

Question local Government System is grass root of democracy. Explain?

## SECTION-A

Question no : 02

### INTRODUCTION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS CORE COMPONENT OF DEMOCRACY:

Local government system is primarily is based on the concept of devolution of power and negates the concept of ~~to~~ absolute concentration of power.

This basic concept of local government system reflects the fundamental feature of democracy which rule of public mass. Thus, local governance positively propagates the basic level of democracy.

"Local self government - is the life blood of liberty."

(John Lothrop Motley)

## LOCAL GOVERNANCE AS GRASS ROOT FORM OF DEMOCRACY:

(i) Participation of citizens in decision making process.

Local government system enables the participation of a common man in the process of making decisions regarding states affair. This is in alignment with the role of democracy.

Example:

In Punjab, LGS has established a system of "participatory budgeting". It allows citizens to participate in budget making process by identifying local development priorities and allocating funds.

(ii) A mechanism of accountability and feedback is provided.

LGS provides a system of accountability and feedback mechanism which further

Strengthens the presence of democracy.

Example:

In KPK, LGS has established a citizen "feedback system" to monitor the performance of local officials.

This system allows citizens to provide feedback and improve accountability and transparency.

### (iii) Strengthening the principle of public private partnership

As expounded by LGS, democracy is built upon the idea of inclusivity and increased participation. These two features are exhibited by local government system.

Example:

In Sindh, LGS has established a system of "public private partnership" which helps companies to improve dispens services provision towards public mass.

(iv) **Enhancing the concept of transparency through resource management.**

Local government system strengthens the principle of democracy that is accountability, transparency. Proper resource management at the regional level helps government to cater the needs of people at the lowest level.

Example:

Local government system in Gilgit Baltistan has established a system of "community based natural resource management." It enables the local communities to properly manage the resources and gain profit to be utilised for welfare of community.

(v) **Improves the concept of decentralisation of power.**

One of the major strengths shown by local government system is the proper utilisation of fiscal decentralisation which is then involved in providing services

to the locals.

Example:

The Social Policy Development Center (SPDC) carried out a survey of 12 districts in 4 provinces and found an increase in literacy rate and access to water supply and sanitation ~~as~~ during post devolution period.

## vi) Strengthening accountability at the lower level:

Devolution of power and engagement of citizens at the lower level

contributes to the Strengthening of accountability of dem which is a part of democracy.

Example:

World Development Report (2004) argued that the accountability of governments to local communities will increase by assigning

delivery functions to politicians  
closer to people

## CONCLUSION

Local government system works  
in favour of democracy while engaging  
people at the grass root level.

Characteristics exhibited by LGS  
enables it to bolster the foundation  
of democracy as seen in Pakistan