

Correlates of knowledge of tribal women Sarpanches about various administrative function under Panchayati Raj System

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Received: 21.08.2012; Revised: 15.10.2012; Accepted: 18.11.2012

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Present investigation was conducted with 88 tribal women Sarpanches of Dahod district of Gujarat state to know their knowledge regarding various functions. The study revealed that majority of the tribal women Sarpanches had medium level of knowledge in operating financial function, planning function, administrative function, income sources of Gram Panchayat, duties of Sarpanch and schemes of Gram Panchayat. The variables, like political contact, mass media exposure and change agency contact had influenced the knowledge positively and significantly, whereas size of family had influenced the knowledge negatively and significantly. While rest variables *viz.*, age, education, annual income, cosmopolitaness and achievement motivation failed to show any significant influence.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Administrative function, Tribal women Sarpanches, Panchayati raj system

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Bhabhor, S.M., Kunchala, K.D. and Patel, J.K. (2012). Correlates of knowledge of tribal women sarpanches about various administrative function under Panchayati Raj System. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 7 (2): 453-455.

Majority of the Indian population residing in rural area and therefore overall development of country depends on proper implementation of rural development programmes. The panchayati raj as a system of self-governance was introduced in the year 1959 following the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee Report.

Three-tier structure of local self-government consisting of gram panchayats at the village level, taluka panchayat Samitis at the sub-district level and zilla parishads at the district level operates to govern rural development scheme with the help of peoples participation. The Comprehensive knowledge about the different administrative function of tribal women sarpanches in panchayati raj system is an important factor in determination of effective implementation of rural development scheme. Form getting information on this dimension, this study is a modest attempt in developing sound and systematic knowledge of the tribal women sarpanches. With this view in mind the present study entitled knowledge of tribal women sarpanches about various administrative functions under panchayati raj system was under taken with the specific objectives to study the knowledge of tribal women Sarpanches about various administrative functions under

Panchayati raj system and to find out the relationship if any between overall knowledge of tribal women Sarpanches and their profile.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in Dahod district of Gujarat state. The Talukas *viz.*, Dahod, Zalod and Limkheda were selected purposive which had maximum total number of women Sarpanches. All 88 woman Sarpanches were selected as the respondents. The independent t variables were measured by using suitable scales whereas dependent variable, knowledge of the tribal women Sarpanches regarding various administrative functions of Gram Panchayat was ascertained by asking questions pertaining to individual component. The questions were framed on different aspects related to (i) financial (ii) plannings (iii) administrative (iv) income source (v) duties and (vi) scheme. The overall knowledge index and individual item wise knowlege index was calculated in terms of percentage. To determine the relationship between independent variables and dependent variables, co efficient correlation test was applied.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data given in Table 1 reveal that majority (62.50 %) of the tribal women Sarpanches had medium knowledge regarding financial function of Gram Panchayat, followed by 23.86 and 13.64 per cent had high and low level of knowledge regarding financial function of Gram Panchayat. As well as regarding planning function, more than half (53.41 %) of the tribal women Sarpanches had medium level of knowledge, followed by high and low with 26.13 and 20.46 per cent, respectively. In case of administrative function, less than three-fifth (59.09 %) of the tribal women Sarpanches had medium level of knowledge regarding administrative function of Gram Panchayat, followed by 21.59 and 19.32 per cent had high and low level of knowledge. With regards knowledge regarding income sources of Gram Panchayat, majority (62.50 %) of the tribal women Sarpanches had medium level of knowledge, followed by 22.73 and 14.77 per cent had high and low level of knowledge. As far as knowledge regarding duties of Sarpanches in Gram Panchayat was concerned, slightly more than three-fifth (60.23 %) of the tribal women Sarpanches had medium level of knowledge followed by 25.00 and 14.77 per cent had high and low level of knowledge, respectively. While knowledge regarding scheme running under Gram Panchayat, more than half (57.95 %) of the tribal women Sarpanches fell in the categories of medium level of knowledge regarding scheme running under Gram Panchayat, followed by 22.73 and 19.32 per cent had high and low categories. Whereas slightly more than three-fourth (70.45 %) of the tribal women Sarpanches

belonged to medium level of overall knowledge, followed by 18.18 and 11.37 per cent had high and low level of overall knowledge.

According to the extent of knowledge hierarchy, tribal women Sarpanches possessed highest knowledge about 'Financial function' and ranked first with mean score of 2.10 followed by 'Income source of Panchayat', 'Duties of Sarpanch', 'Planning function', various 'scheme' and 'Administrative function' got mean score 2.08, 2.07, 2.06, 2.03 and 2.02, respectively.

Data given in Table 2 revealed that the personal, socio-economical, communicational and psychological variables of the tribal women Sarpanches *viz.*, political contact, mass media exposure and change agency contact had influenced their knowledge positively and significantly, whereas size of family had influenced their knowledge negatively and significantly whereas age, education, annual income, cosmopolitaness and achievement motivation had no relation with overall knowledge.

Age and knowledge:

The data given in Table 2 clearly indicate that age of the respondents had negatively and non-significant relationship ($r = -0.0562NS$) with their knowledge.

Education and knowledge:

The data given in Table 2 clearly indicated that education of the respondents had negatively and non-significant

Various administrative function s	Mean	S.D.	Knowledge level			Total	Mean	Rank
			Low No. (%)	Medium No. (%)	High No. (%)			
Financial	71.36	20.06	12(13.64)	55(62.50)	21(23.86)	185	2.10	I
Planning	76.13	17.74	18(20.46)	47(53.41)	23(26.13)	181	2.06	IV
Administrative	67.42	12.09	17(19.32)	52(59.09)	19(21.59)	178	2.02	VI
Income source	61.13	12.01	13(14.77)	55(62.50)	20(22.73)	183	2.08	II
Duties	62.61	14.73	13(14.77)	53(60.23)	22(25.00)	182	2.07	III
Scheme	46.70	25.26	17(19.32)	51(57.95)	20(22.73)	179	2.03	V

Sr. No.	Variable	Correlation co-efficient (r value)
1.	Age	-0.0562NS
2.	Education	-0.0290NS
3.	Size of family	-0.2610**
4.	Annual income	-0.0590NS
5.	Political contact	0.3109**
6.	Cosmopolitaness	0.0254NS
7.	Mass media exposure	0.2699**
8.	Change agency contact	0.4535**
9.	Achievement motivation	0.1621NS

NS = Non-significant * and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

relationship ($r = -0.0290NS$) with their knowledge.

Family size and knowledge:

It was clearly observed that family size of the respondents had positively and significantly relationship ($r = -0.2610^{**}$) with their knowledge.

Annual income and knowledge:

Annual income of the respondents had negatively and non-significant relationship ($r = -0.0590NS$) with their knowledge.

Mass media exposure and knowledge:

So far as mass media exposure is concerned the respondents had positively and significantly relationship ($r = 0.2699^{**}$) with their knowledge.

Political contact and knowledge

The data given in Table 2 clearly indicated that political contact of the respondents had positive and significant relationship ($r = 0.3109^{**}$) with their knowledge.

Cosmopolitaness and knowledge:

Cosmopolitaness of the respondents had negatively and non-significant relationship ($r = 0.0254NS$) with their knowledge.

Change agency contact and knowledge:

Change agency contact of the respondents had positive and significant relationship ($r = 0.4535^{**}$) with their knowledge.

Achievement motivation and knowledge:

Mass media exposure of the respondents had negatively and non significant relationship ($r = 0.1621NS$) with their knowledge. Related to the present investigation Saiyad (2000),

Diwan (2007) and Kujur (2008) made valuable contribution from Anand, Ahmedabad and Anand districts of Gujarat, respectively.

Conclusion:

Majority of the tribal women Sarpanches had medium level of knowledge regarding financial and administrative function, income source, duties of Sarpanch and schemes of Gram Panchayat. Whereas slightly less than half of tribal women Sarpanches had medium level of knowledge pertaining to planning function, political contact, mass media exposure and change agency contact had influenced their knowledge positively and significantly, whereas size of family had influenced their knowledge negatively and significantly whereas age, education, annual income, cosmopolitaness and achievement motivation had no relation with overall knowledge.

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