



Research Article

Area and extent development of elected representatives and Government officials in Panchayati Raj system

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SUMMARY : The study aimed in investigating area and extent of development of respondents in Panchayati Raj system. Out of a total of 150 respondents 75 elected representatives and 75 government officials from three tier structure of Panchayat bodies were interviewed with the help of structured interview schedule. Majority of the Government officials (56%) were having medium level rank (41 – 77) of area and extent of development, accompanied by 22.66 per cent with high level (rank, 77) and 21.33 per cent with low level (rank 41). However, 70.66 per cent of elected representatives having rank between 46 – 74, accompanied by 14.6 per cent respondents with high ranking more than 74 revealed that Government officials have positive correlation with their education, caste and farm power. Whereas elected representative had negative correlation with their age and positive correlation with caste and occupation. There was difference between two categories with regard to area and extent of development due to variation in their education and occupation.

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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 Panchayat Raj are decentralization, development and social change.

The Panchayat 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. Panchayat Raj act 1947” and “U.P. Kshetra Samiti and Zila Parishad Act 1961 constitutional (seventy third amendment) Act 1993.

Rajendra (1974) concluded that, the overall performance as found to be low indicating that not much had been done by these village Panchayats to improve the agriculture and there is ample scope for improvement in the performance of these VPs towards agriculture development. Whereas time-wise performance showed that VPs performed well in respect of item supply and distribution of improved seeds followed by initiative through co-operative individual efforts for kitchen gardening. Preparation of agriculture plan appears to be most neglected item by village Panchayat.

Jain and Sinha (1974) revealed that wherever village Panchayat had been given adequate power

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