

Original Research Article

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Constraints Faced by the Gram Panchayat Members in Performing their Roles in Agricultural Development and Solution Perceived by them to Overcome the Constraints in Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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The present study was conducted in Azamgarh and Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh. Two blocks were selected from each district, thus total four blocks selected. Five gram panchayats were selected from each block. In this way total 20 villages selected randomly. For selecting the gram panchayat members, a list of members from 20 selected gram panchayats were prepared with the help of gram panchayat secretary. All the members of selected 20 gram panchayats were included in the sample. Finally, total 200 gram panchayat members were selected for the present study from all 20 gram panchayats. The information was collected with the help of structured interview schedule by interviewing personally to the respondents. It was found that lack of training to gram panchayat members was found as the main constraints for agricultural development, therefore, frequent training should be organized to introduce gram panchayat members with their role and responsibilities.

Introduction

The Institution of Panchayats in India dates back to ancient history when it performed the role of a village government. During British regime, these Panchayats were relegated a sub-servient position as the foreign rulers set up local self governments on the pattern of their own country. Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, conceived village Panchayats as a potential instrument for the socio-

economic and political transformation of the rural society and cultivation of democratic way of life at the grass-root level. 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. The present study was searching out the constraints faced by GPMs in agricultural development with the following objectives.

Objective of the study

To analyse the constraints faced by the Gram Panchayat Members in performing their roles and solution perceived by them to overcome the constraints.

Materials and Methods

Keeping in the mind of objectives of study and the parameters to be studied an interview schedule was prepare to collect primary data from the respondents through personal interview. Collected data were analyzed by

frequency and percentage and a rank order developed for this.

Results and Discussion

Constraints

It is evident from data presented in table-1 that the most serious constraint faced by the gram panchayat members during agriculture development was “lack of training” (95.50 percent). The second most constraint perceived by gram panchayat members was “less honorarium to panchayat members” (95.0 percent) followed by “lack of awareness about government schemes” (94.50 percent), “lack of information technology” (94.00 percent), “lack of specially fund for gram panchayat to agriculture development” (93.50 percent), “low support prices of cereal crop” (93.00 percent), “authority do not give importance to your opinions” (92.50 percent), “agriculture departmental staff is not interested in implementing various schemes in villages” (91.50 percent), “lethargy among the farmers” (91.00 percent), “less interest of mukhiya for agriculture development” (89.00 percent), “lack of co-operative societies” (88.50 percent),

Table.1 Constraints faced by the GPMs in performing their roles (N=200)

S.N.	Constraints	frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Lack of training	191	95.50	I
2	Lack of co-operation from villagers	112	56.00	XXV
3	Non co-operative among the GPMs	166	83.00	XVI
4	Authority do not give importance to your opinions	185	92.50	VII
5	Agriculture departmental staff is not interested in implementing various schemes in villages	183	91.50	VIII
6	Booklet of agricultural developmental schemes does not available at proper time	166	83.00	XVI
7	Farmers not believed in new technology earlier	167	83.50	XV
8	High brokerage in agriculture product marketing	176	88.00	XII
9	Lack of information technology	188	94.00	IV
10.	Due to personal work less time for agriculture	155	77.50	XXI
11.	Lack of resource for agriculture development work	163	81.50	XVIII

12.	Less interest of mukhiya for agriculture development work	178	89.00	X
13.	High cost of inputs	140	70.00	XXIV
14.	Scattered and small land holding of farmers	158	79.00	XIX
15.	Complex and lengthy process of loan sanction	169	84.50	XIV
16.	Lack of co-operative societies	177	88.50	XI
17.	Less honorarium to panchayat members	190	95.00	II
18.	Lethargy among the farmers	182	91.00	IX
19.	Lack of specially fund to gram panchayat for agriculture development	187	93.50	V
20.	Casteism among villagers	156	78.00	XX
21.	Lack of co-operation from village level worker	165	82.50	XVII
22.	Non observation of suggestion by official	152	76.00	XXII
23.	Lack of awareness of duty among panchayat members	145	72.50	XXIII
24.	Unavailability of improved seed and others inputs	171	85.50	XIII
25.	Low support prices of cereal crop	186	93.00	VI
26.	Non involvement of women members in panchayat meeting	98	49.00	XXVII
27.	Interferences by the husband of women members	105	52.50	XXVI
28.	Lack of awareness about government schemes	189	94.50	III
29.	Lack of knowledge about farmers production organization(FPO)	165	82.50	XVII

Table.2 Suggestive measures to overcome the constraints faced by GPMs (N=200)

S.N.	Suggestive measures	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Frequent training should be given to GPMs at village level about agriculture development for increase their knowledge and awareness	185	92.50	I
2.	Removal of secondary status of women is needed	102	51.00	XVI
3.	Increase and regular provision of honorarium of GPMs	168	84.00	XIII
4.	Provision of regular and adequate fund to gram panchayat specially for agriculture development	184	92.00	II
5.	More information should be given by officials	180	90.00	VI
6.	Subsidy should be provided to small and marginal farmers to purchase inputs	178	89.00	VII
7.	Procedure for sanctioning loan should be simple and quick	172	86.00	X
8.	Cooperative societies should be formed in agriculture sector	175	87.50	VIII
9.	There should not be political interference	183	91.50	III
10.	Extension worker should be faithfully to his work and should be timely guidance to GPMs	181	90.50	V
11.	Good and well maintaining panchayat building should be available for meeting and training of GPMs	165	82.50	XIV
12.	Extension worker should convince farmers about the utility of new technology and encourage them to take risk in adoption	169	84.5	XII
13.	Transparency should be government schemes	174	87.00	IX
14.	Farmer production organization(FPO) should be developed	170	85.00	XI
15.	Mukhiya should be interested in agricultural development	182	91.00	IV

“High brokerage in agriculture product marketing” (88.00 percent), “Unavailability of improved seed and others input” (85.50 percent), “Complex and lengthy process of loan sanction” (84.50 percent), “Farmers not believed in new technology earlier” (83.50 percent), “Booklet of agricultural developmental schemes does not available at proper time” as well as “Non co-operative among the GPMs” (83.00 percent) “Lack of co-operation from village level worker” as well as “Lack of knowledge about farmers production organization(FPO)” (82.50 percent), “Lack of resource for agriculture development work” (81.50 percent), “Scattered and small land holding of farmers ” (79.50%), “Casteism among villagers” (78.00%), “Due to personal work less time for agriculture” (77.50%), “Non observation of suggestion by official” (76.00%), “Lack of awareness of duty among panchayat members” (72.50%), “High cost of input” (70.00%), “Lack of co-operation from villagers” (56.00%), “Interferences by the husband of women members” (52.50%) and “Non involment of women members in panchayat meeting” (49.00%) were found to be less serious constraint perceived by the gram panchayat members during agriculture development.

In conclusion this is evident from table-2 that the suggestive measures as stated by GPMs to overcoming the constraints in agriculture development programme can be placed in a descending order with their score and rank order *viz.*, Frequent training should be organized to introduce GPMs with their role and responsibilities ranked Ist (92.5%) followed by Provision of regular and adequate fund to gram panchayat specially for agriculture development ranked IInd (92%), There should not be political interference (91.5%) ranked III, Mukhiya should be interested in agricultural development (91%) ranked IV, Extension worker should be

faithfully to his work and should be timely guidance to GPMs (90.5%) ranked V, More information should be given by officials (90%) ranked VI, Subsidy should be provided to small and marginal farmers to purchase inputs (89%) ranked VII, Cooperative societies should be formed in agriculture sector (87.5%) ranked VIII, Transparency should be government schemes(87%) ranked IX, Procedure for sanctioning loan should be simple and quick (86%) ranked X, Farmer production organization(FPO) should be developed (85%) ranked XI, Extension worker should convince farmers about the utility of new technology and encourage them to take risk in adoption (84.5%) ranked XII, Increase and regular provision of honorarium of GPMs (84%) ranked XIII, Good and well maintaining panchayat building should be available for meeting and training of GPMs (82.5%) ranked IV, and Removal of secondary status of women is needed (51%) ranked as XVI, respectively.

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