

Role Perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan in Manipur

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in 9 C.D. Blocks in the districts of Manipur in village region. Majority of the respondents belongs to young middle age group also the respondents had 'medium' level of socio-economic status. Dimension wise role perception results pointed that 87% of respondents' perception of roles was high to medium in case of dimension of general role. Respondents have perceived medium level of role perception in agriculture, education, welfare and other related activities. As regards overall role perception of village Panchayat Pradhan majority (59.74%) of respondents had medium to low perception of roles. It was inferred that relationship between independent variables i.e Education, Annual income, Mass media exposure, Leadership preference and Achievement motivation had positive and significant effect on role perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan.

Key words: Role perception, village panchayat

INTRODUCTION

“Grassroots democracy” enable people to feel sense of responsibility and to inculcate the value of democracy. It is widely accepted that self-governing institutions at the local level are essential for national growth and for effective people's participation and that they are the integral and indispensable part of the democratic process. India, being a democratic country and as three fourth of its population live in villages, it can become a strong democracy only when there are firm foundations of democratic institutions in these villages.

The enactment of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 is a landmark in the history of Panchayati Raj. The Act envisages constituting in every State, Panchayats at village, intermediate and district levels. Panchayati Raj Institution has been proclaimed as the vehicle of socio-economic transformation in rural areas.

Keeping in view of the above point a study was undertaken to ascertain the personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of Village Panchayat Pradhan and to assess the role perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out in 9 C.D. Blocks in four (4) valley district of Manipur viz; Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Thoubal. A sample of 154 Village panchayat Pradhan were selected purposively. Pre-structured interview schedule was used to collect the primary data by the researcher himself and secondary data also was collected from reliable sources. The collected data were coded, tabulated, classified and appropriate statistical tools were used to draw the inferences.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study revealed that majority of the respondents (66.23%) belongs to young middle age group followed by middle age group 24.02 per cent and young age group 5.84 per cent and only 3.89 per cent belonging to old age group. The probable reason for such distribution might be that majority of the young middle age group were matured and more dynamic as well as experienced in performing various socio-economic activities. It was found that majority of the respondents (51.29%) had 'medium' level of socio-economic status. The reasons behind the findings that majority of the respondents

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belonged to village and semi-urban areas so they have 'medium' level of income, social participation, education, other attributes and also had their 'farm cultivation' as a primary occupation making together the socio-economic status. It was also found that more than half of the respondents (65.58%) followed by 66.88 per cent and 53.25 per cent respectively had 'medium' level leadership preference, achievement motivation and progressiveness category.

Table 1: Personal, Socio-economic and psychological characteristics of the respondents.

n=154

Attributes	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young	9	5.86
	Young middle	102	66.23
	Middle	37	24.02
	Old	6	3.89
Socio-economic status	High	29	18.84
	Medium	79	51.29
	Low	46	29.87
Leadership preference	High	20	12.99
	Medium	101	65.58
	Low	33	21.43
Achievement motivation	High	19	20.78
	Medium	103	66.88
	Low	32	20.78
Progressiveness	High	48	31.17
	Medium	82	53.25
	Low	24	15.58

The expectations of related tasks and power distribution roles may differ within a culture and across cultures. The Table 2 depicted that 56.50 per cent of respondents were having 'high' level of perception with regards to general role followed by 38.31 per cent of 'medium' level and 5.19 per cent of respondents having 'low' level. The study also found that 45.45 per cent of respondents have 'high' level of perception in case of village improvement, 40.27 per cent respondents having 'medium' level and 14.29 per cent respondents having 'low' level respectively. The dimension of agriculture related role was found to be in 'medium' level with 78 per cent followed by 28.57 per cent respondents having 'high' level and 20.78 per cent 'low' level. It has been observed that 75.97 per cent of the respondents were 'partially' aware with educational related role and only 24.03 per cent respondents were 'fully' aware of their role. Regarding welfare related role 56.50 per cent of the respondents belonged to 'medium' level followed by 25.32 per cent in 'high' level and 18.18 per cent belonged to 'low' level respectively. It was found that 59.74 per cent of the respondents perceived 'medium' level of their role relating to other activities like promoting of sericulture, small scale cottage industries *etc.*, and remaining 17.53

per cent and 22.73 percent in 'high' and 'low' level respectively. The findings of the study are in the line those of Mohrirand Nandapurkar (1977), Bhosale (1997), Garje (1997), Muley (2000) and Saiyad *et al.* (2004).

Table 2: Dimension-wise Role Perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan

n=154

Name of Dimensions	Category	Frequency	Percentage
General Roles	High	87	56.50
	Medium	59	38.31
	Low	8	5.19
Agriculture related Roles	High	44	28.57
	Medium	78	50.65
	Low	32	20.78
Village improvement Roles	High	70	45.45
	Medium	62	40.27
	Low	22	14.28
Educational related Roles	Fully aware	37	24.03
	Partially aware	117	75.97
	Unaware	0	0
Welfare related Roles	High	39	25.32
	Medium	87	56.50
	Low	28	18.18
Other related Roles	High	27	22.73
	Medium	92	59.74
	Low	35	17.53

Overall Perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan

Regarding overall perception of roles it was found that 59.74 per cent of respondents belonged to 'medium' level of role perception followed by 29.22 per cent and 11.04 per cent who felt 'low' and 'high' role perception category, respectively. Similar finding is also reported by Satpal Setal. (2013).

Table 3: Overall Perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan

Category	Frequency	Percentage
High	17	11.04
Medium	92	59.74
Low	45	29.22
Total	154	100.00

It is therefore, be concluded that majority of Village Pradhan had medium overall role perception. Hence it is suggested that Village Panchayat Pradhan should be made familiar about the roles they are expected to undertake through imparting more training related to their roles and also need to be assessed from time to time so that lacking information, if any, can be provided to update them about their roles.

Relationship between the personal, socio economic and psychological characteristics of the Village

Panchayat Pradhan with their Role Perception

Correlation between the dependent variable (Role Perception) and the fifteen independent variables were computed separately for the Pradhan members of Manipur. This helped in getting an idea about the relationship of the dependent variable with the independent variables of the Pradhan members. Table.4 revealed that, variables like Education, Annual income, Mass Media exposure, Leadership Preference, and Motivation achievement had positive and significant relationship with role perception of the Pradhan members, whereas, Age, Occupation, Family type, Family size, Land possession, House type, Degree of visiting and Progressiveness had not any relationship with role perception of Pradhan members. However, Materials possession and Social participation had negative and significant relationship with role perception of Pradhan. The positive associations of independent variable namely education and mass media exposure with role perception have been reported by Reddy (1993).

Table 4: Correlation between Independent Variables and Role Perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan

Independent variables	Coefficient of correlation (r)
Age	-0.091
Occupation	0.019
Education	0.021*
Annual income	0.439**
Family type	0.065
Family size	-0.156
Land possession	-0.136
Materials possession	-0.276*
House type	-0.039
Social participation	-0.172*
Mass media exposure	0.105*
Degree of visiting	0.144
Leadership Preference	0.181*
Motivation achievement	0.701**
Progressiveness	0.126

* Significant at 0.05 level** Significant at 0.01 level

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that majority of the respondents belongs to young middle age group have had 'medium' level of socio-economic status and psychological profile. The findings with regards to dimension wise of role perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan indicated that majority of the respondents perceived medium level of role perception in four types of dimensions viz; agriculture, educational related roles, welfare and other related activities as mention above. The overall role perceptions of the respondents were observed to be medium to low which means that there is a urgent need to bring about improvements in the level of role perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan. This can be possible by imparting training and making them available a copy of

well defined roles and moreover need assessment from time to time to see how acquainted they are about their role. The variables like education, annual income, mass media exposure, leadership preference and motivation achievement have contributed positively and significantly towards the role perception. Hence, variables which are manipulative in nature should be manipulated so as to promote the role perception of Village Panchayat Pradhan.

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