



Problems faced by tribal women sarpanches in performing their duties and exercising their power under Panchayati Raj System

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ABSTRACT

Present investigation was conducted with all the 88 tribal women sarpanches working under Panchayati Raj System in Dahod, Zalod and Limkheda talukas of Dahod district. Results revealed that the most important problems faced by the women sarpanches in performing their role at village level were lack of funds from government for development work, lack of training to women sarpanches, delay in sanction and permission for development works from upper level and lack of experience as leader.

INTRODUCTION

In India, women with the varied social, economical, political, regional and linguistic backgrounds, constitute half of the nation's population. Traditionally, women's roles are confined to household chores and farming activities. The women have a lot of potential for the development but they are unable to identify their own strength. All that required is to motivate them to participate in socio- economic and political activities needed for their development. They can become a great resource in the development process, if they are properly organized and mobilized by encouraging them to participate in decision making not only in household activities but in political and developmental activities also.

Looking to the importance of women in changing socio-economical and political scenario, reservation of 33.33 per cent seats for women was introduced in Panchayati Raj Institutions in the year 1995. The women are working as sarpanches since last many years. Many times it hearts that the women sarpanches are dummy leaders, because real role played and decisions are taken by their family members and

others. Hence, it is very essential to know the actual in convinces of women sarpanches to perform role effectively under Panchayati Raj System. Keeping this in mind, the present study entitled Problems faced by tribal women sarpanches in performing their duties and exercising their power under Panchayati Raj System.

Objective:

To identify and study the different problems faced by tribal women sarpanches in performing their duties and exercising their power under Panchayati Raj System.

METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in Dahod district of Gujarat state. Three talukas, viz, Dahod, Zalod and Limkheda having maximum total number of women were selected purposively. All the villages having woman sarpanch were selected for the study. Thus, in all, 88 woman sarpanches were selected as the respondents. The data of this study were collected by arranging personal interview.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

At individual level, each person had different psychology and because of this, they had different opinion, perceptions and problems. The different constraints as the item of difficulties faced by the women sarpanches in performing their role were classified into four categories *viz.*, economic, technical, administrative and personal and socio-psychological problems. After personal interviewed all the items collected as problems were ranked on the basis of frequencies and percentage. The data with regards to the problems are presented in Table 1.

The data presented in Table 1 clearly inferred that among the economic problems, lack of funds from government for development work (94.31 %) were ranked first, followed by lack of honorarium to women sarpanches at village level (71.59 %) and no work is initiated without giving bribe (28.25 %) was ranked third.

As regards to the technical problems, lack of training to women sarpanches (88.63 %) was the first major problems followed by lack of knowledge regarding PRS and the development programs (61.36 %) and lack of information

regarding different rural development programs(50.00 %).

In case of administrative problems, delay in sanctions and permission of development work from the upper level officials was the first major problems faced by 70.45 per cent of tribal women sarpanches followed by lack of administrative and financial power to women sarpanches (45.45 %) and lack of communication media at village level (39.77 %) lack of co-operation from village level workers and Talati cum mantri to women sarpanches, (34.09 %),lack of any type of protection to women sarpanches (32.95 %),women sarpanch could not work freely and she has to work what her husband says (30.68 %) lack of discipline in male members at panchayat office (25.00 %), groupism in gram sabha stopped the development of village (17.05 %) and lack of staff in village panchayat office (11.36 %). The findings are in line with the research results of Daiwan (2007).

So far as the personal and socio-psychological problems, lack of experience as leader was ranked first (68.18 %) followed by low level of education (59.09 %), lack of people's interest in development work (51.13%), difficulties in expressing the village problems to upper level officials (34.09 %), lack of co-operation and unity among elected

Sr. No.	Problems	Frequencies	Per cent	Rank
Economic				
1.	Lack of funds from government for development work.	83	94.31	I
2.	Lack of honorarium to women sarpanches working at village level.	63	71.59	II
3.	No work is initiated without giving bribe.	25	28.25	III
Technical				
1.	Lack of training to women sarpanchs.	78	88.63	I
2.	Lack of knowledge regarding PRS and development programmes.	54	61.36	II
3.	Lack of information regarding different rural development programmes.	44	50.00	III
Administrative				
1.	Delay in sanctions and permission for development work from upper level.	62	70.45	I
2.	Lack of administrative and financial power to women sarpanches.	40	45.45	II
3.	Lack of communication media at village level.	35	39.77	III
4.	Lack of co-operation from VLW and talati to women sarpanches	30	34.09	IV
5.	Lack of any type of protection to women sarpanches.	29	32.95	V
6.	Women sarpanches could not work freely, she has to work what her husband says.	27	30.68	VI
7.	Lack of discipline in gents members at panchayat office.	22	25.00	VII
8.	Groupism in gram sabha stopped the development of village.	15	17.05	VIII
9.	Lack of staff in village panchayat office.	10	11.36	IX
Personal, social and psychological				
1.	Lack of experience as leader.	60	68.18	I
2.	Low level of education.	52	59.09	II
3.	Lack of people's interest in developmental work.	45	51.13	III
4.	Difficulties in expressing the village Problems to upper level authorities.	30	34.09	IV
5.	Lack of co-operation and unity among elected members.	21	23.86	V
6.	Difficulties to go alone in the meeting outside the village.	16	18.18	VI

panchayat members' (23.86 %) and difficult to go alone in the meeting outside the village (18.18 %). Supporting findings were made by Kujur (2008) and Saiyad (2000).

Conclusion:

In male domine society women have many problems at different levels and were recorded on the basis of rank which in general, leads to conclude that the most important problems faced by the women sarpanches in performing their role at village level were lack of funds from government for development work as a economic constraint, lack of training to women sarpanches as a technical constraint, delay in sanction and permission for development works from upper level as a administrative constraint and lack of experience as

leader as a personal constraints.

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