

Chapter-15

PANCHAYATS AND INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE: ADVANCING ECONOMIC POLICIES IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES VIS A VIS NYISHIS OF KAMPORIJ ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCLE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Ms. Bar Yakar

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-4106-9372>

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dera Natung Govt. College, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

In order to improve the socio-economic well-being of indigenous tribal people, this research examines the role of Panchayats, local self-governing bodies in rural India. The study digs into the specific governance solutions needed for the historically neglected and disadvantaged indigenous population in India's North Eastern Region. The study evaluates the effect of Panchayats on the economic growth of tribal communities using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. It also emphasizes how flexible Panchayats may be when putting into practice community-specific economic initiatives. The results highlight the cooperation among Panchayats, indigenous leaders, and NGOs in promoting economic development in tribal areas. As a result, this article emphasizes the crucial part Panchayats play in supporting tribe-specific economic projects. This study suggests for greater recognition of their role in policymaking, and the need for continued efforts to address the socio-economic disparities faced by tribals of this borderland state. The study focuses on the perspective of sustainable development among the Nyishi tribe of Kamporijo administrative circle of the state of Arunachal Pradesh, who are classified as Scheduled Tribes, who despite India's economic reforms, nevertheless face some disadvantages to economic progress. The study shows that the Nyishis of isolated and mountainous area, have been neglected over time for the following main reasons: development benefits do not reach these scatter population due to lack of infrastructure, politico-administrative issues, illiteracy and poverty and the role of elites.

Keywords: Panchayats, Indigenous governance, Economic policies, Tribal communities, Nyishi Tribe, Kamporijo Circle

INTRODUCTION

Panchayats are one of the most unique strands in the varied fabric of Indian administration. These local self-governing organizations serve as the main avenues for community participation in policy formation, implementation, and decision-making, and they are the fundamental components of grassroots democracy. The Sanskrit terms *panch*, which means five, and *ayat*, which means assembly, give rise to the name panchayat, which has historical and cultural significance and represents the community's collective representation. At the village, intermediate, and district levels, panchayats constitute a major component of India's decentralized government framework. They were re-instituted under the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution in 1992, which was a significant shift in the nation's system of government. These entities, which are made up of elected officials, seek to close the gap that

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