

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Profile of women members of village Grampanchayat and their constraints

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15.02.2020;

Revised:

05.10.2020;

Accepted :

24.10.2020

SUMMARY : The women members of Grampanchayat might be facing certain problems while performing their role. Out of 250 women Grampanchayat members in all 125 were covered under the study by following the Nth. A majority of the women members of Grampanchayat under study were from middle age group. Most of them were having medium size of family, having experience upto 5 years, medium level of sources of information, medium level of cosmopolitaness, medium social participation, medium level of annual income, medium size of land holding, medium leadership behaviour, medium level of motivation, medium level of attitude and also medium level of knowledge. The important problems reported by a considerable number of the respondents had lack of knowledge about duties and responsibilities of Grampanchayat, provision of inadequate grants by the Government, lack of training from concerned agency about the functions of Grampanchayat, lack of time left after domestic and farm work to the respondents.

KEY WORDS:

Profile, Women members, Grampanchayat, Constraints

How to cite this article : Gaikwad, J.H. (2020). Profile of women members of village Grampanchayat and their constraints. *Agric. Update*, 15(4): 407-410; DOI : 10.15740/HAS/AU/15.4/407-410. Copyright@ 2020: Hind Agri-Horticultural Society.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Grampanchayat is the most important basic institution for the development of village. The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was appointed in January 1957 to study and report on the failure of the Community Development Programme and National Extension Service. The committee recommended the creation of three-tier system as the institutional arrangement to make peoples participation meaningful and effective. Accordingly necessary legislation was to be enacted by every state to implement the Panchayati Raj system as a form of local self government to

perform developmental, administrative and political tasks. Hence, on the basis of recommendations the following states have adopted the concepts of decentralization of local self government that includes the women panchayats members also, however, the socio-personal, economic and psychological aspects of women members of Grampanchayat might be influencing their role perception and role performance. There might be certain kind of relationship between these aspects and role perception and role performance of women members of Grampanchayat. Further, the women members of Grampanchayat might be facing certain problems while performing their

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role. The present study is, therefore, focused towards these aspects.

Specific objectives of the study:

– To study the profile of the women members of village Grampanchayat

– To study the constraints faced by the women members of village Grampanchayat in performing their role in the village welfare development activities.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Hatkanangale Tahsil of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state. Hatkanangale Tahsil consists of 62 villages having their own Panchyats and 2 corporations *i.e.* Ichalkaranji and Peth Wadgaon. The Hatkanangale Tahsil of Kolhapur district was purposely selected for the study purpose. These Grampanchayats consists of 748 members of that 250 are women Grampanchayat members. However, for the present study purpose only 125 women members were selected by adopting the criteria of Nth method. Initially, the list of the women members were prepared alphabetically and then from the said list alternate member were selected as respondents. Hence, out of 250 women Grampanchayat members in all 125 were covered under the study.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The data were collected by interviewing the respondents and analyzed. The results are presented in following tables.

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that 53.60 per cent of the respondents belonged to middle age category of 31 to 47 years whereas 24.8 per cent respondents were young *i.e.* below 30 years by their age. The 45.60 per cent respondents had primary level of education while 25.60 per cent respondents had received no formal education. It is observed that 50.40 per cent of the respondent belonged to open category group and 21.60 per cent of them belonged to other backward community. The 55.20 per cent of the respondents belonged to the category of medium size family (6-10 members) and 24.80 per cent respondents belonged to big size of family (above 11 members). It is indicated that 83.20 per cent of the respondents had experience upto 5 years and 16.80 per cent had more

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents of Grampanchayat by their profile (n = 125)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
I. Socio-personal characteristics			
A. Age			
1.	Younger (upto 30 years)	31	24.80
2.	Middle (31 to 47 years)	67	53.60
3.	Old (48 and above)	27	21.60
B. Education			
1.	Illiterate	32	25.60
2.	Primary education (upto 4 th standard)	57	45.60
3.	Secondary education (5 th -10 th standard)	21	16.80
4.	Higher secondary (11 th to 12 th standard)	12	9.60
5.	College education (above 12 th standard)	3	2.40
C. Caste			
1.	Scheduled caste	24	19.20
2.	Scheduled tribes	4	3.20
3.	Nomadic tribes	7	5.60
4.	Other backward class	27	21.60
5.	Open/General	63	50.40
D. Size of family			
1.	Small (upto 5 members)	25	20.00
2.	Medium (6 to 10 members)	69	55.20
3.	Big (11 and above members)	31	24.80
E. Experience			
1.	Upto 5 years	104	83.20
2.	More than 5 years	21	16.80
F. Sources of information			
1.	Low (upto 4 score)	21	16.80
2.	Medium (5 to 12 score)	72	57.60
3.	High (13 and above)	32	25.60
G. Cosmo politeness			
1.	Less (upto 2 score)	27	21.60
2.	Medium (3 to 9 score)	76	60.80
3.	High (10 and above)	22	17.60
H. Social participation			
1.	Less (upto 3 score)	33	26.40
2.	Medium (4 to 8 score)	67	53.60
3.	High (9 and above)	25	20.00
II. Socio-economic characteristics			
I. Annual income :			
1.	Low (upto Rs. 25,000)	21	16.80
2.	Medium (Rs. 25,001-95,000)	82	65.60
3.	High (above Rs. 95,001)	22	17.60

Table 1: Contd.....

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J. Size of land holding			
1.	Landless	17	13.60
2.	Small (upto 1.00 ha)	54	43.20
3.	Medium (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	32	25.60
4.	High (2.01 and above)	22	17.60
K. Leadership behaviour			
1.	Low (score upto 2)	32	25.60
2.	Medium (score 3 to 7)	70	56.00
3.	High (score 8 and above)	23	18.40
L. Motivation			
1.	Low (score upto 7)	22	17.60
2.	Medium (score 8 to 17)	84	67.20
3.	High (score 18 and above)	19	15.20
M. Attitude			
1.	Unfavorable (score upto 5)	28	22.40
2.	Neutral (score 6 to 17)	70	56.00
3.	Favourable (score 18 above)	27	21.60
N. Knowledge			
1.	Low (score upto 2)	26	20.80
2.	Medium (score 3 to 9)	83	66.40
3.	High (score 10 and above)	16	12.80

than 5 years of experience as Grampanchayat member. The 57.60 per cent of the respondents have medium use of sources of information followed by 25.60 per cent and 16.80 per cent of them having high and low use of sources of information, respectively.

The data in Table 1 further reveals that about 60.80 per cent of the respondents had medium level of cosmopolitanism while 21.60 per cent of the respondent had less level of cosmopolitanism. More than 60.00 per cent of the respondents had medium level of social participation while 26.40 per cent of them had low level of social participation. The 65.60 per cent of the respondents had medium level of annual income (Rs. 25,001 to 95,000), 43.20 per cent of the respondents had small size of land holding (Upto 1.00 ha), 56.00 per cent of them had medium level of leadership while about 25.60 per cent and 18.40 per cent of the respondents were having low and high level of leadership, respectively. It is observed that 67.20 per cent of the respondent had medium level of motivation followed by 17.60 per cent having low level of motivation and 75.20 per cent of them having high level of motivation. The 56.00 per cent of the respondents had neutral attitude while nearly equal

Table 2 : Distribution of the respondents by their constraints faced

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Per cent	Rank
1.	Lack of knowledge about duties and responsibilities performed by the respondents.	108	86.40	I
2.	Inadequate grants provided by the government.	103	82.40	II
3.	Unavailability of training facilities about the functioning of Grampanchayats.	97	77.60	III
4.	Women members are nominal and their family members are playing dominant role in the performance of Grampanchayat activities.	77	61.60	VI
5.	Non co-operation by other women members.	29	23.20	X
6.	Own's illiteracy.	32	25.60	IX
7.	Lack of healthy co-operation from Sarpanch incase of opposite party.	12	9.60	XIII
8.	Group politics in village hinders participation.	17	13.60	XII
9.	Society norms do not allow social participation by women.	63	50.40	VII
10.	Non-co-operation from other members of Grampanchayat.	7	5.60	XIV
11.	Lack of due respects received from Government Officials.	57	45.60	VIII
12.	Caste politics creates problems in participating the Grampanchayat activities.	21	16.80	XI
13.	Lack of time left after domestic and farm works for performing the role in Grampanchayat work.	96	76.80	IV
14.	No interest in participation the social work expected from the role of Grampanchayat.	89	71.20	V

i.e. 22.40 and 21.60 per cent of respondents had unfavourable and favourable attitude, respectively. More than 66.00 per cent of the respondents were having medium level of knowledge followed by 20.80 and 12.80 per cent having low and high level of knowledge, respectively.

As regard the constraints faced by the respondent's further information pertaining to this was collected and analysed. The results are presented in Table 2 and inferences are drawn.

The Table 2 revealed that about 86 per cent of the women members of Grampanchayat under study were lacking in knowledge about the duties and responsibilities to be performed by them. Whereas, 82.40 per cent of the respondents expressed that the Government is providing insufficient grants to the Grampanchayat. Unavailability of training facilities about the functioning of Grampanchayat (77.60%). The respondents also claimed that they are only nominal members and their family members are playing dominant role in the performance of Grampanchayat (61.60 per cent). Lack of time left after domestic and farm works for performing the role in Grampanchayat work (76.80%) and no interest to participate in the social work undertaken by the Grampanchayat (71.20%) for the welfare of villagers were expressed by the respondents.

Conclusion:

It was concluded that a majority of the women members of Grampanchayat under study were from

middle age group. Most of them had completed education up to primary level. Nearly half of the respondents were from open category. Most of them were having medium size of family, experience upto 5 years, medium level of sources of information, medium level of cosmopolitaness, medium social participation, medium level of annual income, medium size of land holding, medium leadership behaviour, medium level of motivation, medium level of attitude and also medium level of knowledge. The important problems reported by a considerable number of the respondents had lack of knowledge about duties and responsibilities of Grampanchayat, provision of inadequate grants by the Government, lack of training from concerned agency about the functions of Grampanchayat, lack of time left after domestic and farm work to the respondents, only nominal membership was performed by them and no interest for them in social work undertaken by the Grampanchayat for the welfare of villagers.

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