## DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL :A STUDY OF BAMAKOYI GRAM PANCHAYAT OF ODISHA

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## ABSTRACT

The research paper entitled "Democratic Decentralisation at grassroots Level : A study of Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat of Odisha" It is very necessary for peoples democracy. It has purely denoted to Panchayati Raj system at grassroots level, also has played vital role in village Block and District level. But, in this paper is specified panchayat elections and representative of Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat. It has emphasized personality and politics of prominent leaders namely; Bipin Ch Pradhan, Smt Jyostnasahu and sailabala Pradhan. It has analysed their charismatic ideology. Government employment programmes PMMP, RGPSA, RWSP, SNRHM and ICDP, IAY, PGSY, RGVY,GGY, BPY AND BGYY are implimented in this Gramapanchayat. In this gram panchayat two major government programs indira awas yojana and Biju Pakaghar yojana are very well articulated. But, in odisha democratic decentralisation process PESA has taken major Significant role for empowering tribal people .Introduction

In democratic process, decentralization is a radical experiment .<sup>1</sup> A State would be more effective through decentralization.<sup>2</sup> Democratic decentralization has emphasized on political speculation,<sup>3</sup> poverty allevation,<sup>4</sup> Political equality and stability,<sup>5</sup> rule of law and limited government with national independence. It has changed things dramatically. Most of the countries are democratic in this world. Political parties have played revolutionary role in democratic elections. Free and fair elections are essential for true democracy. Democratic decentralization has played in village, Block and District level. Government Programmes MNREGS, PMEYS, MNP, IAY and RGGVY etc have played a significant role in development for empowering Panchayati Raj. In Odisha Government and politics, the year 1961, three tire system of Panchayati Raj Institution was introduced. In Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat , some prominent leaders have played pivotal role. Various employment programms have implemented in Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat of odisha.

## **Objectives:**

- To Study democratic decentralization system of India and also Odisha.
- It ensures various employment programmes of India and also Odisha.
- To Study panchayat elections and voting behavior of members of Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat.
- It Considers position of panchayat samiti members of Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat in BlockLevel.
- It endeavors some welfare employment programmes of this Grampanchayat .
- To study personality and politics of Chairmans of this panchayat.

## Problems of study of Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat.

- Lack of proper education.
- Lack of Political awarenes
- Lack of more women Participant.
- Lack of Consiousness of the people.

### **Review of Literature**

Some Scholar and researchers have suggested and written articles and books. One scholar named Younis Ahamad sheikh, research scholar of MPISSR,UJJAIN has written article entitled "Democratic decentralization in India: An overview "He suggests that "Experiments with local government that end in chaos and bankruptcy ; 'decentralized' structures of administration that only act as a more effective tool for centralizing power, regional and district comities in which government officials make decisions while the local representatives sit silent; village helps to identify the needs and preference of people through their direct participation in plan formulation and implementation . In Indian democracy, Panchayati Raj system becomes decentralize through truly representative and responsive.<sup>6</sup>Another researcher ashish saxena, he derived his notion on "Reflections on J & K "He wrote that Lack of experience at grassrootss democracy being alienated from the people in Jammu and Kashmir all these years. Strengthening the panchayati raj institutions will not only lead to effective governance but also to greater development and better integration of the people within the state as well as the Indian Union.<sup>7</sup>

### Democratic decentralization in India

Democracy of India is highly centralized.<sup>8</sup> Decentralized governance has emphasized on involvement of people in administration and development programmes. It is worked for all people to enjoy equal rights its main aim economic development and establishment of clean democracy.

## Milestones in Indian decentralization:

1882 : The resolution on local self-

government 1907: The royal

commission on decentralization.

1948: Constitutional debates on Gram Swaraj and self rule of Gandhi and Ambedkar.

1957: for raising power of panchayats, Balwantrai Mehta Commission recommended limited revenue. It has emphasized on establishment of state panchayati Raj Finance corporations. It focuses on three tier structure of local self government.<sup>9</sup>

1978 : Ashoka Mehta Committee appointed to address weakness of PRIS.

1985: G.V.K. Rao Committee has recommended to Block development office. It has emphasized on rural development programmes .

1986: L.M.Singh Committee denotes Gram Sabha Should be the base of decentralized democracy in India.

1992: A district, Block and village levels are granted constitutional status by 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment of the Indian constitution. At the village level the Gram Sabha has acted as a formal democratic body Municipal bodies are got constitutional status by 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

1996: The adivasi Act-powers of self government are extended to tribal communities living in Fifth schedule areas.

### Panchayati Raj in India

Panchayati Raj system is known as political system of South Asia. It consists of mainly the states of India, Pakisthan , Bangladesh and Nepal.<sup>10</sup> In local self government panchayat gets constitutional status through the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment of the constitution, 1992<sup>.11</sup> In the year 1959,Panchayati Raj System was first brought in India.<sup>12</sup>

## Village Level

Democratic decentralization in India, Panchayati Raj System is introcuced as a three tier system, But the village panchayat acted as its basic Unit<sup>13</sup> and village is the lowest unit. The executive head of the Gram Panchayat is Sarapanch He/she is elected by people of that panchayat Sarapanch have played apivotal role in village level. He Supervises the work of the Panchayat. In administration process, the panchayat secretary and the village level workers assist to the sarapanch. The Gram panchayat gets fund from the consolidated fund of the state.

#### **Block Level**

In the Panchayati Raj System, panchayat samit is the intermediate in block level.<sup>14</sup> Panchayat samit is known as kshetriya samiti , anchalik samiti , Anchalik parishad, Taluk Panchayat and Janapad panchayat.<sup>15</sup> In different states its name differently, in Andhra Pradesh, it is called mandal parishad in Assam, it is called Anchalika panchayat, But, some states namely; Bihar , Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal

Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal , Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and Rajasthan, it is called panchayat samiti. The executive head of the Panchayat Samiti is chairman. He/She is control panchayats and implemented various employment programmes. Block Development Officer and other stafs are helped to him for his developmental work. He prepairs budget for various developmental work on agriculture, animal, small cottage industries and rural development programmes like sarva shikshya abhijan and MNREGS.<sup>16</sup>

#### **District Level**

In the three tier Panchayati Raj System, Zilla Panchayat is a apex body . All states, except Tamil Nadu, Keral and Gujarat it is known as zilla Parishad, but in these states , it is known as district Panchayat. Zilla parishad has taken main role in various sphere in Medical, public Health, Public works , Agriculture, Education and other development. The collector is also a member of the zilla parishad. The executive head of the zillaparishad is called zilla parishad president, Zilla parishad gets budget from district panchayat fund, consolidated fund of the state and grants –in –aid given by the state government and the Union Government.<sup>17</sup>

#### Government Programmes For Empowerment Of Panchayati Raj

Democratic decentralization has taken a special development through employment programmes. There are various employment programmes implemented in india, namely; powers of gram sabha through panchayat act,1996 (PESA),<sup>18</sup> Panchayat Mahila EVM Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA)<sup>19</sup> E- panchayat Mission Mode Project (EMMP), Rajiv Gandhi panchayat sasakti karan Abhiyan, total sanitation campaign, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Programme, IndiraAwas yojana, Pradhan mantri Gram Sadak yojana and Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidhyatikaran yojana. The part IX of the Constitutions is constituted the provision of panchayat Act 1996(PESA).<sup>20</sup> It is modified except to the fifth scheduled areas, states viz Andhra Pradesh (AP), chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Odisha, Rajasthan, Maharastra and himachal Pradesh. Panchayat Mahila EVM yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA) is a central scheme. It facilitate to women panchayat leader to development and participate in various development programme. It fluent the women panchayat leader and their aim. There are two components of this scheme; one is Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan and other Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan. The amount of this scheme economized during the year 2009-10. Under Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA), the union government has provided an amount of 5 crore and 70 lakh rupees to different states and union territories.<sup>21</sup> It is implemented by minister of panchayati Raj E-Panchayat Mission Mode Project has implemented to empower and transfer of rural India. It's main mato give up services to citizens, development of representative of Panchayats,

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social audit , and improving of Governance of local self Government.<sup>22</sup> Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) is a central scheme. It was approved on 07.03.2013 . The objective of this scheme is empower the Panchayati Raj . It has emphasized to peoples participation.<sup>23</sup> The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005.It provides health facility to rural people. The National Urban Health Mission has approved by the cabinet on dated 1<sup>st</sup> may 2013. It gives important to water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality.<sup>24</sup> In 1975 Integrated Child Development scheme was embarked in India. Four components of ICDS early child care Education and Development, Care & Nutrition Counsellng, Health Services, Community Mobilization, awareness, Advocacy Information education and communication.<sup>25</sup>

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2000.<sup>26</sup> It main aims to provide connectivity to unconnected Habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy 1.67 lakh Unconnected Habitations are eligible for coverage under the programme . This scheme denotes construction of about 3.71 lakh km of roads for new connectivity and 3.68 km under upgradation. The Government of India launched Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyatikaran Yojana (RGGVY) was launched in April 2005.

This programme creates Rural electricity infrastructure and Household Electrification. It provides free electricity to rural households. This scheme coverages of 1.10 lakh unelectrified village release 2.30 crore BPL households and 1.95 crore free electricity connections to BPL households on the dated 30.04.2012.<sup>27</sup>

## **Democratic Decentralisation In Odisha**

In the part of east coast of India, the state of Odisha is situated . It is bounded west Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhittisgarh and Andhra Predesh.<sup>28</sup> The total Population of the state as per 2011 census was 4,19,74,218 (2,12,12,136 Male and 2,07,62,082 female). The scheduled tribe population as per 2011 census is 95.91 lakh (22.85%) as against total scheduled cast population of 71,88,463 (17.13%) as per 2011 census.<sup>29</sup> Odisha is endoweld with varieties of ores and minerals including bauite, chromite , ocal, iron and ore and manganese etc. In political process of india , all states are parliamentary form of government. Now, in odisha Government and politics , main political parties are the Biju Janata Dal, the Indian national Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party. Recently, in Odisha the Naveen Pattnaik from

Biju Janata Dal continued in power for the sixth consecutive term. Odisha has been divided into 30 districts.

## Panchayati Raj System In Odihsa

After Odisha Gram Panchayat act, the decentralization process came after independence in 1948. The Panchayati Raj scheme was first started in Rajasthan on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1959. In 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1961, the Panchayati Raj system was implemented in odisha.<sup>30</sup> In this year three tier system of Panchayati Raj Institutions was introduced in odisha . The main aims of panchayat act is development of Panchayati Raj institutions in scheduled areas. It has taken its development for economic and social justice. The 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment of the constitutions of India 1992, three-tier panchayati Raj system was introduced. PESA has played vital role for empowering tribal people the eradication of poverty, development of standard of living of people in rural areas creation of healthy society, creating awareness of sanitation and eradication of illiteracy are main activity of three tier of Panchayati Raj system. The role of state election commission is to control the elections of PRIS.

## **TABLE-1**

Elected president of Zilla Parishad Panchayati Raj and Drinking water Department Government of odisha (2017-22)

<b>Sl No</b>	Name of the District	<b>Elected President</b>
1.	Angul	Basanti Kisan
2.	Balasore	Nibedita Mohanty
3.	Balangir	Bharati mahananda
4.	Bargarh	Mukta Sahu
5.	Bhadrak	Dwijabara Rout
6.	Boudh	Jyotshna Bhoi
7.	Cuttack	Jyotirekha Naik
8.	Deogarh	Sudhamayee Patel
9.	Dhenkanal	Minati Nayak
10.	Gajapati	Anita Rani Behera
11.	Ganjam	Subash Chandra Behera
12.	Jagatsinghpur	Priyadarshan BIswal
13.	Jajpur	Naresh Chandra Mohanty
14.	Jharsuguda	Laxmi Narayan Patel
15.	Kalahandi	Namita Rani Sahu
16.	Kandhamala	Akankshya Pradhan
17.	Kendrapada	Manas Kumar Parida

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18.	Keonjhar	Kamalini Patra
19.	Khurda	Prafulla Kumar Dalai
20.	Koraput	Prabhu Jani
21.	Mayurbhanja	Sujata Murmu
22.	Nawarangpur	Bhagabati Bharata
Nayagarh	Baijayantimala Mohanty	
Nuapada	Namita Pradhan	
Puri	Jyotimaya Dalai	
Rayagada	Purusottam Gamango	
Sambalpur	Radheshyam Barik	
Subarnapur	Usha Kumari	
29.	Sundargarh	Emma Ekka(Source: Odishapanchayat .

# Various schemes of panchayt Raj System in Odisha

For Democratic Decentralization in odisha, there are various rural development and flagship programmes implemented. It's main aim is eradication of Unemployment.<sup>31</sup> Rural employment programmes are two types, one is self employment programme and another is wage employment programmes. IRDP,SGSY, TRYSEM AND DWCRA are part of self employment programmes But EAS, NREP, FFW, RLEGP, SGRY, AND JRY, etc; are part of wage employment programmes.

In September 7, 2005, Government of India has notified 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 . In October,2009, this act has been named as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee act" This Act has emphasized livelihood security in rural areas. It has provided at least 100 days of guaranteed employment to every rural house hold in a financial year.<sup>32</sup> In odisha Gramme Swarnna Jayanti Gram swarojgar yojana has implemented as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)

. It is a central scheme. This scheme was operated in 9 districts of odisha with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2006.<sup>33</sup> On the dated 15.01.2018, estimated cost of national rural employment scheme for cattle shed Rs 1,13,000 Goat shelter Rs 44,000 Piggery shelter Rs 69,000, poultry shelter Rs 39,000 etc in odisha.<sup>34</sup>. In discourse of MGNREGS funds W &CD and mission shakti department funds T.F.C Financial and physical performance reports of may 2017, the rendering of AWC was taken up with an estimated cost of Rs 7.00Lakhs in Odisha. In Odisha , there are many basic services Programmes or Rural Housing Schemes provided, they are Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, (Grameen) Biju Pacca Ghar Yojana (BPGY), Biju

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Pacca Ghara Yojana (mining) and Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana (NSPAY). During the year (2013-14) the scheme RGPSA was implemented . The department of Health and family welfare department was propelled Biju Swastya Kalyan Yojana on August 15, 2018 . it's main objective to give financial help to people for health care . It has given health insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakshs per family and 7 lakhs per women Members of the family. Department of Health and family welfare department was introduced Mukhyamantri Swaosthya Seva Mission in march 2017 . For social welfare, Mukhyamantri Mahila Sasaktikaran Yojana was launched on march 2017 in odisha . Panchayati Raj department also implemented Nirman Sharamika Pucca Ghara yojana , in February 20, 2016. During 2006-07 period, Government of Odisha was launched Gopabandhu Gramin Yojana(GGY) . In Odisha, many rural sanitation schemes have implemented, namely; Odisha water and sanitation mission, sanjog, Faq andNiramal Bharat Abhiyan .

#### Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat : A Study

Democratic Decentralization has taken a great extensive study in india. It is the part of panchayat election , administration, voting behavior, Government employment programmes, etc; A study of Bamokoyi Gram Panchayat is consisted with fifteen villages of Ganjam district of Odisha. Total population of Bamokoyi Gram Panchayat is 7812( Male-3994 & Female -3812)

. Panchayat election of Bamokoyi Gram panchayat was started in the year 1963.<sup>35</sup> There are total twelve number of sarapanchas elected to Bamokoyi Gram Panchayat since 1963. Late Ganesh Choudhury was the first sarapanch of this Gram Panchayat . Usha Badatya is working as executive head of this panchayat since 2017. Befor Panchayati Raj election 2017, her son Bhagaban badatya was two times elected as sarapanch of this gram panchayat.<sup>36</sup>. This table denotes all sarapancha's of Bamokoyi Gram Panchayat.

#### **TABLE-2**

Sl No Elected	Name of the Sarapanch	Gender	Cast	year	of
1.	Sri Ganesh Choudhury	Male	General		1963
2.	Sri Ganesh Choudhury	Male	General		1968.
3.	Sri Narasingha Pradhan	male	General		1973
4.	Sri Govinda Ch Pradhan	Male	General		1978
5.	Sri Lingaraj Pradhan	Male	General		1982
6.	Sri Lingaraj Pradhan	Male	General		1987
7.	Sri Kunja Bihari Rath	Male	General		1992

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8. 9.	Sri Bipin Ch Pradhan Sri Jyotsna Sahu	Male Female	General General	1997 2002
10.	Sri Bhagaban Badatya	Male	General	2007
11.	Sri Bhagaban Badatya	Male	General	2012
12.	Smt Usha Badatya	Male	General	2017

(Source : informations are collected from office of the Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat) Sri Ganesh Ch Choudhury, Sri Lingaraj Pradhan and Sri Bhagaban Badatya were elected two times sarapanch to this Gram Panchayat But two Prominent Sarapanch sri Bipin Ch Pradhan and smt Jyostsna Sahu have played vital role in Block level as chairman.<sup>37</sup>

Profile Of Prominent Chairman from this Gram Panchayat (since 2000 to 2020)

Three prominent Chairman have played dynamic role from this gram panchayat (2000 to 2020)

## **Bipin Chandra Pradhan**

Sri Bipin Chandra Pradhan was born on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1957 at Bamakoyi village. He is the son of late Biswanath Pradhan . Puspanjali Pradhan is his wife, she is a teacher. Bipin Chandra Pradhan has one son and one daughter His educational qualification is M.A in political science. He is a social worker. He is very dynamic . He has good personality. He always helps to poor people. He is also dedicated in worship to God. His special interest is visiting various places. He more times involve in the local festival. His Main activity is to develop the education in Digapahandi Block.He was elected as sarapanch of Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat in the year 1997 Now , he is working as chairman of Digapahandi Block since 2017 . After 1997, he have been elected as chairman or vice chairman more times. He was the Secretary of Chidananda Saraswati (Jr) Mahavidyalaya, Bamakoyi.<sup>38</sup>.

## Smt. Jyotshna Sahu

Smt Jyotshna Sahu was born on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1973. She is the daughter of Hari Sahu and wife of Adikanda Sahu. Her husband is working as Lect in Commerce. She has one son and one daughter . She has completed her M.A and M.Phil in Odia from Berhampur University. At Present, she is working as Lect in Odia at SS Degree Mahabidiyalaya ,Bamakoyi. Her hobby is hearing old songs and singing. She spent her favorite past time joking and gossiping with others. She is interested in social work and teaching. She is always interested

for service to others. She is most of time connected with reading and writing stories. She has played kho- kho, kabadi and running race Smt jyotshna sahu was member of zilla parishad of Ganjam (1997-2002).<sup>39</sup> She was also elected as sarapanch of Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat in 2002. Smt jyostnasahu was chairman of Digapahandi Block since 2007 to 2012.<sup>40</sup> She has charismatic Personality.

## Smt. Sailabala Pradhan

Smt. Sailabala Pradhan was a dynamic Chairman of Digapahandi Block. She was born in Koraput

. She is the wife of Sri Tarini Pradhan. Now, she belongs to Mundapota Village of Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat under Digapahandi Block. She has five daughter. Her hobby is worship. She is very much interested for watching cricket match. She was the chairman of Digapahandi Block during the period of 2012 to 2017. During her chairmanship the Development work of Digapahandi Block was very memorable.<sup>41</sup>.

# Employment Programme and Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat

Government Flagship employment Programmes have played major role in Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat. Panchayat Empowerment and accountability incentives scheme, E-panchayat mission mode project (MMP), Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sasaktikaran Abhijan, Rural Water Supply Programme (RWSP), Swajaldhar, National Rural Health mission, Integrated child development Programme, Indira Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana, Biju Pakaghar Yojana, Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana are implementedin this Gram Panchayat.

Indira Awas yojana was implemented in the year 2015-16, total Rs 17,25,000 was sanctioned, but Rs 17,25000 was invested total 23 nos of family were benefited in this yojana. Biju Pakaghar Yojana was implemented in the year 2018-19, Rs 14,30,000 was Sanctioned to this Panchayat, But Rs 140,000 was invested. Total eleven family were get this opportunity from this scheme.<sup>42</sup>

# CONCLUSIONS

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Democratic Decentralization is a key process, which is very essential for smooth administration and employment programmes. World Bank has played a major role for development of democratic decentralization at grassroots level. Free and fair elections are needed for democratic development. Role of local administration is major part of grass root level. Various committees are milestone in Indian decentralization, 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment has taken a changeable role in local Govt and politics. The first hypothesis on Bamakovi Gram Panchayat is dominated politics It is purely true, because some prominent Persons Sri Bipin Ch Pradhan, Smt Jyotsna Sahu and Sri Bhagaban Badatya have played vital role in this Gram Panchayat in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. They have taken various prestigious seats many times in Block level from this Panchayat . But, a lady named Smt Jyostna Sahu has played varity of seat taker like sarapanch, chairman and zilla parisad member. Sri Bipin Chandra Pradhan have been elected as sarapanch, Chairman and Vice-chairman more times to Digapahandi Block . So third hypothesisis purely true, because above statements are proved that, Chairman of this panchayat are charismatic and also dynamic. Some employment progarmms are well articulated in this panchayat . Indira Awas Yojana and Biju Pakaghar Yojana have mostly well articulated. First and third hypotheses is purely true, but second hypothesis is partly true. Mass Media, various non-Government organizations and political parties have played a significant role at grassrootslevel in global era.

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Interview to the ex-sarapanch Shri Bhaghaban Badatiya from village Bamakoyi of 36.

Ganjam District of Odisha 37. Information are collected from Digapahandi Block of the

Ganjam District of Odihsa.

38. Interview to the Sri Bipin Chandra Pradhan

39. Information are collected from Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat

40. Interview to the Smt. Jyoshna Sahu 41. Interview to the Smt. Sailabala Pradhan .

42. Information are collected from Bamakoyi Gram Panchayat