Governance Class 10
29th February, 2024 at 9:00 AM

CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS CLASS TOPIC OF FINANCES OF SHG (09:02 AM)

- **The Government of India has encouraged** SHG Bank linkage.
- SHGs have been encouraged to open bank accounts so that they can get the benefits of subsidised credit but universal banking in India is not fully realised, it has forced SHGs to depend on local money lenders for finances.
- Each money lender would charge huge amounts of the rate of interest from SHG.
- They would also force SHG to sell their products at low prices.
- To overcome these weaknesses, macro-financial institutions had come into existence in rural areas.
- Micro Finance Institutions would take loans from the banks and those loans would be given to SHGs at **higher rates of interest.**
- But in recent times, it was found that MFIs are also charging high rates of interest.
- In states like Andhra Pradesh, they have banned MFIs because of financial irregularities.
- It is suggested that RBI should exercise regulatory control over MFIs so that they would not exploit the interest of SHGs.

Other measures to improve the finances of SHGs:

- Gender budgeting must be encouraged at the lowest level so that all those women-specific schemes can be implemented with the help of SHG.
- Collateral-free loans should be given to SHGs.
- RBI has directed NABARD to ensure that RRBs and district central cooperative banks (DCCBs) ensure that financial institutions in Rural areas must provide a significant portion of their loans to SHGs.
- Sensitivity training should be given to the staff working in **Rural Banks** so that they can change their attitudes and behaviours towards **Self-Help Groups.**
- **Skills:**
- Members of SHGs are mostly **unskilled Rural women** and it becomes difficult for them to produce quality products.
- Both Central and State Governments have focused on imparting new skills to the members of the SHGs under various schemes like the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.**
- Recently, the Government has also launched the O**ne District, One Product Scheme** to ensure specialisation for the members of SHG.
- **Marketing and Sale of Products:**
- The State Governments have been encouraged to set up separate markets for the products of **Self-Help Groups** at the **Local level, district level, state level, and at national level.**
- The objective is to remove **middlemen** and ensure a direct connection between the producer and the final consumer.
- State Governments are also using e-Marketing Techniques to create **Global markets** for the products of Self-Help Groups.

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT (09:32 AM)

- The emergence of SHG has led to **the economic independence of Rural Women.**
- It has also resulted in significant improvement in **Social indices** especially among children in rural areas.
- **Economic independence** should be transformed into Political Empowerment.
- South Indian States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have come up with an initiative to ensure the political empowerment of **Self-Help Groups.**
- They have encouraged members of SHGs to contest elections to Panchayat bodies.
- Those Panchayats who elect SHG members unanimously are given **financial rewards.**
- It has resulted in the **Political Empowerment of SHGs.**

FACTS ABOUT SHG (09:39 AM)

- In India, the SHG movement existed for the last 50 years since the formation of **Self - Employed Women Association (SEWA) in 1972.**
- At present, India has 1.2 Crore SHGs, out of which 88% of them are all women SHGs.
- **Examples of successful SHGs include:**
- **Kudumbshree in Kerala;**
- **Jivika in Bihar;**
- **Looms in Ladakh;**
- **DWCRA in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.**
- The SHG and Bank-Linkage Project was launched in 1992.
- At present it covers 14.2 Crore families through 119 Lakh SHGs.
- Saving Deposits of these SHGs are 47242 Crores.
- 67 Lakh SHGs have outstanding loans worth 1 Lakh 51000 Crores.
- Repayment of loans by SHGs is more than 96%.
- The Government has come out with a **Pro-active Panchsutras to encourage SHGs:**
- **1. Regular meetings;**
- **2. Regular savings;**
- **3. Regular inter - loaning;**
- **4. Timely repayment;**
- **5. Upto-date maintenance of accounts.**
- During the coronavirus crisis, the government has increased the limit of Collateral free loans to SHGs from 10 Lakhs to 20 Lakhs.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF SHGs? (09:53 AM)

- Reduce **inter-regional disparity.**
- Transforming SHG members into Micro-Entrepreneurs.
- Focussing on skill development so that SHGs can produce quality products and services.
- Brining more **under-privileged sections of society** under SHGs.

e-GOVERNANCE (09:57 AM)

- **Structure of the topic:**
- Why?;
- E-Governance;
- Steps;
- Major Challenges;
- Solutions.

WEAKNESSES IN FUNCTIONING OF BUREAUCRACY (10:01 AM)

- Centralisation of power.
- Excessive emphasis on **the implementation of rules and regulations.**
- Colonial laws, rules, and regulations.
- Too many hierarchical levels.
- High levels of secrecy.
- Red-Tapism.
- Goal displacement.
- Absence of citizen participation.
- Low quality of services provided by the state.
- Complete absence of accountability mechanisms.

WHAT IS e-GOVERNANCE? (10:06 AM)

- Meaning of E-governance in simple terms e-governance means the use of information and communication technologies to improve the quality of service delivery mechanisms for citizens.
- World Bank defined E-governance as the use by government agencies of information technologies (such as Wide Area Networks, the Internet, and mobile computing) that have the ability to transform relations with citizens, businesses, and other arms of government.

STEPS INVOLVED IN e-GOVERNANCE (10:09 AM)

- There are four steps or four stages involved in e-Governance:
- **Computerization;**
- **Intra-Network and Internetwork;**
- **Online presence;**
- **Online interaction.**

Computerization:

- It means replacing the manual work with the help of Computers.
- With the help of computers, the ministries and departments must have horizontal and vertical communication through intra-networks and inter-networks.
- **Online Presence:**
- Developing websites for all Ministries and departments and also for other Public-Sector Undertakings to provide necessary information to the citizens.
- **Online interaction:**
- Developing interactions through G2G, G2B, G2C.

PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE e-GOVERNANCE (10:25 AM)

- The government has implemented e-Government but not e-Governance.
- In the name of e-Governance, according to the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission, India has only implemented e-Government that is e-Governance is restricted only to the **Computerisation process**.
- But all other Governance reforms are yet to be implemented including reducing the size of the Ministries and departments, reducing hierarchical levels, making citizen charters mandatory, ensuring effective implementation of the **Right to Information,** depoliticisation of Civil Services, implementation of Social Audit recommendations, implementation of **SEVOTTAM Model to improve the quality of Service Delivery Mechanisms**.
- It is said that e-governance in India has only resulted in a **Digital Divide,** according to NITI Aayog reports, only 29% of our population have access to **Broadband internet.**
- e-Governance has benefitted mostly the **Urban Middle Class and affluent section of society.**
- It has also resulted in the exclusion of deserving sections of society especially from Rural Areas due to infrastructural Bottlenecks.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE? (10:57 AM)

- The government should launch **Flagship Schemes** like **Bharat Net Project** to address problems of **Digital Infrastructure.**
- A total sum of 1,39,000 Crores will be spent on this project.
- It will connect all villages in the country with **High-speed internet access.**
- It will also seek to bring broadband internet connectivity to more than 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats in the country.
- The project will be implemented through the Public Private Partnership Mode.
- As part of this, the Government will bear the cost of infrastructure and the private sector will take responsibility for its maintenance.
- It will be implemented with **Village-level entrepreneurs.**

CYBER SECURITY (10:51 AM)

- **As pointed out by 2nd ARC as well as NITI Aayog Reports, India still lags behind** Western countries in terms of Cyber security measures.
- India is still using **Second Generation Technologies** whereas Western countries are using fifth Generation Technologies.
- According to a report by the Government of India, 67% of Indian Government essential services have seen an increment of over 50% in cyber attacks in recent times.
- ISRO is also facing around 100 cyber attacks daily.
- The country also has witnessed cyber attacks on premier institutions like AIIMS wherein Millions of Health records, were hacked.
- RBI was forced to cancel lakhs of debit cards due to hacking.
- It is also found that in India less than 40% of the organisations (both Public and Private Sector) have addressed problems related to **Cyber security.**
- In recent times, more problems have come up due to **Artificial Intelligence and Deep Fakes Technology.**

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE? (11:28 AM)

- The government has recognised the **severity of the problem** and has initiated various reforms:
- **The Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology** along with the **National Electronics Governance Division** has launched the **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Campaign** to address the problems of **Cyber-Security**.
- The focus is more on **Public Private Partnership in Cyber Security** by actively involving the Private Sector.
- In 2020, the Government launched a **Cyber Security and Cyber Awareness Campaign** through more Stringent Cyber auditors.
- A **Cyber Crime Coordination Centre** was also set up in 2020 to deal with all cyber crimes in a more comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- The Government also made it mandatory for Public Sector Enterprises, Financial Institutions, and Private Sector organisations to spend a minimum amount of money on Cyber Security Measures.
- The focus is also on providing specialised training to **Law Enforcement Agencies** to deal with cyber crimes.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill** was passed by the Parliament to ensure the privacy of individuals.

OTHER ISSUES IN e-GOVERNANCE (11:36 AM)

- **Lack of awareness:**
- Digital Literacy is a major issue in e-governance.
- Ordinary citizens especially in Rural Areas are not aware of the benefits of e-Governance and also they are not aware of making use of e-Governance.
- CSOs, NGOs, Media, and the Private Sector must be actively engaged in spreading awareness about e-governance.
- Simple mobile applications can be developed in Vernacular Languages to make sure that people at the lowest level can make use of e-Governance.
- e-Governance can improve the **efficiency of Service Delivery Mechanisms** but may not be able to tackle the problems of corruption.
- For example, recently, the CAG report has pointed out corruption in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- With the same mobile number around 90000 beneficiaries have received benefits in their accounts.
- Similarly, in NREGA, fake accounts are created and funds are diverted, e- Governance cannot prevent these crimes.

SUCCESS OF e-GOVERNANCE IN INDIA (11:53 AM)

- According to the IMF report, the country has witnessed drastic improvements in Service Delivery Mechanisms in recent times due to the development of Digital Public Infrastructure in the last 6 years.
- The report pointed out that it would have taken the country at least 60 years to implement these reforms without Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- In the last 10 years, the government has transferred around 30 Lakh Crores into the accounts of Millions of beneficiaries without a single rupee of corruption.
- More than 1 Crore Fake ration cards were removed and the state has saved three lakh Crores of Rupees in the form of subsidies.

The topic to be discussed in the next class -Role of Civil Services in Democracy.