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## Role perception and role performance of the women members of village Grampanchayat

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KEY WORDS: Role perception, Role performance, Women members of Grapanchayat **SUMMARY:** Grampanchayat is the most important basic institution for the development of village. In the present study in all 125 women members were selected by adopting following criteria of  $N^{th}$  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. It was observed that more than half (52.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of their role perception while 26.00 per cent and 21.60 per cent of them had high and low level of role perception about functioning of Grampanchayat respectively. Nearly half (48.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of role performance while 31.20 per cent of them had low level of role performance and 20.80 per cent of them had high level of role performance.

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#### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Grampanchayat plays an important role for all round development of villages. However, amongst them 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. Hence, 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 almost all the states have adopted the concepts of decentralization of local self government that includes the women Grampanchayat 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 have some suggestive views while performing their roles.

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

#### Specific objectives of the study:

- To study the role perception and role performance of the women members of village Grampanchayat
- To obtain the suggestions made by the respondents to overcome their difficulties faced in performing their role.

### 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 findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summerized under following heads:

# Role perception of the women members of Grampanchayat:

The information pertaining to the role perception of the respondents were collected and analyzed. The results are presented in Table 1.

The data in Table 1 indicates that 52.00 per cent of the respondents had medium level of role perception while 26.40 per cent and 21.6 per cent of them had high and low level of perception, respectively.

# Role performance of the women members of Grampanchayat:

The data in respect of role performance of the women members about their different role were collected and analyzed. The findings are presented in Table 2.

The data in the Table 2 indicates that 48.00 per cent of the respondents had medium level of role performance while 20.80 per cent and 32.20 per cent of them had high and low level of performance, respectively.

## Suggestions made by the women members of Grampanchayat to overcome the constraints:

Various suggestions regarding the improvement in the village development activities through Grampanchayat as perceived by the respondent are present in Table 3.

From the Table 3 it is revealed that Government should increase the grants to be allotted to the Grampanchayat (90.40%), about 83 per cent of the respondents also suggested that they should be given training about the functioning of Grampanchayat from proper agency. The law about reservation and women's participation should be made more stringent (74.40%).

Sr. No.	Role perception	Frequency (n = 125)	Percentage
1.	Low role perception (score upto 13)	27	21.60
2.	Medium role perception (score 13 to 25)	65	52.00
3.	High role perception (score 26 and above)	33	26.40
	Total	125	100.00

Table 2 :	Table 2: Distribution of the women members of Grampanchayat according to their level of role performance					
Sr. No.	Role performance	Frequency (n = 125)	Per cent			
1.	Low role performance (score up to 9)	39	31.20			
2.	Medium role performance (score 10 to 18)	60	48.00			
3.	High role performance (score 19 and above)	26	20.80			
	Total	125	100.00			

Table 3: Suggestions made by the respondents for their effective role performance					
Sr. No.	Suggestions	Number	Per cent	Rank	
1.	Financial support by the Government be increased.	113	90.40	I	
2.	Training should be imparted from concerned agency about the functions of Grampanchayat.	104	83.20	II	
3.	The law about reservation and women's participation should be made more stringent.	93	74.40	Ш	
4.	Government official should co-operate and help the women members of Grampanchayat.	77	61.40	VI	
5.	Other women members should co-operate to each other.	46	36.80	V	
6.	Society norms should support women to participate in social activities undertaken by the	32	25.60	VI	
	Grampanchayat considering the need of area.				
7.	There should not be group politics integration in the village	29	23.20	VII	
8.	Other men members in Grampanchayat should co-operate to the women members of	13	10.40	VIII	
	Grampanchayat.				

Government official should co-operate and help (61.40%) to the women members of Grampanchayat for their effective role performance as desired from them.

#### **Conclusions:**

From the present study, it was concluded that more than half (52.00%) of the respondents had medium level of their role perception while 26.00 per cent and 21.60 per cent of them had high and low level of role perception about functioning of Grampanchayat, respectively. From the present study it was observed that nearly half (48.00%) of the respondents had medium level of role performance while 31.20 per cent of them had low level of role performance and 20.80 per cent of them had high level of role performance. About 90 per cent of the respondent had made suggestions for increased financial support by the Government, training from concerned agency was indicated as top priority suggestions made

by 83.20 per cent of the respondents. It also included the suggestions like law about reservation and women's participation (74.40%), co-operation and help of Government (61.40%) and co-operation (36.80%) from other women members of Grampanchayat.

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