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# Constraints and suggestions regarding role performance of men and women Sarpanch in Navsari district of Gujarat state

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#### **Abstract**

All six talukas of Navsari district were covered under the present study. Total ten men sarpanch and ten women sarpanch were selected randomly from each taluka. It was comprised of sixty men sarpanch and sixty women sarpanch from total six talukas. So, total sample size was 120. Major constraints faced by men and women sarpanch were "Lack of experience as a leader", "Lack of funds from Government for development work", "Lack of training at the village level" "Delay in sanctions and permission for development works from upper level" and "Lack of awareness regarding different rural development programmes". Important suggestions given by men and women sarpanch were "Financial grant should be increased", "All the facilities should be provided in panchayat", "Training facility should be increased for villagers", "Official procedure should be quick, easy and timely" and "Awareness regarding different development work should be emphasized".

Keywords: Constraints, suggestions, role performance, men Sarpanch, women Sarpanch

### 1. Introduction

Balwant rai Mehta committee recommended the Panchayati raj system, also called a three-tier democratic decentralized local self-government functioning at village, taluka, and district levels. Gujarat introduced Panchayati raj system on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1963. There are 33 district panchayats, 251 taluka panchayats, and 13,936-gram panchayats covering 18,544 villages in the state. 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1993 is a red-letter day in the history of panchayati raj in India as on this day the Constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati raj institutions. This act provided panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) constitutional status, making panchayati raj election a regular phenomenon after the interval of every five years. It makes the provision for reservation of seats for SCs/STs, OBCs, and women for different tiers of PRIs including the chairpersons and also provided direct elections in respect of all the members at all levels. (Anonymous 2019) [1].

### 2. Research Methodology

The ex-post-facto research design was used in the present investigation. Out of 33 districts of Gujarat state, Navsari district was purposively selected. The study was conducted in Navsari district of South Gujarat during the year 2021-2022. Navsari district has six talukas *viz.*, Navsari, Chikhli, Gandevi, Vansda, Jalalpore, and Khergam. All six talukas of district were covered under the present study. From each taluka, the lists of men and women sarpanch were collected from Navsari district panchayat. Total ten men sarpanch and ten women sarpanch were selected randomly from each taluka. Hence, it was comprised of sixty men sarpanch and sixty women sarpanch from six talukas. So, total sample size was 120. After finalizing the research design and interview schedule, the data were collected by using the personal interview method. Respondent men and women sarpanches were interviewed at their home or at their workplace.

## 3. Results and Discussion

## 3.1 Constraints faced by the men and women sarpanch in performing roles

Constraints refer to the items of difficulties faced by the men and women sarpanch during performing their roles. The respondents were asked to mention the constraints. The opinion about their constraints were summed up and converted into frequency and percentage. Lastly, ranks were assigned accordingly. The collected data are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Constraints faced by the men and women sarpanch in performing roles (n=120)

Sr.	Constraints	Categories of sarpanch							
Sr. No.		Men sarpanch (n=60)			Women sarpanch (n=60)				
		Frequency	Percentage	Rank	Frequency	Percentage	Rank		
1.	Lack of funds from the Government for development work.	55	91.66	II	54	90.00	II		
2.	Delay in sanctions and permission for development works from the upper level.	49	81.66	IV	50	83.33	V		
3.	Lack of training at the village level.	50	83.33	III	51	85.00	IV		
4.	Lack of awareness regarding different rural development programmes.	47	78.33	V	53	88.33	III		
5.	Lack of cooperation and unity among elected members.	44	73.33	VI	48	80.00	VII		
6.	Lack of experience as a leader.	56	93.33	I	55	91.66	I		
7.	Lack of cooperation between different castes and religions.	41	68.33	IX	42	70.00	X		
8.	Lack of education among village people.	42	70.00	VIII	44	73.33	IX		
9.	Travelling to distant locations is a problem for women sarpanches to perform panchayat activities.	39	65.00	X	49	81.66	VI		
10.	Lack of cooperation and unity among elected members.	43	71.66	VII	47	78.33	VIII		

The data presented in table 1 reveals that the constraint "Lack of experience as a leader" (93.33%) was most important constraint according to the responses of the men sarpanches and ranked as first rank followed by the constraints "Lack of funds from Government for development work" (91.66%), "Lack of training at village level" (83.33%), "Delay in sanctions and permission for development works from upper level" (81.66%), "Lack of awareness regarding different rural development programmes" (78.33%), "Lack of co-operation and unity among elected members" (73.33%), "Lack of cooperation and unity among elected members" (71.66%), "Lack of education among village people" (70.00%), "Lack of co-operation between different castes and religions" (68.33%) and "Travelling at distant locations is a problem for women sarpanches to perform panchayat activities" (65.00%) were ranked at second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth rank according to the responses of men sarpanches.

In the case of women sarpanches, the constraint "Lack of experience as a leader" (91.66%) was the most important constraint according to the responses of the women sarpanches and ranked as first rank followed by the constraints "Lack of funds from Government for development

work" (90.00%), "Lack of awareness regarding different rural development programmes" (88.33%), "Lack of training at village level" (85.00%), "Delay in sanctions and permission for development works from upper level" (83.33%), "Travelling at distant locations is a problem for women sarpanches to perform panchayat activities" (81.66%), "Lack of co-operation and unity among elected members" (80.00%), "Lack of co-operation and unity among elected members" (78.33%), "Lack of education among village people" (73.33%), and "Lack of co-operation between different castes and religions" were ranked at second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth rank according to the responses of women sarpanches.

# 3.2 Suggestions from Men and Women Sarpanch to overcome the constraints in performing their role as a Sarpanch

Considering the constraints faced by the men and women sarpanch, they were asked to their valuable suggestions based on their experience to overcome the constraints. The responses in regards were summed up and converted into frequency and percentage. Lastly, the rank was given to each suggestion. The collected data are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Suggestions from men and women sarpanch to overcome the constraints in performing their role as sarpanch (n=120)

C	Suggestions	Categories of sarpanches							
Sr. No.		Men sarpanch (n=60)			Women sarpanch (n=60)				
110.		Frequency	Percentage	Rank	Frequency	Percentage	Rank		
1.	Financial grants should be increased.	55	91.66	I	54	90.00	I		
2.	The official procedure should be quick, easy and timely.	49	81.66	IV	50	83.33	V		
3.	Training facilities should be increased for villagers.	50	83.33	III	51	85.00	IV		
4.	Awareness regarding different development work should be emphasized.	47	78.33	V	53	88.33	II		
5.	Unity and cooperation should be more among panchayat members.	44	73.33	VII	48	80.00	VI		
6.	Sarpanch should motivate the panchayat members to participate in the group activities.	46	76.66	VI	45	75.00	VIII		
7.	The concept of caste equity should be encouraged to ensure equal opportunities for the villagers.	41	68.33	X	42	70.00	X		
8.	Efforts should be made to increase the level of education of villagers.	42	70.00	IX	44	73.33	IX		
9.	Sarpanch should explain complicated things and information in simple language to the people.	43	71.66	VIII	47	78.33	VII		
10.	All the facilities should be provided in panchayat.	51	85.00	II	52	86.66	III		

The data presented in table 2 reveals that the suggestion "Financial grant should be increased" (91.66%) was most important suggestion according to the responses of the men sarpanches and ranked as first rank followed by the suggestions "All the facilities should be provided in panchayat" (85.00%), "Training facility should be increased for villagers" (83.33%), "Official procedure should be quick,

easy and timely" (81.66%), "Awareness regarding different development work should be emphasized" (78.33%), "Sarpanch should motivate the panchayat members to participate in the group activities" (76.66%), "Unity and cooperation should be more among panchayat members" (73.33%), "Sarpanch should explain complicated things and information in simple language to the people" (71.66%),

"Efforts should be made to increase the level of education of villagers" (70.00%) and "Concept of caste equity should be encouraged to ensure the equal opportunities to the villagers" (68.33%) were ranked at second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth rank according to the responses of men sarpanches.

In case of women sarpanches, the suggestion "Financial grant should be increased" (90.00%) was most important suggestion according to the responses of the women sarpanches and ranked as first rank followed by the suggestions "Awareness regarding different development work should be emphasized" (88.33%), "All the facilities should be provided in panchayat" (86.66%), "Training facility should be increased for villagers" (85.00%), "Official procedure should be quick, easy and timely" (83.33%), "Unity and co-operation should be more among panchayat members" (80.00%), "Sarpanch should explain complicated things and information in simple language to the people" (78.33%), "Sarpanch should motivate the panchayat members to participate in the group activities" (75.00%), "Efforts should be made to increase the level of education of villagers" (73.33%), and "Concept of caste equity should be encouraged to ensure the equal opportunities to the villagers" were ranked at second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth rank according to the responses of women sarpanches.

#### 4. Conclusions

In the light of the above findings, it may be concluded that major constraints faced by men and women sarpanch were "Lack of experience as a leader", "Lack of funds from Government for development work", "Lack of training at village level" "Delay in sanctions and permission for development works from upper level" and important suggestions given by men and women sarpanch were "Financial grant should be increased", "All the facilities should be provided in panchayat", "Training facility should be increased for villagers", "Official procedure should be quick, easy and timely".

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