

Relationship of Sarpanchs' Social Participation with Their Role Performance Towards Agricultural Development

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1. Introduction

In Panchayati Raj System Sarpanchs are the key persons in village panchyats. The panchyat is to help day to day administration of the village, while Janpad Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat are expected to manage the affairs at block and district levels respectively. Thus, at all the three levels of Panchayati Raj, the peoples' representatives have to play a diversified role. In doing so, peoples' representatives are supposed to participate in the social phenomena. Social participation refers to the voluntary sharing in person to person and in group to group relationship beyond the immediate household. It was expected that as elected representatives of the local people, the Gram Panchyat Sarpanchs should have high level of social participation.

In addition, being member of Gram Panchayat they are supposed to be members and/or office bearer in organisation like, co-operative society, school management committee, youth club, farmers organization etc. The social participation of sarpanchs must help them for better performance of their role towards agricultural development. With this background the present study was carried out with the following objectives

To study the social participation of sarpanchs.

To assess the association between social participation and role performance of sarpanchs towards agricultural development.

2. Methodology

The study was conducted in Madhya Pradesh, where Panchayati Raj is now well established and regular General Elections are being held in every five years. Gram Panchyat is the lowest tier of Panchayat Raj—corresponding to a village or group of village which constitute the Gram Panchayats and it is headed by sarpanchs. Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh was purposively selected, out of thirteen blocks, four blocks were selected randomly. Out of 308 Gram Panchyats of selected four blocks fifty per cent i.e. 154 Gram Panchyats were randomly selected. Sarpanchs of these selected 154 Gram Panchyats were as respondents of the study. The present interview schedule was administered for collection of data.

The chi-square test was used to know the association of sarpanchs social participation with their role perception and role performance towards agricultural development.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Extent of Social Participation of Sarpanchs

It is revealed from Table 1 that, highest (37.01 per cent) sarpanchs were found to be member in one organization, number of 27.92 per cent were member in more than one organization, 23.38 per cent were not member of any organization and 11.69 per cent were found to be office bearer in organization.

Table 1 Distribution of Sarpanchs According to Their Social Participation

Categories	No.	% ge
No member in any organization	36	23.38
Member in one organization	57	37.01
Member in more than one organization	43	27.92
Office bearer in organization	18	11.69
Total	154	100.00

3.2. Association of Sarpanchs Role Performance with their Social Participation.

Table 2 shows the assessment of association between social participation of Sarpanchs with their role performance towards agricultural development.

Table 2 The Association Between Role Performance with Social Participation of Sarpanchs

Categories	Role perception			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
No member in any organization	25 (69.44)	9 (25.00)	2 (5.56)	36
Member in one organization	17 (29.82)	36 (63.16)	4 (7.02)	57
Member in more than one organization	6 (13.96)	32 (75.42)	5 (11.62)	43
Office bearer in organization	-	5 (27.78)	13 (72.22)	18
Total	48	82	24	154

$\chi^2 = 28.36$ Significant (0.05 level), d.f. = 2

(Figures in parenthesis indicate corresponding percentage).

Data in Table 2 shows the association of role performance of Sarpanchs with their social participation. In the category of Sarpanchs had no membership in any organization 69.44 per cent had low, 25.00 per cent had medium and 5.56 per cent had high role performance towards agricultural development. In the category of Sarpanchs had membership in one organisation, 29.82 per cent had low, 63.16 per cent had medium and 7.02 per cent had high role performance towards agricultural development.

In case of Sarpanchs having membership in more than one organisation 13.96 per cent had low, 75.42 per cent had medium and 11.62 per cent had high role performance towards agricultural development.

Whereas, in case of Sarpanchs, who were office bearer, none had low, 27.78 per cent had medium and 72.22 per cent had high role performance towards agricultural development.

Data in Table 2 presents the association between role performance and social participation of Sarpanchs. The Chi-Square value is greater than the table value which revealed that there was significant association between role performance and social participation of Sarpanchs. Findings of the present study were in line with the study of Kadam and Valuj (1982), Kuraria et. Al. (1997) and Chaudhary (1998).

4. Conclusion

The findings led to conclude that the majority of Sarpanchs actively participating in social organizations as member and /or office bearers and social participation of Sarpanch is significantly associated with their role performance towards agricultural development. This led to conclude that Sarpanchs' social participation play an important role for better performing their role towards agricultural development.

5. References

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