ABSTRACT

Overall development of country is the main objective of Indian government since its independence. Keeping this in view Panchayati Raj Institutions have been introduced under the 73rd Amendment Act of the Constitution of India. Accordingly in view of the historic Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, the Assam Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 [1] was enacted and comes to effect from 5th May, 1994 and it has expected that the new Panchhayati Raj System will be fruitful if executed in the true sense of the term. Activity mapping were prepared and notified vide notification No- PDA 336/2001/pt-III/32 dated 25th June 2007 for devolution of function, functionaries and funds to Zilla Parishad, Anchalik Panchayats and gaon Panchayat. At present there are about 25991 elected representatives at all the levels of the Panchayat fifty per cent of which are women. These member represents more than 266.55 lakhs rural population, 2223 Gaon Panchayats, 188Nos. Anchalik Panchayats and 20Nos. Zilla parishad. The new Panchayats cover about 24247 villages i.e. 87% of rural population. It was realized that the all round development is possible only through the development of agriculture. Elected members of Panchayati Raj at various levels are the direct carrier of knowledge of agricultural development programmes. The study aims to obtain the answers of how best the members of PRI’s able to perceive the designated roles? What may be the effect of socio-personal and socio psychological attributes of the respondents on performance? What is the level of performance as ratted by the members and as per ratting of the beneficiaries? What are the problems faced by the members of PRI’s in performing their roles? What are the opinions of beneficiaries about role performance of PRI members? The study was conducted during 2012-14 in Upper Brahamaputra Valley zone of Assam. Out of the five district Golaghat, Sibsagar and Jorhat district were selected following purposive cum random sampling method. From each District 1 President of Zilla Parishad Constituency, 3nos. of member of Zilla Parishad Constituency, 3nos of President of
Anchalik Panchayat, 9nos. President of Gaon Panchayat (G.P), 9nos. of Member of Anchalik Panchayat, 27nos. of Unit members and 27nos. of beneficiaries were selected for the study and making a total sample size of 237 for three districts.

The important findings of the study were:

- 52.56 per cent of PRI members and 50.62 per cent of beneficiaries were of middle age group.
- 57.69 per cent of PRI members and 39.51 per cent of beneficiaries were graduate.
- 44.23 per cent of PRI members and 45.68 per cent of beneficiaries were OBC/MOBC caste.
- 42.30 per cent of PRI members possessed medium level social participation and 58.97 per cent PRI members were office bearer in various social organizations and 64.74 per cent PRI members shows regular participation in various social organizations.
- 63.46 per cent PRI members from nuclear family.
- 42.30 per cent of PRI members possessed medium level leadership behaviour and more than half (>60%) of them possessed medium level in 7 dimensions of leadership behaviour.
- 72.44 per cent PRI members possessed medium level extension participation.
- 60.25 per cent of the respondents were medium level cosmopolite ness.
- 46.79 per cent of the respondents have medium level decision making ability.
- 60.25 per cent of the respondents have medium personality level.
- 56.41 per cent of the PRI members have medium level role perception.
- 77.77 per cent of the members of Zilla Parishad have high level role perception.
- Each of the presidents of Zilla Parishad have high level role perception.
44.45 per cent of the members of Anchalik Panchayat have medium level role perception.

77.77 per cent of the presidents of Anchalik Panchayat have high level role perception.

62.96 per cent of the presidents of Gaon Panchayat have medium level role perception.

71.60 per cent of the unit members of Gaon Panchayat have medium level role perception.

54.49 per cent of the PRI members possessed medium level role performance.

66.67 per cent of the members of Zilla Parishad medium level role performance.

66.67 per cent of the presidents of Zilla Parishad possessed medium level role performance.

40.74 per cent of the members of Anchalik Panchayat have medium level role performance.

Per cent 77.77 percent of the presidents of Anchalik Panchayat have high level role performance.

59.26 per cent of the presidents of Gaon Panchayat have medium level role performance.

56.79 per cent of the of unit members Gaon Panchayat have medium level role performance.

44.44 per cent beneficiaries perceived low level role performance of members of Panchayatiraj Institutions. co-relation analysis:
Out of 10 selected independent variables

- Caste (-0.832**), family type (-0.971**), cosmopolitaness (-0.779**), of members of zilla parishad exhibited negative and significant relationship with role perception.

- Leadership behaviour (0.752*), extension participation (0.874**), decision making ability (0.993**) cosmopolitaness (0.834**) and personality level (0.852**) of members of zilla parishad exhibited positive and significant relationship with role perception.

- Caste (-0.777**), family type (-0.927**), of members of zilla parishad exhibited negative and significant relationship with role performance.

- Leadership behaviour (0.796**), extension participation (0.866**), decision making ability (0.990**) and personality level (0.861**) of members of zilla parishad exhibited positive and significant relationship with role performance.

- Age (0.753*), leadership behaviour (0.894**), extension participation (0.930**), decision making ability (0.958**) and cosmo politeness (0.666*) and personality level (0.958**) of presidents of Anchalik Panchayat exhibited positive and significant relationship with role perception.

- Family type (-0.485**) of presidents of Anchalik Panchayat exhibited negative and significant relationship with role performance.

- Age (0.753**), leadership behavior (0.894**), extension participation (0.930**), decision making ability (0.958**), cosmopolitaness (0.666*) and personality level (0.958**) of Presidents of Anchalik Panchayat exhibited positive and significant relationship with role performance.

- Age (0.436*), leadership behavior (0.411*), extension participation (0.503**) and personality level (0.615**) of Presidents of Gaon Panchayat exhibited positive and significant relationship with role perception.
- Age (0.535**), leadership behaviour (0.480**), extension participation (0.538**). Decision making ability (0.409*) and personality level (0.537**) of Presidents of Gaon Panchayat exhibited positive and significant relationship with role performance.

- Leadership behaviour (0.527**), extension participation (0.407*), decision making ability (0.362*) of Members of Anchalik Panchayat exhibited positive and significant relationship with role perception.

- Caste (-0.406*), family type (-0.535**) of member of Anchalik Panchayat exhibited negative and significant relationship with role perception.

- Leadership behaviour (0.466*), decision making ability (0.396*) of member of Anchalik Panchayat exhibited positive and significant relationship with role performance.

- Family type (-0.485**) members of Anchalik Panchayat exhibited negative and significant relationship with role performance.

- Age (0.359**), leadership behaviour (0.320**), extension participation (0.230*) of unit members exhibited positive and significant relationship with role perception.

- Family type (-0.330**), of unit members exhibited negative and significant relationship with role perception.

- Family type (-0.325**) of unit members exhibited negative and significant relationship with role performance.

- Age (0.372**), leadership behavior (0.419*), extension participation (0.351*), of unit members exhibited positive and significant relationship with role performance.

**Multiple regression analysis**

Multiple regression analysis was also done and it was seen that the regression coefficients of extension participation (b = 4.562**), personality level (b =
0.991**) were found to be significant with role perception of president of gaon panchayat (R² = 0.593). Regression coefficients of leadership behaviour (b= 2.133**), extension participation (b = 2.349**), personality level (b = 2.637**) were found to be significant with role performance of president of gaon panchayat (R² = 0.528). The regression coefficients of caste (b= 4.747**), cosmo politeness (b=1.598**) were found to be significant with role perception of unit members of gaon panchayat (R²=0.196). Regression coefficients of caste (b=4.489**), cosmo politeness (b=2.531**) were found to be significant with role perception of unit members of gaon panchayat (R²=0.183). Also, the regression coefficients of education (b= -6.724**), family type (b= -20.646**), leadership behaviour (5.559**) and personality level (b = 4.168**) were found to be significant with role perception of members of anchalik panchayat (R² = 0.770). The regression coefficients of education (b = -26.981**), family type (b = -17.622**), leadership behaviour (6.441**) and decision making ability (b=5.725**) were found to be significant. Therefore, these parameters can be termed as good predictors of role perception and role performance of members of PRI’s.

The major problems faced by the members of PRI’s are

i) Insufficient fund and delaying in sanction of fund.

ii) Preferential distribution of funds

iii) Control over the Panchayats by superior authorities, bureaucrats, and ruling political party.

iv) Lack of proper circulation and information of the different schemes of the government to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

v) Lack of training exposure and training need assessment

vi) Lack of communication between members of PRI’s and agriculture department.

vii) Irregular and insufficient supply of inputs.
Peoples opinion on role performance of PRI’s members

i) Majority of members of PRI’s are unaware of agricultural schemes.

ii) Lack of clear modalities in panchayat for implementation of agricultural schemes.

iii) Lack of inter institutional harmony amongst the departments involve with agricultural development.

iv) Lack of co-ordination between gaon panchayat, anchalik panchayat and zilla parishad.

v) Majority of members of PRI’s are only interested to satisfy their higher level political leaders than the voters.

vi) The beneficiaries are selected for different schemes from amongst the close relatives of the elected members and from the party men of the ruling party.

vii) The Panchayats have lost its self-governmental character. Besides, it has became implementing agency of the government schemes.

viii) Elected panchayat body not accountable to the voters in real sense of the terms.

ix) Conscious voters are not interested in activities of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

x) Lack of training infrastructure at village level