

Attitudes of women panchayat members on education, health and hygiene in rural areas of Kalaburagi district

Dr. Shambhunath

Guest Faculty Department of Women’s Studies Gulbarga University Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India

Abstract

Education, Health and Hygiene are essential for people and many of the villages’ lack of these basic facilities. For this purpose, the Panchayats are playing significant role in rural development. The Constitutional Amendment has enabled political empowerment of women and as a result, one-third of panchayat members are women now. As these women have taken interest in development of villages, the attitudes of women panchayat members towards health, education and hygiene in rural areas was collected through interview schedules. Totally 120 women panchayat members were interviewed. The paper presented discussions and conclusions.

Keywords: education, health and hygiene, women panchayat members, Kalaburagi district

1. Introduction

Since independence India has been making continues efforts to develop rural areas. The community development programmes was the first attempt to tackle the problem of rural India in a comprehensive manner. But the community development programme, as has been observed by the Balwantrai Mehta Committee, could not deliver the desired results (Dutta, 1965). Panchayati Raj in India owes its origin to the community development programme initiated in 1952. In 1959, the Karnataka Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act was passed. The 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India in 1992 introduced a new political initiative to empower women. The Constitution Amendment Act, 1992, Article 243 D (3) reads: Not less than one-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women (SCs and STs) and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat. Consequently, more than one third of panchayat members are women now in every Village Panchayat of Karnataka. But, it is highlighted that, they have less awareness about political knowledge and rural development. Hence, it is essential to look into the knowledge of women Gram Panchayat members on different aspects such as education, health and hygiene. For this purpose, the present study is made in Kalaburagi district.

2. Objectives of the Study

The present study is made:

- To look into the attitudes of women panchayat members towards education and health; and
- To study the satisfaction of women panchayat members in education, health and hygienic conditions at villages.

3. Methodology and Limitations

The present study was began with literature search and the author searched secondary literature to get theoretical background to the study. To check the village development as per the knowledge of women panchayat members, totally 120 women Gram Panchayat members in Kalaburagi district were interviewed. Kalaburagi district is backward in Hyderabad-

Karnataka region. The collected primary data is coded and tabulated so as to get findings. Based on findings the suggestions and conclusion are given.

4. Analysis and Discussion

The collected primary data from the women panchayat members is analyzed and discussed as under.

i) Imparting Education is Satisfactory

It is the duty of panchayat as local governing body to look after the education system in their rural areas. As such they have to analyze and examine the problems and prospects of the schools, colleges and undergraduate education, if any that is available in their village. It was asked to the respondents that whether they feel that the primary, secondary and /or undergraduate education in their village is imparted satisfactory and the collected responses are presented in the following table.

Table 1: Imparting Education is Satisfactory

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	102	85.00
No	11	9.16
Don't Know	07	5.83
Total	120	100

A great majority of the respondents that is 102 (85.00%) have agreed that imparting education at different levels is satisfactory in their villages followed by, 11 (9.16%) have not agreed to the same and the remaining 07 (5.83%) have no awareness about the same. Many of the women panchayat members even though under-educated or illiterate are examining the education in their rural areas.

ii) Level of Satisfaction on Education

As discussed above, about 102 of the respondents have agreed that imparting education at different levels is satisfactory in their villages. As such on their level of satisfaction the information was collected and presented in the following table.

Table 2: Level of Satisfaction on Education

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Full Extent	52	43.33
Greater extent	33	27.50
Some Extent	17	14.17
Not Applicable	18	15.00
Total	120	100

It is noted from the above table that of the total respondents, 52 (43.33%) have agreed that the education is fully satisfactorily imparted in their villages followed by, 33 (27.50%) have stated that education is imparted to a greater extent satisfactorily and the remaining only 17 (14.17%) have expressed that the education is imparting in their village satisfactorily to some

Table 3: Govt Education Programmes Executed and Functioning Satisfactory

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	74	61.67
No	32	26.67
Don't Know	14	11.66
Total	120	100

It is observed from the above table that only 74 (61.67%) of the respondents have agreed that government sponsored education programmes are executed and functioning satisfactorily followed by, 32 (26.67%) have not agreed to the same and the remaining 14 (11.66%) of the respondents do not know about the same. Still considerable educational programmes are to be executed in the rural areas and women panchayat members have to take initiation in effective execution of the educational programmes.

iv) Level of Satisfaction on Government Schemes and Programmes in Schools

As depicted in the above table totally 74 of the respondents have expressed that the government's education programmes are executed and functioning satisfactorily and successfully, the information was collected on the level of satisfaction of such schemes. The collected information is as under.

Table 4: Level of Satisfaction on Government Schemes and Programmes in Schools

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Full Extent	32	26.67
Greater extent	25	20.83
Some Extent	17	14.17
Not Applicable	46	38.33
Total	120	100

It is revealed from the above table that of the total respondents, 32 (26.67%) have agreed that the government schemes and programmes are executed in the schools fully satisfactorily, followed by, 25 (20.83%) have stated that to a greater extent such educational schemes and programmes are executed, about 17 (14.17%) have expressed that to some extent such government programmes are executed satisfactorily and for the remaining 46 (38.33%), it does not applicable as they have not

extent. To a major extent education in rural areas are not fully satisfactory.

iii) Govt. Education Programmes Executed and Functioning Satisfactory

The main function of panchayats to look after the successful implementation of Government sponsored programmes on different aspects such as education, health, women empowerment, etc. As such it was asked to the respondents that whether the government programmes in education such as Mid-day Meals, Effective Coaching, Kali-Nali, Saksharatha, Marali Baa Shalege, etc are executed and functioning satisfactorily in their villages and the collected responses are tabulated as under.

expressed their views or expressed negatively on the same.

v) Anganwadi and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) Working Satisfactory

As a part of their duties, the panchayat members have to look after the health aspects of their rural areas. For this purpose, they must have to know that the Anganawadis and Primary Health Centres are working satisfactorily. The satisfaction of the respondents on the functioning of anganawadis and Primary Health Centres is shown as under.

Table 5: Anganawadis and Primary Health Centres working Satisfactory

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	64	53.33
No	35	29.17
Don't Know	21	17.50
Total	120	100

It is noted from the above table that of the total respondents, 64 (53.33%) have expressed that the anganawadis and Primary Health Centres are working satisfactorily, followed by 35 (29.17%) have not agreed to the same and the remaining 21 (17.50%) are not aware about the same. It is noted that nearly half of the Anganawadis and Primary Health Centres are not working satisfactorily. Hence, it is the responsibility of the panchayat members to take initiation in the improvement of these centres.

vi) Level of Satisfaction on Functioning of Anganwadis and Primary Health Centres

As discussed above, about 64 respondents have agreed that the Anganawadis and Primary Health Centres are functioning satisfactorily, it was asked to them to provide the level of satisfaction on the same. The collected information is presented as under.

Table 6: Level of Satisfaction on Functioning of Anganwadis and Primary Health Centres

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Full Extent	26	21.67
Greater extent	27	22.50
Some Extent	11	9.17
Not Applicable	56	46.66
Total	120	100

As disclosed in the above table, only 26 (21.67%) of the respondents have expressed that the anganawadis and Primary Health Centres are working fully satisfactorily followed by, 27 (22.50%) have stated that these are functioning greatly satisfactorily and the remaining 11 (9.17%) have responded that the anganawadis and Primary Health Centres are working some extent satisfactorily. Only one-fourth of the total respondents have stated that functioning of Anganawadi and Primary Health Centres are fully satisfactory and hence there is need on the other panchayat members to improve the performance of these anaganwadi and primary health centres in their areas.

vii) Adequate Water Supply in Village

Governments are spending much amount on its various programmes and schemes so as to provide basic amenities such as education, health, drinking water, etc. In every village, government arranged watersheds to store and provides drinking water. But still in many rural areas, there is shortage of water supply especially in summer season. As such the information on whether there is adequate water supply in village was collected from women panchayat members and presented in the following table.

Table 7: Adequate Water Supply in Village

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	67	55.83
No	42	35.00
Don't Know	--	--
Not Sanctioned	11	9.17
Total	120	100

The above table made it clear that of the total respondents, 67 (55.83%) have agreed that there is adequate water supply in their villages, whereas 42 (35.00%) have not agreed to the same and as stated by the remaining 11 (9.17%) respondents such projects are not sanctioned for their villages. It is surprising to note that nearly half of the rural areas are deprived of adequate water supply in their villages and it is the duty on the part of panchayat to improve the water supply facilities in their villages.

viii) More Efforts of Gram Panchayats to improve the water supply, sanitation, toilet and latrine facilities needed

Gram panchayat act as local self-government to maintain basic facilities, amenities and services to the rural community. For this purpose, the panchayat members have to look after the different amenities such as education, water supply, toilet, latrine, etc. Apart from their organization, it was asked to the respondents that are there any efforts needed from gram panchayats to improve these amenities and collected information is tabulated as under.

Table 8: More Efforts of Gram Panchayats to improve the water supply, sanitation, toilet and latrine facilities needed

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	83	69.17
No	21	17.50
Don't Know/ Can't Say	16	13.33
Total	120	100

It was observed from the above table that of the total respondents covered under the study, 83 (69.17%) have expressed that there are efforts of gram panchayats to improve the water supply, sanitation, toilet and latrine facilities, whereas 21 (17.50%) have not agreed to the same and the remaining 16 (13.33%) have not expressed their views. It is highly recommended on the part of the panchayats to look after the water supply, sanitation, toilets and latrine facilities in their villages.

5. Conclusion

As discussed above, it is found that few of the women panchayat members have negligence over basic facilities such as education, health and hygienic conditions. For this purpose, the educated youth and NGOs should increase awareness about the same among rural women. Further, many of the rural areas are lack of pure drinking water and hence, it is essential to construct more water sheds in villages. It is suggested to rural women to construct family latrines under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan or Swachha Bharat Abhiyan so as to maintain health and hygiene of their families.

6. References

1. Banerjee, Mukta. Women in Local Governance: Macro Myths, Micro Realities. Social Change. 1998; 28(1):85-100.
2. Dutta, Nikumjalata. Village Panchayats in India: A Case Study of Assam. New Delhi: Mittal Publications, 1971.
3. Jain, Devaki. Panchayat Raj: Women Changing Governance. New York: UNDP, 1996.