



Role perception of the Sarpanch's in agricultural development

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in Ramtek and Parshivni Panchayat Samities of Nagpur district which comes in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra state, to study the role perception of Sarpanch's in agricultural development. Keeping the above objective in mind 25 villages from each tehsils were selected. Thus, the sample of 50 Sarpanch's was selected for the study. Exploratory research design of social research was used in the present investigation. From the study it is found that, majority of the Sarpanch's were perceived their role as planner, executer, administrator, communicator, co-ordinator, organizer also managerial role, representative, evaluator, co-operator, group maintainer and group harmonizer.

INTRODUCTION

The Grampanchayat since the introduction of three tier system has to play a major role in the agricultural development of village level in proper functioning of the 'Panchayat Raj System'. The success of any Grampanchayat largely depends upon how well the elected members and Sarpanch perform their roles within the framework of Panchayat Raj constitution. It is necessary for the Sarpanch and the members of the Grampanchayat to have knowledge and clear understanding of their roles and its effective implementation for the agriculture and development of the village. Ever increasing population of India has to be fed by increased food production. Improved agricultural production technologies should be employed or adopted in rural areas of farming. An understanding and attitudes

of Sarpanch would help to extension workers, planners, organizations, policy makers and research workers to identify the proper persons and to utilize their services for better implementation of schemes through Grampanchayat. The present study entitled 'Role perception and role performance of Sarpanch in agricultural development' was undertaken with following specific objectives to study the role perception of the Sarpanch's in agricultural development.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in the Ramtek and Parshivni Panchayat Samities of Nagpur district which comes in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra state. From Ramtek tehasil 25 Grampanchayats and from Parshivni tehsil 25 Grampanchayats were randomly selected. From both tehsils 50 Sarpanch's were selected.

Exploratory research design of social research was used in the present investigation. Data were collected by personally interviewing the respondents with the help of specially designed and pretested interview schedule. The suitable statistical methods were used for analysis of data.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The observations of the present study as well as relevant analysis have been summarized under the following heads:

Role perception of Sarpanch in agricultural development :

The data in respect of overall role perception of Sarpanch's in agricultural development was obtained and they were categorized into different categories. The distribution of Sarpanch's according to their role perception is given in Table 1.

The data from Table 1 indicates that majority (64.00%) of respondents had partially perceived their role in agricultural developmental activities. However, 24 and 12 per cent of Sarpanch's had fully and not perceived their role in agricultural activities, respectively. The result obtained is similar to those obtained by Mohanan (1984).

Function wise role perception of Sarpanch's in agricultural development :

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as a planner:

A cursory look at Table 2 reveals that, great

majority of respondents had fully perception about their role as planner in agricultural department activities rural road construction (98.00%) and social forestry (80.00%). A very few of respondents had fully perception of their role as planner in agricultural development activities like waste land development (16.00%), pasture land development programme (10.00%), livestock development programme (06.00%), land and water conservation programme (04.00%) and agrobased industry development programme (02.00%).

It is also observed from Table 2 that, most of the Sarpanch were not perceived their role as a planner in agricultural activities like agrobased cottage industry development programme (94.00%), land and water conservation programme (72.00%), waste land development programme (70.00%), pasture land development programme (70.00%) and livestock development programmer (60.00%), respectively. These findings were supported by Jadhav (2004).

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as an executer :

Perusal of data in Table 3 shows that great majority (90.00%) of Sarpanch's had fully perceived role as an executer regard to construct the road towards main market, followed by 50 per cent Sarpanch's had fully perceived role regards to establishment of agriculture produce market committee. Majority of Sarpanch's had partially perceived their role as an executer in respect of

Sr. No.	Level of role perception	Respondent (n=50)	
		Frequency	%
1.	Not perceived	06	12.00
2.	Partially perceived	32	64.00
	Satisfactory perceived	12	24.00
3.	Total	50	100.00

Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Waste land development programme	08 (16.00)	07 (14.00)	35 (70.00)
2.	Livestock development programme	03 (06.00)	17 (34.00)	30 (60.00)
3.	Land and water conservation programme	02 (04.00)	12 (24.00)	36 (72.00)
4.	Social forestry	40 (80.00)	09 (18.00)	01 (02.00)
5.	Pasture land development programme	05 (10.00)	10 (20.00)	35 (70.00)
6.	Rural road construction	49 (98.00)	01 (02.00)	00 (00.00)
7.	Agrobased cottage industry development programme	01 (00.02)	02 (04.00)	47 (94.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

adoption of horticultural scheme of agriculture department (80.00%), supply agricultural equipments for the farmers (76.00%), supply the fertilizers for farmers (66.00%), establishment of farmers union (58.00%), supply seed for farmers (56.00), establishment of crop demonstration units on field (54.00%), give concession for drip and sprinkler irrigation (54.0%) and establishment of agricultural processing unit (52.00%), respectively.

Whereas great majority of respondents Sarpanch's had not perceived their role as executer in construction

of biogas unit in village (90.00%), establishment and management of nursery in village (80.00%) and construction of godown in village for grain storage, respectively. The majority of respondents were perceived partial role as executer in activities as adoption of horticultural schemes of agriculture department (80.00%), supply agricultural equipments for the farmers (76.00%), supply the fertilizer for farmers (66.00%), establishment of farmers union (58.00%), supply the seed for the farmers (56.00%), establishment of crop demonstration

Table 3 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as an executer in agricultural development

Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Establishment of crop demonstration on field	10 (20.00)	27 (54.00)	13 (26.00)
2.	Establishment of farmers union	14 (28.00)	29 (58.00)	07 (14.00)
3.	Establishment of agriculture produce market committee	25 (50.00)	17 (34.00)	08 (16.00)
4.	Establishment of agriculture processing unit	15 (30.00)	26 (52.00)	09 (18.00)
5.	Establishment and management of nursery in village	05 (10.00)	05 (10.00)	40 (80.00)
6.	Construction of godown in village for grain storage	01 (02.00)	16 (32.00)	33 (66.00)
7.	Construct biogas unit in village	01 (02.00)	04 (08.00)	45 (90.00)
8.	Construct the road towards main market	45 (90.00)	03 (06.00)	02 (04.00)
9.	To supply the seed for the farmers	07 (14.00)	28 (56.00)	15 (30.00)
10.	To supply the fertilizer for farmers	05 (10.00)	33 (66.00)	12 (24.00)
11.	To supply agricultural equipments for the farmers	08 (16.00)	38 (76.00)	04 (08.00)
12.	Adoption of horticultural schemes of agriculture department	06 (12.00)	40 (80.00)	04 (08.00)
13.	To give concession for drip and sprinkler irrigation	04 (08.00)	27 (54.00)	19 (38.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

Table 4 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as an administrator in agricultural development

Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Agricultural development activities undertaken by grampanchayat	04 (08.00)	38 (76.00)	08 (16.00)
2.	Agricultural development activities assigned by panchayat samiti and Z.P.	07 (14.00)	33 (66.00)	10 (20.00)
3.	Crop demonstration programme	10 (20.00)	27 (54.00)	13 (26.00)
4.	Farmers union	38 (76.00)	10 (20.00)	02 (04.00)
5.	Krishi Melawa	32 (64.00)	14 (28.00)	04 (08.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

Table 5: Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as a communicator in agricultural development

Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Informing the grampanchayat members and farmers about various government schemes	45 (90.00)	04 (08.00)	01 (02.00)
2.	Presenting review of work done in agricultural development by grampanchayat to gram sabha	47 (94.00)	01 (02.00)	02 (04.00)
3.	Reporting the progress of work of grampanchayat in agriculture development to farmers union	38 (76.00)	10 (20.00)	02 (04.00)
4.	Providing the information to the farmers about various agricultural development programmes	22 (44.00)	26 (52.00)	02 (4.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

on field (54.00%), give concession for drip and sprinkler irrigation (54.00%) and establishment of agriculture processing unit (52.00%), respectively.

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as an administrator :

The data from Table 4 reveals that, 76 per cent of Sarpanch's had full perception about their administrative role in farmers union and 64 per cent Sarpanch's had full perception about their administrative role in krishimelava. Large majority of Sarpanch's had partially perceived role as an administrator in respect of agricultural development activities undertaken by Grampanchayat (76.00 %), agricultural development activities assigned by panchayat samiti and Z.P. (66.00 %) and crop demonstration programmes (54.00 %), respectively.

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as a communicator :

Table 5 depicts that great majority of Sarpanch's had fully perceived their role as a communicator in respect of presenting review of work done in agricultural development

by Grampanchayat to gram sabha (94.00 %), informing the Grampanchayat members and farmers about various government schemes (90.00 %), reporting the progress of work of Grampanchayat in agriculture development to farmers union (76.00 %). The majority of Sarpanch's were partially perceived their role as a communicator in respect of providing the information to the farmers about various agricultural development programmes (52.00 %).

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as a co-ordinator :

It was observed from Table 6 that great majority of Sarpanch's (90.00%) had fully perceived their role as co-ordinator within the functioning of Grampanchayat, farmers union and village institution organization, between the Grampanchayat member and farmer (78.00 %). However, most of the Sarpanch's partially perceived their role as a co-ordinator within agricultural officer and farmers union (76.00 %), in between progressive farmer and backward farmer (70.00 %), in between agriculture extension officer and village farmers (60.00%), and extension personnel

Table 6 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as co-ordinator in agricultural development

Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Between the grampanchayat and panchayat samiti/ Z.P.	15 (30.00)	28 (56.00)	07 (14.00)
2.	Between the grampanchayat member and farmer	39 (78.00)	07 (14.00)	04 (08.00)
3.	Between the functioning of gram panchayat, farmers union and village institution organization	45 (90.00)	04 (08.00)	01 (02.00)
4.	Within the extension personnel and the village people	07 (14.00)	29 (58.00)	14 (28.00)
5.	Within progressive farmer and backward farmer	10 (20.00)	35 (70.00)	05 (10.00)
6.	Within agricultural officer and farmers union	05 (10.00)	38 (76.00)	07 (14.00)
7.	Within agriculture extension officer and village farmers	11 (22.00)	30 (60.00)	09 (18.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

Table 7 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as an organizer in agricultural development

Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Crop demonstration	48 (96.00)	01 (02.00)	01 (02.00)
2.	Social forestry programme	40 (80.00)	09 (18.00)	01 (02.00)
3.	Agricultural training	17 (34.00)	04 (08.00)	29 (58.00)
4.	Organization of lecture of progressive farmer or agricultural industrial	05 (10.00)	15 (30.00)	30 (60.00)
5.	KisanMelawa	05 (10.00)	07 (14.00)	38 (76.00)
6.	Animal exhibition	01 (02.00)	18 (36.00)	31 (62.00)
7.	Women guidelines	03 (06.00)	18 (36.00)	29 (58.00)
8.	Crop protection workshop	04 (08.00)	14 (28.00)	32 (64.00)
9.	Vaccination programme	40 (80.00)	07 (14.00)	03 (06.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

and the village people (58.00 %).

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as an organizer :

The data from Table 7 reveals that the great majority of Sarpanch's had fully perception about their role as organizer in Crop demonstration (96.00 %) and Social forestry programme (80.00 %), vaccination programme (80.00 %). Most of the Sarpanch's had not perceived their role as organizer in agricultural fair (76.00 %), crop protection workshop (64.00 %), animal exhibition (62.00 %), organization of lecture of progressive farmer or agricultural industrialist (60.00 %), women guidelines (58.00 %) and agricultural training (58.00 %), respectively.

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their managerial role :

The data from Table 8 revealed that majority of the

Sarpanch's had fully perceived their managerial role in different aspect viz., public road (76.00 %) and water sources (60.00 %). Most of the Sarpanch's had partially perceived their managerial role in regards to Fertilizer stock (76.00 %), seeds (70.00 %), electricity (66.00 %) and Agricultural equipment (56.00 %). While 66 per cent of Sarpanch's had not perceived their role in management of agricultural godown followed by government pasture land (62.00 %).

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as a representative :

The data depicted in Table 9 that negligible proportions of Sarpanch's had fully perceived their role as a representative. The great majority of the Sarpanch's had partially perception of their role as a representative were attitude of farmer (90.00 %), desires felt/needs of farmer (76.00 %) and problems of farmers (70.00 %). While most

Table 8 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their managerial role in agricultural development				
Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq.(%)	Not freq.(%)
1.	Government pasture land	02 (04.00)	17 (34.00)	31 (62.00)
2.	Public Road	38 (76.00)	07 (14.00)	05 (10.00)
3.	Water sources	30 (60.00)	17 (34.00)	03 (06.00)
4.	Agricultural godown	01 (02.00)	16 (32.00)	33 (66.00)
5.	Electricity	05 (10.00)	33 (66.00)	12 (24.00)
6.	Fertilizer stock	08 (16.00)	38 (76.00)	04 (08.00)
7.	Agricultural equipment	07 (14.00)	28 (56.00)	15 (30.00)
8.	Seeds	04 (08.00)	35 (70.00)	11 (22.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

Table 9 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as a representative in agricultural development				
Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. %	Partial freq. %	Not freq. %
1.	Desires felt/needs of farmer	05 (10.00)	38 (76.00)	07 (14.00)
2.	Problems of farmers	03 (06.00)	35 (70.00)	12 (24.00)
3.	Attitude of farmer	02 (04.00)	45 (90.00)	03 (06.00)
4.	Solutions suggested for solving problems	02 (04.00)	01 (02.00)	47 (94.00)
5.	Nature of execution of agricultural development programmes	01 (02.00)	08 (16.00)	41 (82.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

Table 10 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as an evaluator in agricultural development				
Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Reviewing the progress of work of different agricultural development schemes in the village	02 (04.00)	47 (94.00)	01 (02.00)
2.	Understanding the shortcoming and weakness of different schemes implemented in the village	02 (04.00)	10 (20.00)	38 (76.00)
3.	Finding out the causes for the observed shortcoming and weakness in the implementing programmes	01 (02.00)	01 (02.00)	48 (96.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

of the Sarpanch's had not perceived their role about representing the solutions suggested for solving problems (94.00 %) and nature of execution of agricultural (82.00%).

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as an evaluator :

The data from Table 10 revealed that most of the Sarpanch's (94.00 %) were partially perceived their role as an evaluator by reviewing the progress of work of different agricultural development schemes in the village. While most of the Sarpanch's (96.00 %) had not perceived their role in regards to finding out the causes for the observed shortcoming and weakness in the implementing programmes, followed by understanding the shortcoming and weakness of different schemes implemented in the village (76.00 %). Whereas role perceived as an evaluator in other activities were negligible.

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as a co-operator :

The data from Table 11 revealed that two fifth of

Sarpanch's had fully perceived their role as a co-operator with progressive farmers (22.00%) and farmers union (28.00%) and 35 per cent with higher level offices. Most of the Sarpanch's partially perceived the role as a co-operator in respect of co-operation to farmer (76.00 %), higher level offices (Panchayat samiti and zillaparishad) 70.00 per cent, farmers union (56.00 %) and Progressive farmers (44.00 %).

While most of the Sarpanch's not perceived their role in co-operating to Expert and officers (82.00 %) in agricultural development activities.

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as a group maintainer :

The data from Table 12 reveals that majority of Sarpanch's (56.00 %) had fully perceived their role as group maintainer in respect of achieving the assistance/ co-operation of farmers for execution of agricultural development programmes. Most of the Sarpanch's had partially perceived their role as group maintainer in respect of maintaining unity among the farmers organization (76.00 %) followed by maintaining unity among the

Table 11 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as a co-operator in agricultural development				
Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq.(%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Higher level offices (Panchayat samiti, Z.P.)	13 (26.00)	35 (70.00)	02 (04.00)
2.	Expert and officers	04 (08.00)	05 (10.00)	41 (82.00)
3.	Farmer	07 (14.00)	38 (76.00)	05 (10.00)
4.	Farmers union	20 (40.00)	28 (56.00)	02 (04.00)
5.	Progressive farmers	21 (42.00)	22 (44.00)	07 (14.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

Table 12 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as a group maintainer in agricultural development				
Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Maintaining unity among the farmers	09 (18.00)	23 (46.00)	18 (36.00)
2.	Maintaining unity among the farmers organization	02 (04.00)	38 (76.00)	10 (20.00)
3.	Achieving the assistance/ co-operation of farmers for execution of agricultural development programmes	28 (56.00)	17 (34.00)	05 (10.00)
4.	Motivating different farmers from the village by inspiring them	07 (14.00)	18 (36.00)	25 (50.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

Table 13 : Distribution of Sarpanch's according to the perception of their role as a harmonizer in agricultural development				
Sr. No.	Role	Perception (n=50)		
		Fully freq. (%)	Partial freq. (%)	Not freq. (%)
1.	Developing faith among the farmers	02 (04.00)	10 (20.00)	38 (76.00)
2.	Developing unity and integrity among farmers union	08 (16.00)	10 (20.00)	32 (64.00)
3.	Developing faith among the farmers for deciding and accomplishing objectives of agricultural development programmes	08 (16.00)	18 (36.00)	24 (48.00)
4.	Developing unity among the farmers for the development work	05 (10.00)	07 (14.00)	38 (76.00)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

Freq. = Frequency

farmers (46.00 %). While 50 per cent of Sarpanch's had not perceived their role in motivating different farmers from the village by inspiring them.

Perception of Sarpanch's regarding their role as a group harmonizer :

The data from Table 13 revealed that very rare proportions of Sarpanch's had fully perceived their role as a harmonizer. However, most of the Sarpanch's had not perceived their role in regards to developing faith among the farmers (76.00 %), developing unity among the farmers for the development work (76.00 %), developing unity and integrity among farmers union (64.00 %), developing faith among the farmers for deciding and accomplishing objectives of agricultural development programmes (48.00 %), respectively.

Conclusion :

The study indicate that partially perceived role (64.00%) of the Sarpanch's had partial role perception in agricultural development whereas, 24 and 12 per cent of the Sarpanch's had shown satisfactory and not satisfactory role perception, respectively. In case of rural road construction nearly cent per cent (98.00%) of Sarpanch had fully perception of their role as planner. Great majority (90.00%) of Sarpanch's had fully perceived role as an executer regard to construct the road towards main market. Large majority of respondents Sarpanch's had not perceived their role as executer in construction of biogas unit in village (90.00%). The seventy six per cent of Sarpanch's had full perception about their administrative role in farmers union. Sarpanch's had fully perceived their role as a communicator in respect of presenting review of work done in agricultural development by Grampanchayat to gram sabha (94.00 %). Great majority of respondents had fully perceived their role as aco-ordinator within the functioning of Grampanchayat, farmers union and village institution organization (90.00 %).

Equal proportion of Sarpanch's had (84.00 %) fully perceived about their role as organizer in social forestry and animal vaccination programme. Nearly cent per cent of respondents (98.00%) had perception about their role in Crop demonstration. Majority of the Sarpanch's had fully perceived their managerial role in different aspect

viz., public road (76.00 %) and water sources (60.00 %). Majority of the Sarpanch's had partially perceived their role as a representative on attitude of farmer (90.00 %). Most of the Sarpanch's (94.00 %) were partially perceived their role as an evaluator by reviewing the progress of work of different agricultural development schemes in the village. Majority of Sarpanch's (56.00 %) had fully perceived their role as group maintainer in respect of achieving the assistance/ co-operation of farmers for execution of agricultural development programmes. Most of the Sarpanch's had not perceived their role in regards to developing faith among the farmers (76.00 %).

The study suggested that the method demonstration on various aspects should be conducted at block or cluster levels to encourage the sarpanch's for adoption of new agricultural technologies and also frequent trainings should be organized to introduce Sarpanch's with their roles and responsibilities, Informative booklets containing various agricultural schemes and programmes should be published in easy, understandable and local languages at proper time. Tours and visits of Sarpanch's should be organized to research institutes and progressive farmer's farms.

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