



Research Article

Area and extent development of elected representatives and Government officials in Panchayati Raj system

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SUMMARY : The study aimed in investigating area and extent of development of respondents in Panchayati Raj system. Out of a total of 150 respondents 75 elected representatives and 75 government officials from three tier structure of Panchayat bodies were interviewed with the help of structured interview schedule. Majority of the Government officials (56%) were having medium level rank (41 – 77) of area and extent of development, accompanied by 22.66 per cent with high level (rank, 77) and 21.33 per cent with low level (rank 41). However, 70.66 per cent of elected representatives having rank between 46 – 74, accompanied by 14.6 per cent respondents with high ranking more than 74 revealed that Government officials have positive correlation with their education, cast and farm power. Whereas elected representative had negative correlation with their age and positive correlation with caste and occupation. There was difference between two categories with regard to area and extent of development due to variation in their education and occupation.

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Key Words :

Panchayati Raj system, Government officials, Elected representatives, Level of awareness

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Rural development implies all round development of villages. Panchayat raj institutions are functioning in rural India at different levels which play vital role in rural development. The concept behind the panchayat is local governance of the people, by the people and for the people. The main objectives of Panchayat Raj are decentralization, development and social change.

The Panchayat Raj System has been launched in India since 1959 and Uttar Pradesh implemented it in 1947. For giving the three tier structure of Panchayat system and fulfilling the recommendation of Balwant Ray Mehata Committee (1957), the U.P. Government built “Uttar Pradesh Kshetra Samiti and Zila Parishad Act 1961” in 1961

To fulfill the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, the U.P. Government Possessed a new “U.P. Panchayat law (Amendment) Act” in 1994

and later on also in 1999 on the basis of Bajaj Committee recommendation. That act has amended in the provision of “U.P. Panchayat Raj act 1947” and “U.P. Kshetra Samiti and Zila Parishad Act 1961 constitutional (seventy third amendment) Act 1993.

Rajendra (1974) concluded that, the overall performance as found to be low indicating that not much had been done by these village Panchayats to improve the agriculture and there is ample scope for improvement in the performance of these VPs towards agriculture development. Whereas time-wise performance showed that VPs performed well in respect of item supply and distribution of improved seeds followed by initiative through co-operative individual efforts for kitchen gardening. Preparation of agriculture plan appears to be most neglected item by village Panchayat.

Jain and Sinha (1974) revealed that wherever village Panchayat had been given adequate power

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and resources, their performance was satisfactory in the field of agriculture development.

Khatik (2001) concluded that, the low cost or no cost vegetative and mechanical soil and water conservation technologies suitable to small farm holding should be developed for their their easy adoption in tribal conditions. The technologies should be developed according to and feasibility of rural tribal farmers. The ultimate beneficiary farmer should be motivated for their collective participation in adoption of mechanical soil and water conservation technologies on watershed basis under the purview of PRIs.

Saini and Singh (2002) reported that, out of 29 functions, given to Panchayats, only 7 function were performed by village Panchayats. These were related to construction work, and target achievement programme enforced by the block agency, such as identification of beneficiaries, vigil over widow/old age pensions and immunization of children. Thus, mobilization of village Panchayat in grass root administration and meeting the aspiration of rural community is the need of hour.

Singh (2004) concluded that, majority of both categories of respondents had reacted that average extent of development activities had been taken by PRIs on various areas of development of envisaged under 73rd Amendment Act of Constitution for Panchayati Raj Institute.

The present study was aimed to study the area and extent of development of Government officials and elected representatives under Panchayati Raj system.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was carried out in Bara Tahsil of Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh. Two blocks from this Tahsil were selected and five villages from each CD block were randomly selected for the propose, so there a total of 10 villages as locale of the study. There were two categories of respondent *viz.*, Government officials and elected representatives at three levels of Panchayat bodies. A total of 150 respondents (75 from each category) were selected by stratified random sampling method. Structured interview schedule was developed on the basis of objectives and selected variables. Data were collected during April 2006 to December, 2006.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The basic aim of the panchayati Raj System of the country is to place mere power in the hand of people, enhancing their capability to involve themselves in the process of decision making, preparation, execution and supervision of development programmes for economic development and social justice.

Respondent (G.O.) were categorized into low (rank <41, medium (rank – 41 to 77) and high (rank >77) level on the basis of area and extent of development. It is obvious from Table 1

that majority (56%) of Government officials were belonging to medium level, accompanied by 22.66 per cent respondents with high level and 21.33 per cent respondents with low level of area and extent of development.

Respondents were categorized on the basis of areas and extent of development activities which has been taken by their Panchayat bodies since effect of 73rd constitutional (Amendment) act of 1992. Area of development includes agriculture, land improvement, water management, fisheries, drinking water, adult and non-formal education, cultural activities, family welfare, women and child development and so on. Extents of these developments were scored out.

Table 1 represents the areas and extent of development of government officials. Majorities of the respondent (56%) were having medium level (rank: 41-77) accompanied by 22.66 per cent with high level (rank: 77) and 21.33 per cent with low level (rank <41) of area and extent of development.

Table 1. Distribution of respondent (G.O.) on the basis at area and extent of development

Sr. No.	Area and extent of development	Frequency	Percentage
1.	< 41 (Low)	16	21.33
2.	41 – 77 (Medium)	42	56.00
3.	> 77 (High)	17	22.66
Mean = 59.25		S.D. = 18.00	

Elected representatives were classified into three levels by ranking them according to area and extent of development (Table 2). Equal percentage (14.66%) of the respondent were observed to be having low (rank < 46) and high level (rank > 74) and major percentage (70.66%) were having medium level (rank = 46-74) of area and extent of development.

Table 2 that 70.66 per cent of the elected respondents were ranked between the range of 46-74, while 14.6 per cent of them obtained rank above 74 and the rest 14.66 per cent respondents scored out below 46 on the basis of area and extent of development. From the finding of the present study we could be able to find correlation between selected independent variables and area and extent of development of the respondents.

Table 2. Distribution of respondent (E.R.) on the basis of area and extent of development

Sr.No.	Area and extent of development	Frequency	Percentage
1.	< 46 (Low)	11	14.66
2.	46 – 74 (Medium)	53	70.66
3.	> 74 (High)	11	14.66
Mean = 60.00		S.D. = 14.40	

Table 3 indicated that areas and extent of development in the Panchayat of government officials were positively correlated with their education at 1per cent and 5 per cent

Table 3 : Association between selected independent variables and area and extent of development (G.O.)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	'r' Value
1.	Age	- 0.049
2.	Education	0.360**
3.	Caste	0.314**
4.	Occupation	0.285*
5.	Family type	- 0.169
6.	Family size	0.149
7.	House	0.185
8.	Material possession	0.195
9.	Land possession	0.079
10.	Farm power	0.268*
11.	Social participation	- 0.015

Table 4 : Association between selected independent variables and area and extent of development (E.R.)

Sr. No.	Independent variables	'r' Value
1.	Age	- 0.287*
2.	Education	- 0.069
3.	Caste	0.300**
4.	Occupation	0.241*
5.	Family type	0.065
6.	Family size	0.022
7.	House	- 0.149
8.	Material possession	- 0.155
9.	Land possession	- 0.064
10.	Farm power	- 0.151
11.	Social participation	- 0.113

level of significant, Occupation, Caste and farm power showed perfect positive correlation with area and extent of development under taken by Panchayati raj system.

From Table 4, it is clear that area and extent of development of elected representatives was positively correlated with independent variables like caste and occupation and the values were found to be significant. The age of the respondents was observed to have negative and significant correlation with area and extent of development.

It might be clearly understood from Table 4 that area and extent of development under Panchayat of elected representatives had significant negative correlation with age and positive correlation with their caste and occupation. Difference between these two categories with regard to area and extent of development may be due to variation in their education and occupation.

In light of above data and discussion the Null hypothesis (H₀) : There is no difference between the response of respondent towards area and extent of development was rejected hence the alternative hypothesis (H₁) : : There is a difference between the response of respondent towards area and extent of development was formulated and accepted.

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