BPAC-112 RURAL LOCAL GOVERNANCE
Tutor Marked Assignments

Course Code: BPAC-112
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/July 2026 & January 2027
Total Marks: 100

Assignment A

Answer the following question in about 500 words each.

1. Discuss the major issues and challenges in the implementation of ICT-based solutions in rural areas. 20
2. Examine the status of services in rural areas with special reference to water supply, sanitation, health and education. 20

Assignment B

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.

3. Examine the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in service delivery. 10
4. What are the major initiatives of e-Governance in rural areas? 10
5. Write a note on implementation and monitoring of Gram Panchayat Development Plan. 10

Assignment C

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

6. Write a short note on devolution of functions? 6
7. What are the constitutional provisions regarding resource mobilisation and management? 6
8. Discuss the rights-based approach to rural development. 6
9. Enumerate the role and responsibilities of Gram Panchayat 6
10. Enumerate the factors that influence the relations between the state and local government. 6

1. Discuss the major issues and challenges in the implementation of ICT-based solutions in rural areas. 20

Answer

Information and communication technology (ICT) can make rural administration faster, more transparent and responsive. Digital land records, online certificates, electronic payments, telemedicine and village-level information services reduce the need to travel to distant offices. However, installing an application does not automatically make governance inclusive. Its success depends on electricity, connectivity, capable institutions, public trust and the ability of citizens to use the service.

Infrastructure and access

The most visible problem is the uneven availability of reliable internet connectivity. Many settlements have weak mobile signals, inadequate broadband backhaul or expensive data services. A portal that works in a district headquarters may be too slow to use in a remote village. Interrupted electricity, limited charging facilities and poorly maintained computers also disrupt common service centres, schools and health facilities. Terrain, low population density and the cost of maintaining networks make commercial investment less attractive in some locations. Broadband expansion through BharatNet and mobile-network investment must therefore be accompanied by last-mile connections, reliable power and local technical support.

Digital literacy and social inequalities

Being able to own a smartphone is different from being able to complete a government transaction. Online forms may require reading instructions, scanning documents, managing passwords and understanding authentication messages. Older people, those with limited schooling, some persons with disabilities and first-time users can find these steps difficult. Women may have less independent access to phones or control over household spending. Language also matters: English-only forms, technical vocabulary and poor support for local scripts increase dependence on intermediaries. Without assisted services, ICT can reproduce existing inequalities rather than narrow them. Village-level digital literacy camps, accessible interfaces and local-language help desks are therefore essential.