



Research Article

A comparative study on working pattern of elected representatives and government officials in Panchayati Raj system

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SUMMARY : A comparative study on working pattern of respondents *viz.*, Government officials (75) and elected representatives (75) and elected representatives were undertaken and they were interviewed with the help of schedule. A largest section of Government officials (60%) were having working pattern score between 15 – 37 followed by 21.33 per cent respondents with scored < 37. In case of elected representatives, 69.4 per cent respondent were having score between 18 – 37 and 13.3 per cent respondents were having score more than 37 for their working pattern. A positive correlation was obtained for both the groups of respondents in case of association between their working pattern and selected independent variables like occupation, family size and social participation.

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Key Words :

Panchayati Raj system, Government officials, Elected representatives, Level of awareness

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Rural development implies all round development of villages. Panchayat 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 recommendation of Balwant Ray Mehata Committee (1957), the U.P. Government built “Uttar Pradesh Kshetra Samiti and Zila Parishad 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. Panchayati Raj act 1947” and “U.P. Kshetra Samiti and Zila Parishad Act 1961 constitutional (seventy third amendment) Act 1993.

Sharma (1967) concluded that, the participation by village people have neither been outstanding nor effective. The villagers attended Gram sabha, and Gram panchayat meeting and voted in Panchayati election but the factor motivating them were other than political consciousness. By and large, village cast structure, narrow village outlook and the personality of the Sarpanch determined the nature, extent effectiveness of direct participation.

Choudhary and Rajakutty (2000) concluded that, the genuine decentralization though adequate devolution of power and resources to Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) is an essential pre-requisite, with appropriate capacity building effort to bring out empowerment of people, particularly the disadvantage section such as S.C./S.T., landless and marginal farmers and women, success of

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