

Role Perception of Gram Panchayat Members (GPMs)

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Abstract

The study was conducted in randomly selected four blocks i.e. Mundalan, Gohana, Kathura and Sonapat blocks of Sonapat district of Haryana. Dimension-wise role perception results pointed that more than 70 per cent GPM's perception of roles was medium to high in case of the dimension of administrative role and social, educational and family welfare works/roles. But more than 70 percent of respondents perceived medium to low about the dimensions of agriculture related, financial and judicial roles. As regards overall role perception of GPMs, majority (71.25%) of respondents had medium to low perception of roles. It was inferred that relationship between independent variable i.e. Family education, Socio economic status, extension contacts, mass media exposure, localiteness - cosmopolitaness, training and knowledge about Panchyati Raj, intra and inter linkages with other members had positive and significant effect on role perception level of GPMs.

Keywords: Perception, gram panchayat members

Introduction

Panchyati Raj is the only route by which the people of India may eventually gain the knowledge, the feeling, the practice and the experiences they must have to make freedom a living reality, while at the same time building an economy in which they may share the benefits of 21st century. Panchyati Raj provide valuable Training ground for further leadership. It is a means of political education of citizens.

It plays an important role in the achievement of our plan target in rural areas with the participation of the government officials, Elected Representatives and rural people. Bering in mind the importance of Gram Panchyats and expected role of its members in the village development, the present study was undertaken with specific objectives:

To study the personal Characteristics of the Gram Panchyat Members.

- To examine the role perception of Gram Panchyat Members.
- To find out relationship between role perception and personal characteristics of the Gram Panchyat Members.

Material and Methods

The present study was conducted in randomly selected Sonapat District. Four blocks of selected district namely Mundalan, Gohana, Kathura and Sonapat were selected randomly and from each block two Gram Panchyats were also selected randomly. Thus total numbers of 8 Gram Panchyats were drawn from four selected blocks and from each selected Gram Panchyat, ten Panchyat Members

was selected .So ,the total numbers of GPMs was 80 for the study.

Data were collected personally by interviewing the respondents with the specially designed interview schedule. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed systematically using mean, frequency,

percentage, standard deviation and coefficient of correlation.

Results and Discussions

It was observed from the finding that majority of the Gram Panchyat Members were of middle to young age group, had male sex , majority of GPM’s family

Table 1. Personal Characteristic of Gram Panchyat Members

S. No	Attributes	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young	25	31.25
		Middle	35	43.75
		Old	20	25.00
2	Sex	Male	59	73.75
		Female	21	26.25
3.	Family Education	Low	24	30.00
		Medium	41	51.25
		High	15	18.00
4.	Socio-economic Status	Low	24	30.00
		Medium	35	43.75
		High	21	26.25
5.	Extension Contacts	Low	21	26.25
		Medium	39	48.75
		High	20	25.00
6.	Mass Media Exposure	Low	23	28.75
		Medium	35	43.75
		High	22	27.50
7.	Localiteness-Cosmo politeness	Low	12	15.00
		Medium	40	50.00
		High	28	35.00
8.	Training regarding Panchyati Raj	No Training	24	30.00
		1to2 Training	41	51.25
		3to 4Training	15	18.75
9.	Intra-inter Linkages with other members	Low	26	32.50
		Medium	38	47.50
		High	16	20.00
10	Knowledge regarding Panchyati Raj	Low	20	25.00
		Medium	37	46.25
		High	23	28.75
11.	Affiliation to Political Parties	Yes	5	6.25
		No	75	93.75

education, socio-economic status, extension contacts, mass media exposure, localiteness-cosmopolitaness, intra-inter linkages with other members and knowledge about Panchyati Raj was of medium level. More than half had undergone trainings and 6.25 per cent of GPMs expressed their affiliation to political parties.

Dimension –wise Role Perception of Gram Panchyat Members

The Data in Table-2 depicted that 73.75 per cent of Gram Panchyat Members perceived medium to high perception about their administrative roles, while

26.25 per cent GPMs had low perception of their roles. Regarding agriculture related role 52.50 per cent of GPMs belonged to medium perception followed by low i.e. 25.00 per cent and remaining 22.50 per cent GPMs belonged to high perception category. It has been observed that in case of social, educational and family welfare works/roles as high as 47.50 per cent of GPMs belonged to medium perception followed by high i.e. 30.00 per cent while 22.50 per cent GPMs had low perception of their roles.

Table 2: Dimension –wise Role Perception of Gram Panchyat Members

S. No	Name of Dimensions	Category	Score Range	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Administrative Roles				
		Low	Up to 14	21	26.25
		Medium	15-17	33	41.25
		High	18-23	26	32.50
2.	Agriculture related Roles				
		Low	Up to 15	20	25.00
		Medium	16-17	42	52.50
		High	18-20	18	22.50
3.	Social Educational and Family Welfare Roles/works				
		Low	Up to 19	18	22.50
		Medium	20-22	38	47.50
		High	23-29	24	30.00
4.	Financial Roles				
		Low	Up to 6	26	32.50
		Medium	7-8	34	42.50
		High	9-10	20	25.00
5.	Judicial Roles				
		Low	Up to 9	23	28.75
		Medium	10-11	37	46.25
		High	12-14	20	25.00

The data in Table -2 highlighted that in financial role, 42.50 per cent and 32.50 per

cent GPMs possessed medium and low perception towards financial roles

,respectively. However 25.00 per cent GPMs had high perception about financial roles. It is apparent from the data that the perception regarding judicial role ,one – forth GPMs (25.00 %) perception was of high level while 46.25 per cent and 28.75 per cent GPMs had medium to low perception ,respectively.

Overall Perception of Gram Panchyat Members

Regarding overall perception of GPMs, 40.00 per cent of respondents belonged to medium level of role perception followed by 31.25 per cent and 28.75 per cent who felt low and high role perception category, respectively,(Table-3).The finding of the study are in the line those of Gowada and Siddaramaiah (1987),Singhroha (1990) ,Sood (1995) and Phogat (1996).

Table 3. Overall Perception of Gram Panchyat Members

S. No	Category	Score Range	Freq.	Percentage
1.	Low	63-67	25	31.25
2.	Medium	68-72	32	40.00
3.	High	73-75	23	28.75

It can, therefore, be concluded that majority of GPMs had medium role perception in all the five dimensions as well as in overall role perception. Hence it is suggested that GPMs should be made familiar about the roles they are expected to undertake. This can be possible by imparting training to them. Moreover, they need to provide a copy of well defined roles..How acquainted they are about their role need to be assessed from time to time so that lacking information ,if any, can be provided to update them about their roles. This is very necessary because role perception has a direct bearing on performance of roles.

Relationship between the Personal Characteristics of the Gram Panchyat Members with their Role Perception

The correlation coefficients presented in Table -4 revealed that out of eleven variables ,eight variables namely family education, socio-economic status ,extension contacts ,mass media exposure ,localiteness-cosmopoliteness ,training and knowledge about Panchyati Raj and intra-inter linkages with other members had positive and significant with their perception level, where as age ,sex established negative correlation with role perception but non significant. The positive association of respondents’ independent variables namely mass media exposure and training with role perception have been reported by Reddy (1993) and Gowada and Siddaramaiah (1995).

Table 4: Correlation between Independent Variables and Role Perception of Gram Panchyat Members

S.No	Independent Variables	Correlation Co-efficient (r value)
1.	Age	- 0.209
2.	Sex	- 0.090
3.	Family Education	0.422*
4.	Socio-economic Status	0.492*
5.	Extension Contact	0.604*
6.	Mass Media Exposure	0.511*
7.	localiteness-cosmopoliteness	0.458*
8.	Training about Panchyati Raj	0.379*
9.	Intra-inter linkages with other members	0.406*
10.	Knowledge about Panchyati Raj	0.487*
11.	Affiliation to Political Parties	0.073

*Significant at 5% level of Significance.

** Significant at 1% level of Significance.

Gram Panchyat Members’ Independent Variables in relation to dimensions of Role Perception

Family education, Socio economic status, mass media exposure, training and knowledge about Panchyati Raj were found to have positive and significant correlation with social, educational and family welfare works, one of the dimensions of GPMs role perception extension contact and intra inter linkages with other members exhibits positive but non significant association with role perception.

The correlation coefficients worked out between independent variable and financial role, one of the dimensions of GPMs’ role perception have been presented in Table 5. It is apparent from the data in Table 5 that socio economic status, extension contacts, mass media exposure,

localiteness –cosmopolitaness, intra inter linkages with other members and knowledge about Panchyati Raj have established positive and significant association with role perception (Financial roles)

The Judicial role -one of the dimension of GPMs’ role perception was also found to have positive and significant relationship with socio economic status, extension contact, mass media exposure, localiteness–cosmopolitaness, training & knowledge about Panchyati Raj, intra – inter linkage with members and affiliation to political parties .Where as age and sex were found to have negative but non significant relationship with the judicial roles of GPMs’ role perception (Table-5).

Table 5: Correlation between Independent Variables and Dimension wise Role Perception of Gram Panchyat Members

S. No	Independent Variables	Dimension-wise Role Perception (“r” value)				
		Administrative role	Agricultural Roles	Social Educational & Family Welfare Role	Financial Role	Judicial Role
1.	Age	0.045	-0.100	-0.158	0.123	-0.213
2.	Sex	0.108	-0.021	-0.120	0.142	-0.201
3.	Family Education	0.267**	0.128	0.259*	0.093	0.118
4.	Socio-economic Status	0.217	0.265**	0.310*	0.393**	0.347**
5.	Extension Contact	0.491**	0.287**	0.183	0.516**	0.400**
6.	Mass Media Exposure	0.273**	0.411**	0.253*	0.321**	0.473**
7.	localiteness-cosmopolitaness	0.578**	0.217	0.067	0.347**	0.224**
8.	Training about Panchyati Raj	0.088	0.490**	0.347*	0.189	0.229**
9.	Intra-inter linkages with other members	0.120	0.295**	0.077	0.368**	0.437**
10.	Knowledge about Panchyati Raj	0.261*	0.213	0.236*	0.431**	0.440**
11.	Affiliation to Political Parties	0.103	-0.129	-0.166	0.127	0.278*

*Significant at 5% level of Significance. ** Significant at 1% level of Significance

Conclusion

It was observed from the finding that majority of GPMs were of middle to young age group, had male sex, majority of GPM's family education, socio economic status, extension contact, Mass media exposure, localiteness –cosmopoliteness, intra inter linkages with other members and knowledge about Panchyati Raj was of medium level. More than half had undergone trainings and 6.25 per cent of GPMs expressed their affiliation to political parties.

The findings with regards to dimension wise level of role perception of GPMs indicated that majority of the respondents in all the five dimensions perceived medium role perception, when taken together. As regard overall perception of GPMs, majority of GPMs had medium to low perception about the roles of Gram Panchyat Members. This means that there is a need to bring about improvements in the level of role perception of GPMs. This can be possible by imparting training to them. Moreover, they need to provide a copy of well defined roles. How acquainted they are about their roles need to be assessed from time to time so that lacking information, if any, can be provided to update them about their roles. This is very necessary because role perception has a direct bearing on performance of roles. Therefore, state government and Non Government Organization or private agencies should organize special training program to realize their actual roles and position in Gram Panchyats. The variables, family education, extension contacts, mass media exposure, localiteness cosmopoliteness, training and knowledge about Panchyati Raj and intra inter linkages with other members have contributed positively and significantly towards the role perception of GPMs. Therefore, all such variables which are manipulative in nature should be

manipulated so as to promote the role perception of GPMs.

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