

Constraints faced by the village level workers working under the Training and Visit system

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INTRODUCTION

Training and Visit System was introduced in Gujarat State in 1978. The main objective of the T & V System is to close the gap between what is known to the researchers and what is practicable by the farmers to utilize the technical know-how. In T & V system, Village Level Worker (VLW) is the grassroot worker, is the backbone of the extension service and forms the vital link between rural masses and Government machinery at the village level. Patel (1975), Murthy (1965) and Singh (1965) mentioned the main constraints of VLWs were, pay and allowances received irregularly, insufficient practical knowledge and information given by the AEOs, training imparted to them was theoretical in nature, non-availability of residential accommodation and heavy workload. Considering the above facts, it was worth while to study the constraints faced by VLWs in performing their duties working under T & V system and to seek their suggestions to overcome those constraints.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Junagadh district of Gujarat State, which was selected purposively, where T & V system has been introduced since 1978. Out of all the VLWs working under T & V system in Junagadh district, 100 VLWs available on the day of personal interview were selected as respondents. The interview schedule was used for data collection. Thus the data collected were tabulated, analysed and interpreted in the light of objectives. The statistical measure used was percentage.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study are presented under the following major heads:

Constraints of the VLWs in performing their duties working under T&V system.

The constraints faced by the VLWs were categorised into three parts viz. administrative, technical and personal. The data regarding these are presented in table 1.

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Table 1 : Constraints faced by the VLWs in performing their duties.

Sr. No.	Constraint	No.	Percent
A. Administrative			
1.	Pay and allowances were not received in time	68	68.00
2.	No separate facility of office	62	62.00
3.	Vacant posts were not filled in time	60	60.00
4.	Most of the programmes were not sanctioned by higher authority in time	31	31.00
5.	Frequent transfer	20	20.00
B. Technical			
1.	Sufficient audio-visual aids were not provided for the extension activity	64	64.00
2.	Useful literature was not provided for performing self duties	61	61.00
3.	Solution of reported problems were not received in time from higher authority	52	52.00
4.	Complete information was not announced in advance of the programmes, which creat difficulties in execution.	40	40.00
5.	Imparted training was not suitable to duties of VLWs	25	25.00
C. Personal			
1.	Vehicle facility was not provided for the official duties	65	65.00
2.	Particularly in monsoon,it was very difficult to reach interior villages due to lack of approach roads	62	62.00
3.	Children's education suffered due to stay in villages	59	59.00
4.	Family members were put to hardship due to less transport facility	57	57.00
5.	Experienced high exhaustion due to mental physical workload	53	53.00
5.	VLWs' duties were hinderance in performing the family obligation	33	33.00

The results presented in Table 1 clearly indicate that so far as the administrative constraints are concerned, pay and allowances were not received in time (68.00 per cent), no separate facility of office (62.00 per cent) and vacant posts were not filled in time (60.00 per cent) were the major constraints faced by the VLWs in

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descending order.

Sufficient audio-visual aids were not provided for the extension activity, useful literature was not provided for performing self duties and solution of reported problems were not received in time from higher authority were the major technical constraints faced by the 64.00, 61.00 and 52.00 per cent of the VLWs respectively.

With regards to personal constraints, Vehicle facility was not provided for the official duties, it was very difficult to reach interior villages due to lack of approach roads particularly in monsoon and children's education suffered due to stay in

villages were the most important constraints faced by the 65.00, 62.00 and 59.00 per cent of the VLWs respectively.

The results are in line with that of Patel (1975), Murthy (1965) and Singh (1965). It clearly indicates that there is a need to remove the constraints of VLWs by providing necessary facilities so that the effectiveness of the T & V system can be raised.

Suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints.

The suggestions received from the respondents to overcome the constraints are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 : Suggestions offered by the VLWs for solving constraints faced by them

Sr. No.	Suggestion	No.	Percent
1.	There should be residential facility at each headquarters	70	70.00
2.	T.A. bills, etc should be passed in time	68	68.00
3.	Vehicle facility should be provided to VLWs for performing their duties smoothly	65	65.00
4.	Comparatively, there should be less area of jurisdiction for VLWs	60	60.00
5.	Immediate appointment should be made on vacant posts of VLWs to reduce their area jurisdiction	57	57.00
6.	At times, higher officers should visit contact farmers	46	46.00
7.	Solution of problems of farmers should be available from the higher officers immediately	44	44.00
8.	Number of contact farmers under VLWs should be reduced	40	40.00
9.	Separate office facility should be provided	30	30.00
10.	Frequent transfer should be avoided	20	20.00

As evident from the data presented in Table 2, majority of the VLWs suggested that there should be residential facility at each head quarters (70.00 per cent), T.A. bills etc. should be passed in time (68.00 per cent) and vehicle facility

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should be provided in time (65.00 per cent). Moreover 60.00 per cent and 57.00 per cent of the VLWs respectively, suggested that there should be less area of jurisdiction for VLWs and immediate appointment should be made on vacant posts of VLWs to reduce their area of jurisdiction. These were the major suggestions given by the respondents to overcome their constraints.

CONCLUSIONS

The major constraints faced by the VLWs were; pay and allowances were not received in time, vehicle facility was not provided for the official duties, sufficient A.V. aids were not provided for the extension activity, no separate facility of office, it was very difficult to reach interior villages in monsoon due to lack of approach

roads, useful literature was not provided for performing self duties, vacant posts were not filled in time and children's education suffered due to stay in villages.

The most important suggestions offered by the VLWs were; there should be residential facility at each head quarters, T.A. bills etc. should be passed in time, vehicle facility should be provided, there should be less area of jurisdiction for VLWs, immediate appointment should be made on vacant posts of VLWs and higher officers should visit contact farmers frequently. Therefore, to strengthen the effectiveness of the T & V system and to increase the working efficiency of VLWs, there is an urgent need to minimise the constraints of VLWs providing the said facilities.

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