

Comparative socio-economic profile of government officials and elected representatives in Panchayati Raj system

ANANT KUMAR, R.P. SRIVASTAVA, INDU AND ASHA KUMARI

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :
ANANT KUMAR
Department of
Agricultural Extension,
Krishi Vigyan Kendra,
KHAGARIA (BIHAR)
INDIA

ABSTRACT

The study aimed in investigating socio-economic profile of respondents in Panchayati Raj system. Out of a total of 150 respondents, 75 government officials and 75 elected representatives from three tier structure of Panchayat bodies were interviewed with the help of structured interview schedule. Majority of the respondents of both categories belonged to lower caste followed by schedule caste. Sixty per cent of the government officials were graduate while only 6.68 % elected representatives were graduate and thirteen per cent of them were absolutely illiterate. Majority of both categories of respondents were observed to have small land holding size. The main occupation of elected representatives was cultivation. Elected representatives were participating actively in social activities in contrast to government officials. Briefly it might be concluded that educational and occupational status of elected representatives was much lower than that of their counter parts.

INTRODUCTION

Rural development implies all round development of villages. Panchayati Raj Institutions are functioning in rural India at different levels which play vital role in rural development. The concept behind the Panchayat is local governance of the people, by the people and for the people. The main objectives of Panchayati Raj are decentralization, development and social change.

The Panchayati Raj System has been launched in India since 1959 and Uttar Pradesh implemented it in 1947. For giving the three tier structure of Panchayat system and fulfilling the recommendations of Balwant Ray Mehta Committee (1957), the U.P. Government built "Uttar Pradesh Kshetra Samiti and Zila Prishad Act 1961" in 1961.

To fulfill the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, the U.P Government possessed a new "U.P. Panchayat law (Amendment) Act" in 1994 and later on also in 1999 on the basis of Bajaj Committee Recommendation. That act has amended in the provision of "U.P. Panchayat Raj Act 1947" and " U.P. Kshetra Samiti and Zila Parishad Act 1961" Constitutional (Seventy third Amendment) Act 1993.

Jain (1996) observed that the women who had entered politics through PRI are from local areas, representing various backgrounds

rich and poor, dominant and oppressed social classes, educated and illiterate, working and not working.

Mishra (1977) concluded that the age, young leadership and caste, literacy education, income status of family and family size with prestige and the reputation of the family are found important socio-economic factors in determining leadership in Panchayat as is occupation since only there (e.g. farmers, agricultural, laborers and those with traditional occupations) who have leisure time and stay in the villages can afford to be leaders.

Singh (2004) concluded that the personal and socio - economic characteristics of the respondents were found to be medium level in both categories of respondents as elected representatives and government officials of Panchayati Raj institutions. Majority of elected representatives and government officials belonged to the middle age group whereas the elected representatives had medium to low level of socio-economic status but the government officials had medium to high level of socio-economic status.

The present study was aimed to study the socio-economic profile of Government officials and elected representatives under Panchayati Raj system.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Bara Tahsil

Key words :
Panchayati Raj system,
Government officials, Elected representatives,
Socio economic profile

Accepted :
May, 2009