

## **PREFACE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Participatory local governance and development concept seeks to widen the area of people's participation. It has been considered as the most efficient method of formulation and execution of any development plan and programme at the local level. The present study seeks to outline the performance of people's participation in the Gram Sansad, an institution of participatory development in West Bengal. It is an attempt not merely to identify the shortcomings of the Gram Sansad, but also to examine it as a tool for rural development, and suggest measures for some remedies which will be able to increase people's participation in the local level in Gram Sansad and Gram Sabha.

In chapter 1 brief the introduction, statement of the research problem, objective of the study, research questions, methodology, a brief literature review, significance of the study and chapterization of research have been discussed.

The second chapter gives the general theoretical background, and it divided into four sections, i) theory of local self government, ii) theory of participatory local governance and development, iii) evolution of Panchayati Raj in India, iv) evolution of Panchayati Raj in West Bengal.

Chapter 3 deals with the concept of participatory development and the concept of local governments and the concept of participation in section-1. Section-2 of this chapter deals with the brief history of the Panchayati Raj Institution in West Bengal. Section-3 deals the structure of the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad and the people's participation in the Panchayati Raj Institution in West Bengal.

Chapter 4 deals with the brief history of Coochbehar district. Origin of the name of the district, history of the district, location and boundaries of the district, topography, river system, temperature, humidity, rainfall, population, education, health, communication, agriculture, industries, general administration and local self government are discussed briefly.

Chapter 5 deals with the people's participation in the Gram Sansad. This chapter offers a critical analysis of the people's participation in the Gram Sabha and Gram Sansad. This chapter also highlights the factors of non participation in the Gram Sansad meetings.

Chapter 6, which is the concluding chapter, briefly summarises the total study. In this chapter the researcher highlights some factors which are responsible for the non participation in the Gram Sansad and Gram Sabha meetings. In conclusion some suggestions have been given by researcher which may help to eradicate the deficiencies of the participatory development.

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