

Opinion towards panchayati raj yojana: A comparative study of elected and non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions of Agra district

¹Dr. Achla Gakkhar, ²Dr. Dolly Rani, ³Ms. Poonam

¹ Professor, Department of Extension, Communication and Management, Institute of Home Science, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India

² Research Associate, UGC/PDF, Department of Extension, Communication and Management, Institute of Home Science, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India.

³ Research Scholar, Institute of Home Science, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Abstract

In India the system of village panchayat is very old. In ancient times the village formed the basic unit of social and economic life in India. The social contacts were more intimate, personal and lasting. The people not only knew each other but also belonged to each other.

Panchayats or village assemblies existed in ancient India as self-governing institutions which had distinct and well-defined functions. The institution of Panchayat represented not only the collective will, but also the collective wisdom of the entire rural community. In India, the Panchayati Raj now functions as a system of governance in which gram panchayats are the basic units of local administration. The system has three levels: Gram Panchayat (village level), Mandal Parishad or Block Samiti or Panchayat Samiti (block level), and Zila Parishad (district level). It was formalized in 1992 by the 73rd amendment to the Indian Constitution

Considering the above fact the present study entitled "to study the opinion of members of panchayati raj institution towards panchayati raj yojana." in community development block Bichpuri of Agra district was undertaken with the hope and firm belief that the result of this study will be useful for policy makers and planners, who are attached to gram panchayats as well as those who can involve directly or indirectly in the extension programmes throughout the country.

It is concluded from the study that 100 per cent of elected respondent of gram panchayat as agree all the statement while 92 per cent of non-elected respondents as agree all the statements. Only 4 per cent of non-elected respondents were disagreeing as all the statements.

Key words: Panchayati raj yojana, Panchayati raj institutions, opinion

Introduction

In India the system of village panchayat is very old. In ancient times the village formed the basic unit of social and economic life in India. The social contacts were more intimate, personal and lasting. The people not only knew each other but also belonged to each other.

There was little social mobility – horizontal, vertical or geographical. The needs of the people were few and were mostly stratified, locally thus the villages were self-sufficient and the standard of living was satisfactory. There was peace and the people were happy and enjoying the best of their lives.

During the foreign rule the inhabitants of our country were denied all the benefits of a civilised life. Onset of industrial revolution, our villages suffered the most. It affected the economy of our country.

During the British rule in our country several causes led to the decay of village panchayats, it occasionally system, at the base level during ancient times in the form of village panchayats. The village organisation then functioned as a centre of community life independent of the states. It was on the fateful night of 14 August 1947 at zero hour that we attained freedom from the foreign rule. We did so through

our own efforts, guided by dedicated persistent leadership and the united efforts and sacrifices of our people. Hence the major task before the country, keeping in view past traditions, was to provide ample opportunities for people to develop fast to catch up with the more progressive and advanced nations. The abundant resources of the country, both human and natural, were to be explored, developed and utilized.

It was Gandhiji who emphasised the role of village panchayats as an important instrument of rural development and of promoting and nurturing democracy at the grass roots. He assured that unless panchayats were vested with adequate powers, villagers cannot have a real swaraj. Article 40 in para IV of the constitution of India was introduced at his insistence. The article states that "The states shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government".

In order to improve the local self-government the Indian leaders took vigorous steps to fulfill the aim of the constitution through planning and community development. In March 1950, the planning commission came into existence. The commission entrusted the panchayats with new responsibilities. In the first five – year plan an effort was

made to reach and improve the condition of rural masses living in poverty. For this purpose the community development programme came into existence on October 2, 1952.

In January 1957 the government appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Balwant Rai Mehra to study the working of the community development programme and suggested how best it could be maintained and implemented. The committee recommended a three – tier system of local government christened "panchayat raj" by Jawaharlal Nehru. At the grass root or village level, village level panchayats were to be formed. At the middle or block level, panchayat samities were at the apex or district level, zila parishads were to be formed. In 1958, the National Development Committee accepted the recommendations of the Balwant Rai committee and issued instructions to the state governments to establish the institutions of the panchayati raj in their respective regions.

The state which first introduced the Panchyati Raj institutions on October 2, 1959 were the states of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh and the other states following these states enacted the adequate legislation to achieve this end.

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were constituted in several states but they could not live up to experiences of PRI had been a state of neglect and impoverishment. Even after being in existence for about four decades PRIs could not acquire the status and dignity of a viable unit of self-government and a responsive people's body.

With the view to remove the weakness and to grant a constitutional states to PRIs in the country and to bring about uniformity. The Indian parliament passed the seventy Third Amendment Act, in December 1992. The Act came into force with effect from April 24, 1993. This Act envisages the establishment of panchayats as units of local self-government in all states and union territories except the tribal areas in the states of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram and certain other scheduled areas. Subsequently in December 1996, the provision of the 73rd Amendment was extended to the tribal and other scheduled areas also through an Act of parliament.

After the constitution of panchayati raj institutions many studies gave an overview on village panchayat & its problems, role and awareness about duties of members etc.

Kumar and Rai (1991) ^[1] conducted "A study of the dominant problems of village panchayats of Delhi" in which they observed that the dominant problem were lack of co-operation from villagers, lack of adequate fund, lack of genuine interest of panchayat members in village development work, selfishness in decision making by panchayat member, Improper perception of the village problem of panchayat members authoritarianism by pradhans, lock of the adequate facilities provided to panchayat members in adequate supervision and co-operation from block officials.

Sangar Mandal and G.L Kay (1996) ^[2] had observed and reported in there study "socio-economic profile of gram panchayat pradhans" that gram pradhan could not give adequate time and attention needed for better working of gram panchayats. This was become the gram panchayat pradhans had being level of social participation.

Chauhan (2002) in a study revealed that more than half of respondents (52.16%) were aware about duties of helping the eligible to get certification for different government all

programmes and encouraging activities related to education, health, women and child welfare in the ward. Other duties were known to less number respondents (5.27%).

Shantha (2002) ^[3] observed that overall knowledge about the duties of panchayat, 45.21 per cent had medium level knowledge and 23.29 percent had medium level knowledge 31.50 per cent had high level knowledge and 23.29 percent had low level of knowledge.

Considering the above fact the present study entitled "to study the opinion of members of panchayati raj institution towards panchati raj yojana." in community development block Bichpuri of Agra district was undertaken with the hope and firm belief that the result of this study will be useful for policy makers and planners, who are attached to gram panchayats as well as those who can involve directly or indirectly in the extension programmes throughout the country. Further the achievement of this investigation would be helpful to make the programmes more effective.

Objectives of the study were

1. To study the opinion of elected members of panchayati raj institution towards panchayati raj yojana.
2. To study the opinion of non-elected members of panchayati raj institution towards panchayati raj yojana.
3. To compare the opinion of elected and non-elected members of panchayati raj institution towards panchayati raj yojana

Research Methodology

Research design

In accordance with the main objectives of the study opinion of member of Panchayati Raj institution towards Panchayati Raj yojana among selected respondent was explored for the purpose of this study descriptive research design was found to be more effective.

Sampling procedure

The study is confined to Agra division of Utter Pradesh which comprises seven districts out of which Agra district was selected purposively by the investigator.

Selection of the Block

Agra district comprises fifteen community development blocks. Out of these blocks the Bichpuri block was selected randomly by chit fold method.

Selection of Nayaya Panchayat

Bichpuri block consists of 7 Nayaya Panchayats viz Bichpuri, Dahtora, Bypur, Kalavari, Midhakhur, Barara, Bumrauli Ahir. Out of these seven Nayaya Panchayats 2 Nayaya Panchayats were selected randomly which are the Bichpuri and Dahtora.

Selection of Villages

Seven Nayaya Panchayats consists of 30 villages. Out of these, five villages were selected randomly. All the five villages of selected two Nayaya Panchayats were included for the study.

Selection of Elected Members of Panchayati Raj Institution

The study was conducted among five villages of Bichpuri block and 10 elected members of panchayati raj institution were randomly selected from each village.

Selection of non-Elected Members of Panchayati Raj Institution

The study was conducted among five villages of Bichpuri block and 10 non-elected respondent were selected randomly from each village.

Thus total fifty elected and fifty non-elected members of panchayati raj institution were selected as sample respondents.

Collection of Data

Data was collected with the help of questionnaire specially drafted for the purpose.

For the present study primary and secondary data was collected. Survey method was used for collecting the primary

data and self-made questionnaire which was specially designed for this purpose was used for the same. Secondary data was collected from both published and unpublished sources from various institutions, agencies, libraries and internet etc.

Statistical Analysis

Based on the nature of data and information percentage were used for statistical analysis in the study.

Result and discussion

The results obtained were thoroughly examined, interpreted and discussed with all care. After statistical analysis the results have been presented under the following tables:

Table 1: Opinion of elected members of panchayati raj institutions towards panchayati raj yojna N = 50

S. No.	Statements	No. of elected member in per cent		
		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1.	PRIs are helpful in the development of the nation.	72	20	8
2.	PRIs helpful for the financial development.	92	8	–
3.	The PRIs workers play an important role in the construction of roads.	66	22	12
4.	We should be aware about the schemes of Panchayati Raj.	60	30	10
5.	You should take decision about panchayati Yojana.	44	48	8
6.	PRIs functionaries must visit the site personally.	58	24	18
7.	Timely monitoring and evaluation is essential of PRIs sceens.	76	16	8
8.	Main function of PRIs is to provide free education the villages	78	20	2
9.	Contidentiality should be maintained.	60	24	14
10.	Social development take place via panchayati raj institutions.	90	2	10
11.	One of the important aims of PRIs to provide irrigation tools for agriculture.	48	38	14
12.	Main function of PRIs is overall development of the people.	74	18	8
13.	One of the important function of PRIs is to provide electricity in the rural areas.	76	18	6
14.	One of the important function of PRIs is tree plantation in rural as well as urban.	80	16	4
15.	PRIs implemented schemes formulation by the government.	88	10	2
16.	PRIs provide for medical service to villages.	64	30	6
17.	PRIs helps to construct and maintain the public toilets.	66	22	12
18.	PRIs provide drinking water	86	10	4
19.	PRIs implement schemes for providing employment for people.	66	22	12
20.	Water conservation and wells construction by the PRIs.	80	10	10
21.	PRIs provide source of entertainment for the people.	54	36	10
22.	PRIs provide nutrition related benefit to the people.	66	26	8
23.	PRIs functionaries should take decisions related to the activities of PRIs.	76	18	6
24.	PRIs should get aware and with timely change in government schemes.	76	16	8
25.	PRIs help in the conservation of public transportation.	68	14	8
26.	PRI formulated dispensaries in the rural areas.	66	26	8
27.	Constructed Graizing land by the PRI functionarties.	88	10	1
28.	Control on fair by the PRI functionaries.	84	14	2
29.	PRIs provide facility for adult education.	46	34	20
30.	PRIs provide veterinarian facility.	72	28	–

The Table 1. Revealed that significant majority (92 per cent) of elected members of panchayati raj institution were agree as "panchayati raj institutions are helpful for the financial development" 48 per cent responents were neutral as "you should take decision about punchati raj yojana". Eighteen per cent elected respondents of panchayati raj institution were disagreeing as "panchayati raj functionaries visit the site personally".

Ninety per cent elected members of panchayati raj institution were agree as "social development take place via panchayati raj institution".

Thirty eight per cent elected respondents were natural as "one of the important function of panchayati raj institutions to

provided Irrigation tools for agriculture" and 14 per cent elected respondents also disagree as "one of the important aim of the panchayati raj institutions to provided irrigation tools for agriculture".

"You should take decision about panchayati raj yojana" was supported by 44 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institution.

"Panchayati raj institutions are helpful in development of the nation" was supported by 72 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institution.

"Panchayti raj institution are helpful for the financial development" was supported by 92 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj.

"We should be aware about the scheme of panchayati raj" was supported by 60 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj workers play an important role in the construction of roads" was supported by 66 per cent of elected members of panchayats.

"You should take decision about panchayati raj yojana" was supported by 44 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions functionaries must visit the site personally" was supported by 58 per cent of elected members of panchayats.

"Timely monitoring and evaluation is essential of panchayati raj institution schemes" was supported by 76 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Main function of panchayati raj institutions is to provide free education in the villages" was supported by 78 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Confidentiality should be maintained" was supported by 60 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Social development take place via panchayati raj institutions" was supported by 90 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"One of the important aim of panchayati raj institution to provide irrigation tools for agriculture" was supported by 48 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Main function of panchayati raj institutions is overall development of the peoples" was supported by 74 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"One of the important function of panchayati raj institutions is to provide electricity in the rural areas" was supported by 76 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"One of the important function of panchayati raj institution is low plantation in rural as well as urban" was supported by 80 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Free medical facilities to villages" was supported by 88 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj help to construct and maintain the public toilets" was supported by 66 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions are provide drinking water" was supported by 86 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions implement schemes for providing employment leave the people" was supported by 66 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Water conservation and wells construction by the panchayati raj" was supported by 80 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions were provide sources entertainment read the people" was supported by 54 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions are provided nutrition related benefit to the people" was supported by 66 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj functionaries should take decision related to the activities of panchayati raj" was supported by 68 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions should get aware and with timely change in government schemes" was supported by 76 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions help in the conservation of public transportation" was supported by 68 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions formulated dispensaries in the rural areas" was supported by 66 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Constructed grazing land by the panchayati raj institutions" was supported by 88 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Control on fairs by the panchayati raj institutions functionaries" was supported by 84 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions are provide facility for adult education" was supported by 46 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institute.

"Panchayati raj institutions are provide veterinarian facility" was supported by 72 per cent of elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

Table 2: Opinion of non-elected members of panchayati raj institution towards panchayati raj yojana N = 50

S. No.	Statements	No. of elected member in per cent		
		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1.	PRIs are helpful in the development of the nation.	66	26	8
2.	PRIs helpful for the financial development.	60	28	12
3.	We should be aware about the schemes of PRIs.	52	36	12
4.	The PRIs worker play an important role in the construction of roads.	66	24	10
5.	You should take dicision about PR yojana.	46	36	18
6.	PRI functionaries must visit the side personally.	50	28	22
7.	Timely monitoring and evaluation is essential of PRI schemes.	52	26	22
8.	Main function of PRI is provide free education in the villages.	56	24	20
9.	Confidentiality should be maintain.	54	30	16
10.	Social development take place via PRI.	54	34	12
11.	One of the improvement aim of PRI to provide irrigation tools for agriculture.	56	36	8
12.	Main function of PRY is overall development of the people.	44	30	26
13.	One of the important function of PRI is to provide electricity in the rural areas.	72	12	16
14.	One of the important function of PRIs is tree plantation rural as well as urban.	70	20	10
15.	PRIs implement schemes formation by the government.	54	36	10
16.	PRIs provide free medical service to villages.	60	26	14
17.	PRIs helps to constructed and maintain the public toilets.	64	24	12

18.	PRI's implement schemes for providing employment of people.	68	18	14
19.	PRI's implement schemes for providing employment of people.	68	18	14
20.	Water conservation and wells construction by the PRI's.	58	24	18
21.	PRI's provide source of entertainment for the people.	54	34	12
22.	PRI's provide nutrition related benefit to the people.	52	30	18
23.	PRI's functionaries should take decisions related to the activities of PRI's.	62	20	18
24.	PRI's should get aware and with timely change in government schemes.	48	30	22
25.	PRI's helps in the conservation of public transportation.	50	34	16
26.	PRI's formulated dispensaries in the rural areas.	54	30	16
27.	Constructed grazing land by the panchayati raj institution functionaries.	60	30	10
28.	Control on fairs by the panchayati raj functionaries.	64	18	18
29.	PRI's provide facility for adult education.	46	34	20
30.	PRI's provide veterinarian facility.	48	28	24

Table 2. founded that significant majority of non-elected members of the panchayats were agree as (70 per cent) "one of the important function of panchayati raj institutions is tree plantation in rural as well as urban", (66 per cent) agree as panchayati raj institutions are helpful in the development of the nation" and "the panchayati raj workers play an important role in the construction of roads".

"One of the important function of panchayati raj institutions is to provide electricity in the rural areas" was supported by 72 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institution are helpful in the development of nation" was supported by 66 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"The panchayati raj helpful but the financial development" was supported by 60 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"The panchayati raj worker play an important role in the construction of roads" was supported by 66 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"You should take decision about panchayati raj yojana" was supported by 46 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj functionaries must visit the side personally" was supported by 50 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Timely monitoring and evaluation is essential or panchayati raj schemes" was supported by 52 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Main function of panchayati raj institution is to provide free education in the villages" was supported by 56 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Confidentiality should be maintain" was supported by 54 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Social development take place vice panchayati raj institutions" was supported by 54 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"One of the important aim of panchayati raj institution to provide irrigation tools for agriculture" was supported by 56 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Main function of panchayati raj yojana is overall development of the people" was supported by 44 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"One of the important function of panchayati raj institutions is to provide electricity in the rural areas" was supported by

72 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"One of the important function of panchayati raj institution is tree plantation rural as well as urban" was supported by 70 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institution implement schemes for mutation by the government" was supported by 54 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institutions provide free medical services to villages" was supported by 60 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institutions helps to constructed and maintained the public toilets" was supported by 64 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institutions provide drinking water" was supported by 60 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj implemented schemes for the providing employment for three people" was supported by 68 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Water conservation and wells construction by the panchayati raj institutions" was supported by 58 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"The panchayati raj institutions provide sources of entertainment for the people" were supported by 54 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institutions are provide nutrition related benefits to the people" was supported by 52 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institution functionaries should take decision related to the activities of panchayati raj institutions" was supported by 62 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj functionaries should get aware and with timely change in government schemes" was supported by 48 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institutions helps in the conservation of public transportation" was supported by 50 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institution formulated dispensaries in the rural areas" was supported by 54 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Control on fairs by the panchayati raj functionaries" was supported by 64 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"The panchayati raj institutions provide facility for adult education" was supported by 46 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

"Panchayati raj institutions provide veterinarian facility" was supported by 48 per cent of non-elected members of panchayati raj institutions.

Table 3: Difference between opinion of elected and non-elected members of PRIs towards PRY. N = 50

Opinion	Elected member (in per cent)	Non-elected member (in percent)
Highly favourable	100	92
Middle favourable	NIL	4
Least favourable	NIL	NIL

Table 3. Revealed majority of the gram panchayat functionaries had highly favorable opinion (100 per cent elected and 92 per cent non-elected) towards panchayati raj yojana.

Only 4 per cent of non-elected respondents of panchayati raj institution had middle favourable opinion towards panchayati raj yojana.

There was NIL least favorable opinion of elected and non-elected functionaries of panchayati raj institution towards panchayati raj yojana.

Conclusion

From the above observations it is concluded that 100 per cent of elected respondent of gram panchayat as agree all the statement while 92 per cent of non-elected respondents as agree all the statements. Only 4 per cent of non-elected respondents were disagreeing as all the statements.

References

1. Kumar, Ram, Rai GC. A study of the dominant problems of village panchayat of Delhi. Indian Journal of Extension Education, Page, 1991, 34-49.
2. Mandal, Sagar GL. Ray Socio-economic profile of gram panchayat pradhans, Indian Journal of Extension education, Jan – Dec, 1996; 32(1-4):77-81.
3. Shantha SM. Performance analysis of elected women presidents in Villages Panchayat. Ph.D. Thesis. Tamil Nadu Agric. Univ., Coimbatore, 2002.