

Role of grampanchayat members in agriculture development

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken with the specific objective to know the role-played by the Grampanchayat members under the characteristics they possessed for agricultural development. It was observed that out of total role performance of Grampanchayat members, the welfare work and protective work were performed by majority of the members as individual role and the role of veterinary and other cottage business work and administrative work were performed by majority of the members as group role.

KEY WORDS : Performance, Welfare, Protective work, Cottage work, Administrative work.

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INTRODUCTION

Panchayat Raj was introduced in Maharashtra on 1st May 1962 for the first time after independence. The rural representatives in Panchayat Raj were delegated with administrative and executive powers. The Grampanchayat in Panchayat Raj is linked up with Panchayat Samiti and Zilla parishad has been assigned the various duties out of which agricultural development was to be implemented by the Grampanchayat and its members as the highest national priority. Thus, Grampanchayat and its members have to play a vital role in agricultural development programmes of the village such as preparation of village production plan every year and its implementation with local participation. The Grampanchayat being the basic organization, it is obvious that, the success or failure of Panchayat Raj will depend more or less on the role-played by its members.

In present era farmers acting alone cannot bring agricultural development. In order to increase the agricultural productivity, the farmer now depends less and less on natural resources of the farm and more on resources from outside. Therefore, the present study was undertaken with the specific objectives to know the role-played by the Grampanchayat members under the characteristics they possessed for agricultural development.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in purposively selected Kalmeshwar Tahasil of Nagpur district of Maharashtra state (India). Kalmeshwar Panchayat Samiti consists of 108 villages, under 51 Grampanchayat from which 20 Grampanchayats were selected and 150 respondents were selected by using random numbers for the study. A schedule was designed to collect the information with the objectives of the study. The schedule was pretested by interviewing. Eight Grampanchayat members were selected outside the research area.

The dependent variable for the present study was role performance. The respondents were asked to mention their degree of role performed completely and role not performed.

Thus, their level of role performed in the agriculture development function and activities was recorded. The score one and zero were allotted to role performed completely, role not performed respectively.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

The data of Table 1 reveals that majority (76.00) per cent Grampanchayat members were found medium level of individual role performance while 14.66 per cent and 9.34 per cent Grampanchayat members belonged to low

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Table 1 : Distribution of Grampanchayat members according to individual role performance in agriculture development

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	22	14.66
2.	Medium	114	76.00
3.	High	14	9.34
	Total	150	100.00

and high level of individual role performance in agriculture development, respectively.

The data of Table 2 reveal that 76.00 per cent of Grampanchayat members came under medium level of group role performance. While 17.34 per cent and 6.66 per cent belonged to low and high level, respectively.

Table 2 : Distribution of Grampanchayat members according to their group role performance in agricultural development

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	26	17.34
2.	Medium	114	76.00
3.	High	10	6.66
	Total	150	100.00

From Table 3 it is revealed that 80.00 per cent and 72.66 per cent Grampanchayat members had performed the individual role of welfare work and protective work, respectively, while 72.00 and 70.65 per cent had performed the role of informative work and new agriculture technology adopted by themselves, respectively. Only 47.33 per cent Grampanchayat members had performed the individual role of administrative work.

Table 3 : Level of individual role performance of Grampanchayat members in agriculture development

Sr. No.	Individual role performance activities	Role performance	Role not performance
1.	Informative work	108(72.00)	42(28.00)
2.	Protective work	109(72.66)	41(27.34)
3.	Welfare work	120(80.00)	30(20.00)
4.	Administrative work	71(47.33)	79(52.99)
5.	Veterinary and other cottage business works	90(60.00)	69(46.00)
6.	Financial work	81(54.00)	69(46.00)
7.	New agriculture technology adopted by themselves	106(70.65)	44(29.34)

Note : Figures in paranthesis indicate percentage

From Table 4 it is revealed that 83.33 per cent and 78.66 per cent Grampanchayat members performed the

Table 4 : Level of group role performance of Grampanchayat members in agriculture development

Sr. No.	Group role performance activities	Role performance	Role not performance
1.	Information work	96(64.00)	54(36.00)
2.	Protective work	93(62.00)	57(38.00)
3.	Constructive work	103(68.66)	47(31.34)
4.	Welfare work	104(69.33)	46(30.66)
5.	Administrative work	118(78.66)	32(21.34)
6.	Veterinary and other cottage business work	125(83.33)	25(16.66)
7.	Other works	112(74.66)	38(25.33)

Note : Figures in paranthesis indicate percentage

group role of veterinary and other cottage business work and administrative work respectively. While 74.66 per cent Grampanchayat members had performed the group role of other works such as preparation of compound fertilizer and its sales, giving encouragement for improved seeds, preparation of nursery for seedling and its management. Only 69.33 per cent Grampanchayat members had performed the group role of welfare work.

Gajre (1997) conducted investigation on role of Grampanchayat and Khare *et al.* (1998). On role of Panchayat Sarpanch and similarly Mahadik *et al.* (1997) on the role of members of Panchayat at Raj in agricultural development.

Conclusion:

Out of total role performance of Grampanchayat members, the welfare work and protective work were performed by majority of the members as individual role and the role of veterinary and other cottage business work and administrative work were performed by majority of the members as group role.

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