



## **Role perception of leaders in Progressive and less Progressive villages in Marathwada region**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The present study was conducted in the Parbhani and Nanded district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2016-2017. From these two districts four tehsils i.e. (two tahsils from each district) were selected randomly. With irrespective of list of Grampanchayats and its members of each tehsil was collected from Block Development Officer (B.D.O.), Panchayat Samiti of respective talukas. In the first phase of data collection, 20 villages from each tehsil were selected randomly, thus making a sample of 80 villages i.e. (20 x 4 = 80). The selected villages were studied for their progressiveness with the help of village progressiveness scale of Singh et al. (1972). In the second phase, after arranging list of villages in descending order top five villages with highest scores were selected as progressive villages and lowest five villages with lowest scores were selected as less-progressive villages from four talukas. Thus 40 villages were purposively selected for research study. From each selected villages five Grampanchayat leaders were selected randomly for the study as respondents by positional approach method. Thus total of 200 Village leaders i.e. 100 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 progressive villages and 100 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 less-progressive villages from Parbhani, Gangakhed, Nanded and Mudkhed tehsils were selected. The findings related to distribution of leader according to their overall role perception in progressive and less progressive villages were indicate that, more than half (56.00%) of the leaders from progressive villages were having medium level of role perception, followed by 23.00 per cent of them had high level of role perception and remaining 21.00 per cent of them had low level of role perception. In case of less progressive villages indicate that, majority (68.00%) of the leaders were having medium level of role perception, followed by 20.00 per cent of them had high level of role perception and remaining 12.00 per cent of them had low level of role perception.*

**Key words:** Role performance, leaders. Progressive villages, less progressive villages

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Grampanchayat members play the role of advisor to the rural people. They provide information about various government schemes to the people in village. Thus, the Grampanchayat and its members has definitely and undoubtedly a key role to play in Panchayat Raj. The present study entitled "Role Perception and Role Performance of the Leaders in Progressive and Less Progressive Villages in Marathwada region" was undertaken with a view to study the comparative role perception and role performance of leaders in progressive and less progressive villages.

The village panchayat has got prime importance for the welfare of the rural people. The panchayat is mainly expected to promote economic, political and social development in the villages. The economic development is aimed at using improved agricultural techniques and tools while the political development is to be achieved by developing leadership in the villages.

Grampanchayat which are properly functioning will increase the income of rural people and raise their standard of living and provide an opportunity to weaker sections in the community participate in the management of rural affairs. The achievement of these goals is significantly influenced by the effective leadership at the grass root level. It means, leadership plays an important role in shaping the social, political and economic development of community.

### **OBJECTIVE**

1. To find out the role perception of leaders in progressive villages in Marathwada region

2. To find out the role perception of leaders in less progressive villages in Marathwada region

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in the Parbhani and Nanded district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. From these two districts four tehsils i.e. (two tahsils from each district) were selected randomly for the study. With irrespective of list of Grampanchayats and its members of each tehsil was collected from Block Development Officer (B.D.O.), Panchayat Samiti of respective talukas. The villages were selected for the study in two phases; in the first phase 20 villages from each tehsil were selected randomly, thus making a sample of 80 villages i.e. (20 x 4 = 80). The selected villages were studied for their progressiveness with the help of village progressiveness scale of Singh *et al.* (1972). All the information was collected with the help of Gramsevak, Talathi and Agricultural Assistant from respective villages. After collection of information, score was assigned for each village. In the second phase, after arranging list of villages in descending order top five villages with highest scores were selected as progressive villages and lowest five villages with lowest scores were selected as less-progressive villages from four talukas. Thus 40 villages were purposively selected for research study. From each selected villages five Grampanchayat leaders were selected randomly for the study as respondents by positional approach method. Thus total of 200 Village leaders i.e. 100 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 progressive villages and 100 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 less-progressive villages from Parbhani, Gangakhed, Nanded and Mudkhed tehsils were selected. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected with the help of pretested interview schedule. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, co-efficient of correlation, multiple regressions, Z test and path analysis were used for the analysis of data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1.Role Perception of leaders in progressive villages in Marathwada region

#### Role wise perception of the leaders in progressive villages

Role perception was an important aspect studied in the present investigation as one of the dependent variable. Information regarding role wise perception of the leaders from progressive and less progressive villages was collected and analyzed the findings are presented in Table 1 & Table 2.

**Table 1:Distribution of role wise perception of the leaders in progressive villages**

Sr. No.	Roles/ Job items	Responses (N=100)		
		FA (%)	PA (%)	UA (%)
1	Inform farmers about the time and place of Agricultural extension activity	47.00	40.00	13.00
2	Distribute farm literature for use as reference to farmers such as (leaflets, folders)	8.00	38.00	54.00
3	Visit farmers field on the fixed time as per schedule	7.00	51.00	42.00
4	Keeping contact with higher authority for getting technical advice	40.00	56.00	14.00
5	Identify oneself with villagers and work with them during emergency	26.00	60.00	14.00
6	Understand problems and situations of farmers through personal visits	29.00	53.00	18.00
7	Convince farmers and their leaders to accept new farm idea	48.00	43.00	9.00
8	Motivate farmers to participate in Agricultural extension activities	45.00	41.00	14.00
9	Give timely information to the farmers about marketing condition at local, state, and national level	34.00	50.00	16.00
10	Keep close contact with ADO, SDAO, and higher officers for guidance	50.00	45.00	5.00
11	Ensure co-ordination in distributing of important inputs accordingly to demand/ supply/ availability	13.00	37.00	50.00
12	Preparation and use of audio-visual aids for effective transfer of technology	4.00	39.00	57.00
13	Giving wide publicity to various programmes implemented by the state department	52.00	37.00	11.00
14	Attend meetings at various places/ head quarters in time	31.00	52.00	17.00
15	Attending scheduled as well as time to time training programmes organized by the agriculture department	29.00	52.00	19.00
16	Submit report of natural calamities, diseases and pest occurrence to the senior officers immediately	29.00	59.00	12.00

17	Contact and ensure co-operation of grass root level , change agents working in the operational area through meeting and personal visit	22.00	55.00	23.00
18	Evaluation of the different programmes in the village	56.00	29.00	15.00
19	Implementation of agricultural production plan in the operational areas	10.00	40.00	50.00
20	Identify crop production problems of farmers	13.00	43.00	44.00
21	Organization of training to the farmers	40.00	30.00	30.00
22	Attend meeting of village level committees constituted for different scheme	35.00	47.00	18.00
23	Identify responsive farmers and local leaders and secure their participation in Agril. Devpt. Programme	45.00	40.00	15.00
24	Implement programmes given by higher officers from time to time	45.00	29.00	26.00
25	Planning and conduct of demonstration	25.00	50.00	25.00
26	Coordinate soil and water conservation work with agricultural production through the preparation of integrated action plan	26.00	47.00	27.00
27	Encourage farmers for growing different seasonal and fruits crops	13.00	35.00	52.00
28	Contact and enlist participation of responsive farmers in agricultural development work	20.00	41.00	39.00
29	Arrange for the material and equipments required for carrying out the Agricultural extension activity	4.00	29.00	67.00
30	Help in organizing of specialized campaign on plant protection	8.00	36.00	56.00

FA= Fully aware, PA= Partially aware, UA= Un-aware

The findings related to role wise distribution of leaders according to their role perception in progressive villages is presented in Table 1 summarize the extent to which the different items of leader roles were perceived by the leaders. The four best perceived items or fully aware roles of the leaders as indicated by the overall rank were about evaluation of the different programmes in the village (56.00%), followed by giving wide publicity to various programmes implemented by the state department (52.00%), keep close contact with ADO, SDAO, and higher officers for guidance (50.00%) and Convince farmers and their leaders to accept new farm idea (48.00%).

The four least perceived items or highly unaware roles by the village leaders happened to be arrange for the material and equipments required for carrying out the Agricultural extension activity (67.00%), followed by preparation and use of audio-visual aids for effective transfer of technology (57.00%), help in organizing of specialized campaign on plant protection (56.00%) and distribute farm literature for use as reference to farmers such as (leaflets, folders) were the roles which are unaware by the leaders. Similar trend of results were also noted in the studies of Bhosale [1], Naik [4], Prakash [6], Singh *et al.* [9], Ingale [3], Neog *et al.* [5] and Tekale *et al.* [11].

## 2. Role Perception of leaders in less progressive villages in Marathwada region

### Role wise perception of the leaders in less progressive villages

Table 2. Distribution of leader according to their role perception in less progressive villages

Sr. No.	Roles/ Job items	Responses (N=100)		
		FA (%)	PA (%)	UA (%)
1	Inform farmers about the time and place of Agricultural extension activity	33.00	51.00	16.00
2	Distribute farm literature for use as reference to farmers such as (leaflets, folders)	0.00	16.00	84.00
3	Visit farmers field on the fixed time as per schedule	0.00	27.00	73.00
4	Keeping contact with higher authority for getting technical advice	12.00	55.00	33.00
5	Identify oneself with villagers and work with them during emergency	13.00	56.00	31.00
6	Understand problems and situations of farmers through personal visits	12.00	50.00	38.00
7	Convince farmers and their leaders to accept new farm idea	38.00	50.00	12.00
8	Motivate farmers to participate in Agricultural extension activities	32.00	54.00	14.00
9	Give timely information to the farmers about marketing condition at local, state, and national level	11.00	54.00	35.00
10	Keep close contact with ADO, SDAO, and higher officers for guidance	30.00	46.00	24.00

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11	Ensure co-ordination in distributing of important inputs accordingly to demand/ supply/ availability	2.00	20.00	78.00
112	Preparation and use of audio-visual aids for effective transfer of technology	2.00	21.00	77.00
13	Giving wide publicity to various programmes implemented by the state department	20.00	46.00	34.00
14	Attend meetings at various places/ head quarters in time	14.00	57.00	29.00
115	Attending scheduled as well as time to time training programmes organized by the agriculture department	15.00	56.00	29.00
16	Submit report of natural calamities, diseases and pest occurrence to the senior officers immediately	17.00	59.00	24.00
17	Contact and ensure co-operation of grass root level , change agents working in the operational area through meeting and personal visit	17.00	57.00	26.00
18	Evaluation of the different programmes in the village	51.00	45.00	4.00
19	Implementation of agricultural production plan in the operational areas	7.00	24.00	69.00
20	Identify crop production problems of farmers	2.00	30.00	68.00
21	Organization of training to the farmers	37.00	37.00	26.00
22	Attend meeting of village level committees constituted for different scheme	20.00	50.00	30.00
23	Identify responsive farmers and local leaders and secure their participation in Agril. Devpt. Programme	37.00	32.00	31.00
24	Implement programmes given by higher officers from time to time	33.00	42.00	25.00
25	Planning and conduct of demonstration	17.00	44.00	39.00
26	Coordinate soil and water conservation work with agricultural production through the preparation of integrated action plan	8.00	36.00	56.00
27	Encourage farmers for growing different seasonal and fruits crops	4.00	32.00	64.00
28	Contact and enlist participation of responsive farmers in agricultural development work	4.00	30.00	66.00
29	Arrange for the material and equipments required for carrying out the Agricultural extension activity	1.00	16.00	83.00
30	Help in organizing of specialized campaign on plant protection	0.00	26.00	74.00

**FA= Fully aware, PA= Partially aware, UA= Un-aware**

The findings related to awareness of respondents towards role perception are presented in Table 2. The data about the role wise perception shows that majority (51.00%) of the leaders from less progressive villages had fully aware about evaluation of the different programmes in the village, followed by convince farmers and their leaders to accept new farm idea (38.00%) and equal per cent i. e. 37.00 % of the leaders were fully aware about their role about organization of training to the farmers and identify responsive farmers and local leaders and secure their participation in Agril. Devpt. Programme etc.

It was also noticed that, four highly unaware roles perceived by the leaders are distribute farm literature for use as reference to farmers such as leaflets and folders (84.00%), arrange for the material and equipments required for carrying out the Agricultural extension activity (83.00%), ensure co-ordination in distributing of important inputs accordingly to demand/ supply/ availability (78.00%), preparation and use of audio-visual aids for effective transfer of technology (77.00%) etc.

By and large role perception of the village leaders from progressive as well as less progressive villages was medium. The educational level, social participation, mass media exposure, training received by members were medium. This might have helped them to perceive their roles as Grampanchayat members in a better way. Similar trend of results were also noted in the studies of Suradkar [10], Rewatkar [7] and Deshmukh and jeshmukh [2].

### **3.Role perception of leaders in progressive and less progressive villages in Marathwada region**

#### **Overall role perception of leaders in progressive and less progressive villages**

The findings related to distribution of leader according to their overall role perception in progressive and less progressive villages are presented in Table 3 indicate that, more than half (56.00%) of the leaders from progressive villages were having medium level of role perception, followed by 23.00 per cent of them had high level of role perception and remaining 21.00 per cent of them had low level of role perception. It was observed from Fig. 1 that, most of the leaders were having medium level of role perception i. e. 16 to 44.

**Table 3: Distribution of leader according to their overall role perception in progressive and less progressive villages.**

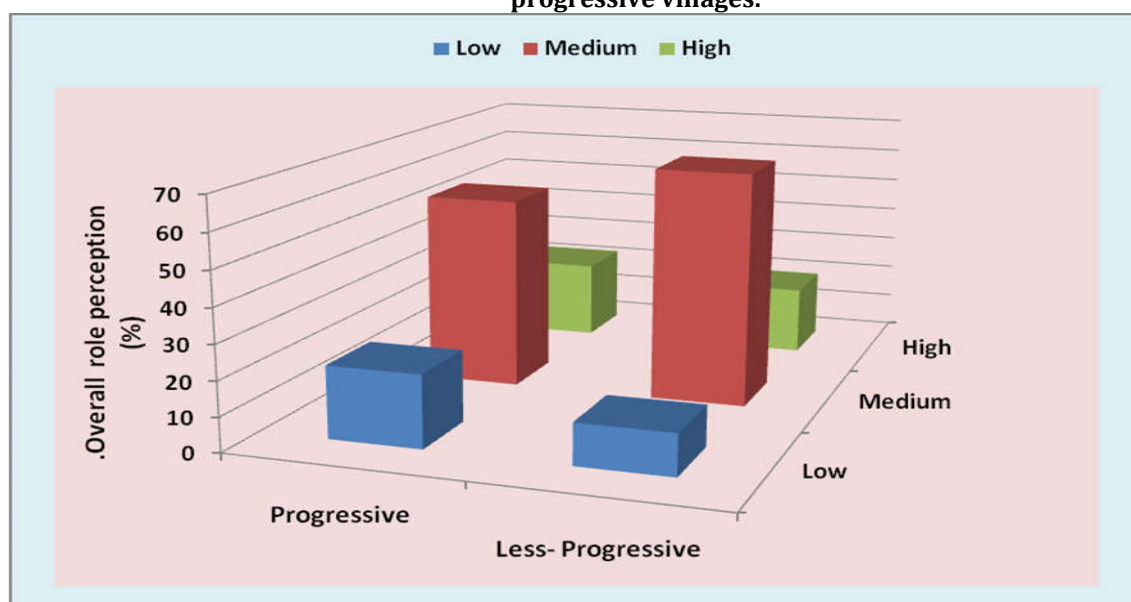
Sr. No.	Category	Progressive Villages (n=100)		Less- Progressive Villages (n=100)		'Z' value
		No.	%	No.	%	
1	Low	21	21.00	12	12.00	5.66**
2	Medium	56	56.00	68	68.00	
3	High	23	23.00	20	20.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>	
	<b>Mean</b>	<b>29.96</b>		<b>21.72</b>		
	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>14.13</b>		<b>11.73</b>		

In case of less progressive villages indicate that, majority (68.00%) of the leaders were having medium level of role perception, followed by 20.00 per cent of them had high level of role perception and remaining 12.00 per cent of them had low level of role perception. It was observed from above table that, most of the leaders were having medium level of level of role perception i. e. 10 to 33.

The mean score of role perception of leaders in progressive villages were 29.96 and 21.72 in less progressive villages. The calculated 'Z' value 5.66 was significant which indicated that, there was significant difference in role perception of leaders in progressive villages and less progressive villages. The role perception level of the leaders in progressive villages was higher than those in less progressive villages.

It could be inferred from the results that majority of the leaders from progressive as well as less progressive villages had medium level of role perception, followed by high and low level of role perception. Higher percentage of role perception of leaders from progressive village compared to less progressive leaders could be due to their education, more social participation, more linkages with developmental agencies, more use of sources of information and more training they have undergone. These findings were agreement with the findings of Bhosale [1] and Tekale *et al.* [11].

It can, therefore, be concluded that majority of GPMs had medium role perception in all the dimensions as well as in overall role perception. Hence it is suggested that GPMs should be made familiar about the roles they are expected to undertake. This can be possible by imparting training to them. Moreover, they need to provide a copy of well defined roles. How acquainted they are about their role need to be assessed from time to time so that lacking information, if any, can be provided to update them about their roles. This is very necessary because role perception has a direct bearing on performance of roles. Therefore, state government and Non Government Organization or private agencies should organize special training program to realize their actual roles and position in Gram Panchyats.

**Fig 1: Distribution of leader according to their overall role perception in progressive and less progressive villages.**

## CONCLUSIONS

Perception of leaders in less progressive villages was low compared to leaders of progressive villages. Therefore, detail information about their roles, duties, and responsibility of Grampanchayat leaders should be provided by organizing training programme and workshop, which improve role perception of leaders. Higher percentage of role perception of leaders from progressive village compared to less progressive leaders could be due to their education, more social participation, more linkages with developmental agencies, more use of sources of information and more training they have undergone.

It was observed that, Out of thirty roles majority (56.00%) of the leaders in progressive villages perceived their role regarding evaluation of the different programmes in the village, giving wide publicity to various programmes implemented by the state department (52.00%), keep close contact with ADO, SDAO, and higher officers for guidance (50.00%) and convince farmers and their leaders to accept new farm idea (48.00%) were the most of the leaders were fully aware about these roles and also studied for leaders in less progressive villages. The calculated 'Z' value 5.66 was significant which indicated that, there was significant difference in role perception of leaders in progressive and less progressive villages.

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