

Contribution of Characteristics of Panchayat Leaders Towards Their Attitude as Evident from the Multiple Regression Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The function of extension is to transfer and nurture the pool of knowledge within the rural system. Agricultural development however is often seen as an increase in agricultural production and/or the productivity of land, labour and capital in agriculture. The type of political leadership and individuals in power influences the rate and direction of change. The 73rd Amendment provides for an elaborate system of establishing Panchayats as units of self-government. Attitude is a learned pre disposition to react consistently in a given manner (either positively or negatively) to certain persons, objects or concepts. The interview schedule was used as a tool for collecting the raw information from the Panchayat leaders. In all 263 respondents from 9 janpads were interviewed personally to obtain the requisite data. Multiple regression analysis was done to know the combined effect of all the independent variables in explaining the variation on the dependent variables. Three independent variables viz. social participation, extension participation and role performance were observed to have positive and significant contribution in attitude of gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions at 0.01 level of probability. The variables achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness and political affiliation had positive and significant contribution towards attitude of janpad and jila panchayat leaders at 0.01 level of probability

Keywords: Attitude, Multiple regression analysis, Panchayat leaders

INTRODUCTION

Communication of technology is conceived as occurring through a network of relatively complex nature. The function of extension is to transfer and nurture the pool of knowledge within the rural system. Thus extension embraces all those who contribute knowledge or transfer it to farmers. As defined by Roling (1988) extension is purposeful communication intervention deployed by an institution to induce change in voluntary behaviours with a presumed public or collective utility. Agricultural development however is often seen as an increase in agricultural production and/

or the productivity of land, labour and capital in agriculture. The overall agricultural development is an integrated process where extension is an essential component. The term “leader” implied a person who was clearly distinguished from other individuals in power, status, visibility and such traits of character as intelligence, integrity, courage, wisdom and judgement. The concept, while recognising the importance of the environment, persisted in viewing leadership as a matter of specific traits and characteristics. Possession of these traits would thus (it was thought) somehow give the individual the role of leader in many if not most group situations. The type of political leadership and individuals

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in power influences the rate and direction of change. Choice of leadership in rural areas tends to be more on the basis of known personal qualities of the individual than in urban areas, mainly because of far greater face-to-face contacts and more intimate knowledge of individuals than is possible in urban areas. Patterns of influence involving power structure and leadership are the networks of influence that weave through society, urban or rural and radiate from individuals and groups influential in decision making. These individuals and groups who serve from time to time in positions of leadership may often be difficult to identify, yet they are vital in decision making. Understanding of the patterns of influencing leadership and power are invaluable in analysis of social situation. Research in community power structure studies conducted by sociologists in recent years indicate that individuals who hold influence and power do exist in most communities, and operate as a primary friendship clique, and that power is concentrated in the hands of a few persons. Studies of the personal characteristics of power holders indicate that they possess high social status and are well known and respected in their communities.

The assessment of those who wield power in respect of the existing social situation, technological and non technological changes and opportunities for such development and change, is of considerably more significance than the assessment of those who do not have power in society. The 73rd Amendment provides for an elaborate system of establishing Panchayats as units of self-government. For the first time in the constitutional history of India, the constitution of Panchayat, the duration of their term, their membership, the constitution of Finance Commission to review their financial position is detailed. It also adds a new schedule to the Constitution the Eleventh Schedule, (see Appendices) which lists 29 subjects, which are to be handled by the Panchayats. Attitude is a learned pre disposition to react consistently in a given manner (either positively or negatively) to certain persons, objects or concepts. Thurstone (1946) defined attitude as the degree of positive or negative affect (feeling) associated with some psychological object like symbol, phrase, slogan, person, institution, ideal or ideas towards which people can differ in varying degrees. With the above

points of reference in view a study was framed to know the contribution of various characteristics of Panchayati raj leaders towards their attitude.

METHODOLOGY

The psychological object for the present study has been conceptualised as the Panchayati raj institutions. Hence the attitude in the present study refers to the positive and/or negative reaction of the Panchayat leaders towards the Panchayati raj institutions. The attitude was measured by Likert type scale suggested by Ray and Mondal (1999). The scale consisted of 10 statements of which 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 10 were positive statements and 3, 7, 8 and 9 were negative statements. Responses were obtained from the panchayat leaders on 5 point continuum, 5,4,3,2 & 1 for fully agree, agree, undecided, disagree and fully disagree, whereas, the scores were reversed for negative statements.

The scores for all the ten statements were summed up to obtain the total score for each Panchayat leader which was used for statistical analysis and the Panchayat leaders were classified into three categories viz. less favourable attitude, moderately favourable attitude and moderately with highly. An interview schedule was developed keeping in mind the objectives of study, the variables short-listed for this purpose and the measurement scales and other tools used to measure the selected variables. The interview schedule was used as a tool for collecting the raw information from the panchayat leaders. In all 263 respondents from 9 janpads (Districts) were interviewed personally to obtain the requisite data.

To know the combined effect of all the independent variables in explaining the variation on the dependent variables the multiple regression analysis was carried out. Significant variables were isolated on the basis of significant *t* values to ascertain their contribution in explaining the variation in the dependent variables. The formula used was:

$$y = b_0 + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + b_3 x_3 \dots \dots \dots b_n x_n$$

Where, b_0 = Constant, y = Dependent variable, $x_1 \dots x_n$ = Independent variable, $b_1 \dots b_n$ = Regression coefficient for respective variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Regression coefficient and “t” values obtained from multiple regression analysis of independent variables with attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions are presented in Table 1. It is revealed that out of 23 variables, twelve independent variables viz. gender, caste, family size, occupation, size of land holding, material possession, achievement motivation, job satisfaction, information sources, experience, training need and political ideology were found to be non significantly contributing in attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions. Only one independent variable i.e. age of the Gram Panchayat leaders had negatively significant contribution in attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions at 0.05 level of probability. The negatively significant contribution means that there is reciprocal relationship between age and attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions i.e. if there is 1 unit increase in age of Gram Panchayat leaders then there would be corresponding decrease of 0.743 units in attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions. However, the independent variables education, annual income, socio-economic status, cosmopolitaness, time allocation for panchayat activities, political affiliation and political efficacy showed positive and significant contribution towards attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders at 0.05 level of probability. The remaining three independent variables viz. social participation, extension participation and role performance were observed to have positive and significant contribution in attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions at 0.01 level of probability. Thus if there is 1 unit increase in the variables education, social participation, annual income, socio - economic status, cosmopolitaness, extension participation, time allocation for Panchayat activities, political affiliation, political efficacy and role performance the attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions will become more favourable by 1.476, 0.395, 0.708, 0.887, 0.607, 0.648, 0.742, 0.259, 0.283 and 0.916 units respectively. The R-square value of 0.8152 also shows that all the 23

Table 1: Multiple regression analysis of independent variables with attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayat raj institutions

S. No.	Independent Variables	Regression Coefficient “b”	“t” values
1.	Age	-0.743*	2.120
2.	Gender	-0.479	0.604
3.	Caste	0.091	0.193
4.	Education	1.476*	2.630
5.	Family size	0.167	0.883
6.	Social participation	0.395**	2.804
7.	Occupation	0.055	0.200
8.	Annual Income	0.708*	1.984
9.	Size of land holding	0.142	0.649
10.	Material possession	0.098	0.472
11.	Socio economic status	0.887*	2.419
12.	Achievement motivation	0.122	0.512
13.	Cosmopolitaness	0.607*	2.054
14.	Job satisfaction	-0.009	0.159
15.	Information sources	0.020	0.301
16.	Extension participation	0.648**	4.501
17.	Time allocation for panchayat activities	0.742*	2.267
18.	Experience	0.019	0.168
19.	Training need	0.078	1.376
20.	Political affiliation	0.259*	2.127
21.	Political ideology	0.168	0.982
22.	Political efficacy	0.283*	1.983
23.	Role performance	0.916**	5.309

*Significant at 0.05 level of probability; $R^2 = 0.8152$

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability; F value = 33.76

independent variables jointly explained the variation in the attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions to the extent of 81.52 per cent.

The results of multiple regression analysis of independent variables with attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders towards Panchayat raj institutions are given in Table 2. From the “t” values of the independent variables it can be inferred that the variables age, gender, caste, family size, social participation, occupation, annual income, size of land holding, job

Table 2: Multiple regression analysis of independent variables with attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders towards Panchayat raj institutions

S. No.	Independent Variables	Regression Coefficient "b"	"t" values
1.	Age	-0.048	0.665
2.	Gender	-0.477	0.441
3.	Caste	-0.468	0.558
4.	Education	1.985*	2.262
5.	Family size	-0.333	1.154
6.	Social participation	0.068	0.249
7.	Occupation	0.142	0.318
8.	Annual Income	0.014	1.603
9.	Size of land holding	-0.170	0.528
10.	Material possession	0.307*	1.999
11.	Socio economic status	0.266*	2.158
12.	Achievement motivation	1.317**	3.041
13.	Cosmopoliteness	0.877**	3.362
14.	Job satisfaction	0.016	0.197
15.	Information sources	0.147*	2.167
16.	Extension participation	0.0523*	2.276
17.	Time allocation for panchayat activities	0.710*	2.056
18.	Experience	0.221*	2.014
19.	Training need	0.126	1.335
20.	Political affiliation	3.135**	3.120
21.	Political ideology	0.659*	2.107
22.	Political efficacy	0.287	0.944
23.	Role performance	0.018	0.521

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability; $R^2 = 0.9009$

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability; F value = 15.42

satisfaction, training need, political efficacy and role performance had non-significant contribution towards attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders. However the variables education, material possession, socio economic status, information sources, extension participation, time allocation for Panchayat activities, experience and political ideology showed positive and significant contribution in attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions at 0.05 level of probability where as the variables achievement motivation, cosmopoliteness and political

affiliation had positive and significant contribution towards attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders at 0.01 level of probability. It shows that 1 unit increase in the variables education, material possession, socio economic status, achievement motivation, cosmopoliteness, information source, extension participation, time allocation for Panchayat activities, experience, political affiliation and political ideology would be 1.985, 0.307, 0.266, 1.317, 0.877, 0.147, 0.523, 0.710, 0.221, 3.135 and 0.659 units corresponding increase in the value of attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions. The R-square value of 0.9009 also indicates that all the twenty three variables jointly explain the variation in attitude of Janpad and Jila panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions to the extent of 90.09 per cent.

It is revealed that out of twenty three variables, twelve independent variables viz. gender, caste, family size, occupation, size of land holding, material possession, achievement motivation, job satisfaction, information sources, experience, training need and political ideology were found to be non significantly contributing in attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayat raj institutions. Only one independent variable i.e. age of the Gram Panchayat leaders had negatively significant contribution in attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards Panchayat raj institutions at 0.05 level of probability. However, the independent variables education, annual income, socio-economic status, cosmopoliteness, time allocation for Panchayat activities, political affiliation and political efficacy showed positive and significant contribution towards attitude of gram panchayat leaders at 0.05 level of probability. The R-square value of 0.8152 also shows that all the 23 independent variables jointly explained the variation in the attitude of Gram Panchayat leaders towards panchayati raj institutions to the extent of 81.52 per cent. Similarly, the variables age, gender, caste, family size, social participation, occupation, annual income, size of land holding, job satisfaction, training need, political efficacy and role performance had non-significant contribution towards attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders. However the variables education, material possession, socio economic status, information sources, extension participation, time allocation for Panchayat

activities, experience and political ideology showed positive and significant contribution in attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions at 0.05 level of probability where as the variables achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness and political affiliation had positive and significant contribution towards attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders at 0.01 level of probability. The R-square value of 0.9009 also indicates that all the twenty three variables jointly explain the variation in attitude of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders towards Panchayati raj institutions to the extent of 90.09 per cent. Similar results were observed by Shrivastava and Shrivastava (2018); Shrivastava and Shrivastava (2019) and Shrivastava *et al.* (2020).

CONCLUSION

It can be inferred that specific characteristics of Gram Panchayat leaders like social participation, extension participation and role performance contribute in developing favourable attitude towards Panchayati raj institutions. Similarly, the characteristics of Janpad and Jila Panchayat leaders like achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness and political affiliation contribute in developing favourable attitude towards Panchayati raj institutions. The policy makers and other authorities of the Panchayati raj department should focus on the above characteristics of Panchayat leaders in order to ensure their participation and successful governance at the grass root level. The training programmes and exposure visits of the Panchayat leaders should also include these aspects in their modules.

Paper received on : December 16, 2020

Accepted on : December 27, 2020

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