

## Role Performance of Grampanchayat Members in Agricultural Development Programmes

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### ABSTRACT

*Keeping in the view awareness and role performance of gram panchayat members about agricultural development programmes, the present study was undertaken in Palanpur, Dessa, Dhanera and Dantiwada Taluka Panchayat of Banaskantha district of Gujarat State. From each talukas five grampanchayats were randomly selected and six grampanchayat members were selected randomly from each grampanchayat to get total 120 respondents for study. Most of the grampanchayat members (70.00%) had medium level of awareness, while rest of them were equally distributed in (15.83 %) 'low' and (14.17 %) 'high' level of awareness about agricultural development programmes. Most of the grampanchayat members two-third (68.33 %) of respondents were having 'medium' level of role performance in agricultural development programmes followed by 16.67 per cent and 15.00 per cent of respondents were having 'low' and 'high' role performance, respectively. The multiple regression coefficient (R<sup>2</sup>) was estimated on the data of awareness of grampanchayat members about agricultural development programmes, it was found that 70.50 per cent variation in awareness were explained by a set of 12 variables, respectively. It was also revealed from the data that out of 12 variables, land holding and mass media exposure had significant effect on awareness of grampanchayat members. On the basis of multiple regression analysis, the three important independent variable viz., land holding, mass media exposure and leadership experience played important role in determining awareness and role performance of Grampanchayat members about agricultural development programmes.*

**Key words :** Grampanchayat; Awareness; Leadership experience; Mass media exposure;

The administration in India is democratic where institution like panchayat holds a place of right in the constitutions. This was implemented with 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment of the constitution which gave rebirth to Grampanchayat system on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1993. This system of democratic decentralization having three tier system, i.e. Zilla, Block and Village panchayat. The Grampanchayat is primary and basic unit of Panchayat Raj administration. The Grampanchayat has become a solid foundation of democracy in the country and powerful instrument not only in political but also in social and economic transformation. It secures effective participation and role performance of the people in the government and planned development programmes of the country. Moreover, the success of nationwide programmes depends upon their effective implementation at village level through Grampanchayat, which ultimately depends upon participation of the people through their elected

representatives. Panchayat Raj was introduced in Gujarat in all Districts of the state, except Dangs and Kachchh Districts, on 1st April, 1963. In Dangs and Kachchh Districts, it was introduced a little later. The three tiers Panchayat Raj system is now in vogue in Gujarat. It consists of 12,930 Grampanchayats, 90 Nagar Panchayats, 182 Taluka Panchayats and 25 District Panchayats covering 18,539 villages and 5,06,71,017 population which includes 55,59,000 being Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes population.

A Grampanchayat is constituted for a local area, the population of which ranges between 500 to 15,000 persons. All members of Grampanchayat are elected directly by voters from single member's territorial constituency. The Sarpanch is directly elected by voters of the whole village. The Upsarpanch is elected by members of the Grampanchayat.

After the introduction of Panchayat Raj the

Community Development Programme has now become the programme of the people, for the people and by the people. With this introduction of Panchayat Raj, a new era in rural development has started in the country. Elected representatives of people got some important powers and functions to play a significant role and shoulder the responsibility.

The present study 'Role performance of Grampanchayat members about agricultural development programmers' was undertaken with following specific objectives.

1. To study the awareness of Grampanchayat members about agricultural development programmes.
2. To study the role performance of Grampanchayat members about agricultural development programmes.
3. To explore the relationship between personal, socio-economic and communication characteristics of Grampanchayat members with their awareness in agricultural development programmes
4. To explore the relationship between personal, socio-economic and communication characteristics of Grampanchayat members with their role performance in agricultural development programmes.

## METHODOLOGY

Keeping the above objectives in mind, the present study was undertaken in Palanpur, Dessa, Dhanera and Dantiwada Taluka Panchayat of Banaskantha district of Gujarat State. From each talukas five Grampanchayats were randomly selected and six Grampanchayat members were selected randomly from each Grampanchayat to get total 120 respondents for study. Data were collected by interviewing the respondents personally with the help of specially designed and pre-tested interview schedule. The statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation and multiple regressions were used for analysis of data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Awareness of grampanchayat members about agricultural development programmes* : Table 1 revealed that more than two-third (70.00 %) of respondents had 'medium' level of awareness about agricultural development programmes, followed by 15.83 per cent and 14.17 per cent of respondents had 'low' and 'high' level of awareness, respectively.

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their awareness (N = 120)**

Category	No.	%
Low (Upto 12)	19	15.83
Medium(13 to 31)	84	70.00
High (Above 31)	17	14.17
Total	120	100.00

$$\bar{X} = 20.9667$$

$$S.D = 9.2917$$

From the findings, it was found that majority of Grampanchayat members had medium type of awareness about agricultural development programmes. This may be due to the educational level, social participation, mass media exposure, training received in which respondents found in medium category. This might have helped them to become moderately aware about agricultural development programmes. Similar was also reported by *Alane, P.A. (2007) and Mistri J.J (2009)*. *Role performance of grampanchayat members in agricultural development programmes*: It can be observed from the Table 2 that more than two-third (68.33 %) of respondents were having 'medium' level of role performance in agricultural development programmes followed by 16.67 per cent and 15.00 per cent of respondents were having 'low' and 'high' role performance, respectively.

A close perusal of results revealed that majority of the Grampanchayat members had medium role performance. The role performance of an individual is usually related with education, social participation, training received *etc.* In the present study these indicators were observed to be on medium side which might have resulted in moderately role performance of Grampanchayat members. Secondly in this study awareness of Grampanchayat a member regarding agricultural development programmes were found in medium category, that may reflects in role performance of Grampanchayat members. Similar was also reported by *Saiyad et.al (2004)*.

*Correlation of personal, social and communication characteristics with awareness*: It is evident from the Table 3 that out of the 12 variables the correlation coefficient of 11 variables viz., education (0.542), caste (0.316), social participation (0.379), leadership background (0.389), leadership experience (0.408) occupation (0.396), land holding (0.489), annual income (0.456), mass media exposure (0.806), training received (0.321), cosmopolite ness (0.609), were found to be positive and significant at 0.01 level of probability.

**Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their role performance**

Category	No.	%
Low (Upto 22)	20	16.67
Medium (23 to 52)	82	68.33
High (Above 52)	18	15.00
Total	120	100.00

$\bar{X}$  =36.5417                      S.D=14.8425

**Table 3. Relationship between the personal, social and communication characteristics of Grampanchayat members and their awareness**

Variables	Correlation coefficient ( 'r' )
Age	-0.217*
Education	0.542**
Caste	0.316**
Social participation	0.379**
Leadership background	0.389**
Leadership experience	0.408**
Occupation	0.396**
Land holding	0.489**
Annual income	0.456**
Mass media exposure	0.806**
Training received	0.321**
Cosmopolitaness	0.609**

\* Significant at 0.05 level of probability.

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

Whereas, the age (-0.217) was significantly but negatively correlated with awareness of Grampanchayat members at 0.05 level of probability. Similar was also reported by Alane, P.A. (2007) and Mistri J.J (2009). *Correlation of personal, social-economic and communication characteristics:* It is evident from the Table 4 that out of the 12 variables the correlation coefficient of 11 variables viz., education (0.530), caste (0.366), social participation (0.524), leadership background (0.457), leadership experience (0.553), occupation (0.399), land holding (0.339), annual income (0.377), mass media exposure (0.677), training received (0.369), cosmopolitaness (0.448), were found to be positive and significant at 0.01 level of probability. Whereas, the age (-.253) was significantly but negatively correlated with awareness of Grampanchayat members at 0.05 level of probability. Similar was also reported by Alane, P.A. (2007), Saiyad et.al (2004) and Bhosale, P.B. (2005).

*Multiple regression analysis of awareness with independent variables:* From Table 5 observed that 'f' value (21.2966) significant at 0.01 level of probability. Twelve variables explained variation in awareness to

**Table 4. Relationship between the personal, social-economic and Communication characteristics of Grampanchayat members and their role performance**

Variables	Correlation coefficient ( 'r' )
Age	-0.253*
Education	0.530**
Caste	0.366**
Social participation	0.524**
Leadership background	0.457**
Leadership experience	0.553**
Occupation	0.399**
Land holding	0.339**
Annual income	0.377**
Mass media exposure	0.677**
Training received	0.369**
Cosmopolitaness	0.448**

\* Significant at 0.05 level of probability.

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level of probability

**Table 5. Multiple regression analysis of awareness with independent variables**

Variables	Bi	S.E.	't' value
Age	-0.0373	0.0843	-0.4427
Education	0.8465	0.5423	1.5608
Caste	-1.0851	0.6250	-1.7362
Social participation	-0.0715	0.1180	-0.6059
Leadership background	0.3762	0.6164	0.6104
Leadership experience	0.1399	0.1288	1.0865
Occupation	0.1977	0.5315	0.3719
Land holding	0.5675	0.2697	2.1043*
Annual income	0.0060	0.0199	-0.3019
Mass media exposure	1.5966	0.2386	6.6890**
Training received	-0.1577	0.2290	-0.6887
Cosmopolitaness	0.4465	0.4287	1.0414

$B_0 = 6.4263$                       'f' value = 21.2966\*\*                       $R^2 = 0.705$

\* Significant at 0.05 level of probability.

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

the extent of 70.50 per cent. The unexplained variation 29.50 per cent may be due to the factors not covered in this study. The 't' value shows that, land holding and mass media exposure were the significantly related to awareness about agricultural development programmes. The regression co-efficient for these variables were 0.5675 and 1.5966, respectively, which indicated that one unit change in the variable viz., land holding and mass media exposure would affect 0.5675 and 1.5966 unit change in awareness about agricultural development programmes respectively.

The multiple regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) was estimated on the data of awareness of Grampanchayat

**Table 6. Multiple regression analysis of role performance with independent variables**

Variables	Bi	S.E.	't' value
Age	-0.1467	0.1869	-0.7848
Education	2.3646	1.2029	1.9657
Caste	0.4604	1.3863	0.3320
Social participation	0.0017	0.2618	0.0065
Leadership background	2.1984	1.3672	1.6080
Leadership experience	0.6261	0.2857	2.1908*
Occupation	-0.1277	1.1791	-0.1083
Land holding	0.0473	0.5982	0.0790
Annual income	-0.0154	0.0441	-0.3493
Mass media exposure	2.0544	0.5294	3.8802**
Training received	0.0618	0.5080	0.1216
Cosmopoliteness	-0.1593	0.9509	-0.5461

$B_0 = 16.3027$

'f' value = 13.1865\*\*

$R^2 = 0.597$

\* Significant at 0.05 level of probability.

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

members about agricultural development programmes, it was found that 70.50 per cent variation in awareness were explained by a set of 12 variables, respectively. It was also revealed from the data that out of 12 variables, land holding and mass media exposure had significant effect on awareness level of Grampanchayat members. Similar was also reported by Alane, P.A. (2007) and Mistri J.J (2009). This study lights on the importance of independent variables viz., land holding and mass media exposure played important role in determining the awareness of Grampanchayat members.

*Multiple regression analysis of role performance with independent Variables* : From Table 06, it was observed that 'F' value (13.1865) was significant at 0.01 level of probability. Twelve variables shown in Table 02 explained 59.70 per cent variation in dependent variables. The unexplained variation was 40.30 per cent

may be due to the factors not covered in this study.

The 't' value revealed that leadership experience was significant at 0.05 level of probability and mass media exposure was significant at 0.01 level of probability. Similar was also reported by Suradkar, D.D. (2005), Bhosale, P.B. (2005) and Mistri J.J (2009). The multiple regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) was estimated on the data of role performance of Grampanchayat members about agricultural development programmes, it was found that 59.70 per cent variation in role performance were explained by a set of 12 variables, respectively. It was also revealed from the data that out of 12 variables, leadership experience and mass media exposure had significant effect on role performance of Grampanchayat members

## CONCLUSION

Majority of the respondents were from middle age, having education up to middle school level, belonged to open caste category, agriculture as their main occupation with medium land holding, annual income, social participation, mass media exposure, training received and cosmopoliteness. Most of them had no leadership background and have medium level of leadership experience. Most of the Grampanchayat members had medium level of awareness about agricultural development programmes and more than two third of Grampanchayat members had medium role performance in agricultural development programmes. Land holding, leadership experience and mass media exposure played important role in determining the awareness as well as role performance of Grampanchayat members about agricultural development programmes.

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