

A study on constraints faced by the respondents regarding Panchayati Raj system among Government officials and elected representatives

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ABSTRACT

To assess the constraints faced by the G.O. and E.R. under Panchayati Raj System, the present study was conducted on a total of 150 respondents in Allahbad district. Majority (80%) of the G.O. were found to be faced by medium level of constraints and nearly same percentage (81%) of E.R. were also facing medium level of constraints under Panchayati Raj System. Government officials were having significant negative correlation constraints faced by them as variable like education, occupation and family type. In case of E.R. family type was positively correlated with constraints faced by them.

INTRODUCTION

The concept behind the Panchayat is local governance of the people, by the people and for the people. Panchayati Raj has the objective of placing more powers in the hand of rural people, enhancing their capabilities to involve themselves in the process of decision making, preparation and implementation of programme for economic development and social justice.

Panchayati Raj has made excellent progress in India. It covers almost 98-99 per cent of rural population as a whole in India. The Panchayati Raj System has been launched in India since 1959 and Uttar Pradesh implemented it in 1947. Uttar Pradesh has the fortune to firstly build up and passed the "U.P. Panchayati Raj Act 1947" on 7th Dec. 1947 and the whole.

Kuraria and Khare (2001) observed that, first major problem was financial as 15 per cent representatives faced and second major problem was lack of cooperation with

government officials.

Paricha (2002) observed that, the presence and participation of women in formal democratic process is woefully inadequate at all the levels – centre, state, local/ grass-roots. Consequently, women oriented policies and programme are neither formulated nor implemented with the desired women's perspective. Women in general and rural women in particular continue to constitute the single largest group of backward citizens of India, who neither have access to power structure nor any other effective method to overcome their age-old inequality and sub-ordinate. Most of the rural women are not in a position to shoulder the heavy responsibility that has been entrusted to them by the 73rd Amendment Act of Indian Constitution in 1992. It may, however, also be said that even men are not fully prepared to take over the additional responsibilities that they have been assigned. The main problem with poor women, is lack of time, they have to work for 15-16 hrs as wage earners. It is not fair

to expect them to devote time to Panchayat works sacrificing income earning opportunities.

Subha and Bhargava (2002) observed that, though the new system has provided the weaker section access to the membership and authority positions in the ZPs, it has not gained much social significance and have not yet developed as an effective institutions. The members are yet to be mobilised, they lack awareness and hence not able to make PRIs strong and meaningful and get people participation. They are also not able to articulate their rights and demands in an effective manner. Corruption, money and muscle power continue even in the local election and functioning.

Mishra and Dhaka (2003) observed that, lack of participation of people in Panchayat work, unhelpful and over-riding role of local bureaucracy, non-observance of the election code of conduct, Pradhan raj, mal-development and corruption were the major constraints faced by Panchayat bodies and their functionaries.

Singh (2004) concluded that the elected representatives of PRIs were predominantly faced the technological constraints followed by economic, psychological, educational, operational, social and epistemic constraint. The educational constraint was predominantly claimed by government officials of PRIs involved with people and Panchayat representatives followed by technological, economic, social, operational, epistemic and psychological constraints.

Objective of the study:

- To assess the job satisfaction about Panchayati Raj among Government Officials and Elected representatives and
- To assess association of selected independent variables with level of awareness of the two groups of respondents.

METHODS

From the two C.D Blocks, namely Shankar Garh and Zasra of Bara Tahsil of Allahabad district, 10 village Panchayats were purposively selected as the locale of the study. Stratified random sampling was used for the selection of two categories of respondents' viz., Government officials and Elected representatives, each group comprised of 50 persons. A pre-tested and pre-coded structured interview schedule was used for data collection. Data were collected by using person to person contact method to assess the level of awareness of the respondents regarding Panchayati Raj System.

Correlation co-efficient was computed to assess the association of selected independent variables with the level of awareness of the respondents.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Respondents (G.O.) were ranked into three groups, viz.,

low (< 10) medium (10 - 17) and high (> 17) according to level of constraints faced by them. Majority (80%) of the Government officials were found to be faced by medium level of constraints accompanied by 12 per cent of them faced high and 8 per cent of the respondents faced low level of constraints

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents (G.O.) on the basis of different constraints faced

Sr. No.	Level of constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	< 10 (Low)	6	8
2.	10 - 17 (Medium)	60	80
3.	> 17 (High)	9	12

Mean = 37.04

SD = 9.70

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents (E.R.) on the basis of different constraints faced

Sr. No.	Level of constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	< 10 (Low)	8	10.6
2.	10 - 17 (Medium)	61	81.4
3.	> 17 (High)	6	8.0

Mean = 13.41

SD = 3.48

Table 3 : Association between selected independent variables and constraints (G.O.)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	'r' value
1.	Age	0.096
2.	Education	- 0.314**
3.	Caste	0.045
4.	Occupation	- 0.0360**
5.	Family type	- 0.300**
6.	Family size	0.097
7.	House	0.0144
8.	Material possession	- 0.140
9.	Land possession	0.053
10.	Farm power	- 0.005
11.	Social participation	- 0.133

Table 4 : Association between selected independent variables and constraints (E.R.)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	'r' value
1.	Age	0.064
2.	Education	- 0.277*
3.	Caste	- 0.111
4.	Occupation	- 0.107
5.	Family type	0.314**
6.	Family size	0.102
7.	House	- 0.330**
8.	Material possession	- 0.152
9.	Land possession	- 0.300
10.	Farm power	- 0.314**
11.	Social participation	- 0.070

(Table 1).

Respondents (E.R.) were classified into three heads on the basis of level of constraints faced by them. Medium (10-17) level of constraints were found to be faced by a majority (81.4%) of the elected representatives followed by 10.6 per cent of respondents facing low (<10) level of constraints and high (>17) level of constraints were faced by 8 per cent of the respondents (Table 2).

It is evident Table 3 and from the present findings that respondents (Government officials) were having significant negative correlation between constraints faced by them and variables like education, occupation and family type.

Independent variables like education, house and material possession were found to be negatively and significantly correlated with constraints faced by elected representatives while family type was positively correlated with constraints faced by the respondents (Table 4).

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