

LOCAL AND LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

WHAT IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Local government is basically lowest level of government in each state. It is responsible for the day-to-day running of a ward (region), district, county or city. Local authorities are usually elected. Many of the day-to-day services that you use are provided by local government. **Examples:** Police and Fire Departments, roads, Road Signs, and Traffic Lights. Local government focuses on the needs of the citizens, and their services are based on available funds (taxes). Voters elect the officials who run country and city government.

By local self-government, we mean the administration of local areas run by its elective representatives. In modern states there is a great import of the local self-government because democracy is made real in local self-government. A nation may establish a system of free government, but without the spirit of municipal institutions it cannot have the spirit of liberty.

Responsibilities often include the provision of public transportation:

- public recreational facilities or activities such as steam baths, swimming pools, exercise, entertainment, athletic, playground or other similar equipment and associated accessories.
- the monitoring and enforcing of many environmental regulations.
- raising/lowering taxes (especially property taxes)

Function of Local Government

- Planning and development and maintenance of roads, bridges, street lights and storm water drains
- Providing protection against stray animals and animal trespass, and establishing cattle pounds
- Public Health (Hospitals, Rural Health Centers, Basic Health Units, Family Welfare Clinics, Promotion of public health, responsibility for sanitations, removal, collection and disposal of Refuse, infection diseases, registration of birth, deaths and marriages)
- Water supply and drainage
- Firefighting service
- Civil Defense
- Slaughter House
- Streets (Permission of laying out street and proper lightening of streets, Traffic Planning, Street Watering)
- Education (Adult / Primary)
- Trees, Parks, Gardens and Forests
- Culture (fairs and shows etc., Libraries, museum, exhibitions etc.)
- Social Welfare (Welfare homes, asylums, orphanages, widow and shelter houses and other institutions for the relief of the distressed, Prevention of beggary, gambling, taking of injurious drugs and consumption of alcoholic liquor and other social services)

Difference between Local and Local self Government:

If we talk about the difference between the Local and self-local government then we can say that local government are defined as in local government the administration of the locality (area) is looked after by the officials appointed by the State Government. These officials receive salary from the State

Government. Example: Postman, Policemen etc. & Local self government consists of elected representatives who administers local affairs & gets government grants for activities like sanitation, education and settling disputes.

There is more than a technical importance in the difference between the two terms, because they are related to the distinction sometimes drawn between deconcentration (the process whereby (by which) a central organization transfers some of its responsibilities to lower-level units within its jurisdiction) and decentralization (the transfer of control of an activity or organization to several local offices or authorities rather than one single one).

Advantages of Local Self Government

- People get training in democracy. That is why it is called the primary school of democracy
- People get interested in the administration and their cooperation is increased
- It brings efficiency in the administration because the representative of local areas understands local problems well and they can solve them in a better way
- Through Local Self Govt there is a great saving of money in the administration, because the people of local areas pay the taxes and their representatives know well how difficult it is to pay taxes. Thus, there is no misuse of the taxes
- The workload of the provincial government is lightened by entrusting work to local bodies. The local functions are efficiently performed by the local institutions and not by provincial government, because, the latter is already overburdened with work
- The local bodies are useful because they provide drinking water, clean roads and streets, good drains, good libraries and reading rooms, museums, zoos and beautiful parks etc.

Aspects of Modern Local Government

Thus, modern local government has a twofold aspect- it is a mixture of both deconcentration and decentralization. The mixture is revealed by the extent to which some of the powers exercised by local government units are exercised compulsorily and under fairly strict control by central authority with financial assistance, while others are not.

Further, local government is a departmentalization of the state's work, based on the territorial distribution of services, as contrasted with,

- Division into departments at the Centre
- Decentralization of functions to public corporations
- In local government, territorial distribution of power is the essence.

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History of Local Government in Western Europe

Local Government system in Pakistan (1947 – 1958) The system of local government inherited by Pakistan in 1947 was a product of a series of British efforts made from time to time through reforms, laws and commissions, to promote local institutions autonomous in certain respects but substantially under the control of the provincial government through district officers.

After independence, the policy of the Pakistan Govt in regard to local govt was that fullest autonomy shall be granted to such bodies; this was borne out by the 1948 Muslim League Manifesto which stood for the 'very widest extension of Local Govt on the models of parishes and communes of the United States'.

Despite these steps and prompt action taken, the local govt institutions in West Pakistan made no appreciable progress. The above state of affairs more or less continued to prevail (conquer) throughout the first decade of Pakistan's existence and no noteworthy advance was made until the promulgation of Basic Democracies Order in 1959.

THE AYUB PERIOD: DECENTRALIZATION AND THE POLITICS OF LEGALITY The new local governments, established under the Basic Democracies Ordinance, 1959 and the Municipal Administration Ordinance 1960, comprised a hierarchical system of four linked tiers. The lowest tier, which was the union councils, comprised of members elected on the basis of adult franchise who, in turn, elected a chairman from amongst themselves. The higher tiers of local government had some members elected indirectly by these directly elected members and some official members nominated by the Government and had these officials as Chairmen.

Constitutional Status

Local Government under Article 140A of Constitution of Pakistan, 1973

"Each Province shall, by law, establish a local government system and devote political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to elected representative of the local government." Elections to the local governments shall be held by the Election Commission of Pakistan.