

## Relationship between Profile of Tribal Women Sarpanches and their Role Performance under Panchayati Raj System

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### ABSTRACT

*Present investigation was conducted with 88 tribal women sarpanches of Dahod district of Gujarat State, to know their actual role performance under Panchayati Raj System. The study revealed that more than half of the tribal women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as an administrator, where as less than half of them had performed their role up to medium level as a communicator, representative, initiator, harmonizer, helper, executer, opinion maker and motivator. Characters like age, education, size of family, political contact, mass media exposure, change agency contact and achievement motivation had influenced their role performance positively and significantly, whereas annual income and cosmopolitaness failed to show any significant influence.*

**Keywords:** Three tier, Panchayati raj

### INTRODUCTION

Majority of the Indian population residing in rural area and therefore overall development of country depends on proper implementation of rural development programmes. The panchayati raj as a system of self-governance was introduced in the year 1959 following the Balwant Rai Mehta committee report. Three-tier structure of local self-government consisting of gram panchayats at the village level, taluka panchayat Samitis at the sub-district level and zilla parishads at the district level operates to govern rural development scheme with the help of peoples participation. The Comprehensive knowledge about the different role performed by tribal women sarpanches in panchayati raj system will find the unfavourable factors in the environment of administrative and legislative pose for generating addition pressure. Form getting information on this dimension, this study is a modest attempt in developing sound and systematic knowledge. With this view in mind the present study entitled role performance of tribal women sarpanches under panchayati raj system was under taken with following specific objectives.

- 1 To study the extent of different roles and overall role performed by tribal women sarpanches under panchayati raj system.

- 2 To find out the relationship if any between overall role performance of tribal women sarpanches and their profile.

### METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried out in Dahod district of Gujarat state for selecting talukas, a list of talukas along with their total number of female sarpanches was obtained from the Office of the District Development Officer, Dahod. Talukas viz, Dahod, Zalod and Limkheda were selected purposive as it having maximum total number of women sarpanches. Afterwards villages having women sarpanches from each selected taluka, a list of was obtained from of respective taluka and all villages having woman sarpanch were selected for the study. Thus, in all, 88 woman sarpanches were selected as the respondents. The independent and dependent variables were measured by using suitable scales. The data of this study were collected by arranging personal interview. The data so collected were given statistical treatment for data presentation.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To study different roles of sarpanches, roles like Planner, Administrator, Communicator, Representative, Initiator, Harmonizer, Helper, Executer, Opinion Maker and

as Motivator were selected. The data presenting to extent sarpanches are presented in table:-1 of different types of role performance by the tribal women

**Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their level of role performance in relation to different types of roles** n=88

Types of Roles	Tribal women sarpanches					Total	Mean	Rank
	Mean	S.D.	Low	Medium	High			
			No (%)	No (%)	No (%)			
Planner	68.47	16.95	16 (18.18)	47 (53.41)	25 (28.41)	185	2.10	IV
Administrator	67.47	18.33	11(12.51)	59(67.04)	18(20.45)	183	2.08	VI
Communicator	57.67	16.35	16(18.18)	46(52.28)	26(29.54)	186	2.11	III
Representative	64.63	19.44	17(19.32)	46(52.28)	25(28.41)	184	2.09	V
Initiator	62.78	20.32	22(25.00)	43(48.86)	23(26.14)	177	2.01	X
Harmonizer	51.70	19.89	19(21.59)	45(51.14)	24(27.27)	181	2.06	VIII
Helper	64.35	20.98	23(26.14)	38(43.18)	27(30.68)	180	2.05	IX
Executer	68.04	17.25	22(25.00)	38(43.18)	28(31.82)	182	2.07	VII
Opinion Maker	68.04	18.94	9(10.23)	49(55.68)	30(34.09)	197	2.24	I
Motivator	66.48	20.64	17(19.32)	41(46.59)	30(34.09)	189	2.15	II

The data presented in Table – 1clearly inferred that slightly more than half (53.41 per cent) of women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as a planner. The probable reason might be due to that woman sarpanches were elected by the local villagers and that helps them to assumed that the responsibility to execute the programme does rest with them and on other hand during field survey it was also found that some programme were implemented for political gain without considering needs of the local people. With regards to administrator it can be concluded that more than two-third (67.04 per cent) of the tribal women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as administrator. It might be due to their active involvement in planning and execution of the different development programmes with legal advice of Talati cum mantri. Whereas, as a communicator it can be said that more than half (52.28 per cent) of women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as a communicator. The reason might be that the sarpanches had primary to secondary level of education and possessed medium level of mass media exposure, which might influenced their communicational behavior at moderate level. While in case of representative the analysis showed that more than half (52.28 per cent) of women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as a representative. During field survey it was found that as a woman they have lots of social and economical responsibilities besides the duties of sarpanch and due to time constraints they are not in position to attain all the meeting

to represent the village might be the possible explanation of this type of results. With regards to initiator it can be inferred that less than half (48.86 per cent) of women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as an initiator. Being a woman in general and tribal in particular quality of a leader as an initiator is moderate due to shy nature, custom, belief and heritage culture prevailed in tribal community. Whereas as a harmonizer the analysis showed that slightly more than half (51.14 per cent) of women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as a harmonizer. Generally inter caste conflicts were resolved by sarpanches but intra caste conflict were resolved by the leader of the respective caste as a custom and laws of their respective society might be resulted in to this type of result.

In case of role performance as a helper the analysis showed that two-fifth (43.18 percent) of women sarpanches had medium to high level of role performance. The probable reason might be due to that sarpanches were strongly and emotionally attached with the villager’s problems and at the same time they also know how to overcome existing problems by proper planning and proper mobilizing all available resources. While, as executer concluded the finding it can be stated that two-fifth (43.18) of women sarpanches had medium to high level of role performance as executer. The probable reason might be due to that women sarpanches had enough support from villagers and all developmental programme exacted after concern taken from the village in gram sabha.

Whereas as motivator the analysis showed that less than half (55.68 per cent) of women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as motivator. The probable reason might be attributed to moderate communicational managerial ability. To deduce the result as opinion maker it can be said that less than half (46.59 per cent) of women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as opinion maker. The probable reason might be due to that respondents had medium level of education and experience in varied situations occurred during their political career which ultimately reflected in to this type of results.

According to the extent of role performance hierarchy , ‘Opinion maker’ ranked first with mean score of 2.24 followed by ‘Motivator’, ‘Communicator’, ‘Planner’, ‘Representative’, ‘Administrator’, ‘Executer’, ‘Harmonizer’, ‘Helper’ and ‘Initiator’ got mean score 2.15, 2.11, 2.10, 2.09, 2.08, 2.07, 2.06, 2.05 and 2.01, respectively.

**Table 2: Relationship between characteristics of the women sarpanches and their role performance**

Sr. No.	Variable	Correlation Coefficient ( r value )
1	Age	0.2528**
2	Education	0.265**
3	Size of Family	0.2272*
4	Annual Income	0.071NS
5	Political Contact	0.2405**
6	Cosmopolitaness	0.0695NS
7	Mass Media Exposure	0.2649**
8	Change Agency Contact	0.2687**
9	Achievement Motivation	0.2904**

NS = non significant \* = significant at 0.05 level  
 \*\* = significant at 0.01 level

Data given in Table – 2 revealed the independent variables viz. Age education, size of family, political contact, mass media exposure, change agency contact and achievement motivation had positive and significant co-relation with the role performance by tribal women sarpanches, whereas annual income and cosmopolitaness failed to show any co-relation with their role performance.

**CONCLUSION**

More than half of the tribal women sarpanches had medium level of role performance as an administrator, where as less than half of them had performed their role up to medium level as a communicator, representative, initiator, harmonizer, helper, executer, opinion maker and motivator. Personal, socio-economical, communicational and psychological variables of the tribal women sarpanches viz, age, education, size of family, political contact, mass media exposure, change agency contact and achievement motivation had influenced their role performance positively and significantly, whereas annual income and cosmopolitaness failed to do so.

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