



Research Article

PERSONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF GRAM PANCHAYAT MEMBERS IN TRIBAL AREA OF SATPURA HILLS AND KYMORE PLATEAU ZONE OF MADHYA PRADESH

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Abstract: The study was undertaken in the Satna and Rewa districts of Madhya Pradesh. The design one-shot-case study under the ex-post-facto approach was used for the present research study. The districts and the tahsils both were selected randomly. Two blocks from each district and six Gram Panchayat with 8 members from each block selected randomly. Thus, a total of 192 Gram Panchayat members from 24 villages were selected for the study. Data was collected by personally interviewing the respondents with the help of a specially designed and pretested schedule. The statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation, multiple regressions were used for the analysis of data. It was observed that the majority of the respondents were from middle age, having education up to primary school level, belonging to Scheduled Tribe caste category, "labor and agriculture + labor" as their main occupation, landless and untrained. Annual income, socio-economic status, social participation, achievement motivation, mass media exposure, and cosmopolitanism were medium. As regards leadership background, most of them had a low background of leadership, while in the case of leadership experience and linkage with development agencies majority of them were from the medium category with medium knowledge of the functioning of Gram Panchayat.

Keywords: Gram Panchayat, Members, Role perception, Panchayat Raj, Tribal area, Kymore plateau zone

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Introduction

Gram Panchayat is the prime village institute striving for integrated rural development. The importance of its members is ably described as the key persons responsible for integrated rural development. Since the Gram Panchayat member lives and works at the rural level, their importance and role in effective execution of the various government program can not be underestimated.

Gram Panchayat is the last link in the TTS of PR. As coordinator, Gram Panchayat and its members undertake all the developmental activities. Gram Panchayat members play the role of advisor to the rural people. Thus, the Gram Panchayat and its members have definitely and undoubtedly a key role to play in PR.

Objective of study

This study was conducted to study the personal and socio-economic characteristics of Gram Panchayat members in the tribal area of Satpura hills and Kymore plateau zone of Madhya Pradesh

Material and Methods

The present study was undertaken in the Satna and Rewa districts selected randomly of Madhya Pradesh. Majhgawan and Sohwal tahsils from Satna district and Sirmour and Gangev tahsils from Rewa districts were selected randomly. Six Gram Panchayat s from each tahsil and eight members were selected randomly from each of the Gram Panchayat for the study as respondents. Thus, a total of 192 Gram Panchayat members from 24 villages were selected for the study. The design one-shot-case study under the ex-post-facto approach was used for the present research study. Data was collected by personally interviewing the respondents with the help of a specially designed and pretested schedule. The statistical methods such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation, multiple regressions were used for the analysis of data.

Results

Age: [Table-1] shows that more than three fourth (73.44%) of the respondents were from the middle-age category while the remaining Gram Panchayat members were distributed in old age (16.67%) and young age (9.89%) categories. Table-1 Distribution of the respondents according to their age

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Young	19	9.89
2.	Middle	141	73.44
3.	Old	32	16.67
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	39.77	
	SD	9.55	

Education

As shown in [Table-2], maximum numbers (31.77 percent) of Gram Panchayat members were educated up to 'primary school' followed by 26.04 percent 'up to secondary school' level. Illiterate members were 15.63 percent. An equal percentage (3.65 and 4.69) of them was in the category of 'can read-only' and 'graduate and above'. It is also revealed that members were educated up to 'higher secondary' (9.90 percent) and 'can read and write' (8.33 percent).

Table-2 Distribution of the respondents according to their education

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	30	15.63
2.	Can read-only	9	4.69
3.	Can read and write	16	8.33
4.	Primary school	61	31.77
5.	Secondary school	50	26.04
6.	Higher Secondary	19	9.90
7.	Graduate and above	7	3.65
	Total	192	100.00

Caste

A close perusal of the data in [Table-3] shows that the majority (40.10 percent) of the members were in the scheduled tribes (ST) followed by 30.73 percent of them in Other Backward Classes (OBC), while 18.75 percent general category and 10.42 percent of them were in Scheduled Caste (SC) category

Table-3 Distribution of the respondents according to their caste

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Scheduled Caste	20	10.42
2.	Scheduled Tribes	77	40.10
3.	Other Backward Classes	59	30.73
4.	General	36	18.75
	Total	192	100.00

Annual income

The data in [Table-4] portray that Three fourth (73.44 percent) of the members had low annual income followed by 23.44 percent and 3.13 percent had medium annual income and high income, respectively.

Table-4 Distribution of the respondents according to their annual income

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	141	73.44
2.	Medium	45	23.44
3.	High	6	3.13
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	15361.7	
	SD	13052.1	

Occupation

It revealed from [Table-5] that about 33.33 percent of the members had 'labor' as a main occupation. An equal number of the members had 'Agriculture + labor' (27.08 percent), and 'Agriculture' (26.56 percent) as their occupation, whereas 3.13 percent had 'business' and 'agriculture + service' as their main occupation, While, 4.17 and 2.60 percent had 'agriculture + businesses' and 'caste occupation' as their main occupation, respectively.

Table-5 Distribution of the respondents according to their occupation.

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Labour	64	33.33
2.	Agriculture. + Labour	52	27.08
3.	Caste occupation	5	2.60
4.	Agriculture	51	26.56
5.	Business	6	3.13
6.	Agriculture. + Business	8	4.17
7.	Agriculture + Service	6	3.13
	Total	192	100.00

Landholding

[Table-6] revealed that 36.98 percent of the members were having no land, followed by medium (27.60 percent), marginal (21.88 percent), and small (13.54 percent) landholding. None of the respondents were having big landholding.

Table-6 Distribution of the respondents according to their landholding

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Landless	71	36.98
2.	Marginal	42	21.88
3.	Small	26	13.54
4.	Medium	53	27.60
5	Big	0	00.00
	Total	192	100.00

Socio-economic status

It is evident from [Table-7] that about two-third (65.63 percent) of the members were having medium socio-economic status followed by 20.31 and 14.06 percent of them were having low and high socioeconomic status, respectively.

Social participation

The data presented in [Table-8] indicate that majority (82.29 percent) of the members were having medium social participation, while 15.63 and 2.08 percent of the members having high and low social participation, respectively.

Table-7 Distribution of the respondents according to their socio-economic status

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	39	20.31
2.	Medium	126	65.63
3.	High	27	14.06
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	35.48	
	SD	15.38	

Table-8 Distribution of the respondents according to their social participation

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	4	2.08
2.	Medium	158	82.29
3.	High	30	15.63
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	8.52	
	SD	3.20	

Achievement motivation

As concerned to achievement motivation of members, it was found that 83.33 percent of the members had medium achievement motivation followed by 16.67 percent with high achievement motivation. There was nobody in the category of low achievement motivation [Table-9].

Table-9 Distribution of the respondents according to their achievement motivation

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	0	0.00
2.	Medium	160	83.33
3.	High	32	16.67
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	15.26	
	SD	5.30	

Mass media exposure

It was noticed from [Table-10] that more than two-third (83.33%) of the members were having a medium level of mass media exposure, followed by 14.06 percent members having a high level and low level of mass media exposure (2.60%).

Table-10 Distribution of the respondents according to their mass media exposure

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	5	2.60
2.	Medium	160	83.33
3.	High	27	14.06
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	10.16	
	SD	3.73	

Cosmopoliteness

The data presented in [Table-11] showed that three fourth (75.52 percent) of the members were having medium cosmopoliteness, whereas the more or less equal percentage of them had high and low cosmopoliteness i.e. 13.02 percent and 11.46 percent, respectively

Table-11 Distribution of the respondents according to their cosmopoliteness

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	22	11.46
2.	Medium	145	75.52
3.	High	25	13.02
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	6.68	
	SD	2.36	

Training received

The data in [Table-12] showed that 34.90 percent of members had not received any training, while 32.81 percent received medium training. 28.65 percent of the Gram Panchayat members had received low training. Only 3.65 percent had received training for more than 5 days.

Leadership background

It could be seen from [Table-13] that 64.06 percent of the members had low leadership background followed by 30.73 percent and 5.21 percent had medium and high leadership backgrounds, respectively.

Table-12 Distribution of the respondents according to the training received

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per-centage
1.	No training	67	34.90
2.	Low (one day)	55	28.65
3.	Medium (2 to 4 days)	63	32.81
4.	High (above 5 days)	7	3.65
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	1.16	
	SD	1.20	

Table-13 Distribution of the respondents according to their leadership background

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	123	64.06
2.	Medium	59	30.73
3.	High	10	5.21
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	0.65	
	SD	1.09	

Leadership experience

Analysis of [Table-14] reveals the fact that 95.83 percent of the members had the medium experience of leadership, while 4.17 percent had high more than 6 years' experience of leadership.

Table-14 Distribution of the respondents according to their leadership experience

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	0	0.00
2.	Medium	184	95.83
3.	High	8	4.17
	Total	192.00	100.00
	Mean	4.05	
	SD	1.79	

Linkage with development agencies

Data in [Table-15] revealed that the majority (65.11 percent) of the members had medium linkage with development agencies followed by 19.79 percent and 15.10 percent having high and low linkage, respectively.

Table-15 Distribution of the respondents according to their linkage with development agencies

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	29	15.11
2.	Medium	125	65.10
3.	High	38	19.79
	Total	92.00	100.00
	Mean	6.45	
	SD	1.86	

Knowledge

A close perusal of [Table-16] indicates that 78.13 percent of the members were having medium knowledge regarding the PR system followed by 11.98 percent and 9.90 percent had a low and high level of knowledge of the functioning of Gram Panchayat, respectively.

Table-16 Distribution of the respondents according to their knowledge

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	23	11.98
2.	Medium	150	78.12
3.	High	19	9.90
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	7.86	
	SD	2.11	

Conclusion

The majority of the respondents were from middle age, having education up to primary school level, belonged to Scheduled Tribe caste category, "labor and agriculture + labor" as their main occupation, landless and untrained. Annual income, socio-economic status, social participation, achievement motivation, mass media exposure, and cosmopolitaness were medium. As regards leadership background, most of them had a low background of leadership, while in the case of leadership experience and linkage with development agencies majority of them

were from the medium category with medium knowledge of the functioning of Gram Panchayat. These findings are in the line of Intodia and Shakhawat (1980), Kadam and Valunj (1982), Patil (1984), Kubde *et al.* (1990), Shinde (1991), Bhargava and Vidya (1992), Ray and Mondal (1993), Ramteke (1994), Wankhede (1994), Mahadik (1995), Roy (1995), Ghosh (1996), Bhosle (1997), Ghosh (1997), Hiremath (1997), Jeyapal and Dravidamani (1997), Kuraria *et al.* (1997), Panda (1997), Kamble (1998), Khare *et al.* (1998), Mishra and Singh (1998), Kalakanavar (1999), Salunkhe (1999), Muley (2000), Patil (1999), Rani (2000), Dhakne (2002), Shantha Sheela (2002), Mankar (2003), Jadhav (2004), Bhosle (2005), Khalge (2006), Suradkar (2005), Shinde (2008), Divekar (2010), Chavhan (2011), Deshmukh and Deshmukh (2012), and Shilpa *et al* (2017)

Application of the research: Personal and socio-economic characteristics affect on role perception and role performance of Gram Panchayat members.

Research Category: Extension Education and Rural Development

Abbreviations: GP-Gram Panchayat, PRI- PR System, TTS- Three Tier System

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