

## Comparative role perception of backward and forward section members about Grampanchayat

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### ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken in the Latur and AUSA blocks of Latur district and Ambejogai and Dahrur blocks of Beed district of Marathwada state, to appraise the role perception of Gram Panchayat members and its relation with their profile. Twenty villages from each block were selected for the study. The 6 Grampanchayat members were selected randomly from each of the villages (3 from backward section and 3 from forward section) for the study by positional approach method. Thus, the sample of 120 Gram Panchayat members from 20 villages was selected for the study. Data were collected by personally interviewing the respondents with the help of specially designed and pretested interview schedule. It was found that majority of the Gram Panchayat members belonging to backward and forward sections had medium role perception about functioning of Gram Panchayat. The calculated 'Z' value was significant which indicated that there was difference in role perception of backward section and forward section of Gram Panchayat members. It was found from the study that majority of the Gram Panchayat members belonging to backward and forward sections had medium perception of role about administrative, agricultural, educational and cultural functions, health care, welfare, public work, defence and vigilance functions. Further, it was found that the characteristics of Gram Panchayat members namely education, occupation, annual income, social participation, achievement motivation, mass media exposure, cosmopolitanism, leadership background and leadership experience were positively and significantly related with role perception of backward and forward sections Gram Panchayat members. Multiple regression analysis showed that achievement motivation and mass media exposure were significant contributors for role perception of backward section members, while age, caste and mass media exposure were the significant contributors to role perception of forward section members of Gram Panchayat. The statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation, multiple regression and "Z" test for comparison were used for analysis of data.

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### INTRODUCTION

The Panchayat Raj has come into existence with the prime aim of decentralization of power for the welfare of rural people. After independence, the Panchayat Raj has become a backbone of Indian democracy. In the three-tier system of Panchayat Raj, the non-officials are playing an important role of establishing linkages between the officials and the beneficiaries. Agriculture being the major occupation of the rural people, the local self-government institutions are expected to plan and implement the programmes for developing the agriculture and allied sectors. Therefore, it is expected that knowledge of modern agricultural technology and programme of village development should infiltrate through non-officials who are nearer and dearer to a farmer, who is at the grass-root level of community development. Members elected to the various PRIs are, therefore, very important not because they are politically influential, but they are direct carriers of knowledge of various developmental programmes, as well as modern

agricultural technology to the villagers. Further, no development can take place unless there is active participation of the people. Every member of the Panchayat Raj Institution is responsible for involving common people in the process of development. Officials are catalytic agents only. They are important, no doubt, but more important are people's representatives.

On the backdrop of the foregoing discussion, it becomes clear that the elected members of the Panchayat Raj Institutes could play a significant role in overall development and progress of a village. However, their success and efficiency depends upon the perception of role by them about developmental activities in agricultural and society developmental fields. Hence, the present study was undertaken with the following specific objectives to appraise the role perception of Gram Panchayat members and to delineate the relationship of personal and socio-economic characteristics of Gram Panchayat members with their role perception.

### Key words :

Grampanchayat member,  
Backward section, Forward section, Role perception

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