

Functions of Rural Local Government

Chapter 11: Grassroots Democracy – Part 2: Local Government in Rural Areas · Topic 2

Key Concept

The Gram Panchayat's functions include maintaining sanitation, drinking water supply, street lighting, and local roads within the village.

It also manages primary schools, health centres, and agricultural support programs, helping improve education, health, and farming in the village.

The Panchayat Samiti (block level) coordinates development work across several villages, while the Zila Parishad (district level) oversees larger district-wide planning and funding.

These functions ensure that rural development happens systematically, with decisions made by people who understand local needs best.

Quick Revision Notes

- Gram Panchayat functions include sanitation and water supply.
- It also manages street lighting and local roads.
- It oversees primary schools and health centres.
- It supports agricultural programs.
- Panchayat Samiti coordinates development across villages.
- Zila Parishad oversees district-wide planning.
- These functions ensure systematic rural development.
- Local leaders understand local needs best.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research one function of your local Gram Panchayat.
- 2 Discuss the role of the Panchayat Samiti.
- 3 Discuss the role of the Zila Parishad.
- 4 Explain why rural local government functions matter.
- 5 Compare the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system.
- 6 Discuss one way local governance improves village life.