

Effectiveness of Panchayath Raj Institutions in Rural Areas of Visakhapatnam, and Sufficiency of Grants to Panchayath

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ABSTRACT

Panchayats have been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning of recorded history. Panchayat Raj is a system of governance in which Gram Panchayats are the basic units of administration. The study was conducted in the Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh, where a total of 100 rural respondents were selected through a simple random sampling technique. The objective of the study is to know the financial position of panchayat and their sufficiency in grants, the role of panchayat raj institutions in rural development, and satisfaction with the role of panchayat functionaries. Results indicated that the majority (78%) of the respondents were not satisfied with the grants provided to the panchayath is not sufficient, and most (78%) of the respondents were not satisfied with the financial position of the panchayath. The result of the study concluded that the majority of the people were not satisfied with the allocation of grants for particular panchayath is not sufficient.

Keywords: Panchayath raj institutions, 73 rd amendment.

INTRODUCTION

Panchayat Raj means democratic decentralization and installation of rural local self-government at the village, block and district levels. Whereas in the ancient times, village panchayat was a very strong system that had the power of collecting revenues, implement developmental plans and provide

justice. After the independence panchayat systems got a formal structure. Mahatma Gandhi was of the view that democratic functioning must be decentralised and it should be at the grass-root level.

In this background, the 73rd amendment to the constitution came in 1992.

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This amendment provided a constitutional framework for the "democracy at the grass-root level as it is at the state level or national level". With this huge development, state governments also changed their panchayat raj acts and gave more power to the panchayat raj institutions. The major functions of panchayat raj systems enlisted in the state panchayat acts are grouped into three: General Administrative Functions, Developmental and Social Functions and Maintenance (Vijaykumar, 1999). As mentioned in the constitution of India, the Panchayath Raj system has a three-tier structure. i) Zilla Panchayth ii) Taluk Panchayath iii) Gram Panchayath. Gram Panchayath is one of the parts of the Panchayath Raj system. It was aimed at the development of a planned village which is taken for counting to play its role at the level of villages; these Gram Panchayaths were given prominence to make special works with regard to the development of villages.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To know about the financial position of panchayat and their sufficiency in grants-in-aid.
- 2) To study the role of panchayat raj institutions in rural development.
- 3) To assess the respondents by their satisfaction with the role of panchayat functionaries.

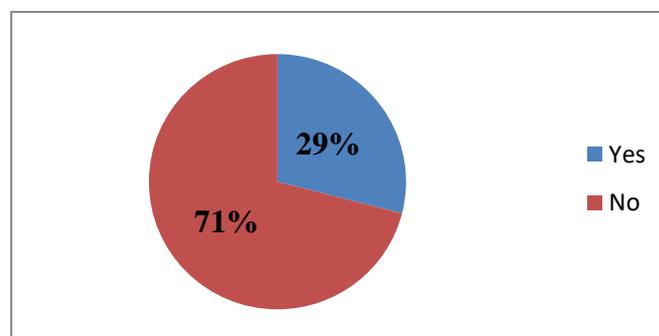
MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in the Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. Four villages from one Mandal were selected by using a simple randomly sampling technique making total sample one hundred for the study. In order to study the financial position panchayat and their sufficiency in grants , the role of panchayat raj institutions in rural development, satisfaction with the role of panchayat functionaries, the questionnaire was developed, and the respondents were interviewed individually by using the questionnaire. The frequency and percentages were used for the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Percentage distribution of the respondents by their satisfaction with financial position of panchayat

S. No	Satisfaction with financial position	Number	Percentage
1.	Yes	29	29
2.	No	71	71
	Total	100	100

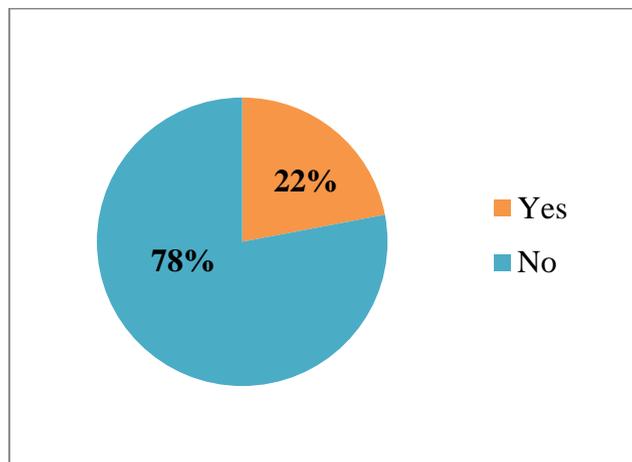


The data in the above table represented the respondents' satisfaction with the financial position of panchayat. 29 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the financial

position of panchayat and majority (71%) of the respondents were not satisfied with financial position of panchayat.

Table 2: Percentage distribution of the respondents by the sufficiency of grants given to their panchayat

S. No	Grants sufficient to panchayat	Number	Percentage
1.	Yes	22	22
2.	No	78	78
	Total	100	100



The data in the above table clearly indicated the sufficiency of grants given to their panchayat. 22 percent of the respondents revealed that the grants-in-aid given by the

government to their panchayat was sufficient and 78 percent of the respondents revealed that grants-in-aid given by the government to their panchayat was not sufficient.

Table 3: Percentage distribution of the respondents by satisfaction with role of functionaries

S. No	Satisfaction with role of functionaries	Number	Percentage
1.	Village level workers/ Grama sevikas	71	71
2.	Other development functionaries at Mandal	29	29
	Total	100	100

The data in the above table clearly indicated the satisfaction of the respondents with role of functionaries. The majority (71%) of the respondents were satisfied with the role of

village-level workers and grama services and 29 percent of the respondents were satisfied with other Mandal level development functionaries.

Table 4: Percentage distribution of the respondents by their opinion on the role of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI's) in rural development

S. No	Opinion on role of PRI's in RD	Number	Percentage
1.	Yes	87	87
2.	No	13	13
	Total	100	100

The data in the above table represented the respondents opinion on the role of PRI's in rural development. Majority (87%) of the respondents opinion was PRI's play an

important role in rural development programmes and 13 percent of the respondents opinion was PRI's did not play an important role in rural development programmes.

Table 5: Percentage distribution of the respondents by their satisfaction in performance

S. No	Satisfaction with performance	Number	Percentage
1.	Panchayat	52	52
2.	Panchayat Samiti	9	9
3.	Zilla Parishad	39	39
	Total	100	100

The data in the above table showed the satisfaction in performance of different agencies by the respondents. 52 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the

performance of panchayat, 39 percent of the respondents were satisfied with Zilla Parishad and 9 percent of the respondents were satisfied with panchayat Samiti performance.

Table 6: Percentage distribution of the respondents by cooperation of government officials in plan formulation

S. No	Cooperation of Government officials	Number	Percentage
1.	Yes	48	48
2.	No	15	15
3.	No opinion	37	37
	Total	100	100

The data in the above table revealed the respondent's opinion in the cooperation of government officials in plan formulation. 48 percent of the respondents said that they received cooperation from the government

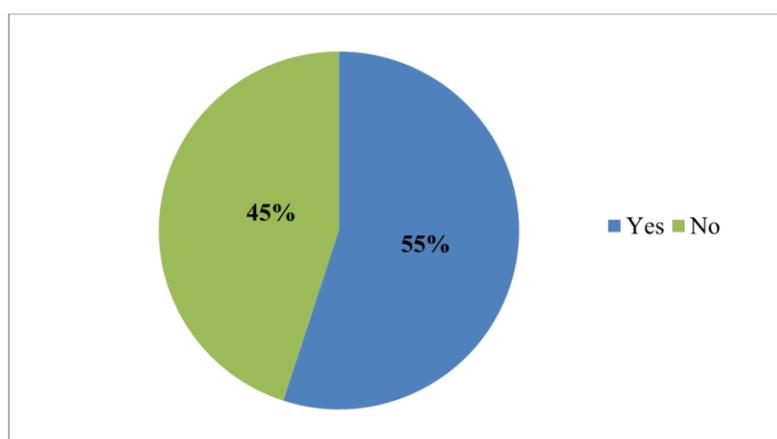
officials during plan formulation, 15 percent of the respondents revealed that there was no cooperation from the government officials during plan formulation and 37 percent of the respondents revealed that they had no opinion.

Table 7: Percentage distribution of the respondents by their opinion on panchayat to generate finances

S. No	Opinion on panchayat to generate finances	Number	Percentage
1.	Yes	55	55
2.	No	45	45
	Total	100	100

The data in the above table revealed the respondents by their opinion on panchayat to generate finances. 55 percent of the respondents had opinion on panchayat that

they generated finances and 45 percent of the respondents had opinion that they did not properly generate finances.



CONCLUSION

The study concluded that a great majority of the respondents expressed they are not satisfied with the financial position of the panchayath , majority of the respondents were said that grants providing to the particular panchayath is not sufficient and half of the respondents were expressed their views regarding panchayath to generate finances by collecting all the taxes from people in proper time it will helps to improving the rural infrastructure like roads etc.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Author Contribution

All authors contributed equally to establishing the topic of the research and design experiment.

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