

## ROLE PERFORMANCE OF PANCHAYAT RAJ FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FARMING AND RURAL COMMUNITY IN PUTTAPARTHI BLOCK OF ANANTAPUR DISTRICT, (A.P)

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### ABSTRACT

India, the largest democratic country, is agrarian in character. Its 76 percent population lives in villages and depends on agriculture for the development. Mehta (1957) reported that development cannot progress without responsibility and power. The Mehta committee recommended the scheme of democratic decentralization. The scheme of democratic decentralization is the form of a three-tier interconnected, interdependent democratic structure of rural local self-government at the village, block/manual and district level.

### Thematic Background

The committee evolved some basic and fundamental principles for Panchayati Raj which is as follows: -

- It should be a three-tier structure of local self-governing elected bodies and from village, to district, the bodies are to be organically linked up.
- There should be a genuine transfer of power and responsibilities.
- Adequate resources should be transferred to the new bodies to enable them to discharge these responsibilities.
- All development programmes at these levels should be channeled through their bodies.
- The system should be such as will facilitate further devolution and dispersal of powers and responsibilities in the coming future.

**KEYWORDS:** Democratic Country, Responsibility and Power, Democratic Decentralization

### INTRODUCTION

The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in India, particularly after independence. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans, especially the second five-year plan, laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments. The second five-year plan envisaged a panchayat as responsible for village development keeping transformation of social and economic life of rural areas as its goal of development. It says that the rural progress depends entirely on the existence of an active organization in the village which can bring all the people,

including the weaker sections, into common programmes to be carried out with the assistance of administration. To achieve this objective the second Five year Plan entailed the Panchayats to perform civic, developmental, land management, land reform and judicial functions. Subsequent plans and policy pronouncements of the national leader to emphasize the role of Panchayats in village development

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 the village. Thus the Gram Panchayat and its members have definitely and undoubtedly a key role to play in Panchayat Raj System. Gram panchayat members play a prime role in bringing about the welfare of the rural people. The Panchayat is expected mainly to promote economic, political and social development in the villages. This can 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.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To study the Role performance of Gram Panchayat Samiti members for the development of Farming and Rural Community in Puttaparthi-I block of Anantapur district.
- To study the knowledge of Gram Panchayat Samiti members about rural development activities.
- To assess the relationship between Knowledge and role performance of Gram Panchayat Samiti members in rural development activities.
- To determine the problems faced by Gram Panchayat Samiti members in performing the role for rural development.
- To suggest ways and means for improving the role performance of the Gram Panchayat Samiti members.

### **HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY**

The study seeks to test the following hypothesis. "Panchayat Raj institution is playing a key role in rural development and enriching the positions of the rural people".

### **METHODOLOGY**

Anantapur district has total 63 manuals and having 1004 panchayats. For this study Puttaparthi selected having 4 manuals, with 45-gram panchayats. Using simple random sampling technique for the data collection the selected panchayats are Ramapuram, Vankarakunta, Bukkapatnam, Kothacheruvu, Puttaparthi, Vngalama cheruvu. List of Gram panchayat Pradhan's/presidents and samiti members elected in the Gram panchayats were obtained from the respective panchayat Samitis. With help of gram panchayat Pradhan/president and Samiti members, freshly elected or re-elected were identified. Those who were re-elected as Gram panchayat Pradhan and Samiti members were considered and selected a sample of study, as they had previous experience of running Gram panchayat organization. The data is also collected through the interview schedule. Respondents were interviewed at their respective residences. A questionnaire was prepared which comprised questions on various aspects dealing with their social, economic, political and educational conditions. The statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation, multiple regressions were used for

analysis of data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The result shows the majority (70.00%) of the panchayat presidents and members belonged to middle age group, whereas an equal proportion 15.0per cent panchayat members belonging to old and age and young age categories. It was clear from the study that education level of respondents showed that 36.67% of the panchayat presidents and members studied up to high school. 16.66% of the panchayat members received distance education. The main occupation is agriculture (98.33%) as main occupation and agricultural labors; multiple of the business of was 10.00 percent. About 41.67 percent of the presidents had medium social participation, whereas 31.67 and 26.66 percent of them had the low and high social participation, respectively.

About 65.00 percent of the presidents and members had the low decision-making ability, whereas 23.33 and 11.67 percent of them had high and medium decision-making ability.

That 43.33 percent of the Gram panchayat members belong to medium knowledge followed by 30.00 and 26.67 percent who belong to low and high knowledge respectively. About 38.33 percent of the Gram Panchayat Samiti members, performed the medium role, followed by 35.00 and 26.67 percent who belonged to low and high-level role in the implementation of rural development activities, respectively. The gram Panchayat Samiti majority of presidents and members had medium knowledge (43.33%) and the majority of the gram panchayat members were possessed medium role(38.33%) in the implementation of rural development activities and had a highly significant relationship (0.522\*\*) between knowledge and role of gram panchayat presidents.

**Table 1: Profile of the Gram Panchayat Samiti Members (n=60)**

Sl.No	Variables	F	%
1	Age		
	Young(18-30 years)	9	15.00
	Middle(31-50 years)	42	70.00
	Old(>50 years)	9	15.00
2	Education		
	Illiterate	6	10.00
	Primary school(1-4)	6	10.00
	Middle school(5-7)	10	16.66
	High school(8-10)	22	36.67
	Distance education	10	16.67
3	Graduate	6	10.00
	Size of land holding Size of land holding		
	Small	26	43.33
	Marginal	27	45.00
4	Large	7	11.67
	Family occupation		
	Agriculture	59	98.33
	Agricultural labours	6	10.00
	Business	6	10.00
5	Others	0	0
	Family income		
	Low income (Rs. <71,444)	28	46.66
	High income (Rs. >1,23,997)	6	10.00
Medium income (Rs. 71,444-1,23,997)	26	43.33	

**Table 2: Contact with Development Department Officials (n=60)**

Officials	Frequency of Contact							
	Once in a Week		Once in 15 Days		Once in a Month		Whenever Problem Occurs	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
M.R.O	19	31.66	17	28.34	14	23.34	10	16.66
A.O	22	36.67	15	25.00	16	26.66	7	11.67
A.E.O	23	38.34	14	23.33	17	28.33	6	10.00
A.H.O	24	40.00	14	23.33	13	21.67	9	15.00
V.R.O	22	36.66	15	25.00	13	21.67	10	16.66
Scientists of Ag.unit/RARS	9	15.00	4	6.67	8	13.33	39	65.00
Panchayat officers	29	48.33	20	33.33	6	10.00	5	8.34

It was clear that majority (45.00%) of the respondent's belonged to high contact with development department officials followed by 31.67 and 23.00 percent who belonged to low and medium contact categories, respectively.

**Table 3: Distribution of Village Respondents According to Contact with Development Department Officials:(n=60)**

Level	F	%
Low(<13.68)	19	31.67
Medium(13.68-18.31)	14	23.33
High(>18.31)	27	45.00
	Mean=16.00	SD=5.45

**Table 4: Overall Role Performed by Gram Panchayat Samiti**

SI	Role Performed	F	%
1	Low (<35.91)	21	35.00
2	Medium (35.91-39.48)	23	38.33
3	High (>39.48)	16	26.67
		Mean=37.69	SD=4.19

**Table 5: Distribution of Gram Panchayat Presidents and Members According to Social Participation(n=60)**

Category	F	%
Low(<1.21)	19	31.67
Medium(1.21-2.72)	35	41.67
High(>2.72)	16	26.67
	Mean=2	SD=1.84

## CONCLUSIONS

The implementation of rural development programs through the Panchayat Raj institutions has a drastic change in the socio-economic conditions of the rural people in the selected areas. Arrangement for, providing training should be provided to panchayat leaders.

Gram Panchayat Samiti members must have knowledge about rural needs and problems and create awareness among the members regarding rural development activities.

Training is an important component for developing the managerial ability of the gram panchayat members so providing training increasing the greater efficiency of gram panchayat members.

A computerised information communication network for the Gram Panchayat Samitis and to the voters of the Panchayat, linkage can enhance effective management of development projects by the Gram Panchayat. It is possible only, when the existing mechanism of Gram Panchayat would be enlarged, so as to include the people entire region and access the need of entire community.

Improving accountability is one key pre-requisite for better functioning of the Panchayat. Accountability cannot be enforced if there is lack of transparency in the functioning of the Panchayats. Steps need to be taken for improving access to information to the people. One immediate measure can be to make some disclosure voluntarily. Gram Panchayat could be required to publish by writing permanently on suitable walls or permanent display board in its office or in other public places.

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