

# Decentralised Democracy in India

Gandhi's Vision and Reality

**M. V. Nadkarni, N. Sivanna and Lavanya Suresh**

'Relevant for contemporary times, this book raises a fundamental question: Are we sincere about realizing Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj? Based on in-depth research through an excellent socio-political and economic analysis of the last 70 years of our independence, the authors have brought to the centre-stage the failures and successes of our grassroots democracy. This deeply analytical volume is a must for our policy makers, academics, scholars and young researchers, and a valuable addition to the libraries.'

George Mathew, Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, India

This book provides a vantage point of comparison, of the actual reality of decentralisation in India with Gandhi's vision of decentralised democracy, or what he referred to as Gram Swaraj. It looks at the historical evolution of panchayats from ancient times to India's independence, and critically discusses the developments after. It examines the functioning of the present Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the performances of urban local bodies. The basic thrust of this work is the need for constitutional reforms meant to strengthen and deepen democracy.

The book will be useful to those in political studies, policy studies, public administration and development studies.

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and Lavanya Suresh



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