



Research Article

STUDY THE NATURE OF GRAM PANCHAYAT MEMBERS IN THE TRIBAL AREA OF SATPURA HILLS AND KYMORE PLATEAU ZONE OF MADHYA PRADESH

KULKARNI S.D.^{*1} AND GUPTA A.K.²

¹Sr. Scientist and Head, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sagroli Tq. Biloli, Nanded, 431731, Maharashtra, India

²Ex-professor and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot, 485334, Madhya Pradesh, India

*Corresponding Author: Email - sdulkarni1964@gmail.com

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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 Panchayats 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 found that the majority of the leaders had a mixed nature of leadership followed by democratic leadership of Gram Panchayat members. It was found that the characteristics namely age and linkage with development agencies are positively and significantly related to leadership nature. Whereas education, caste, occupation, landholding, annual income, socio-economic status, social participation, achievement motivation, mass media exposure, training received, cosmopolitanism, leadership background, leadership experience, and knowledge were found to be not related to leadership nature. Multiple regression analysis showed that, leadership nature was significantly related with age. The variation explained by sixteen independent variables with leadership nature was 63.88 percent.

Keywords: Gram Panchayat Members, Tribal Area of Satpura Hills, 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 Three-Tier System of Panchayat Raj. As coordinator, GP 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. This study was conducted to Study the nature of Gram Panchayat members and their relation with their personal and social-economic characteristics 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 sohwil tahsils from Satna district and Sirmour and Gangev tahsils from Rewa districts were selected randomly. Six Gram Panchayat 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.

For assessment of leadership nature, the leadership behavior continuum given by Robert *et al.* (1961) was used.

The scoring was done in the following manner.

Statements	Scores
The leader takes a decision and declares	1
Leader sells the decision	2
The leader takes a decision and invites suggestion	3
The leader takes tentative decisions and modifies according to suggestions from people	4
Leaders present the problems to the people take advice and then takes a decision	5
Leaders ask people to take the decision and participated in decision making	6
Leaders give full liberty to people to make a decision	7

Based on the scoring given in the above manner the leader-follower interaction was categorized into the following types.

SN	Category	Scores
1.	Autocratic	1 to 2
2.	Mixed	3 to 5
3.	Democratic	6 to 7

Results

Nature of leadership in Gram Panchayat members

The data reported in [Table-1] revealed that the maximum number (78.12 percent) of the Gram Panchayat members resorted to the mixed type of leadership, while 11.98 percent functioned in a purely democratic manner, whereas 9.90 percent of leaders perform their leadership role in an autocratic manner.

Table-1 Distribution of the respondents according to their nature of leadership

SN	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Autocratic	19	9.90
2.	Mixed	150	78.12
3.	Democratic	23	11.98
	Total	192	100.00
	Mean	2.026	
	SD	0.478	

Correlation between the personal characteristics of the Members and leadership nature

[Table-2] depict that the independent variables viz., age (0.581) and linkage with development agencies (0.277) are positively and significantly related with leadership nature, whereas education (-0.073), caste (-0.028), occupation (-0.106), landholding (-0.060), annual income (-0.023), socio-economic status (0.032), social participation (-0.126), achievement motivation (-0.091), mass media exposure (-0.199), training received (-0.025), cosmopolitaness (-0.046), leadership background (0.086), leadership experience (0.058) and knowledge (0.156) were found to be not related to leadership nature

Table-2 Relationship between the personal characteristics of the leaders and their leadership nature, N = 192

SN	Variables	The correlation coefficient (r)
1	Age	0.581**
2	Education	- 0.073
3	Caste	0.0283
4	Occupation	- 0.106
5	Landholding	- 0.060
6	Annual income	- 0.023
7	Socio-economic status	0.032
8	Social participation	- 0.126
9	Achievement motivation	- 0.091
10	Mass media exposure	- 0.199
11	Training received	- 0.025
12	Cosmopolitaness	- 0.046
13	Leadership background	0.086
14	Leadership experience	0.058
15	Linkage with development agencies	0.277**
16	Knowledge	0.156

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

Multiple regression between the personal characteristics of the Gram Panchayat members and leadership nature

The 'F' value (7.54) was found to be significant at a 0.01 level of probability. Table 24 depicts that the selected 16 variables explained the variation in the leadership nature to the extent of 40.81 percent. The unexplained variation (59.19 percent) may be due to the factors not included in the study.

Table-3 Multiple regression analysis of leadership nature with independent variables, N = 192

SN	Variables	B(l)	S.E.	't' value
1	Age	0.027	0.003	8.205**
2	Education	-0.020	0.021	-0.965
3	Caste	0.037	0.036	1.034
4	Occupation	-0.005	0.012	-0.379
5	Land holding	-0.013	0.011	-1.142
6	Annual income	0.000	0.000	0.924
7	Socio-economic status	0.002	0.003	0.642
8	Social participation	-0.023	0.019	-1.179
9	Achievement motivation	-0.005	0.010	-0.446
10	Mass media exposure	-0.009	0.012	-0.726
11	Training received	-0.016	0.029	-0.550
12	Cosmopolitaness	0.001	0.010	0.069
13	Leadership background	0.008	0.028	0.274
14	Leadership experience	0.011	0.021	0.528
15	Linkage with development agencies	0.036	0.020	1.754
16	Knowledge	-0.007	0.016	-0.386

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

The value of "t" showed that in the multiple regression analysis the leadership nature was significantly related to age. The regression coefficient for this variable was 0.027 which indicates that one unit change in the variable i.e. age would affect a 0.027 unit change in age.

Conclusion

It was observed in the study that the maximum numbers of Gram Panchayat members were found in the mixed nature category followed by democratic and autocratic nature. Present findings are in line with the findings of Abida Samiuddin (1977), Reddy (1989), and Bhosle (2005). Therefore it seems that leadership nature was not of purely democratic type.

Correlation analysis implies that independent variables viz., age and linkage with development agencies are positively and significantly related to leadership nature. Multiple regression analysis reveals that the leadership nature was significantly related to age.

Application of the research: Personal characteristics affect the role perception and role performance of Gram Panchayat members on the development of the village

Research Category: Extension Education and Rural Development

Abbreviation: GP –Gram Panchayat, PRI – Panchayat Raj System
TTS: Three-Tier System

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****Principal Investigator or Chairperson of research:** Dr S D Kulkarni
Institute: ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sagroli Tq. Biloli, Nanded, 431731, Maharashtra, India
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Cultivar / Variety / Breed name: Nil

Conflict of Interest: None declared

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Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

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