

STUDY OF OPINIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MEMBERS AND NON MEMBERS OF THE PANCHAYATS, IN BAGHPAT DISTRICT

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Received-13.08.2015, Revised-21.08.2015

Abstract: No doubt India lives in the villages and about 50 per cent of the 6.41 lac villages of the country are situated in different terrain characterized by poor socio-economic condition. Even a casual glimpse at the sub continent of India is sufficient to convince that ours is a land of villages. Good majorities of her people i.e. nearly 68.84 per cent lives in villages and are occupied in the agriculture. According to the latest census figures, there are only 7936 towns in India; whereas the numbers of villages are 6.41 Lac. The 'Rig-Veda' which is considered as the oldest book in Indian culture too, has not been devoid of mention of villages. The literature succeeding the Rig-Veda -The Ramayana and the Gita- in the epic period, Buddha period, Maurya period, and Gupta period etc. are profuse in their description of village. Although the Panchayats have historically been an integral part of rural life in India, these Acts have institutionalized the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at the village, Block, and district levels as the third tier of government. The aim has been to combine social justice with effective local governance, with an emphasis on reservation of seats for the deprived classes of population, including of the leadership positions. with political empowerment having been established through a system of regular election to the three tiers of the Panchayats in all the States except Jharkhand, the task at hand has been to accelerate, widen, and deepen the process of empowerment so that these institutions of self government become the 'principal authorities' for planning and implementation.

Keyword: Panchayat, Opinion, Characteristics, Members, Villages

INTRODUCTION

India has always attracted attention of the world as being one of the oldest civilizations with kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. There are about 3 million elected representatives at all levels of the panchayat, one third of which are women. These members represent more than 2.4 Lac gram panchayats and more than 500 district panchayats spread over the length and breadth of the country, the new panchayats cover about 96 per cent of India's more than 6.41 Lac villages and nearly 99.6 per cent of rural population. This is the largest experiment in decentralization of governance in the history of humanity.

Panchayati Raj

Panchayati Raj system is a three-tier stem in the state with elected bodies at the Village, Block, and district levels. It ensures greater participation of people and more effective implementation of rural development programmes. There will be a Gram Panchayat for a village or group of villages, Kshetra Panchayat at block level and the Zilla Panchayat at the district level. The Ministry of Rural Development is engaged in bringing about rapid and sustainable development and socio-economic transformation in rural India. During the last few years foremost priority has been accorded to development in rural areas. A number of initiatives have been taken by this Ministry in the form of launching of new programmes, and restructuring of earlier programme to make them more effective and promotion of participation of people in the development process.

According to the census 2011, the total population of India is 121,01,93,42 crore, as was recorded 102,70,15,247 crore, in the census 2001. Compared to census 2011, it shows an increase of 18.1crore. According to the census 2011 the total literacy is 74.04 as compared to 64.8 per cent literacy in the census 2001.

The working population of India in 2011 stood at 46.02 crore, 38.02 per cent of the total population. The total number of main workers was 33.45% and that of the marginal workers were 3.32%. Out of the total main workers, 13.91 per cent were cultivators, 8.34 per cent agricultural labourer, 1.16 per cent household industrial workers and 10.04 per cent were other workers. Even a casual glimpse at the sub continent of India is sufficient to convince that ours is a land of villages. Good majorities of her people i.e. nearly 68.84 per cent lives in villages and are occupied in the agriculture. According to the latest census figures, there are only 7936 towns in India; whereas the numbers of villages are 6.41 Lac. The villages thus possess prominent position in the Indian society, since the earliest times the village has been the pivot of administration in India and it is still the keystone of national economy. Hence it is an established fact that without the prosperity of "Rural people" India cannot progress. The 'Rigveda' which is considered as the oldest book in Indian culture too, has not been devoid of mention of villages. The literature succeeding the Rigveda - The Ramayana and the Gita- in the epic period, Buddha period, Maurya period, and Gupta period etc. are profuse in their description of village.

Since the time immemorial the village was a self sufficient republic which functioned through the

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institution of Panchayat. There is clear and confirmed evidence of the survival of this village institution in some forms in almost every part of India until lately. No more distinctive tribute has perhaps been paid to these surviving panchayats by the then Britishers themselves who struck almost a fatal blow to them by their policy of comprehensive centralization and by their calculated interference in day today life of the Indians due to which the self sufficient nature of the old democratic rural polity was broken. The village Panchayat as useful rural institution has ranked into insignificance. The position of the villages in every respect has deteriorated.

On the basis of about problems the following objective was set up for the study of village panchayat for rural development.

To study the opinions and characteristics of the members and non members of the Panchayats.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is of paramount importance in any scientific study as the validity and reliability of the facts depend upon the system of investigation. It provides the details of the various aspects concerning the research methodology. The scientific steps required to carry out the research are being discussed below in depth.

A. Selection of the state

In 1947, when India gained independence, the state of United Provinces was renamed as Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is the biggest of 31 States in India. Uttar Pradesh is now divided into seventy five districts under eighteen divisions. There are 80 Lok Sabha constituencies and 403 Vidhan Sabha seats, Uttar Pradesh is surrounded by Nepal and the Indian states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand and National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Himalayas lies in the north of the state and the Deccan Plateau is

at the south. In between them, the river Ganges, Yamuna, Ghaghara flow eastwards.

B. Selection of the district

There are 75 districts in the state of U.P. The Research was conducted in the District of Baghpat (U.P.). The District of Baghpat was purposively selected by the researcher as he has six year professional carrier as a lecturer in one of the colleges of the district. This helps him to have better insight into the social, economic, political and technological conditions of the locale.

C. Selection of the block

The list of development block was collected from the office of the district headquarter of Baghpat. Baghpat District has the privilege of having six blocks namely Baghpat, Baraut, Binauli, Chaprauli, Khekra and Pilana. Out of six blocks, Baghpat and Baraut blocks were selected purposively keeping in view of the nature of study.

D. Selection of the village panchayat

Firstly, the list of village panchayat was collected from the Block office of the Baraut and of Baghpat. Then from this list, 10 village panchayats were selected comprising five village panchayats from each block.

E. Selection of the respondents

A complete list of the members of gram sabha and members of village panchayat was prepared. Out of the list 10 members of village panchayat and 20 members of gram sabha were finally selected using stratified random sampling method. Thus it was total of 300 respondents to be interviewed i.e. 100 members of village panchayat and 200 members of gram sabha.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The finding of the research of investigation is presented in following table.

Table 1. Opinion of respondents about working of village panchayat.

S.N 0.	Work	Opini on	Respondents		Total	χ^2
			Gram sabha No/%	Village panchayat No/%		
1	Help in the construction work for rural development like roads, panchayat Ghar, Toilets etc	A.	174 (87.00)	96 (96.00)	270 (90.00)	$\chi^2=7.22$, 2D.F. Not significant
		N.	9 (4.50)	3 (3.00)	12 (4.00)	
		D.	17 (8.50)	1 (1.00)	18 (6.00)	
2	Help in the implementing government plan of health and sanitation	A.	129 (64.50)	62 (62.00)	191 (63.67)	$\chi^2=4.52$, 2D.F. Significant, at 5% level
		N.	54 (27.00)	35 (35.00)	89 (29.67)	

		D.	17 (8.50)	3 (3.00)	20 (6.66)	
3	Help in the dig ponds fill water in them and start fisheries cultivation	A.	128 (64.00)	44 (44.00)	172 (57.33)	$\chi^2=13.191$, 2D.F. significant
		N.	44 (22.00)	41 (41.00)	85 (28.33)	
		D.	28 (14.00)	15 (15.00)	43 (14.34)	
4	Help in the providing economic help for old, widows, poor and handicapped men and women	A.	154 (77.00)	87 (87.00)	241 (80.34)	$\chi^2=4.29$, 2D.F.significant. At 5% level
		N.	27 (13.50)	7 (7.00)	34 (11.33)	
		D	19 (9.50)	6 (6.00)	25 (8.25)	
5	Panchayat help in the implementation and awareness about agricultural development plans	A.	43 (21.50)	18 (18.00)	61 (20.33)	$\chi^2=0.551$ 2D.F. not significant
		N.	107 (53.50)	57 (57.00)	164 (54.67)	
		D.	50 (25.00)	25 (25.00)	75 (25.00)	
6	Panchayat help in providing improved variety of seeds, machineries, chemical fertilizer and pesticide from government store	A.	30 (15.00)	18 (18.00)	48 (16.00)	$\chi^2=2.94$, 2 D.F. Not significant
		N.	103 (51.50)	41 (41.00)	144 (48.00)	
		D.	67 (33.50)	41 (41.00)	108 (36.00)	
7	Panchayat help in the plantation on Gram Sabha Land	A.	108 (54.00)	64 (64.00)	172 (57.33)	$\chi^2=3.221$ 2 D.F. Not significant
		N.	45 (22.50)	15 (15.00)	60 (20.00)	
		D.	47 (23.50)	21 (21.00)	68 (22.66)	
8	Panchayat help to arrange market for local agricultural products	A.	19 (9.50)	6 (6.00)	25 (8.33)	χ^2 Value =1.068 2 D.F. Not significant
		N.	50 (25.00)	26 (26.00)	76 (25.33)	
		D.	131 (65.50)	68 (68.00)	199 (66.33)	
9	Panchayat help in testing of soil fertility	A.	66 (33.00)	29 (29.00)	95 (31.66)	$\chi^2 = 1.531$ 2 D.F. Not significant
		N.	81 (40.50)	48 (48.00)	129 (43.00)	
		D.	53 (26.50)	23 (23.00)	76 (25.33)	
10	Panchayat help in the providing drinking water facilities	A.	164 (82.00)	83 (83.00)	247 (82.33)	$\chi^2 = 3.150$ D.F. Not significant
		N.	20 (12.00)	5 (5.00)	25 (8.33)	
		D.	16 (8.00)	12 (12.00)	28 (9.33)	
	Total		200 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	300 (100.00)	

Table 1. clearly reveals that very high majority i.e. 87.00 per cent, 82.00 per cent, 77.00 per cent, 64.50 per cent, 64.00 per cent, and 54.00 per cent

respondents of gram sabha have shown positive opinion in terms of being agree against statement of help in the construction work for rural development

like roads, Panchayat Ghar, Toilets etc, Panchayat helps in the providing drinking water facilities, help in the providing economic help for old, widows, poor and handicapped men and women, help in the implementing government plan of health and sanitation, help in the dig ponds fill water in them and start fisheries cultivation and panchayat help in the plantation on Gram Sabha Land respectively in case of gram sabha. While very high majority i.e. 96.00 per cent, 87.00 per cent, 83.00 per cent, 64.00 per cent and 62.00 per cent respondents have shown positive opinion in term of agreeeness in case of village panchayat against the statement of help in the construction work for rural development like roads, Panchayat Ghar, Toilets etc, help in providing economic help for old, widows, poor and handicapped men and women, Panchayat help in providing drinking water facilities, Panchayat help in the plantation on Gram Sabha Land and help in implementing government plan of health and Sanitation respectively. Table further reveals that overall majority i.e. 90.00 per cent, 82.33 per cent, 80.34 per cent, 63.67 per cent, 57.34 per cent and 57.33 per cent respondents have shown positive opinion in term of agreeeness against statement, help in the construction work for rural development like roads, Panchayat Ghar, Toilets etc, Panchayat help in providing drinking water facilities, help in providing economic help for old, widows, poor and handicapped men and women, help in the implementing government plan of health and sanitation, panchayat help in the plantation on Gram Sabha Land and help in the dig ponds fill water in them and start fisheries cultivation respectively.

Table further reveals that majority 53.50 per cent, and 57.00 per cent in case of gram sabha and village panchayat have hold neutral opinion against statement of 'Panchayat help in the implementation and awareness about agricultural development plans'. Majority i.e. 68.00 per cent in case of gram panchayat and 65.50 per cent respondents in case of gram sabha respondents have shown disagreeeness against 'Panchayat help in the arrangement of market for local agriculture product.

Thus from the above explanation, it may be concluded that majority of respondents of gram sabha and gram panchayat had shown positive opinion in term of agreeeness regarding overall working pattern of village panchayat.

CONCLUSION

The overall that majority i.e. 51.00 per cent and 51.00 per cent respondents have shown positive opinion in term of agreeeness in case of gram sabha and village panchayat and minimum i.e. 22.00 per

cent and 21.00 per cent respondents have shown disagreeeness in case of gram sabha and village panchayats about working pattern under their jurisdiction. Further reveals that majority i.e. 51.00 per cent respondents have shown positive opinions in term of agreeeness regarding working of both institutions, while the maximum i.e. 21.70 per cent respondents have shown negative opinion in terms disagreeenes.

Thus from the above discussion, it may be concluded that majority of the respondents have shown their opinion in term of agreeeness regarding working profile of village panchayat. The χ^2 value observed was 0.055 which is not significant result indicates no difference in working profile of village panchayat and gram sabha members.

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