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Participation of Women Gram Panchayat Members in Village Development

Abstract

The present study entitled "Participation of Women Gram Panchayat Members in Village Development" was undertaken in Washim and Buldana district of Maharashtra State. An exploratory design of social research was used. A sample of 60 Women Gram Panchayat Members as respondents were drawn and information was obtained from them which was considered for tabulation and analysis of data.

Findings revealed that the majority of the women Gram Panchayat members were having very low participation in village development and cultural activities in spite of high and moderate attendance at Grampanchayat meeting and gramsabha respectively.

Keywords: Participation, Women, Gram Panchayat

D.M. Mankar

Professor & Head,
Deptt. of Extension Education
Post Graduate Institute
Akola (MS)

Introduction

Panchayat Raj Institutions are not only the foundations of democracy in the country, but also help decentralize the governmental power. The Panchayat Raj is mainly expected to promote economic, political and social development in rural India. In the three tier system of Panchayati Raj, the non-officials are playing an important role of establishing linkage between the officials and rural people. Members elected to the various Panchayati Raj Institutions are therefore, very important not because they are politically influential, but because they are direct carriers of various developmental programmes. People are convinced to a greater extent by them.

P.P. Wankhade

Assistant Professor,
Deptt. of Extension Education
Post Graduate Institute
Akola (MS)..

Gram Panchayat is a third and important tier of Panchayat Raj System at village level. In all the Gram Panchayats, one-third seats are reserved for women. So, the role of women in village development is very crucial. Their participation in various activities of village development will certainly decide the speed and success of rural development programmes implemented by State and Central government. On this background, it was decided to study the participation of women members of Gram Panchayat in village development with following specific objectives to study the participation of women members in Gram Panchayat and village development programmes

Methodology

An exploratory research design was used for the research study. The present study was conducted in Washim and Buldana districts of Vidarbha region. In Vidarbha region two districts namely Washim and Buldana were selected and from each district two tahasils were selected randomly. From each tahsil five villages were selected randomly. Accordingly all Gram Panchayat women members were selected from each village. Thus, 60 women Gram Panchayat members constituted the sample size for the purpose of the study.

N.M. Kale

Associate Professor,
Deptt. of Extension Education
Post Graduate Institute
Akola (MS).

Findings

Participation of women members of Gram Panchayat in village development programmes

The data with regard to participation of women members of Grampanchayat in village development programme are presented in the

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Table 1 Participation in village development programmes

Sl. No.	Village Development Programme	Not Applicable	Motivate people for participation	Help in planning of program	Help in raising fund and allocation of funds	Help in implementation of program	No participation
1	Construction, maintenance and repairs of Gram Panchayat building	- (0.00)	43 (72.00)	28 (47.00)	17 (28.00)	20 (33.00)	5 (8.30)
2	Construction, maintenance and repairs of roads	- (0.00)	53 (88.00)	30 (50.00)	19 (32.00)	25 (42.00)	6 (10.00)
3	Construction, maintenance and repairs of drainage channels	- (0.00)	54 (90.00)	27 (45.00)	14 (23.00)	21 (35.00)	12 (20.00)
4	Digging, maintenance and repairs of well / borewell for drinking water	2 (3.33)	49 (82.00)	28 (47.00)	15 (25.00)	16 (27.00)	7 (11.67)
5	Maintenance and repairs of tap water	2 (3.33)	43 (72.00)	26 (43.00)	13 (22.00)	17 (28.00)	12 (20.00)
6	Construction, maintenance and repairs of school buildings	3 (5.00)	37 (62.00)	22 (37.00)	9 (15.00)	12 (20.00)	19 (32.00)
7	Construction, maintenance and repairs of library building	5 (8.33)	21 (35.00)	11 (18.00)	4 (7.00)	2 (3.00)	34 (57.00)
8	Construction, maintenance and repairs of PHC	7 (11.67)	24 (40.00)	14 (23.00)	1 (2.00)	1 (2.00)	26 (43.00)
9	Construction, maintenance and repairs of service cooperative society's building	10 (17.00)	19 (32.00)	6 (10.00)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)	30 (50.00)
10	Construction, maintenance and repairs of charitable rest house	6 (10.00)	12 (20.00)	7 (11.67)	5 (8.33)	4 (6.67)	36 (60.00)
11	Street lights and their maintenance	4 (6.67)	46 (77.00)	27 (45.00)	18 (30.00)	20 (33.00)	8 (13.33)
12	Establishing / running the library.	3 (5.00)	29 (48.00)	13 (22.00)	4 (7.00)	5 (8.00)	28 (47.00)
14	Forming / running youth club	5 (8.00)	22 (37.00)	9 (15.00)	1 (2.00)	2 (3.00)	33 (55.00)
15	Planting and conserving trees	- (0.00)	32 (53.00)	19 (32.00)	10 (17.00)	9 (15.00)	28 (47.00)
16	Implementing village cleaning campaign	5 (8.33)	44 (73.33)	24 (40.00)	14 (23.00)	15 (25.00)	16 (27.00)
17	Organizing parents-teachers meet	- (0.00)	22 (37.00)	10 (17.00)	3 (5.00)	4 (7.00)	37 (62.00)
18	Organizing Gramsabha	2 (3.33)	35 (58.00)	18 (30.00)	12 (20.00)	14 (23.00)	19 (32.00)
19	Organizing disease diagnosis and treatment camps	- (0.00)	28 (47.00)	12 (20.00)	7 (11.67)	10 (17.00)	31 (52.00)

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20	Forming the SHGs	4 (6.67)	45 (75.00)	27 (45.00)	19 (32.00)	20 (33.00)	10 (17.00)
21	Making efforts to provide self employment to unemployed young boys and girls	7 (11.67)	25 (42.00)	11 (18.00)	5 (8.00)	6 (10.00)	27 (45.00)
22	Making efforts for rehabilitation of destitute	3 (5.00)	31 (52.00)	14 (23.00)	7 (11.67)	8 (13.33)	26 (43.00)
23	Making efforts to maintain unity and equity in village	6 (10.00)	30 (50.00)	13 (22.00)	5 (8.00)	8 (13.33)	24 (40.00)
24	Removal of superstitions	11 (18.33)	22 (37.00)	11 (18.00)	4 (7.00)	8 (13.33)	25 (42.00)
25	Adult education / continual education	3 (5.00)	23 (38.00)	8 (13.33)	1 (2.00)	3 (5.00)	34 (57.00)
26	Women / children development programmes	6 (10.00)	30 (50.00)	9 (15.00)	4 (7.00)	7 (11.67)	24 (40.00)
27	Family welfare programme	7 (11.67)	18 (30.00)	8 (13.33)	1 (2.00)	3 (5.00)	27 (45.00)
28	Establishing health club/ gymnasium	10 (17.00)	10 (17.00)	5 (8.00)	1 (2.00)	1 (2.00)	40 (67.00)
29	Addiction eradication programme	7 (11.67)	31 (52.00)	13 (22.00)	6 (10.00)	7 (11.67)	22 (37.00)
30	Group marriage programme	3 (5.00)	34 (57.00)	17 (28.00)	7 (11.67)	9 (15.00)	23 (38.00)
31	Quarrel emancipation programme	2 (3.33)	33 (55.00)	15 (25.00)	6 (10.00)	7 (11.67)	25 (42.00)

(Figures in the parentheses indicates percentages)

It is revealed from Table 1 that majority of women members of Gram Panchayat motivated the people for participation in implementation of Construction, maintenance and repairs of drainage channels (90.00 %) followed by 'Construction, maintenance and repairs of roads' (88.00 %), 'Digging, maintenance and repairs of well / borewell for drinking water' (82.00%), Street lights and their maintenance (77.00 %), Forming the SHGs (75.00 %) and 'quarrel emancipation programme' (62.07 %). The women members of Gram Panchayat helped in planning the programme like 'Construction, maintenance and repairs of roads' (50.00 %), Digging, maintenance and repairs of well / borewell for drinking water (47.00%), Construction, maintenance and repairs of drainage channels (45.00 %), and Street lights and their maintenance (45.00 %).

More than half of the women members of Gram Panchayat helped in raising fund and allocation of funds for village development programme namely, 'Construction, maintenance and repairs of roads' (32.00 %), Forming the SHGs (32.00 %) 'street light and their maintenance facilities' (30.00 %) and Construction, maintenance and repairs of Gram Panchayat building (28.00 %). More than two fifth

(42.00 %) of the women members of Gram Panchayat helped in implementation of Construction, maintenance and repairs of roads, followed by 'Construction, maintenance and repairs of drainage channels (35.00 %), Forming the SHGs (33.00 %)

More than two third (67.00 %) of the women members of Gram Panchayat had not participated in village development programme like 'Establishing health club/ gymnasium', followed by 'Organizing parents- teachers meet, (62.00 %) 'Construction, maintenance and repairs of charitable rest house', (60.00 %) Construction, maintenance and repairs of library building (57.00 %), Adult education / continual education (57.00 %), Forming / running youth club. (55.00 %).

The women members of Gram Panchayat reported that the village development programme namely removal of superstitions (18.33 %) followed by Construction, maintenance and repairs of service cooperative society's building (17.00 %), Establishing health club/ gymnasium (17.00 %) were not applicable to them,

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Table 2: Participation of Women Gram Panchayat Members in village development Programmes

Sr.No.	Category	Respondents (n=60)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Very low	32	53.33
2	Low	11	18.33
3	Medium	14	23.33
4	High	3	5.00
Total		60	100.00

It is observed from Table 2 that more than half (53.33 per cent) of the women Gram Panchayat Members had very low participation in village

Table 3: Participation of women Gram Panchayat members in religious and cultural programmes

Sl. No.	Religious and cultural programmes	Not Applicable	Motivate people for participation	Help in planning of program	Help in raising fund and allocation of funds	Help in implementation of program	No participation
1	Organization of Yatra	2 (3.33)	46 (91.00)	27 (53.00)	18 (35.00)	22 (43.00)	12 (24.00)
2	Celebration of national days	0 (0.00)	49 (97.00)	30 (59.00)	21 (41.00)	25 (49.00)	6 (12.00)
3	Celebration of cultural festivals	- (0.00)	50 (99.00)	34 (67.00)	24 (47.00)	27 (53.00)	8 (16.00)
4	Celebration of religious ceremonies	3 (6.00)	48 (95.00)	35 (69.00)	21 (41.00)	25 (49.00)	2 (4.00)
5	Removal of untouchability	3 (6.00)	43 (85.00)	26 (52.00)	16 (32.00)	21 (42.00)	14 (28.00)
6	Organization of sports and cultural competitions	7 (14.00)	41 (81.00)	30 (60.00)	22 (44.00)	25 (50.00)	9 (18.00)
7	Construction of temple, care and repair.	6 (12.00)	48 (96.00)	33 (65.00)	26 (51.00)	26 (52.00)	5 (10.00)

(Figures in the parentheses indicates percentages)

The data presented in Table 3 revealed that majority (99.00 %) of the women members of Gram Panchayat motivated the people for participation in 'Celebration of cultural festivals', followed by (97.00 %) 'celebration of national days' (Republic day, Independence day etc.), celebration of cultural festivals (99.00 %), celebration of religious ceremony (95.00%), construction of temple care and repair (96.00%).

Maximum number of women members of Gram Panchayat helped in planning the programme namely 'Celebration of religious ceremonies' (69.00 %) and 'Celebration of cultural festivals' (67.00 %).

More than half of the women members of Gram Panchayat helped in raising fund and allocation of funds to the programmes namely 'Construction of temple, care and repair.' (51.00. %) and 'Celebration of cultural festivals' (47.00 %).

More than half (53.00 %) of the women members of Gram Panchayat helped in implementation of 'Celebration of cultural festivals' and Construction of temple, care and repair. (52.00 %).Majority (28.00 %) of the women members of Gram Panchayat had not participated in implementation of 'removal of untouchability, followed by Organization of Yatra (24.00 %) and 'Organization of sports and cultural competitions' (18.00

development programmes, The percentage of the women Gram Panchayat Members who had medium participation was 23.33 per cent. Whereas, 18.33 per cent and 5.00 per cent of the women Gram Panchayat Members were having low and high participation in village development programmes respectively.

Participation in religious and cultural programmes

The information regarding the participation of women members of Gram Panchayat in religious and cultural programme is presented in Table 3.

Maximum number (14.00 %) of the women members of Gram Panchayat reported that 'holding sports and cultural competitions' was not applicable to them followed by 'construction, maintenance and repairs of temple' (12.00 %).

Table 4: Participation of Women Gram Panchayat Members in religious and cultural activities

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents (n=60)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Very low	29	48.33
2	Low	4	6.67
3	Medium	10	16.67
4	High	17	28.33
Total		60	100.00

It is seen from Table 4 that majority (48.33 %) of the women Gram Panchayat Members had very low participation in religious and cultural activities, while 28.33 per cent and 16.67 per cent of the women Gram Panchayat Members had high and medium participation in religious and cultural activities respectively. Only 6.67 per cent were having low participation in religious and cultural activities.

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Conclusion

1. Majority of women members of Gram Panchayat motivated the people for participation in implementation of construction, maintenance and repairs of Gram Panchayat building, village road and drainage system, borewell and drinking water facilities, implementation of village cleaning campaign formation of SHG, prohibition of alcohol. More than half of the women members had no any participation in construction maintenance and repairing of library building, Co-operative society, formation of youth club, running the library, organizing parents teachers meeting, adult education programmes, health facilities in the village.
2. The participation of women Gram Panchayat members in village development and religious and

cultural programmes were very low, this makes the situation more serious. This call for immediate attention of the concerned authorities towards sensitization of women Gram Panchayat members with regards to these activities and need to motivate them to participate in village development programmes.

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