

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Role performance of Panchayats leaders in agriculture and rural development

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SUMMARY : Present investigation was confined in purposively selected Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. Respondents were selected by proportionate method of sampling. Thus, the total sample size was 198. Result depicted that out of the total 198 respondents, the higher percentage (49.49%) of the respondents found in middle age group; they had primary education and belong to OBC caste. The result also revealed that the gender category of the respondents, most of Panchayat leaders had male (70.71%), small size of holding (40.40%) and their main occupation was agriculture (63.13%). The majority of leaders had medium annual income (49.49%), medium material possession (58.08%), medium source of information (53.54%) and medium extension participation (63.13%). Majority 51.51 per cent respondents were performing their role in the medium categories followed by 26.76 per cent were in the low and only 21.71 per cent were performing their role in high category. Knowledge about Panchayat activities and attitude towards Panchayati Raj system were positively and highly significant association with role performance of the respondents.

KEY WORDS :

Role performance,
Panchayat leaders

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The term “leader” implied a person who was clearly distinguished from other individuals in power, status, visibility and such traits of character as intelligence, integrity, courage, wisdom and judgement. The concept, while recognising the importance of the environment, persisted in viewing leadership as a matter of specific traits and characteristics. Possession of these traits would thus, (it was thought) somehow give the individual the role of leader in many if not most group situations.

The concept of leadership has developed then, to include not only the situation but also

the factor of the personality and needs of the follower. Leadership may be viewed in this context as a complex phenomenon of group life in which different types of individuals carry out a variety of leadership functions depending upon both the qualities possessed by different group members and the specific needs of the group at a given time. In recognition and inclusion of the situational and follower factors the concept of leadership as considered today does not exclude leadership trait or qualities. Some traits may be unique and relevant to some specific situations and groups while others may be common to all leaders.

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Leadership is the process of social influence which maximize the efforts of other, towards the achievement of a goal (Kurse, 2013)

A process whereby an individual influence a group of individuals to achieve a common goal (Northouse, 2007).

Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) in India are homegrown effort to decentralize government to promote greater participation by ordinary in their own governance. This process of democratic decentralization was set in motion with the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act passed by the Indian Parliament in 1992, which enabled decentralized governance through PRIs in rural areas, PRIs function at the village, block and district level.

Panchayat Raj Institutions are the best institutions to meet the needs of people, as the programmes are manifestations of will of the masses of local level (Srivastava, 1989).

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conduct in purposively selected Hoshangabad district of M.P and respondents were selected by proportionate method of sampling. The district have consists 1 Zila Panchayat, 7 Janpad Panchayats and 450 Gram Panchayats.

The total 198 respondents were interviewed from selected Panchayats for the study purpose. A well-structured interview schedule was prepared for the collection of required information from the leaders. The data was collected by personally contacting the respondents.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Profile of Panchayat leaders :

The result depicted that higher percentage (49.49%) of the respondents found in middle age group; they had primary education and belong to OBC caste. The result also revealed that the gender category of the respondents, most of Panchayat leaders had male (70.71%), small size of holding (40.40%) and their main occupation was agriculture (63.13%). The majority of leaders had medium annual income (49.49%), medium material possession (58.08%), medium source of information

(53.54%) and medium extension participation (63.13%).

The majority of leaders had affiliated to regional party (59.09%) with their medium political efficacy (55.55%), socio political participation (41.92%) and experience (49.49%) and medium time allocation (52.02%) for Panchayat activities. The higher percentage of leaders had found favourable (48.48%) attitude towards the Panchayati Raj System, cosmopolitaness (48.99) and knowledge about Panchayat activities (59.09%) (Table 1).

Role performance of Panchayat leaders :

Data present in Table 2 indicated that the majority of the respondents (52.52%) had medium level of role performance about implementation of schemes for agricultural development, followed by 29.79 per cent had low and 17.67 per cent had high level of role performance about implementation of schemes for agricultural development.

While, in case of establishment of primary health centers and primary schools, the majority of respondents 54.04 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 27.27 per cent low and 18.68 per cent found high level of role performance.

With regards to dairy animal and poultry development, the higher percentage of respondents 49.49 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 32.82 per cent low and 17.67 per cent found high level of role performance.

In case of horticultural development, the majority of respondents 55.55 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 24.74 per cent low and 19.69 per cent found high level of role performance.

With regards to development of cottage and small scale agricultural industries, the majority of respondents 54.54 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 24.74 per cent high and 20.76 per cent found low level of role performance.

In case of implementation of Govt. schemes for rural development, the higher percentage of respondents 50.00 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 30.30 per cent low and 19.69 per cent found high level of role performance.

With regards to management of co-operative societies, the majority of respondents 54.04 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 23.73 per cent low and 22.22 per cent found low level of role performance.

Table 1 : Characteristics of Panchayat leaders

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Respondents (n=198)	%	Mean	S.D.
Age					
				2.06	0.723
1.	Young (Upto 35 years)	43	21.72		
2.	Middle (35 to 50 years)	98	49.49		
3.	Old (Above 50 years)	57	28.79		
	Total	198	100.00		
Education					
				1.88	1.236
1.	Illiterate	22	11.11		
2.	Primary school	72	36.36		
3.	Middle school	41	20.71		
4.	High School	35	17.68		
5.	Above High School	28	14.14		
	Total	198	100.00		
Caste					
				0.80	0.615
1.	General	50	25.25		
2.	OBC	96	48.49		
3.	SC/ST	52	26.26		
	Total	198	100.00		
Gender					
				1.29	0.454
1.	Male	140	70.71		
2.	Female	58	29.29		
	Total	198	100.00		
Size of land holding					
				2.37	0.95
1.	Marginal (<1 ha.)	36	18.18		
2.	Small (1.1-2 ha.)	80	40.40		
3.	Medium (2.1-5 ha.)	53	26.77		
4.	Large (>5.1 ha.)	29	14.65		
	Total	198	100.00		
Occupation					
				1.94	0.61
1.	Agriculture	125	63.13		
2.	Agriculture + Business	41	20.71		
3.	Agriculture + Business + Service / Other	32	16.16		
	Total	198	100.00		
Annual income					
				1.82	0.69
1.	Low (Below 50000)	67	33.84		
2.	Medium (50000-100000)	98	49.49		
3.	High (Above 100000)	33	16.67		
	Total	198	100.00		
Material possession					
				8.30	2.59
1.	Low	50	25.25		
2.	Medium	115	58.08		
3.	High	33	16.67		
	Total	198	100.00		

Table 1 : Contd.....

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Source of information				4.21	1.41
1.	Low	61	30.81		
2.	Medium	106	53.54		
3.	High	31	15.65		
	Total	198	100.00		
Extension participation				6.73	2.63
1.	Low	41	20.71		
2.	Medium	125	63.13		
3.	High	32	16.16		
	Total	198	100.00		
Political affiliation				1.94	0.63
1.	Local party	46	23.23		
2.	Regional party	117	59.09		
3.	National party	35	17.68		
	Total	198	100.00		
Political efficacy				7.43	2.15
1.	Low	47	23.74		
2.	Medium	110	55.55		
3.	High	41	20.71		
	Total	198	100.00		
Socio political participation				5.10	1.99
1.	Low	49	24.75		
2.	Medium	83	41.92		
3.	High	66	33.33		
	Total	198	100.00		
Experience				2.12	0.69
1.	Low	38	19.19		
2.	Medium	98	49.49		
3.	High	62	31.32		
	Total	198	100.00		
Time allocation for Panchayat activities				2.01	0.68
1.	Low time allocation	46	23.23		
2.	Medium time allocation	103	52.02		
3.	High time allocation	49	24.75		
	Total	198	100.00		
Attitude towards Panchayati raj system				10.17	4.13
1.	Less favourable	67	33.84		
2.	Favourable	96	48.48		
3.	More favourable	35	17.68		
	Total	198	100.00		
Cosmopolitaness				1.83	0.70
1.	Low	66	33.33		
2.	Medium	97	48.99		
3.	High	35	17.68		
	Total	198	100.00		
Knowledge about Panchayat activities				9.50	4.14
1.	Low	41	20.71		
2.	Medium	117	59.09		
3.	High	40	20.20		
	Total	198	100.00		

In case of establishment of entrepreneurial activities, the higher percentage of respondents 48.48 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 27.77 per cent low and 23.73 per cent found high level of role performance. With regards to constructions/repairs of roads and

Table 2 : Frequency distribution of respondents according to their role performance

Sr. No.	Practices	Role performance		
		Low	Medium	High
1.	Implementation of schemes for agricultural development	59(29.79%)	104(52.52%)	35(17.67%)
2.	Establishment of primary health centers and primary schools	54(27.27%)	107(54.04%)	37(18.68%)
3.	Implementation of dairy animal and poultry development programmes	65(32.82%)	98 (49.49%)	35(17.67%)
4.	Implementation of horticultural development	49(24.74%)	110(55.55%)	39(19.69%)
5.	Development of cottage and small scale agricultural industries	41(20.76%)	108(54.54%)	49(24.74%)
6.	Implementation of Govt. schemes for rural development	60(30.30%)	99 (50.00%)	39(19.69%)
7.	Management of co-operative societies	47(23.73%)	107(54.04%)	4(22.22%)
8.	Establishment of entrepreneurial activities	55(27.77%)	96 (48.48%)	47(23.73%)
9.	Constructions/repairs of roads and drainage systems and supply of drinking water	44(22.22%)	102(51.51%)	52(26.26%)
10.	Land development and irrigation management	56(28.28%)	89 (44.94%)	53(26.76%)
	Over all mean	53	102	43

Table 3 : Overall mean of respondents according to their role performance

Sr. No.	Categories	Total freq.	Percentage
1.	Low	53	26.77
2.	Medium	102	51.52
3.	High	43	21.71
Total		198	100.00
Mean		1.94	
S.D.		0.69	

Table 4 : Association between personal, socio-economic, communicational, psychological, organizational and political characteristics of Panchayat leaders with their role performance

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Chi-square value	D.F.
1.	Age	7.54 ^{NS}	4
2.	Education	22.69**	8
3.	Caste	8.15 ^{NS}	4
4.	Gender	2.57 ^{NS}	2
5.	Size of land holding	17.18**	6
6.	Occupation	18.95**	4
7.	Annual income	14.36**	4
8.	Material possession	17.48**	4
9.	Sources of information	16.08**	4
10.	Extension participation	18.95**	4
11.	Political affiliation	17.99**	4
12.	Political efficacy	21.00**	4
13.	Socio-political participation	18.66**	4
14.	Experience	19.22**	4
15.	Time allocation for Panchayat activities	16.78**	4
16.	Attitude towards Panchayati Raj System	16.89**	4
17.	Cosmopolitanness	13.02*	4
18.	Knowledge about Panchayat activities	22.23**	4

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

NS= Non-significant

drainage systems and supply of drinking water, the majority of respondents 51.51 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 26.26 per cent high and 22.22 per cent found low level of role performance.

In case of land development and its management, the higher percentage of respondents 44.944 per cent found medium level of role performance, followed by 28.28 per cent low and 26.76 per cent found high level of role performance.

The data in Table 3 shows that out of the total 198 respondents, the majority 51.52 per cent respondents were in the medium category of role performance followed by 26.77 per cent were in the low and only 21.71 per cent were in high category of role performance. Otari *et al.* (2011) has also reported similar findings.

Association between personal, socio economic, communicational, psychological, organizational and political characteristics of Panchayat leaders with their role performance :

Table 4 could be revealed that characteristics *i.e.*, education, size of land holding, occupation, annual income, material possession, source of information, extension participation, political affiliation, political efficacy, socio political participation, experience, time allocation, attitude and knowledge showed significant association at 0.01 level of probability.

Only cosmopolitaness showed significant association at 0.05 level of probability whereas remaining three characteristics namely age, caste and gender did not establish any significant association with role performance. Mande and Kshatriya (2011) have reported similar findings.

Conclusion :

It can be concluded that majority of the Panchayat leaders performed their role in medium level and characteristics *i.e.*, education, size of land holding, occupation, annual income, material possession, source

of information, extension participation, political affiliation, political efficacy, socio political participation, experience, time allocation, attitude and knowledge showed significant association at 0.01 level of probability and characteristics cosmopolitaness showed significant association at 0.05 level of probability whereas remaining three characteristics namely age, caste and gender did not establish any significant association with role performance.

Majority 51.51 per cent respondents were performing their role in the medium categories followed by 26.76 per cent were in the low and only 21.71 per cent were performing their role in high category.

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