

ABSTRACT

Local Government on democratically elected basis is an institution the importance of which cannot be over-emphasized. It is called a training ground for democracy. Nobody can deny the importance of elected local government. It is an important feature of participatory management of societal affairs, guaranteeing good governance at the lowest level of the polity. The institutions and processes of local self- government help to create a strong sense of political efficacy among the common people who realize over time that they matter in handling their local affairs and can bring about change by the exercise of their vote or through collective action.

Local Government is important for national development for many reasons; firstly, it contributes to political stability; secondly, it inculcates a sense of participation on the part of the people; thirdly, it provides a structure for articulation of local socio-economic and political demands and their subsequent transfer to the higher tiers of the administration or governments viz-a-viz provincial or federal; fourthly, it also aids in alleviating the problems of relationship between a man in a village and the national political system; and lastly, it helps to motivate people for resource mobilization and national reconstruction.

Pakistan's experiments with the maintenance and development of Local Institutions in the past reveal inherent contradictions. Our greatest problems have centered around our inability to bring changes within the existing institutional framework. Instead of doing so we have attempted to replace one plan with another when we face institutional difficulties. Furthermore the bureaucracy has, instead of advising and helping the locally elected representatives of the people, emerged as local government administrators thwarting the very idea of local self –government. Therefore there is a need to over haul the local system to make it representative, responsible and functional.