



Role of Union Parishad in Promoting
Democratic Culture: A study

Md. Abdur Razzaque
Muhammad Abdul Quader
S.M. Zobayer Enamul Karim

**Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre
Savar, Dhaka**

Role of Union Parishad in Promoting Democratic Culture: A study

Md. Abdur Razzaque
Muhammad Abdul Quader
S.M. Zobayer Enamul Karim

**Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre
Savar, Dhaka**

ACRONYMS

- BPATC- Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre
- GO- Government Organization
- HSC- Higher Secondary Certificate
- NGO- Non-government Organisation
- SSC- Secondary School Certificate
- UNO- Upazila Nirbahi Officer
- UZP- Upazila Parishad
- UP- Union Parishad
- UPR- Union Parishad Representatives

Preface

The local government system which we inherited from Pakistan has undergone many changes over the years. The present local government system of the country has four tiers of which the Union Parishad is the lowest. Having been established at the grass-root level and maintaining a link with the rural population the UP could have been the breeding ground of democratic ideas and ideals could it be operated at the right direction. Unfortunately, even after thirty years of our independence we have failed to make Union Parishad an institution where democracy can be cultured and democratic ideas can be nourished.

The present study was undertaken to find out the reasons of this failure and also to recommend ways so that Union Parishad can grow to play its role in infusing democratic spirit among the people.

Mr. Mohammad Abdul Quader, Dy. Director, BPATC and Mr. Zobayer Enamul Karim, Senior Research Officer, BPATC as Associates of this study took a lot of pains in collecting, processing and analysing the data. They also have contributed to the designing of the questionnaire and preparation of the report. I am thankful to them for the arduous job they have done. I also thank Mr. Md. Helal Uddin, Steno-Typist, BPATC for typing the report.

Md. Abdur Razzaque

Executive Summary

Union Parishad is the lowest tier of the local government institution of the country. Having been established at the grass root level it has the opportunity to maintain a direct link with the rural mass and as such can play a vital role in infusing democratic spirit and ideas among them. It can be a centre for training on democracy for the rural people and can familiarise them with democratic norms and practices.

Unfortunately, Union Parishad, the oldest local government institution of the subcontinent, has failed to develop on this line. This is partly due to the ignorance of the Union Parishad Chairman and members about democratic culture and partly due to the fact that they do not have the intention and sincerity to practise democracy in their day to day works. Above all, government also has not come forward far with a programme to make UP an institution for practising democratic norms and values.

The present study was conducted to find out the role of Union Parishad in promoting democratic culture among the people. The objective of the study are:

- To measure and examine the extent of success and failure of Union Parishad in respect of strengthening democratic culture at local level.
- To examine the present functions and role of Union Parishad in terms of promotion of democratic culture;
- To identify the factors/ elements responsible for promoting democratic culture;
- To find out the limitations, obstacles of UP for accelerating democratic culture.
- To make recommendations for strengthening democratic culture at Union level.

As many as eight Unions of six Upazilas representing four Divisions were selected on random basis for the study. Total number of respondents were 200. Three sets of questionnaires one for UPR, one for local elites and one for government officials (UNO and other departmental Officers of Upazila) were designed.

Some amazing findings have come out from the study. It appears from the findings that the government officials and the local elites differ sharply with the UPRs on some vital issues responsible for promotion of democratic culture and practices. The respondents (particularly the officials and the local elites) have attributed the failure of UP to play its role in promotion of democratic culture to the unfair election of the UP. According to the terrorism and influence of black money help inefficient people to be elected in UP who instead of fostering democratic culture kill the very essence of democracy through their unfair acts of favouratism and nepotism. Want of sufficient educational qualifications and lack of patriotism lead them to take this course of action.

However, Union Parishad is not an isolated institution of the country. Democracy can not be practised in UP alone if congenial atmosphere for democracy dose not prevail outside UP. It is therefore, necessary that overall situation is improved and government makes UP an institution for educating the rural people on democratic sprit and ideals.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Acronyms	i
Preface	ii
Executive Summary	iii
 Chapter-I	
Introduction	1
Rationale of the Study	8
Objectives	9
Scope of the Study	9
 Chapter-II	
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
Nature of the Research	10
Sample Areas and Procedures	10
Sample size	11
Techniques of Data Collection	12
Structured Interview Schedule	12
Review of Records	12
Data Collection Period and Data Collectors	12
Data Processing and Analysis	13
Planning of Report	13
Limitations	13
 Chapter-III	
ANALYSIS	
Demographic Characteristics	14
Academic Background of the Respondents	15
Distribution of the Respondents in respect of their occupation	16
Duration of stay of the respondents in the locality	17
Practice of Demographic Culture	21
Factors Responsible for promotion of demographic culture	28
Impediments towards establishment of demographic culture	30
Suggestions to overcome the problem	32
Findings	34
 Chapter-IV	
RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION	
Recommendation	37
Conclusion	39
Bibliography	41

CHAPTER-I

1.1 Introduction:

1.1.1 Local Government or local self Government is defined by the United Nations -as a political sub-division of a nation or state which is constituted by law and has substantial control over local affairs, including the power to impose taxes or extract labour for prescribed purposes". The Encyclopedia of the Social sciences defined Local government "as a public organization authorized to decide and administer a limited range of public policies within a relatively small territory which is a subdivision of regional or a national government". Local Government performs functions that vary greatly from one area to another, depending on the existing government system and prevailing cultural values. Usually they perform those functions that the central government considers to be more conveniently and perhaps, more efficiently administered at the local levels. A distinction is sometimes made between local government and local self-government. Local self-government is used to denote local government by the elected representative of the people of the concerned area or locality.

1.1.2 Gabriel A. Almond defines political culture as- "Every Political System is embedded in a particular pattern of orientation to political actions. In every operating political system there is an ordered subjective realm of politics which gives meaning to the polity, discipline to institutions and social relevance to individual acts. Concepts of political culture suggests that traditions of a society , the spirit of its public institutions, the passions and the collective reasoning of its citizenary and the style and operating codes of its leaders are not just random products of historical experience but fit together as a part of a meaningful whole and constitute an intelligible web of relations". Political culture as defined by Verbe " Consists of the system of empirical beliefs, expressive symbols, and values which defines the situation in which political action takes place".

1.1.3 Introduction of local government system is a landmark in the history of democracy. If democracy is compared with a tree local government institution are definitely its branches. As the branches make the tree complete and lively, beautiful and vigorous so the local government institution make democracy complete and strengthen it through transmitting its ideas and spirit to the people. Union Parishad is the oldest local government institution of our country. Despite the fact that the UP has taken its present shape and form through changes over the years it, however, never-lost its representative character.

1.1.4 If we look at the growth and development of local government of our country we find that Local Government in Bangladesh evolved over the years through the following successive stages :- (a) Local Government was the only form of polity, where there was no Central authority (b) Powerful Central Government existed, but local Government played a little role (c) Local Governments competed with the Central government for power and authority. The existence of miniature Re-public, called Village Councils can be traced back in the Vedic period (1500 B.C-1000 B.C). Then village Councils, a body known as Sabha, Maha sabha, used to manage and control a number of Committees which looked after village administration. This Sabha was both a social club and a village Council. During the "Gupta" rule, the Empire was administratively divided into units, such as Bhukti, Bishay, Mondal, Beethi and Gram. These are perhaps comparable in size to the present Division, District, Sub-division, Upazila and Gram. During the "Gupta" rule land purchase / sale had to be processed through the local Council. During "Palas" and "Senas" rules a strong Central Government was established in Bengal. But they did not make any significant changes in the character of local Government system.

1.1.5 Village panchayet is a well-developed institution of ancient India. In the Rig Vedas, the oldest Hindu writings, dating approximately 1200 B.C., forms of village self-government are mentioned. Different types of panchayet such as Caste panchayet, Village panchayet, Gramin etc. were in existence in ancient India. The phanchayet was responsible for collecting the land revenue and maintaining law and order in the rural areas. They also performed myriad of other welfare related functions and maintained

peace and harmony in the hundreds and thousands of villages in the Indian Sub-continent. The Mughals also used the panchayet system for collection of land revenue. Each village was brought under an individual council or a panchayet. The council elected their leaders known as headmen. The panchayet used to promote education, irrigation, etc. They also encouraged recreational facilities for the villagers.

1.1.6 During the Mughals, Bengal was a province or Suba of Mughal empire which was ruled by a Subadar. The "Suba" was divided into "Sarkers" ruled by the "Faujdar" and "Parganas" to be administered by the Shikdars, Thanas were to be maintained by Thanaders and Maujas to be looked after by the Chowkidars and Mohallas to be controlled by Mohalliks (or Molliks). But the village administration was more or less left to the Panchayats under the overall charge of the village Head man who was appointed or elected by the Village Council or Panchayat. He collected revenue from the cultivators and forwarded the same to the treasury. A "Patwair" or village accountant worked under direct supervision of Headman for keeping records of crops and revenue. The Panchayats were generally entrusted with the task of looking after education, irrigation, religious and moral conduct of the villagers, maintenance of law and order. At that time the village appeared to be the basic unit of local Government. Urban local government was shaped only during the Mughal rule.

1.1.7 This scenario was changed with the advent of the British Raj. Lord Cornwallice introduced permanent settlement in 1793, which radically changed the land tenure system of the country. It created a new class of land owning Zamindars in our social system who were to act as the intermediaries between the ruler and the ruled. The new Zamindars were not only responsible for the collection of land revenue but also for the maintenance of peace and order in the villages. The panchayet which was the instrument of maintaining rural tranquillity was thus relegated to a non-entity during this period. As the system evolved the Zamindars failed to fulfill the obligation of rural administration. The people became the subjects of torture and mal-treatment at the hands of Zamindars and their henchmen.

1.1.8 During the British rule, modern form of local government was first introduced in the rural and urban areas of the Indian subcontinent. During that time, several acts were passed to promote local level self rule facilitating, peoples participation. Among these, the village Chowkidary Panchayet Act 1870, the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 and the Bengal village Self-Government Act of 1919 are particularly noteworthy for their contribution towards developing rural institutions with public representation. Despite these efforts to improve rural condition, the net result was minimal. As colonial master, the British Government's main administrative purpose was to maintain law and order. It was not, therefore surprising that their first piece of enactment on rural local government (i.e Village Chowkidary panchayet Act 187(1) dealt with the creation of village police. But in that Act, economic wellbeing of the vast majority of the people was neglected. The concept of participatory administration at local level was almost absent during the British time.

1.1.9 The two-tier system of local self-government introduced by the Village Self-government Act of 1919 remained in force with some modifications till they were replaced by the Basic Democracies Order promulgated in 1959 by the martial law government of Ayub Khan. Adult franchise was introduced to all the local bodies in 1956. During the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the then East Pakistan inherited 15 District Boards, 3881 Union Boards, and 43 Municipal Boards. In 1956, adult franchise was introduced for election of members of the District Boards.

1.1.10 After emergence of Bangladesh the local government system of the country was given due importance. According to Article 9 of our constitution "The state shall encourage local Government institutions composed of representatives of the areas concerned in such institutions special representation shall be given, as far as possible, to peasants, workers and women". Article 59-60 provide that local government in every administrative unit of the republic shall be entrusted to bodies, composed of persons elected in accordance with law. The idea has been persistently followed. Therefore local govt. institution is composed of those who are elected by people of the area it represents.

1.1.11 After independence of Bangladesh we may identify the following basic legal instruments in respect of Union Parishad.

- I. The President's Order No. 7, 1972
- II. The President's Order No. 22, 1973
- III. The Local Govt. Ordinance, 1976
- IV. The Local Govt. (Union Parishad) Ordinance, 1983.
- V. The Local Govt. (UP) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993.
- VI. The Local Govt.(UP) (Second Amendment) Act, 1997.

1.1.12 The framers of the constitution visualized the need of local govt. institutions in a democratic set up not only for accelerating development process particularly in the rural areas where majority of the people lives but also for gradually integrating the local human resource base in the management of their own affairs through wider participation in a democratic way. Through a carefully designed process they further visualized that democracy would give a stable ground and equitable social order would usher in. Towards that end various models and strategies were experimented, but the results show that the sector has continued to remain neglected for variety of reasons - both external and internal.

1.1.13 From years of experiences, government now quite logically recognizes that strong local government at the grass-root level is but an urgent necessity. It increasingly acknowledges the potentials, hitherto unexplored, of a vast section of the population living in rural & semi-urban areas who can spur faster development if stimed and adequately equipped. This realisations prompted the Govt. to set up a Local Govt. Commission in September, 1996. It submitted a report in May, 1997 with a proposal for a four-tier local government System.

The main recommendations of the Local Government Commission are as follows:

- a four tier local government system, with Gram Parishad at the ward level, Union Parishad at the union level, Thana Parishad at the thana level and Zila Parishad at the district level.
- government officials at various levels to be placed directly under respective Parishads, and key officials to be non-voting members.

- representation in various Parishads from NGOs, freedom fighters, cooperatives, the disadvantaged etc. as non-voting members.
- in every tier one-third of the seats to be reserved for women, to be directly elected by the voters.
- chairman of the lower tier to be ex-officio member of the next tier, and the higher tier to coordinate and monitor the lower tier.
- Finance Commission to be set up every 5 years to review and recommend fiscal measures for the Parishads.
- an independent and permanent Local Government Commission to be set up. Its main functions will be to (a) take disciplinary measures against delinquent elected bodies/ functionaries and (b). maintain financial discipline through audit and inspection.

1.1.14 In the light of the recommendations the existing Union Parishad (UP) Act was amended, and accordingly one-third seats were reserved for women. Members against these were elected by the voters directly (previously they were indirectly elected). In fact, the last UP elections were held under new arrangement, and as expected, it greatly strengthened women's participation in the Union Parishad. The UP elections were successfully completed. A large number of poor men and women were elected as Union Parishad members.

1.1.15 The present set up of the Union Parishad based on the recommendations of the Local Government Commission includes Chairman elected through universal adult suffrage, 9 male members elected from each of the 9 wards, 3 female members each for every three wards were directly elected by them, employees of the govt., semi-government organisations working in the jurisdiction of the Union Parishad having no voting rights, representatives of the co-operative society, Muktijudha unit and politically, socially and economically disadvantaged communities like fisherman, weavers, landless etc. having no voting right.

1.1.16 From the very constitution of the Union Parishad it appears that it is representative in nature where there is provision for culture of democratic ideals and ideas. One of the objectives behind creation of local govt. institutions is to make people

politically conscious by creating a democratic atmosphere. The members and chairman are elected on the basis of universal adult franchise. The chairman and members so elected are accountable to the people for their activities. They are supposed to ensure accountability and transparency in all their actions. There is provision for people's participation in the selection and execution of project and schemes undertaken by Union Parishad. There is also provision for people's representation in committees of the Union Parishad. All these provisions have made Union Parishad a nursing ground of democratic culture, democratic ideas and ideals.

1.1.17 Ideally Union Parishad as a local government institution at the grass-root level is supposed to be developed as the centre for political training of the local people. It is to be used as a machine for producing leaders at local level. Every Union Parishad will have a plan book containing list of development schemes to be executed for development of the areas and the schemes are to be carefully selected on priority basis taking into consideration the actual need of the people. The schemes are to be selected in the meeting of the Union Parishad. All members have to be involved in decision making process. Local resources have to be mobilized for execution of the local schemes making the Union Parishad less dependent on the national Govt. for resources.

1.1.18 Unfortunately most of the Union Parishad do not follow these principles. Union Parishad meetings are not held regularly. Most of the Union Parishads have failed to create their own fund. There is a provision that 50% of the salary of the Chowkidars, Dafaders, UP Secretary, Chairman, members has to be borne by the respective Union Parishad. In most cases the Union Parishad does not have the fund to clear the salary of their staff. Further, a certain portion of the lease money of hat/ bazar, sairat mahal which are leased by Union Parishad has to be deposited with govt. exchequer. In this respect most of the Union Parishads are defaulters. The total scenario is, therefore, very frustrating.

1.1.19 Decentralization of administration and delegation of power to local bodies is universally recognized. This helps democracy function smoothly and successfully. This is also a pre-requisite to good governance. But in our country the system has failed to work. Union Parishad has a lot of functions to do, but in fact this institution is not in a position to perform those functions. Functions of Union Parishads as described in the first schedule is enclosed in Annexure-A.

1.1.20 In this study attempt has been made to find out how much the Union Parishad has been successful to play its role as a training centre of democracy for the rural population, how far it has fulfilled the hopes and aspiration of the people by rendering its services to them.

1.2 Rationale of the Study

“Participatory Development” is closely related to the concept of “Promotion of democracy”. There is a positive correlation between promoting democracy & development. The output of the case study may explicate pertinent guidelines for development. There are also sessions on issues of development in all courses of BPATC. The output of the study may also be used as training materials for BPATC courses.

1.2.1 A critical analysis has been done in this study to review how successfully democratic ideas and ideals are practised in the present system of Union Parishad. It is expected that the strength and weakness of the functional procedures of UP may help rethink and re-design the future functioning of UP so that grass root level institution of our local govt. system can be made a place for culturing and promoting democratic practices.

1.2.2 Besides, scholars and researchers, theoreticians and practitioners who are interested to know more about participatory development may find the study valuable because the study is perhaps a new initiative in this area.

1.3 Objectives

This study is based on the following objectives:

- i) To measure and examine the extent of success and failure of Union Parishad in respect of strengthening democratic culture at local level.
- ii) To examine the present functions and role of Union Parishad in terms of promotion of democratic culture;
- iii) To identify the factors/ elements responsible for promoting democratic culture;
- iv) To find out the limitations, obstacles of UP for accelerating democratic culture.
- v) To make recommendations for strengthening democratic culture at Union level.

1.4 Scope of the Study:

This study analyses and examines the role of "Union Parishad" in promoting democratic culture among the local people. While overviewing different aspects of the functions and duties of UP the study has highlighted the following:

- i) Provisions of the democratic culture in the area of prescribed functions of UP.
- ii) Effectiveness of the role of public representatives of UP to implement different governmental development project / activities undertaken by the UP.
- iii) Identification and assessment of special features relating to strengthening democratic culture at Union Level.
- iv) Survey of the opinions and views of:
 - a) Public representatives, (b) elites and influential persons (teachers, businessmen, imams etc.) and (c) government and non-government officials in respect of augmenting / strengthening democratic culture.

CHAPTER-II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study highlighted the cumulative problems regarding promotion of democratic culture in Union Parishad as it was some what a new concept to the respondents.

Nature of the Research

This is a descriptive and to some extent a case study type of research relating to promoting democratic culture of Union Parishad.

Sample Areas and Procedures

A total number of eight Union Parishads were selected for this study. The Unions were Krishnapur of Makinkgonj Sadar Upazila & Payla of Ghior Upazila under Manikgonj district, Chunkhola and Udaypur Union Parishad of Mollahat Upzila under Bagerhat district, Dogachi Union Parishad of Pabna Sadar Upazila & Sujanagar Union Parishad of Sujanagar Upazila of Pabna district and Jaldhi & Chambol Union Parishad of Bashkhali under Chittagong district. These are shown under the matrix below:

Distribution of Sample Areas and Number of Union Parishad

Division	District	Upazila	Union	No. of Union Parishad (UP)
Dhaka	Manikgonj	Sadar	Krishrapur	2
		Ghior	Payla	
Khulna	Bagerhat	Mollahat	Udaypur Chunkhola	2
Rajshahi	Pabna	Pabna Sadar	Doghachi	2
		Sujanagar	Sujanagar	
Chittagong	Chittagong	Bashkhali	Jaldhi	2
			Chambol	

It reveals that a total of number eight Union Parishads of six Upazila under four districts were selected from four old Divisions for this study.

For understanding the case study a total of 8 Union Parishads were selected by the researchers keeping in view geographical dispersion.

Sample Size

A total of 200 respondents belonging to 8 Union Parishads and 4 districts (Manikgonj, Bagerhat, Pabna and Chittagong) were included in the sample. Three categories of respondents were taken into consideration for this study. Among the 200 respondents, 80 were Union Parishad Representatives (UPR) including 8 Chairman and 72 members; 80 local elites including teachers and influential persons. Besides these two types of respondents, government officials of Upazila Parishad like Upazila Nirbahi Officer and Officers of other development and service oriented departments have also been considered as important respondents for this study. Distribution of the respondents are given below:

Distribution of the Respondents of the Sample Areas (in Number)

Name of the Upazila	Categories of Respondent			
	Union Parishad Chairmen and Members (UPR)	Local Elites, (teacher, and influential persons)	Govt. Officials(UNO and other officials of UZP)	
Manikgonj Sadar	13	09	03	25
Ghior	10	11	05	26
Mollahat	24	21	10	55
Pabna Sadar	08	10	04	22
Sujanagar	09	08	04	21
Baskhali	16	21	14	51
Total	80	80	40	200

Techniques of Data Collection

The following techniques of data collection have been used in this study:

Structured Interview Schedules

Three sets of interview schedule were used for data collection. One set of interview schedule was developed to collect the opinion of the elected representatives of Union Parishads to assess the present situation of democratic culture practicing in Union Parishad (Annexure-I)

To seek the opinion of the local people about democratic culture another set of interview schedule was prepared (Annexure-II). To compare and check the opinion of elected representatives and local elites, the concerned government officials of Upazila Parishad were interviewed with the help of separate structure interview schedule (Annexure-III).

Review of Records

Apart from primary data, some documents concerning democratic culture were consulted as secondary information.

Data Collection Period and Data Collectors

In the light of the objectives, scope and methodology of the study two trained persons collected data from the sample area and their works were closely supervised by the researchers. The researchers also talked to the local elites to observe the condition of democratic culture.

Information were collected by the researchers from UNOs and concerned officials of Upazila Parishad with the help of data schedule- III. Data were collected from May to September, 2001.

Data Processing and Analysis:

Data collected for the study have been presented by applying various techniques. At first, data have been tabulated and analyzed with the help of some statistical methods, like percentage, mean, median and graph etc. The researchers participated in data analysis and graphical representation.

Planing of the Report

The whole report has been divided into four chapters. Introduction, background, objectives and scope of the study have been presented in chapter-I, Chapter-II illustrates the methodology and sample areas and procedures of the study. Analysis of data and findings of the study on the basis of the data analysis are incorporated in chapter-III. Recommendations and conclusion have been incorporated in Chapter-IV.

Limitations

Following are the limitations of the study:

- Time and resources were great constraints for the study. For want of time and also for want of fund a larger number of Union Parishads could not have been covered for the study which would have made it more representative.
- Most of the respondents, specially the elected representatives of Union Parishad have little knowledge of democratic culture. Even local elites are no better than them. Hence, it was very difficult to collect relevant informations from them.

CHAPTER-III

ANALYSIS

The data have been analysed in the following categories:

- a) demographic characteristics, (b) service delivery and performance about prescribed function of Union Parishad, (c) Practice of democratic culture (d) factors of democratic culture (e) impediments to democratic culture (f) suggestions to overcome the problems.

A. Demographic Characteristics

In this section an attempt has been made to highlight the demographic characteristics of the respondents. In doing this the following indicators have been studied:

- i) age of the respondents;
- ii) education of the respondents;
- iii) occupation of the respondents;

Age Distribution Patterns of the Respondent

In respect of age distribution of the respondents it is found that the highest percentage of them (36.25% of the Union Parishad Representatives, 38.75% of local elites and 45.00% of the officials) belong to the age groups of 31-40 and 51-60 years followed by the respondents of 41-50 and 31-40 age groups respectively. It reveals from the table 3.1 that more than 80% of all categories of respondents belong to the age of 31 to 60 years. None of the official respondents belongs to the age group of 61-71 as their retirement age is 57 years. In respect of local elites and officials 12.5% and 10.00% of them are in the age group of 21-30 respectively. It is observed from the table- 3.1 that for all categories of respondents age distribution pattern is reasonably consistent. It also appears from the table that in age distribution pattern the age group 41-50 has the highest in respect of number and percentage and this happens in case of the official respondents.

Table-3. 1: Age Distribution Pattern of the Respondent

Respondents						
Age (in year)	UP Representatives		Local Elites		Officials	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
21-30	05	6.25	10	12.50	04	10.00
31-40	29	36.25	31	38.75	11	27.50
41-50	26	32.50	21	26.25	18	45.00
51-60	16	20.00	14	17.50	07	17.50
61-70	04	05.00	04	5.00	-	-
Total	80	100.00	80	100.00	40	100.00

Academic Background of the Respondents

Levels of education of the respondents have been presented in table-3.2. The table shows that 41.25% UPR have attended Junior high school level and 22.50% & 13.75% of them got Secondary School and Higher Secondary Certificate. Only 5.00% of them have Bachelor and Masters degree certificate.

In respect of local elites it is found that more than two-thirds (78.25%) of them have attained the educational levels of HSC, Bachelor and Masters degree. It is observed from the table that most of the officials (72.50%) are Bachelor & Master degree holders. However 20% officials have passed HSC. It is clear from the table that in case of officials Master Degree holders account for 47.50% and for local elites this figure is about one-fourth (23.75%). It is also evident from the findings that none of the respondents is illiterate who can sign only.

Table-3.2 Distribution of the Respondents by Educational Qualification

Level of Education	UP Representatives		Local Elites		Officials	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Can sign only	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary	14	17.50	2	2.5	-	-
Jr. High School	33	41.25	11	13.75	-	-
Secondary (SSC)	18	22.50	04	5.00	1	2.50
High Secondary (HSC)	11	13.75	23	28.75	8	20.00
Bachelor	3	3.75	21	26.25	10	25.00
Master	01	1.25	19	23.75	19	47.50
Diploma Engineer	-	-	-	-	2	5.00
Total	80	100.00	80	100.00	40	100.00

Distribution of the Respondents in respect of their occupation.

In respect of occupation of the respondents it is observed from table-3.3 that 38.75% of the UPR have agriculture as their principal occupation followed by business, (35,00%). 20.00% and 3.75% of them who constitute the third and the fourth largest occupational groups in their respective category earn their livelihood by domestic works and service respectively. It further reveals from the table that 36.25% of the local elites belong to service holders group followed by teaching profession the percentage being 30%. It is evident that 21.25% and 11.25% of the elite respondents have business and agriculture respectively as their occupation.

Table-3.3: Distribution of the Respondents by Principal Occupations

Occupation	UP Representatives		Local Elite	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture	31	38.75	09	11.25
Business	28	35.00	17	21.25
Teaching	02	2.50	24	30.00
Service	03	3.75	29	36.25
Housewife	16	20.00	-	-
Politics	-	-	01	01.25
Total	80	100.00	80	100.00

Duration of stay of the respondent in the Locality

To understand the performance of the respondents either as public representative or as govt. servants or elites, it was necessary to know the duration of their stay in the locality. Table 3.4 reveals that most of the public representatives (67.05%) served as Chairmen and Members of Union Parishad for 3-4 years followed by 18.75% and 10% of them for 5-10 and 11-15 years respectively. About 4% of UPR served for 20 years and this is the highest duration for a respondent as public representative in the locality. It reveals from the table that about 39% of the local elites know the UPR for 5 to 20 years and 23.75% know them for 40 years. It appears that 50% of the official respondents served and stayed in the locality for 5 to 20 years followed by 23% for 21-30 years. However, 10% officials respondents served in the locality for 35 years.

Table-3.4: Distribution of the Respondents according to the length of their tenure as Public Representatives, and length of stay of Local Elites in the locality and Duration of Services of the officials in the Locality.

Years	UP Representatives		Local Ellite		Officials	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
3-4	54	67.5	2	2.5	6	15.00
5-10	15	18.75	14	17.5	7	17.50
11-15	8	10.00	9	11.25	9	22.50
16-20	03	3.75	8	10.00	4	10.00
21-25	-	-	4	5.00	7	17.50
26-30	-	-	3	3.75	3	7.50
31-35	-	-	9	11.25	4	10.00
36-40	-	-	10	12.50	-	-
41-45	-	-	5	6.26	-	-
46-50	-	-	4	5.00	-	-
51-55	-	-	11	13.75	-	-
56+	-	-	01	1.25	-	-
Total	80	100.00	80	100	40	100.00

Mode of Participation in Election, Election Expenses and Affiliation with Political Parties of the UPR

It is known from the UP representatives that about 94% of them contested the election voluntarily (Table-3.5) and only 6.25% of contested at the request of others. It reveals from Table-3.6 that more than eighty-six percent UPRs borne the expenses of election themselves. Only 13.75% of the representatives reply that others bore their election expenses. Most of the UP representatives (86.50%) inform that they were affiliated with some political party or were supporter of the same earlier. Only 12.5% reply that they were neither affiliated with any political parties nor were supporters of them (Table-3.7).

Table- 3.5: Opinion of the UP Representatives as to how they participated in Election as candidates:

N=80

Opinion	Number of Respondents	Percent
Willingly	75	93.75
At the Request of Others	05	6.25
Total:	80	100.00

Table-3.6: Opinion of UP Representatives about the Election Expenses

N=80

Opinion	Number of Respondent	Percent
Borne by himself/herself	69	86.25
Borne by Others	11	13.75
Total	80	100.00

Table-3.7: Opinion of the UP Representatives about their affiliation with Political Parties

N= 80

Opinion	Number of Respondent	Percent
Affiliation with political parties or supporters of any political party	70	87.5
Not Involved in Politics or does not support any political party	10	12.5
Total	80	100.00

B. Service Delivery and Performance of the UPRS in respect of Prescribed Functions of UP

It reveals from the table 3.8 that in respect of the prescribed functions of the UP relating to civic, revenue and administration, security, development, Judiciary and education majority (45-57%) of the UP representatives respond that the UPs are discharging those functions properly. However, the opinion of the local elites and concerned officials do not support the opinion of the UP representatives fully in this respect. In respect of development function of the UP both the local elites and officials appreciate the role of UP. More than two-thirds(76.25%) of the local elites and 90.5% of

the official respondents observe that UP representatives discharge development function fully or partially. However, majority of them hold that they do it partially. It is evident from the table that as per opinion of local elites and officials Union Parishad perform all the six prescribed functions partially. Local elites and official respondents opine that performance of the UP in security matter is not satisfactory. According to 62.5% officials and 37.5% local elites UP is not performing its judicial function properly. According to 35.00% of both elites and official respondents the performance of the UP in matters of education is not satisfactory.

As to the service delivery (table-3.9) by the UP 90% of the officials and 56.25% of the local elites opine that UP is not providing service as per public demand. On the other hand 36.25% of the local elites opine that UP representatives render services fully or partially as per public demands and 7.5% of them hold that they do it partially.

Table-3.8: Opinion about the Extent of Performance of the Prescribed Functions of Union Parishad

Function	Opinion of Respondents about Performance (in %)								
	UP Representatives (N=80)			Local Elites (N=80)			Concerned officials (N=40)		
	Yes	No	Partial	Yes	No.	Partial	Yes	No.	Partial
Civic Function	66.25	5.00	28.75	12.5	32.5	55.00	12.5	7.5	80.00
Revenue & Admn.	46.25	8.75	45.00	18.75	25.00	56.25	12.5	12.5	75.00
Security	52.5	5.00	42.5	5.00	46.25	48.75	7.5	37.5	55.00
Development	50.00	2.5	47.5	18.75	23.75	57.50	30.0	7.5	62.5
Judiciary	75.0	5.0	20.00	22.5	37.5	40.00	7.5	62.5	12.50
Education	45.00	10.00	45.00	15.00	35.00	50.00	5.00	35.00	60.00

Table-3.9: Opinion of the Respondent about the Service Delivery of Union Parishad

Opinion	Local Elite		Officials	
UP is providing Service as per Public Demands	29	36.25	04	10.00
Provide partial services	06	7.50	-	-
UP is not providing services as per public demands	45	56.25	36	90.00
Total	80	100.00	40	100.00

C. Practice of Democratic Culture:

The respondents were asked to comment on the extent of practice of democratic culture by UP. They were requested to opine on seventeen identified areas in this regard. It is evident from the table-3.10 that in most cases the opinions of elites & official respondents differ from those of UP representatives. About 93% UPR opine that they are fully or partially fulfilling their promise to the people. But 44% of the elites and 28% of the officials make a negative response in this respect. 71.25% Union Parishad Representatives hold that they are working in the interest of the people. 86.25% of them hold that members are elected fairly while according to 76.25% UP plays active role in implementing government decision and obeying government directions. In this regard 13.75%, 61.25% and 25% of local elites corroborate respectively the claim of the UPRs. It reveals from the table 3.10 that 30% local respondents opine that Public representatives are not sincere and interested to implement govt. decisions, and none of the officials agrees that public representatives are sincere and interested to implement government decisions. Most of the officials (75%-87.5%) advocate that parishad is really functioning for the people and UPRs are elected fairly. Hundred percent officials remark that parishad play active role to implement government decisions & directions and this statement is supported by 75% of the local elites. 87.50% officials hold that parishad is not able to meet its expenditures from its own sources of income followed by 66.25% of the local elites and 65% UPRs. More than fifty percent (52%) local elites opine that development projects are taken up & executed timely but for officials this figures is 75.5%. However 47.5% local elites and 27.5% officials have negative response in this regard. In response to the question whether opinion of the local elites is given due importance when decision on any matters of public interest is taken by the UP. 71.25% of the local elites and 57.5% official respondent reply negatively. On the other hand 82.5% UP representative make positive reply in this regard. It appears from the table that 82.5% - 90% of UP representatives opine that parishad is active to ensure security of the people, it follows government rules and regulations for its operation, it tries to solve local problems by itself, and it plays active role to create democratic values among people. It is relevant to mention that majority of the local elites and officials do not agree with them fully on these points. Rather they opine that they do it only partially. It is evident from

the table that 72.5% officials opine that Parishad listens to the complaints of the people and tries to solve them fully or partially which is supported by 70% local elites. While making comment on UP as coordinator to meet the demand of the people, 97% UP representatives reply that UP is playing its role in this respect fully or partially which is supported by 67.5% of the local elites and 82.5% of officials respondents.

60% of the official respondents hold that the UP does not have any specific programme to make the people aware of their health, education and other basic needs which is supported by 33.5% of the local elites. However 95% of the UP members claim that they have specific programme on these. 25.5% of the local elites hold that UP does not make any efforts to ensure fundamental rights of people. In case of the official respondents on this issue the percentage is 40%. However 94% of the UP members claim that UPs ensure the fundamental rights of the people.

Table-3.10: Opinion of the Respondents about the Practice of Democratic Culture

Feature of Democratic Culture	Respondent in percent								
	UP Responsibilities (N=80)			Local Elite (N=80)			Official (N=40)		
	Yes	Partial	No	Yes	Partial	No	Yes	Partial	No
Public representatives are fulfilling their promise to the people	72.5	20.00	7.5	6.25	50.00	43.75	00.00	72.5	27.5
Parishad is really functioning for the people	71.25	18.75	10.00	13.75	43.75	42.5	12.5	75.00	12.50
Members of the UP have been elected fairly	86.25	7.5	6.25	61.25	22.5	16.25	67.5	17.5	15.0
Public Representatives are really interested and sincere to implement the government decision	-	-	-	37.5	32.5	30.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Parishad plays active role to implement govt. decisions & obeys govt. directions	76.25	16.25	7.50	25.00	58.75	16.25	50.00	50.00	0.00

Feature of Democratic Culture	UP Representatives (N=80)			Local Elite (N=80)			Official (N=40)		
Parishad is performing the responsibility given by the people	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.5	60.00	32.5
Parishad is able to meet the expenses from its own sources of income	6.00	35.00	65.00	-	33.75	66.25		12.5	87.50
Development projects are taken & implemented timely	-	-	-	10.00	42.00	47.5	27.5	45.00	27.5
Opinions of the local elites are given due importance when development schemes are taken up-	82.5	10.00	7.50	10.00	18.75	71.25	12.50	30.00	57.5
Parishad is active to ensure security of the people	90.00	6.25	3.75	6.25	31.25	62.5	20.00	55.00	25.00
Parishad follows govt. rules and regulation to operate its functions	90.00	5.00	5.00	30.00	45.00	25.00	25.00	67.50	7.5
Parishad tries to solve local problems locally	82.5	12.5	5.00	21.25	41.25	37.5	47.5	25.00	27.5
Parishad plays active role to create democratic values among people	86.25	11.25	2.50	8.75	35.0	56.25	32.5	35.00	32.5
Parishad listen to the complaints of people and tries to dispose of them	68.75	26.25	5.00	15.00	55.00	30.00	27.5	55.00	17.5
Parishad plays the role of coordinator to meet the demand of people in accordance with the ability of government	55.00	42.50	2.50	15.00	52.50	32.5	22.5	50.00	17.5
Parishad has specific programmes to make the people aware of their education, health, nutrition & other basic needs	60.00	35.00	5.00	17.50	35.00	47.50	22.5	17.5	60.00
Parishad makes efforts to establish fundamental rights of people	71.25	22.50	6.25	13.75	33.75	52.5	17.5	42.5	40.00

Reasons for which Public Representatives do not fulfill their election commitment

The researchers tried to find out the reasons as to why the elected representatives can not keep their promises which they make in their election campaign. 83.33% of the UP members hold that due to lack of religious bindings they do not honour these promises. Two-thirds (66.67%) of the UP representatives replied/acknowledged that elected representatives are not sincere to their commitments and are not properly educated. This opinion i.e. lack of proper education is supported by 63.63% of the government officials (table-3.11). It may be noted that 68.57% of the local elites hold that this is due to lack of honesty of UPR and 77.14% of them hold that this due to the fact that they are more interested in their personal gains and they want to fulfill their ill motives. It reveals from the table that 100% official respondents identify “lack of sense of responsibility” and 63.63% of them identify “lack of commitment and sincerity” as the cause of this type of behaviour. More than 45% of local elites and officials think “party interest”, and “lack of democratic culture”, are also the reasons for which UP members do not keep their promises. More than 63% official respondents reply that “lack of accountability of public representatives”, “influence of black money” and “miss-use of power and authority” are the reasons for which they cannot keep their election commitment.

Table-3.11: The Reasons for which Public Representatives do not fulfill election commitment.

Causes	Respondents in percent		
	UP Representatives (N=6)	Local Elites (N=35)	Govt. Officials (N=11)
Elected representatives are not true to their words	66.67	-	-
Lack of proper education	66.67	-	63.63
Lack of Religious bindings	83.33	-	-
Lack of honesty of public representatives	-	68.57	-
Lack of consciousness among the general people	-	34.28	-
Personal interest and ill motive	-	77.14	-
Lack of sense of responsibility	-	28.57	100.00
Party interest	-	45.71	45.45
Lack of commitment and sincerity of public representatives	-	37.14	63.63
Lack of proper educational qualification of public Representatives	-	20.00	-
Lack of accountability of public representatives	-	-	63.63
Lack of democratic value	-	45.71	45.45
Influence of black money and missuse of power	-	-	63.63
Lack of sense of responsibility	-	34.28	45.45

N.B: Multiple answers have been recorded.

To find out the causes as to why the Union Parishads are not functioning properly the opinions of the respondents were sought. Majority of the three categories of respondents (70%-88%) opined that “lack of commitment” on the part of the public representatives who are more concerned with their own interest are the common problems for which UPs do not function properly. It is interesting to note that these remarks are supported by UP representatives (table-3.12). UP representatives also explore “dishonesty of the UP members” as one of the reasons for which UPs can not function properly. It is reported by the local elites that “lack of noble intention and willingness” (51.51%), “lack of coordination between UP Chairman & members” (24.24%), “party interest” (27.27%),

“excessive election cost” (27.27%), “favouratism” (67.70%) are the causes for which the UPs can not functioning efficiently & effectively. It may be noted that more than 85% of the official respondents identify “pressure of influential section”, “favouratism and demotivation of public representatives” as the causes of ineffective role of the UPs.

On the otherhand 85% of the UP representatives and 100% of the officials view that “moral obligation as public representatives” and “fellow-felling for the people” and “high degree of commitment of the public representative to the people” can help UP function properly (table 3.13). More than fifty percent of the local elites opine that “sense of accountability”, “desire of the UPR to be re-elected”, “feelings to the people” and “freedom of expression of people” can ensure proper functioning of UP. However, about 22% UP representatives hold that proper functioning of UP also depends on adherence to government order by UP representatives.

Table-3.12: Opinion of the Respondents as to why Union Parishad does not function properly

Causes	Respondents in percent		
	UP Representatives (N=8)	Local Elites (N=33)	Govt. Officials (N=7)
Elected persons are not committed	75.00	69.70	85.71
More concerned with own-interest	87.50	69.70	85.71
Dishonesty of public representatives	50.00	-	-
Lack of noble intention	-	51.51	-
Lack of Coordination between UP Chairman and member	-	24.24	-
Uphold party interest	-	27.27	-
Excessive election cost	-	27.27	-
Resource constraints	-	-	71.43
Pressure of influential group	-	-	85.71
Favouratism	-	69.70	85.71
De-motivation of public representatives	-	-	85.71

Table:3-13: Opinion of the Respondents as to how Union Parishad can function properly and effectively

Causes	No. of Respondents in percent		
	UP Representatives (N=46)	Local Elites (N=11)	Govt. Officials (N=3)
Moral obligation as public representative/ high degree of commitment to the people	84.78	-	100.00
Respectful to govt. order	21.74	-	-
To ensure resource distribution of govt.	15.22	-	-
To meet the expectation of the people	26.09	54.54	-
Sense of accountability	-	63.63	-
Fellow-feeling to people	-	54.54	100.00
Freedom of expression of people	-	45.45	-

The respondents were asked to mention the impediments in holding proper election. It appears from the table 3.14 that 100% of the public representatives and 77% of local elites reply that “lack of consciousness among electoral colleges” is responsible for unfair election. Hundred percent of the officials remark that “lack of educational qualification of UP representative” and “failure of govt. to ensure fair election” are also responsible for unfair election. These views are supported by 61.54% of local elites. Local elites (77%) also mention that lack of patriotism is also responsible for unfair election.

Table: 3-14: Opinion of the Respondents about the Causes of unfair election.

Causes	Respondents in percent		
	UP Representatives (N=7)	Local Elites (N=13)	Govt. Officials (N=4)
Lack of consciousness among electoral colleges	100.00	76.92	50.00
Lack of proper educational qualification of union parishad representatives	57.14	61.54	100.00
Want of high moral character of public representatives	28.57	-	-
Defective policy of the govt.	57.14	61.54	100.00
Financial Transactions in the form of purchasing votes by the candidates	71.43	-	-
Lack of patriotism	-	76.92	50.00

D. Factors Responsible for promotion of Democratic Culture:

Respondents were asked to point out factors necessary for promotion of democratic culture and also to identify impediments to its growth. They pointed out as many as twenty-eight factors (table-3.15). Majority of the officials and public representatives opine that “ Education” is crucially important to accelerate democratic culture in the society. It reveals from the table that 60% UP representatives hold that “ freedom of expression of ideas and speech” influence the democratic culture while 52.5% UP representatives think that “ voting right” can play a vital role in the promotion of democratic culture in the country. Both the local elites and officials identify “respect for the right of the people” , “respect for the opinion of the people”, and “ fundamental rights” as the factors responsible for growth of democratic culture. The local elites pointed out “black money”, “terrorism”, “lack of value system” etc. as the factors that influence the growth of democratic culture negatively. Proper role of “mass media”, “strong leadership”, “separation of judiciary from executive”, “tolerance & patience” have also been identified for accelerating democratic culture. “Accountability” , “patriotism”, “consensus”, “ enforcement of law” have also been identified by local elites and officials which are necessary for accelerating democratic culture in the society.

Table-3.15: Opinion of the Respondents about Factors responsible for promotion of Democratic Culture

Opinions	Respondents in percent		
	UP Representatives (N=40)	Local Elites (N=65)	Govt. Officials (N=40)
Respect for the opinion of others	-	29.23	52.5
To ensure proper education for all	62.5	36.92	50.00
Environment of free and fair election should be created	70.00	12.31	47.5
Respect for right of others	-	36.92	40.00
Respectful to law	-	-	30.00
Freedom of expression of ideas & speech	60.00	9.23	32.5
To ensure voting rights of people	52.5	-	20.00
Honesty	-	36.9	35.00
Enforcement of Law	-	9.23	32.5

Opinions	Respondents in percent		
	UP Representatives (N=40)	Local Elites (N=65)	Govt. Officials (N=40)
People's participation in development activities	-	-	25.00
Patience and tolerance	-	7.69	27.5
Decision on the basis of consensus	-	7.69	57.5
Development of patriotism	-	13.84	40.00
Development of religious values in the society	-	-	30.00
ID cards for all voters	-	-	20.00
Proper role of mass-media	-	-	22.5
Development of leadership quality	-	-	17.5
Fixation of minimum educational qualification of public representatives.	37.5	-	15.00
Establishment of fundamental rights	-	36.92	25.0
Separation of judiciary from executive	-	-	25.00
Adequate manpower in district and upazila election office	-	-	15.00
Restriction of using black money in election	-	13.85	-
Agreement of all concerned to stop terrorism	-	12.31	-
Sense of belongingness to others	-	18.46	-
Development of value system by training	-	6.15	-
Environment for constructive criticism	-	9.23	-
People as well as govt. have to be more sincere for upliftment of democratic culture	60.00	-	-
Accountability of public representatives should be ensured	-	18.46	-

N.B: Multiple answers have been recorded.

E. Impediments towards establishment of Democratic culture

To make the study more pragmatic, the respondents were asked to give their opinion on the impediments towards promotion of democratic culture in our society. Most of the three categories of respondents (84% to 92%) opined (table-3.16) that it is due to the “lack of proper education” of the people for which we have not been able to establish democratic culture in our society so long. Resource constraints of UP has also been identified as one of the causes by the respondents (43.25%). Apart from these ““lack of congenial environment for election “ (40%), irregularity of UP meeting” (23%), “not to give proper importance to the opinion of UP members” (32.64%) “not to give proper weightage to the public opinion in matters of public interest” (29% - 70%) are also considered by the respondents as the barriers to the promotion of democratic culture.

Both the local elites and officials have mentioned some impediments towards establishment of democratic culture which are related with the role of UP representatives. 36.25% of local elites mention “ preference to own financial and other material interests of UP representatives”, and 32.5% of them hold “ lack of patience & tolerance on the part of the UP representatives” are the causes for which democratic culture can not be established(table-3.16). “Lack of proper education of the leaders in the local bodies”, “absence of patriotism of the local people”, “ not respectful to understand the rights of a citizen” have also been identified by officials as great barriers to the promotion of democratic culture.

Table-3.16: Opinion of the Respondents on the major impediments towards promotion of Democratic Culture

Major Limitations	Respondents in percent		
	UP Representatives (N=75)	Local Elites (N=80)	Govt. Officials (N=40)
Lack of proper/ sufficient education of the UPR	92.00	83.75	85.00
Lack of fair & congenial environment of election	62.67	40.00	52.80
Not holding of parishads meeting timely/ regularly	22.67	36.25	25.00
The opinion of the members of UP are not taken into consideration in the meeting	32.00	37.50	65.00
Resource constraints of UP	69.33	46.25	50.00
Public opinions are not taken into consideration in matters of public interests	29.33	51.25	70.00
Preference to own financial & other interests of UP representatives	-	36.25	12.5
Indifference of UPR towards rights of the people	-	12.5	12.5
Lack of patience & tolerance	-	32.5	17.50
Lack of proper education of the public representatives at local level.	-	17.50	10.00
Absence of patriotism among local people	-	13.75	12.50
Lack of humanitarian feelings among UPR	-	36.25	20.00

F. Suggestions to overcome the problem

To overcome the problems of promoting democratic culture in the society, opinions were sought from the respondents. In reply they suggested more than a dozen of opinions in this regard. UP representatives and government officials (77.27% - 82.5%) opined that “participatory local govt. system” should be introduced. This opinion is supported by 58.75% of local elites. For growth of democratic culture in the society the respondents (57.5% - 76.25%) opine to introduce fair and neutral election system. (55% - 83 %) of the respondents hold that opinion of all UP members should be given due importance when a decision is taken. “Holding UP meetings regularly” (47%64%) , “mobilization of own income of union parishad” (44% - 85%), “consideration of the opinion of the public” (74% - 75%) have also been suggested by the respondents for removing barriers in the way of democratic culture in the society. Besides, 32.5% of the local elites opine that “cordial relationship among chairmen and members “, “upgradation of morality of the people through education” and “ motivation of the people to exercise their voting rights freely” are also pertinent factors to make an appropriate environment for democratic culture. The above opinions have been supported by 7.5% - 17.5 % of the official respondents. It reveals from the table (table 3.17) that to overcome the problem local elites and official respondents have arrived at consensus on almost all points and in most cases UP representatives also came to a consensus with elites and official respondents.

Table- 3.17: Suggestions of the Respondents to Overcome Obstacles of Democratic Culture.

Suggested Area	Respondents in percent		
	UP Representatives (N=66)	Local Elites (N=80)	Govt. Officials (N=40)
Introduction of participatory local government	77.27	58.75	82.5
Introduction of fair and neutral election system	68.18	76.25	57.5
Opinion of all UP members should be equally considered when decisions are taken.	83.33	67.50	55.00
Holding of the parishad meeting regularly	46.97	63.75	55.00
Mobilization of own income of parishad	84.85	43.75	52.5
Consideration of opinion of public	74.24	73.75	75.00
Ensure public security	-	7.5	-
Establishment of cordial relationship among chairman & members of UP	-	32.5	17.5
To be free from prejudice	-	6.25	-
Moral Upgradation of people through education	-	32.50	7.5
Introduction of reward and punishment system	-	-	15.00
People should be made aware of citizenship charter & responsibilities	-	-	7.5
People should be organized to exercise their voting rights freely	-	32.5	7.5

N.B. Multiple answers have been recorded .

Findings

The following are the findings of the study:

1. In respect of discharge of the prescribed functions which include civic, revenue and administration, security, development, judiciary and education majority of the local elites and officials hold that Union Parishad are discharging these functions only partially. Therefore the Union Parishad representatives should be more sincere in respect of discharging the prescribed function of the UP because those are related with the well-being of the people.
2. With regard to the service delivery by Union Parishad 90% of the official respondents and 56.25% of the local elites hold that service delivery by UP is not satisfactory. They say that UP is not providing services as per the demand of the people. Therefore, in this aspect also the Union Parishad Representatives should be more sincere and should give more attention.
3. On practice of democratic culture by Union Parishad which is the theme of this study the opinion of the local elites and the officials differ with that of the UP Representatives. When 93% of the UP Representatives claim that they fulfill their commitments to the people, 44% of the local elites and 28% of the officials hold a negative view in this respect. Similarly, in other areas like fairness of election, implementation of government decisions, sincerity of the UP Representative towards the welfare of the people, there is wide difference between the UP Representatives and the local elites and the officials. Another very important question that was put to the respondents is whether opinion of the local elites is given due importance when decision is taken by UP Representatives on matters of public interest, 71.25% of the local elites and 57.5% of the officials reply negatively. But 82.5% of the UP Representatives make positive reply in this regard. This shows that on this important issue the local elites and the officials contradict with the UP Representatives. We have reasons to believe that in reality public opinion is not honoured in matters of

public interest. This is undoubtedly a deviation from practice of democratic culture which Union Parishad should get rid of if an atmosphere congenial to democracy has to be prevailed. Again, majority of the local elites and officials hold that UP dose not play its role effectively to create democratic values.

4. A very common allegation against the public representatives including the UP Representatives is that they do not abide by the commitments they make to the people before election. The reasons detected through this study were lack of religious bindings, lack of sincerity, lack of education, lack of honesty, lack of sense of responsibility, "party interest" lack of democratic culture, lack of accountability and influence of "black money".
5. According to the respondents lack of commitment, dishonesty of the UP Representative, lack of noble intension of UP Representatives, lack of coordination among the UP Chairman and the members , party interest, excessive election cost, pressure of influential group and favouratism are some of the reasons which stand in the way of proper functioning of the Union Parishads. If those hindrances are removed the situation can improve. On the other hand fellow-feeling for the public, " high degree of commitment of the UP Representatives to the people, " desire for being re-elected" and " freedom of expression of the people" have been identified by the respondents as very important factors for better functioning of the UP
6. According to the respondents education, freedom of expression of ideas and freedom of speech, voting right, respect for proper role of media, strong leadership, separation of judiciary from executives, tolerance and patience, accountability, patriotism and enforcement of law can ensure promotion of democratic culture. On the other hand, according to them, black money, terrorism, want of value system, lack of education, absence of congenial environment for free and fair election, irregularity of UP meeting, not giving proper importance to the opinion of the UP members, not to consider the opinion of the public in matters of public interest vitiate the democratic process.

7. The respondents have suggested for a participatory local government system. They have also suggested to ensure the environment congenial to free and fair election. They also hold that to introduce democratic culture in the society by the Union Parishad, it should create a democratic environment in itself first by honouring the opinion of the UP members, holding its meeting regularly, ensuring a cordial relation between the Chairman and the Members, respecting the opinion of the public, mobilizing its own resources and above all motivating the people to exercise their voting rights prudently and judiciously.

CHAPTER-IV

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

The following recommendations are made in the light of the findings of the study:

1. The UP should be more particular and sincere in matters of discharging its prescribed functions- particularly those which are related with public welfare.
2. With regard to service delivery the UP should be more sincere and active as its service system is not absolutely satisfactory.
3. About practice of democratic culture by UP it is evident that it does not practise the same properly. Relation between the UP chairman and the UP members is not cordial. Chairman in many cases does not give due importance to the opinion of the members. Public representatives very often do not have respect for the opinion of the people in matters of public interest. They are not sincere to their commitments which they make to the public before election. Therefore, a cordial and happy relation should be developed between the UP Chairman and Members. Chairman should attach due importance to the opinion of the members and public representatives as a whole should show respect to the opinion of the people in matters of public interest.
4. A common allegation against the Union Parishad Representatives is that they are not sincere to their commitments which they make to the public before their election. The respondents have identified 'lack of religious bindings,' 'lack of sincerity', 'lack of education', 'lack of honesty and sincerity', 'lack of sense of responsibility', 'party interest', 'lack of accountability', 'influence of black money', and 'lack of democratic culture' as the reason for this. Therefore they should get rid of these shortcomings.

5. Hindrances that stand in the way of proper functioning of the UP should be removed. There are absence of noble intensions among the UP Representatives , lack of co-ordination among them, excessive election cost and party interest. For better functioning of the UP fellow-feelings for the people, high degree of commitment to the people should be ensured.
6. To ensure. promotion of democratic culture the UP Representatives should be sufficiently educated. There should be an atmosphere of freedom of speech, freedom of expression of ideas, respect for the opinion of the people, tolerance for others views, respect for the right of the people, accountability of the UP Representatives and enforcement of laws in the society. Patriotism and separation of judiciary from the executive and proper role of media will also help a lot for promotion of democratic culture in the society.
7. Concept of participatory management should be introduced in Union Parishads. Members should be involved in decision making process. Meeting should be held regularly which should be attended by all members. While selecting development schemes not the individuals but the area that needs development should be given priority. Above all, the UP should be made a place centering round which a democratic environment will grow and develop. People will come here where they will talk of democracy and learn about democracy.

Conclusion

Till to-day the Union Parishad is the lowest tier of local government institution in our country. The purpose of local government institution on the one hand is to handle local affairs, manage resources through imposing taxes or extracting labour for prescribed purposes. On the other hand this is a school for training the local people on qualities required for good citizenship. This includes among other and which is perhaps the most important ideas and idea of democracy. Being the lowest tier of local government system in the country Union Parishad can play a vital role in giving the people the first lesson of democracy. If government can ensure free and fair election honest, educated and efficient people can be elected as the chairman and members of the Union Parishad who can serve its purpose in a much better way.

Unfortunately this does not happen in reality. In most cases influence of black money, terrorism and other bad practices play a vital role in the UP election. As a result persons who are elected are not very clean in most cases. They can not rise above favoritism, nepotism, dishonesty, self-interest and party interest. We can not expect from them practice of democracy. Most of their activities are guided by self and parochial interest. Instead of doing good to the people they are more interested in doing good for themselves. As a result they do not impose taxes properly and whatever taxes are imposed they do not collect it less they should lose their popularity and are defeated in the next election. They do not pay the salary of the rural police who work under them. They also do not pay share of the government from lease money of hat/ bazar etc. They do not hold meeting of the UP regularly. The relation between the chairman and the members are not cordial in most cases. Chairman does not attach importance to the views of the members and member do not have confidence in the Chairman. Such a situation prevails in most of the Union Parishads.

Role of the government in making this grass-root level local government institution effective and meaningful is also not serious and sincere. Rather it is authoritative and in most cases guided by party-interest. Division and segregation and not co-hesion and integration is the outcome of this policy. As a result supporters of a particular political party which is in power enjoy all the benefits depriving others who oppose them. What is still worse is that till today no government allowed the local government institution of this country including Union Parishad to grow and develop in their right form. There has always been a control, a supervision over them from the national government. In policy matters, in their execution procedures the local government institutions have to act upon the rules and regulations framed by the government which are not always in conformity with local needs and peculiarities. Therefore, we can say that the local government institution of our country is more an agent of the national government than they are local government institution in true sense. This type of local govt. institution can not fulfill the hopes and expectation of the people-far from being a place for democratic culture and practices.

However, situation is not that worse that we should loose heart. We can improve it definitely. But for that what is more important than anything else is the political will. Govt. must sincerely desire that local government institution should appear in its right form, it should operate and perform in the way it should do. The determination and will of the govt. is the main thing. Other vices or bad practices like terrorism, influence of black money, favouration, nepotism will automatically vanish. We are, therefore hopeful and we look forward to seeing the rightful action of the govt. in strengthening the Union Parishad, making it effective and turning it into an institution for democratic practice and culture.

Bibliography

1. ভূইয়া, মোহাম্মদ আব্দুল অদুদ, ১৯৭৯। *লোক প্রশাসনের রূপরেখা*, ঢাকা বুক হাউজ।
2. হক, আবু ফজল, ১৯৭৪। *বাংলাদেশের শাসন ব্যবস্থা ও রাজনীতি*, ঢাকা, বাংলা একাডেমী।
3. Ali AMM. Showkakat 1982. *Field Administration & Rural Development in Bangladesh*, Dhaka, CSS.
4. Ali Shaik Maqsood etal, 1983. *Decentralization and People's Participation in Bangladesh*, Dhaka, NIPA.
5. Dacca University, Department of Political Science; 1980. *Politics and Administration in Bangladesh*, Dhaka.
6. Khan, Md. Mohabbat and Zaforullah, Md. Habid (ed), 1981. *Rural Development in Bangladesh: Trends and Issues*, Dacca, Centas.
7. Rahman, Atiur, 1981., *Rural Power Structure: A study of the Local Level Leader in Bangladesh*, Dhaka, BBI.
8. Alam, Manjur-ul, 1977. *Local Government at work in Rural Bangladesh*, Journal of BARD, Vol. VIV, No.-2, , PP 17-25.
9. Islam, Shamsul, 1977. *Local Government and National Development Quarterly*, Vol. 6c No. 3.
10. Molla, Md. Giasuddin, 1978. *New Hopes for Union Parishads: Case of Bangladesh*, Administrative Science Review, Vol. VIII, No. 1., PP-43-47.
11. Rahman, M. Lutfar and Das, NR, 1980. *Union Parishad Taxes: Nature of Payment by the Farmers*. Administrative Science Review, Vol.-X, No.4, PP,17-28.
12. আজম, কে, কিউ, এবং হোসাইন, আলী আজম। 1979. *ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের বিভিন্ন সমস্যা- চেয়ারম্যানবৃন্দ যেভাবে ব্যাণ্ড করেছেন* Local Government Quarterly Vol-8, No. 1-4, PP-52-57.
13. আলম, জগলুল। ১৯৮২. *গ্রামীণ প্রশাসনঃ কয়েকটি সমস্যা* দৈনিক বাংলা, ২০শে জুলাই।
14. রহমান, এ, এইচ, মোঃ আমিনুর, 1978। *বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়ন সাধনে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের ভূমিকা* Local Government Quarterly, Vol.-7, No. 1-4,.
15. Ahmed J. Mihasuddin, 1980. Training of Union Parishad Chairman, Bogra, RDA.
16. Alam Manjr-ul, 1976. *Leadership Pattern, Problems and Prospects of Local government in Rural Bangladesh*, Comilla, BARD.

17. Khan, Shamsul , and Islam, Aminul S, 1996. *Political Culture, Political Parties and the Democratic Transition in Bangladesh*. Dhaka, Academic Publishers.
18. Pye, Lucian W. and Verba Sidney, 1965. *Political Culture and Political Development*, Princeton University Press.
19. Brown Archie, 1984. *Political Culture and Comminists Studies*, London, The Macmillan Press Limited.
20. Siddiqui, Kamal, 1995. *Local Government in Bangladesh*, Dhaka, UPL.
21. Siddiqui, Kamal, 2000. *Local Government in Bangladesh: Leading Issues and Major Challenges*, Dhaka, UPL.
22. Mitra, Subrata, 1999. *Culture and Rationality: The Politics of Social Change in Post Colonial, India*.
23. Allman Paula, 1999. *Revolutionary Social Transformation*, USA, Bargin & Garvey.

Functions of Union Parishads
(as mentioned in the First Schedule)

1. Provision and maintenance of public ways and public streets;
2. Provision and maintenance of public places, public open spaces, public gardens and public play-grounds;
3. Lighting of public ways, street and public places;
4. Plantation and preservation of trees in general, and plantation and preservation of trees on public ways, public streets and public places in particular;
5. Management and maintenance of burning and burial grounds, common meeting places and other common property;
6. Provision and maintenance of accommodation for travellers;
7. Prevention and regulation of encroachments on public ways, public street and public places.
8. Prevention and abatement of nuisances in public ways, public street and public places;
9. Sanitation, conservancy, and the adoption of other measures for the cleanliness of the union;
10. Regulation of the collection, removal and disposal of manure and street sweeping;
11. Regulation of offensive and dangerous trades;
12. Regulation of the disposal of carcasses of dead animals;
13. Regulation of the slaughter of animals;
14. Regulation of erection and re-erection of building in the union;
15. Regulation of dangerous building and structures
16. Provision and maintenance of well, water pumps, tanks, ponds and other works for the supply for water;
17. Adoption of measures for preventing the contamination of the sources of water-supply for drinking;

18. Provision of the use of the water of wells, ponds and other sources of water-supply suspected to be dangerous to public health;
19. Regulation or prohibition of the watering of cattle, bathing or washing at or near wells, ponds or other sources of water reserved for drinking purposes;
20. Regulation or prohibition of the steeping of hemp, jute or other plants in or near ponds or other sources of water-supply; -
21. Regulation or prohibition of dyeing or tanning of skins within residential areas;
22. Regulation or prohibition of the excavation of earth stones or other materials within residential areas;
23. Regulation or prohibition of the establishment of brick kilns, potteries and other kilns within residential areas.
24. Voluntary registration of the sale of cattle and other animals;
25. Holding of fairs and shows;
26. Celebration of public festivals;
27. Provision of relief measures in the event of any fire, flood, hail-storm, earthquake or other natural calamity;
28. Relief for the widows and orphans, and the poor and persons in distress;
29. Promotion of the public games and sports;
30. Industrial and community development; promotion and development of co-operative movement and village industries;
31. Adoption of measures for increased food production;
32. Provision for management or environment;
33. Provision for maintenance and regulation of cattle ponds;
34. Provision of first-aid centres;
35. Provision of libraries and reading rooms;
36. Co-operation with other organisation engaged in activities similar to those of the Union Parishad;
37. Aid in the promotion of education under the direction of the Upazila Parishad.
38. Any other measurement likely to promote the welfare, health, safety, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants of the Union or of visitors.

প্রশ্নমালা-১

“Role of Union Parishad in Promoting Democratic Culture” শীর্ষক গবেষণা সমীক্ষা।

[ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/ সদস্যবৃন্দের জন্য]

[বিঃ দ্রঃ শুধু গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য এ প্রশ্নমালা প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে, প্রদত্ত তথ্যসমূহ সম্পূর্ণরূপে গোপন রাখা হবে এবং উত্তরদাতার নাম, ঠিকানা ইত্যাদি কোন ভাবেই প্রকাশ করা হবে না।]

০১। উত্তরদাতার নামঃ -----

১.১। বয়সঃ -----

১.২। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাঃ-----

১.৩। প্রধান পেশাঃ -----

০২। ইউনিয়ন পরিষদে অবস্থানঃ চেয়ারম্যান সদস্য

০৩। ঠিকানাঃ

ইউনিয়নঃ

উপজেলাঃ

জেলাঃ

০৪। আপনি কত বছর জনপ্রতিনিধি হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করে আসছেন : ----- বছর

০৫। আপনি কি স্বেচ্ছায় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের সদস্য নির্বাচনে অংশগ্রহণ করেছিলেন ? হ্যাঁ না

০৬। নির্বাচনে প্রতিদ্বন্দিতার ব্যয়ভার আপনি নিজে বহন করেছেন কি ? হ্যাঁ না

৭। আপনি কি কোন রাজনৈতিক দলের সদস্য কিনা অথবা কোন দলকে সমর্থন করে কি না। হ্যাঁ না

০৮। আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদ তার উপর অর্পিত নিম্নোক্ত কার্যাবলী যথাযথভাবে পালন করছে ?

কার্যাবলী	মতামত			
	হ্যাঁ	আংশিক	না	মন্তব্য
পৌর কার্যাবলী.				
রাজস্ব ও প্রশাসন				
নিরাপত্তা				
উন্নয়ন				
বিচার				
শিক্ষা				

৯। নিম্নোক্ত বিষয় সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত দিন (টিক চিহ্ন দিন)

ক্রমিক	বিষয়	মতামত			
		হ্যাঁ	আংশিক	না	অন্য কোন মন্তব্য
৯.১	জনপ্রতিনিধি হিসেবে জনগণকে দেয়া প্রতিশ্রুতি পালন করছেন কি ?				
৯.২	আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদ প্রকৃতপক্ষে জনগণের জন্য কাজ করছে ?				
৯.৩	আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদের সদস্যবৃন্দ সঠিকভাবে নির্বাচিত হয়ে আসছে?				
৯.৪	পরিষদের সভা যথাসময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হয় কিনা?				
৯.৫	সভায় সকল সদস্যদের মতামতকে গুরুত্ব দেয়া হয় কিনা ?				
৯.৬	সরকারী সিদ্ধান্ত বাস্তবায়নে পরিষদ কি সক্রিয় ভূমিকা রাখছে?				
৯.৭	পরিষদ কি তার নিজস্ব আয়ের উৎস থেকে ব্যয় মেটাতে সক্ষম?				
৯.৮	উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণে স্থানীয় গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তি, রাজনীতিবিদ ও সাধারণ মানুষের মতামত গ্রহণ করা হয় কি?				
৯.৯	জনসাধারণের নিরাপত্তা বিধানে পরিষদ তৎপর কিনা ?				
৯.১০	পরিষদের কার্যপরিচালনায় বিধিবদ্ধ ও সরকারী নিয়মনীতি অনুসরণ করা হয় কি ?				
৯.১১	স্থানীয় সমস্যা স্থানীয়ভাবে সমাধানের উদ্যোগ নেয়া হয় কি?				
৯.১২	জনগণের মধ্যে গণতান্ত্রিক মূল্যবোধ সৃষ্টিতে পরিষদের কোন ভূমিকা আছে কি?				
৯.১৩	পরিষদ জনসাধারণের অভিযোগ শ্রবণ ও দূর করার চেষ্টা করে কি?				
৯.১৪	পরিষদ সরকারের সামর্থ ও জনগণের চাহিদা পূরণে সমন্বয়কের দায়িত্ব পালন করে কি?				
৯.১৫	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, পুষ্টি ও মৌলিক চাহিদার সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধিতে পরিষদের কোন কার্যক্রম আছে কি?				
৯.১৬	জনগণের মৌলিক অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠায় পরিষদের ভূমিকা আছে কি?				

১০.১ প্রশ্ন নং ৯.১ এর উত্তর “না” হলে কারণ উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

ঘ)

১০.২ প্রশ্ন নং- ৯.২ এর উত্তর “হ্যাঁ” হলে কারণ উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

১০.৩ প্রশ্ন নং- ৯.২ এর উত্তর “না” হলে কারণ উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

১০.৪ প্রশ্ন নং- ৯.৩ এর উত্তর “না” হলে সঠিক নির্বাচন কি ভাবে নিশ্চিত করা যায় :

ক)

খ)

গ)

১১। “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” সম্বন্ধে আপনার মতামত ব্যক্ত করুন :

১২। “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” বিকাশের ক্ষেত্রে সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বাধা হিসেবে কোনগুলিকে মনে করেন? (টি
চিহ্ন দিন):

- ক) পর্যাপ্ত শিক্ষার অভাব।
- খ) অবাধ ও নিরপেক্ষভাবে নির্বাচনের পরিবেশের অভাব।
- গ) পরিষদের সভা নিয়মিতভাবে অনুষ্ঠিত না হওয়া।
- ঘ) পরিষদের সভাসমূহে সদস্যদের মতামত সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব না দেয়া।
- ঙ) পরিষদের আর্থিক দিক দিয়ে দুর্বল অবস্থান।
- চ) জনস্বার্থ সংশ্লিষ্ট সমস্যা সমাধানে জনমতকে যথাযথ গুরুত্ব না দেয়া।
- ছ) অন্যান্য (উল্লেখ করুন)।

১৩। কিভাবে গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতির বিকাশ ঘটাতে পারে অর্থাৎ “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” বিকাশের পথে বিদ্যমান
প্রতিবন্ধকতা দূর করতে সুচিন্তিত পরামর্শ প্রদান করুন (সংশ্লিষ্ট ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিন)।

- ক) জনঅংশগ্রহণমূলক স্থানীয় সরকার ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্তন।
- খ) অবাধ ও নিরপেক্ষ নির্বাচনের ব্যবস্থা করা।
- গ) পরিষদের সদস্যবৃন্দের মতামত সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব দিয়ে সেভাবে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ।
- ঘ) নিয়মিতভাবে পরিষদের সভা পরিচালনা।
- ঙ) আর্থিক দিক দিয়ে পরিষদের অবস্থান সুদৃঢ় করা।
- চ) জনসাধারণের মতামতকে গুরুত্ব প্রদান।
- ছ) অন্যান্য (উল্লেখ করুন):

প্রশ্নমালা-২

“Role of Union Parishad in Promoting Democratic Culture” শীর্ষক গবেষণা সমীক্ষা।

[ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের স্থানীয় গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তি (শিক্ষক, ইমাম, প্রভাবশালী ব্যক্তিবর্গ) ও অন্যান্য রাজনীতিবিদ ও
জনসাধারণের জন্য]

[বিঃ দ্রঃ শুধু গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য এ প্রশ্নমালা প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে, প্রদত্ত তথ্যসমূহ সম্পূর্ণরূপে গোপন
রাখা হবে এবং উত্তরদাতার নাম, ঠিকানা ইত্যাদি কোন ভাবেই প্রকাশ করা হবে না]

০১। উত্তরদাতার নামঃ -----

১.১। বয়সঃ -----

১.২। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাঃ-----

১.৩। প্রধান পেশাঃ -----

০২। ঠিকানাঃ

ইউনিয়নঃ

উপজেলাঃ

জেলাঃ

০৩। আপনি কত বছর এ এলাকায় বসবাস করে আসছেন : ----- বছর

০৪। আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদ তার উপর অর্পিত নিন্মুক্ত দায়িত্বাবলী যথাযথভাবে পালন করছে ?

কার্যাবলী	মতামত			
	হ্যাঁ	আংশিক	না	মন্তব্য
পৌর কার্যাবলী				
রাজস্ব ও প্রশাসন				
উন্নয়ন				
বিচার				
শিক্ষা				

০৫। আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদ জনসাধারণের চাহিদানুযায়ী সেবা প্রদান করতে পারছে ?

হ্যাঁ না

০৬। পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ সদস্য ও পরিষদের কার্যাবলীর নিন্মুক্ত দিক সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত দিন

(টিক চিহ্ন দিন)

ক্রমিক	বিষয়	মতামত			
		হ্যাঁ	আংশিক	না	অন্য কোন মন্তব্য
৬.১	তিনি পরিষদের সদস্য হিসেবে জনগণকে দেয়া প্রতিশ্রুতি পালন করছেন ?				
৬.২	আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদ প্রকৃতপক্ষে জনগণের জন্য কাজ করছে ?				
৬.৩	আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদের সদস্যবৃন্দ সঠিকভাবে নির্বাচিত হয়ে আসছে?				
৬.৪	সরকারী সিদ্ধান্ত বাস্তবায়নে পরিষদ কি যথাযথভাবে আগ্রহী ও আন্তরিক?				
৬.৫	সরকারী সিদ্ধান্ত বাস্তবায়নে পরিষদ কি সক্রিয় ভূমিকা রাখছে?				
৬.৬	উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পসমূহ যথাসময়ে গৃহীত ও বাস্তবায়িত হয় কি?				

৬.৭	পরিষদ কি তার নিজস্ব আয়ের উৎস থেকে ব্যয় মেটাতে সক্ষম?				
৬.৮	উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণে স্থানীয় গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তি, রাজনীতিবিদ ও সাধারণ মানুষের মতামত গ্রহণ করা হয় কি?				
৬.৯	জনসাধারণের নিরাপত্তা বিধানে পরিষদ তৎপর কিনা ?				
৬.১০	পরিষদের কার্যপরিচালনায় বিধিবদ্ধ ও সরকারী নিয়মনীতি অনুসরণ করা হয় কি ?				
৬.১১	স্থানীয় সমস্যা স্থানীয়ভাবে সমাধানের উদ্যোগ নেয়া হয় কি?				
৬.১২	জনগণের নাগরিক সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধিতে পরিষদের কোন ভূমিকা আছে কি?				
৬.১৩	পরিষদ জনসাধারণের অভিযোগ শ্রবণ ও দূর করা চেষ্টা করে কি?				
৬.১৪	পরিষদ সরকারের সামর্থ ও জনগণের চাহিদা পূরণে সম্মনয়কের দায়িত্ব পালন করে কি?				
৬.১৫	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, পুষ্টি ও মৌলিক চাহিদার সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধিতে পরিষদের কোন কার্যক্রম আছে কি?				
৬.১৬	জনগণের মৌলিক অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠায় পরিষদের ভূমিকা আছে কি?				

০৭.১ প্রশ্ন নং ০৬.১ এর উত্তর "না" হলে কারণ উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

ঘ)

০৭.২ প্রশ্ন নং- ০৬.২ এর উত্তর "হ্যাঁ" হলে কারণ উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

০৭.৩ প্রশ্ন নং- ০৬.২ এর উত্তর "না" হলে কারন উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

০৭.৪ প্রশ্ন নং- ০৬.৩ এর উত্তর "না" হলে কি ভাবে নিশ্চিত করা যায় :

ক)

খ)

গ)

৮। “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” র উপাদানসমূহ সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত দিন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

ঘ)

ঙ)

চ)

ছ)

৯। “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” বিকাশের ক্ষেত্রে সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বাধা হিসেবে কোনগুলিকে মনে করেন? (টিক চিহ্ন দিন):

ক) পর্যাপ্ত শিক্ষার অভাব।

খ) অবাধ ও নিরপেক্ষভাবে নির্বাচনের পরিবেশের অভাব।

গ) পরিষদের সভা নিয়মিতভাবে অনুষ্ঠিত না হওয়া।

- ঘ) পরিষদের সভাসমূহে সদস্যদের মতামত সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব না দেয়া।
- ঙ) পরিষদের আর্থিক দিক দিয়ে দুর্বল অবস্থান।
- চ) জনস্বার্থ সংশ্লিষ্ট সমস্যা সমাধানে জনমতকে যথাযথ গুরুত্ব না দেয়া।
- ছ) অন্যান্য (উল্লেখ করুন)।

১০। কিভাবে গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতির বিকাশ ঘটাতে পারে অর্থাৎ “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” বিকাশের পথে বিদ্যমান প্রতিবন্ধকতা দূর করতে সুচিন্তিত পরামর্শ প্রদান করুন (সংশ্লিষ্ট ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিন)।

- ক) জনঅংশগ্রহণমূলক স্থানীয় সরকার ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্তন।
- খ) অবাধ ও নিরপেক্ষ নির্বাচনের ব্যবস্থা করা।
- গ) পরিষদের সদস্যবৃন্দের মতামত সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব দিয়ে সেভাবে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ।
- ঘ) নিয়মিতভাবে পরিষদের সভা পরিচালনা।
- ঙ) আর্থিক দিক দিয়ে পরিষদের অবস্থান সুদৃঢ় করা।
- চ) জনসাধারণের মতামতকে গুরুত্ব প্রদান।
- ছ) অন্যান্য(উল্লেখ করুন):

প্রশ্নমালা-৩

“Role of Union Parishad in Promoting Democratic Culture” শীর্ষক গবেষণা সমীক্ষা।

[উপজেলা পরিষদের সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তা (DC/ADC/UNO, AC(L), Agriculture, Livestock, Social Welfare, Fisheries ও অন্যান্য অফিসারদের জন্য]

[বিঃ দ্রঃ শুধু গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য এ প্রশ্নমালা প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে, প্রদত্ত তথ্যসমূহ সম্পূর্ণরূপে গোপন রাখা হবে এবং উত্তরদাতার নাম, ঠিকানা ইত্যাদি কোন ভাবেই প্রকাশ করা হবে না।]

০১। উত্তরদাতার নামঃ -----

১.১। বয়সঃ -----

১.২। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাঃ-----

১.৩। প্রধান পেশাঃ -----

০২। ঠিকানাঃ

উপজেলাঃ

জেলাঃ

০৩। আপনি কত বছর সরকারী দপ্তরে দায়িত্ব পালন করে আসছেন : ----- বছর

০৪। আপনি কি মনে করেন ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ তার উপর অর্পিত নিম্নোক্ত কার্যাবলী যথাযথভাবে পালন করছে ?

কার্যাবলী	মতামত			
	হ্যাঁ	আংশিক	না	মন্তব্য
পৌর কার্যাবলী				
রাজস্ব ও প্রশাসন				
নিরাপত্তা				
উন্নয়ন				
বিচার				
শিক্ষা				

০৫। আপনি কি মনে করেন ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের জনসাধারণের চাহিদানুযায়ী সেবা প্রদান করতে পারছে ?

হ্যাঁ না

০৬। ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের নিম্নোক্ত বিষয় সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত দিন (টিক চিহ্ন দিন)

ক্রমিক	বিষয়	মতামত			
		হ্যাঁ	আংশিক	না	অন্য কোন মন্তব্য
০৬.১	পরিষদের সদস্য হিসেবে জনগণকে দেয়া প্রতিশ্রুতি পালন করছেন ?				
০৬.২	জনগণ কর্তৃক অর্পিত দায়িত্ব সঠিক ভাবে পালন করছেন কি না?				
০৬.৩	আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদ প্রকৃতপক্ষে জনগণের জন্য কাজ করছে ?				
১০.৪	আপনি কি মনে করেন পরিষদের সদস্যবৃন্দ সঠিকভাবে নির্বাচিত হয়ে আসছে?				
০৬.৫	সরকারী সিদ্ধান্ত বাস্তবায়নে পরিষদ কি যথাযথভাবে আগ্রহী ও আন্তরিক?				

০৬.৬	সরকারী সিদ্ধান্ত বাস্তবায়নে পরিষদ কি সক্রিয় ভূমিকা রাখছে?				
০৬.৭	উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পসমূহ যথাসময়ে গৃহীত ও বাস্তবায়িত হয় কি?				
০৬.৮	পরিষদ কি তার নিজস্ব আয়ের উৎস থেকে ব্যয় মেটাতে সক্ষম?				
০৬.৯	উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণে স্থানীয় গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তি, রাজনীতিবিদ ও সাধারণ মানুষের মতামত গ্রহণ করা হয় কি?				
০৬.১০	জনসাধারণের নিরাপত্তা বিধানে পরিষদ তৎপর কিনা ?				
০৬.১১	পরিষদের কার্যপরিচালনায় বিধিবদ্ধ ও সরকারী নিয়মনীতি অনুসরণ করা হয় কি ?				
০৬.১২	স্থানীয় সমস্যা স্থানীয়ভাবে সমাধানের উদ্যোগ নেয়া হয় কি?				
০৬.১৩	জনগণের গণতান্ত্রিক মূল্যবোধ বৃদ্ধিতে পরিষদের কোন ভূমিকা আছে কি?				
০৬.১৪	পরিষদ জনসাধারণের অভিযোগ শ্রবণ ও দূর করার চেষ্টা করে কি?				
০৬.১৫	পরিষদ সরকারের সামর্থ ও জনগণের চাহিদা পূরণে সমন্বয়কের দায়িত্ব পালন করে কি?				
০৬.১৬	শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, পুষ্টি ও মৌলিক চাহিদার সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধিতে পরিষদের কোন কার্যক্রম আছে কি?				
০৬.১৭	জনগণের মৌলিক অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠায় পরিষদের ভূমিকা আছে কি?				

০৭.১ প্রশ্ন নং ০৬.১ এর উত্তর "না" হলে কারণ উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

ঘ)

০৭.২ প্রশ্ন নং- ০৬.২ এর উত্তর "না" হলে কারন উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

০৭.৩ প্রশ্ন নং- ০৬.৩ এর উত্তর "হ্যাঁ" হলে কারন উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

০৭.৪ প্রশ্ন নং- ০৬.৩ এর উত্তর "না" হলে কারন উল্লেখ করুন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

০৭.৫ প্রশ্ন নং- ০৬.৪ এর উত্তর "না" হলে কি ভাবে নিশ্চিত করা যায় :

ক)

খ)

গ)

৬। “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” র উপাদানসমূহ সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত দিন :

ক)

খ)

গ)

ঘ)

ঙ)

- ৯। “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” বিকাশের ক্ষেত্রে সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বাধা হিসেবে কোনগুলিকে মনে করেন? (টিক চিহ্ন দিন):
- ক) পর্যাপ্ত শিক্ষার অভাব।
- খ) অবাধ ও নিরপেক্ষভাবে নির্বাচনের পরিবেশের অভাব।
- গ) পরিষদের সভা নিয়মিতভাবে অনুষ্ঠিত না হওয়া।
- ঘ) পরিষদের সভাসমূহে সদস্যদের মতামত সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব না দেয়া।
- ঙ) পরিষদের আর্থিক দিক দিয়ে দুর্বল অবস্থান।
- চ) জনস্বার্থ সংশ্লিষ্ট সমস্যা সমাধানে জনমতকে যথাযথ গুরুত্ব না দেয়া।
- ছ) অন্যান্য (উল্লেখ করুন):
- ১০। কিভাবে গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতির বিকাশ ঘটাতে পারে অর্থাৎ “গণতান্ত্রিক সংস্কৃতি” বিকাশের পথে বিদ্যমান প্রতিবন্ধকতা দূর করতে সুচিন্তিত পরামর্শ প্রদান করুন :
- ক) জনঅংশগ্রহণমূলক স্থানীয় সরকার ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্তন।
- খ) অবাধ ও নিরপেক্ষ নির্বাচনের ব্যবস্থা করা।
- গ) পরিষদের সদস্যবৃন্দের মতামত সমানভাবে গুরুত্ব দিয়ে সেভাবে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ।
- ঘ) নিয়মিতভাবে পরিষদের সভা পরিচালনা।
- ঙ) আর্থিক দিক দিয়ে পরিষদের অবস্থান সুদৃঢ় করা।
- চ) জনসাধারণের মতামতকে গুরুত্ব প্রদান।
- ছ) অন্যান্য(উল্লেখ করুন)।