

## Role performance of Grampanchayat members

M.I. KHALGE, R.R. CHOLE AND P.B. BHOSALE

### ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in the Latur and Ausa blocks of Latur district and Ambejogai and Dahrur blocks of Beed district of Marathwada region, to appraise the role performance of Gram Panchayat members and its relation with their profile. Keeping the above objectives in mind 20 villages from above mentioned blocks were selected for the study. The 6 Grampanchayat members were selected randomly from each of the villages (3 from backward section and 3 from forward section) for the study by positional approach method. Thus the sample of 120 Gram Panchayat members from 20 villages was selected for the study. Data were collected by personally interviewing the respondents with the help of specially designed and pretested interview schedule. From the study it is found that majority of the Gram Panchayat members belonging to backward section as well as forward section had medium role performance about functioning of Gram panchayat. Regarding relational analysis it was found that the characteristics of Gram Panchayat members namely education, occupation, annual income, social participation, achievement motivation, mass media exposure, cosmopolitanism, leadership background and leadership experience were positively and significantly related with role performance of Grampanchayat members. Multiple regression analysis showed that mass media exposure and social participation, mass media exposure and leadership experience were the contributing factor in role performance of Grampanchayat members belonging to backward section and forward section members of Grampanchayat, respectively. The statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation, multiple regression and "Z" test for comparison were used for analysis of data.

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### INTRODUCTION

Grampanchayat is the prime village institute striving for integrated rural development. Importance of its members is aptly described as the key persons responsible for integrated rural development. Since the Gram Panchayat members live and work in the rural area their importance and role in effective execution of the various government rural development programmes cannot be underestimated.

Gram Panchayat is the last link in the three-tier system of Panchayat Raj. As coordinating agency, Gram Panchayat and its members undertake all the developmental activities. Gram Panchayat members play the role of advisor to the rural people. They provide information about various government schemes to the people in village. Thus the Gram Panchayat and its members have definitely and undoubtedly a key role to play in Panchayat Raj System. Grampanchayat members play prime role in bringing about welfare of the rural people. The Panchayat is expected mainly to promote economic, political and social development in the villages. This can be happen only when the members performed their role

effectively and efficiently. Then and then only the static society can be changed by the village Panchayat. One may get astonished by considering the revolutionary changes in the Gram Panchayat. In the previous days, women were not allowed to participate in any social activities as well as weaker section or backward people are also avoided or not given permission to participate in political activities and social activities as a chairperson but, now a days women and backward people have been given opportunity by 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment.

Thus, the success of any Gram Panchayat largely depends upon how well the elected members perform their roles within the framework of Panchayat Raj constitution. It is therefore, proposed to undertake a study on role performance of Grampanchayat members with following specific objectives to study the role performance of backward and forward Gram Panchayat members and to delineate the relationship of personal and socio-economic characteristics of Gram Panchayat members with their role performance

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in the

### Key words :

Grampanchayat member, Backward section, Forward section, Role performance

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Latur and AUSA blocks of Latur district and Ambejogai and Dahrur blocks of Beed district of Marathwada region. Both the districts and blocks were selected randomly. Twenty villages were selected for the study, five from each block. The list of Grampanchayats and their members were collected from Block Development Officers of respective blocks. Then six (6) Grampanchayat members were selected randomly from each of the villages (3 from backward section and 3 from forward section) for the study by positional approach method. Thus the sample of 120 Gram Panchayat members from 20 villages was selected for the study.

Data were collected by personally interviewing the respondents with the help of specially designed and pretested interview schedule. The statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation, multiple regression and "Z" test for comparison were used for analysis of data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

### *Role performance of Gram Panchayat members belonging to backward and forward section:*

A look at Table 1 indicates that about two third (65.00 per cent) of the members from backward section were having medium level of role performance followed by 21.67 per cent with high role performance and 13.33 per

cent with low role performance.

A close perusal of the Table 1 indicates that about three fourth (71.67 per cent) of the Gram Panchayat members from forward section were having medium level of role performance followed by 15.00 per cent high and 13.33 per cent with low role performance. This finding is supported by Govind Gowada *et al.* (1996), Bhosale (1997), Saiyad *et al.* (2004), Bhosale (2005) and Suradkar (2005).

The mean role performance of members from backward and forward section was 71.65 and 80.85 per cent, respectively. The calculated Z value was not significant indicating that there was no difference in role performing of backward and forward class members of Gram Panchayat.

### *Function wise role performance of Gram Panchayat members:*

#### *Function wise role performance of Gram Panchayat members of backward section:*

A cursory look at Table 2 indicates that majority of the leaders had medium category of role performance in respect of all the areas except defence and vigilance functions. It is seen from the data that 65.00 per cent respondents had medium performance each pertaining to education and cultural function whereas welfare function was performed by 56.67 and public work function by 55.00 per cent of members of backward section.

**Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their role performance**

Sr. No.	Category	Backward (n=60)		Forward (n=60)		'Z' value
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
1.	Low	8	13.33	8	13.33	0.23
2.	Medium	39	65.00	43	71.67	
3.	High	13	21.67	9	15.00	
	Total	60	100.00	60	100.00	
	Mean		71.65		80.85	
	SD		17.50		18.60	

**Table 2 : Distribution of the respondents according to function-wise role performance of backward class members**

Sr. No.	Functions	Backward (n=60)			Total
		Low	Medium	High	
1.	Administrative functions	13 (21.67)	39 (65.00)	8 (13.33)	60 (100.00)
2.	Agricultural functions	11 (18.33)	39 (65.00)	10 (16.67)	60 (100.00)
3.	Educational and cultural functions	9 (15.00)	39 (65.00)	12 (20.00)	60 (100.00)
4.	Health care functions	13 (21.67)	32 (53.33)	15 (25.00)	60 (100.00)
5.	Welfare functions	15 (25.00)	34 (56.67)	11 (18.33)	60 (100.00)
6.	Public works functions	15 (25.00)	33 (55.00)	12 (20.00)	60 (100.00)
7.	Defence and vigilance function	30 (50.00)	7 (11.67)	23 (38.33)	60 (100.00)

(Figures in parentheses indicates percentage)

**Table 3 : Distribution of the respondents according to function-wise role performance of forward section**

Sr. No.	Functions	Forward (n=60)			Total
		Low	Medium	High	
1.	Administrative functions	7 (11.67)	38 (63.33)	15 (25.00)	60 (100.00)
2.	Agricultural functions	12 (20.00)	40 (60.67)	8 (13.33)	60 (100.00)
3.	Educational and cultural functions	12 (20.00)	39 (65.00)	9 (15.00)	60 (100.00)
4.	Health care functions	12 (20.00)	36 (60.00)	9 (15.00)	60 (100.00)
5.	Welfare functions	8 (13.33)	41 (68.33)	11 (18.33)	60 (100.00)
6.	Public works functions	11 (18.33)	36 (60.00)	13 (21.67)	60 (100.00)
7.	Defence and vigilance function	24 (40.00)	20 (33.33)	16 (26.67)	60 (100.00)

(Figures in parentheses indicates percentage)

Further it is also observed from Table 2 that 50.00 per cent members from backward section had low role performance in respect of defence. Again it is also noticed that from Table 2 that 38.33, 26.66 and 25.00 per cent of them had high category of role performance about defence and vigilance functions, other functions and health care functions, respectively. The finding is supported by Bhosale (2005) and Suradkar (2005).

*Functionwise role performance of Gram Panchayat members of forward section:*

It is evident from Table 3 that most of the Gram Panchayat members belonging to forward section had medium category of role performance pertaining to following identified areas, welfare functions (68.33 per cent), agricultural functions (60.67 per cent), educational and cultural functions (65.00 per cent), health care functions and public work functions having equal percentage *i.e.* 60.00 per cent.

Whereas 40.00, 20.00 and 20.00 per cent had low category of role performance about defence and vigilance functions, agricultural functions, education and cultural functions as well as health care functions. While 26.67, 25.00 and 21.67 per cent had high category of role performance about defence and vigilance functions, administrative functions and public work functions, respectively. The finding is supported by Bhosale (2005) and Suradkar (2005).

***Relationship between the personal characteristics of the Gram Panchayat members and role performance:***

*Backward section of Gram Panchayat members:*

Perusal of Table 4 reveals that the independent variables *i.e.* education (0.440), occupation (0.396), annual income (0.336), social participation (0.404), achievement motivation (0.411), mass media exposure (0.610), cosmopolitaness (0.283) and leadership experience were positively and significantly related with role performance of members of Gram Panchayat

belonging to backward class. However, age (0.056), caste (0.057), training received (0.135) and leadership background (0.065) did not show any relationship with role performance.

***Forward section of Gram Panchayat members:***

A cursory look at Table 4 indicates that almost independent variables like education (0.382), annual income (0.428), social participation (0.494), achievement motivation (0.440), mass media exposure (0.712), cosmopolitaness (0.338), leadership background (0.373) and leadership experience (0.502) were positively and significantly related with the role performance of forward section Gram Panchayat members, while age (0.223), caste (0.118), occupation (0.087) and training received (0.137) could not establish any relationship with role performance.

**Table 4 : Relationship between the personal characteristics of the Gram Panchayat members belonging to backward and forward section and their role performance**

Sr. No.	Variables	Correlation coefficient (r)	
		Backward section	Forward section
1.	Age	0.056	0.223
2.	Education	0.440**	0.382**
3.	Caste	0.057	0.118
4.	Occupation	0.396**	0.087
5.	Annual income	0.336**	0.428**
6.	Social participation	0.404**	0.494**
7.	Achievement motivation	0.411**	0.440**
8.	Mass media exposure	0.610**	0.712**
9.	Cosmopolitaness	0.283*	0.338**
10.	Training received	0.135	0.137
11.	Leadership background	0.065	0.373**
12.	Leadership experience	0.426**	0.502**

\* and \*\* indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

### Multiple regression between the personal characteristics of the Gram Panchayat members and role performance:

#### Backward section members of Gram Panchayat:

Table 5 depicts that the 'F' value 4.97 was found to be significant at 0.01 level of probability. The twelve variables mentioned in Table 4 explained as much as 56.00 per cent variation in the role performance. The unexplained variation 44.00 per cent may be due to factors out side the scope of the present study.

From the regression analysis, it is revealed that out of the twelve variables, only one variable *i.e.* mass media exposure had significant effect on role performance. The 't' value for this variable was significant at 0.05 level of significance. Regression coefficient indicated that one unit change in mass media exposure would effect 2.286 units change in the role performance.

#### Forward section members:

It is found in Table 5 that the 'F' value (8.47) was significant at 0.01 level of probability, while twelve variables explained the variation in the role performance to the extent of 68.40 per cent. The unexplained variation (31.60) may be due to the factors not included in the study.

The 't' values showed that in the multiple regression analysis role performance was significantly related with social participation, mass media exposure and leadership experience. The regression coefficients indicated that one unit change in social participation, mass media exposure and leadership experience would effect 0.327, 3.772 and 1.070 unit change in role performance, respectively.

### Conclusion:

From the study it is concluded that majority of the respondents of backward section and forward section members exhibited medium role performance about functioning of Gram Panchayat. Further majority of the members of backward and forward sections belonged to medium category of role performance in respect of all the areas of functioning of Gram Panchayat *i.e.* administrative functions, agricultural functions, educational and cultural functions, health care functions, welfare functions, public work functions and except defence and vigilance functions.

Regarding relational analysis it was found that the characteristics of Gram Panchayat members namely education, occupation, annual income, social participation, achievement motivation, mass media exposure, cosmopolitanness and leadership experience were positively and significantly related with role performance of Gram Panchayat members, whereas age, caste, training received and leadership background were not related with role performance of the backward section of Gram Panchayat members. Whereas out of 12 independent variables nine were found positively and significantly related with role performance of forward section members those were education, occupation, annual income, social participation, achievement motivation, mass media exposure, cosmopolitanness, leadership background and leadership experience. Whereas, only three variables *i.e.* age, caste and training received did not show any relationship with role performance.

Multiple regression analysis showed that mass media exposure was contributing factor in role performance of

**Table 5: Multiple regression analysis of role performance with independent variables of backward and forward section members**

Sr. No.	Variables	Backward section			Forward section		
		B(i)	S.E.	't' value	B(i)	S.E.	't' value
1.	Age	0.172	0.266	0.647	0.311	0.187	1.663
2.	Education	1.874	2.658	0.704	2.749	1.884	1.458
3.	Caste	-1.811	1.430	-1.266	1.295	1.954	0.663
4.	Occupation	0.890	0.931	0.956	-0.723	1.494	-0.483
5.	Annual income	0.0195	0.0212	0.916	-0.005	0.0155	-0.340
6.	Social participation	-0.455	1.412	-0.322	0.327	0.141	2.318*
7.	Achievement motivation	0.503	0.728	0.690	-0.951	0.915	-1.039
8.	Mass media exposure	2.286	0.964	2.370*	3.772	0.962	3.921**
9.	Cosmopolitanness	-3.904	2.764	-1.412	-2.448	1.896	-1.290
10.	Training received	1.188	1.294	0.917	-0.564	1.303	0.432
11.	Leadership background	-2.286	4.216	-0.542	1.458	2.133	0.683
12.	Leadership experience	1.110	1.427	0.777	1.070	0.500	2.139*

Bo = 44.80 'F' value = 4.97 R<sup>2</sup> = 0.560

Bo = 45.23 'F' value = 8.47 R<sup>2</sup> = 0.684

\* and \*\* indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

Gram Panchayat members belonging to backward section. whereas social participation, mass media exposure and leadership experience were the significant contributors to role performance of forward section members of Gram Panchayat.

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