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NEED/IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

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ROLE OF GRAM SACHIV IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT - A CASE STUDY OF KURUKSHETRA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The most crucial challenge on the eve of India's Independence was to formulate an effective development strategy which was powerful enough to banish poverty and transform the economy. India lives in her villages. The first five-year plan launched on April 1, 1951 emphasised the need for modernizing the rural India. Rural development is considered as a process, which aims at raising agricultural and rural productivity, and community solidarity. The rural development strategy along these lines required the launching of rural reconstruction programmes on ambitious scale to cover all country.

KEYWORDS

gram sachiv, kurukshetra.

INTRODUCTION

Rural development is concerned with total development of rural area as a whole. It was evolved as an instrument of economic development and social justice. The policies and programme for rural development is a strategy for the improvement in socio-economic and political life of the rural people in India after attaining independence in a country like ours, where about 75 per cent population resides in the villages, and the task of rural development acquires a special significance because national development is inconceivable and impossible without it. Therefore rural development is advocated as a basic strategy for economic implementation of public policy and programme, which would provide for the general welfare of rural people in a democratic society like ours.

There is no single definition of rural development and different scholars and agencies have expressed their view differently on the definition and nature of rural development. According to World Bank Paper, "rural development is a strategy to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor including small and marginal farmers, tenants and landless."

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development offered framework emphasizing balanced development of social and economic sector through what is described as authentic participation of people and an orientation of production towards basic needs.

Jhon Harris has defined that rural development as a distinct approach to interventions by the state in the economic of under-developed countries and one which is at once broader and more specific than agricultural development.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Quite a few research studies have been reported on these personnel. We briefly review some of them as a preamble for the present research.

1. Kar (1972) reports two studies in Maharashtra one on the personal background of VLWs for success on the job as perceived by BDOs, and another on the relationship of certain personal factors to the success of VLWs. The first study revealed that the BDOs thought the VLWs who were of 21 to 30 years of age, educated up to matriculation, belonged to agricultural department and who had the ability to speak the villager's language would be successful on the job. However His Second Study reported that VLWs who were effective on their job belonged to 37 to 40 years of age, had high school education, were married and had rural background and aptitude for social work.
2. Gupta (1965) listed some of critical requirement in terms of personal and professional qualities to function as a VLW, In the former category, he had listed such qualities as helpful, resourceful, dutiful, methodical etc. and in later category, he placed the knowledge of agriculture plant protection, use of fertilizer, improved seed etc.
3. Singh and Patel (1980) explored the concept of Gram Sevak as perceived by farmers. To the farmers the Gram Sevak was known as a promoter of family planning, small savings and considered more useful and competent to help them in agricultural matters.
4. Sarkar and Patnaik (1969) reported the importance of job factors for VLWs according to them, placed the maximum importance on job factors as opportunity for promotion, salary according to work done etc.
5. Kista Reddy (1991) explored in his study conducted in Panchayat Samiti of Ramayampet and Kama Reddy that the village development in the age group of 36-53 years most of VDOs or Gram Sevaks are matriculates and very few of them are graduates. Their pay scales are very low as compared to their work load. The area of operation given to them is very vast and wide. The VDOs are over burdened with multifarious activities. As they are over burdened with very heavy work load. They are not able to do justice both to agriculture programme in particular and other multipurpose work in general. The promotional avenues for VDO or Gram Sevak are very limited and the glaring example is that some of the VDOs who are recruited at the time of inauguration of Community Development Programme are still continuing as also lack housing facilities. There is political interference in their day to day work. The lack administrative powers and therefore are not so influential in the development field.
6. R.L. Sah (1963) revealed in his article "Popular participation and rural development" about the role of VLW. He found that mostly VLWs do not rely on the real problem of farmers and solution therefore. They only perform formalities in visiting field. Some V.L.W. remarked that B.D.O. or higher authorities learn that VLW does not care to achieve the target fixed by higher authorities. But in defense of that VLWs admitted no one wants to be insulted at staff meetings by achieving low targets. There is no award for merit by only punishment for slackness thus achievement of targets seemed to be main focus of VLW. Evolution of VLW is done for all the activities that are entrusted to him and these are linked with suitable reward and punishment. The male VLW find it difficult to convince their female because later's conservative outlook towards outsider. The appointment of female agriculture in large proportions could help the agriculture extension activity. They would also be helpful in family planning.
7. Mishra (1999) reported in his case study of VLWs in Medak district of the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Medak is one of 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh comprising 1,067 villages grouped in 45 mandals. The total number of the posts of VLWs is 160. The finding of the study about the villager's perception of VLWs, their awareness and linkage official and non official and process of appointment and training and their service condition. Mishra found that 60 VLWs showed awareness about their duties and functions. Even they express their view to educate the people and create awakening and awareness among the rural people. They knew that they had to explain modern method of agriculture and rural development for all round progress of villagers. Thirty-seven VLW were appointed by District Selection Committee headed by district collector five were appointed by S. Public Service Commission.

For training a network of extension training center was established to train GSs in agriculture and allied Science. Training of VLWs incorporated a component of pre service training of two year, in service training of 4-6 weeks and specialised training in crop production fruit growing etc.

The job of the VLWs was transferable and their incentive, structure were inferior to their counterpart working in health, live stock, police and government department. 24 were transferred every three years, VLWs felt that frequent transfer had a negative effect on their working 27 showed were dissatisfied with their job 33 VLWs were satisfied with their job. 34 were dissatisfied with salary and service condition most of VLWs complained about the overload of work existing in form of multi-pronged directives and accountability.

HYPOTHESES

The hypotheses for the present study are as under :

1. It seems that Gram Sachivs do not perform their duties and responsibilities impartially. Because they remain under the domination of Sarpanch.
2. Gram Sachivs are not fully satisfied and they do not have job satisfaction due to their heavy work load, political interference in executing their work, their transfer, avenue of promotion and other issue related to job aspect.
3. It seems that most of Gram Sachiv are not fully trained or show expertise to implement the development programmes of rural development. Even in some cases they have not proper knowledge and understanding or rural development aspects.
4. The Gram Sachiv may not have better support because of their indifferent attitude towards people and their involvement in petty political at villages level.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The main objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To discuss the rural development administration in brief.
2. To study the role of Gram Sachiv in socio-economic condition of village.
3. To assess the relationship between Gram Sachiv and non-officials.
4. To analyse the perception of villagers about Gram Sachiv.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in purposely selected district of Kurukshetra of Haryana State. All the Gram Sachivs working in all five block of Kurukshetra district were selected for study. On the other hand five gram panchayats, one each from each selected block were selected. Moreover, about 10 villagers per village were also selected randomly. For the purpose of study both primary and secondary data were collected. For primary data, well structured interview schedule were administered to the selected Gram Sachiv and villagers. The secondary data were collected from published books, journals, news papers and documents etc.

ROLE OF GRAM SACHIV'S IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(I) EXPLAINING OF SCHEMES OF VILLAGERS

The Central government and state government has taken various steps for the development of rural area which include the implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes like SGSY, SGRY, IAS etc. There are different welfare schemes for old aged, widows, girl child and handicapped persons, Kanyadan scheme for ST girls, Sarkar Aap Ke Dwar etc. The GSs explain these schemes to the villagers. The respondents (GSs) were asked as to whether they explain these welfare schemes to the villagers? Their responses are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1: VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SCHEMES ARE EXPLAINED TO PEOPLE

Responses	Number	Per cent
Explained	25	100
Non explained	0	0
Schemes	0	0
Total	25	100

Source: Survey Data

All the Gram Sachive admitted that they explained various schemes of rural development to the villagers. Every gram panchayat makes annual plan for the development of area under its jurisdiction. The responses of GSs are given in Table 2 regarding preparation of plan.

TABLE 2: PREPARATION OF PLANS FOR VILLAGE PANCHAYAT BY GRAM SACHIV

Responses	Number	Per cent
Prepare Plan	25	100
Non Prepare Plan	0	0
Total	25	100

All the GSs admitted that they prepare annual plan for village panchayat with the co-operation of Sarpanch/Panchayat.

(II) BUDGET MAKING

It Means Allocation of Money for the future work to be executed by the village panchayat for the welfare of villagers. The views of GSs in this regard are given in Table 3.

TABLE 3: MAKING OF BUDGET OF VILLAGE BY GRAM SACHIV

Responses	Number	Per cent
Yes	24	96
No	1	4
Total	25	100

The data in the above shows that all the GSs except one told that they make budget for village development. It is made with the help of Sarpanch and other panchayat members. It shows that GSs play major role in budget making.

TABLE 4: RESPONSES OF GSS REGARDING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Responses	Number	Per cent
Yes	24	96
No	1	4
Total	25	100

The data in the above table reveals that 24 (96 per cent) GSs admitted that they are involvement in rural development programmes. And remaining 4 per cent admitted that they have no involvement in these programmes of rural development.

(III) SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES

Under different schemes of rural development, the GSs and gram panchayat identify the beneficiaries. The GSs help the gram panchayat in selecting the actual beneficiaries under various schemes of rural development. The responses of GSs on this question are presented in Table 5.

TABLE 5: SELECTING BENEFICIARIES OF VARIOUS SCHEMES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Identification of beneficiaries	Number	Per cent
Poverty	19	76
Card System	2	8
Sources of Income	4	16
Total	25	100

Source: Author's Survey.

The data in the above table shows that 19 (76 per cent) of the GSs admitted that they help Gram Panchayat in selecting beneficiaries on the basis of poverty. 2 (8 per cent) GSs told that select beneficiaries on card system and remaining 4 (16 per cent) GSs are of the view that they select beneficiaries on the basis of sources of income.

EVALUATION OF SCHEMES

Evaluation of schemes helps in finding out the usefulness of the implemented schemes/programmes. The GSs evaluate different schemes being implemented at village level and send reports to the higher authorities. The views of respondents regarding evolution of various schemes are given below:

TABLE 6: RESPONSES OF GSS REGARDING THE EVALUATION OF VARIOUS SCHEMES OR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Responses	Number	%
Yes	23	92
No	2	8
Total	25	100

The data in the above table shows that an overwhelming majority i.e. 23 (92 cent) of the GSs evaluate the schemes of rural development and 2 (8 per cent) do not evaluate these schemes. Thus the evaluation of schemes is done by the GSs.

To infer we may say that Gram Sachivs pay an important role in rural development schemes/programmes.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

India lives in her village. The most crucial challenge on the eve of India's independence was to formulate an effective development strategy which was powerful enough to banish poverty and transform the economy. Thus, rural development is an integral part of entire development process and growth strategy. The first five year plan launched on April 1, 1951 emphasized the need for modernizing the rural India. Rural development is considered as a process which aims at raising agricultural and rural productivity, and community solidarity. Rural development is an old theme, but has been evolving new contents and fresh concerns are earlier definitions of rural development assumed the village to be a homogeneous entity but this myth was exposed under the impact of first set of programmes undertaken for rural development.

It has been observed that sufficient powers have not been given to Gram Sachivs for taking immediate decision, therefore, it is suggested that sufficient power should be given to Gram Sachiv but they should be made accountable to Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha. Majority of Gram Sachivs complained that was political and bureaucratic intervention in their day to day functioning, so it is suggested that political interference should be stopped for their fair and better functioning.

As some of the Gram Sachivs reported that attitude of the villagers was not favorable to them, so it is suggested that villagers should also be cooperative, helpful and friendly to Gram Sachivs. This will create better environment for implementation of rural development programmes.

As many as 96 per cent of the Gram Sachivs stated that they did not have adequate funds and grants for implementation of rural development programmes. It is suggested that sufficient funds/grants should be provided to panchayats. It has been reported that few Gram Sachivs are biased in their working. It is a wrong practice on the part of the Gram Sachivs. It is suggested that the GSs should be motivated not be biased and act as a neutral persons.

As 32 per of Gram Sachivs neither visit the village regularly nor attend the meeting of Panchayat/ Gram Sabha as mentioned by villagers. This is a bad practice. So it is suggested that Gram Sachivs should regularly visit to the villages and they should have a time schedule of their visits. They should attend that meetings of Gram Sabhas and prepare a list of demands with the help of people.

All the selected Gram Sachivs admitted that government have provided them training. But some of Gram Sachivs are not satisfied with the training imparted to them. They were of the view that training imparted to them is not practical. Hence, need based training should be provided to them. This will be helpful in bringing efficiency in their job performance.

It was found that 24 per cent of Gram Sachivs are not satisfied with the method of their recruitment. It is suggested that better qualified Gram Sachivs having minimum graduation qualification may be directly may be directly recruited, this will be in the interest of villagers and the role of Gram Sachiv will be improved.

Last but not the least it is suggested that a mini Secretariat should be provided at the circle level consisting of at least atleast ten villages. This will be an effective link between block and village functionaries.

If the suggestions are put into practice, we may hope for better rural development administration at village level.

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