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Nature and Characteristics of Local Government:

Local Government is a grass root level government which is very close to the Government. It has a direct link with the people at everyday affairs, like

- Union Council
- Town Committee
- City Government

Local Government is a machinery of government which manages and administers the local affairs of people at an important local level.

Characteristics of Local Government:

These are some of the essential characteristics of Local Government

- Specific Jurisdiction
- Specific Population
- Permanent Institution
- Multipurpose or Single Purpose
- Legal Status
- Nature

- Continues or discontinues
- Representative or Unrepresentative
- Authorized to Prepare Budget

1- Specific Jurisdiction:

Each Local Government has its own Jurisdiction, its own boundaries, area or territory, and on the basis of which it provides its services and facilities. For instance Karachi is a best example to understand specific jurisdiction, the whole of Karachi is not under the KMC, some areas are under the cantonment board and some under KDA etc. Gulshan e iqbal is a clear example that it is big enough and subdivided too.

2- Specific Population:

Local Government has its own specific population and this population factor is very essential as it shows the status of local government that is whom it provides services. Here we will take again the example of KMC, it can only provide services to Karachi city, it cannot give services to the Hyderabad.

3- Legal Status:

Creation of Local Government can be by the provincial or National Government. Each Local government has its own legal entity. It means that it can sue or

can be sued against or by an ordinary citizen, provincial and Central Government.

4- Permanent Institution:

Local Government has its own permanent institution in the form of the chairman, whom we know as a Nazim, it has its own council, staff and through the combine efforts of these institutions local problems are managed so it can be rightly said that local government is a permanent institution.

5- Multipurpose or Single purpose:

Local Government can be a multipurpose body or single purpose body.

Multipurpose:

In multipurpose the local government has diversified responsibilities, for instance considering the example of KMC; it performs multiple tasks such as managing schools, health, and maintenance of roads, fire services and regulatory responsibilities.

Single Purpose:

At the same time Local Government can also be a single purpose body means it can only have one function to perform. Usually in USA there is a single purpose bodies to avoid over lapping and chaos.

6- Continues or discontinues:

Local government can be of any type; either continues organization or discontinues organization depending on the political structure of the country. When local government is working in a continues manner then its continues but due to some political reasons it can be even discontinues.

7- Nature:

The nature of the local government varies from country to country, for instance police is managed by the provincial government in

Pakistan but directions are given by the Central government but in some developed countries police is managed by the local government.

This clearly defines that nature is one of the important aspect in the distinguish characteristics of Local Government.

8- Representative or Unrepresentative:

Local Government can be representative or it can be unrepresentative.

Representative Local Government:

If a local government is self-governing means local officials are elected by local people. There is a periodic election from time to time and these officials are responsible before local election.

Unrepresentative Local Government:

Officials who run local government they may be held accountable before the people. For instance a head of KDA may be held accountable as KDA is not local government but head of KMC is civil servant and institution is a local government.

Authorized to prepare Budget:

Local government has its say in the preparation of budget at a local level. They have the rights to make a budget as they are fully aware of the resource allocation in the locality and knows who to administer and manage things at local level and therefore it's important to include their expertise while preparing the budget at local level.