



Attitude Skill and Knowledge (ASK) of women village panchayat presidents

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ABSTRACT

In Tamil Nadu more than 40,000 seats were headed by women in panchayat raj institution. After two decades of implementing 73rd amendment the women presidents performance is not as expected. The present study was conducted to bring out the Attitude, Skill and Knowledge (ASK) of women village panchayat presidents. Keeping the above objective in mind, the present study was under taken in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. Census method was adopted in this study for collection of data.

More than half of the respondents are having medium attitude. Less than one fourth of the women presidents are having high skill. Three fourth of respondents are medium or average in skill. Very less percent of women presidents are reported they are poor in skill. Nearly one third of women presidents are having medium level of awareness. The women presidents were in need of attitude change, skill building and knowledge building so the stakeholders need to take necessary step.

KEYWORDS

Women awareness, Women president, Village Panchayat, ASK

The history of village level institution in India goes back to hundred years. The Uthiramerur edicts in Kancheepuram District, which bear evidence to the well established local self-governance during the period of the Chola Empire in Tamil Nadu. During the British rule local self-government in India was shattered. In the post-independence period, instead of establishing Panchayats as vehicle of economic development and social justice in rural areas, Community Development Programme and National Extension Service were launched, aimed at bringing about an all-round development in the country. But these programmes could not evoke people's participation in rural development followed by that various changes occurred in local government administration

The Ashok Mehta Committee for making the Panchayats strong institutions, among others, had recommended constitutional status to the panchayats. The 73rd amendment gives rebirth to local government system on 24th April 1993. This amendment provides three tier panchayat raj system. Not less than one third of reservation for women, Schedule caste and Schedule Tribes. On the basis of 73rd amendment the Tamil Nadu enacted the Tamil Nadu Panchayat raj act 1994 on 24.4.1994 to achieve the greater participation of the people so as to make them institutions of self-Government. In Tamil Nadu more than 40,000 seats were headed by women in panchayat raj institution. It accounts about 33.5 percent of total available seats. After two decades of implementing 73rd amendment the women presidents performance is not as expected.

Materials and methods

The present study was conducted to bring out the Attitude, Skill and Knowledge (ASK) of women village panchayat presidents. Keeping the above objective in mind, the present study was under taken in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. Census method was adopted in this study for collection of data. Over all 167 women headed village panchayats were found in this district and the data has been collected from 167 respondents. Data were collected by interviewing women village panchayat presidents personally with the help of specially designed and pre tested interview schedule. The statistical method correlation was used for analysis of data.

Results and discussion: Attitude

It is depict from the study, over all more than half (57 percent) of the respondents are having medium attitude. One out of five is having high attitude further 21.6 percent of

them are having low attitude. It is revealed from the data the Women Village Panchayat Presidents need attitude change on Panchayat raj system, functions and development schemes.

Correlation analysis of attitude and personal characteristics

Table – 1 : Relationship between the personal characteristics and Attitude

S.No	Variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1	Age	-.198*
2	Trainings received	.168*
3	Honesty in financial management	.196*
4	Role performance by self	.176*
5	Cooperation from stakeholders	.226**
6	Knowledge	.201**
7	Skill	.217**
8	Role performance of Women president	.294**

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level of probability
* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level of probability

Data from table 1 is revealed that out of eight variables the correlation coefficient of four variables namely cooperation from stakeholders (0.226), knowledge (0.201), skill (0.217) and role performance (0.294) were found to be positive and highly significant at 0.01 level of probability. Whereas the number of trainings received (0.168), honesty in financial management (0.196), ratio of role performance by self (0.176) was found to be positive and significant at 0.05 level of probability. Whereas, age (0.198) is significant at 0.05 level of probability but negatively correlated with attitude.

Skill of women presidents

It is depict from the data that overall only 17 percent of the women presidents are having high skill. The 79 percent of respondents are medium or average in skill. The remaining 4.2 percent of women presidents are reported they are poor in skill. Over all skilled women president's percent is very less. The skill is essential for performance so lack of skill may affect the performance of women presidents.

Correlation analysis of skill and personal characteristics

It is observed from the table 2 that out of Eight variables correlation coefficient of five variables namely education (0.747), poverty line (0.203), role performance by self (0.423), Attitude (0.217) and role performance (0.440) were found to be significant at 0.001 level of probability and positively correlate with skill of women presidents. Out of eight variables correlation

coefficient of two variables namely reservation (0.238) and age (0.214) were found to be highly significant at 0.001 level of probability but it is negatively correlate with skill of women presidents. There is no relationship between skill and trainings received. It shows that the trainings are not building the skill.

Table – 2: Relationship between the personal characteristics and Skill

S.No	Variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1	Reservation	-.238**
2	Age	-.214**
3	Education	.747**
4	Poverty	.203**
5	No of trainings attended	.106
6	Role performance by self	.423**
7	Attitude	.217**
8	Role performance of Women president	.440**

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level of probability
 * . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level of probability

Caste wise knowledge of women presidents

It is evident from the study that only 8.4 percent of women president’s awareness in high. Nearly one third of women presidents are having medium level of awareness. More than half of the respondents (58.7 percent) having low awareness on panchayat system, functions and development scheme. Similar was also reported by Alane.P.A.(2007), Mistri.J.J(2009) and Deshpandey.A.R,(2013) Role performance of gram panchayat members in agricultural development programme.

Correlation analysis of knowledge and socio economic characteristics

Table – 6 : Relationship between the personal characteristics and Knowledge

S.No	Variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1	Age	-.187*
2	Education	.627**
3	Reading skill	.515**
4	Trainings received	.281**
5	Role performance by self	.551**
6	Attitude	.201**
7	Skill	.609**
8	Overall performance of Women president	.576**

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level of probability
 * . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level of probability

It is depict from table 3 that out of Eight variables the correlation coefficient of seven variables namely education status (0.627), reading skill (0.515), number of trainings received (0.281) self-performance (0.551), Attitude (0.201) skill (0.609), and performance of women presidents (0.576) were found to be highly significant and positively correlate with the knowledge of women presidents at 0.01 level of probability. Accordingly age (0.187) is significant and negatively correlate with the knowledge of women presidents at 0.05 level of probability. Similar was also reported by Alane.P.A.(2007), Mistri.J.J(2009) and Deshpandey.A.R,(2013) Role performance of gram panchayat members in agricultural development programme.

Policy recommendations

The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) can offer a short term (six months) education course on Panchayat Management Programme for women presidents. The training programmes should be organised separately for uneducated women and who is having poor attitude to improve knowledge and attitude. The training programmes are knowledge based but majority of women presidents are due to lack of skill they are depending on the spouse so it is essential to provide skill training.

Conclusion

The women representation has been ensured in local government, lack of knowledge and skill creates many barriers for them to perform their role effectively. After election the serous of training programmes need to be organized periodically to improve the Attitude, Skill and Knowledge of women presidents. More over the training programmes quality need to be improved so that the purpose of reservation can be achieved through the performance of women president.

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