



To study the election and budgetary position of Village Panchayat

Lokendra Kumar Singh

Department of Agricultural Extension, Janta Vedic College, Baraut, UP, India

*Corresponding email: singhlokendrajvc@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Research Article Received on May 16, 2023 Revised on June 25, 2023 Accepted on July 13, 2023 Published on October 17, 2023</p> <p>Article Author Lokendra Kumar Singh</p> <p>Corresponding Author Email singhlokendrajvc@gmail.com</p>	<p>The studies also examine to record the opinion of the village people regarding function and programme of village panchayat and gram sabha. The study also generalized the allocation of budget on different heads and its execution and base of vote caste in the village panchayat election and found that the 98.50 per cent respondents of gram Sabha and 100.00 per cent respondents of village panchayat have knowledge about the process of election of Pradhan and members of gram panchayat, while only 1.50 per cent respondents in case of gram Sabha and 87.00 per cent respondents have exercised their votes and only 13.00 per cent respondents did not exercise their votes both by the village panchayats and gram Sabha.</p>
PUBLICATION INFO	KEYWORDS
<p>International Journal of Agricultural Invention (IJAI) RNI: UPENG/2016/70091 ISSN: 2456-1797 (P) Vol.: 8, Issue: 2, Pages: 195-200 Journal Homepage URL http://agriinventionjournal.com/ DOI: 10.46492/IJAI/2023.8.2.8</p>	<p>Village Panchayat, Gram Sabha, Budget, Election, People Opinion</p>

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

Singh, L. K. (2023) To study the election and budgetary position of Village Panchayat, *International Journal of Agricultural Invention*, 8(2): 195-200. DOI: 10.46492/IJAI/2023.8.2.8

No doubt, India lives in the villages and about 50% of the 6.41 lakh villages of the country are situated in different terrain characterized by poor socio-economic condition. Although the panchayats have historically been an integral part of rural life in India, these Acts have institutionalized the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at the village, block and district levels as the third tier of government. The aim has been to combine social justice with effective local governance, with an emphasis on reservation of seats for the deprived classes of population, including of the leadership positions with political empowerment having been established through a system of regular election to the three tiers of the panchayats in all the States except Jharkhand. The task has been to accelerate, widen and deepen the process of empowerment so

that these institutions of self-government become the 'principal authorities' for planning and implementation. The village panchayat is the lowest units of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), whose legal authority is the 73rd Constitutional Amendment of 1992, which is concerned with rural local governments, and it is a basic governing body in Indian villages. It works as a political institution, acting as a cabinet of the village. The gram sabha work as the general body of the village panchayat. The members of the Gram panchayat are elected directly and selection by the village people. The chairperson of gram panchayat is called Pradhan or Sarpanch. The panchayat Raj system has three tiers viz. Zila Parishad, at the district level, Panchayat Samiti, at the block level and Gram Panchayat, at the village level.

The Nagaur district of Rajasthan was the first state to establish gram panchayat, being the Bagdari was first village who established the village panchayat on 2 October 1959. The gram panchayat is divided into wards and a ward member, also referred to as a Panch, who is directly elected by the villagers, represents each ward. The president of the village, known as a Pradhan or Sarpanch, chairs the panchayat. The term of the elected representatives is five years. The secretary of the panchayat is a non-elected representative, appointed by the state government, to oversee panchayat activities.

Research Methodology

The present study was conducting in purposively selected district Baghpat of Uttar Pradesh. The district Baghpat divided into the six blocks namely Baghpat, Baraut, Binauli, Chaprauli, Khekra and Pilana. Out of six blocks Baghpat and Baraut were selected purposively keeping in view of the nature of study in order to get respondents samples. At first, the list of village panchayat was collected from the B.D.O. office (Baraut and Baghpat) then from this list, 10 village panchayats were selected comprising five village panchayats from each block. After Selection of village panchayat we found a complete list of the members of gram sabha and members of gram panchayat was prepared. Out of the list 10 members of gram panchayat and 20 members of gram sabha were finally selected with stratified random sampling method comprising.

Thus total sample contributes 300 (100 members of gram panchayat and 200 members of gram sabha) as the respondents for investigation of the present study.

Test and Design

In the present study ex post facto research design and Chi square test has been followed.

Selection of the Variables and Their Measurement

Various variables that fit in line with the objectives of the study were considered for this purpose. The procedures of measuring them were also determined from the extensive scanning of the literature. The list of these variables and their measurement is presented in (table 2) discusses the awareness of the respondents about panchayats elections. The sampled respondents were interviewed to notice their knowledge about the election Pradhan and members and the voting procedure for the village panchayat. Table shows that very high majority i.e. 98.5% respondents of gram sabha and 100% respondents of village panchayat have knowledge about the process of election of Pradhan and members of gram panchayat, while only 1.50 % respondents in case of gram sabha and 0% in case of village panchayat have no knowledge about the same.

Table 1. Selection of Variables and their measurement

S. N.	Independent Variables	Measurement Procedure
Socio-economic Variables		
1	Age	The chronological age of respondents
2	Farm Size	Scoring procedure developed
3	Education	Trivedi (1963) scale with partial modification
4	Caste	- do-
5	Family Composition	Scoring procedure developed
6	Occupation	Trivedi (1963) scale with partial modification
7	Farm power	Schedule developed by (Singh, 1981)
8	Annual Income	Scoring procedure developed
9	Material possession	Scoring procedure developed
10	Farm Implements	Trivedi (1963) scale with partial modification
11	Social Participation	Scoring procedure developed
Dependent Variables		
12	Knowledge of respondents about election and budgetary position	Scoring procedure developed

Table 2. Showing the awareness of the respondents about election of village panchayat

S. N.	Particulars	No/Yes	Respondents		Total No/%	Remark
			Gram Sabha No/%	Village Panchayat No/%		
1	Knowledge about the Election of Village Panchayat	Yes	197 (98.50)	100 (100.00)	297 (99.00)	X ² =1.51 1 d.f.
		No	3 (1.50)	0 (0.00)	3 (1.00)	Not significant
2	Voted in Village Panchayat Election	Yes	165 (82.50)	96 (96.00)	261 (87.00)	X ² =10.74 1 d.f.
		No	35 (17.50)	4 (4.00)	39 (13.00)	significant

Note: figure in parenthesis indicates percentage

Overall, 99% respondents do possess the knowledge regarding election of process gram panchayat. The x² value observed was i.e. 0.515 at 1 d.f., which is not found significant. Table further reveals that majority i.e. 82.50% respondents of gram sabha and 96% respondents of village panchayat have exercise their votes in both the institutions, while 17.5% respondents of gram sabha and 4% respondents of village panchayat have not exercised their votes.

The overall majority i.e. 87% respondents have exercised their votes and only 13% respondents did not exercise their votes both by the village panchayats and gram sabha. Thus, from the above discussion, it may be concluded that the majority of the respondents of gram sabha and village panchayats are aware about the elections of Pradhan and members of the panchayat and have exercised their votes in the election of village Pradhan and members.

Table 3. Showing the basis of voting in election by the respondents

S. N.	Reason of Voting in Election	Level	Respondents			Total No/%	Remark
			Gram Sabha No/%	Village Panchayat No/%			
(I)	Using our voting right	Yes	14 (8.48)	8 (8.33)	22 (8.43)	X ² value= 17.805	
(ii)	Success of caste leader	Yes	18 (10.91)	12 (12.50)	30 (11.49)	5 d.f. Significant at	
(iii)	success of our party leader	Yes	66 (40.00)	53 (55.21)	119 (45.59)	1% level	
(iv)	Success of our favorite person	Yes	38 (23.03)	12 (12.50)	50 (19.16)		
(v)	gaining money in election	Yes	5 (3.03)	8 (8.33)	13 (4.98)		
(vi)	pressure tactics	Yes	24 (14.55)	3 (3.13)	27 (10.34)		

Table 3 shows that of the total respondents who have cited the reason for voting in electing the village pradhan and members maximum i.e. 40% have mentioned the reason of success of party leader, followed by 23.03%, success of our favorite person, 14.55% respondents to give vote pressure

tactics, 10.91% success our caste leader and 8.48% respondents having using our voting right in case of gram sabha, while similar trend is also being noticed in case of village panchayat as majority i.e. 55.21% respondents have been mentioned the reason of success our party leader, followed by 12.50% each

reason being success of caste leader) and (success of our favorite person, 8.33% each reason being using our voting right and gaining money in election and 3.13% respondents exercised our vote (pressure tactics) respectively. Table further reveals that overall 45.59% respondents have mentioned the main reason as success our party leader, followed by 19.16% success of our favorite person, 11.49% respondents success of caste leader, 10.34% reason pressure tactics and 8.43% using our voting right, respectively. The x^2 value was 17.805 is found significantly at 1% level 11.070 at 5% level. Thus from above discussion, it may be concluded that majority i.e. 55.21% and 40% respondents have cited the main reason of success our party leader. In case of gram sabha and village panchayat overall maximum i.e. 45.59% respondents have cited the main reason of voting in the village panchayat election due to success of our party leaders.

Table 4 clearly indicates that in case of gram sabha majority i.e. 60% respondents have not exercised their vote thinking his vote is already exercised by someone, while 20%, 14.29% and 2.86% each have mentioned the reason of afraid of opposite party leader, quarrel on voting booth, name was not in voter list and busy in our own work respectively. In case of village, panchayat out of 100 only 4% respondents could not exercise their votes due to other already exercised reason being vote. Thus, from the discussion, it may be concluded that majority i.e. 60% respondents in case of gram sabha and 100% in case of village panchayat could not exercise their votes due to reason being vote was already exercise by others.

Table 4. Showing the reason being not exercised their votes in the election

S. N.	Reasons for No Voting in Election	Level	Respondents		Total	Remarks
			Gram Sabha No/%	Village Panchayat No/%		
(i)	Not interested in voting	Yes	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	X ² value 2.496, 5 d.f. Not significant
(ii)	Busy in your own work	Yes	1 (2.86)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.56)	
(iii)	Name was not in voter list	Yes	1 (2.86)	0 (0.00)	1 (2.56)	
(iv)	Afraid of opposite party leader	Yes	7 (20.00)	0 (0.00)	7 (17.95)	
(v)	Quarrel on voting booth	Yes	5 (14.29)	0 (0.00)	5 (12.82)	
(vi)	Vote was already exercise by other	Yes	21 (60.00)	4 (100.00)	25 (64.10)	

Panchayat Budgetary System

Table 5 indicates that in case of gram sabha majority i.e. 61.5% respondents are unaware regarding the financial support of state government, while 38.5% respondents do possess knowledge. In case of central government, majority i.e. 64.5% respondents do not possess knowledge regarding funding support. Under village panchayat 50% each respondents have possess and have not possess knowledge regarding income source.

Similarly, 53% respondents do not possess knowledge regarding funding support of central government to village panchayat. In reverse 47% respondents have possess knowledge refunding the same. Overall table reveals that majority of the respondents i.e. 60.67% and 60.67% do not possess knowledge regarding financial support state and central government. Thus from the above discussion, it may be concluded that majority of the respondents in both institutions have not possessed the proper knowledge of state and central governments support to the institution i.e. gram sabha and village panchayat.

Table 5. Knowledge of the respondents about sources of income of village panchayat

S. N.	Particulars	Level	Respondents		Total No/%	Remark
			Gram Sabha No/%	Village Panchayat No/%		
1	Knowledge about sources of income of gram panchayat	Yes	148 (74.00)	97 (97.00)	245 (81.67)	X ² value =153.67 1 d.f. At 1% level significant
		No	52 (26.00)	03 (3.00)	55 (18.33)	
		Total	200 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	300 (100.00)	
(I)	State Government	Yes	77 (38.50)	50 (50.00)	127 (42.33)	X ² value =3.695 Not significant
		No	123 (61.50)	50 (50.00)	182 (60.67)	
(ii)	Central Government	Yes	71 (35.50)	47 (47.00)	118 (39.33)	X ² =3.69 not Significant at 1% level
		No	129 (64.50)	53 (53.00)	182 (60.67)	

Non-Government Sources

It is evident from (table 6) that maximum 31% and 22% respondents of village panchayat and gram sabha were awarded regarding rent of agricultural land of gram sabha, while the majority i.e. 78% and 69% respondents of gram sabha and village panchayat do not know about the rent of agriculture land. Table further reveals that maximum 25% and 15% respondents are well acquainted about the taxes of local market in the village, while majority of them i.e. 85% respondents of gram sabha and 75% respondents of village panchayat do not know about the same.

Similarly, 16.5% respondents of gram sabha and 22% respondents of village panchayat are well acquainted about by auction of fruits and flower plants on gram sabha lands, maximum i.e. 24% and 23% respondents of gram sabha and village panchayat members are have knowledge about rent of fisheries cultivation in gram sabha ponds. Majority 83.5% respondents of gram sabha and 78% respondents of village panchayat have no knowledge regarding auction of fruit and flower plant on gram sabha land and 77% and 76% respondents do not know regarding by rent of fisheries cultivation in gram sabha ponds.

Table 6. Showing the awareness of respondent about non-government sources

S. N.	Non-Government Sources	Level	Respondents		Total No/%	Remarks
			Gram Sabha No/%	Village Panchayat No/%		
(I)	Rent of Agri. Land of Gram Sabha	Yes	44 (22.00)	31 (31.00)	75 (25.00)	X ² =2.88 Not significant
		No	156	69	225	
(II)	Taxes of local markets in the village	Yes	30 (15.00)	25 (25.00)	55 (18.18)	X ² =4.433 Significant
		No	170	75	245	
(III)	By auction of fruits and flower plant on gram sabha land	Yes	33 (16.50)	22 (22.00)	55 (18.33)	X ² =1.347 Not significant
		No	167	78	245	
(IV)	Rent of fisheries cultivation in Gram Sabha Ponds	Yes	48 (24.00)	23 (23.00)	71 (23.67)	X ² =0.037 Significant
		No	152 (76.00)	77 (77.00)	229 (76.33)	

It reveals that overall majority i.e. 81.67% each 76.33% respondents do not know about taxes of local markets in the village and by auction of fruits and flower plant on gram sabha land. While only 25%, 23.67%, 18.33% and 18.18% respondents are awarded about Rent of Agri. Land of Gram Sabha, rent of fisheries cultivation in gram sabha ponds, by auction of fruits and flower plant on gram sabha land and taxes of local markets in the village respectively.

Conclusion

It deals with the awareness of election process and budgetary position of village panchayat. It is very interesting to see that 100% members of village panchayat were observed to be aware about the election of village panchayat, while it was noticed 98.5% with gram sabha members. Overall, 87% voted for panchayat election. Only 13% could not exercise their votes. It can be well analyzed from the previously mentioned that people of both the blocks are very much politically aware about the election and voting pattern of village panchayat Pradhan and members. Researcher in personal conversation with villagers and sampled respondents, felt the people are more literate, economical sound and well aware about government schemes of their welfare. Pattern of voting in election was measured by six reasons like voting right, caste, party leader, favorite person, gaining money and pressure tactics. It was good to see that majority of respondents of both gram sabha and village panchayat voted for success of party, hence the voting is party based X^2 value found the result significant. Reasons of not exercising the votes in election were summed up as, no interest, busy in own work, no name in voter list, fear of opposite leader, quarrel on booth and vote was already exercised: 60% of gram sabha respondents did not vote with an assumption that their vote might have already exercised. Rest 40% could not do voting because of first five reasons. In case of village panchayat not all respondents voted thinking, vote has already been used. Almost every sampled respondent (97%) of village panchayat and 2/3rd of gram sabha had knowledge about the sources of income of village panchayat. It is further analysed that majority of gram sabha and village panchayat are unaware about the financial support of state and central government.

Four income sources were selected for the said purpose i.e. income from agricultural land, local market, auction of plants and rent of fisheries cultivation. It is analyzed that a large majority of respondents of both the institutions were unaware of non-government sources, while below 1/4th members of gram sabha and 31% and below members of panchayat observed aware of income source of non-government. Extension teaching is due to make the sampled respondents of both the institutions about the source of income of state, central and of the non-government agencies.

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