

## ABSTRACT

Government is a body or an organization that has the power to make & enforce laws & regulations for a certain territory. Normally, the functions of Government are social control & public service by making, implement & interpreting the law. Every system of Government have an authority or a legitimate power which depends upon the form of Government .Government has been classified in various forms like Monarchy ,Communalism, Constitutional, Republic, Democracy etc. In India we have a democratic Government also called Constitutional Government have been identified as important characteristics of democracy as in India. Indirect democracy is playing its role by democratic decentralisation depends upon certain powers which are given to local authority by higher authority. Looking beyond democracy by consent is the idea of people's participation in the decision making process of the grass- root institutions at Gram Sabha levels. Gram Sabha has been one of the essential institutes of village administration of India. Gram Sabha has gradually started to lose its importance presently in administrative decision making. The idea of Gram Swaraj has proved the main step in this direction. But the idea of Gram Swaraj did not final favour from the Britishers. The Indian constitution embodies the idea of direct democracy by encasing Panchayat as a unit of self-government in Article 40 of the Directive Principles of State Policy. Since the provision was not justifiable. The preposition 'self-Government' was not taken into serious consideration. Now the constitution's 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 on Panchayati Raj has made three tier structures of Panchayats of different level as a unit of self-government. Gram Sabha has been recognized in the constitution. Gram Sabha is the backbone of Panchayati Raj System. Article 243 (A) of the Constitution lays down that 'A Gram Sabha' may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the legislature of a state is law provide. In the new

dimension the Gram Sabha become as a constitutional reality vested with specific powers and functions. As per Article 243 (B) 'Gram Sabha' means a body consists of persons recognized in the electoral process relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.

Truly, today Gram Sabha is a legally and constitutionally a recognized body through 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992. It provides an edifice to the super structure of Panchayati Raj system in decentralized governance. Much of the success of Panchayati Raj Institutions depends upon the effective role of Gram Sabha. To implement 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, Center Government has left it to the state legislature. Keeping in the view of provisions of the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 State Government of Haryana has passed' Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 to increase the effectiveness of decentralised governance. According to Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994 Section -7, if a village or an area of the village has minimum population is five hundred or more than five hundred, state government announce that area as 'Gram Sabha Area'. According to Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, Section - 12 Gram Sabha has some powers and functions. Gram Sabha consider the budget, future development programmes, review the general progress of development plans, consider actual income and expenditure of last year of Panchayat, maintain register of Panchayat work and activities, and consider progress report of every kind of Panchayat work. Now 18 years has passed to implement Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994. Therefore, it is of much academic interest to know and understand "The Role of Gram Sabha in Decentralised Governance: A Study of Jhajjar District". The present study is an empirical study based on multi stage sampling of five Blocks in Jhajjar District. Structured scheduled and Observation method is used for obtaining primary data from the selected respondents, and secondary data from the reports, documents,

books, Govt. publications & Journals etc. Classification and analysis of the collected data, Tabulation method is used. Findings of the study shows that Gram Sabha is not discharging its responsibilities in Jhajjar District and Gram Sabha members are partial aware about powers, functions, quorum and meetings of Gram Sabha. The weaker sections of society have less participation and people have lack of awareness regarding, budgeting and discussion on proposal in Gram Sabha. Gram Sabha has also failed to play an effective role through Social Audit. People should be made aware by awareness training programmes, time and schedule should be set according to people's convenience. Monopoly of Sarpanch, corruption in multi utilisation of funds should be controlled through displaying relevant information to Gram Sabha members. Concluding all the facts we can strengthen Gram Sabha in Panchayati Raj System in Decentralised Governance.