



THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STATUS OF THE ELECTED PANCHAYAT MEMBERS IN PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS -A CASE STUDY OF YSR KADAPA DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

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Abstract:

Panchayat Raj System is meant for decentralized development planning and implementation their functions involve decision making on development activities at grass root level. The main responsibility of the Panchayati Raj Institutions is to accelerate the pace of development and involve all people in this process so that the felt needs of the people and their development aspirations are fulfilled. The decentralized planning is a multi-level planning process. It will have to start from lower level (Gram Panchayat), intermediate level (Mandal Parishad) and higher level (Zilla Parishad). The study was carried out YSR Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh, six mandals were selected for study i.e., CK. Dinne, Chakarayapeta, Galividu, Lakkireddypalli, Ramapuram and Rayachti mandals. The Random Sampling method was adopted. The samples were classified into three groups i.e., elected representatives in PRIs. The primary data was collected from Elected presentativeis in PRIs in six selected mandals. From each mandals 50 elected representatives were selected total samples size 300. The primary data was collected from respondents i.e., elected representatives in PRIs, in the year 2019-20.

Key words : Socio-economic profile, Villages Panchayats and Rural development.

I.Introduction

India is a developing country where there are many problems, including poverty, unemployment and rural urban inequality. Participation in development is gaining importance as it addresses these issues and promotes social justice and welfare of the weaker sections of society. The process of participation has therefore come to stay with the philosophy of democracy and development decentralization, which has been embraced as a grassroots way of promoting democracy Panchyat Raj System is meant for decentralized development planning and implementation their functions involve decision making on development activities at grass root level. The main responsibility of the Panchayati Raj Institutions is to accelerate the pace of development and involve all people in this process so that the felt needs of the people and their development aspirations are fulfilled. The decentralized planning is a multi-level planning process. The 73rd constitutional amendment and the consequent Act provides for constitutional status for the establishment of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI's) at District, Mandal, and village levels. At present at lower level (Gram Panchayat), intermediate level (Mandal Parishad)

and higher level (Zilla Parishad) are established and their successive body consisting of representatives of higher order Civil Servants appointed as scientific officer in constituted for a period of 5 years.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Jathar (1964 pp. 46) gives the historical background of village panchayats in ancient India and the history of local self-government in British rule and the importance of our representatives to our village panchayat in the Constitutional Assembly. This study clearly highlights the fact that PRIs in India were largely political land-law functions until 1947.

M. Venkataramaiah and M. Pattabhiram's historical survey of the Panchayat Raj and also includes the declarations of relevant state newspapers and politicians. Recommendations of Committees and Commissions that have constituted the Local Self-Governance System in India for the last three hundred years. It is the historical study of the evolution of local self-government in modern India. One of the major weaknesses of this study is its explanatory role and therefore it does not provide any deep insights.

Iltija H. Khan (1969) has attempted to examine some of Panchayati Raj's effects on the social, political and administrative spheres of rural India. It analyses the important questions pertaining to the conceptual framework, organizational establishment and organization building in the Indian rural landscape.

Henry Maddock (1970) has attempted to evaluate rural local self-government and its practical implications in light of the great role that the Panchayati Raj plays in some areas in promoting social change, economic development and intelligent governance. Representative government. According to local self-government is democratic and effective.

M. Shivai (1987) examined the implications of the economic development and development regime for the formation of PRIs in India. This study provides a good summary of theories of economic development and theory and practice of development governance. Shivai views PRI as an effective tool of expression of interest; Creates a sense of empowerment and greater growth at the local level.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the Socio-Economic and Political background of elected members.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is based on primary data. Infact it is more relying on the primary data collected from the three levels of Panchayat Raj Institutions (ZP, MPTCs, GPs). The questionnaires are prepared for interviewing elected representatives of the PRIs. the people who participate regularly the meetings of the GPs or grama sabha at the village level. The study was conducted in YSR Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh state. The study was covered Kadapa Division six mandals i.e., CK. Dinne, Chakarayapeta, Galividu, Lakkireddypalli, Ramapuram and Rayachti mandals. The Random Sampling method was adopted. The samples were classified into three groups i.e., elected representatives in PRIs. The primary data was collected from elected presentativeis in PRIs in six selected mandals. From each mandals 50 elected representatives were selected total samples size 300. The primary data was collected from respondents i.e., elected representatives in PRIs, in the year 2019-20.

5. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 (A): Profile of the Gram Panchayat respondents.

Age Group	Mandals												Total	
	CK Dinne		Chakrayapaet		Galividu		Lakkireddy palli		Ramapuram		Rayachoti		No.of Respondents	%
	No.of Respondents	%												
30-40	10	20	8	16	9	18	10	20	10	20	11	22	58	19.34
40-50	21	42	20	40	21	42	23	46	23	46	19	38	127	42.33
50-60	12	24	14	28	13	26	10	20	9	18	12	24	70	23.33
60 above	7	14	8	16	7	14	7	14	8	16	8	16	45	15
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	300	100

Table 1 (B): Occupation of Elected Members

Farmers	28	56	27	54	30	60	32	64	16	32	16	34	150	50
Carpenters	2	4	-	-	-	-	4	8	-	-			6	2
Petty Business	6	12	9	18	6	12	4	8	5	10	6	14	37	12.34
Trades/ ML	-	0	2	4	4	8	5	10	12	24	13	26		12
Contractors	7	14	4	8	3	6	4	8	6	12	5	10	36	9.67
Landless Agriculture Workers	4	8	6	12	2	4	1	2	4	8	3	6	29	6.66

Semi Skilled Workers	3	6	2	4	5	10	-	-	7	14	5	10	20	7.33
Total	50	100	300	102										
Table 1 (C): Income Level Elected Members														
30-50 thousand	6	12	6	12	9	18	5	10	4	8	6	12	36	12
50,000 - 1,00,000	4	8	7	14	5	10	7	14	6	12	4	8	33	11
1,00,000 - 1,50,000	12	24	9	18	10	20	10	20	7	14	12	24	60	20
1,50,000 - 2,00,000	14	28	12	24	11	22	15	30	9	18	14	28	75	25
2,00,000 - 3,00,000	8	16	10	20	10	20	8	16	14	28	8	16	58	19.33
3,00,000 - 5,00,000	6	12	6	12	5	10	5	10	10	20	6	12	38	12.67
Total	50	100	300	100										

Source: Primary Data

5.1. RESPONSE AWARENESS OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

Table 2 (A): Good Interpersonal Direct Relations with The ZPTCS/MPTCs

Response	Mandals												Total	
	CK Dinne		Chakrayap aet		Galividu		Lakkireddy palli		Ramapura m		Rayachoti			
	No. of Respondents	%												
Yes	33	66	42	84	39	78	29	58	42	84	40	80	225	75
No	4	8	-	-	2	4	4	8	-	-	-	-	10	3.34
Average	10	20	8	16	8	16	13	26	8	16	10	20	57	19
Bad	3	6	-	-	1	2	4	8	-	-	-	-	8	2.66
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	300	100

TABLE 2 (B): Good Relations Help to Serve Constituency People

It helps to obtain financial resource allocation early in the financial year	15	30	21	42	17	34	20	40	22	44	21	42	116	38.67
It helps to speedy implementation of RD Programmes	20	40	16	32	21	42	16	32	18	36	19	38	110	36.67
It helps to obtain proper information about RD progrmmes and meetings	15	30	13	26	12	24	14	28	10	20	10	20	74	24.66

Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	300	100
TABLE 2 (C): Good interaction between Elected Representatives and Officials help the Better Working of ZP/TP/GP's														
Helps the better working														
Helps to coordinate better R.D Programmes	20	40	25	50	18	36	22	44	25	50	24	48	118	39.33
Helps to conduct PRI level meetings effectively	12	24	14	28	15	30	16	32	16	32	16	32	89	29.66
Helps to determine the priorities of RD programmes	18	36	11	22	17	34	12	24	9	18	10	20	77	25.66
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	300	100.00
TABLE 2 (D): Methods Adopted for Mobilizing Rural Population														
Methods														
1) Contact village elders and persuade to cooperate	24	48	22	44	18	36	25	50	18	36	20	40	127	42.33
2) Based on location of Rd programmes personal efforts are made to bring people and convince people about the likely benefits of the RD programmes	12	24	10	20	8	16	12	24	8	16	10	20	60	20
3) Informal contacts are	4	8	6	12	9	18	5	10	5	10	8	16	37	12.33

used														
4) All the above	10	20	12	24	15	30	8	16	19	38	12	24	76	25.34
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	300	100
TABLE 2 (E): Rural Development Programmes provided increasing opportunity for Peoples Participation														
RD Programmes														
Rural Education	15	30	9	18	7	14	10	20	7	14	8	16	56	18.66
Rural Health care	8	16	14	28	10	20	8	16	6	12	5	10	51	17.00
Rural Housing	14	117	15	30	18	36	14	28	13	26	13	26	87	29.00
Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation	8	7	7	14	10	20	14	28	16	32	16	32	71	23.67
Rural Roads	5	10	5	10	5	10	4	8	8	16	8	16	35	11.67
Total	50	180	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100	300	100.00
TABLE 2 (F): Characteristics														
Non Corrupt	7	7	9	9	8	8	6	6	15	15	15	15	60	10
Non Discriminatory	9	9	12	12	14	14	10	10	17	17	16	16	78	13
More Democratic and Supportive	20	20	22	22	19	19	18	18	24	24	25	25	128	21.33
Corrupt and Inefficient	21	21	19	19	19	19	24	24	19	19	19	19	121	20.16
Discriminatory and Caste Minded	30	30	28	28	30	30	31	31	15	15	14	14	148	24.67
Political Cadre Oriented	13	13	10	10	10	10	11	11	10	10	11	11	65	10.84
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	600	100

Source: Primary Data.

Table 1 (A) shows that the profile of the Gram Panchayat respondents: N = 300. Our sample of 300 elected representatives for the PRI in YSR Kadapa are the age groups of 30 to 60 years. Of this 42.33 percent of elected representatives are in the age group of 40 to 50 years.

Table 1. (B) reveals that the occupation of the panchayat members in the district. The Majority (50%) of elected representatives are farmers. While another 37 persons from petty business, 36 small traders 28 contractors, 20 landless agricultural workers (mostly SCs and STs) and 22 semi skilled workers. The table 1 (C) shows that the income level of elected panchayat members in the study area. The majority (25%) of elected representatives annual income varied between from Rs. 1.5 to Rs. 2 lakhs. another 19.34 percent of elected representatives annual income had fluctuated between Rs 2 lakhs to Rs 3 lakha and only 12.66 percent representatives annual income was fluctuating between 3 to 5 Lakhs. That means a large number elected representatives of the PRI belong to rural BPL and low income households.

About 153 respondents are from CK Dinne, Chakrayapeta, Galividu, Lakkireddy palli mandals expressed the view that they maintain a good and direct contact with their counterparts in MPTCs and ZPTCs. Only 4 GP members (2 from Ramapuram, and 2 from Raychoti) have said that they do not maintain any harmonious interaction with their counterparts in MPTCs and ZPTCs. About 39 percent of respondents have said that good contacts help to obtain grants-in-aid due early in the fiscal year. Around 37 percent of representatives have said that good contacts help to speed up the implementation process of the rural development programmes in their constituencies and 27 percent of the respondents have reported that good contacts with other representatives and officials of the GPs, MPTC and ZPTC help to obtain adequate and proper information regarding administrative aspects of the RD schemes and the monthly, quarterly or half yearly meetings of the GPs, MPTC and ZPTC as applicable.

About 42.34 percent of elected representatives had said that they contact village and caste leaders to persuade to support and co-operate in implementing RDPs. 20 percent of representatives had reported that they make personal efforts to bring people for the GP and MPTC meetings and convince people about the likely benefits from the RDPs implemented. 25.33 percent of elected respondents had viewed s they follow all the three above mentioned methods of people mobilization for rural development projects. Only 12.33 percent of respondents had expressed that they maintained informal contacts and it would help them whenever required.

The RD programmes like rural education, rural health care, rural housing, rural drinking water supply and sanitation and rural roads (building and maintenance) are listed out by the elected representatives as providing more opportunities for people participation. The RD programme wise response 18.66 percent of the elected representatives show the indicated rural education:17 percent of respondents indicated rural health Care; 29 percent of respondents had indicated rural housing: 24 percent of representatives had considered rural drinking water supply and sanitation and 12 percent of respondents viewed rural roads as appropriate rural development activities providing meaningful opportunities for peoples participation.

6. FINDINGS

1. Around 37 percent of representatives have said that good contacts help to speed up the implementation process of the rural development programmes in their constituencies.
2. About 44.67 percent of elected representative had expressed option that the progressive interaction between elected representatives and government officials at the **ZPTCs, MPTCs and Ward Member** is considered as helpful to co-ordinate the implementation side of the RD programmes,.
3. About 42.34 percent of elected representatives had said that they contact village and caste leaders to persuade to support and co-operate in implementing RDPs.

6. CONCLUSION

It is concluded from above study that most of elected members occupation is agriculture activities, majority of respondents of age group of 40 -50. Nearly 25 percent of elected representatives annual income varied between from Rs. 1.5 to Rs. 2 lakhs. About 42.34 percent of elected representatives had said that they contact village and caste leaders to persuade to support and co-operate in implementing RDPs. About the village problem lack of medical facilities for villager's are top most constraints as expressed by Gram panchayats. It can be improved by the village's must be motivated for the participation in the meeting of rural development.

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