

Give an account of the factors necessary for the optimum functioning of Local Government System.

1: Introduction

Local government system is considered a third tier of federal government. It is a local authority which determines certain actions in a given territory. Local Government System is the corner stone of democracy in which voices of people do not whisper but echo. It is considered effective for grass root level service delivery, resource management and time bound policy implementation.

Hence, there are number of factors responsible for proper functioning of the system. Political will, constitutional protection, tax collection authority and democratic values are some of those factors to be responsible for effective functioning. Therefore, the role of central government becomes important in this regard.

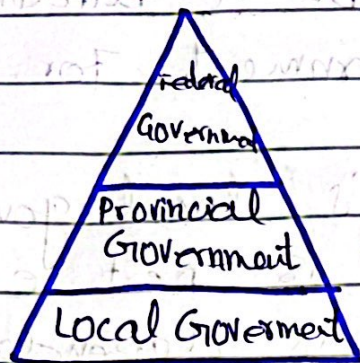
2: Factors responsible for optimum functioning of local Government System:

The following factors are important for the optimum functioning

(a) Political will to transfer power to grassroots level: Power revolution to grassroots level makes local Government system's working more effective. It become the cause of resource management, effective service delivery and tailored-made approaches to the problems of local community.

(b) Democratic form of government:

In any federal government, local government system is considered third tier of government. In democratic government this system is used to deliver services to the community instead of using it against civilian rule.



service delivery
to grass
root level

Democratic Form of Government

(c) Constitutional protection for effective service delivery. It is very important factor that the system should be protected from external factors. For this purpose some legislature steps should be encouraged.

Example

Constitution of Pakistan, 1973
Article 32 and 140-A

(d) Independent tax collection authority and budgetary decisions: when local Government is allowed to collect taxes, it would not only add to national economy but

also would not be a burden on provincial government for budgets.

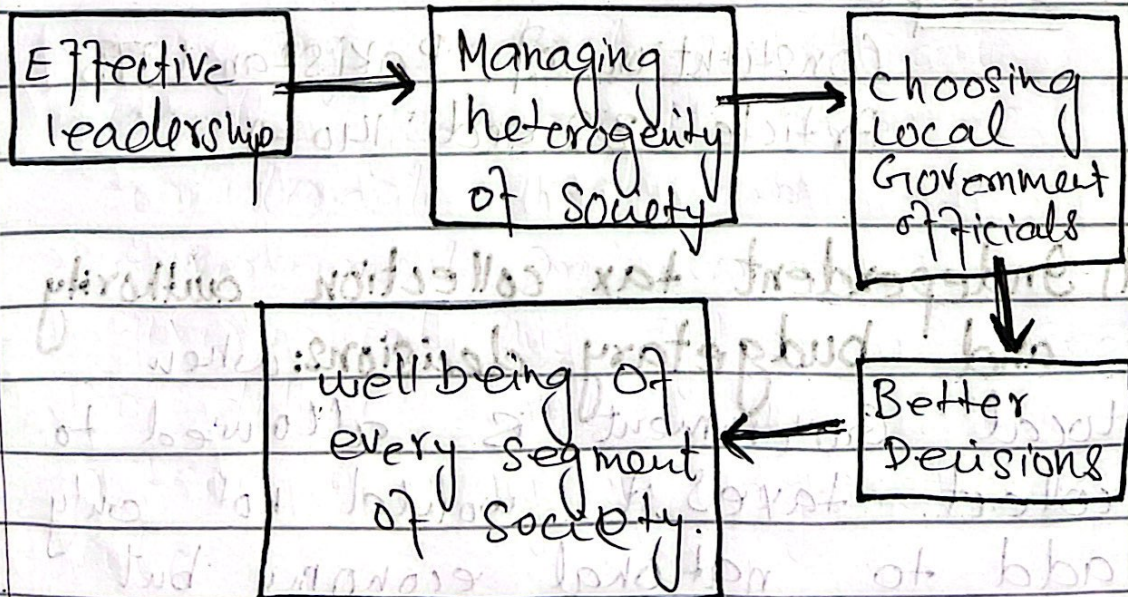
Example

Germany's local government system is best example of it which is dependant on their own tax collection.

(e) Presence of effective leadership and social synchronism.

Effective leadership is a factor that is important in any kind of nation's progress either its a social progress or economic.

Effective leadership could manage heterogeneity of society effectively



(7) **Public Participation:** Active public participation in governmental decisions is crucial for law making, law enforcement and justice. This holds great sense of accountability of government officials.

Active Public Participation

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Accountability of Government officials

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Corruption eradication

(9) **Rational size of provinces:** It becomes nearly impossible to provide effective services in all areas if the size of administrative territory is very large. Rationalized size of provinces become administration more effective.

Example

In Pakistan, due to large size of provinces the local government ;

is although following three tier system
yet unable to administer properly.

District Council

Tehsil Council

Union Council

Local Government tiers
in Pakistan

(h) **Clear distinction of role and responsibilities:** There should be no overlapping of responsibilities of different tiers of government. otherwise, the factor of accountability can be ignored. To make an accountable government the roles and responsibilities should be based on "the principle of subsidiary".

Example

The administrative fragmentation

in Karachi and the sufferings of local community is just because of institutional maze there.

(I) Consistency of Governmental policies: There should be a proper legislative work to not cut off the policies by following government. In this way none of any policy would work better.

Example

In Pakistan, every following government first try to end the policies of previous government.

(J) Political and economic consistency:

The main area of development and concerned is the political stability. It will readily devolve powers to the local community which in return will work for the wellbeing of whole community. In this way, the local Government system will become the economic engine of the country.

Contemporary Analysis: The role of local government system is actually enhanced after WWII, when this system gained a special position in constitution. Spanish constitution 1978 and Brazil's returned to civilian rule are some of countries which added the system into their constitution. In contemporary world, when the demands and needs of society is multifaceted there is a need for such government who will deliver at grassroot level.

For the grassroot level delivery of services the presence of democratic form of government is important.

Conclusion: Local Government System is third tier of federal government. Therefore, it is important to have constitutional protection for this system. However, certain factors are responsible for its effective working system.