
Summary and Conclusion

The Panchayat Raj Institute has played an important part in India's rural development. The Gram Panchayat is primary level of governance and the most important school of social and political education for the rural masses. It is the most important organisation for overall progresss of the villages. In the framework of raising the villagersliving standard, the Gram Panchayat has played a significant role at the village level.

The research was carried out in the district of Coimbatore located in Tamil Nadu.Coimbatore district was selected because of its easy accessibility and availability of adequate transport facilities,more over model Gram Panchayat and award winning Gram Panchayats are also situated in the district.Out of the 12 blocks in the district,three blocks namely-Karamadai block,Periyanayakkanpalayam block and Thondamuthur block were chosen for the study.The sample comprised of 36 ex-presidents from 36 Gram Panchayats and 360 villagers. The study used a multi-stage sampling method.After getting permission from Block Development officer,a structured questionnaire was framed for gathering data from the former Gram Panchayat presidents.The data were collected through survey method and questionnaire and interview schedule.Questionnaire was employed with Gram Panchayat presidents and interview schedule was used with villagers. The data was collected was carefully scrutinized and analysed with percentage analysis, chi-square test, factor analysis, garrett's ranking, t-test and correlation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Objectives of the research study are: to

- ❖ Assess the performance of the Gram Panchayats in terms of governance, resource mobilization and service delivery.
- ❖ Analyze the capacity of the Gram Panchayat presidents.
- ❖ Identify the factors influencing the performance of the Gram Panchayats and
- ❖ Determine the challenges faced by the Gram Panchayats and presidents.

FORMULATION OF THE HYPOTHESES

The following specific hypothesis are formulated pertaining to the objectives outlined:

- ❖ There will be no association between gender,age and educational qualification with leadership qualities of Gram panchayat presidents.
- ❖ There will be a relationshipbetween software application adopted by the Gram Panchayats with e-connectivity of the Gram Panchayats.
- ❖ There will be a association between gender with social audit practices of Gram Panchayat presidents.
- ❖ There will be no association between age,gender,education qualification and annual income with performance of Gram Panchayats President.

SALIENT FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

D1.FRAMEWORK

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GRAM PANCHAYAT

Seventy six per cent of the presidents fromthe Karamadai block ,seventy eight per cent of the presidents from the PN Palayam block,ninety per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block are male. Twenty three per cent of the presidents from the Karamadai block were female and twenty two per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block are female,followed Thondamuthur block where 20 per cent of the presidents are female.Fifty three per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block belong to the middle age group and sixty six per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block Gram Panchayat belong toage group is middle age group.Followed by fifty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block Gram Panchayat belong to the old age group.Eighty eight per cent of the presidents are from Karamadai blocks,seventy seven per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and eighty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block belong to BC category.About Six per cent Karamadai block Gram Panchayat presidents,eleventh per cent Presidents from P.N Palayam block Gram Panchayat presidents and twenty per cent presidents from Thondamuthur block are also ST category.Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from the Karamadai block,eighty per cent of the presidents from the P.N Palayam block and cent per cent of the presidents from the Thondamuthur block believe in the Hindu religion. Seventy six per cent of the

presidents from the Karamadai block and fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block have educational qualification till Secondary school. Fifty per cent of the presidents from the Thondamuthur block have educational qualification up to Secondary level . Ninety four per cent of the Gram Panchayat from Karamadai block, fifty six per cent of the Gram Panchayat presidents from P.N Palayam block and eighty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block have comparatively high annual family income.

POLITICAL AFFILIATION OF GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS

Seventy six per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, seventy seven per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and fifty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block party affiliated to AIDMK party. Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block and sixty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block face development based challenge during election campaign. Forty four per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block stated that they face religion based challenge during campaign. Door to door campaign has been the mode of campaign conducted by fifty three per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block Gram Panchayats, thirty three per cent of presidents from P.N Palayam block and forty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block.

Thirty five per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block and thirty three per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block distributed pamphlets during the campaign. Forty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block conducted the campaign through public meetings. Seventy seven per cent the presidents from P.N Palayam block Gram Panchayat, fifty nine per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block and fifty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block state that they were self motivated to participate in the election.

D2.FUNCTION

THE ROLES OF THE GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS

Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block Gram Panchayat and eighty eight per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block, and ninety per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block Gram Panchayat stated that they were responsible to organize and presided over the Gram Sabha meetings. The Gram Sabha, the general

assembly of villagers, has a vital role in the effective functioning of Panchayats. Discussion of the annual financial statement of Gram Panchayats is another responsibility. In the Gram Sabha Gram Panchayat presidents played a major role in the conduction of Gram Sabha.

All the presidents from three blocks said that presidents were responsible in maintaining the records of panchayats. Gram Panchayat presidents were responsible to maintain Gram Sabha minutes, social audit, wage payment details, material payment details, etc. Sixty four per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block Gram Panchayat, seventy seven per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block Gram Panchayat, and eighty per cent of the presidents from the Thondamuthur block Gram Panchayat stated that presidents were responsible for financial and executive administration of the panchayat. Gram Panchayat receives funds from the Central and State governments to develop the village. So Gram Panchayat presidents are primarily responsible for financial and administrative execution.

Seventy one per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block Gram Panchayat played a responsible role in the imposition of tax to increase revenue to Panchayat and eighty eight per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block Gram Panchayat presidents and forty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block Gram Panchayat presidents played a key role in imposition of tax to increase revenue. Gram Panchayats were empowered to collect taxes in order to generate their funds to carry out their responsibilities. Cent per cent presidents from the three blocks played a role in constructing, repairing, and maintaining village roads and public roads.

Ninety four per cent of the Gram Panchayat presidents from Karamadai block Gram Panchayat and eighty eight per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block Gram Panchayat presidents played role in providing drinking water to village people. Cent per cent presidents from Thondamuthur block Gram Panchayats played a role in providing drinking water.

All the Gram Panchayats president, from P.N Palayam block, Seventy per cent from Karamadai block and Thondamuthur block were responsible for the construction of drainages and disposal of drainage water and sullages.

THE DAILY WORKING PATTERN OF THE PRESIDENTS

Fifty nine per cent of the presidents from the Karamdai block, fifty five per cent of the presidents from the P.N Palayam, and sixty per cent of the presidents from the Thondamuthur block has been working less than 8-9 hours in a day. Followed by forty one per cent of the presidents from the Karamdai block and forty five per cent of the presidents from the P.N Palayam and forty per cent of the presidents from the Thondamuthur block has been working daily for 9-10 hours.

All the presidents from three block Gram Panchayat stated their daily working pattern were official work, monitoring account, supervision of field, interaction with village people. Seventy six per cent presidents from Karamadai block, fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that sometimes presidents also monitoring grievances of the villagers directly.

SKILL POSSESSED BY THE PRESIDENTS

Cent percent of the presidents from Karamdai block strongly agreed that they have good communication skill and problem solving skill, followed by sixty six per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and eighty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that they have good communication skill. Ninety seven per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, eighty eight per cent presidents from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that they used to listen others carefully.

Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, seventy eight per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and sixty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that they possess emotional management skill. Sixty five per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, forty five per cent presidents from P.N Palayam block and eighty per cent presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly disagree that they are not stubborn.

COMPARING LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF THE PRESIDENTS WITH THREE BLOCKS

Out of the 16 leadership qualities of Gram Panchayat presidents the hard working leadership quality of the presidents from three blocks was found to be 0.01 per cent which is a statistical significance and patience leadership quality is statistically significant at 0.05 per cent level of significance and

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDEPENDENT VARIABLES WITH LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS

Age and educational qualification statistically significant at 0.01 per cent level of significance. Variable presidents gender is statistically significant at 0.05 per cent level of significance with leadership qualities of Gram Panchayat presidents.

D3.FINANCE

FINANCE OF GRAM PANCHAYATS

Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, sixty six per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block Gram Panchayat said that they have two operating bank account. This facilities receiving funds from several sources, such as the Central Government and the State Government.

Cent percent of the presidents from all the three blocks acknowledged that they have savings account. Fifty two per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, sixty six per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and sixty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that they had account in Corporation Bank account. Seven per cent presidents from Karamadai block, twenty two per cent presidents from P.N Palayam block and thirty per cent of the presidents from Tondamuthur block stated that they have State Bank of India account.

REVENUE COLLECTED BY GRAM PANCHAYATS

Karamadai block collected the least amount of house tax, whereas in the year 2015-16, maximum house tax collection was. In the P.N Palayam block, least amount of home tax was collected in 2011-12 fiscal year, while the 2014-15 fiscal year collected the

most. Thondamuthur block likewise collected the least amount of tax in 2011-12 and the maximum amount of home tax in 2015-16. Library Cess Karamadai block Gram Panchayats collected the least amount of tax in 2011-12, followed by the greatest amount in 2015-16. In the 2011-12 fiscal year, the P.N Palayam block collected the least amount of library Cess tax, while the 2015-16 fiscal year collected the most. Thondamuthur block also collected the least amount of library Cess tax in 2011-12 and the most in 2015-16.

Gram Panchayats collect hazardous and offensive businesses tax under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act of 1958. In this block, the lowest amount of D&O tax was collected in 2012-13, and the greatest amount was collected in 2015-16. P.N Palayam block likewise collected the least amount of D&O tax in 2011-12 and the most amount of tax in 2015-16, followed by Karamadai block, which collected the least amount of D&O tax in 2011-12 and the most amount of tax in 2014-15. The Tamil Nadu Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Departments also collect 2C tax on patta payments. Karamadai block Gram Panchayat collected the least amount of 2C tax in the fiscal year 2013-14 and the most in the fiscal year 2015-16. Block PN Palayam block and Thondamuthur block collected the least amount of 2C tax in the year 2010-11 and the most in the year 2015-16

EXPENDITURE OF GRAM PANCHAYATS

Expenditure on the maintenance of Gram Panchayat was the lowest in the year of 2011-12 and the highest in the year of 2015-16. Expenditure on public works in Karamadai block Gram Panchayat was the lowest in the year of 2011-12, while it was highest in 2015-16. In P.N Palayam block and Thondamuthur block Gram Panchayats, spending on public works was lowest in the year 2011 -2012 and highest in the year of 2015-16.

Spending in Karamadai block towards public health was lowest in the year of 2011-12 and highest in 2015-16, followed by P.N Palayam block and Thondamuthur block whose expenditure for public health was lowest in 2011-12 and highest in 2015-16. Spending towards street lighting, water supply, and drainage was the lowest in the year 2011-12 and the highest in 2015-16. Agriculture and animal husbandry expenditures in three blocks were lowest in the year 2011-12 and highest in the year of 2015-16.

D4.FUNCTIONARIES

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY OF GRAM PANCHAYATS

Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, seventy seven per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and eighty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that bitumen road is laid in all Gram Panchayats.

Ninety four per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, seventy seven per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and sixty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block Gram Panchayat said that solar light has been provided in the Gram Panchayats. All the street light were LED light. Cent per cent presidents from three blocks stated that Gram Panchayats had water tap as a drinking water source.

Cent per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block stated that all the Gram Panchayat had individual house hold toilets. Eighty eight of the presidents from P.N palayam block and seventy per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block had individual toilet. Sixty five per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and fifty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that sanitary complex has been made in the Gram Panchayats by providing basic facilities and promoting cleanliness in the Gram Panchayats.

E-CONNECTIVITY IN GRAM PANCHAYATS OFFICES

Eighty two per cent of the Gram Panchayats from Karamadai block, seventy seven per cent of the Gram Panchayats from P.N Palayam block and sixty per cent of the Gram Panchayats from Thondamuthur block stated that Gram Panchayats have conference hall. Seventy one per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block and fifty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that telephone facilities was available in Gram Panchayats offices. Thirty three per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block stated that telephone was available in Gram Panchayat offices.

Ninety four per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent from Thondamuthur block presidents said that Xerox machine was available in the Gram Panchayat offices.

Cent per cent presidents from Karamadai block, eighty eight per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and sixty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that computer was available in the Gram Panchayat office.

Fifty three per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block said that one laptop available in Gram Panchayats. Twenty two per cent of the presidents from P.N palayam and forty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that one laptop was available in the Gram Panchayat.

Seventy one per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block eighty per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block said that internet was available in the Gram Panchayats office. Ninety four per cent of the Gram Panchayat from Karamadai block and seventy seven per cent of the Gram Panchayat from P.N Palayam block and ninety per cent of the Gram Panchayat from Thondamuthur block stated that Gram Panchayats had own mail id.

Forty one per cent of the Gram Panchayats from Karamadai block, thirty three per cent of the Gram Panchayats from P.N Palayam block and thirty per cent of the Gram Panchayats from Thondamuthur block indicated that their Gram Panchayat has its own web site, according to the survey. Only a meager percentage of the Gram Panchayats from three blocks have their own Gram Panchayat web site, according to the data.

4.2.2.2. RELATIONSHIP WITH SOFTWARE APPLICATION ADOPTED BY THE GRAM PANCHAYATS AND e-CONNECTIVITY OF GRAM PANCHAYATS

Gram Manchitra (GIS Application), action soft, area profiler were found to be 0.01 per cent level of statistically significant. PRIA soft is statistically significant at 0.05 per cent level of significance.

D5. CAPACITY BUILDING

CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE GRAM PANCHAYATS FUNCTIONARIES

Seventy six per cent of the Gram Panchayat presidents from Karamadai block, eighty eight per cent of the Gram Panchayat presidents from P.N Palayam block and eighty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that the place of attending the training programme was District headquarters. Thirty three per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block attend training in the Block level, followed by fifty five per cent of the

presidents from P.N Palayam block and ninety per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block attended the block level training programme.

Eighty two per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block stated that duration of training programme was 1-2 days. Cent per cent presidents from P.N Palayam block said that duration of training programme was 1-2 days and half(50%) of the presidents from Thondamuthur block presidents stated that the duration of training programme was 2-3 days. Cent per cent presidents from three blocks attended a face to face training programme. Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, sixty six per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and eighty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block attended training on transparency and accountability. Fifty two per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block attended training on computer and application, forty four per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block attended training on computer application. About half (50%) of the presidents from Thondamuthur block attended training on computer application. This low turnout is attributed to the age factor of the presidents.

D6.ACCOUNTABILITY

DETAILS OF GRAM SABHA

Cent percent of the presidents from the three blocks stated that Gram Sabha is a mandate in Gram Panchayat. Cent percent of the presidents mentioned that Gram Sabha is a system of Gram Panchayat to monitor and ensure the mandated Panchayat quorum.

Seventy one per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block ,fifty six per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent of the presidents from Thonamuthur block stated that Gram Sabha meeting was conducted 5 times in a year. Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block ,fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and ninety per cent per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that they had conducted special Gram Sabha meeting. Seventy one per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, fifty per cent of the Gram Panachayat from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent of the Gram Panchayat from Thondamuthur block conducted one special Gram Sabha meeting.

Cent per cent Gram Panchayats from Karamadai block stated that in order to prepare Gram Panchayat budget ,the Gram Sabha meeting was conducted. Seventy seven per cent of the Gram Panchayat from P.N Palayam block and ninety per cent of the Gram Panchayat from Thondamuthur block said that the gram sabha was conducted to finalised Gram Panchayat. Cent per Gram Panchayat from three blocks, stated that Gram Sabha was conducted for preparing of BPL list and preparing the beneficiary list.

Fifty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block ,fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and ninety per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block stated that the most of the farmers were attended Gram Sabha. The number differed with the time chosen to conduct the meetings.

Cent percent of the presidents from the three block have stated that social audit was conducted in the Gram Panchayats. 12 per cent of presidents from Karamadai and P.N Palayam and 10 per cent from Thondamuthur block stated that there were some pending social audit in gram sabha. 12 per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block , 12 per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and a meager per cent (10%) of the presidents from Thondamuthur block said that only one social audit was pending during the period.

OPINION ON THE ROLE AND PROSPECTIVES OF SOCIAL AUDIT PRACTICES IN GRAM PANCHAYATS OPINED BY THE PRESIDENTS

Seventy six per cent of the Gram Panchayat presidents from Karamadai block and eighty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that social audit provides fair data to the upper level authorities. From the P.N Palayam block sixty six per cent of the total Gram Panchayat presidents agreed that social audit provides fair data to the upper level authorities.

Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block and seventy per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that social audit provides legal sanctions. Seventy eight per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block also agreed that social audit provide a legal sanctions to Gram Panchayats.

Cent per cent presidents from Karamadai block and Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that social audit preference is based on the financial prospective. It is followed by sixty six per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block who strongly agreed that financial prospective in social audit is important.

Thirty five per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block and fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and fifty per cent of the Gram Panchayats from Thondamuthur block were neutral about that social audit preference on shareholder prospective. Forty seven per cent of the presidents from Karamadaiblock ,fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and sixty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block agreed on the preference of social audit in learning and growth prospectives.

Eighty eight per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block strongly agreed and seventy per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed social audit preference on rural development prospective. It is followed by cent per cent presidents from P.N Palayam block who also strongly agreed social audit preference on rural development prospective.

COMPARING GENDER WITH SOCIAL AUDIT PRACTICES IN GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS

In all the three block gender is highly influencing in the Gram Panchayat social audit practices and as they are statistically significant at 0.01 per cent level of significance. It is incurred that the chi square value is 36.192 which shows a great relationship between the compared variables namely gender-male and female.

INFORMATION ABOUT ALLOTTED AMOUNT AND EXPENDITURE INCURED FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED BY THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan scheme: The total amount allotted for the three blocks was Rs 5,57,80,089 ,where spent the amount was Rs 5,44,21,488. In Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme the allotted amount was Rs 7,09,82,734 and the amount spent was less compared to the allotted amount Rs 5,43,40,176.

Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development scheme(MLACDS): From this scheme the total allotted amount of three blocks was Rs

5,35,23,651 and amount spent was Rs 5,02,77,744. Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme allotted an amount of Rs 5,77,94,195 for the three blocks amount spent was Rs 6,25,58,109. According to the aforementioned statistics, it is observed that the amount spent for Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme is more than the allotted amount.

PERFORMANCE OF GRAM PANCHAYATS

Fifty three per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, Cent per cent presidents from P.N Palayam block and ninety per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that Panchayat meeting was conducted timely. Eighty eight per cent presidents from Karamadai block, eighty eight per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and ninety per cent presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that gram sabha was conducted timely. Fifty three per cent of the presidents strongly agreed that, seventy seven per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and sixty per cent of the presidents Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that standing committees was conducted timely. Fifty three per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, sixty six of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and sixty per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block were strongly agreed that presidents were attended the training programme. This might be the reason of effective capacity building of Gram Panchayat.

Fifty three per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block, fifty five per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and majority (90.00%) of the presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that Gram Panchayat was collected tax timely. Eighty two per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block agreed on the performance of maintenance accounts. Eighty eight of the presidents from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent of the presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that on the performance of maintenance of accounts. This might be the reason of good income generation of the Gram Panchayat.

Ninety four per cent of the presidents from Karamadai block and sixty four per cent of the presidents from P.N Palayam block neutral on Grievance redressal. Sixty per cent presidents from Thondamuthur block neutral on grievance redressal.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDEPENDENT VARIABLES WITH PERFORMANCE LEVELS OF GRAM PANCHAYATS PRESIDENTS

The relationship between age,gender,education,annual income with the performance of Gram Panchayats presidents.Age,gender and education qualification of the presidents of three blocks were founded at 0.01 per cent level of statistical significance. Annual income of the presidents is founded at 0.05 per cent level of statistical significance with performance of Gram Panchayat Presidents. There is evident association between age,gender,educational qualification and annual income of the presidents with the performance of Gram Panchayat presidents.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PERFORMANCE OF GRAM PANCHAYATS

Seventy six per cent of the Gram Panchayat presidents from Karamadai block and seventy per cent from Thondamuthur block agreed that Functions of Gram Panchayat factors influence more in the performance of Gram Panchayats. Seventy per cent of the Gram Panchayat presidents from P.N Palayam block strongly agreed that functions of Gram Panchayat influence more in the performance of the Gram Panchayat. Twenty three per cent of the Gram Panchayat presidents from Karamadai block, twenty two per cent presidents from P.N Palayam block and twenty per cent presidents from Thondamuthur block strongly agreed that capacity building of the functionaries influence more in the performance of Gram Panchayat. Table shows that majority of the Gram Panchayat influencing in all the factors of Gram Panchayats. This might be the reason that Gram Panchayats performing well in all the aspects.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF GRAM PANCHAYATS

Gram Panchayats under the three blocks only one Gram Panchayat under Karamadai block, P.N Palayam block and Thondamuthur block received Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Shasktikaran Puraskar award.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

Karamadai block rank I has given to lack of transport facilities of the Gram Panchayat and rank VI has given to drinking water problem. From P.N Palayam rank I has given to lack of transport facilities and rank VI has given to roads problem. Thondamuthur

block Gram Panchayat has given rank I to lack of transport facilities and rank VI has given to non-accountability of the Gram Panchayats.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS

In Karamadai block rank I has been given for the challenge lack of fund. Rank II indicates the problem of ignorance of responsibility among staff. Rank III has been given to the challenge lack of awareness about development programmes. Rank IV is given to the challenge lack of prior information of meeting is not given". Rank X for the problem lack of proper information of Panchayat Raj.

In P.N Palayam block rank I has been assigned for the problem lack of fund, rank II has been assigned for the challenge lack of awareness about various development programmes and Rank III has been assigned for ignorance of responsibility among staff. Last three or the least ranking has been assigned for the challenge interference of MLA`s and MP`s, political pressure and meetings are not periodically convened. Because of these challenges the presidents of P.N. Palayam Gram Panchayat are facing challenges in functioning effectively.

Thondamuthur block top rankings are assigned to the challenge lack of fund, lack of awareness about development programmes and prior information of meeting is not given for which Rank I, rank II and rank III are assigned respectively. The least ranking is given to the challenge meetings are not periodically convened, political pressure and interference of MLA`s and MP`s.

INFORMATION ABOUT VILLAGERS

SOCIO ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VILLAGERS

Sixty per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, sixty four per cent (64%) of the villagers from P.N. Palayam block and sixty two per cent (62%) of the villagers from Thondamuthur block are female.

It is presented that sixty two per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, forty seven per cent of the villagers from P.N. Palayam block and forty eight per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block belong to the old age group.

Fifty eight per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, more than half (53%) of the villagers from P.N Palayam block and sixty two per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block come under BC category, whereas only 8 per cent villagers from Karamadai block, 6 per cent of villagers are from P.N Palayam block and Thondamuthur block of villagers are from ST Category.

Ninety eight per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, eighty one per cent of the villagers from P.N Palayam and eighty eight per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block are Hindus.

Sixty two per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, sixty eight per cent of the villagers from P.N.Palayam block and forty nine per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block have their educational qualification only upto middle school, whereas only 2 per cent villagers from Karamadai block, 6 per cent villagers from P.N.Palayam block and 2 per cent villagers from Thondamuthur block have graduation as their educational qualification. Marital status affects villagers access to sources of income, economic security and sociological well-being. Ninety one per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, eighty eight per cent of the villagers from P.N Palayam block and ninety two per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block are married.

Ninety one per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, Eighty eight per cent of the villagers from P.N.Palayam block and ninety two per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block come under nuclear type of family.

It is also observed that annual income of sixty two per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block and fifty four per cent of the villagers from P.N Palayam block is between Rs. 50,001 – Rs 1,00,000, followed by fifty four per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block with Rs 1,00,001 and above.

REASON FOR VOTING TO PRESIDENTS

Nineteen per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block and twenty one per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block selected their presidents for the reason that they needed change in their village. 13 per cent of villagers from P.N Palayam block state that presidents are their neighbours so they voted for them. One per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block voted for their presidents for political reason and reputation. Three per

cent of the villagers from P.N Palayam block and five per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block stated that they voted for their presidents because they belong to the same gender.

FACTORS RELATED TO ATTITUDE TOWARDS GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS

Factor I has significant loadings for the 12 factors namely Panchayat president is a good delegator, president is a problem solver, presidents is a good speaker, president is intelligent, president is a hard worker, president helps everyone, president is loyal, president is a visionary, president knows how to influence people and get support, presidents have confidence in doing any work, presidents have the ability to form network and to engage with others, president appreciates others and helps them to improve, president respects all the villagers. The Eigen value exceeding one was retained for the analysis. These factors could explain 65 per cent of the variations in the variables. Factor II has significant loadings on variables president can take decision in any certain situation, presidents like to communicate with others and president not is honest and fair in some aspects. The Eigen value exceeding one was retained for the analysis. These factors could explain 15 per cent of the variations in the variables

It is derived from the study that the factor I is found to be influential in providing information on factors related to the attitude towards the Gram Panchayat presidents of the selected villages as it explains 65 per cent of variance in the selected variables

THE FACILITIES GETTING FROM GRAM PANCHAYAT HOUSING FACILITY OF THE VILLAGERS

Seventy eight per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, eighty three per cent of the villagers from P.N.Palayam block and ninety two per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block stated that they had their own house. Twenty nine per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, twenty eight per cent villagers from P.N Palayam block and forty per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block stated that their houses were build under government housing scheme and Chief Ministers Solar Powered House Scheme (CMSPGHS). Twenty five per cent villagers from Karamadai block, seventeen per

cent per cent villagers from P.N.Palayam block and twenty eight per cent villagers from Thondamuthur block were beneficiaries coming under BPL category.

TOILET FACILITY OF THE VILLAGERS

Sixty six per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, eighty one per cent of the villagers from P.N Palayam block and sixty four per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block stated that they have flush in their toilet. Eighty three per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, seventy seven per cent of the villagers from P.N Palayam block and seventy three per cent of the villagers said that toilet was build under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan. Toilet was build after Panchayat election, MGNREGSA was involved in construction work and Gram Panchayta was directly involved in to select villagers as a beneficiaries, providing money and constructing the toilet.

DRINKING WATER FACILITY OF THE VILLAGERS

Sixty three per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, seventy six per cent of the villagers from P.N.Palayam block and sixty six per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block used private connection of pipeline for getting water in their houses as a drinking water source. Sixty three per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, seventy six per cent of the villagers from P.N Palayam block and thirty four per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block stated that private connection of pipeline was not given by the government and so they had to connect the line by themselves with no involvement of the Gram Panchayats in the provision of water supply.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DIFFERENT SCHEMES OF VILLAGERS

Cent per cent of the villagers from the three blocks had high level of knowledge about Central Rural sanitation programmes and MGNREGA. Seventy one per cent villagers from Karamadai block, eighty eight per cent villagers from P.N Palayam block and seventy per cent villagers from Thondamuthur block had high level of knowledge on MLACDS. Seventy eight per cent of the villagers from Karamadai block, sixty six per cent of the villagers from P.N.Palayam block and eighty per cent of the villagers from Thondamuthur block had high level of knowledge on Chief Minister Green House Scheme

OPINION OF VILLAGERS ABOUT THE ROLE OF GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS IN 11TH SCHEDULE

Cent per cent villagers from Karamadai block, Periyarayakkanpalayam block and Thondamuthur block satisfied about developing agricultural farm, Construction of rural housing for inhabitant Agriculture, Providing clean drinking water to the villagers, Development of primary and middle school, Women and child development in the village through ICDS and Welfare of the underprivileged, Distribute rural electrification for all the village household, particularly SCs and STs and Maintenance of community assets such as building, shopping complex, land exhibition, ground, marketing etc. Followed by only six per cent villagers from Karamadai block and eleventh per cent villagers from P.N Palayam block not satisfied with the role of Gram Panchayat in market and fairs. Eleventh(11) per cent villagers from Thondamuthur block not satisfied with the role of Gram Panchayat presidents in maintenance of PHC and dispensaries.

CORRELATION BETWEEN PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS WITH LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF THE GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS

Gram Panchayat presidents gender, age and educational qualification had shown positive significant association with leadership qualities of Gram Panchayat presidents at 0.01 per cent level of statistical significance. Variables challenges faced by the presidents and reason for voting presidents had shown positively significance with leadership qualities of the Gram Panchayat presidents at 0.05 per cent level of statistical significance. The variables namely gender, skill management and attitude towards presidents shown negatively significant with leadership qualities of Gram Panchayat presidents.

CORRELATION BETWEEN PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GRAM PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GRAM PANCHAYATS

Gram Panchayat presidents gender, age, \educational qualification, marital status, infrastructure facility of Gram Panchayat, Gram Sabha and capacity building of the Gram Panchayat presidents had shown positively significant association with performance of Gram Panchayat presidents.

CONCLUSION:

The Gram Panchayat is the key organization in charge of all rural development. Rural development depends on the performance of the Gram Panchayat presidents. From the three blocks the performance of Karamadai block Gram Panchayats is founded to be better than P.N Palayam Block and Thondamuthur Block. It is amazing to noted down that all the Gram Panchayatshave provided road facility, drinking water facility, drainage sanitation facilities. Availability of e-connectivity and use of software application is higher in Karamadai block compared to P.N Palayam block and Thondamuthur block. Overall development of Gram Panchayats is good in all the three blocks. Majority of the Gram Panchayat have sanitary complexes. The study shows that performance of the Gram Panchayat presidents was remarkable. Model village for Green House project Scheme at Odanthurai Gram Panchayat from Karamadai block and model village for solid waste management at Kurudamplayam Gram panchayats from Periyanaayakkanplayam block received Panchayat Shashktikaran Puraskar(PSP)award. It is amazing to note down that Thodamuthur block lead by women Gram Panchayat presidents Vellimalaipatinam received Panchayat Shashktikaran Puraskar(PSP) .Gram Panchayats in all the three blocks implemented all the schemes and villagers got benefited from the schemes. Finally, the research concluded that villagers benefit from Gram Panchayats because of Gram Panchayat leader efforts for infrastructure,enhancement,development,maintenance of road,drinking water system, drainage system, and sanitation system, as well as Gram Panchayat focus on ST,SC,women, and BPLs. Because of Gram Panchayat presidents at village level transformation happened. Presidents act as change agents in the fields of rural development andalso relationship between government and people.

“When the Panchayat raj is established,public opinion will do what violence can never do”

- Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the findings from the study the following recommendations are made:

To the Government

- ❖ Government should enforce all the Panchayat to celebrate Panchayat Raj day annually.
- ❖ During award ceremonies government should also follow the reservation for ST,SC and women leaders.
- ❖ Gram Panchayat should develop the capacity for documentation on Panchayat performance.Hence documentation skill should be strengthened.
- ❖ Capacity building should be strengthened especially to the secretary .President should be trained in computer application, e-governance and documentation.
- ❖ Organize workshop and training programme at Panchayats periodically particular to yuva shakti.

To the Gram Panchayat

- ❖ President should organize more number of programmes for youth and women in order to develop their skill and capacity.
- ❖ Gram Panchayats should conduct medical camps at local level once in a year.
- ❖ Gram Panchayats should keep public address system to village ,school,common places,bus stand and primary health centre.
- ❖ Gram Panchayats should have own Panchayat website.
- ❖ Gram Panchayats functionaries should have important Panchayat software and application
- ❖ Gram Panchayats functionaries should upload all the documents in the portals
- ❖ Gram Panchayats should allow all the school, college and University students to carry out their practical and internship.
- ❖ The Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audit of all the programme under the scheme taken up with in Gram Panchayat.
- ❖ Gram Panchayats should provide documentation to the students and research scholars.
- ❖ Encourage the public to utilize the Panchayat portal and apps.

To the Educational institution

- ❖ School, college and University should carry out their outreach activities on their specific domain in Gram Panchayats.
- ❖ Panchayats should be include college and University in GPDP work.
- ❖ Incentive to be given to University PhD scholars to carry out their research work in the field of Panchayat Raj.
- ❖ Publication should be strengthened.
- ❖ Block wise best practices of Panchayats should be made available to the public.
- ❖ Create awareness to the public and student regarding Panchayat mobile application.
- ❖ Educational institution should organize stress management programmes once in a year for Panchayat presidents.

“Panchayat raj is seen as good governance at village level that can help in developing any village”

- Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi