

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE & MANAGEMENT

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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PEOPLES PARTICIPATION IN GRAM SABHA AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Gandhiji's political philosophy which paved penchants prime position in building a new India based on gramswaraj paved the way for making panchayats effective instrument of grass root governance and participatory development. It is an undisputable part that decentralization is key to both healthy democracies for the socio-economic development of Indian society. This article seek to present the findings of an empirical study of people participation in gramsabha of Harugeri village a biggest panchayat of Karnataka state, for exploring the extent of peoples participation in gramsabha as a result of an implementation of section of 2 Karnataka state ZP, TP, GP and NP Act – 1993. This made provision for the people's participation at grass root level for village development it also aims at making some suggestions for making participation of people affective in this institution of decentralize of rural governance. The study is an attempt to understand people participation in gramsabha for rural development and empowerment in all the villages of Gram Panchayat Harugeri.

KEYWORDS

Democratic decentralization, people participation, Panchayat raj institution, gramsabha.

INTRODUCTION

Democratic decentralization in terms of Panchayat raj institutions was a post independence phenomenon; there has been legacy and tradition of village Panchayats since time immemorial in India. These bodies could survive even during drastic change and upheavals that took place in the country. Lord Ripon who took the initiative in establishing self government in India. The involvement of the people in their development through grassroots democratic institutions like PRIs was completed in the five year plan itself. But instead of establishing panchayats, community development and necessary programme was launched which could not bring about people's participation. This drew the attention of the second plan which said that democratic institution within the district should be created where the entire community, particularly the weaker sections might get involved in developmental activities. for this purpose, the Balwant Rai Mehta team was appointed to study and present report on the community developmental project and national extension service. the Ashok Mehta committee, while reviewing and evaluating the Panchayat raj observed politically speaking, it became a process of democratic seed drilling in the Indian soil, making an average citizen more conscious of his rights than before.

The team was broadly suggested two directions for inducing peoples participation in local decision making. First, administrative decentralization and second, bringing it under the control of elected bodies for effective implementation of developmental programme. The team was recommended three tire system for decentralization.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out awareness among peoples about gramsabha
- To explore participation of people in decision making process in gramsabha and rural development.

METHODOLOGY

The study covered one of the biggest Panchayat namely Harugeri in Karnataka state, which includes 3 villages like Harugeri, Harugeri-cross and Bykod. The selection of Panchayat by purposeful sampling method and selection of respondent made by stratified and random sampling method for insuring that the unit selected for study becomes as far possible people of Harugeri Panchayat as whole. The entire 170 respondents including male female from various socioeconomic and political background were interviewed. The questionnaire was administrated to them during November December 2011 for this purpose.

73RD AMENDMENT

The idea that produced the 73rd Amendment was not a response to pressure from the grassroots, but to an increasing recognition that the institutional initiatives of the preceding decade had not delivered, that the extent of rural poverty was still much too large and thus the existing structure of government needed to be reformed. The Constitutional (73rd Amendment) Act, passed in 1992 by the Narasinha rao government, came into force on April 24, 1993. It was meant to provide constitutional sanction to establish "democracy at the grassroots level as it is at the state level or national level".

GRAMA SABHA

The Gram Sabha or village assembly as a deliberative body to decentralised governance has been envisaged as the foundation of the Panchayati Raj System. A uniform three-tier structure of panchayats at village (Gram Panchayat — GP), intermediate (Panchayat Samiti — PS) and district (Zilla Parishad — ZP) levels. The gramsabha is important tire in three tire system of panchayati raj. Peoples participation of in decision making process for rural development it is power of people.

(1) The Grama Sabha shall meet at least once in six months:

Provided that a Special meeting of the Grama Sabha shall be convened if a request is made by not less than ten percent of the members of the Grama Sabha with items of agenda specified in such request and there shall be a minimum three months period between two special meetings of the Grama Sabha.

(2) The quorum for the meeting of a Grama Sabha shall be not less than one tenth of the total number of members of the Grama Sabha, or hundred members, whichever is less. As far as may be, at least ten members from each Ward Sabha within the Panchayat area shall attend the meeting and not less than thirty percent of the members attending the Grama Sabha shall be women. As far as may be the persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes shall be represented in proportion to their population in the Grama Sabha.

(3) Subject to such rules as may be prescribed, the Grama Sabha, shall exercise powers and discharge functions as hereinafter provided, namely:-

(a) to consider and approve the annual plan prepared by the Grama Panchayat;

(b) to generate proposals and determine the priority of all schemes and development programmes to be implemented in the Panchayat area by the Zilla Panchayat or Taluk Panchayat after considering the recommendations and suggestions of the Ward Sabhas through the Grama Panchayat;

(c) to identify and select the most eligible persons from the Panchayat area for beneficiary oriented schemes on the basis of criteria fixed by the Grama Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, Zilla Panchayat or the Government and to prepare list of beneficiaries in the order of priority after considering the priority lists of individual beneficiaries sent by the Ward Sabhas. Such list shall be binding on the concerned Grama Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat, Zilla Panchayat or the Government, as the case may be;

(d) to disseminate information on development and welfare programmes and to render assistance in effective implementation of development schemes by providing facilities locally available and to provide feed back on the performance of the same;

- (e) to render assistance to the Grama Panchayat in collection and compilation of details required, formulation of development plans, collection of essential socio-economic data and canvassing participation in health, literacy and similar development campaigns;
- (f) to get information from the officers of the Grama Panchayat as to the services they will render and the works they propose to do in the succeeding period of six months after the meeting of the Grama Sabha;
- (g) to get information from the Grama Panchayat on the rational of every decision of the Grama Panchayat concerning the Panchayat area;
- (h) to get information from the Grama Panchayat on the follow up action taken on the decisions of the Gramasabha; 25
- (i) to provide and mobilize voluntary labour and contributions in cash and kind for development works and to supervise such development works through volunteer teams;
- (j) to resort to persuasion of Grama Sabha members to pay taxes and repay loans to the Grama panchayat;
- (k) to decide, after considering the suggestions of the ward sabhas the location of street lights, street or community water taps, Public wells, Public sanitation units, irrigation facilities and such other Public amenity schemes and to identify the deficiencies in them and after considering the suggestions of the ward sabhas to suggest the remedial measures and to report the satisfactory completion of the works;
- (l) to impart awareness on matters of public interest such as cleanliness, preservation of environment and prevention of pollution;
- (m) to assist employees of the Grama panchayat in sanitation arrangements in the panchayat area and to render voluntary service in the removal of garbage;
- (n) to promote the programme of adult education within the Panchayat area;
- (o) to assist the activities of school betterment sanghas, Anganawadi, Mahilasamaja, Youth associations, self help groups, women activities in the Panchayat area;
- (p) to assist the activities of public health centres in the panchayat area, especially in disease prevention and family welfare population control and control of cattle diseases and create arrangement to quickly report the incidence of epidemics and natural calamities;
- (q) to promote communal harmony and unity among various groups of people in the Panchayat area and to arrange cultural festivals literary activities and sports meets to give expression to the talents of the people of the locality; and
- (r) to conserve and maintain public properties such as Gomala, tanks, tank beds, ground water, grazing grounds of the cattle, mines etc., within the limits of the Gram Panchayats;
- (s) to take action to prevent discrimination on the basis of caste, religion and sex etc., and to direct the Gram Panchayaths to not to grant license to shops vending liquor or narcotic drugs or place of gambling or any other activities prejudicial to public interest;
- (t) to identify the child labourers if any, present within the limits of the Grama Panchayaths and to take action to rehabilitate them and to assist in implementation of the legal action specified by the Central and State Governments;
- (u) to exercise such other powers or discharge such other functions as may be prescribed.
- (4) The Grama Sabha shall in its ordinary meeting or a special meeting convened for the purpose, discuss the budgetary provisions, the details of plan outlay and the subject wise allocation of funds and also the details of the estimate and cost of materials of the works executed or proposed to be executed in the Panchayat area.
- (5) The annual statement of accounts of the preceeding financial year, the last audit note and replies thereto and the panchayat jamabandi report and action taken thereto shall be placed by the Grama Panchayat for the consideration of the Grama Sabha in its meeting. The views, recommendations or suggestions of the Grama Sabha shall be communicated to the Grama Panchayat. The Grama Panchayat shall give due consideration to the views, recommendations and suggestions of the Grama Sabha.
- (6) The procedure for convening and conducting the meeting of the Grama Sabha shall be such as may be prescribed. 26
- (7) Every meeting of a Grama Sabha shall be presided over by the Adhyaksha of the concerned Grama Panchayat and in his absence by the Upadhyaksha and in the absence of both Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha, by any member of the Grama Panchayat nominated by it.
- (8) The officers of the Grama Panchayat shall attend the meetings of the Grama Sabha as may be required by the Adhyaksha and an officer specifically nominated by the Grama Panchayat as convener of the Grama Sabha meeting shall assist in convening and conducting its meetings and recording its decisions in a minute book and also in taking follow up action thereon.
- (9) The Grama Sabha may constitute sub-committees consisting of not less than ten members of whom not less than half shall be women, for in-depth discussion on issues and programmes for effective implementation of decisions of the Grama Sabha and in furtherance of exercise of powers and discharge of functions of Grama Sabha.
- (10) All resolutions in respect of any issue in the meetings of the Grama Sabha shall be passed by the majority of the members present and voting.]¹

FINDINGS

1. Out of 170 respondents, all of them are found to have clear idea on functioning of Gram panchayats. They also know about developmental programmes implemented in the respective village since past two years
2. 83.55% of the respondents are aware about rural development schemes such as; NREGP, GANGA KALYAN YOJANA, and ASHRAYA YOJANA etc, higher level of education, good economic background and interest of people appear to be the causes of their high level of awareness.
3. 62.35% respondents content with the panchayat activities
4. 90.36% of respondents were aware of gramsabha concept it shows that there is good sign of people's participation in discussing about rural development activities.
5. 7.64% respondents have don't know anything about Grama Sabha, this is very important finding of the study.
6. 2% of respondents not opined anything pertaining to Grama Sabha.
7. 46.5% respondents know about the minimum eligibility to attain gram sabha
8. 66% of respondents aware with the proceedings of gram sabha
9. 67% respondents Clare with the corume for Grama sabha meet
10. 92.45 of respondents prepare panchayat premises for conduct gram sabha
11. 84.70% respondents opined that gram sabha is the best platform to discus about rural development activities
12. Only 7.65% of respondents not happy with the gram sabha concept.
13. 75.29% respondents opined that castism, partiality, and nepotism are common in selecting beneficiary.
14. Majority respondents opined that the decisions of gram sabha implementing not fully but implementing partially even they are happy with it.
15. 55.88% of tells that gram sabha is not holding systematically.
16. The reservation had laid only to formal and not real empowerment of women by panchayat. It has also been found that the participation of women in meetings is not satisfactory comparing to male. However they did not get cooperation not only from the family members but also from other males who are in meeting. Participation of women in preparing budget and annual plan was also not to the desired extent in gramsabha SC, ST and women proved there good number of participation comparing to high socio economic background, social restriction over elite women causes for lower level of participation.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Certainly provide an opportunity to people possessing better educational attainment leadership qualities and past experiences in caring out effective gramsabha.
2. All members of village allow attaining the meet even though their involvement not confirmed in the list of voters.

3. Women should also be encouraged to organize themselves. The mahila mandal in the villages effectively used any instrument to mobilize them for this purpose and also take the participation of youth clubs to share their idea for rural development.
4. There should be increased emphasis on ensuring the participation of scheduled caste and tribes in the meetings of panchayats at the all level. This is needed to promote and enhance their leadership qualities and self confidence. It will help them to perform in the panchayats to ensure their participation in meetings. Attendance of all SC, ST and women must be compulsory with higher reservation right from gramsabha to zilla panchayat.
5. Gramsabha must be processed on the base of government guidelines with this quite we can stop political partiality and nepotism.

CONCLUSION

Gramsabha is basic unit of local self government. We are practicing three tier panchayat raj institution. The democratic practices ensure representative participation of the people in decision making at micro level. Where the votes not only elect their representative but also participating in the conception, formulation, implementation of socio economic development schemes for the village development.

However, gramsabha has not yet become an operational entity in the most of the state. To provide dynamism to gramsabha and improve its vibrancy and efficacy, appropriate measure to build its capacity will have to be adopted. There is need to spell out powers and functions defining its role as a planner, decision maker and auditor, grampanchayat can efficiently serve rural people only if the gramsabha become vibrant solution and all its member take active participation in its meeting. For its, there is strong need to evolve academicians, NGO, CBO's social worker and retired person for organizing awareness camps for them.

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