

Original Research Article

Constraints Faced by the Village Leaders in their Role for Village Development in Maharashtra State

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in the Parbhani and Nanded district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2016-2017. From these two districts four tehsils i.e. (two tahsils from each district) were selected randomly. With irrespective of list of Grampanchayats and its members of each tehsil was collected from Block Development Officer (B.D.O.), Panchayat Samiti of respective talukas. In the first phase of data collection, 20 villages from each tehsil were selected randomly, thus making a sample of 80 villages i.e. (20 x 4 = 80). The selected villages were studied for their progressiveness with the help of village progressiveness scale of Singh *et al.*, (1972). In the second phase, after arranging list of villages in descending order top five villages with highest scores were selected as progressive villages and lowest five villages with lowest scores were selected as less-progressive villages from four talukas. Thus 40 villages were purposively selected for research study. From each selected villages five Grampanchayat leaders were selected randomly for the study as respondents by positional approach method. Thus total of 200 Village leaders i.e. 100 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 progressive villages and 100 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 less-progressive villages from Parbhani, Gangakhed, Nanded and Mudkhed tehsils were selected. It was found that, leaders in progressive villages and less progressive villages faced so many problems while performing their role towards village development activities. Major constraints faced by the leaders related with administrative constraints, financial constraints, social constraints, knowledge constraints and legislation constraints and village leaders suggested some important suggestions to overcome these constraints.

Keywords

Constraints, Progressive villages, Less progressive villages, Grampanchayat leaders

Introduction

The term 'Panchayat' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Pancha' that means five. In the traditional system it implied 'council of five' members who were engaged in settling the disputes in a rural setup.

The village panchayat has got prime importance for the welfare of the rural

people. The panchayat is mainly expected to promote economic, political and social development in the villages. The economic development is aimed at using improved agricultural techniques and tools while the political development is to be achieved by developing leadership in the villages. Grampanchayat members play the role of

advisor to the rural people. They provide information about various government schemes to the people in village. Thus, the Grampanchayat and its members has definitely and undoubtedly a key role to play in Panchayat Raj.

Grampanchayat which are properly functioning will increase the income of rural people and raise their standard of living and provide an opportunity to weaker sections in the community participate in the management of rural affairs. The achievement of these goals is significantly influenced by the effective leadership at the grass root level. It means, leadership plays an important role in shaping the social, political and economic development of community. The present study aimed at identifying and prioritizing the constraints that the village leaders faced in carrying out their activities and suggested some important suggestions to overcome these constraints.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in the Parbhani and Nanded district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. From these two district four tehsils i.e. (two tahsils from each district) were selected randomly for the study. With irrespective of list of Grampanchayats and its members of each tehsil was collected from Block Development Officer (B.D.O.), Panchayat Samiti of respective talukas. The villages were selected for the study in two phases; in the first phase 20 villages from each tehsil were selected randomly, thus making a sample of 80 villages i.e. (20 x 4 = 80). The selected villages were studied for their progressiveness with the help of village progressiveness scale of Singh *et al.*, (1972). All the information was collected with the help of Gramsevak, Talathi and Agricultural

Assistant from respective villages. After collection of information, score was assigned for each village. In the second phase, after arranging list of villages in descending order top five villages with highest scores were selected as progressive villages and lowest five villages with lowest scores were selected as less-progressive villages from four talukas. Thus 40 villages were purposively selected for research study. From each selected villages five Grampanchayat leaders were selected randomly for the study as respondents by positional approach method. Thus total of 200 Village leaders i.e. 100 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 progressive villages and 100 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 less-progressive villages from Parbhani, Gangakhed, Nanded and Mudkhed tehsils were selected. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected with the help of pretested interview schedule. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, co-efficient of correlation, multiple regressions, Z test and path analysis were used for the analysis of data.

The main objectives include to find out the Constraints faced by the leaders in progressive villages for their role performance and obtain their suggestion to overcome the constraint. And also to find out the Constraints faced by the leaders in their role performance in less progressive villages and obtain their suggestion to overcome the constraint.

Results and Discussion

The present study aimed at identifying and prioritizing the constraints that the village leaders faced in carrying out their activities and suggested some important suggestions to overcome these constraints.

Constraints faced by the leaders in progressive villages for their role performance and obtain their suggestion to overcome the constraint.

Constraints faced by the Village Leaders in Performing the Role from Progressive villages

Table 1 revealed that, Major constraints faced by the village leaders from progressive villages related with administrative constraints, financial constraints, social constraints, knowledge constraints and legislation constraints were given in details.

Administrative Constraints

It was observed from Table 1 that, 63.00 per cent of the leaders in progressive villages were reported that inadequacy of information provided by official and its rank I, 59.00 per cent of the leaders reported that heavy work load and its rank II, 54.00 per cent of the leaders reported that non-observance of suggestion given to employees and its rank III, 47.00 per cent of the leaders reported that red tapism and its rank IV, 41.00 per cent of the leaders reported that inadequacies in administrative system and it ranks V, 37.00 per cent of the leaders reported that frequent travelling and its rank VI was reported as administrative constraints.

Financial Constraints

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority (65.00%) of the of the leaders in progressive villages were reported unavailability of developmental funds in time and its rank I, 57.00 per cent of the leaders reported that low provision of honorarium to members and its rank II, 53.00 per cent of the leaders reported that unavailability of adequate funds and its rank III, 48.00 per cent of the leaders reported that low income of Grampanchayat and its rank IV were the

major constraints reported as financial problems by the village leaders.

Social Constraints

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority 56.00 per cent of the of the leaders in progressive villages were reported castism and its rank I, 52.00 per cent of the leaders reported that groupism and its rank II, 43.00 per cent of the leaders reported that non-cooperation from members and people and its rank III, 37.00 per cent of the leaders reported that male dominance and its rank IV were the major constraints reported as social problems by the village leaders.

Knowledge Constraints

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority 67.00 per cent of the of the leaders in progressive villages were reported lack of information technology and its rank I, 55.00 per cent of the leaders reported that lack of training and its rank II, 42.00 per cent of the leaders reported that lack of knowledge regarding Panchayat raj and its rank III were the major constraints reported as knowledge problems by the village leaders.

Legislation Constraints

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority 47.00 per cent of the of the leaders in progressive villages were reported rules are not properly implemented and its rank I, 45.00 per cent of the leaders reported that lack of information about rules of Grampanchayat and its rank II were the major constraints reported as legislation problems by the village leaders.

Suggestions of Village Leaders for improving upon the Role Performance in Progressive Villages

It was observed from Table 2 indicate that,

majority (67.00%) of the village leaders in progressive villages were suggested that training on information technology should be given which rank I, 63.00 per cent of the leaders were suggested that provision of regular and adequate funds which rank II, 60.00 per cent of the leaders were suggested that more information should be given by officials concerning jobs which rank III.

It was further observed that, majority (57.00%) of the leaders suggested that increase and regular provision of honorarium and TA/DA for meeting which rank IV, 55.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that frequent training should be given to the members which rank V, 53.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that employees should be strictly controlled to stay at headquarter which rank VI, 49.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that negligence on suggestions should not be their which rank VII.

It was observed that, 47.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that to eliminate the red tapism which rank VIII, 45.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that knowledge of Panchayat raj should be given to the people which rank IX, 43.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that motivate members towards cooperation which rank X, 40.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that removal of secondary status of women is the need of day which rank XI and Equal percentage of suggestions given by members about male dominance be removed and government should provide safety in travelling for women members i.e. (37.00%) were major suggestions given by the Grampanchayat leaders to overcome the constraints regarding their role performance.

Constraints faced by the leaders in their role performance in less progressive villages and obtain their suggestion to overcome the constraint

Constraints faced by the Village Leaders in performing the role from Less-progressive villages

Administrative Constraints

It was observed from Table 3 that, 81.00 per cent of the leaders in less progressive villages were reported that inadequacy of information provided by official and its rank I, 77.00 per cent of the leaders reported that red tapism and its rank II, 72.00 per cent of the leaders reported that non- observance of suggestion given to employees and its rank III, 66.00 per cent of the leaders reported that inadequacies in administrative system and its rank IV, 57.00 per cent of the leaders reported that heavy work load and it ranks V and 41.00 per cent of the leaders reported that frequent travelling and its rank VI was reported as administrative constraints.

Financial Constraints

It was observed from Table 3 that, majority (87.00%) of the of the leaders in less progressive villages were reported unavailability of developmental funds in time and its rank I, 82.00 per cent of the leaders reported that low income of Grampanchayat and its rank II, 77.00 per cent of the leaders reported that low provision of honorarium to members and its rank IV 75.00 per cent of the leaders reported that unavailability of adequate funds and its rank IV were the major constraints reported as financial problems by the village leaders.

Table.1 Constraints faced by the Village Leaders in performing the role from progressive villages

Sr. No.	Constraints	Progressive villages		
		No.	%	Rank
A	Administrative constraints			
1	Inadequacy of information provided by officials	63	63.00	I
2	Non- observance of suggestion given to employees	54	54.00	III
3	Inadequacies in administrative system	41	41.00	V
4	Red tapism	47	47.00	IV
5	Heavy work load	59	59.00	II
6	Frequent travelling	37	37.00	VI
B	Financial constraints			
1	Unavailability of developmental funds in time	65	65.00	I
2	Low provision of honorarium to members	57	57.00	II
3	Low income of Grampanchayat	48	48.00	IV
4	Unavailability of adequate funds	53	53.00	III
C	Social constraints			
1	Groupism	52	52.00	II
2	Non- cooperation from members and people	43	43.00	III
3	Castism	56	56.00	I
4	Male dominance	37	37.00	IV
D	Knowledge constraints			
1	Lack of knowledge regarding Panchayat raj	42	42.00	III
2	Lack of training	55	55.00	II
3	Lack of information technology	67	67.00	I
E	Legislation constraints			
1	Rules are not properly implemented	47	47.00	I
2	Lack of information about rules of Grampanchayat	45	45.00	II

Table.2 Suggestions of Village Leaders for improving upon the Role Performance in Progressive villages (N=100)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Progressive villages (N=100)		
		No.	%	Rank
1	Knowledge of Panchayat raj should be given to the people	45	45.00	IX
2	Increase and regular provision of honorarium and TA/DA for meeting	57	57.00	IV
3	Employees should be strictly controlled to stay at headquarter	53	53.00	VI
4	Provision of regular and adequate funds	63	63.00	II
5	Frequent training should be given to the members	55	55.00	V
6	To eliminate the red tapism	47	47.00	VIII
7	Training on information technology should be given	67	67.00	I
8	Male dominance be removed	37	37.00	XII
9	Removal of secondary status of women is the need of day	40	40.00	XI
10	Motivate members towards cooperation	43	43.00	X
11	More information should be given by officials concerning jobs	60	60.00	III
12	Negligence on suggestions should not be their	49	49.00	VII
13	Government should provide safety in travelling for women members	37	37.00	XIII

Table.3 Constraints faced by the Village Leaders in performing the role from Less progressive villages (N=100)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Less progressive villages (N=100)		
		No.	%	Rank
A	Administrative constraints			
1	Inadequacy of information provided by officials	81	81.00	I
2	Non- observance of suggestion given to employees	72	72.00	III
3	Inadequacies in administrative system	66	66.00	IV
4	Red tapism	77	77.00	II
5	Heavy work load	57	57.00	V
6	Frequent travelling	41	41.00	VI
B	Financial constraints			
1	Unavailability of developmental funds in time	87	87.00	I
2	Low provision of honorarium to members	77	77.00	III
3	Low income of Grampanchayat	82	82.00	II
4	Unavailability of adequate funds	75	75.00	IV
C	Social constraints			
1	Groupism	61	61.00	I
2	Non- cooperation from members and people	52	52.00	III
3	Castism	47	47.00	IV
4	Male dominance	57	57.00	II
D	Knowledge constraints			
1	Lack of knowledge regarding Panchayat raj	67	67.00	III
2	Lack of training	82	82.00	II
3	Lack of information technology	87	87.00	I
E	Legislation constraints			
1	Rules are not properly implemented	69	69.00	II
2	Lack of information about rules of Grampanchayat	65	65.00	I

Table.4 Suggestions of Village Leaders for improving upon the role performance in less progressive villages (N=100)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Less progressive villages (N=100)		
		No.	%	Rank
1	Knowledge of Panchayat raj should be given to the people	67	67.00	VII
2	Increase and regular provision of honorarium and TA/DA for meeting	79	79.00	IV
3	Employees should be strictly controlled to stay at headquarter	64	64.00	VIII
4	Provision of regular and adequate funds	87	87.00	II
5	Frequent training should be given to the members	83	83.00	III
6	To eliminate the red tapism	77	77.00	VI
7	Training on information technology should be given	88	88.00	I
8	Male dominance be removed	57	57.00	XI
9	Removal of secondary status of women is the need of day	60	60.00	IX
10	Motivate members towards cooperation	55	55.00	XII
11	More information should be given by officials concerning jobs	72	72.00	V
12	Negligence on suggestions should not be their	52	52.00	XIII
13	Government should provide safety in travelling for women members	58	58.00	X

Social Constraints

It was observed from Table 3 that, majority 61.00 per cent of the of the leaders in less progressive villages were reported groupism and its rank I, 57.00 per cent of the leaders reported that male dominance and its rank II, 52.00 per cent of the leaders reported that non-cooperation from members and people and its rank III, 47.00 per cent of the leaders reported that casteism and its rank IV were the major constraints reported as social problems by the village leaders.

Knowledge Constraints

It was observed from Table 3 that, majority 87.00 per cent of the of the leaders in less progressive villages were reported lack of information technology and its rank I, 82.00 per cent of the leaders reported that

lack of training and its rank II, 67.00 per cent of the leaders reported that lack of knowledge regarding Panchayat raj and its rank III were the major constraints reported as knowledge problems by the village leaders.

Legislation Constraints

It was observed from Table 3 that, majority 69.00 per cent of the of the leaders in less progressive villages were reported rules are not properly implemented and its rank I, 65.00 per cent of the leaders reported that lack of information about rules of Grampanchayat and its rank II were the major constraints reported as legislation problems by the village leaders. Similar findings were reported by Suradkar (2005), Khalge (2006), Kshatriya (2011), Bhabhor *et al.*, (2012), Chopde (2013) and Kumari Jyoti

(2016). It was observed from Table 4 indicate that, large majority (88.00%) of the village leaders in less progressive villages were suggested that training on information technology should be given which rank I, 87.00 per cent of the leaders were suggested that provision of regular and adequate funds which rank II, 83.00 per cent of the leaders were suggested that frequent training should be given to the members which rank III. It was also observed that, majority (79.00%) of the leaders suggested that increase and regular provision of honorarium and TA/DA for meeting which rank IV, 72.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that more information should be given by officials concerning jobs which rank V, 77.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that to eliminate the red tapism which rank VI, 67.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that knowledge of Panchayat raj should be given to the peoples which rank VII.

The Table shown that, 64.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that employees should be strictly controlled to stay at headquarter which rank VIII, 60.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that removal of secondary status of women is the need of day which rank IX, 58.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that government should provide safety in travelling for women members which rank X, 57.00 per cent of the leaders suggested that male dominance be removed which rank XI. 55.00 per cent of leaders suggestions that motivate members towards cooperation which rank XII and 52.00 per cent of leaders suggestions that negligence on suggestions should not be their etc. were major suggestions given by the Grampanchayat leaders to overcome the constraints regarding their role performance. These findings are in the line with findings of Suradkar (2005), Khalge (2006), Kshatriya (2011), Bhabhor *et al.*, (2012), Chopde (2013), Dedun *et al.*, (2016) and Kumari Jyoti (2016).

The Gram Panchayats operate at the grass root level of the society to promote overall development of the rural masses; ensuring peoples' participation should be the prime goal of this organization. The constraints encountered by the leaders of Gram Panchayat from progressive and less progressive villages were of varying types and intensity. The constraints classified into different ranks and expressed were inadequacy of information provided by officials, unavailability of developmental funds in time, castism, lack of information technology, rules are not properly implemented, groupism and lack of training. Government should organize the training programmes for leaders to aware they about their rights. If, almost all the recommendations of Grampanchayat are adopted by village leaders in right perspective, we increase the standard of living of rural and achieve target of rural development.

In context to the important suggestions given by the village leaders from progressive and less progressive villages were suggested that, training on information technology should be given, provision of regular and adequate funds, more information should be given by officials concerning jobs, frequent training should be given to the members, employees should be strictly controlled to stay at headquarter, to eliminate the red tapism, removal of secondary status of women is the need of day and government should provide safety in travelling for women members. The most of the leaders in progressive and less progressive villages suggested that the honorarium should be increased and regularly per month deposited in bank account. They also suggested that TA/ DA for meeting should be increased and regularly pay after the meeting.

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