

Local Government in Action: A Case Study of Mirzapur Union Parishad

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a) Researcher's Identity

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b) Objectives

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. To study the functions of Union Parishad;
- ii. To identify the problems that hinder the functions of the Union Parishad;
and
- iii. To find out the reasons for such problems.

The study has covered the following aspects:

- (i) The Union Parishad meetings
- (ii) Budget
- (iii) Village Police
- (iv) Judicial functions
- (v) Development functions
- (vi) Project Planning

c) Executive summary

The local government is new in Bangladesh. It was prevalent in our country even before the advent of the British. But that was constituted on a narrow basis of hereditary privilege and was not an important part of the administrative system. The local government in modern sense came into existence following the promulgation of the Chowkidari Act of 1870. From the Chowkidari Act of 1870 till the passing of the local government Act of 1983, there have been many changes in the structure, names, power, functions, personnel and financial administration at the Union level. But the local government at the Union level could not become successful as an effective institution. The studies done so far indicate that it suffers from

multifarious problems. These are financial insolvency, lack of administrative staff, lack of sufficient autonomy, lack of cooperation and coordination. After independence of Bangladesh no detailed study on the functions of Union Parishad has been conducted. All the studies done so far have dealt with a limited area either financial aspects or a particular function of the Union Parishad. The problems so far identified are interrelated. To understand the situation entirely, a detailed study on the functions of the Union Parishad has been done to examine its functions and the problems that deter the proper functioning of the Union Parishad.

The study was done in Mirzapur Union under Sherpur Upazila of Bogra district. Data used for the study have mostly been collected from the Parishads which were in operation during the period from 1977-78 to 1982-83 under the Local Government Ordinance, 1976. However, in some cases data have been collected from 1960-61 in order to have a comparative picture of different periods. The major findings of the study are presented here in a summarized form.