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## Polity - Local government

Democracy cannot happen without developing democratic local self governance with a sense of urgency. Do you agree with this view? comment.

Democracy which is the rule of people in a country is strengthened by federalism that give decentralisation of power. In western federalism it is very accurate federal property, when we take account of Indian federalism it is partial federalism. We got decentralisation of local government constitutional right only after 40 years of independence.

73rd and 74th constitutional amendment ::

The provision like urban, rural local body, direct elections, separate financial commission, District planning committee, Reservation for women and Marginalised person are present in the Constitutional Amendment. But the real question

is really is these provisions are effective at ground level?

Issues with the local governments in India:

Finance: Financial independency is really very important for the democracy at local level. But still many local government are dependent on states for finance. States like Punjab, Haryana abolished local tax thus local government are dependent on the state.

- \* The local expenditure is very low (4%) compared to OECD countries (14%), Brazil (11%), etc.

No separate specific list to local government.

The lists of 28 in <sup>Rural</sup> Urban provisions and 18 list in Urban provisions are not specific as they are state

concurrent. Many states are  
encroaching domain of the Local  
governments (MLA PDLAD, MPLAD) etc.

### Women and Marginalised persons issues:

The issues like  $\text{\$}$  discrimination among  
women and marginalised persons  
is still continuing in local governments.

It is even seen within members  
of local government.

\* Sex specific abortion

\* Female lacking property right.

\* Lack of Education to female  
compared to male is still  
going on at local level.

As said by Tocqueville to Democracy  
to succeed it should reach roots of  
hearts of people at ground level.

It is now negotiable that democracy  
should be at ground level for it to  
succeed.