

# STUDY OF OPINIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MEMBERS AND NON MEMBERS OF THE PANCHAYATS, IN BAGHPAT DISTRICT

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**Abstract:** No doubt India lives in the villages and about 50 per cent of the 6.41 lac villages of the country are situated in different terrain characterized by poor socio-economic condition. Even a casual glimpse at the sub continent of India is sufficient to convince that ours is a land of villages. Good majorities of her people i.e. nearly 68.84 per cent lives in villages and are occupied in the agriculture. According to the latest census figures, there are only 7936 towns in India; whereas the numbers of villages are 6.41 Lac. The 'Rig-Veda' which is considered as the oldest book in Indian culture too, has not been devoid of mention of villages. The literature succeeding the Rig-Veda. -The Ramayana and the Gita- in the epic period, Buddha period, Maurya period, and Gupta period etc. are profuse in their description of village. Although the Panchayats have historically been an integral part of rural life in India, these Acts have institutionalized the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at the village, Block, and district levels as the third tier of government. The aim has been to combine social justice with effective local governance, with an emphasis on reservation of seats for the deprived classes of population, including of the leadership positions. with political empowerment having been established through a system of regular election to the three tiers of the Panchayats in all the States except Jharkhand, the task at hand has been to accelerate, widen, and deepen the process of empowerment so that these institutions of self government become the 'principal authorities' for planning and implementation.

**Keyword:** Panchayat, Opinion, Characteristics, Members, Villages

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