

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Role of Gram Panchayat members in village development

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17.06.2017;**Revised :**
21.08.2017;**Accepted :**
07.09.2017

SUMMARY : The study on role of Gram Panchayat members in village development was undertaken in Amravati Panchayat Samiti in the Amravati district of Maharashtra state. In Maharashtra Gram means village. The 80 Gram Panchayat member were selected by simple random sampling method from 9 villages in Amravati Panchayat Samiti. The data were collected by personal interview method with the help of interview schedule. Careful analysis, tabulation and classification of the data were done. Mean, standard deviation, frequency, percentage and correlation of the data were employed for the interpretation of the results. Results obtained after analysis are summarised as below. In case of personal, socio-economic, economic and psychological characteristics of the Gram Panchayat members indicated that majority of the respondents (46.25%) were found middle age in between 36 to 50 years, 52.5% were educated upto higher secondary/Graduate level. Majority of the respondents were found living in nuclear family size (65.00%), had medium level of cosmopolitness (75.00%), 57.5 per cent of the respondents had medium level of social participation and (65.00%) of the respondents had medium socio-economic status. Whereas, high work experience (65.00%). Majority of the respondents (60.00%) were having medium role performance. The relationship of the selected variable *i.e.* age, education, cosmopolitness, social participation and socio-economic status had positive and significant relationship with role performance. Variables size of family and work experience had non significant with role performance. The major constraints faced during the Role performance of Gram Panchayat members were found that non availability of developmental fund in timely (88.75%), lack of cooperation by villagers and grampanchayat members (70.00%), rigid casteism (75.00%), negligence of government agencies (61.25%), lack of training and information technology (40,00%). Most of respondents suggested to increase financial support by the government, increasing taxes on weekly bazaar and active co-operation by extension agencies and villagers.

KEY WORDS :

Gram panchayat, Panchayat raj , Role performance, Village development

How to cite this article : Patle, Shilpa S., Deshmukh, A.N., Deshmukh, S.A. and Lothe, N.B. (2017). Role of Gram Panchayat members in village development. *Agric. Update*, 12(4): 539-543; DOI : 10.15740/HAS/AU/12.4/539-543.

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INDIASee end of the article for
authors' affiliations**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

In the three-tier system of democratic decentralization of Panchayat Raj the Gram Panchayat functions at the gross-root level

i.e. at village level. Gram Panchayats are mainly expected to promote economic, Political and social development in the villages by improved agricultural techniques and by developing leadership in the villages. In the

panchayat Raj, maximum participation of the people and their involvement in developmental activities got prime importance.

In the recent Panchayat Raj system of organization Gram Panchayat is the third most important tier in the system. Every Gram Panchayat is having 7 to 17 elected members elected on the basis on adult franchise. They include representative of backward classes, ladies etc. Duration of village Panchayat is of five years. Sarpanch is elected by the members from amongst themselves. In Maharashtra village panchayat consists of 7 to 17 members. 33.00 per cent are reserved for ladies and provision for reservation of seats of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes is also made.

The Gram Panchayat have given wide powers and function in every sphere of village development and welfare. Conduction of Gramsabha is the most important function of village Panchayat. In a year minimum six Gramsabha are to be organized. In the Gramsabha the voters of Gram Panchayat can participate and discuss the annual accounts, budgets, and works.

Panchayat Samiti has supervisory control on these Gram Panchayats. Gramsevak is the secretary of village Gram Panchayat and has to work under the close supervision of Panchayat Samiti and Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat.

Specific objectives of study :

– To study personal, socio-economic, economic and psychological characteristics of the Gram Panchayat members in village development.

– To study the extent role performance of the Gram Panchayat member in village development.

– To study relationship between socio-personal, economic and psychological characteristics of the Gram Panchayat members with their role performance activities towards village development.

– To study the difficulties faced by the Gram Panchayat members in performing their role in village development.

– To study the suggestion from the Gram Panchayat members for effective functioning of Gram Panchayats.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Present study was carried out in the Amravati Panchayat Samiti in Amravati district. In present study

the respondents were all Gram Panchayat members. Total 80 respondents were selected for the nine Gram Panchayats was done by the method of simple random sampling for the research purpose. The schedule included questions pertaining to age, education, size of family, cosmopolitness, social participation, socio-economic status, work experience and role performance. The information from the respondent was collected by personal interview methods and their responses were considered for the purpose of present study. Mean, S.D. and co-efficient of correlation methods were used for analysis of the data.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The Table 1 shows that largest proportions (46.25 %) of the respondents were included in the middle age

Table 1 : Socio personal characteristics of Gram Panchayat members, 2017 (n = 80)

Sr. No.	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young (Upto35)	32	40.00
	Middle (36-50)	42	46.25
	Old (Above 50)	16	13.75
2.	Education		
	Primary education	02	02.5
	Middle/Secondary education	36	45.00
	Higher secondary/Graduate	42	52.5
3.	Size of family		
	Nuclear (Upto 5)	52	65.00
	Joint (6 to above)	28	35.00
4.	Cosmopolitness		
	Low (Upto 7)	11	13.75
	Medium (8 to 10)	60	75.00
	High (Above 10)	09	11.25
5.	Social participation		
	Low (Upto 1)	31	38.75
	Medium (2 to 3)	46	57.5
	High (Above 3)	03	3.75
6.	Socio-economic Status		
	Low (Upto 41)	17	21.25
	Medium (42 to 74)	52	65.00
	High (Above 74)	11	13.75
7.	Work experience		
	Low (Upto 2)	28	35.00
	High (Above 2)	52	65.00
8.	Role Performance		
	Low (Upto 81)	14	17.05
	Medium (82 to 85)	48	60.00
	High (Above 85)	18	22.05

Source : Field Survey, 2017

Table 2 : Role performance of Gram Panchayat members in village development

Sr. No.	Roles	Always	Sometime	Never
Agril. Development Activity				
1.	Guidance regarding improved agricultural practices	73 (91.25)	06 (07.50)	01 (01.25)
2.	Bringing Panchayat owned barren lands under cultivation.	80 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
3.	Under cultivated land	49 (61.25)	28 (35.00)	03 (03.75)
4.	Providing plant protection equipments in the office of Gram Panchayat	00 (00.00)	04 (5.00)	76 (95.00)
5.	Establishment of godowns	00 (00.00)	74 (92.50)	06 (07.50)
6.	Gramin Bhandhara scheme	73 (91.25)	07 (08.75)	00 (00.00)
7.	Crop insurance scheme	79 (98.75)	01 (01.25)	00 (00.00)
Animal Husbandry activity				
1.	Popularizing crossbreeding programme	00 (00.00)	13 (16.25)	67 (83.75)
2.	Involvement in cattle vaccination programme	68 (85.00)	00 (00.00)	12 (15.00)
Social forestry activity				
1.	Social forestry	80 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
2.	Plantation programme	79 (98.75)	00 (00.00)	01 (01.25)
Social welfare activity				
1.	Assisting to handicap and illiterate person	72 (90.00)	04 (05.00)	04 (05.00)
2.	Establishment of Mahila Mandal in a village	61 (76.25)	12 (15.00)	07 (08.75)
3.	Establishment of Library	37 (46.25)	27 (33.75)	16 (20.00)
4.	Bharat Nirman Yojana	25 (31.25)	21 (26.25)	34 (42.50)
5.	Landline schemes	05 (06.25)	69 (86.25)	06 (07.50)
6.	Street light	79 (98.75)	01 (01.25)	00 (00.00)
7.	Rajiv Gandhi village lightning Scheme	49 (61.25)	17 (21.25)	14 (17.50)
8.	Adarsh Gaon Yojana	69 (86.25)	06 (07.50)	05 (06.25)
9.	Dindayal Gram Jyoti Yojana	23 (28.75)	34 (42.50)	23 (28.75)
Educational activities				
1.	Provision of a play ground and playing devices	59 (73.75)	11 (13.75)	10 (12.50)
2.	Establishment of adult education centre	01 (01.25)	46 (57.50)	33 (41.25)
Hygiene and health activity				
1.	Preventive measures for contagious diseases	68 (85.00)	09 (11.25)	03 (03.75)
2.	Cleaning public roads, drainage	68 (85.00)	06 (07.50)	06 (07.50)
3.	Establishment of public toilet	27 (33.75)	17 (21.25)	36 (45.00)
4.	Supply of drinking water	80 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
5.	Plantation programme	76 (95.00)	01 (01.25)	03 (03.75)
Co-operation activity				
1.	Supervision of co-operative society activities	72 (90.00)	05 (06.25)	03 (03.75)
Village security activity				
1.	Patrolling activity in village	72 (90.00)	03 (03.75)	05 (06.25)
2.	Helping the villagers at the time of natural calamities	78 (97.50)	00 (00.00)	02 (02.50)
3.	Promotion of weekly bazar activities	52 (65.00)	13 (16.25)	15 (18.75)
4.	Controlling fairs and festivals.	80 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
Employment generate activity				
1.	Swarnajayanti Swarojgar Yojana	41 (51.25)	09 (11.25)	30 (37.50)
2.	Jawahar Rojgar Yojana	21 (26.25)	48 (60.00)	11 (13.75)
3.	MANREGA	78 (97.50)	02 (02.50)	00 (00.00)
4.	Improved village practices	64 (80.00)	07 (08.75)	09 (11.25)

Table 2 contd...

Table 2 contd...

5.	Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana	63 (78.75)	10 (12.50)	07 (08.75)
6.	Swavlamban Yojana	11 (13.75)	22 (27.50)	47 (58.75)
7.	Pradhan Mantri Gramsaday Yojana	77 (96.25)	01 (01.25)	02 (02.50)
Housing scheme				
1.	Indira Awas Yojana	77 (96.25)	01 (01.25)	02 (02.50)
2.	Ramai Awas Yojana	35 (43.75)	36 (45.00)	09 (11.25)
3.	Dalit Gram Sudhar Yojana	62 (77.50)	13 (16.25)	05 (06.25)
4.	Pradhan Mantry Awas Yojana	79 (98.75)	01 (01.25)	00 (00.00)
Others Village development activity				
1.	Janani Suraksha Yojana	00 (00.00)	10 (12.50)	70 (87.50)
2.	Atal Pension Yojana	20 (25.00)	28 (35.00)	32 (40.00)
3.	Pradhan Mantri Sukanya Samrudhhi Yojana	75 (93.75)	01 (01.25)	04 (05.00)

Table 3 : Co-efficient of correlation of characteristics of the respondents with their role performance

Sr. No.	Variables	Co-efficient of correlation (r)
1.	Age	0.2270*
2.	Education	0.2298*
3.	Size of family	-0.0240NS
4.	Cosmopolitness	0.2553*
5.	Social participation	0.2441*
6.	Socio-economic Status	0.2211*
7.	Work experience	0.1282NS

Source : Field survey, 2017

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

NS =Non-significant

group in between 36 to 50 years. This implies that the active age of Gram Panchayat members were in active age of life had increased improvement and innovativeness. This findings is in agreement with those Chavhan (2011) and Deshmukh and Deshmukh (2012). Majority of the respondents 52.5 per cent were educated upto higher secondary/graduation level. It can be concluded that the most of Gram Panchayat members were educated upto higher secondary/graduation level. This finding in agreement with that of Divekar (2010). Maximum number of respondents (65.00 %) belonged to 'nuclear' size of family, were living in nuclear family. This finding is in conformity with that of Patil (2013). Majority of the respondents (75.00 %) had medium cosmopolitness. The majority of the respondents (57.05 %) had medium level of social participation. It was found that majority of the respondents (65.00 %) had medium socio-economic status. The majority of the respondents (65.00 %) were having high work experience.

The data in the Table 1 indicated that relatively higher proportion of the respondents (60.00 %) had medium role performance. This finding is in conformity with that of Shinde (2008).

It was evident from Table 2 that, role performance of Gram Panchayat members was high in the field of agricultural activity, public health, social welfare and employment generate activities.

It was evident from Table 3 that, the independent variable viz., age, education, cosmopolitness, social participation and socio-economic status were positively and significantly related with role performance. This mean age, education, cosmopolitness, social participation and socio-economic status increased the level and there was corresponding increase in role performance. The independent variable size of family was negatively and significantly related with role performance. The independent variable work experience was non-significantly related with role performance.

Conclusion :

The overall performance of the members in different activities indicates that agricultural activity, public health, social welfare and employment generate activities were the major activities performed by the Gram Panchayat members. The role performance of the members was not associated with their size of family and work experience.

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