

Role Performance of Gram Panchayat Members in Rural Development

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Abstract

The Gram Panchayat is primary and basic unit of Panchayat has become a solid foundation democracy in the country and powerful instrument not only in political but also in social and economic transformation. The present study was conducted in Shahpura block of Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh with the objective to find out the extent of role performance of Gram Panchayat members in rural development. In this study the data revealed that out of the total 120 Gram Panchayat members, 51.67 per cent of the respondents had medium level of role performance followed by 30.00 per cent had high role and 18.33 per cent performed low role in rural development. The results of chi-square test showed that independent variables namely education qualification, caste, family size, occupation, social participation, size of land holding, annual income, contact with development agencies, time allocation for Panchayat matters and attitude towards village development had significantly relationship with role performance of Gram Panchayat members in rural development. Further, age and family type had non-significant relationship with role performance of Gram Panchayat members in rural development.

Keywords: Gram Panchayat, Role Performance, Rural Development

Introduction

The administration in India is democratic where institute like Panchayat holds a place of right in the constitutions. This was implemented with 73rd amendment of the constitution which gave rebirth to Gram Panchayat system on 24th April, 1993. This system of democratic decentralization having three tier systems, i.e. Zila, Janpad and Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat is primary and basic unit of Panchayat has become a solid foundation democracy in the country and powerful instrument not only in political but also in social and economic transformation. In the recent Panchayati Raj system an organization of Gram Panchayat is the third most important tier. In this system, for one or group of village, the Gram Panchayat formed. Every Gram Panchayat is having 9-15 elected members and this elected members is depend on population (Like that 9 elected members in

1000 population and 15 elected members an about 3000 population) and nominated members elected on the basis of adult franchise. They included representatives of backward classes, females etc. Gram Panchayat is formed for a period of five years. Sarpanch is elected by the members from among themselves^[1].

Agriculture has been and will continue to be the lifeline of our national economy at least in the foreseeable future. Besides, sustaining livelihood and providing directly employment, it forms the backbone of the agro based industries. The development of the nation is therefore directly or indirectly related to its agricultural advancement^[4]. Gram Panchayat is the last link in the three-tier system of Panchayat raj. As co-ordinating agency, Gram Panchayat and its members play the role of advisor to the rural people. They provide information about various

government schemes to the people in village^[3]. The Gram Panchayat members play the role in encouraged advanced

Material and methods

The present study was conducted in Shahpura block of Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh with the objective to study "Extent of role performance of Gram Panchayat members in rural development" Shahpura block was selected purposively because it has maximum number of Gram Panchayat as compared to other blocks (Majholi, Jabalpur, Patan, Kundam, Pangar, Sihora) of the district. Samples of

farming techniques to increase agriculture yield and other all developmental activities in rural development.

120 respondents were selected by using proportionate random sampling from 10 Gram Panchayat. Each Gram Panchayat has on an average 10 to 12 members selected for the study. Data were collected through personal interview method, with the help of pre-tested interview schedule. The statistical methods *via*, frequency, percentage, chi-square test etc. were used for analysis of data.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 Distribution of Gram Panchayat members according to their profile in rural development

S. No.	Profile of Gram Panchayat members	Categories	Respondents N = 120	
			Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (18 to 35 years)	42	35.00
		Middle (36 to 50 years)	51	42.50
		Old (Above 50 years)	27	22.00
2.	Education qualification	Illiterate	10	8.33
		Primary	59	49.17
		Middle	32	26.67
		Intermediate & above	19	15.83
3.	Caste	ST	27	22.50
		SC	16	13.33
		OBC	58	48.33
		General	19	15.84
4.	Family type	Nuclear family	82	68.33
		Joint family	38	31.67
5.	Family size	Small family (Up to 5 members)	84	70.00
		Medium family (6 to 9 members)	23	19.16
		Large family (Above 9 members)	13	10.84
6.	Occupation	Agriculture	53	44.17
		Agriculture + subsidiary	41	34.17
		Labour	26	21.66
7.	Social	No membership in any organization	23	19.17

	participation	Membership in one organization	29	24.17
		Membership in more than one organization	68	56.66
8.	Size of land holding	Marginal (up to 1 ha.)	43	35.84
		Small (1.1 to 2 ha.)	61	50.83
		Large (Above 2 ha.)	16	13.33
9.	Annual income	Below poverty line (up to Rs. 24000/-)	35	29.17
		Low (24001 to 50000/-)	52	43.33
		Medium (50001 to 75000/-)	28	23.33
		High (Above 75000/-)	05	04.17
10.	Contact with development agencies	Less contact	81	67.50
		Medium contact	26	21.67
		More contact	13	10.83
11.	Time allocation for panchayat matters (hr/week)	Up to 5 hours	37	30.84
		5.1 to 10 hours	62	51.66
		10.1 to 15 hours	16	13.34
		Above 15 hours	05	04.16
12.	Attitude towards village development	Less favorable attitude	53	44.16
		More favorable attitude	67	55.84

Table 1 Shows that most of the Gram Panchayat members i.e. 42.50 per cent were from 36 to 50 years middle age group, 49.17 per cent were primary, 48.33 per cent belonged to other backward class, 68.33 per cent lived in nuclear family, 70.00 per cent had small family size, 44.17 per cent were engaged in agriculture as occupation, 56.66 per cent were membership in more than one

organization, 50.83 had small size of land holding. 43.33 per cent were in low annual income group (Rs. 24001 to 50000/-), 67.50 per cent were less contact with development agencies, 51.66 per cent respondents were time allocation for Panchayat matters up to 10 hours and 55.84 per cent had more favourable attitude towards village development^[5,7].

Table 2 Distribution of Gram panchayat members according to their role performance

S. No.	Role performance	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	22	18.33
2.	Medium	62	51.67
3.	High	36	30.00
Total		120	100

The data in the table 2 indicated that out of the total respondents, 51.67 per cent of the respondents performed medium role, 30.00 per cent performed medium role and 18.33 per cent performed low role

in rural development. Thus it can be concluded that the highest percentage of respondents had performed medium role in rural development^[2].

Table 3 Relationship between the profile of Gram Panchayat members and their role performance

S. No.	Profile of Gram Panchayat members	Role performance	
		χ^2	Degree of Freedom
1.	Age	3.92* ^{NS}	4
2.	Education qualification	13.02*	6
3.	Caste	13.10*	6
4.	Family type	3.43* ^{NS}	2
5.	Family size	9.70*	4
6.	Occupation	19.16*	4
7.	Social participation	11.31*	4
8.	Size of land holding	14.54*	4
9.	Annual income	13.32*	4
10.	Contact with development agencies	11.51*	4
11.	Time allocation for Panchayat matters (hr/week)	9.50*	4
12.	Attitude towards village development	7.86*	2

The data in the table 3 show that, education qualification, caste, family size, occupation, social participation, size of land holding, annual income, contact with development agencies, time allocation for panchayat matters and attitude towards village development had significant

Conclusion

The study clearly concluded that majority of the 51.67 per cent Gram Panchayat members had medium level role performance in rural development. Therefore, it could be implied that role performance of Gram Panchayat members has significant contribution in providing

relationship with role performance of gram Panchayat members in rural development. Further, age and family type had no significant relationship with role performance of Gram Panchayat members^[6].

timely information about various schemes being run by the government like, construction work and their maintenance, public hand pump, school, tank etc. and encouraged farmers to adopt advance farming techniques to increase agriculture yield.

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