your information, Cholera is caused by eating food or drinking water contaminated by certain bacteria (*Vibrio Cholerae*).
- Three young kids have lost their lives and the situation is only getting worse. What is astonishing is that there are no Cholera cases in the neighbouring villages.
- We were wondering what would have happened? What do you think happened? Why so many cases suddenly?
- Take 3 to 4 responses from the class. (Expected answers- maybe the water in the village is infected. Maybe the main food crop got infected etc.)
- What can she/he do now? Is there anyone she/he can contact for help?
- Take 3 to 4 responses from the class.
- Thank you for all your help! I will communicate your suggestions. What you shared are problems of the village, whose solution also lie in it. This can happen to any village anywhere. So let's understand today, who takes care of things like water, sanitation and other civic issues in our villages.



## 2. Components of the 'Rural Local Government' and the relationship between them

Time: 20-30 minutes

### Note to the teacher:

- This section will use role-play technique to help students identify the composition of local governing bodies and the relationship that different components share with each other. Moreover, this will enable students to look at the Panchayati Raj system in Karnataka.
- For this activity, we need to divide the students into 4 groups. One way could be to have all students count 1-2-3-4 only, till every student has a number. (For example the first student says 1, the next says 2, the next says 3 and the one after that says 4; the fifth student will say 1 again, the sixth will say 2, seventh will say 3 and eight will say 4. The series begins again).
- On the four corners of the class, ask all the 1s to assemble, 2s to assemble, 3s to assemble and 4s to assemble respectively.
- Do a quick count of students in each group to ensure that all groups have equal or plus/minus one student.
- Stand in front of the class and give all instructions in a clear language.

Materials needed: Blank chits of paper for voting

### Facilitation Notes:

- In this activity, we will replicate the structure and functioning of the different components of the rural local governing body.
- Are you ready? Show me some energy. Once again, are you all ready?
- (When the students are enthusiastic enough) Listen to me carefully and follow my instructions. Imagine our class to be a village in Karnataka.
- Let's give our village a name. What would you want to name it?

### Note to the teacher:

- Quickly take about 4-5 responses. Listen to them and select two names for the class to vote on.
- Share the two names of the village with students and vote on them.
- Write the final name of the village on the blackboard. For now, we will call the village 'Z'.

### Facilitation Notes:

### 1. Step 1: Introduction to grama sabha and dividing the village into wards

- Let's assume that all of you are above the age of 18 and are living in village Z. This makes you all members of the Grama Sabha (village assembly) automatically.
- Grama sabha is the most basic unit of rural local government because it comprises all village residents who are eligible to vote. The gram sabha meets atleast twice every year.
- Now assume that our village 'Z' is very huge, and different parts of the village have different amenities and concerns. One villager will therefore be unable to understand the problems of the entire village. Hence, you need more than one representative for your village.
- To see that all your problems are represented well, we must divide the village into wards. In Karnataka, every 400 residents form one ward.
- Let's assume, the four groups that we have formed right now (pointing to the students) are the four wards of the village.
- So, in our village 'Z', we have Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward and Ward 4.

### 2. Step 2: Electing a ward member

- Now listen to me carefully. You now need to elect one representative of your ward, who will be called as the 'ward member'. The duty of the ward member is to identify the problems of your ward, voice them, and ensure that the problems are addressed.
- How do we choose a ward member? We have fair elections.
- From each ward, now select two candidates who will stand in the election for the post of the ward representative. Remember, you must choose your ward member strategically otherwise your ward may not get enough support later. Also remember, no resident under the age of 21 can stand for the ward elections.
- (Check with each ward if they have selected two candidates) It is time to vote for your ward member. Voting in our country is democratic and is done in secrecy. So, we will vote for our ward member individually, without letting the others know. Use the chits that I am passing over (Pass on the chits) and write your choice.
- It is time to count the votes in your ward. Count the number of votes for each candidate and announce the 'ward member' for each group.

(Note to the teacher: In case of tie, conduct fresh elections in that ward.)

### 3. Step 3: Forming a grama panchayat

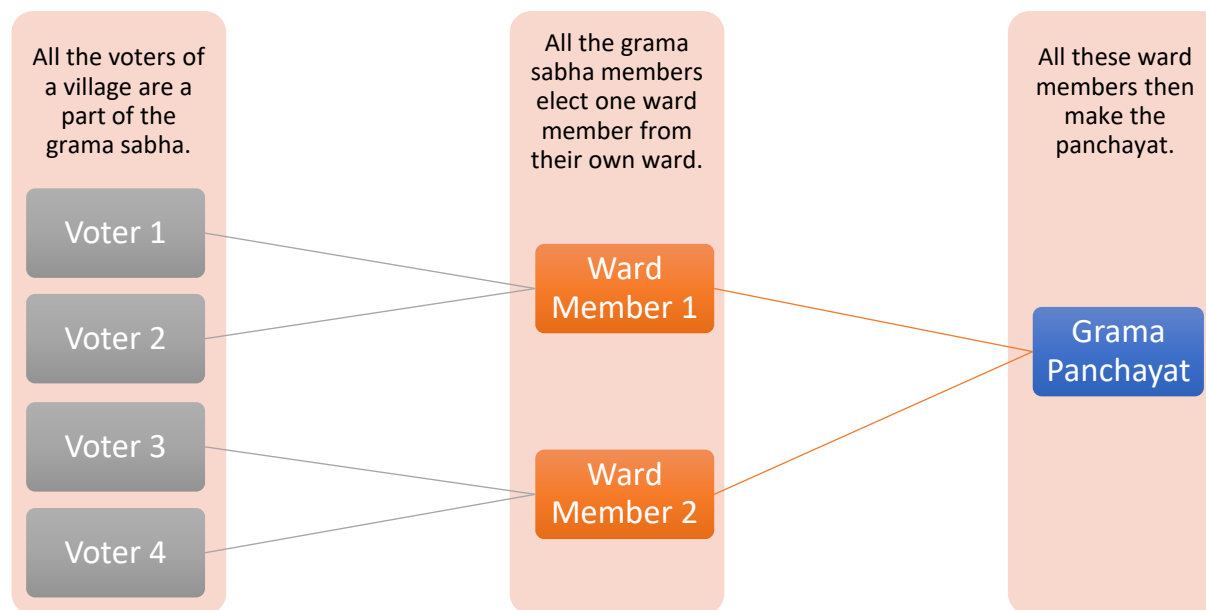
- Great! So far, we have created wards, identified candidates for the post of ward member and voted on them.
- Now, I want all ward members to step out and come at the center of the class.

- (When they are at the center) Dear villagers, look at these people. They are your ward members. Their responsibility is to identify the problems of your ward, voice them, demand support and ensure that the problems are addressed.
- When they come together, they are also called as the Panchayat. Each Grama Panchayat in Karnataka governs about 5000-7000 residents.
- As the Grama panchayat, their function is to provide and maintain basic amenities, hear grievances/ concerns, come up with solutions and act on them. Please also note this down.

#### 4. Step 4: Electing the President of the Gram Panchayat

- The panchayat needs a head, to oversee the functioning of the Panchayat.
- Just like how the residents of the ward elected a ward member, the Panchayat needs to elect a President/ Sarpanch and a Vice- President.
- What do you think could be specific roles of the President/ Sarpanch?
- (Listen to the responses of 2-3 students and conclude) The role of the president is to call for the gram panchayat meetings, preside over the session, maintain the records and implement the schemes of the central and the state governments etc. He informs the people about the village budget and ensures transparent administration.
- However, in the absence of the president, the vice-president takes over. The sarpanch or the vice-president also presides over the meetings of the Gram Sabhas in their area.
- (Look at the ward members) Dear Panchayat, It is time to elect your sarpanch, your president. Since, we have only four ward members right now, we can skip the section of choosing candidates. Let's go on to directly vote. Please write the name of your president/ sarpanch in the chit here.
- (Once the chits are pooled in, go on to count the votes) Dear Villagers, your ward members have completed the election process, and I am happy to announce that the President/ Sarpanch of your village is 'A' and the Vice-President is 'B'. Let's cheer for them and welcome them.
- Let's hope they are able to give us the direction the village needs.

Summarise with the following points. Draw the following diagram on the board:



1. All the adults of a village together form the grama sabha. This sabhas votes and elects representatives. The grama sabha should meet at least 2 times a year and can be called more than twice, if required.
2. Every village is divided into wards for easy management of the village.
3. A ward consists of 400 members and from every ward one member is elected by the grama sabha members living in that ward.
4. All these ward members then form the grama panchayat, which has a president (sarpanch) and the vice president for a term of 30 months.
5. Every village (or group of villages) with population of 5,000 to 7,000 people has a grama panchayat. However, some villages with even lesser population of 2,000 people have a grama panchayat, if they are in a remote area.
6. Grama panchayat meetings must be held at least once in two months. Minimum one third of the members of the panchayat must be present to take decisions.
7. The panchayat development officer (PDO) is appointed by the government as the executive head of grama panchayat. He oversees the day to day work under the panchayat.

### Short Quiz

- This lesson has a lot of theoretical information that is given to the students. The teacher can conduct the following short quiz to make sure that students have understood all the factual information taught in the lesson so far.
  - (a) What is a grama sabha? Who can become a part of it? (Expected answer- all voting members of a village are a part of the grama sabha.)
  - (b) Why is it important to divide big villages in wards? (Expected answer- to make sure management is smooth and everyone is given attention.)
  - (c) What is the role of a ward member? (Expected answer- the elected ward members make the grama panchayat.)
  - (d) How is a ward member selected? (Expected answer-ward members are elected by all the grama sabha members-voting members- of that ward.)
  - (e) What is the relation between ward members and grama panchayat? (Expected answer- all the elected ward members are a part of the grama panchayat.)
  - (f) What is the role of the sarpanch/president of the village? (Expected answer- The role of the president is to call for the grama panchayat meetings, preside over the session, maintains the records implement the schemes of the central and the state governments etc. He informs the people about the village budget and ensures transparent administration.)

### 3. Describing each component of rural local government and identifying the relationship between them

Time: 25-30 minutes

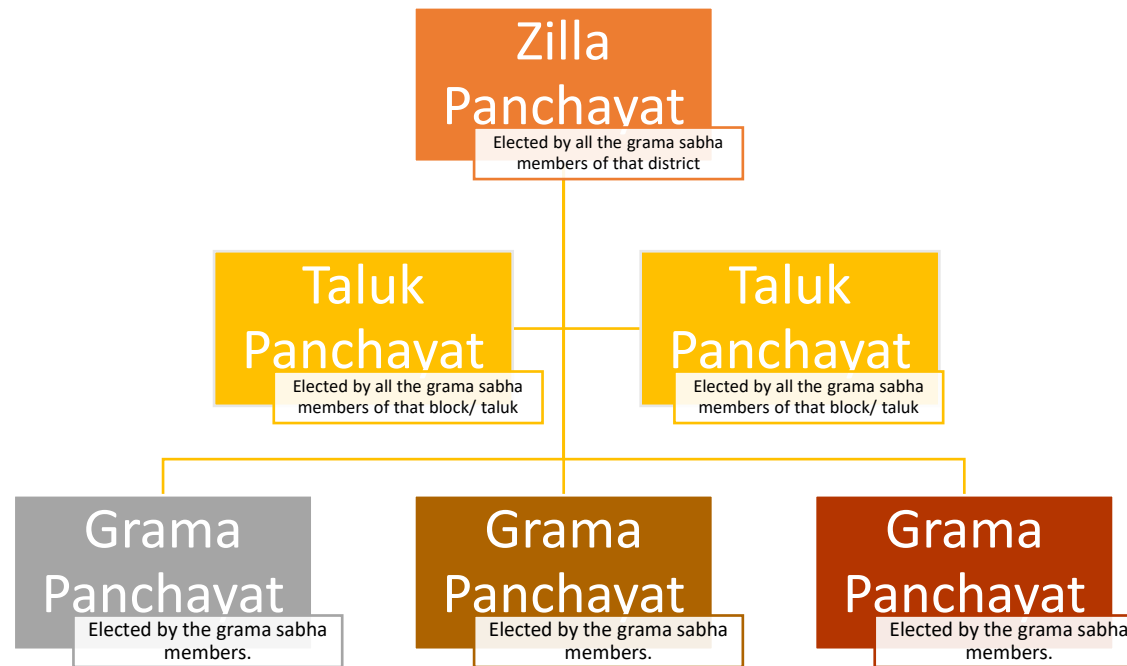
Materials needed: 10 prints of grama, taluk, and zilla panchayat each, one print for every student of the information table. (Printable sheets available in the appendix section. If printing is not an option, please draw the table on the board.)

#### Facilitation Notes:

- So far we understand that gram sabha is the most basic unit of local government. The members of the gram sabha elect the panchayat.
- A panchayat is for one village or a few close by villages.
- As villages increase, having just panchayats will not be sufficient. We also need local governments at the block (taluk) and district (zilla) level.
- Many villages together form a block and many blocks together form a district. Every state is divided into a few districts. Karnataka, for example, has 30 districts (zillas) and 227 blocks (taluks).
- Each of these levels has their own governments. These are known as the taluk panchayat and zilla panchayat respectively. Please draw the following diagram.



- Now let's do an activity to understand more details about each of these levels.



Activity flow:

- For this section, we will divide the class into three groups.
- The three groups are given one panchayat each- grama, taluk, and zilla.
- All students within the group are given worksheets for their assigned panchayat and asked to read. They are given ten minutes to read from the worksheet and their books. The teacher clears any doubts that they may have.
- After students are done with their own panchayat, they are asked to get into groups of three such that every group has one member who studied about grama, one from taluk, and one from zilla panchayat, respectively.
- These three students then share their knowledge and fill the information in the table below in 10 minutes. (the teacher to draw this information table on the board and ask every student to copy it in their notebooks, if prints are not available)
- After the activity, the teacher to discuss the sheet with students.

**Grama Panchayats** are formed on the basis of population. Village or group of villages with a population between 5,000 and 7,000 form Grama Panchayat. Regions of Uttar Kannada, Dakshina Kannada and Malnad regions form Grama Panchayat only with the population of 2,000. The members of the grama panchayat are elected by the adult population of the Panchayat area. One representative for 400 voters is elected. Reservation is provided to schedule caste, schedule tribe, backward classes and women.

Grama Panchayat meetings must be held at least once in two months. Minimum one third of the members of the Panchayat must be present to take decisions. All the members of the Grama Panchayat together elect President and Vice-President for a term of 30 months. President presides over the meetings of Grama Panchayat and in his absence Vice-President manages the deliberations. Reservation policy is applicable to the posts of President and Vice-President. Standing Committees are formed for the efficient administration of Grama Panchayats. The Panchayat development officer (PDO) is the executive head of Grama Panchayat.

*As per second amendment of Panchayat Raj Act of 2000, a panchayat member must have a toilet in his house. If he does not have, he must build one within one year of getting elected.*

**Taluk Panchayats** : Panchayat Raj Act of 1993 provides an opportunity for the creation of Taluk Panchayat at Taluk level. Taluk Panchayat comprises of the members directly elected by the eligible voters. The number of members in the Taluk Panchayat is based on population of the taluk. There is one elected representative for every 12,500 to 15,000 voters. Reservation is provided to SC, ST, backward communities and women. Besides, one fifth of the presidents of Grama Panchayats serve as the members of Taluk Panchayat. The Presidents are chosen through lottery system. They are nominated on rotation basis for a period of one year. These nominated members have the right to vote and participate in all meeting except those in which election of the President and Vice-President takes place and the no confidence motion is tabled. The term of the Taluk Panchayat members is five years. They have the right to resign or can be removed by the Government. MLAs, MLCs and MPs of that jurisdiction can attend the Taluk Panchayat meetings.

The Taluk Panchayat meetings must be held at least once in two months. In case of utmost importance special meetings are conducted. The president of Taluk Panchayat presides over the meetings. In his absence Vice-President presides over the meetings. President and vice president are elected by the Taluk panchayat members for a term of five years or till their membership ceases, or whichever is earlier. The standing committees are constituted to bring about efficiency in administration. The government appoints the executive officer to look after the executive work of Taluk Panchayat. Taluk Panchayats have certain functions to perform in addition to the functions of local bodies. They are,

- To consolidate the annual plan proposals of the Grama Panchayats and to submit those to Zilla Panchayat.

- To implement all the welfare programmes suggested or ordered by the Zilla Panchayat or state government.

**Zilla Panchayat :** Zilla Panchayats are constituted at district level to look after the administration. Earlier they were called district boards. The members of the Zilla Panchayat are directly elected by the people of the district. The total number of representatives vary from district to district based on the population. In Kodagu one member for 18,000 population, in chikkamagalur and Uttar kannada districts one member for 30,000 population. In Bengaluru Urban district one member for 20,000 population and in other districts one member for 35,000 to 45,000 population. In addition the presidents of Taluk Panchayats, MLAs, MLCs and MPs of that district are the members of Zilla Panchayat. They can attend the meetings and vote. Reservation of seats are provided to SC, ST, backward classes and women. The term of the members is five years.

Zilla Panchayat meetings are to be held at least once in two months. One president and one vice president are elected for a term of five years. The President of Zilla Panchayat is called Zilla Adhyaksha. Zilla Adhyaksha presides over the meetings of Zilla Panchayat. In his absence vice president will presides over the meetings. The president has the powers to sanction one lakh rupees for relief measures during the period of calamities. Five standing committees are formed for efficient administration of Zilla Panchayat. Chief Executive Officer (CEO), equal to the rank of the District Commissioner is appointed by the State government to look after the executive work of the Zilla Panchayat. He takes part in Zilla Panchayat meetings and discussions, but has no right to vote.

Zilla Panchayat is like the district government. It has the vast powers in the implementation of developmental programmes and welfare schemes in the district. All the developmental programmes and schemes of the government are routed through Zilla Panchayats. In addition to these it has the following functions :

- To create an atmosphere of mutual trust, confidence and co-operation between Grama Panchayats, Taluk Panchayats and Zilla Panchayat for successful implementation of government projects and programmes.
- To bring about co-ordination among all the departments for successful implementation of programmes and also to supervise such developmental work.
- To encourage and provide support for the establishment of co-operative societies, co-operative banks and such other co-operative institutions.
- To execute the work as directed by the state government.

(a) Provide one worksheet per student. Else, draw it on the board. Each student must fill their own sheet to ensure that everyone has understood. (printable versions in the appendix section)

<b>All what we know about</b>	<b>Grama Panchayat</b>	<b>Taluk Panchayat</b>	<b>Zilla Panchayat</b>
The level at which it functions			
The tenure of this type of local government is			
It is constituted by			
The members are elected by			
The ratio of voters to representatives			
Some member for whom the seats are reserved for			
The members are expected to meet			
The head presided over the session. He/she is called			
Reservations for the position of head is applicable/not-applicable			
The head is selected through a process of			

In the absence of the head, the session is presided by			
The tenure of the head and the supporting head is			
For its efficient administration, some support is extend by the government. These are seen in the form of			
Its functions are			
Some other information about this form of rural local government is/are			

Solutions sheet:

All what we know about-	Grama Pachayat	Taluk Panchayat	Zilla Panchayat
The level at which it functions	Grama/ Village	Taluk/ Block	Zile/ District
The tenure of this type of local government is	5 years	5 years	5 years
It is constituted by	All ward members	People directly elected by voters+1/5 <sup>th</sup> of Grama panchayat presidents+ MLAs, MLCs, MPs	People directly elected by voters+ presidents of Taluk panchayat presidents+ MLAs, MLCs, MPs
The members are elected by	Voters	Voters + lottery for selecting members from Grama Panchayat	Voters
The ratio of voters to representatives	400 voters elect 1 ward member; ward members for the Grama Panchayat	12,500 to 15,000 voters represented by 1 Taluk Panchayat member	18,000 to 45,000 voters represented by 1 zilla Panchayat member
Some member seats are reserved for	SC, ST, OBC, Women	SC, ST, OBC, Women	SC, ST, OBC, Women
The members are expected to meet	Once in two months	Once in two months	Once in two months
The head presided over the session. He/she is called	President/ Sarpanch	President	President
Reservations for the position of head is applicable/not-applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable
The head is selected through a process of	Elections by the ward members	Lottery system	Elections by the members except MLAs, MLCs, MPs
In the absence of the head, the session is presided by	Vice- President	Vice- President	Vice- President
The tenure of the head and the supporting head is	30 months	1 year	20 months
For its efficient administration, some support is extend by the government. These are seen in the form of	Standing Committee, PDO	Standing Committee, Executive Officer	Standing Committee, Chief Executive Officer
Its functions are	Provide and maintain basic amenities, hear out people, come up	Consolidate the annual plan proposals of the Grama Panchayats ,	Create an atmosphere of mutual trust, confidence and co-operation

	with solutions and act on them, prepare budget, demand required support at Taluk and Zilla level.	implement welfare programmes.	between all; Bring about co-ordination among all the departments, supervise developmental work; Encourage and provide support for the establishment of co-operative societies, co-operative banks and such other co-operative institutions; Execute the work as directed by the state government.
Some other information about this rural local government is	Village or group of villages with a population between 5,000 and 7,000 form Grama Panchayat.  Some regions with less population also form Grama Panchayat.	The presidents who are nominated members have the right to vote and participate in all meeting except those in which election of the President and Vice-President takes place and the no confidence motion is tabled.  They have the right to resign or can be removed by the government.	MLAs, MLCs and MPs of that district can attend the meetings and vote. (However they can't vote in the election of President and Vice-President).  The president has the powers to sanction one lakh rupees for relief measures during the period of calamities.

### **Section III: Assessment**

Time: 5 minutes

#### Note to Teacher:

- Take sufficient print outs of this worksheet. Distribute one to each student or project it. If you don't have the digital means, then you could also make the following on the board for students.

Rural Local Government Worksheet	
Name:	Class:
Below is a table of actions, some of which are responsibilities of the rural local government. Read them carefully and circle the ones you think is	

part of their work.

Feed all poor people.	Make annual budget plan.	Loan money to farmers.	Provide drainage system.
Help with fused street lights.	Construct toilets in the village.	Investigate criminal cases.	Pay electricity bills for people who cannot afford.
Encourage people to find work in cities.	Preserve biodiversity.	Set health centers.	Collect taxes.
Maintain a count for number of people in the village.	Set water taps in every home.	Construct new roads.	Encourage people to make private roads.

Answers for the worksheet

Feed all poor people.	<a href="#">Make annual budget plan.</a>	Loan money to set work.	<a href="#">Provide drainage system.</a>
<a href="#">Help with fused street lights.</a>	<a href="#">Construct toilets in the village.</a>	Investigate criminal cases.	Pay electricity bills for people who cannot afford.



Encourage people to find work in cities.

[Preserve biodiversity.](#)

[Set health centers.](#)

[Collect taxes.](#)

[Maintain a count for number of people in the village.](#)

Set water taps in every home.

[Construct new roads.](#)

Encourage people to make private roads.

#### Homework:

1. Draw a flow chart of the rural local government system starting from grama sabha and ending at zilla panchayat. Mention the important elections and positions at each level.
2. Imagine that you were going to contest the elections in a village for the village gram panchayat. What all campaign promises will you make to the gram sabha members in your ward to encourage them to vote for you?

**(This can also be done in the Computer Lab, if sufficient number of systems are available)**

### Know your local government

Name:

Your village/ village under observation( in Karnataka):

If you reside in a village, then complete the rest of the worksheet for it, else, complete it for any village in Karnataka.

1. Visit the Website of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Karnataka [here](#).
2. Go to the section on Gram Panchayat, [GP](#)
3. Identify your Zilla (District). Click on it.
4. Identify your Taluk (Block). Click on it.
5. Identify your gram (Village). Click on it.
6. Now you will see a page on the particular village. Click on the section on “Members”. Count the number of members under each category mentioned.

Members in Gram Panchayat	Number of members	As percentage of total
Number of male members		
Number of female members		
Number of other sex members		
Number of SC and ST members		
Number of OBC members		

Total number of members=

## **Section IV: Closure**

### **Summary by students**

Time: 5 minutes

### **Note to the teacher:**

- Use a simple game like “5 UP” to summarize the lesson. This game is interactive, immersive and allows for the entire class to participate. Moreover, games receive more buy in from students generally. For this, you should be clear with the rules of the game. If you communicate it well, this game will not take more than five minutes.

### **Facilitation Notes:**

- In not more than two minutes, I want all of you to write 5 points that you remember from today’ lesson. Write them down in your notebooks. We will play a game. The faster your task gets completed, the faster we get to the game!
- So, we have been counting a lot today. Let’s do that once more. But this time let’s play a game too.
- One of you will start the count and the others will continue it. For example, the first student says 1, the next says 2, the next says 3, the next says 4 and so on.
- But here is the challenge; the fifth student cannot say 5. The fifth student has to stand UP and share any one summary point from their notebook.
- If they stand up and the point is correct (which all of you will tell us, when I ask you) then they can come out and stand here with me.
- However, if the point is incorrect, the student continues in the game and the next person continues the count. Also, if the student said 5, the student cannot share the point and continues in the game.
- The sixth student has to start from 6, the next says 7, next 8, next 9, the tenth one cannot say 10 again as that is a multiple of 5, they have to say a point that hasn’t been covered. If you say a point that is covered, you still continue the game.
- In short for all multiple of 5, you have to get UP and share a point that has not been repeated. The count continues after that. Also, remember we need to be fast at the game. You cannot be thinking about the number. Are you ready?

### **Note to the teacher:**

- You can keep this game as short as you want. For this lesson, you can do this for ten such points i.e. count till 50.
- The fun is in the speed of the game. Encourage students to be fast, like how they would generally count without giving much thought.

**Recap by the teacher**

Time: 2 minutes

- In our country, we follow the Panchayati Raj Act, which came by in 1993. It suggests having a 3-tiered system of Panchayati Raj. At the district level, Zilla Panchayat; at the Taluk level, Taluk Panchayat and at the village level, Gram Panchayat.
- The components of a rural governing body are: Grama Sabha, Gram Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat
- Each of these have some functions that are directed towards betterment of the villagers.
- Everyone who is 18 and above living in a village composes the Grama Sabha. These people vote for ward members in their respective wards.
- A ward member is a resident of the ward and understands its problems. Their duty is to voice out the concerns of the ward, ask for required resources and ensure to get the maximum support for the ward.
- Ward members come together to form the Panchayat of the village. The function of the Panchayat is provision and maintenance of basic amenities, hearing out grievances, come up with solutions and act on them. Also, prepare budget with members of the village, demand for required budget at Taluk and Zilla level.
- The members of the panchayat elect one President and one Vice- President. The president maintains the records. He has the power to implement the schemes of the central and the state governments. He informs the people about the village budget and ensures transparent administration.

**Section V: Field Visit(s) to a panchayat office**

Take students out for an experiential activity to a panchayat office. It will enhance their understanding of how rural local governments work.

**Ideal visit time: 1-2 hours**

**Field visit to panchayat office**

- Understand the working of the panchayat, their functions, what are the biggest challenges they are facing in the area.
- How often does the panchayat hold meetings?
- If a villager has a problem/ issue that they want fixed, how is it addressed?
- What support does the panchayat get from the state government?

**Section VI: Additional resources**

**Resources for students:**

1. Video: The capacity of local governments  
This resource talks about the power of rural local governments to bring financial stability in the village.  
Link: [video](#)
2. Video: Makkala Grama Sabha; Children as active Citizens ( Kannada)  
The video details an incredible initiative by the Karnataka government to include children in the governance of their areas.  
Link: [Makkala Grama Sabha](#)
3. Video : Grama Sabha Animation  
This is an animated video in Hindi, on the different roles and responsibilities of Grama Panchayat. This is published by Ministry of Panchayati Raj  
Link: [video](#)

**Resources for teachers:**

1. Reading: Chapter 1: The Karnataka Panchayati Raj Act.  
This source is a ready to go resource for anything and everything about the rural local government.  
Link: [Pdf](#)
2. Reading: Chapter VII: Accountability of Village Presidents.  
This source is a research and analysis of the different roles and responsibilities of Presidents of gram panchayat.  
Link: [Pdf](#)
3. Resources to know latest work in the department of Panchayati Raj in India and Karnataka.  
These are informative readings about the work being done in Karnataka by various rural local governments.  
Link: [RPDR](#)  
Link: [Ministry of Panchayati Raj](#)

## Appendix

The following are the printable worksheets for the discussion 'Describing each component of rural local- government and identifying the relationship between them':

## Grama Panchayat

**Grama Panchayats** are formed on the basis of population. Village or group of villages with a population between 5,000 and 7,000 form Grama Panchayat. Regions of Uttar Kannada, Dakshina Kannada and Malnad regions form Grama Panchayat only with the population of 2,000. The members of the grama panchayat are elected by the adult population of the Panchayat area. One representative for 400 voters is elected. Reservation is provided to schedule caste, schedule tribe, backward classes and women.

Grama Panchayat meetings must be held at least once in two months. Minimum one third of the members of the Panchayat must be present to take decisions. All the members of the Grama Panchayat together elect President and Vice-President for a term of 30 months. President presides over the meetings of Grama Panchayat and in his absence Vice-President manages the deliberations. Reservation policy is applicable to the posts of President and Vice-President. Standing Committees are formed for the efficient administration of Grama Panchayats. The Panchayat development officer (PDO) is the executive head of Grama Panchayat.

*As per second amendment of Panchayat Raj Act of 2000, a panchayat member must have a toilet in his house. If he does not have, he must build one within one year of getting elected.*

## Taluk Panchayats

Panchayat Raj Act of 1993 provides an opportunity for the creation of Taluk Panchayat at Taluk level. Taluk Panchayat comprises of the members directly elected by the eligible voters. The number of members in the Taluk Panchayat is based on population of the taluk. There is one elected representative for every 12,500 to 15,000 voters. Reservation is provided to SC, ST, backward communities and women. Besides, one fifth of the presidents of Grama Panchayats serve as the members of Taluk Panchayat. The Presidents are chosen through lottery system. They are nominated on rotation basis for a period of one year. These nominated members have the right to vote and participate in all meeting except those in which election of the President and Vice-President takes place and the no confidence motion is tabled. The term of the Taluk Panchayat members is five years. They have the right to resign or can be removed by the Government. MLAs, MLCs and MPs of that jurisdiction can attend the Taluk Panchayat meetings.

The Taluk Panchayat meetings must be held at least once in two months. In case of utmost importance special meetings are conducted. The president of Taluk Panchayat presides over the meetings. In his absence Vice-President presides over the meetings. President and vice president are elected by the Taluk panchayat members for a term of five years or till their membership ceases, or whichever is earlier. The standing committees are constituted to bring about efficiency in administration. The government appoints the executive officer to look after the executive work of Taluk Panchayat. Taluk Panchayats have certain functions to perform in addition to the functions of local bodies. They are,

- To consolidate the annual plan proposals of the Grama Panchayats and to submit those to Zilla Panchayat.
- To implement all the welfare programmes suggested or ordered by the Zilla Panchayat or state government.



**Zilla Panchayat :** Zilla Panchayats are constituted at district level to look after the administration. Earlier they were called district boards. The members of the Zilla Panchayat are directly elected by the people of the district. The total number of representatives vary from district to district based on the population. In Kodagu one member for 18,000 population, in chikkamagalur and Uttar kannada districts one member for 30,000 population. In Bengaluru Urban district one member for 20,000 population and in other districts one member for 35,000 to 45,000 population. In addition the presidents of Taluk Panchayats, MLAs, MLCs and MPs of that district are the members of Zilla Panchayat. They can attend the meetings and vote. Reservation of seats are provided to SC, ST, backward classes and women. The term of the members is five years.

Zilla Panchayat meetings are to be held at least once in two months. One president and one vice president are elected for a term of five years. The President of Zilla Panchayat is called Zilla Adhyaksha. Zilla Adhyaksha presides over the meetings of Zilla Panchayat. In his absence vice president will presides over the meetings. The president has the powers to sanction one lakh rupees for relief measures during the period of calamities. Five standing committees are formed for efficient administration of Zilla Panchayat. Chief Executive Officer (CEO), equal to the rank of the District Commissioner is appointed by the State government to look after the executive work of the Zilla Panchayat. He takes part in Zilla Panchayat meetings and discussions, but has no right to vote.

Zilla Panchayat is like the district government. It has the vast powers in the implementation of developmental programmes and welfare schemes in the district. All the developmental programmes and schemes of the government are routed through Zilla Panchayats. In addition to these it has the following functions :

- To create an atmosphere of mutual trust, confidence and co-operation between Grama Panchayats, Taluk Panchayats and Zilla Panchayat for successful implementation of government projects and programmes.
- To bring about co-ordination among all the departments for successful implementation of programmes and also to supervise such developmental work.
- To encourage and provide support for the establishment of co-operative societies, co-operative banks and such other co-operative institutions.
- To execute the work as directed by the state government.

Information Table:

All what we know about-	Grama Panchayat	Taluk Panchayat	Zilla Panchayat
The level at which it functions			
The tenure of this type of local government is			
It is constituted by			
The members are elected by			
The ratio of voters to representatives			
Some member seats are reserved for			
The members are expected to meet			
The head presided over the session. He/she is called			
Reservations for the position of head is applicable/not-applicable			
The head is selected through a process of			
In the absence of the head, the session			

is presided by			
The tenure of the head and the supporting head is			
For its efficient administration, some support is extend by the government. These are seen in the form of			
Its functions are			
Some other information about this form of rural local government is/are			

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