



CONSTRAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ROLE EXPECTATION AND ROLE PERFORMANCE OF TRIBAL AND NON-TRIBAL WOMEN SARPANCH TOWARDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BILASPUR DISTRICT (C.G.), INDIA

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Abstract

Present investigation was conducted with 112 women sarpancha working under panchayati raj system in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh, India. The study indicated that majority of the respondents were having small size of land holding (1.1 to 2 ha), surpassing their livelihood with an income between 160001 to 320000. About 41.96 per cent of the respondents had up to two properties were personally owned by them. The constraints on role performance of women sarpanchs as reported by them were grouped into four categories *i.e.* economic, technical, administrative and personal and psychological constraints. In every group, the major constraints faced by the respondents were, no work being initiated without giving bribe (60.71%), lack of timely information regarding different rural development programmes (52.67%), delay in sanction of permission for development work from upper level (71.42%) and low level education (72.32%). As regarding the suggestions being offered by the respondents to reduce the constraints majority (89.28%) of the respondents suggested proper administrative power to sarpanch should be provided, followed by transparency should be maintained at higher level organisation, unity among panchayat members should be maintained etc. should be ascertained in the village.

Key words : Constraints, suggestions, role performance, women sarpanch.

Introduction

Panchayati Raj is a system of governance in which gram panchayats are the basic unit of administrations. A gram panchayat is the corn stone of a local self-government organisation in India of the Panchayati raj system at the village or small town level, and has a sarpanch as its elected head. The members of the gram panchayat are elected for a period of five years. The seats are reserved for schedule caste, schedule tribes and women. Recently 2, 48, 272 panchayats are being found against 5, 17, 944 villages in India. There has been wide variation in the size of population in a Panchayat (Sources: wikiEducator). Chhattisgarh operates a three-tier panchayat system, which is intended to bring government closer to the people. Chhattisgarh has 10,796 Gram Panchayats at the village level, 146 Janpad

Panchayat at the intermediate (block) level and 27 Zila Panchayat at the district level (Source: URL <http://Igdirectory.gov.in>). Additionally, there is the Gram Sabha, which is the basic unit in the Panchayati Raj mechanism. The first panchayat elections were held in Chhattisgarh in January 2005. This state has large population *i.e.* 33% of tribal people and Bilaspur comes under partial schedule v areas.

Materials and Methods

Present study was conducted in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh state during the year 2015-2016. Out of 645 gram panchayat of bilaspur district, 336 gram panchayat were having women sarpanch, from which one-third panchayats *viz.* 112 (56 tribal and 56 non-tribal) were taken randomly from respective lists. The data were collected personally by the researcher in cooperation with officials of the district by using pre-tested interview

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schedule. Keeping these in mind, the study was confined to various constraints and suggestions in role performance of women sarpanchs towards rural development.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents

The variable *i.e.* land holding, annual income and ownership of assets were considered as socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

Size of land holding

The distribution of respondents according to their land holding are presented in table 1 and fig. 1. The data regarding land holding indicates that most of the respondents (34.82%) had 1.1 to 2 ha of land holdings (small farmers), followed by 33.05 per cent had up to 1 ha land holding (marginal farmers) and 27.67 per cent had 2.1 to 4 ha of land holding (medium farmers). About 4.46 per cent of the respondents were found under big farmers category with land holding of more than 4 ha.

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their size of land holding.

S. no.	Land holding	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Marginal farmers (up to 1 ha)	37	33.05
2.	Small farmers (1.1-2ha)	39	34.82
3.	Medium (2.1-4 ha)	31	27.67
4.	Big farmers (above 4 ha)	05	4.46

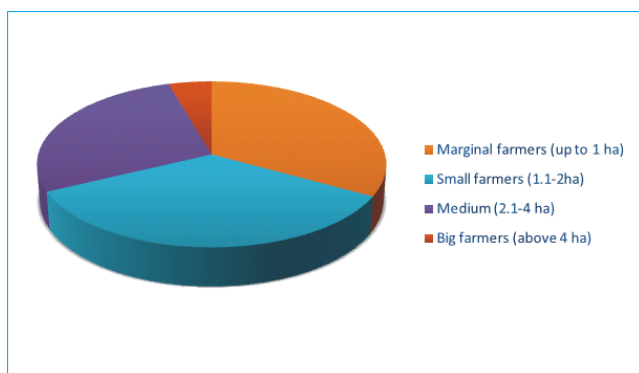


Fig. 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their size of land holding.

Annual income

As regards to annual income, the data given in table 2 and fig. 2 shows that maximum respondents (41.07%) were having their income in the range of 160001 to 320000, followed by 40.17 per cent of respondents had their annual income within range of 80001 to 160000, while 10.73 per cent of the respondents belongs to the range above 320000 and only 8.03 per cent of respondents

Table 2 : Distribution of the respondents according to their annual income.

S. no.	Annual income	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Up to 80000	09	8.03
2.	80001 to 160000	45	40.17
3.	160001 to 320000	46	41.07
4.	Above 320000	12	10.71

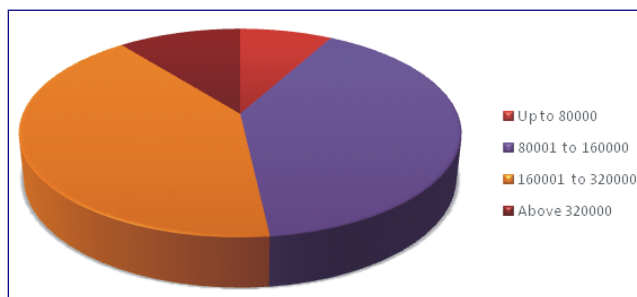


Fig. 2 : Distribution respondents according to their annual income.

Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to their ownership of assets.

S. no.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Land	22	19.60
2.	Vehicle	28	25.00
3.	Residential house	12	10.71
4.	Saving bonds/RD accounts /Fixed deposit	43	38.39
5.	Household materials	59	52.67

Table 4 : Distribution of respondents according to overall ownership of assets.

S. no.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Ownership of one property	39	34.82
2.	Ownership of two property	47	41.96
3.	Ownership of more than two properties	26	23.22



Fig. 3 : Distribution of respondents according to their ownership of assets.

had income up to 80000. Bhabhor *et al.* (2013) clearly indicated that annual income of the respondents had positive and non-significant relationship with their overall role performance. It can be concluded that irrespective of annual income of the respondent, their role performance was found to be uniform and did not play any role in determination of their role performance.

Properties owned by sarpanch

All the possible properties were selected, identified and presented in table 3. The data shows that majority (52.67%) of the respondents had ownership of household

materials, followed by 38.39 per cent of the respondents had ownership of saving bonds/RD accounts/fixed deposits, 25.00 per cent had ownership of vehicle, 19.60 per cent respondents had ownership of land and 10.71 per cent of them had ownership of residential house.

Data regarding overall ownership of properties among the respondents were recorded and presented in table 4. This indicates that majority (41.96%) of the respondents had ownership of two properties, followed by 34.82 per cent of the respondents had ownership of one property and 23.22 per cent of the respondents had

Table 5 : Constraints being faced by respondents in role performance towards rural development.

S.no.	Particulars	Non-tribal (n=56)		Tribal (n=56)		Overall (n=112)	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Economic constraints						
	· Lack of funds from govt. for development work	15	26.78	22	39.28	37	33.03
	· Lack of honorarium to women sarpanchs working at village level	25	44.64	30	53.57	55	49.10
	· No work is initiated without giving bribe	30	53.57	38	67.85	68	60.71
2.	Technical constraints						
	· Lack of regular training to women sarpanchs	20	35.71	30	53.57	50	44.64
	· Lack of knowledge regarding PRS and development programme	12	21.42	25	44.64	37	33.03
	· Lack of timely information regarding different rural development programmes	27	48.21	32	57.14	59	52.67
3.	Administrative constraints						
	· Delay in sanctions of permission for development work from upper level	39	69.64	41	73.21	80	71.42
	· Lack of administrative and financial power to women sarpanchs	30	53.57	38	67.85	68	60.71
	· Lack of communication media at village level	25	44.64	27	48.21	52	46.42
	· Lack of co-operation from society/other institutes	32	57.14	35	62.50	67	59.82
	· Lack of discipline in gents members at gram Panchayat	37	66.07	30	53.57	67	59.82
	· Lack of any type of protection to women sarpanchs	16	28.57	23	41.07	39	34.82
	· Women sarpanch could not work freely, she has to work what her husband says	20	35.71	30	53.57	50	44.64
	· Groupism in gram sabha restricts the development of village	38	67.85	40	71.42	78	69.64
	· Lack of good staff in village panchayat office	26	46.42	29	51.78	55	49.10
4.	Personal, social and psychological constraints						
	· Lack of proper guidance from higher authority	27	48.21	36	64.28	63	56.25
	· Low level education	36	64.28	45	80.35	81	72.32
	· Lack of people's interest in developmental work	19	33.92	22	39.28	41	36.60
	· Difficulties in expressing the village constraints to upper level authorities	15	26.78	27	48.21	42	37.50
	· Lack of co-operation and unity among elected members	30	53.57	39	69.64	69	61.60
	· Difficulties to go alone in the meeting outside the village	32	57.14	40	71.42	72	64.28

*Data based on multiple responses

Table 6 : Suggestions given by respondents to reduce the constraints while role performing.

S.no.	Particulars	Non-tribal (n=56)		Tribal (n=56)		Overall (n=112)	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Gender discrimination should be minimized	07	12.50	09	16.07	16	14.28
2.	Regular training programme about village development activities for women sarpanch should be organised.	10	17.85	12	21.42	22	19.64
3.	Encouragement of women for participation in village activities	30	53.57	25	44.64	55	49.10
4.	Exposure visit for women sarpanch should be organised regularly	25	44.64	29	51.78	54	48.21
5.	Transparency should be maintained at higher level organisation	48	85.71	40	71.42	88	78.57
6.	Appointment of competent staff members from village level should be ensured	40	71.42	35	62.50	75	66.96
7.	Unity among panchayat members should be maintained	43	76.78	41	73.21	84	75.96
8.	Minimize the interference of family members in routine work.	21	37.50	29	51.78	50	44.64
9.	Proper administrative power to sarpanch should be provided	52	92.85	48	85.71	100	89.28

*Data are based on multiple response

ownership of more than two properties.

Constraints faced by the respondents in role performance towards rural development

Attempts have been made to identify the constraints which were responsible for hindrance of role performance of respondents towards rural development. The constraints reported by the respondents were grouped under four categories *i.e.* economical, technical, administrative and personal and psychological constraints.

The data regarding to the constraints are presented in table 5. The data clearly inferred that among the economic constraints, no work is initiated without giving bribe (60.71%) was highest among the major constraints, followed by lack of honorarium to women sarpanchs working at village level (49.10%) and lack of fund from govt. for development work (33.03%). As regards to the technical constraints, lack of timely information regarding different rural development programmes (52.67%) was highest among the major constraints, followed by regular training of women sarpanchs (44.64%) and lack of knowledge regarding PRS and development programmes (33.03%).

In case of administrative constraints, delay in sanctions of permission for development work from upper level (71.42%) was highest among the major constraints faced by the respondents, followed by groupism in gram sabha restricts the village (69.64%), lack of administrative and financial power to women sarpanchs (60.71%), lack of co-operation from society/other institutes and lack of discipline in gents members at gram panchayat, lack of

good staff in village panchayat office (49.10%), lack communication media at village level (46.42%), women sarpanch could not work freely, she has to work what her husband says (44.64%) and lack of any type of protection to women sarpanch (34.82%).

So far as the personal, social and psychological constraints, Low level education (72.32%) was highest among the major constraints faced by the respondents, followed by difficulties to go alone in the meeting outside the village (64.28%), lack of co-operation and unity among elected members (61.60%), lack of proper guidance from higher authority (56.25%), difficulties in expressing the village constraints to upper level authorities (37.50%) and lack of people's interest in developmental work (36.60%).

Suggestions given by respondents in role performance towards rural development

In order to remove the constraints which comes in role performance of tribal and non-tribal women sarpanchs, suggestions were offered by the respondents. The result obtained is presented in the form of frequency and percentage in table 6. The majority of the respondents (89.28%) suggested provision of proper administrative power to sarpanch. However, 78.57 per cent of the respondents suggested transparency should be maintained at higher level organisation. About 75.96 per cent of them suggested maintaining unity among panchayat members. Further, 66.96 per cent of them suggested ensured appointment of competent staff members from village level. About 49.10 per cent of them suggested encouragement of women for participation in village

activities. However, 48.21 per cent of them suggested regular organisation of exposure visit for women sarpanch. Also, 44.64 per cent of them suggested minimisation of family interference in work. About 19.64 per cent had suggested provision of regular training programme for women sarpanch and 14.28 per cent of them had suggested minimisation of gender discrimination.

Conclusion

In the light of above findings, it may be concluded that, majority of the respondents belonged to small size land holding, their annual income within 160001 to 320000. About 41.96 per cent respondents were having ownership of two properties. In the study area, bribery for every work initiation, lack of timely information regarding rural development, low level education etc. was found to be major constraints. Therefore, it is needed to use different suggestion which is being offered by the respondents to uplift the role performance of women sarpanchs.

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