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A study on role performance of women leaders (Sarpanchs) towards rural development in Chhattisgarh, India

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Abstract

The study was carried in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh state in year 215-16. Out of 645 panchayat, 336 were having women sarpanchs. From those 336 panchayat, one-third panchayat i.e. 112(56 tribal and 56 non- tribal) were selected randomly for data collection. In correlation analysis, the finding revealed that out of 15 independent variables, 11 variables i.e. age, education, experience in politics, material possession, annual income, ownership of assets, source of information, cosmopolitaness, participation in extension activities, participation in training and awareness about programmes/activities were found significantly correlated with role performance of tribal and non- tribal women sarpanchs at 0.01 and 0.05 level of probability. In multiple regression, 6 variables i.e. age, ownership of assets, sources of information, participation in extension activities, participation in training and awareness about programmes/activities had significant contribution in the role performance of tribal and non- tribal women sarpanchs. Remaining 9 variables did not show any significant contribution in role performance of the respondents. However, all the 15 variables fitted in the model, showed 49.8 per cent contribution in the role performance of the respondents.

Keywords: women sarpanchs, tribal, non- tribal, role performance and panchayat

Introduction

Panchayats have played a major role in the development of Indian villages. The 73rd constitution Amendment Act popularly known as Panchayat Raj Act provided the reservation for one-third of the total women in panchayat. This ironically led the empowerment and upliftment of the women in leadership. Further enhancing the participation of women in the public sphere and making the panchayat more enacting part for them, government moved the constitution bill 2009 in parliament which envisaged 50 per cent reservation for female leaders (Ministry of Panchayat raj). With the ongoing time, it was an urge to find out the role being played by the women leaders are reliable towards the development of villages. Several analysis were performed in this study to gather the out of women representatives. Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh state was taken to compare the performance of tribal and non- tribal women panchayat leaders. These women are ruling or can be said that mechanising the social men and women. Also, the various circumstances being faced by them were thoroughly under gone in this study. This led to find the personal and professional characteristics of the elected women leaders.

Material and Methods

Correlation is a statistical measure that indicates the extent to which two or more than two variables fluctuate together. It can show whether and how strongly pairs of variables are related. However, multiple regression is a statistical tool used to derive the value of a criterion from several other independent variables. It is the simultaneous combination of multiple factors to assess how and to what extent they affect certain outcome. It is usually being used to infer causal relationships between the independent and dependent variables. Here, 7 blocks of Bilaspur districts namely Belha, Kota, Masturi, Takhatpur, Pendra, Marwahi and Gaurela were taken randomly to select the respondents. Out of 336 panchayats having women leaders, 112 were taken (56 tribal and 56 non- tribal). The role performance of women sarpanchs was studied to analyse the relationship of independent variables towards it.

Correlation analysis of independent variables with role performance of tribal and non-tribal women sarpanch

The coefficient of correlation between the characteristics of women sarpanchs and their role performance towards rural development activities has been

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worked out and presented in table 1. The findings indicate that age of the respondents is negative and highly significantly correlated. Further, education, material possession, annual income, ownership of assets, sources of information, cosmopolitanness, participation in extension activities and awareness about programmes/activities were found positive and highly significantly correlated at 0.01 per cent level of probability. While experience in politics and participation in training showed positive and significant relationship at 0.05 per cent level of probability.

Hence, it concludes that with the increase of age, role performance of women sarpanch consecutively goes down. Further, education, material possession, annual income, ownership of assets, sources of information, cosmopolitanness, participation in extension activities, awareness about programmes/activities plays significant role in improving role performance of women sarpanchs.

The variable size of family, social participation, tenure of sarpanch and land holding were found to be non-significant with the role performance of women sarpanchs. It is probably because of the fact that irrespective of size of family, social participation, tenure of sarpanch and land holding, the role

performance does not affect the perceptibility of the leaders in respect of rural development activities. In case of non-tribal respondents, age was negative and significant at 0.01 per cent level of probability.

With regards to non-tribal women sarpanch, the variables like age, education, social participation, experience in politics, ownership of assets sources of information, cosmopolitanness and awareness about programmes/activities were positive and highly significant at 0.01 per cent level of probability. However, tenure of sarpanch was positive and significant at 0.05 per cent level of probability. Variables like size of family, material possession, land holding, annual income, participation in extension activities and participation in training were non-significant.

Further about tribal respondents, ownership of assets, sources of information, participation in training and awareness about programmes/activities were positive and highly significant at 0.01 per cent level of probability. Variable age, education, size of family, social participation, tenure of sarpanch, experience in politics, material possession, land holding, annual income, cosmopolitanness and participation in extension activities were non-significant.

Table 1: Correlation analysis of independent variables with role performance of respondents

S.no.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient "r"		Overall "r" (n=112)
		Non-tribal (n=56)	Tribal (n=56)	
1.	Age	-0.376**	-0.048	-0.256**
2.	Education	0.359**	-0.028	0.529**
3.	Size of family	-0.076	-0.053	-0.009
4.	Social participation	0.430**	0.150	0.099
5.	Tenure of sarpanch	0.287*	-0.084	0.153
6.	Experience in politics	0.460**	-0.058	0.213*
7.	Material possession	0.013	0.196	0.347**
8.	Land holding	-0.089	0.159	-0.075
9.	Annual income	0.131	-0.009	0.453**
10.	Ownership of assets	0.472**	0.276**	0.474**
11.	Sources of information	0.476**	0.272**	0.631**
12.	Cosmopolitanness	0.345**	0.051	0.518**
13.	Participation in extension activities	0.114	-0.021	0.336**
14.	Participation in training	-0.078	0.275**	0.206*
15.	Awareness about programmes/activities	0.391**	0.259**	0.621**

**Significant at 0.01 level of probability

*Significant at 0.05 level of probability

NS = Non significant

Multiple regression analysis of independent variables with role performance of tribal and non-tribal women sarpanchs

Multiple regressions were employed to find out relative contribution of independent variables towards dependent variables. The findings of regression analysis are presented in Table 2. The finding reveals that out of 15 independent variables being studied, six variables viz. ownership of assets, sources of information, participation in training and awareness about programmes/activities had positive and significant contribution at 0.01 per cent level of probability. Age has negative whereas participation in extension activities has positive and significant contribution towards the role performance of women sarpanchs.

All other remaining variables viz. education, size of family, social participation, Tenure of sarpanch, experience in politics, material possession, land holding, annual income and cosmopolitanness did not show any contribution towards role performance of women leaders. However, all the 15 variables jointly explained the variation to the extent of 49.8 per cent in

role performance of tribal and non-tribal women sarpanchs with calculated 'F' value of 1.87.

Therefore, it can be concluded that, for upliftment of role performance of women leaders must be selected of proper age. Focus should be given in ownership of assets, sources of information, participation in training and awareness about programmes/activities for further improvement.

In case of non-tribal respondents, the result shows that, age and awareness about programmes/activities had significant contribution in dependent variable whereas the findings of tribal respondents, ownership of assets, sources of information and participation in training has significant contribution in dependent variables.

Conclusion

The findings revealed that out of 15 independent variables, 11 variables i.e. education, experience in politics, material possession, annual income, ownership of assets, sources of information, cosmopolitanness, participation in extension activities, participation in training and awareness about programmes/activities were found positive and significantly

correlated with the role performance of women sarpanchs. Age was negative and significantly correlated with the dependent variable. The remaining 4 variables did not show any significant relationship with the role performance of women panchayat leaders. In case of multiple regression analysis, out of 15 variables, only 6 i.e. ownership of assets, sources of information, participation in extension activities,

participation in training and awareness about programmes/activities had positive and significant contribution in role performance of women panchayat leaders. Remaining 9 variables did not indicate any significant contribution in role performance of women leaders. However, all the 15 variables fitted in model show 49.8 per cent contribution in role performance of women panchayat leaders.

Table 2: Multiple regression analysis of independent variables with role performance of respondents

S.no.	Independent variables	Regression coefficient				Overall regression coefficient (n=112)	
		Non-tribal		Tribal		"b" value	"t" value
		"b" value	"t" value	"b" value	"t" value		
1.	Age	-5.649	2.130**	1.169	0.425	-4.123	-2.080*
2.	Education	1.367	0.721	2.562	1.147	1.934	1.551
3.	Size of family	-3.607	-1.046	-2.153	-1.036	-3.689	-2.002
4.	Social participation	2.283	1.310	1.169	0.749	1.617	1.570
5.	Tenure of sarpanch	3.122	0.324	-2.458	-0.359	1.178	0.198
6.	Experience in politics	1.482	1.165	-0.105	0.592	0.310	0.519
7.	Material possession	-0.613	-1.910	0.118	0.345	-0.297	-1.461
8.	Land holding	0.714	0.632	0.137	0.607	-0.085	-0.168
9.	Annual income	3.567	0.764	-4.670	-1.644	1.041	0.423
10.	Ownership of assets	4.518	1.336	5.990	3.110**	6.720	3.680**
11.	Sources of information	1.444	0.776	2.154	2.017**	2.658	2.866**
12.	Cosmopolitaness	-0.313	-0.163	-1.623	-1.640	-0.503	0.988
13.	Participation in extension activities	0.915	0.950	0.310	0.643	0.813	2.007*
14.	Participation in training	8.000	0.712	8.311	2.618**	9.458	3.700**
15.	Awareness about programmes/activities	0.682	2.451**	0.296	1.267	0.505	3.135**

$R^2 = 0.567$, $R^2 = 0.390$, $R^2 = 0.498$

F value for R = 3.495, F value for R = 1.710, F value for R = 0.498

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability *Significant at 0.05 level of probability NS = Non Significant

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