



Knowledge. Voice. Democracy.

PRI

research report

1998



Gram panchayats and their leaders in Uttar Pradesh

CONTENTS

CHAPTER-I

- * Introduction
- * Objectives of the Study

CHAPTER-II

- * Methodology
- * Organisation and Activities

CHAPTER-III

- * Findings and Analysis

CHAPTER-IV

- * Summary and Conclusion

- Appendix - I
- Appendix - II
- Appendix - III

Acknowledgements

I have my deepest acknowledgement to all those who rendered their valuable assistance in completing this report. First of all I express my heartfelt thanks to Mr Ashok Bhai, Mr Prabal Roy and Mr Nagendra Singh for their inspiring suggestions to me from the very beginning to the end of this report.

I express my sincere gratitude to Mr Gopal Bhai, Director of the Akhil Bharatiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Manikpur. Mr Avdesh Gautam, Secretary of Utkarsh Sansthan, Banda. Mr Ambrish Kumar, Secretary of Gram Umnesh Sansthan, Banda. Mr Aftab Alam, Secretary of the Bharat Manav Samaj Kalyan Sewa Sansthan, Bahraich, Mr Dhurwa Kumar, Secretary of Navchetan, Bahraich and Mr Radhey Krishna, Secretary of Samarpan Jan Kalyan Samiti, Jalaun for their kind cooperation extended to me during the visits. I also acknowledge the efforts of the staff members of the above Voluntary Agencies for making the field visits possible.

My special thanks are due to various gram panchayat representatives and other villagers who shared information with me as they left no stone unturned in extending their cooperation and support. Without this the study would not have been possible. However, their names are too numerous to be mentioned here.

I also express my sincere gratitude to the personnel in SSK's computer section for preparing the report in time.

Lastly, I am thankful to my colleagues who extended valuable encouragement to me from the beginning to the end of this study.

-Rajvinder Kaur

Chapter- I

"When the Panchayat Raj is established, public opinion will do what violence can never do. The present power of the Zamindars, the capitalists and the Rajas can hold away so long as the common people do not realise their own strength. If the people non-cooperate with the evil of Zamindari or capitalism, it must die of inanition. In Panchayat Raj only the Panchayat will be obeyed and the Panchayat can only work through the law of their making."

Mahatma Gandhi
Harijan; 1.6.1947

Introduction

Decentralisation of power is necessary for rural masses to join the mainstream and claim rightful participation in the process of development and governance. To carry power to the rural masses an attempt was made in the shape of 73rd Amendment to the Constitution, enacted on 24th April, 1993.

The "73rd Amendment is not just a political process but a vital tool for socio-economic change. While the desire to reorganize the Indian society into self-governed units at village level through Panchayati raj was enshrined in Article 40 of the Constitution. It was a dream of the leaders of our country to shape our future destiny through a combined effort at all levels. It was only after the 73rd amendment that the scope and expanse of panchayats were spelled in earnest.

Elections to the three levels of panchayats were held in Uttar Pradesh in 1995 in accordance with this Act. For the first time a large number of women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes contested elections and were elected to different levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions,

After the elections, the Voluntary Agencies are trying to empower Panchayat representatives, specially those belonging to the backward class, so they can discharge their duties efficiently. The State Government is also about to enter the fray.

In this context, SSK undertook a study to know the real situation of panchayats and the VAs' efforts to strengthen panchayats. For this study, SSK selected eight VAs, committed to empower the elected panchayat representatives through trainings, meetings, etc. They are also involved in microplanning with panchayats.

The following VAs were covered for this study ;

1. Akhil Bharatiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Manikpur
2. Mahila Jagriti Mandal, Karvi,
3. Utkarsh Sansthan, Banda
4. Gram Umnesh Sansthan, Banda
5. Navchetan, Bahraich
6. Bharatiya Manav Samaj Kalyan Sewa Sansthan, Bahraich
7. Samarpan Jan Kalyan Samiti, Jalaun
8. Shri Nispaksha Dev Jan Kalyan Samiti.

Objectives of the Study

To know

- The present situation and dynamics of gram panchayats.
- Awareness level
- Empowering level
- Implementation of development work,
- Pressure on backward or poor classes,
- Constraints faced by pradhans in their work
- Motivational factors etc.

Chapter- II

"I know the village economics; I tell you that pressure at the top crushes those at the bottom. All that is necessary is to get off their backs."

Mahatma Gandhi

Methodology

This study is an effort to understand the present situation of panchayats, its functioning, effectiveness, awareness level of Gram Panchayat representatives, implementation of rural development programmes and the role of V As in the strengthening of Gram Panchayats.

Observation

Observation of the area provides indispensable knowledge. The causal conversation was very useful as it provided valuable information. The members and pradhans became more friendly and participated in the process more openly.

Group Discussions

In this study the researcher had conducted meetings, group discussion &, selecting opinions and interviews. For the purpose of the study, the researcher had designed a questionnaire which mainly focus on the members and Pradhans views on Panchayati raj system, the problem faced by them, the relationship of pradhan and members of Gram Panchayats.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire describes the members and pradhans of Gram Panchayat, the social life, their problems, their perception about Gram Panchayats. The researcher had a participated approach in conducting this study. The main objective of this study was to know the present situation of Gram panchayats. For this purpose. I have done the data collection in a participation manner and the approach was people centered approach.

Stratified Random Sampling Method

The sample selected for the study was done through Stratified random sampling method. The interviewer on reaching the VAs met the chief functionaries of each VAs and then selected 1 or 2 Gram Panchayats from their working area and then the Pradhan and members interviewed.

Organisations and Their Activities Related to Panchayats

Efforts of the Organisations

1. Shri Nispaksha Dev Jan kalyan Samiti

Shri Nispaksha Dev Jan Kalyan Samiti is a registered voluntary organisation working with Panchayats in Fatehpur District. The organisation has started working with panchayats at the time of election. The head of organisation is the pradhan and so he is very much aware about the panchayats. The past experience is a positive point in him hence he empowers the people and makes them aware of the situation.

Organisation has given imparted training and learning material to the staff which has proved beneficial in making people aware about Panchayati raj. The results of this election can be seen now. After

getting aware about responsibilities of PRI members, member of three Gram panchayats have passed nonconfidence motion against their pradhan. After this district magistrate asks the organisation to stop their awareness programme as many problems started arising out of that.

In future organisation has planned to make people aware of Gram Sabha. So, that in the future election villages would have better aware and knowledgeable representatives.

2. Gram Unmesh Sansthan

It is new voluntary organisation and got registered in 1997, working in the Banda District. Presently the organisation is doing voluntary work in one Nyay Panchayat. Their plan is to make Gram Sabha aware and to identify the needs of Panchayat representatives and to trained them. They have organised a two days training programme for Panchayat Representatives and Gram Sabha which provided lot of insight to the representatives of panchayats.

3. Utkarsh Sansthan

Utkarsh Sansthan is also a voluntary organisation working in the Banda district of Uttar Pradesh This organisation got registered in 1989.

The organisation has been interacting with panchayats before elections. The organisation was very much aware about the traditional panchayat raj system, and it is working with less difficulty. The organisation has motivated many candidates to contest in panchayat election. Some of them got elected on reserve seats.

When organisation started working with panchayats, people become aware and there people came forward with non-confidence motion against SC female pradhan. In spite of all this people were serious about panchayats and its activities.

According to organisation the people are now becoming critically aware of the situation and functioning of panchayats. It was evident through the discussion that if the pradhan were enforced with the law it would hamper their work and efficiency. Hence it was very, important to find out an assertive way how to put forward the new Act in root of the people. Gram Sabha is unaware of the new laws enforced. So, the organisation thinks that it is necessary to give more imputes to the traditional panchayats raj system.

The organisation feels that the candidates come from the Gram Sabha and hence they should be made aware of the present situation at first .

4. Mahila Jagriti Mandal

This organisation has been registered in 1993. This organisation is working since 1991 for panchayats especially for women so that they can get ready for panchayats.

Many female candidates won elections after the efforts of the organisation. The organisation organised a programme for the newly elected members representative after election. But the number of women representatives were less and they were represented as proxy representatives by their husbands I relatives.

There were so many dummy pradhans who was representing the community through their wives during elections. When the organisation inquired about this fact then the females responded that they have come in this field because of the efforts of their husbands and other relatives, so that they should be welcomed.

So, after this the organisation has started making female representatives aware in this matter: The result of all these efforts are coming forward like women's are coming out of their home and they have become aware about their responsibilities.

This organisation also feels the need of strengthening Gram Sabha.

5, Akhil Bharatiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan

Akhil Bharatiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan is a voluntary organisation registered under society registration act 1860 on 1978.

For last two decades the ABSSS is engaged in the development of Kol tribal community of Patha area of district Banda. Organisation has organised many trainings and workshops to the elected representatives. The organisation has organised 13 Sanchalan Samities in different Gram panchayats. Organisation also planned to evaluate the pradhans of their area.

Following & factors have come across during study.

- (i) Presence of male pradhan in panchayat meeting is negligible.
- (ii) Pressure from high class.
- (iii) Administrative pressure.
- (iv) Irregular meeting of Gram Panchayat & Gram Sabha
- (v) Female pradhan are getting strengthened of few panchayats.
- (vi) Information level is low of female than males.

6. Bharatiya Manav Samaj Kalyan Sewa Sansthan

Bharatiya Manav Samaj Kalyan Sewa Sansthan is a voluntary agency registered under Society Registration act 1860 in 1989. This organisation is working in Bahraich District of U.P.

This organisation is working with Tharu community. So, they motivated females from this opportunity to come into the fray. In this context organisation has started impacting trainings to make them aware but the males had opposed the training programmes. Hence, they had postponed the training programmes. At the time of training new things came across such as;

1. There was conflict between the traditional panchayats (panchayat by Tharu community) and new panchayats.
2. 'Tharus' being tribals and they are dependent mainly on forest. So the elected members raise their voice against forest law.
3. They have also raise the issues of Government primary school.

7. Samarpan Jan Kalyan Samiti

Samarpan Jan Kalyan Samiti is a voluntary organisation working in Konch, in Jalaun district of U P. This organisation started its work by generating awareness among the voters. Seven females came into the fray from rural self help groups. Five of them were elected and four became pradhans of Gram Panchayats. But after analysing the situation we came to know that Ex-pradhans supported these females. Organisations has not made separate programme for Panchayati Raj but relate it with other issues.

8. Navchetan

This Organisation is working in Mihipurva, Bahraich since the last eight years. They are working with Panchayati Raj through self-help groups and many of them came into the fray for election. The main objective is to make people more and more aware about Panchayati raj with other issues.

Chapter - III

"Instead of the five thousands old elected representatives, who run the Government at the centre and in the state at present, now there will be twenty two and a half lakhs elected representatives to govern the country."

Rameshwar Thakur

Minister of State for Rural Development

Findings and Analysis

1. Table (1) Showing educational Background of Pradhans

SI No	Educational Status	Male	Female	Total	%
1.	Illiteracy	1	5	6	37.5
2.	Primacy
3.	Middle
4.	Secondary	4	.	4	25
5.	Inter/Hr. Sec	2	.	2	12.5
6.	Graduate	1	.	1	6.25
7.	Post Graduate	1	.	1	6.25
8.	Professional	-	.	.	.
9.	Literate	.	2	2	12.5
	TOTAL	9	7	16	100

The above table shows the educational back-ground of the respondents/Pradhans were interviewed. Out of 16, 9 are male and 7 are female. The table clearly shows that about (6) 37.5% of the people are illiterate. They don't know how to read and write. They only can sign and speak Hindi.

The table shows that out of 6 illiterate pradhans, 5 are women. Out of 7 women, only 2 are literate, which equals the Percentage 12.7%, These two women were imparted literacy by the effort of the voluntary organisation. They have the knowledge of Dev Negri script, and have attended literacy classes.

The rest 4 out of 16 have passed higher secondary education. 2 of them are intermediate and 1 male pradhan is a post graduate and another one is graduate.

The table (1) shows that out of 2 male pradhans only 1 pradhan is illiterate who doesn't know reading and writing.

A considerable ability of reading and writing should be necessary condition to be a pradhan though its not a statutory requirement. By and large it shows that out of 16 respondents interviewed 10 are literate, and have adequate qualification.

This means that about 62.5% (10) of the respondent are literate which clearly shows that by and large do not lack in education and are enough qualified to undertake the responsibilities and were keen to their position in the Panchayati Raj system.

2. Table (2) Showing Age Composition of the Leaders

Age Group	Male	Female	Total	%
25-30	1	1	2	12.5
30-35	1	1	2	12.5
35-40	3	1	4	23.0
40-45	2	1	3	18.75
45-50	3	2	5	31.25
TOTAL	9	7	16	100

The minimum age laid down for the Panchayati Raj leaders is 21 years, but the analysis of the age structure of the pradhans interviewed evidence a great variations.

The table showing the age-group classification reveals that the percentage of leaders in the age-group of 25-30 is only 12.5%, which is less significant, Similarly, the large number of pradhan group. There are 12 respondents who are from 35-50 age-groups who have adequate experience and are matured enough to handle development works- related to panchayats. Though they are matured enough, they have their own prejudices.

Out of 16, 4 respondents are young, energetic to handle lot of work, but the young pradhans need experience and they also need support from other experienced pradhans,

The age-group is a very vital factor, when we consider a village situation, most of the villages, people still like to elect elder members as their representatives, but in case of women candidates this is vice-versa. In village situation the popularity of the particular person is one of the major condition and only then educational qualification comes.

3. Table (3) Showing Pradhans and their Caste

Sl. No.	Caste	Male	Female	Total	%
1.	Rajput	1	2	3	18.75
2.	Brahmin	.	.	-	.
3.	S.C.	3	5	5	50.00
4.	S.T.	2	-	2	12.50
5.	O.B.C .	1	-	1	6.12
6.	Others	2	-	2	12.25

	TOTAL	9	7	16	100
--	-------	---	---	----	-----

Above table reflects the following facts. The factor of dominant caste is very significant in understanding the rural leadership. Their responses, signifying the fact that though only 3 out of 16 respondent are Rajput, but they have a large control over their panchayats.

To understand the conditions of few backward pradhans, more number of Backward caste were taken for the study. About 13 out of 16 pradhans belongs to the backward caste. But the striking difference is that though the backward caste have been elected either through reservation provision or through public opinion, but the control of all the map activities of the panchayat is within the control of upper caste. This is very difficult to see in picture. But when we probe deeper, and through discussion with people, the community accepts the fact that backward caste still have very little say in decision making aspect. The reasons of this situations are many. Some responded it as due lo lack of awareness, less educated community, the malpractices of government department or may the nexus between government officials and pradhans. In rural U.P. the caste determines a lot of things a.ad it is more prevalent in the south part of U.P.

Hence the Organisation or VAs working here a great responsibility to critically analyse the present scenario and do something to bring about a radical change. Otherwise the reservation given to the backward will remain just a hogwash.

4. Table (4) Showing tile Classification on the basis of Main Occupation of Pradhans

SL No.	Occupation	Male	Female	Total
	I. Main Occupation			
1.	Agriculture	9	7	16
2.	Business	4	-	4
	II. Secondary Occupation			
3.	Contractor	1	.	1
4.	Animal Husbandry	2	2	4
5.	Vegetable Growing and selling	1	2	3

Agricultural land is an important variable whether helpful in achieving the rural leadership, as it is one of the most potent and immutable kind of wealth. More land is not only the source of income but it also generates the employment for landless labours and this becomes an important factor of influence over others based those employed by the landlord.

Most of the respondent were carrying out agriculture as the main occupation. The data in the table no. 4 demonstrate that 9 male and 7 female carry agriculture as this main occupation. Out of 16 respondent 4 male respondents have business. They carry out some business also like selling of agriculture produce, provision shop, ration shop etc.

The data also reveals to the fact the out of 16 respondent 1 male respondent are engaged in can tractor job. Though not full-fledged but occasional. Also, the data reflects 4 respond ems are engaged in animal husbandry, which also generate considerable income to the family.

5. Table (5) Showing Motivation Factors which inspired the Leaders

S No	Factors	Male	Female	Total	%
1.	Villagers	7	1	8	50
2.	Husband/Family	-	4	4	25
3.	Ex. Pradhan	-	2	2	12.5
4.	Self-Motivated	1	-	1	6.25
5.	Organisation	1	-	1	6.25
6.	Others	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	9	7	16	100

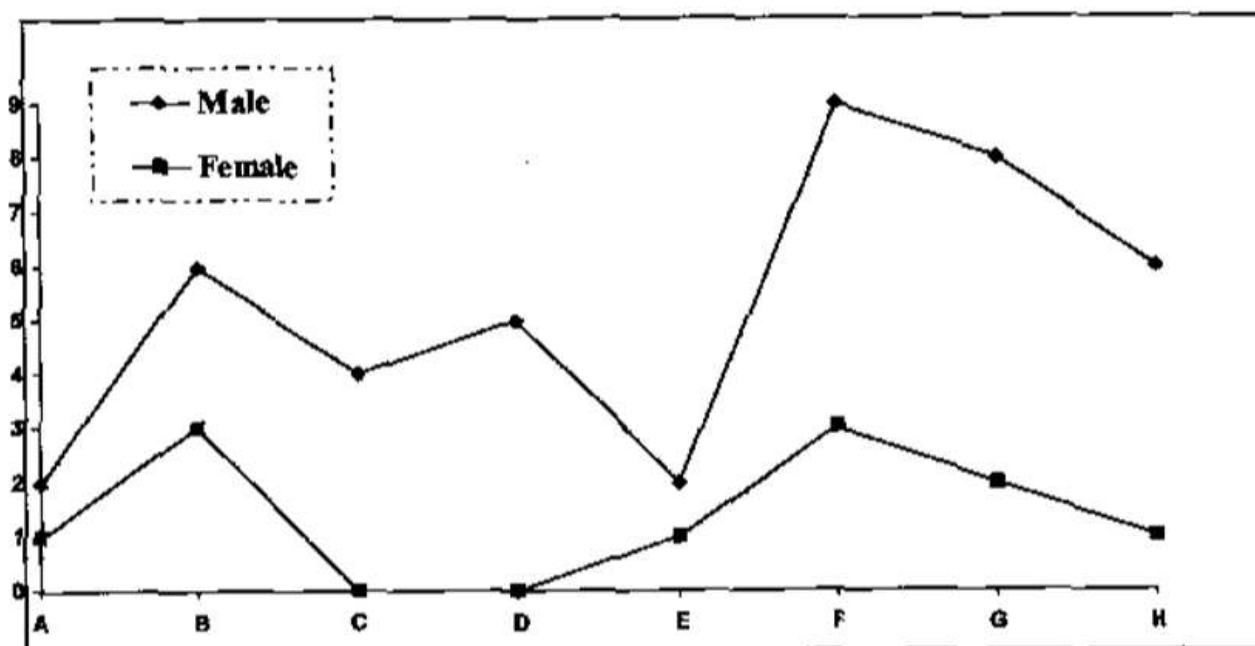
Table indicates that about 50% i.e. 8 out of 16 have become leaders because they were motivated by the villagers or they came up as leaders in the general interest of rural community. As shown in the table 7 out of 9 male pradhans were motivated by villagers to context election. They were supported by their community. It's a vast contrast that only one woman member were supported by the community to context election. This clearly states that the rural community still has hesitation and hick ups in supporting women and expecting women as leaders. out of 7, 4 females pradhans were supported by the ex-pradhan,

An interesting feature, we see here is that none of the women candidates were not self motivated to context election. One of the Pradhan was self motivated and other one is supported by the organisation.

The above figure reveals some realities. The concept of social work is not seen and is very less practiced by the pradhans. It is quite clear that only one out of the 16 respondent was supported by a social development organisation and also had self-motivation. As represented in the table, the parameters like public interest, self, motivation, support from family, ex-pradhan etc. were taken into study. Most of the respondent almost gave more than two-three reasons as mentioned above. But the respondent were asked to give one particular and most important reason and that was taken into consideration.

Social viability, therefore, seems to be a potent force in the emergence of leadership. Recognition of the society is directly reflected in such cases, and such leaders of pradhans gain popularity and public support. If they really represent the community.

6. Figure (1) Showing Factors of Leadership



- A Social service
- B Social amiability
- c Eradication of corruption
- D Political
- E. Education
- F Family background
- G Caste
- H Economic prosperity

In the figure given above some factors of leadership are shown. The exercise is done to take a common understanding of all the male pradhans. The scaling has been done taking the average of 7 pradhans, The factors of their leadership through different, but at a certain stage an average has been taken.

The analysis clearly shows for male members have a view that family background was the most important factor and most of the male members had a better family background.

The least important factor that influenced their leadership was education.

Among the female members factors like eradication of corruption and political influence were the factor which is least important. But among them social amiability and family background were factor which directly influenced them to become pradhans.

The fact is that the women pradhans have very little educational qualification which is a very important factor. In the analysis understanding education has to be taken a very, serious factor. Unfortunately not considered important in our rural communities.

7. Table (6) Showing Awareness Level of Pradhman

S No	Awareness Level	Yes	No	Have little knowledge
1.	Meetings of G.S.	12	3	1
2.	Meeting of G.P.	10	4	2
3.	Reservation of women	9	4	3
4.	Removal of Gram Pradhan	7	7	2
5.	Duration of Gram Panchayat	12	4	-
6.	Rights of Gram Panchayat	6	6	4
7.	G.P. received funds	10	5	1
8.	G.P. generated funds	6	8	2
9.	Preparation of proposal and sending it to concerned dept	5	10	1
10.	Knowledge of 73rd amendment	3	10	3

It was very interesting to understand the awareness level of pradhans interviewed during the study. Basically 10 common but important factors were taken into consideration to assess the awareness level.

The above table shows most of the pradhans had enough knowledge regarding the following-

1. Meeting of Gram Sabha 12/16
2. Meeting of Gram Panchayat 10/16
3. Duration of Gram Panchayat 12/16
4. G.P. receiving funds 10/16

These were the factors which the pradhans could elaborate and share their experiences during the semi-structured interviews. The factors like:

1. Knowledge of 73rd Amendment
2. G.P. generate resources
3. Preparation of project proposal and sending it to the concerned department were answered.

Considering the total Actors together 12 out of 16 respondents have the knowledge of Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats etc.

The respondents in totality have lesser knowledge of the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats which clearly shows that their awareness level is much below the satisfactory level. Though, they are the elected representatives of the people.

About 12% of the respondents are in a state of dilemma with certain factors.

8. Table (7) Showing Constraints Faced by Pradhans in Their Work

S No	Constraints	Response of gram pradhans	
		Yes	No
1.	Financial	13	3
2.	Administrative	12	4
3.	Lack of Information	10	6
4.	Lack of Transportation	5	11
5.	Do not pay due respect to PRI representatives	8	8
6.	Pressure of pressure groups (High caste)	9	7

Most of the Pradhans (13 out of 16) said that lack of financial resources is the first and foremost impediment in their village development work. They gave the reason that the money comes for a single purpose not for all the development work. Under JRY and DRDA money is given in installments, out of which the commission goes to bureaucrats etc. The second thing they said that they were not in a position to raise or collect funds by Govt. give aid any grants according to their local needs. Out of 16, pradhans said that if they were not ready to pay commission to the bureaucrats, they faced lots of problems like they would pass orders to investigate the work done by Pradhans in their areas or did not release funds.

The absence of administration at Gram Panchayat level was also a bottle neck in the whole process of development.

Out of 16, 10 pradhans responded that they do not have adequate knowledge of govt. schemes like IR.DP, JRY, DWACRA, etc. (i.e. the researcher observed that they had a very little knowledge even JRY means 'Khadanza pavement').

Second thing, most of the schemes of rural development are designed either by the Central Govt. or by the State Govt. such as integrated rural development programme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, etc. Irrespective of the local needs of the panchayats uniform programmes are given to the panchayats only under these schemes and the leaders are constraints to work under these fixed centralised schemes which are contrary to the concept of decentralisation of democratic power through Panchayati Raj.

Out of 16 respondents 8 responded that bureaucrats do not pay due respect to the pradhan and members. And another 9 said that they are facing problem in decision making due to the pressure of high castes. (i.e. the pradhan of Kalyanpur Gram Panchayat belong to the low caste but Up-Pradhan and Ex-Pradhan belong to the high caste. So they are influence and if the Pradhan have to take his own decision with other members, they put pressure on them.

9. Table (8) Showing the Vision about Panchayats

S No	Vision about panchayats	Male	Female	Total
1.	Proper function of panchayats	5	3	8
2.	Link Panchayats with development work	9	7 -	16
3.	Each panchayat should have facilities like education, health etc	6	4	10
4.	Effective Panchayats	5	4	9
5.	Decentralized planning	7	6	13
6.	Women empowerment	4	7	11
7.	Self-reliant	5	7	12
8.	Fully literate	4	4	8

The above table shows the following like the pradhans have a definite vision about their respective constitutions. Out of 16 pradhans interviewed, most of them had a positive attitude towards their constituencies. Most of the male pradhans have an optimistic view about their own capabilities and they want to have development initiatives in their respective reasons.

In the same way 7 out of 16 are female pradhans have a positive attitude most of the pradhans are in the favour of decentralised planning out of 9 males of 1 female and 6 out.

But interestingly male pradhan have less per capacity towards empowering women and in the same way most of the male pradhans have lesser mental keenness or interest towards making that community fully literate.

Women pradhans have a different vision about the parameters like women empowerment and regarding literacy. Women pradhans are committed to promote literacy and they want to do concrete work for empowering women.

Though, almost all the pradhans face lots of constraints in their respective areas but have a very positive vision which they are very much hopeful.

Chapter-IV

"I regard village panchayats as an institution by itself. But thanks to the degradation of the caste system and the evil influence of the present system of government and the growing illiteracy of the masses, this ancient and noble institutions has fallen into dusted, and where it has not, it has lost its former purity and bold. It must, however, be revived at any cost if the villages are not to be ruined."

Conclusion

This study was an attempt to understand the existing Panchayat Raj Institutions in our rural areas specially in backward communities.

It was also an attempt to understand in-depth the emerging pattern of leadership in its constitutional setting. The primary aim was to understand the psychological consequences of pradhans in the three tier system. It was also interesting to understand the role of pradhan and the role of Panchayat members.

Leadership is the key-stone of Panchayat Raj Institutions and therefore the study has provided considerable scope for investigation on the aforesaid Issues of Panchayati Raj. The study also reveals the pradhans mental keenness toward rural development. The leaders have their own leadership qualities and the people have elected them as leaders. This has brought a lot of enthusiasm among the leaders whop.by a major role in shaping up the future of the rural society. In the present study many realities are unpacked which shows that the 73rd amendment act has not reached the common masses; It indicates that the leaders have their own understanding and have a personal vision of development. Very few of the leaders strongly believe that Panchayati Raj can really about a radical change in our community. It has been observed that the leaders have a backing of their respective caste and their respective family members, thus indicates that the numerical strength of the caste plays a significant role in the making of a leader.

Though, there appears to be hostility with the pradhans and things not very smooth fur them an well as for the community. In spite of all the weaknesses, it confirms and strengthens our perception that the Panchayati Raj Act has brought about a lot of awareness among the rural communities. Panchayat Raj has also broken the shackles of bureaucracy and now the rural community too feels the sense of decentralised planning.

As it was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi to give power to the local people through a process of decentralisation of power. The dream has taken room and the dream has started to grow. In some places the roots have gone deeper into the soil and in some it hasn't. Out effort will be to see the dream growing at its fullest.

Appendix- I

Caselet 1

Chandrawati is the new Pradhan of Barhal Gram Panchayat in Nadigaon block of Jalaun district. She belongs to a scheduled caste, which has traditionally served the upper caste.

However, awareness has been gradually building up among the scheduled castes by the organisation and they are challenging some of the more glaring injustices of the existing socio-economic system. Chandrawati was elected the village Pradhan in the last panchayat elections. The ex-pradhan who belongs to a high caste (Thakur) supported her.

However, bitter experiences also awaited Chandrawati. She was keen to implement development schemes in her village and wanted to do something for her village. But the ex-pradhan tried to exploit her. He interfered in the Panchayat's activities and did all sorts of exploitation with her. When she wanted to do her work independently with the help of VA (Samrpan Jan Kalyan Samiti) he threatened her that, he would kill her or defame her if she tried to go against him.

Chandrawati narrated that "I am a villager and I have to live in the village. My husband is not such a strong person who can stand against the Thakurs. So, I have to obey him (the ex-pradhan) as he had supported me in the election."

The organisation tries to motivate the pradhan to come out from her present situation and do her work without any pressure.

Caselet 2

Rajan Kol is the new Pradhan of Sarhat gram panchayat in Manikpur block of Banda district. He belongs to the community of Kol tribals which has traditionally been entirely subservient to the big landowners. Many of them worked as bonded labours, living just for the comforts of their "masters".

However, awareness has been gradually building up among the Kols and they are challenging some of the more glaring injustices of the existing socio-economic system. Rajan Kol is a leading activist of Patha Kol Adhikar- Manch, a forum for asserting the rights of Kol tribals. When he was elected the village pradhan in the last panchayat elections, this process of awareness got a high boost. Members of the Kol community saw to their surprise that even big landowners had to come to a member of their community to get some work done.

However, bitter experiences also awaited Rajan Kol. He was keen to implement development schemes in his village, but found that the concerned officials expected him to pay commissions and cuts before any money could become available for his village. This meant that lesser money will be available for development work and that he will not be able to maintain proper accounts as the bribes obviously cannot be shown in the accounts.

Rajan decided to resist this. Several efforts were made to co-opt him. Threats were tried. Development funds were also held back. But when all this did not work, officials finally relented and Rajan's village started getting its share of development funds. With the help of the villagers Rajan has been able to implement a model afforestation scheme where nearly 2,500 trees of mixed species have survived despite adverse conditions. In addition work on the construction of culverts and village paths has been implemented properly.

3. पंचायतों में आने की प्रेरणा आपको कहीं से मिली?
 - i. संस्था से
 - ii. स्वयं से
 - iii. पूर्व प्रधान से
 - iv. परिवार या पति से
4. क्या आपको पंचायतों के नियम/ कानून की जानकारी है? यदि हाँ तो ये जानकारी आपको कहीं से मिली?
5. कोई पंचायत से सम्बन्धित वीडियो फिल्म या आडियो कैसेट देखा या सुना है?
6. क्या आपने पंचायत राज पर कोई प्रशिक्षण लिया है, यदि हाँ तो कहीं और कितना?
7. इन प्रशिक्षण से आपको अपने कार्यों को करने में कुछ लाभ हुआ?

जागरूकता :

1. ग्राम पंचायत की बैठक कब-कब होती है-
 - i. महीने में एक बार
 - ii. दो महीने में एक बार
 - iii. छः महीने में एक बार
2. ग्राम सभा की बैठक कब बुलाते हैं ?
 - i. महीने में एक बार
 - ii. दो महीने में एक बार
 - iii. छः महीने में एक बार
3. पंचायतों में कितनी महिलाओं का आरक्षण है?
 - i. 1/3
 - ii. 1/5
 - iii. 1/2
4. ग्राम पंचायत की मीटिंग की अध्यक्षता कौन करता है-
 - i. ग्राम प्रधान
 - ii. उप प्रधान
 - iii. सचिव

5. ग्राम पंचायत के प्रधान को हटा सकते हैं-
 - i. 1/5 सदस्यों द्वारा अविश्वास प्रस्ताव पारित कर
 - ii. 2/3 सदस्यों द्वारा अविश्वास प्रस्ताव पारित कर
 - iii. सचिव द्वारा
6. पंचायतों का गठन होता है-
 - i. एक साल बाद
 - ii. तीन साल बाद
 - iii. पाँच साल बाद
7. ग्राम पंचायत के कार्यों के संचालन व प्रधान को सहयोग देने के लिए कौन सा सरकारी अधिकारी नियुक्त किया जाता है?
8. पंचायतों में अब नया कानून बना है उसके बारे में आपको जानकारी है - हाँ तो बतायें -
9. क्या आप जानते हैं कि पंचायत में विकास के लिए धन आता है। हाँ/नहीं
यदि हाँ तो ये धन कहाँ से व किस काम के लिए आता है।
10. क्या आप प्रस्ताव विकास कार्यों के लिए तैयार करते हैं। प्रस्ताव तैयार करने के बाद उसे कहाँ भेजते हैं ?
11. क्या पंचायतें अपने क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध संसाधनों का प्रयोग कर सकती हैं ?
12. अपने ग्राम पंचायत की मुख्य समस्याओं जैसे स्वास्थ्य, सड़क, शिक्षा आदि को सुलझाने के लिए एक पंचायत राज सदस्य होने के नाते आप क्या चाहते हैं?
13. इन कार्यों को करने में किन समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है?
14. आप जिस कार्य को करना चाहते हैं क्या उसमें गाँव वालों का सहयोग रहता है? कोई उदाहरण दें।
15. भविष्य में पंचायतों के प्रति आपकी सोच क्या है?
16. अपने कार्यों को कारगर ढंग से निर्वाह के लिए आपकी क्या जरूरतें हैं?
17. इन जरूरतों को पूरा करने में आपके क्या प्रयास हैं?

?nncl bg-1

	Q,Lm	Bgnar	@mai	Elk ,N_l af_w_r	Ami qnscl rTij_ecq
G	I_p`g		K_l`g nsp	Q_p`r	- Q_p`r - N_r_l - K_l`g nsp&sp_j' Hf_p`g ajsbge f_k jcrq mdc_af t`ij_ec
0,	I_p`g		K_l`g nsp	I_jw_l nsp	-@_l bf u_ í J_vf k_l nsp - F_p`p`l bg - I_jw_l nsp - l f_bp_
1,	?jj_f`_`_b		Qf_l`i_p`e_p`f	H_l u_	-?_k embf_p - H_l u_ - Jcrf cp - ?t_w_nsp í R_i_r_g - Af`g`g_v_ í N_af_qf_ - Esl`h_i_u_ - K_sf_p_
2,	@_l b_		H_qnsp_	Af_l bu_p_	-Af_l bu_p_
3,	@_l b_		H_qnsp_	L_p_sjg	- L_p_sjg
4,	@_l b_		@_bmi f_p l f spb	F_rcrgnspu_	- l_f_j_ - F_rcrgnspu_ - ,@_ef nspu_ - Ksjjgi _ Nspu_
5,	@_l b_		@_bmi f_p`l`sp`b	E_l a`_	-E_l af_
6,	D_rcf nsp		l f_i_	E_spp_l bg	-E_spp_l bg
7,	D_rcf nsp		l f_i_	@_gg	-@_gg
8,	H_jm_l		L_b`g`_m`t	@_p`_j	- @_p`_j
//,	H_jm_l		L_l b`g`_m`t	@_wnt_	-@_wnt_
/0,	H_jm_l		L_l b`g`_m`t	Q_j_g	- Q_j_g
/1,	@_f_p`_g`f		K`g`_g`_nspu_ K`g`_g`_nspu_	D_i`g`_nsp`g`g Bf_l`l`_nsp	D_i`g`_nsp`g`g Bf_l`l`_nsp
9,	@_f_p`_g`f		K`g`_g`_nspu_	@_m`g`_	@_m`g`_
/4,	@_f_p`_g`f		K`g`_g`_nspu_	K_h_i`_`	K_h_i`_`

© 1998 PRIA. The text may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes, provided credit is given to PRIA. To obtain permission for uses beyond those outlined in the Creative Commons license, please contact PRIA Library at library@pria.org. Please use the following citation:
PRIA (1998): Gram panchayats and their leaders in Uttar Pradesh



Participatory Research in Asia
42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062
Ph:+91-011-29960931/32/33
Web: www.pria.org