

**“PEOPLE’S PERCEPTION ABOUT PANCHAYATI
RAJ SYSTEM IN UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
DISTRICT OF UTTARAKHAND”**

Thesis

Submitted to the

**Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology,
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By

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*Pantnagar
August, 2016*


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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**PEOPLE’S PERCEPTION ABOUT PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN UDHAM SINGH NAGAR DISTRICT OF UTTARAKHAND**”, submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of **Master of Science** with major in **Agricultural Extension and Communication** of the College of Post Graduate Studies, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, is a record of *bona fide* research carried out by **Mr Abhinav Yadav, Id.No. 39714**, under my supervision, and no part of the thesis has been submitted for any other degree or diploma.

The assistance and help received during the course of this investigation have been duly acknowledged.



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August, 2016

CERTIFICATE

We, the undersigned, members of the Advisory Committee of **Mr Abhinav Yadav**, **Id.No. 39714**, a candidate for the degree of **Master of Science** with major in **Agricultural Extension and Communication**, agree that the thesis entitled **“PEOPLE’S PERCEPTION ABOUT PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN UDHAM SINGH NAGAR DISTRICT OF UTTARAKHAND”** may be submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree.



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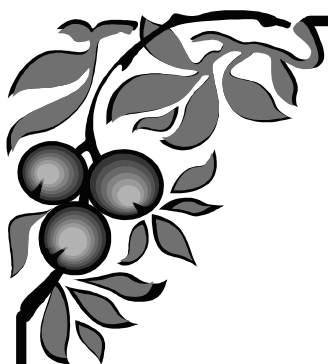
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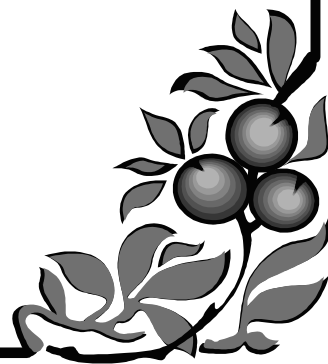
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ABBREVIATIONS

PRS	:	Panchayati Raj System
PRIs	:	Panchayati Raj Institutions
PR	:	Panchayati Raj
CDP	:	Community Development Programme
NES	:	National Extension Service
ZP	:	Zila Parishad /Zila Panchayat
BP	:	Block Panchayat
GP	:	Gram Panchayat
SC	:	Scheduled Caste
ST	:	Scheduled Tribe
OBC	:	Other Backward Caste
WER	:	Women Elected Representatives
SHGs	:	Self Help Groups
MP	:	Member of Parliament
MLA	:	Member of Legislative Assembly
ADO	:	Agriculture Development Officer
G2C	:	Government to Citizen
UIRD	:	Uttarakhand Institute of Rural Development
SIDCUL	:	State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited
PMAY	:	Pradhanmantri Awas Yojna
BPL	:	Below Poverty Line
APL	:	Above Poverty Line



Introduction



Mahatma Gandhi advocated that 'India lives in her villages. Indian independence must begin at the bottom, thus making every village a republic or panchayat, enjoying full powers'. He remarked that true democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village. These dreams lead to the inclusion of Article 40 in the Directive Principles of the State Policy of Constitution of India. Almost after five decades of independence, in the year 1993, the Government of India took a revolutionary step by making Panchayati Raj Institutions a part of the Constitution. The introduction of constitutionally mandated panchayat system through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act was the most significant experiment in reforming governance in India from a participatory democratic decentralization point of view.

Panchayati Raj System (PRS) is identified as an institutional expression of democratic decentralization in India. It is a system of self-governance for rural people electing their own leaders to look after the village administration (**Bhandari, 2013**). Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the grass root units of local self-governance have been considered as the vehicles of socio economic transformation in rural India. The true democracy in a country can be ensured only if there is mass participation of people in the governance. Involvement of the grass root people is the most important means of bringing about the socio-economic development. Therefore, the constitutionally mandated system of local self-governance popularly known as Panchayati Raj (PR) was introduced in the year 1993 to ensure true democratic system and socio-economic transformation in villages of India. Mahatma Gandhi's dream of every village being a republic and panchayats having powers, has been translated into reality with the introduction of the three-tier PRS to ensure people's participation in rural reconstruction. The philosophy of PR is deeply steeped in tradition and culture of rural India and is by no means a new concept.

The concept of local self-governments and community assemblies is mentioned in the Vedic texts. Around 600 B.C., the territory north of the river Ganga comprising modern day north Bihar and eastern U.P. was under the suzerainty of small republics called Janapadas. In these Janapadas, the affairs of the States were conducted by assemblies consisting of local chieftains. In the post Mauryan time, there was existence of republics of Malavas and the Kshudrakas where decisions were taken by the “sabhas”. Megasthenes, the Greek ambassador visited the court of Chandragupta Maurya in 303 B.C. He described the city councils– comprising six committees with 30 members which governed Pataliputra. Similar structures also existed in South India. In the Chola Kingdom, the village council, together with its sub-committees and wards, played an important part in administration, and managed social affairs. They were also responsible for revenue collection and collective assessment with the King’s representative (**Gandhi, 2015**).

The term “Panchayati Raj” is relatively new, having originated during the British administration. “Panchayat” is a Hindi word, which literally means assembly (Ayat) of five (Panch) wise and respected elders and “Raj” literary means governance or government. Conceptually, panchayat can be described as an assembly of the village people or their representatives and chosen and accepted by the local community (**Verma, 2013**). The institutions of panchayat have been an integral part of rural Indian polity and society. These institutions have survived various political changes till the advent of the British Raj. With the introduction of the colonial administration, the working patterns of local bodies underwent some marked changes. However, the British colonial rulers did not give priority to the panchayats as units of democratic decentralization and during that period panchayats were primarily perceived as means of achieving village solidarity and unity, rather than as instruments of governance or development. The present structure of local self-governance took shape in **1688** when the British government established a municipal corporation at Madras which was followed by the similar corporations in Bombay and Calcutta in the year **1726**. These corporations were the basic units of administration enjoying considerable judicial powers too. Later on, number of town municipalities and city municipal corporations came into existence and their number increased manifold over the next 150 years. In **1872**, **Lord Mayo** introduced elected representatives for these municipalities which were further developed by his successor, **Lord Ripon**, in **1882**. By the 1880s, these urban municipal bodies had a pre-dominance of elected representatives in a number of cities and towns, including Calcutta and Bombay. A

corresponding effective structure for rural areas came up with the enactment of the **Bengal Local Self Government Act, 1885** which led to the establishment of district local boards across the entire territory of the then Bengal province. The Minto-Morley Reforms, 1909 and the Montague Chelmsford Reforms, 1919, catalysed the people's participation in the governance and by 1924-25; district boards had a preponderance of elected representatives and a non-official chairman. This arrangement continued till the independence of the country in 1947 and thereafter till the late 1950s.

After independence, the emphasis of the father of the nation on self-governing panchayats could not ensure their constitutional validity at the initial stages but while distributing powers between the Union and the States, it was agreed that PRIs would find a place in the constitution of India at Article 40 (Directive Principles of State Policy) which provides "the state shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government". Article 40 vested local bodies and PR as a subject with the states but did not further elaborate on the relations between the states and this third tier of government. It took several decades for PR to blossom from a not justiciable part of the constitution (under the Directive Principles of State Policy) to the legally binding institution (the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act).

Evolution of Panchayati Raj System

The genesis of existing PRS in India is linked with the launching of two ambitious rural sector initiatives; Community Development Programme (CDP) in 1952 and National Extension Service (NES) in 1953. The main thrust of CDP was to secure socio-economic transformation of village life through people's own democratic and cooperative organisations with the government providing technical services, credit and supply. The NES which was an amplified version of CDP was introduced, aiming at the transfer of technology and scientific knowledge to the rural crafts, animal husbandry and agricultural sectors. Both of these programmes were intended to bring about the socio economic transformation of rural masses but failed to take off along the expected lines due to the absence of an effective instrument to ensure people's participation. Ultimately the National Development Council constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Balwantrai Mehta in 1957 to report on these developmental projects.

Balwantrai Mehta committee (1957) observed that these programmes were not successful because these failed to evoke local initiative and that in the absence of local initiative and local interest, development would not be possible. The committee offered two broad directional thrusts; first that there should be administrative decentralisation for effective implementation of the developmental programmes and the decentralised administrative system should be placed under the control of local bodies. Secondly the committee suggested a three tier system of panchayats known as Zila Parishad (ZP), Panchayat Samiti/ Block Panchayat (BP) and Gram Panchayat (GP) and recommended encouragement of peoples' participation in community work through the panchayats. The recommendations of the Balwantrai Mehta committee came into effect on **1st April 1958**. The implementation of these recommendations in 1959 led to an experiment in building an institution known as 'Panchayati Raj System' in almost all the parts of the country. Rajasthan was the first state to implement Panchayati Raj on **2nd October 1959** in **Nagaur** district. This system was adopted by other state governments during the 1950s and 60s as laws were passed to establish panchayats in various states.

But there was decline in PRIs after the mid-sixties mainly because of centralized tendencies of functioning all over the country. During the period of national emergency these institutions lost their significance. In 1977, the government appointed a committee with Ashok Mehta as chairman which was entrusted with the task of enquiring into the causes responsible for the poor performance of PRIs. Committee was also asked to suggest measures to strengthen PRIs. The committee suggested two tier system of PR consisting of ZPs at the district level and Mandal Panchayats at the grassroots level as against three tier system suggested by the Balwantrai Mehta committee. The committee also recommended constitutional protection to the PRIs and further decentralization of power at all levels. During 1980's, two important committees were appointed to look into local governments; G.V.K. Rao committee in 1985 and L.M. Singhvi committee in 1986. The G.V.K. Rao committee recommended the revival of PRIs such that greater responsibility of planning, implementation, and monitoring of rural development programmes should be assigned to them. L.M. Singhvi committee recommended that the PRIs should be constitutionally recognized and protected. Following these circumstances, Rajiv Gandhi the then Prime Minister of India introduced the 64th Amendment bill on local government on 15th May, 1989 in the Parliament, but it failed to get the required support. A second attempt was made in September 1990 to pass the bill in the parliament. The bill however was not even

taken up for consideration. In September 1991, a fresh bill on PR was introduced by the congress government under P. V. Narasimha Rao, the then Prime Minister. It was passed with minor modifications in 1992 as the 73rd amendment act 1992 and came into force on 24th April 1993.

Panchayati Raj as a constitutional amendment

A revolutionary change in the role of the PRIs was brought by the 73rd constitutional act. It established a full-fledged PRS. The significance of this amendment rests in the fact that it accorded legal status to the panchayat as a third tier of government, the other two being the central and state governments. With the passage of 73rd amendment act, people's participation in the process of planning, decision-making, implementation and delivery system in rural India was recognized. The constitution (73rd amendment) act, 1992 that came into force with effect from **24th April, 1993** has vested constitutional status on PRIs.

The 73rd amendment mentions that the state legislature may by law endow the PRIs with powers and responsibilities at the appropriate level with respect to: Preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice, as may be entrusted to them, including those in relation to matters listed in the 'Eleventh Schedule' (Article 243 G). Through these amendments, a separate schedule was added to the constitution (Eleventh Schedule, containing article 243 to 243–O) listing 29 subjects that could be devolved to the PRIs. This amendment brought about uniformity in structure, composition, powers and functions of panchayats. It gave impetus to PR to promote social and economic development and improvement in living conditions of rural India. Local government is an exclusive state subject under entry 5 of List II of the 7th schedule; therefore the union just provides the outline of the panchayat system, which would be implemented by the states by making laws or amending their existing laws to bring them in conformity with the provisions of the 73rd Amendment. It was binding on the states that the implementing legislation should be undertaken within a year of the commencement of the 73rd amendment act.

The main objective of the 73rd amendment was to create a new system of PRIs with People's participation providing good governance at grassroots level. The bill for the first time gave constitutional status to PRIs and it became mandatory on all state

governments to implement it. The System was also extended to the scheduled areas by the “Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled areas) Act” 1996 (hereafter referred to as the Extension Act). Later on the Ministry of PR was created in 2004, to empower the PRIs and to ensure efficient delivery of services for inclusive development of the nation.

Since the 73rd amendment came into force, the process of political empowerment of the panchayats has largely been achieved. While panchayat elections have been regularly held in all the states and union territories, reservations have been provided to the women, Scheduled Caste (SC), the Scheduled Tribe (ST) and the Other Backward Class (OBC) in proportion to their share of the population in each panchayat area.

1.1 Problem Statement

PRS initiated in 1993 was identified as a successful model of democratic decentralization and It was expected that this model would emerge as an effective tool of local self-governance and would strongly further the primary objectives of economic growth and social justice. The system of PR was initiated mainly for people’s participation in political and economic process (**Rao, 2009**). PR in its initial phase of implementation did succeed in the empowerment of rural people by ensuring their participation in decision making process but there are reports that the PR because of poor implementation has failed to realize the dreams of its architects. In actual practice, at the operational level, PRIs appear to have been saddled with a variety of problems. There are many impediments affecting the functioning of the PRIs in several states with regard to structural pattern, composition of panchayats, organic linkages between PRIs, electoral process, concept of rotation in the case of reserved seats, devolution of powers and functions, bureaucratic control over local bodies etc. The Gram Sabha, which was a pivot of PR in the new dispensation, has been sidelined in many cases. The ground reality of the working of PRS indicates very weak and ineffective implementation leading to little progress on the path of rural development. “PR has been suffering from the crisis of confidence and low level of self-esteem. The system also suffers from some other difficulties like inadequate financial resources, in egalitarian attitude of officials, mass illiteracy, class consciousness, ignorance, party strife and limited financial and administrative autonomy and lack of faith in grass roots democracy” (**Sharma, 1998**).

There have been cases of misappropriation and diversion of funds to tasks not associated with the beneficiaries. It has been observed that this system has not been able to acquire the dignity and status of viable and responsive people's bodies due to various reasons including absence of regular and fair elections, interference of political parties and criminals, corruption of representatives, insufficient representation of weaker sections like SC, ST and women, inadequate devolution of power and lack of financial resources, lack of participation at grassroots level, lack of information among common people about PR and lack of political experience among the representatives whose political role is critical for effective functioning of panchayats.

Though this system has brought some significant changes in the lives of rural people and has been instrumental in bringing women in political arena; it has not been effective up to the expectations in building the reputation of being a democratic development agency among rural people (**Gandhi, 2015**). Perception of rural people towards PR has not been favourable due to these lacunae and the present situation poses serious questions on the implementation of the PRS. How do people perceive the benefits accruing to the grassroots people for whom the programme was designed? What do people think about three tier social institutions? Do rural people still have enough faith and trust in the institutions of local self-governance? These questions need to be answered. Thus there is a strong need to study the villagers' point of view towards the PRIs and analyze the perception of people about PRS. Therefore, keeping in mind the researchable gaps the study entitled **“People's perception about Panchayati Raj System in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand”** was undertaken with the following objectives:

1.2 Objectives

- To study the socio-economic, communication and psychological characteristics of respondents.
- To find out people's perception about the functioning of Panchayati Raj system.
- To analyze the extent of people's participation in Panchayati Raj system.
- To delineate the problems faced by people under Panchayati Raj.

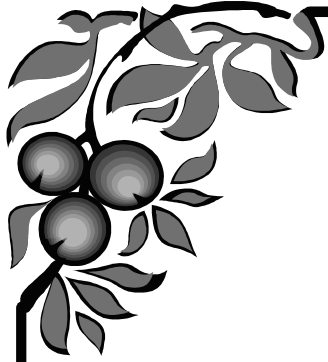
1.3 Limitations of the Study

There are some limitations of this research enlisted below:

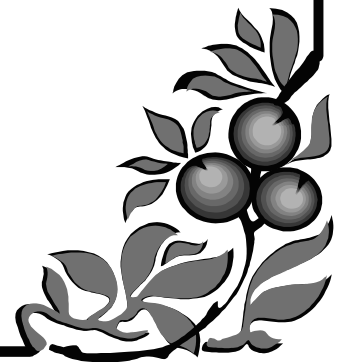
- i. The study was a part of masters' level student research. Therefore it suffered from the limitation of time and resources inherent to research carried out by single investigator.
- ii. The results cannot be generalized to wider area as the study was confined in only one district and with the restricted sample size.
- iii. The interpretation of data was based on the views of the respondents. Therefore the correctness of responses may be biased.
- iv. Monetary constraint also affected the researcher as he had to go to the village on a regular basis.
- v. Keeping in view the limitations of the student research project, the study was conducted with only few variables.

1.4 Organization of the Thesis

The study has been presented in the five chapters. The first chapter named **Introduction** includes problem statement, practical utility of the study, limitations of the study and organization of the thesis. This is followed by second chapter **Review of literature**, in which results of studies already conducted at national and regional levels are discussed to provide basic necessary facts about the selected objectives. The third chapter **Research Methodology** presents the procedure adopted for carrying out the investigation. It describes the sampling techniques, variables selected, and various data collection tools used in the study. The fifth chapter **Results and Discussion** highlights the research findings and places them in the context of the earlier works. The last chapter **Summary and Conclusion**, throws light on the whole research in brief. The literature referred and stated in the study has been acknowledged by enlisting under the head **Literature Cited** followed by the **Appendices**.



*Review
of
Literature*



The chapter “Review of Literature” is of great importance for any researcher as it assists in delineation of the problem area and provides a basis for interpretation of empirical perspective of research. This section presents an overview of the field of inquiry that has already been done on the topic. With this fact in mind, modest effort has been made to review the researches, surveys, reports, books, journals, magazines, popular articles, and other sources of information relevant to the study. Based on the objectives, collected reviews have been classified into following four sub heads:

- 2.1 Socio-economic, communication and psychological characteristics of respondents.
- 2.2 Perception about the Panchayati Raj system
- 2.3 Participation in Panchayati Raj system
- 2.4 Problems faced by people under Panchayati Raj system.

2.1 Socio-economic, communication and psychological characteristics of respondents

Pai (1998) in his field notes in Meerut District ‘Pradhanis in New Panchayats’ revealed that many of the Pradhanis were illiterate and only able to put their signatures on official papers. Regarding their roles, the study revealed that they were almost insignificant in the functioning of Gram and Block Panchayat bodies.

Mankar *et al.* (2005) observed that majority (63.15 per cent) of the GP women members had ‘medium’ level of knowledge. The ‘low’ knowledge level was possessed by 30.54 per cent respondents followed by ‘high’ knowledge level category (6.31 per cent).

Tiwari (2009) found that 26.25 per cent of panchayat members belonged to high income group, 43.75 per cent belonged to medium income and 30 per cent were in low income group. It was also found that 27.50 per cent of members were highly exposed to mass media and 28.75 per cent were less exposed to mass media.

Rashid and Sen (2010) in their study concluded that the level of awareness of different programmes was highest among SC at 72 per cent. Their participation in

panchayat meetings was also highest at 70 per cent. On the other hand, level of awareness was lowest at 53 per cent among respondents of general castes. Simultaneously, their participation in panchayat meetings was also the lowest at 38 per cent respondents.

Sharmra (2010) in a study found that a far higher proportion of women panchayat members were illiterates (41.67 per cent) than male members (16.67 per cent). The study further revealed that over two-fifth (42.42 per cent) male members have acquired education which ranged from middle standard and above, the corresponding proportion of women members was only 12 per cent.

Mankar *et al.* (2011) in a study revealed that more than half (51.11 per cent) of the respondents were aware of the role pertaining to animal husbandry. An equal percentage of the respondents (17.77 per cent) were aware about 'activities under forest' and 'ensuring conservation of resources', 'preparing compost and sale of manure'. A meagre per cent of the respondents were aware of the functions 'bringing under cultivation waste and fallow land vested by government in the panchayats' (6.66 per cent) and 'making arrangements for land and other resources in villages and organization of collective cooperative farming' (4.13 per cent).

Mohan and Usha (2012) in their study found that in Karkala taluka, 42.8 per cent of the respondents fell in the age group of 36 to 45 years, followed by 11.9 per cent between the age category of 46 to 50 years, 11.9 per cent between 51 to 55 years, 16.7 per cent between 56 to 60 years, and only 2.4 per cent between 61 to 65 years. As for Kundapura taluka, majority (19.6 per cent) of the respondents fell in the age group of 36 to 40 years, followed by 15.7 per cent between 41 to 45 years, 15.7 per cent between 46 to 50 years, 17.6 per cent between 31 to 35 years, and 11.8 per cent between 26 to 30 years. No respondent was above 60 years of age.

Sandhu and Sharma (2012) noted that four of five (80 per cent) women elected representatives (WER) were in the age group of 25 to 55 years and more than three-fourth belong to vulnerable social caste categories (SC, ST and OBC). Study further revealed that 71 per cent WER were living in nuclear families. But the participation of WER in economic activities was just 49 per cent as 51 per cent were house-wife.

Dey (2014) in a study found that out of the 30 respondents in Durgpura village, 24 had a below poverty line (BPL) card, translating into 80 per cent of the total sample.

Half of the total sample, that is 50 per cent of the respondents in Durgapura, comprises landless labourers. The optimistic aspect is that out of the 30 respondents, 21 have land from which they get a decent income for their survival. The household monthly income of most of the respondents ranged between Rs. 500 and 1000.

Singh *et al.* (2015) in a study observed that majority (43.75 per cent) of the panchayat members were middle aged, 31.25 per cent were young and 25 per cent were old aged.

2.2 Perception about Panchayati Raj system

Patil and Kittur (1990) in a case study of Gram Sabha in Dharwad district of Karnataka revealed that "In spite of governments' and ZP's continuous efforts by way of circulars, orders and telegrams to activate the Gram Sabha, still the fact is that, in most of the talukas, Gram Sabhas are not functioning as per the statutory requirement".

Shivaramau and Channegowda (1994) in a study revealed that as high as 70.56 per cent of respondents perceived that the Gram Sabhas were not conducted regularly by the mandal panchayats that is once in six months. Further majority of farmer respondents (71.67 per cent) and former mandal panchayat members (68.33 per cent) perceived that the Gram Sabhas were not called regularly by the mandal panchayats.

Jain (1999) observed "the performance of the Gram Sabha has suffered due to lack of awareness among the people about the concept and utility of the institution of Gram Sabha, and their own role in making it successful. Any effort directed towards strengthening this institution, therefore, requires a very serious action plan for awareness generation about various aspects of working of Gram Sabhas among the people".

Narayana (2004) in a study found that close to 50 per cent of the people perceive panchayat to be useful because it is easy to access, it assures greater participation and it provides a forum for expressing views and needs. Between 13 per cent and 18 per cent of the citizens across different caste groups perceive panchayat to be beneficial to the poor. They said that panchayat is more efficient than line departments, especially in planning local development.

Shrivastava (2006) studied the overall role perception of Gram Panchayat Members (GPMs). He found that majority 52.50 per cent of GPMs belonged to medium perception followed by low (25.00 per cent) and remaining 22.50 per cent GPMs belonged to high perception category.

Singh and Kaur (2009) in a study revealed the perception of female panchayat members regarding panchayats. Majority (55 per cent) of them perceived panchayat as an agency which is responsible for construction of village roads and streets and improvement in drainage system of the village. Some perceive it as mechanism for settling disputes of the villagers.

Kattimani and Nandan (2011) investigated the perception of leaders to the performance of the entire District panchayat council. The study revealed that District panchayat had been perceived as a very strong administrative unit parallel to district administration. The elected panchayat leaders have perceived the panchayat institutions as political outfit rather than development institutions. They have started their functioning with a negative note that they are not given due powers and recognition.

Reddy (2014) in a study found that 81.48 per cent of the respondents have answered that the working of the PRIs satisfactory. Only 7.78 per cent of the respondents have said that the services of PRIs are not useful. Among various social categories highest percentage (84.37 per cent) of backward caste respondents accepted the usefulness of PRIs. Study also revealed that ST respondents top the list with negative perception (12.12 per cent) as well as unknown perception (15.15 per cent).

Gandhi (2015) in a study revealed that 40 per cent of panchayat leaders and 35.55 per cent of general respondents have positive perception about effective functioning of three tier PRIs while, 46.66 per cent of panchayat leaders, and 44.44 per cent of general respondents were negative about the effectiveness of PRIs.

2.3 Participation in Panchayati Raj system

Sahai (1968) in his study "Panchayati Raj in India" observed that no Gram Sabha meetings were held and even if a meeting was held, people did not evince any enthusiasm for these meetings.

Ramaprasad (1981) in his study 'Panchayat of Hyderabad Region' reported that Gram Sabha meetings were attended by not more than four per cent of the members in the village.

Aziz (1992) in his study on 'Decentralisation: Mandal Panchayat System in Karnataka', stated that the Gram Sabha meetings were held somewhat regularly in the first year and, in due course, the frequency of meetings and the number of villages where meetings were held, declined and attendance was not also encouraging.

Pushpakumari (1993) found that nearly half of the woman respondents were finding no time for attending meetings of the panchayat.

Palanithuri (1997) in a case study reported that women were not informed or invited to the meetings in male headed GP. Women members have always projected the issues relating to women. It is common that the husbands of the members used to accompany them (women) when they come to attend the meetings.

Alsop et al. (2000) in a study of 53 villages in Rajasthan and MP, found that voter turnout in Panchayat elections was well over 90 per cent for all categories (defined in terms of gender, class and caste) which is significantly higher than the (still high) turnout for the most recent (1998) round of Lok Sabha elections, which was 61.00 per cent for women and 65.90 per cent for men.

Samarthan (2000) noted that the Gram Sabha meetings are held once in three months, the days on which are fixed by the district administration. The agenda fixed for such meetings generally remains quite long and focuses mainly on government sponsored development projects. That is why other local issues quite relevant to rural people do not figure much during discussions and hence a large number of them remain indifferent. Same holds true of panchayat meetings. Factors such as distant location of meeting place, and inconvenient date and time of meetings adversely affect women, and poor daily paid workers leading to low participation.

Kurian (2000) revealed that among the respondents 30 per cent stated that they participate in Gram Sabha meetings to get more information about the activities of Gram Sabha while 59.50 per cent said that they participate because they have interest in social activities and five per cent stated that they do so due to request of ward member.

Ghatak and Ghatak (2002) in their study on participatory governance in West Bengal, mention that the average attendance in Gram Sansad (village constituency) was low at 12 per cent (10 per cent is the quorum), 91 per cent of whom were men.

Shalini (2002) revealed that the village poor, particularly women, find it difficult to cover the distance to participate in panchayat or Gram Sabha meetings and to afford the loss of one day wages. The state government has, therefore, amended the provision of two Gram Sabha meetings in a year and made it compulsory to have four ward sabha meetings on the dates specified by the government.

Sudhakaran (2002) found that out of 200 participants in Gram Sabhas, 21.50 per cent, 16.50 per cent, 16.50 per cent, 13.50 per cent participated in the subject groups of agriculture, drinking water, women welfare and housing respectively. 11 per cent participated in the subject group of power and electricity, 7.50 per cent in the subject group of road and transportation and five per cent in the groups of SC and ST. It was observed by the investigator that in Gram Sabha meetings, other castes usually don't like to participate with SC and ST. It was also observed that people are not interested in long discussions. Two per cent respondents participated in the subject group of education and other two per cent participated in the industry group. To a supplementary as to why the respondents participated in the above groups, of the 200 participants, 83 per cent expressed that they participated to be selected as beneficiaries, six per cent opined that they had no particular aim but to fill the group with participants. Six per cent opined that they participated at the request of the ward members and five per cent opined that they participated in that group as they were charged with the duty to act as convener of the group.

Rashid and Sen (2010) in a study reported that out of the 180 sampled households in the four surveyed villages, both men and women equally participated in the Gram Sabha meetings in only 4.50 per cent of the households. In 31 per cent households only men participated, while in 16.70 per cent the head of the family attended the meetings. In a majority (47.8 per cent) of the households, nobody joined the Gram Sabha meetings.

Sandhu and Sharma (2012) recorded the participation of the women in terms of members of Self Help Groups (SHGs), members in the committees of GP and attendance at the meetings of GP or member of any other local organisation. Study

revealed that 44 per cent WER didn't have any sort of participation and out of those who have any participation only 27 per cent participated regularly and were active. The key causes mentioned for poor participation of WER included male dominance (34 per cent), lack of political experience (22 per cent) and gender discrimination (17 per cent).

Verma (2013) in their study found that the majority (59.62 per cent) of the village panchayat leaders did not attend any training program; remaining 40.38 per cent respondents had attended the panchayat training programme.

Dey (2014) revealed that out of the 30 respondents, 25 were females. The female work participation rate among the SC and ST was low, as compared to the OBC, which had a female participation of 53.33 per cent. The rate of male participants was low (16.66 per cent).

Goutam (2014) observed that participation in panchayat meetings according to caste, OBC (39 per cent) were majority to participate in panchayat meeting, SC and ST had same level of participation (27 per cent), the Genral were participating in panchayat meeting in less number.

2.4 Problems faced by people under Panchayati Raj system

Mahadik (1995) stated that lack of training facilities, lack of marketing facilities, lack of knowledge about credit facilities, lack of cooperation among staff and lack of cooperative factories were major problems.

Krishna (1997) conducted a survey in Kerala regarding the functioning of Gram Sabhas. The study reveals that there were Gram Sabhas which could not reach quorum and it also stated that in many wards, there was only one Gram Sabha meeting in place of the two that should have been convened.

Kamble (1998) has observed that inadequate governmental assistance was major problem followed by lack of cooperation from villagers and GP members.

Jain (1999) in his study came to the conclusion that the level of participation of people differed a great deal making the proceedings either dull or unproductive. Sometimes a majority of them were indifferent to the discussion and were content to attend it for a while and then leave in the middle. The meetings were also, at times, utilised by

rival groups in criticising, ventilating, exposing and for condemning some of the actions of Panchas and thereby settle their social and political scores by highlighting facts about misappropriation of funds and other actual commission and other acts of commission or omission.

Jha (1998) has argued, that one of the most important ambiguities (and therefore weaknesses) relating to the functioning of the panchayats is that of revenue generation.

Kurian (2000) reported that 24 per cent respondents felt that women representatives face difficulties in convening Gram Sabhas whereas 76 per cent said that they do not face any difficulty in convening Gram Sabhas and also added that the male counterparts of women members help them in managing Gram Sabhas.

Nambiar (2001) in a study noted the difference utilities in organizing the Gram Sabha. Majority of respondents reported that they were not informed or invited to the meetings, while other were hesitant in participating in meetings in the presence of a large number of elder members.

Pillai (2001) in a study noted that as the women members acquire confidence and feel empowered, problems like prohibition, child marriages, and domestic violence find important place in the agenda of panchayat deliberations.

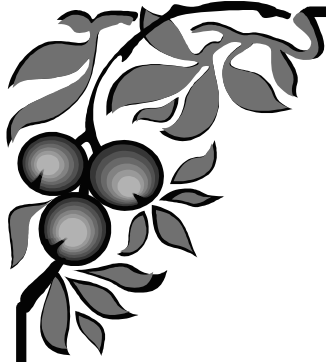
Dhaka and Dhaka (2004) in a case study of SC women in Haryana showed that many of them were not aware of their role and responsibilities in PRIs. They also reported that the social inhibitions and disabilities did not allow them to assert themselves. It is so primarily because most of them are illiterate, lack leadership quality, and their husbands or fathers-in-law represent them in panchayat meetings and take over functions expected of elected women members. The proxy representation in panchayats has become quite common. Owing to their illiteracy, lack of confidence, their husbands or male family members take over their functions. The studies revealed that their reservation cannot empower women beyond a limit; there are other factors as well which need to be addressed to.

Mankar *et al.* (2011) took into consideration, the nature of the problems experienced by the panchayat members in performing their roles, the problems were classified under suitable heads., most important problem perceived by the respondents was

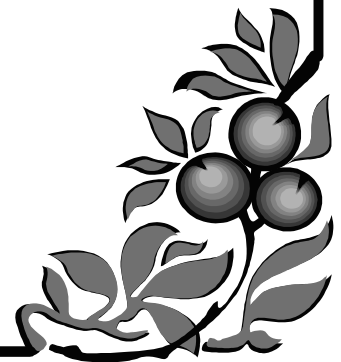
'no knowledge about agricultural technology' (93.65 per cent), inadequate staff (68.57 per cent) was the second major problem. An equal percentage of respondents (64.76 per cent) perceived the problems like, inadequate and irregular supply of funds to panchayat and 'lack of timely and adequate guidance', followed by 'lack of training facilities' (63.49 per cent) and 'lack of marketing facilities' (51.74 per cent). Under psychological problems, 'lethargy among the farmers' (46.03 per cent) was the major problem followed by 'lack of risk bearing ability on the part of people' (36.19 per cent). There were many situational problems like, 'lack of irrigation facilities' (44.76 per cent), 'lack of input supply centers' (42.53 per cent), 'lack of co-operative societies' (36.19 per cent) and 'lack of cottage industries' (29.52 per cent). 'Lack of cooperation from the villagers' (40.95 per cent); were the major problems under social problems. 'Insufficient furniture' and 'lack of telephone facilities' were the problems for 31.11 per cent of the respondents.

Dogra (2011) in a case study has revealed the growing role of criminals, anti-social elements, violence and factionalism in PRIs in several parts of the country, which is particularly evident at the time of panchayat elections and sometimes continue for a long time.

Sandhu and Sharma (2012) in their study found that although the male members of families encouraged women fighting election but once after getting elected the male members (husband of elected women representatives) take advantage by keeping them out of important meetings and attending the meetings in place of WERs and implement their decisions. Some respondents also felt that their views are ignored only because they are women. Husbands (34 per cent) handle their work and pressurized them to approve their decisions. 17 per cent says that gender discrimination exists in panchayat. The male dominance is proved by the fact that only 56 per cent WERs told that they are handling issues independently in wards and panchayats, while 44 per cent respondents were of the view that they don't have the capacity to handle issues independently in their constituencies.



Research Methodology



This chapter describes precisely the methodological steps, tools designed, developed and adopted for carrying out the present investigation. It is presented under the following sections:

- 3.1 Universe and locale of study
- 3.2 Selection of blocks
- 3.3 Selection of villages
- 3.4 Selection of respondents
- 3.5 Village profile
- 3.6 Research design
- 3.7 Operationalization of variables and their measurement
- 3.8 Types of documentation
- 3.9 Statistical analysis and Interpretation

3.1 Universe and Locale of the Study

3.1.1 Universe of study

Uttarakhand constitutes the universe for the present study. It is the 27th state of Republic of India. This state was formed with the name Uttaranchal in Northern part of India On 9th November, 2000 and since January 1, 2007 the state is known as Uttarakhand. It is surrounded by Himachal Pradesh in the West, Uttar Pradesh in the South, Nepal in the East, and China in the North. The provisional capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun, the largest city in the region. The high court of the state is located in Nainital.

There are 13 districts in Uttarakhand which are grouped into two divisions, Kumaon and Garhwal. The districts in the Kumaon division are Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Nainital, Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar. The districts in the Garhwal division are Dehradun, Haridwar, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Pauri Garhwal and Rudraprayag. The state accounts for about 1.69 per cent of the total area of the country.

Table 1. Statistical details of Uttarakhand (2014-2015)				
S. No.	Items	Year	Unit	Statistics
(A)	Geographical Data			
1	Latitude			28°43' N to 31°27' N
2	Longitude			77°34' E to 81°02' E
3	Geographical Area	2015	Sq. Km	53483
(i)	Hill	2015	Sq. Km.	46035
(ii)	Plain	2015	Sq. Km.	7448
4	Forest Area	2015	Sq. Km.	38000
(B)	Administrative Units			
1	Divisions	2015	No.	2
2	Districts	2015	No.	13
3	Tehsils	2015	No.	100
4	Development Blocks	2015	No.	95
5	Nyaya Panchayats	2015	No.	670
6	Gram Panchayats	2015	No.	7956
7	Census Villages (As per 2011 census)			
(i)	Inhabited Villages (Including Forest Settlements)	2011	No.	15745
(ii)	Un-inhabited Villages	2011	No.	1048
a	Total Population			
(i)	Male	2011	Lakh	51.38
(ii)	Female	2011	Lakh	49.48
(iii)	Decennial Growth Rate	2001-11	Percentage	18.81
b	Rural Population			
(i)	Male	2011	Lakh	35.19
(ii)	Female	2011	Lakh	35.18
c	Urban Population			
(i)	Male	2011	Lakh	16.19
(ii)	Female	2011	Lakh	14.31
d	Sex Ratio	2011	Females/'000 males	963
e	Density of population	2011	Per sq. k.m	189
(C)	Literacy Rate			
1	Total	2011	Percentage	78.8
(i)	Male	2011	Percentage	87.4
(ii)	Female	2011	Percentage	70
Source: Uttarakhand at a glance 2014-2015, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Planning				

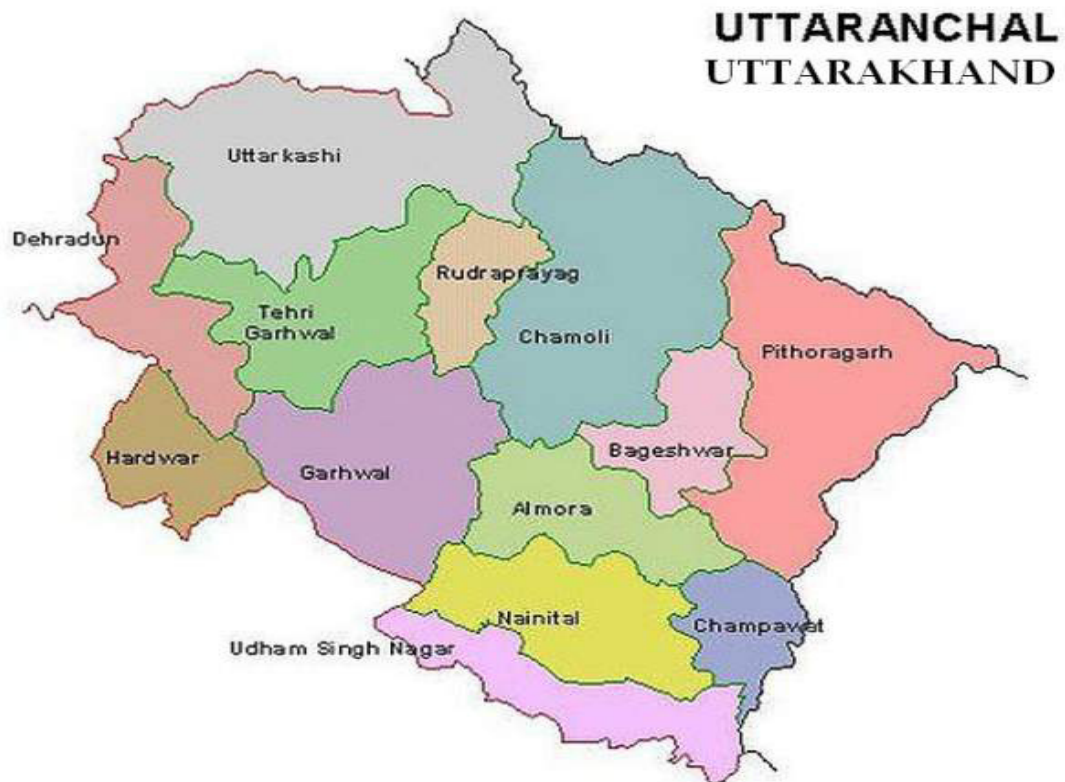


Figure 1: Map of Uttarakhand

(Source: <http://www.uttarakhand-tourism.com>)

Panchayati Raj in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand has a three-tier panchayat structure and comprises of 13 Zila Panchayats, 95 Block Panchayats and 7,956 Gram Panchayats. Uttarakhand, the state carved out of Uttar Pradesh continued to adopt and implement the PR system on the basis of the “Uttar Pradesh Kshetra Panchayat and Zila Panchayat Act” of 1961 and the “Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act” of 1947, as modified by the Uttarakhand government under the Uttar Pradesh Kshetra Panchayat and Zila Panchayat Act (Uttarakhand Adoption and Modification Orders) in October 2001 and in January 2002. Since the government of Uttarakhand has not made its own act and rules for the functioning of rural and urban local bodies yet, it has adopted all the acts and rules prevalent in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Uttarakhand state government had issued orders for devolution of 14 subjects under 11 departments. However, only 3 subjects; rural housing, poverty alleviation and women and

child welfare has been devolved while devolution of other subjects are still to be implemented.

The PRIs in Uttarakhand currently receives fund from 5 different sources:

- i. Central government (under 12th Finance Commission)
- ii. 2nd state finance commission
- iii. Panchayat Vikas Nidhi/Fund
- iv. MP/MLA Development Fund
- v. Funds for centrally sponsored schemes

These funds are utilized to implement various schemes and non-scheme related activities and development works. Apart from this the tax collected at various level of PRI's (under section 27, 131 and 119 of PR Act) and donation are also utilized for development activities. Gram Panchayat Vikas Adhikari, Sahaiyka/ Karykarti (Bal Vikas, Mahila Vikas) are functionaries devolved at GP level while Agriculture Development Officer (ADO) is a functionary devolved at BP level. No functionary at ZP level is completely devolved.

The PRIs at all three levels in Uttarakhand is constituted of 6 Committees namely; Planning and Development Committee, Education Committee, Construction Work Committee, Health Committee, Administrative Committee and Water Management Committee. These Committees are constituted of PRI's members and are involved in planning, implementation and monitoring of various schemes and non-schemes. In some of the schemes and non-scheme activities, PRIs has partial or no involvement. The state PR department is not a member of any state level committee. PR in state is actively involved in the planning, implementation, accounting, monitoring and reporting of centrally sponsored schemes of different line departments such as department of education, department of rural development, department of agriculture, department of youth welfare, health department, department of social welfare, department of horticulture, department of child and women.

The state PR department is currently delivering 15 Government to Citizen (G2C) services through 3-tier PRIs which includes Birth/Death certificate, issue of ration card etc.

There are five other services related to certificates (Domicile/Caste/Income), pensioning (old age/widow etc.) and copy of land records. These 5 services are currently delivered through different line departments but citizens wish them to be delivered through PRIs. The PR department has approximately 1000 officials all over the state. The scarcity of officials is one of the major challenges being faced by PR department today. The department is planning to recruit more officials and increase its manpower around three fold. Uttarakhand Institute of Rural Development (**UIRD**) is engaged in capacity building of elected members from villages as well as PR Officials. The institute through its head office and eight extension centres is carrying out various training programmes at district as well as state level.

3.1.2 Locale of the study

Out of 13 districts of the state Uttarakhand, Udham Singh Nagar district was selected purposively for the present study as:

- Udham Singh Nagar has a large population of 1,648,902 and lists out to be the second populous district after Haridwar (**Source: The Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India**).
- There are above 300 milk cooperatives in the district and an average total of 22500 litre of milk is produced per day. About 1000 ha area has been under fish production with an estimated yield of 3000 tonnes (**Upadhyay, 2007**).
- The district comes under Agri-export zone, where litchi, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants come under export oriented crops. Besides, the district is a major producer of mango, litchi, guava, banana, pear, peach and sapota.
- G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, located in the district, organizes capacity building programmes in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry for the benefit of farmers and rural youth.

Thus the findings of the study will have direct bearing and can be meaningfully taken forward for action intervention.

Description of Udham Singh Nagar:

Udham Singh Nagar falls under Terai region of Kumaon division which is divided into eight development blocks, namely, Jaspur, Kashipur, Bazpur, Gadarpur, Rudrapur, Khatima, Kichha and Sitarganj. Sitarganj block is the largest (325 sq.km) and Kashipur is the smallest block (185 sq.km). Udham Singh Nagar is one of the prosperous districts of the state because of high agricultural productivity and establishment of State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIDCUL).

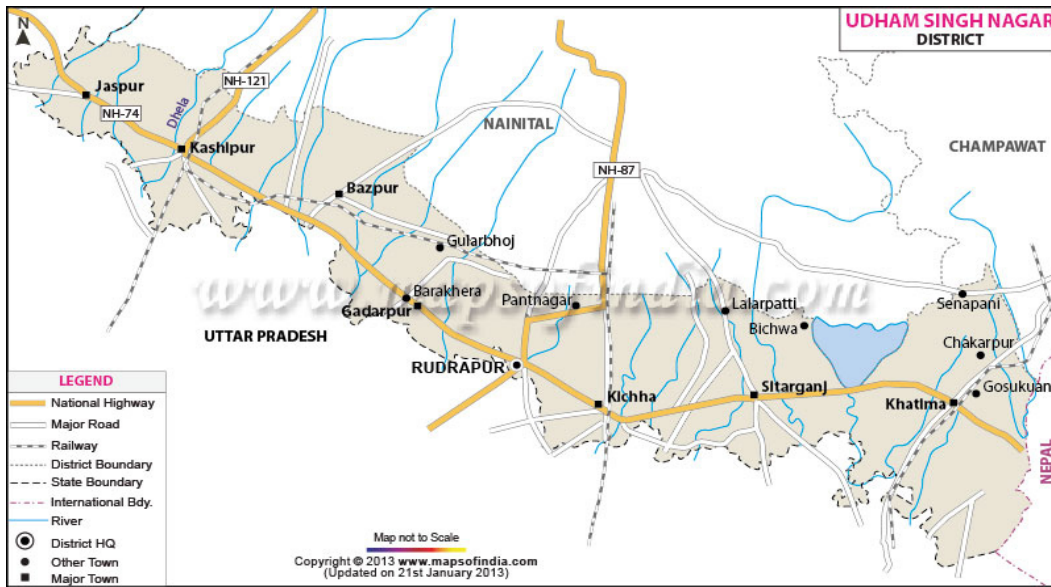


Figure 2: Map of Udham Singh Nagar

Agriculture is the major occupation of the people of the district which is often referred to as “Chawal ki Nagari”. About 64 per cent of the total work force of the district is engaged in farming. The net sown area is about 53 percent. Kharif and Rabi are two major cropping seasons. The main Kharif crops are paddy, soyabean, urd, moong and til (oilseed crop), and the Rabi crops are wheat, barley, gram, masoor, mustard, sunflower. (<http://cgwb.gov.in/>)

The district has a distinct place of its own in agricultural progressiveness. The district contributes about 36 per cent of the total food grain production of the state. Paddy is the main crop grown in kharif. Rabi crops comprised of wheat, gram, lentil, barseem, pea, lahi, and mustard.

Table 2. Statistical details of district Udham Singh Nagar :

Neighboring Districts of U S Nagar	Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Pilibhit, Champawat, Nainital
District Type	Tarai
Tehsils in UdhamSinghNagar (8)	Khatima, Sitarganj, Kichha, Rudrapur, Gadarpur, Bazpur, Kashipur, Jaspur
Blocks in UdhamSinghNagar (7)	Khatima, Sitarganj, Rudrapur, Gadarpur, Bazpur, Kashipur, Jaspur
Nyaya Panchayats	27
Number Of Villages	656
Nagar Nigam (2)	Kashipur, Rudrapur
Nagar Palika Parishads (6)	Jaspur, Bazpur, Gadarpur, Kichha, Sitarganj, Khatima
Nagar Panchayats (6)	Mahua Dabra, Mahuakheraganj, Kelakhera, Dineshpur, Sultanpur Patti, ShaktiGarh
Population Of UdhamSinghNagar	12+ Lakhs
Languages of District	Hindi, Kumauni, Punjabi
SOURCE: District Administration Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand (http://usnagar.nic.in/)	

3.2 Selection of the block:

Udham Singh Nagar district has seven blocks namely Jaspur, Kashipur, Bazpur, Gadarpur, Kichha, Sitarganj and Khatima. Out of these, two blocks, namely Gadarpur and Kashipur were selected through simple random sampling method.

Description of Gadarpur block:

According to 2011 Census report, Statistical details of Gadarpur block have been presented in table 3.

Table 3. Gadarpur block at a glance:

Particulars	Statistics
Total villages	69
Total families	25684
Literacy Rate	59%
Male Literacy Rate	67%
Female literacy Rate	51%
Illiteracy Rate	40%
Male Illiteracy Rate	32%
Female Illiteracy	48%
Persons engaged in cultivation	9626
Major rivers for irrigation	Gularbhoj and Haripura

(Source: [http://www.wikivillage.in/block/uttarakhand/udham singh nagar/gadarpur](http://www.wikivillage.in/block/uttarakhand/udham%20singh%20nagar/gadarpur)) (<http://cgwb.gov.in>)

Description of Kashipur block:

Kashipur block is located in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand. Kashipur block has 76 villages and there are 25828 households in this block. The other statistical details of Kashipur block have been presented in table 4.

Table 4. Kashipur block at a glance:

Particulars	Statistics
Total villages	76
Total families	25828
Literacy Rate	64%
Male Literacy Rate	71%
Female literacy Rate	56%
Illiteracy Rate	35%
Male Illiteracy Rate	28%
Female Illiteracy	43%
Persons engaged in cultivation	6773
Major rivers for irrigation	Dhela and Koshi

(Source:<http://www.wikivillage.in/block/uttarakhand/udham-singh-nagar/gadarpur>) (<http://cgwb.gov.in>)

3.3 Selection of villages:

Two Gram Panchayats (or Revenue Villages), namely Vijaynagar (GP1) from Gadarpur block and Khadakpur-devipura (GP2) from Kashipur block were selected by using simple random sampling method. Two villages from each selected GP were selected again through simple random sampling method. In all; four villages, namely Vijaynagar and Kalinagar from GP1, Khadakpur and Shyampuram from GP2 were selected.

3.4 Selection of the Respondents:

Sixty respondents from each selected village panchayat were selected through simple random sampling method. Those who are registered as the voters in their respective village panchayats, were targeted as the respondents of the study. Thus, a total sample size of 120 respondents was selected. Out of 60 respondents from GP1, 30 were from Kalinagar village and 30 were from Vijaynagar village. Out of remaining 60 respondents, belonging to GP2, 30 were from Khadakpur village while another 30 were from Shyampuram village.

3.5 Village profile prepared by the researcher during his visit

A general profile of selected villages was prepared based on the researcher's observations and interaction with the villagers. This was done in order to understand the social setting of the villages in which the research was conducted. Brief description of the villages is as below:

3.5.1 Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat (GP1)

Lady, Veena Sarkar was the Gram Pradhan of the Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat. Her husband Gaurchandra Sarkar used to help her in official work. There are 15 panchayat members representing 15 wards of the gram sabha. Drainage system was constructed in the village with the help of the panchayat members. They also helped in road construction. Panchayat played a vital role in building homes for the poorer people through the Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Toilets were built in selected homes of the village under Nirmal Bharat Yojna. The Gram Sabha meetings used to be held at different villages according to convenience and rotation. In those meetings, the members used to present the problems in written form as well as orally. The meetings were generally official as per the instructions of the block. Meetings were also conducted during emergency by the Gram Pradhan in the presence of the members. The population of this revenue village is near about 11000. Approximately 720 families are below poverty line. Shrinking agricultural land and engagement of youth in nearby industrial units like SIDCUL are the most common problems in the villages of Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat.

Table 5. Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat (GP1) at a glance

District	:	U.S. Nagar
Block	:	Gadarpur
Tehsil	:	Rudrapur
Police Station	:	Dineshpur
Population of the revenue village	:	11000 approx
Number of BPL families	:	720
Number of villages	:	8 (Udaypur, Panchananpur, Netajinagar, Jagdishpur, Chandipur, Vijaynagar, Chitranjanpur, Kalinagar)
Name of Gram Pradhan	:	Veena Sarkar (female)

Source: Primary data (Field Survey)

3.5.2 Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat (GP2)

Young Dinesh Kumar holds the position of Gram Pradhan in Khadakpura-devipura Gram Panchayat. He belongs to OBC category and has been selected as Pradhan for the first time. Khadakpur-devipura is one of the most populous Gram Sabhas in Uttarakhand state with approximate population of 15000. There are 939 BPL families in this revenue village. Some centrally sponsored developmental activities like Swachha Bharat Abhiyan, Nirmal Bharat yojna, PMAY have been undertaken by this GP. The beneficiaries of these programmes were selected in Gram Sabha meetings. Solar lights across the roads also have been placed with the efforts of panchayat members. Large area and large population create hindrance in developmental path of the GP. Uneven social, economic and educational divide among different societies and village communities, Lack of employment for rural youth are considered as the major problem of the Gram Panchayat.

Table 6. Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat (GP2) at a glance:

District	:	U.S. Nagar
Block	:	Kashipur
Tehsil	:	Kashipur
Police Station	:	Kashipur
Language	:	Hindi, Punjabi, Kumauni
Population of the revenue village	:	15000 approx.
Number of BPL families	:	939
Number of villages	:	6 (Rampuram, Shyampuram, Khadakpur-devipura, Chaiti, Vaishali, Premnagar)
Name of Gram Pradhan	:	Dinesh kumar

Source: Primary data (Field Survey)

3.6 Instrument Construction:

An interview schedule was prepared based on the objectives of the study. The questions asked were both open and close ended. The interview schedule was pre-tested in Pratappur, a village eight kilometres from Pantnagar which falls in kichha block. In this exercise 12 respondents were interviewed randomly. Pretesting was done to find out the

optimum length, structure, sequencing and appropriateness of the language. Modifications were done afterwards by the researcher.

3.7 Research Design:

A research design is the arrangement of condition for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to research purpose with economy in procedure. It is defined as a plan, structure and strategy of investigation so as to obtain answers to research questions and to control variance. The exploratory research design was adopted to meet out the objectives set forth for the study.

3.8 Operationalization of variables and their Measurements:

Independent variables:

An independent variable is the presumed cause of dependent variable, or in other words, the variable expected to explain change in dependent variable. After extensive review of literature, following independent variables were identified to carry out the present investigation.

Table 7. Independent variables and their measurement

S. NO.	Variables	Measurements
1.	Age	Schedule was developed
2.	Gender	Category
3.	Caste	Category
4.	Education level	Supe (2007)
5.	Family occupation	Supe (2007)
6.	Size of land holdings	Category
7.	Family size	Category
8.	Family income	Category
9.	Cosmopolitaness	Hardikar (1998)
10.	Social Paricipation	Supe (2007)
11.	Mass media exposure	Nirban (2004)
12.	Information seeking behaviour	Bhairamkar (2009)
13.	Achievement motivation	Bhatia (1986)
14.	Leadership ability	Schedule was developed
15.	Awareness about Panchayati Raj Sysem	Schedule was developed

Dependent variables:

Dependent variable is the one which researcher wishes to explain. The independent variable is the antecedent and dependent variable is consequent. In the light of the objectives of the study following dependent variables were identified:

Table 8. Dependent variables and their measurement

S. NO.	Variable	Measurements
1.	Perception about Panchayati Raj System	George and Rajkamal (2010)
2.	Participation in Panchayati Raj System	Schedule was developed

Operationalization of variables:

1. Age

It refers to the chronological age of the respondent in complete years at the time of investigation. The age group category of respondents is divided into young, middle and old according to mean (36.92) \pm standard deviation (11.88).

Category

Range

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| a) Young | less than 26 years |
| b) Middle | 26-48years |
| c) Old | above 48 years |

2. Gender

It refers to the differences in man and woman in terms of role and status in society. It was categorized as male and female based on the sex of the respondents.

3. Caste

It refers to the endogamous and hereditary sub division which occupies a position of superior or inferior rank in comparison to other sub groups. The respondents on the basis of their caste group were categorized as follows:

Category

- General caste
- Other backward caste
- Scheduled caste
- Scheduled tribe

4. Education:

It refers to highest level of formal schooling completed by respondent at the time of investigation. Scale developed by Supe (2007) was used with minor modifications for this study and respondents were categorized as follows:

Category	Score
a) Illiterate	0
e) Primary education	1
f) Middle education	2
g) High school	3
h) Intermediate	4
i) Graduate/and above	5

5. Family occupation

It refers to the occupation from which the respondent (or head in the family) drives maximum share in family annual income. Scale developed by Supe (2007) was used to measure this variable and respondents were categorized as follows:

Category	Score
a) Labour	0
b) Caste occupation	1
c) Business	2
d) Independent profession	3
e) Cultivation/Farming	4
f) Service	6

6. Size of land holdings

It has been operationalized as the operational size of the farm which farmer has actually put into cultivation. In the present study the criteria laid by National Commission on Agriculture (NCA), Government of India (GoI) was followed to classify the respondents in following categories:

Category	Score
a) Landless	0
b) Up to 2.5 acres	1
c) Up to 5 acres	2
d) More than 5 acres	3

7. Family size

It refers to the number of members in a single family unit. Based on mean (5.67) \pm standard deviation (1.41), family size of the respondent was categorized as follows:

Category	Range
a) Small Family	less than 5
b) Medium Family	5 to 7
c) Large Family	more than 7

8. Family income

Keeping in view relatively low income levels and widespread poverty, respondents were classified into two broad income categories: Below the Poverty Line (BPL) and Above the Poverty Line (non-BPL or APL).

Category	Range
APL	> Rs. 2250/month
BPL	< Rs. 2250/month

9. Cosmopolitaness

It is the degree to which the respondent is oriented towards his/her immediate outside social system. Scale developed by Hardikar (1998) was used for this study. On the basis of mean (3.60) \pm standard deviation (1.32) respondents were categorized as follows:

Category	Range
Low	< 3
Medium	3 to 5
High	> 5

10. Social participation:

It refers to the association with any organization as a member, or as an office bearer. Scale developed by Supe (2007) was used for this study. On the basis of mean (4.30) \pm standard deviation (2.19) respondents were categorized as follows:

Category	Range
Low	< 3
Medium	3 to 6
High	> 6

11. Mass media exposure

It refers to the degree of exposure to various mass media like newspaper, radio, television, mobile phone and internet. Scale developed by Nirban (2004) was used for this study. Mass media exposure was categorized on the basis of mean (6.04) \pm standard deviation (1.81) as follows:

Category	Range
Low	< 5
Medium	5 to 7
High	> 7

12. Information seeking behaviour

It is operationalized as the frequency with which respondent approaches different sources of information. Modified scale of Bhairamkar (2009) was used for this study. Respondents were further categorized according to their obtained score on the basis of mean (11.25) \pm standard deviation (1.85).

Category	Range
Low	< 10
Medium	10 to 13
High	> 13

13. Achievement motivation

It is an internal desire to do something unique and excellent with maximum utilization of resources. Scale developed by Bhatia (1986) was used for this study. Respondents were categorized according to their obtained score on the basis of mean (15.21) \pm standard deviation (1.87).

Category	Range
Low	< 14
Medium	14 to 17
High	> 17

14. Leadership ability

It is the degree to which the respondent has initiative and ability to lead the actions of the followers or motivates the action of followers. A structured schedule was

developed to measure this variable which consists of ten statements. The statements were rated on three point continuum response categories ranging from Always, Sometimes and Never with scores of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The overall score for each respondent was obtained by summation over the responses in three categories. Respondents were categorized in their leadership ability according to their obtained score on the basis of mean (20.49) and standard deviation (3.62), as follows:

Category	Range
Low	< 17
Medium	17 to 24
High	> 24

15. Awareness about Panchayati Raj System

It refers to the individual's basic level of awareness about the Panchayati Raj System. An awareness test consisting nine multiple choice questions related to the panchayati raj, was developed to measure this variable. Each question had four options out of which only one was the correct answer. Score 1 was given to every correct answer and for wrong answers, 0 score was allotted. The overall score for each respondent was obtained by summation of scores obtained in each of the question. According to their total obtained scores, respondents were further categorized in following three awareness categories on the basis of mean (5.03) ± standard deviation (1.40).

Category	Range
Low	< 4
Medium	4 to 6
High	> 6

16. Perception about Panchayati Raj System

It refers to the respondent's opinion towards the PRS in their village including all three tiers. The scale contains 10 positive and 10 negative statements about the Panchayati Raj. The perception scale developed by George and Rajkamal (2010) with minor modifications was used to measure the perception of the respondents. The respondents were asked to record their feelings on a three- point continuum viz., agree undecided and disagree with scores of 3, 2 and 1 respectively for positive statements and 1, 2, 3 respectively for negative statements. The perception towards PR of each respondent was calculated by summing up the scores of all the statements. According to their obtained

perception scores, respondents were further categorized on the basis of mean (40.48) ± standard deviation (5.52) as follows:

Category	Range
Negative	< 35
Ambivalent	35 to 46
Positive	> 46

17. Participation in Panchayati Raj System

It refers to the degree to which people participate in various activities under PRS including participation in elections, campaigning activities, committees and Gram Sabha meetings, as well as their involvement in raising issues in Gram Sabha, and contacting elected representatives and higher level panchayats etc. A structured schedule was developed with the help of experts to measure this variable.

3.9 Statistical analysis and interpretation of data

Collected data has been presented in data matrix for further analysis. Appropriate statistical tools such as frequency, mean, percentage and standard deviation were used to treat the data. The filled schedules were thoroughly checked. The data have been tabulated to draw inferences, trends, patterns and conclusions. The statistical techniques used for data analysis were as follows:

3.9.1 Frequency

It was calculated to find out the number of respondents in a particular cell/category.

3.9.2 Percentage

Percentage values were calculated to make simple comparisons. These were calculated by dividing the frequency of a particular cell by total number of respondents and multiplying by 100.

$$P = (n/N) \times 100$$

Where,

n = Frequency of a particular cell

N = Total number of respondents

P = Percentage

3.9.3 Arithmetic mean

Mean score for each category were worked out separately by the formula.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i}{N}$$

Where,

x_i = Sum of each of the individual comparisons

i = 1, 2, 3.....N

N = Number of observation

\bar{x} = Mean

3.9.4 Standard deviation

It is a measure of variability in a set of scores, found by summing up the squared differences from the mean, dividing by the number of cases and extracting the square root. Standard deviation was computed for the purpose of analysis and further categorization. The formula used for calculating standard deviation is as below.

$$\sigma = \frac{\sqrt{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}}{N - 1}$$

Where,

σ = Standard deviation

x_i = Value of individual variable

\bar{x} = Mean

N = Total number of items

3.9.5 Weighted mean score

Weighted mean score was calculated by using the following formula:

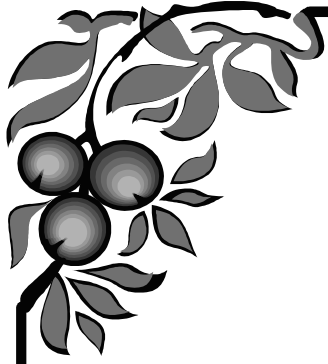
$$a_w = \frac{\sum mW}{W}$$

Where,

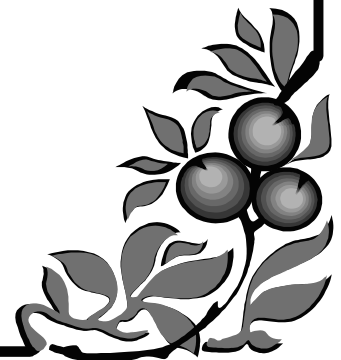
a_w = Weighted mean score

mW = Product of weighted and measurement

W = Total number of observations



*Results
&
Discussion*



This chapter deals with findings of the study in empirical form along with relevant discussion. The findings of the study have been in line with the objectives set forth and are given below:

- Socio-economic, communication and psychological characteristics of respondents.
- People's perception about the functioning of Panchayati Raj System.
- Extent of people's participation in Panchayati Raj System.
- Problems faced by people under Panchayati Raj.

4.1 Socio-economic, communication and psychological characteristics of the respondents

4.1.1 Age

The data in Table 9 reveals that majority of the respondents (65.84 per cent) were of middle age followed by respondents in old age category (20.83 per cent) and young age (13.33 per cent) respectively.

Table 9: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their age composition (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Young (Less than 26 yrs.)	16	13.33
Middle (26-48 yrs.)	79	65.84
Old (More than 48 yrs.)	25	20.83
TOTAL	120	100.00

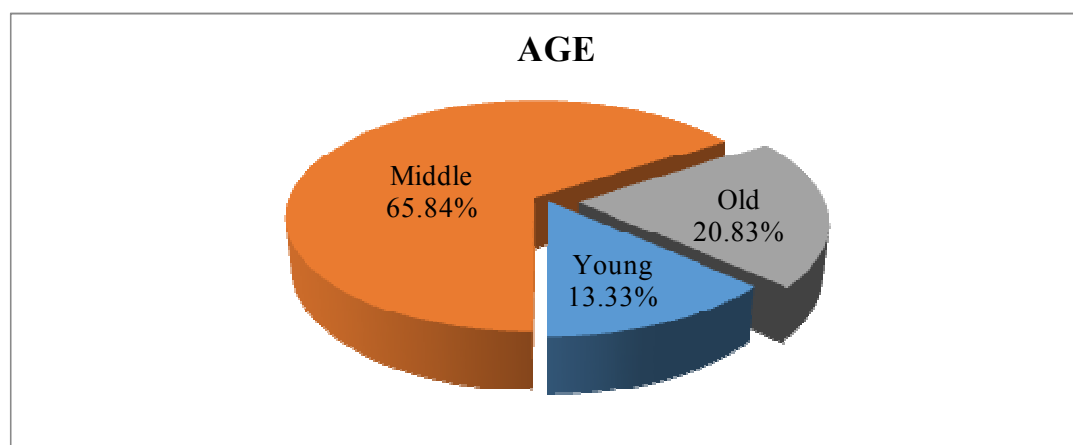


Figure 3: Distribution of respondents on the basis of age composition

4.1.2 Gender

Data regarding gender of the respondents has been clearly depicted in Table 10 which shows that out of total 120 respondents, majority (71.67 per cent) were male while only 28.33 per cent were female. The percentage of male and female respondents from Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat was 78.33 and 21.67 respectively, while in case of Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, it was 64.74 and 35.26 per cent respectively.

Table 10: Distribution of respondents based on gender (N=120)

Category	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Male	47	78.33	39	64.74	86	71.67
Female	13	21.67	21	35.26	34	28.33
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

4.1.3 Caste

Table 11 clearly depicted that majority of the respondents (73.33 per cent) were in general category followed by 12.50 per cent of respondents under OBC category and 11.67 per cent under SC category. Only 2.50 per cent of the respondents belonged to ST category.

Table 11: Distribution of respondents on the basis of caste (N=120)

Category	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
General	47	78.33	41	68.34	88	73.33
OBC	7	11.67	8	13.33	15	12.50
SC	6	10.00	8	13.33	14	11.67
ST	0	0.00	3	5.00	3	2.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

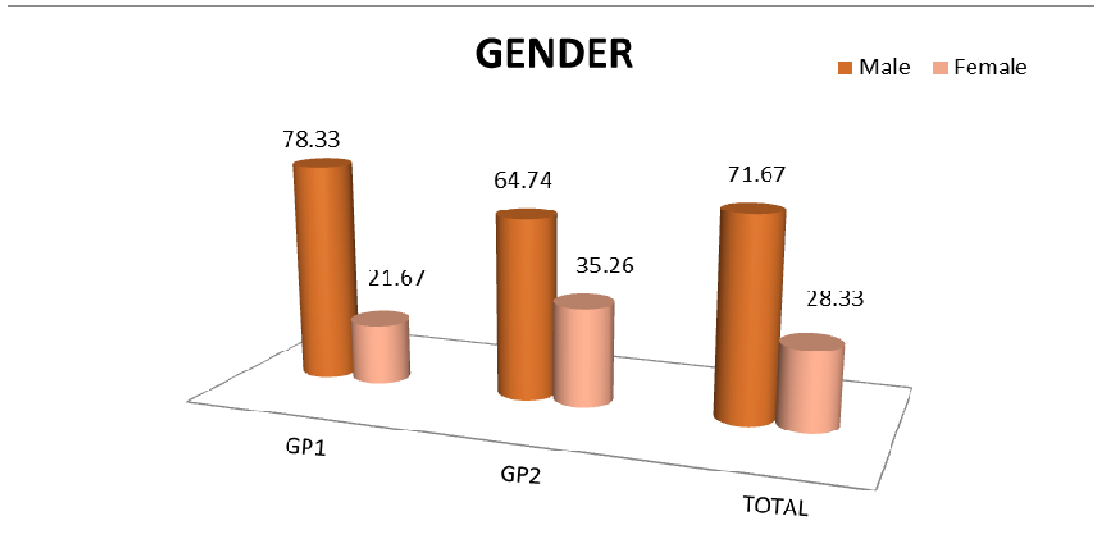


Figure 4: Distribution of respondents based on gender

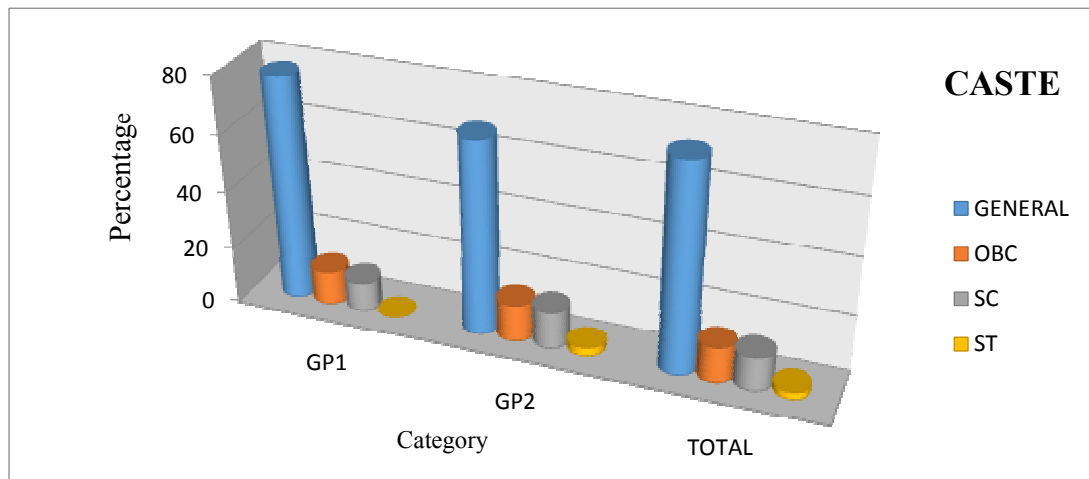


Figure 5: Distribution of respondents on the basis of caste

4.1.4 Education level

A perusal of Table 12 clearly shows that majority of the respondents (33.33 per cent) were at least graduate and 30.84 per cent had education up to intermediate level followed by high school (23.33 per cent) and middle level education (8.33 per cent). Only 3.33 per cent were educated up to primary level while only one respondent (0.84 per cent) was found to be illiterate.

Table 12: Distribution of respondents on the basis of education level (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	1	0.84
Primary level	4	3.33
Middle education	10	8.33
High school	28	23.33
Intermediate	37	30.84
Graduate /above	40	33.33
TOTAL	120	100

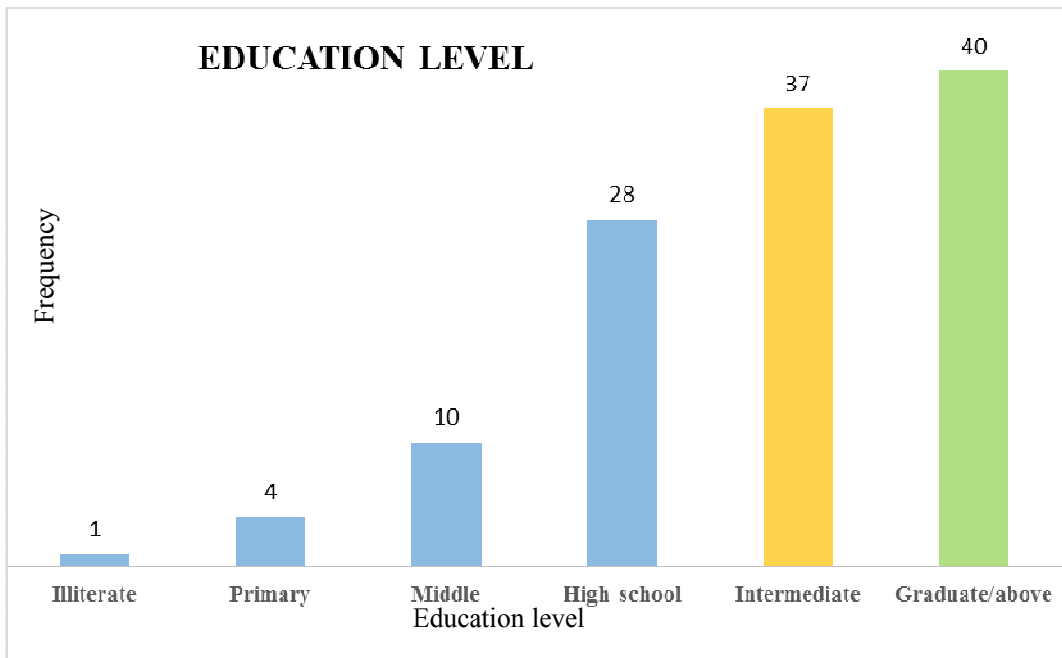


Figure 6: Frequency distribution of respondents on the basis of education level

4.1.5 Family occupation

Table 13 clearly depicted that 30.00 per cent respondents were engaged in service as family occupation followed by 25.00 per cent respondents in cultivation/farming and 15.83 per cent respondents were labour. It was found that 14.17 per cent of the respondents had business as family occupation and 11.67 per cent of them were doing independent profession. Only 3.33 per cent were engaged in caste occupation.

Table 13: Distribution of respondents based on family occupation (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Labour	19	15.83
Caste occupation	4	3.33
Business	17	14.17
Independent profession	14	11.67
Cultivation /Farming	30	25.00
Service	36	30.00
TOTAL	120	100

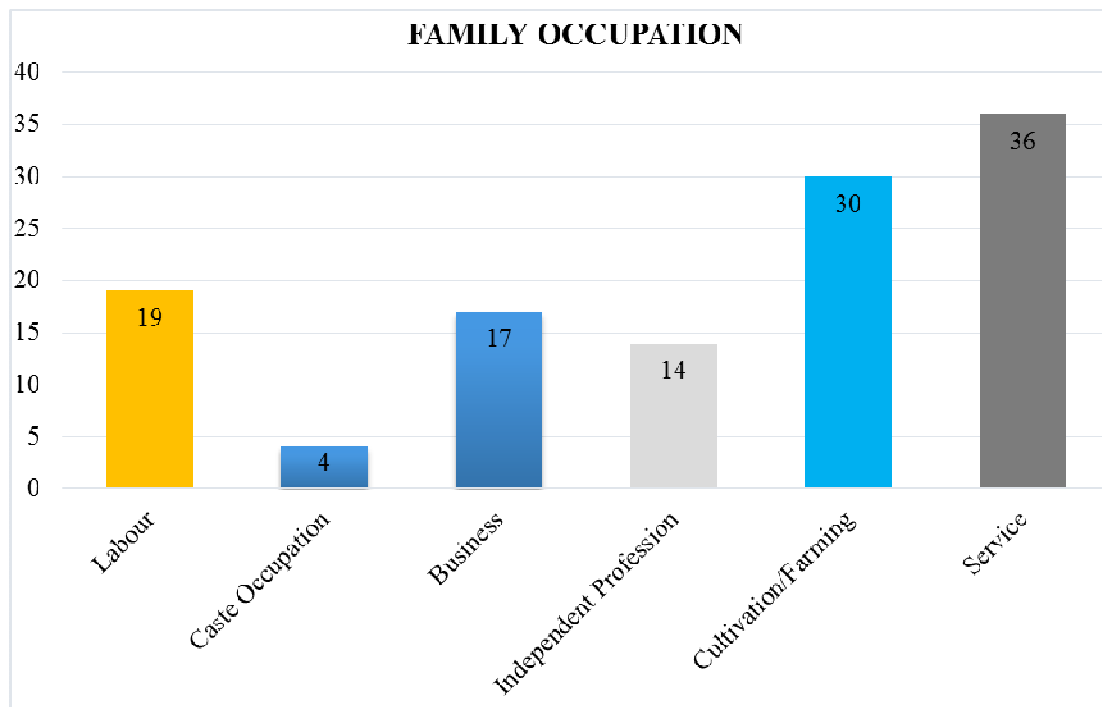


Figure 7: Frequency distribution of respondents based on family occupation

4.1.6 Size of land holdings

Table 14 clearly indicates that the majority of the respondents (54.16 per cent) were landless and 21.67 per cent had land up to 2.5 acres while 13.33 per cent respondents had land up to 5 acres. Only 10.84 per cent respondents had more than 5 acres of land holdings.

Table 14: Distribution of respondents according to size of land holdings (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Landless	65	54.16
Up to 2.5 acres	26	21.67
Up to 5 acres	16	13.33
More than 5 acres	13	10.84
TOTAL	120	100.00

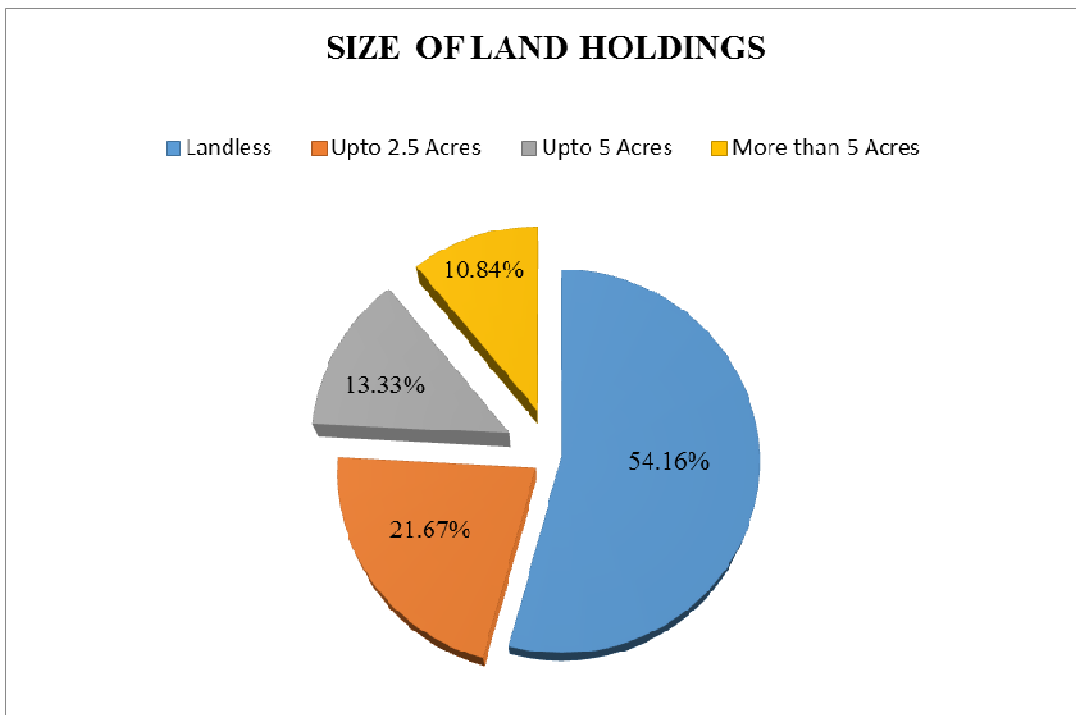


Figure 8: Distribution of respondents according to size of land holdings

4.1.7 Family size

Table 15 clearly indicates that the majority of the respondents (63.33 per cent) had medium size families followed by small size families (22.50 per cent) and 14.17 per cent respondents belonged to large families.

Table 15: Distribution of respondents on the basis of family size (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Small (< 5)	27	22.50
Medium (5 to 7)	76	63.33
Large (> 7)	17	14.17
TOTAL	120	100.00

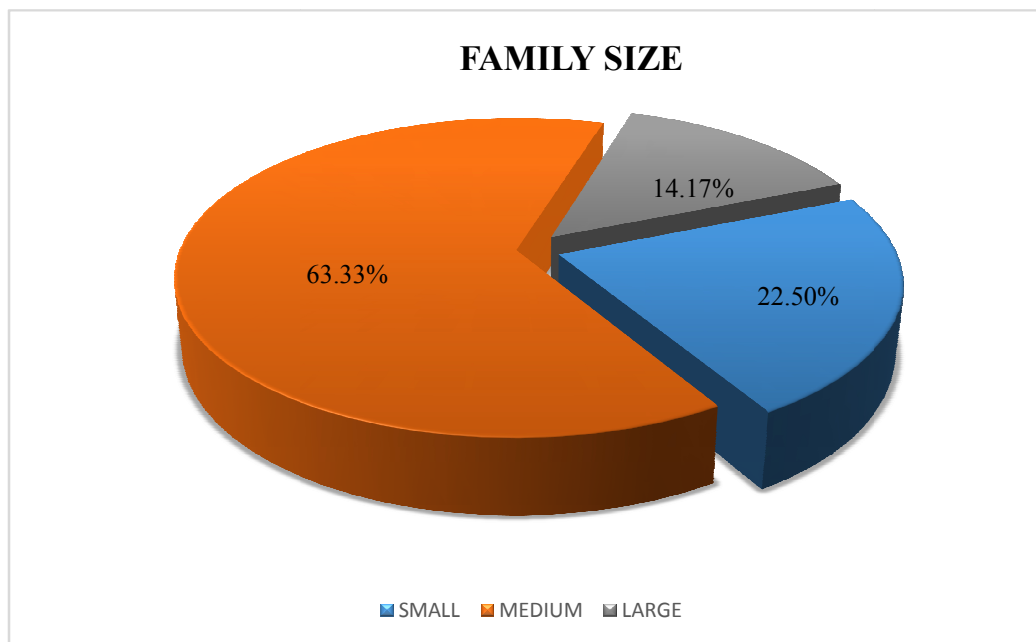


Figure 9: Distribution of respondents on the basis of family size

4.1.8 Family income

Table 16 clearly shows that out of 120 respondents, majority (57.50 per cent) were above poverty line (APL) while 42.50 per cent were below poverty line (BPL). Table also indicates that the majority (51.67 per cent) of the respondents from Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat (GP1) were BPL while in case of Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat (GP2) majority of the respondents (66.67 per cent) belonged to APL category.

Table 16: Distribution of respondents on the basis of family income (N=120)

Category	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
APL	29	48.33	40	66.67	69	57.50
BPL	31	51.67	20	33.33	51	42.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

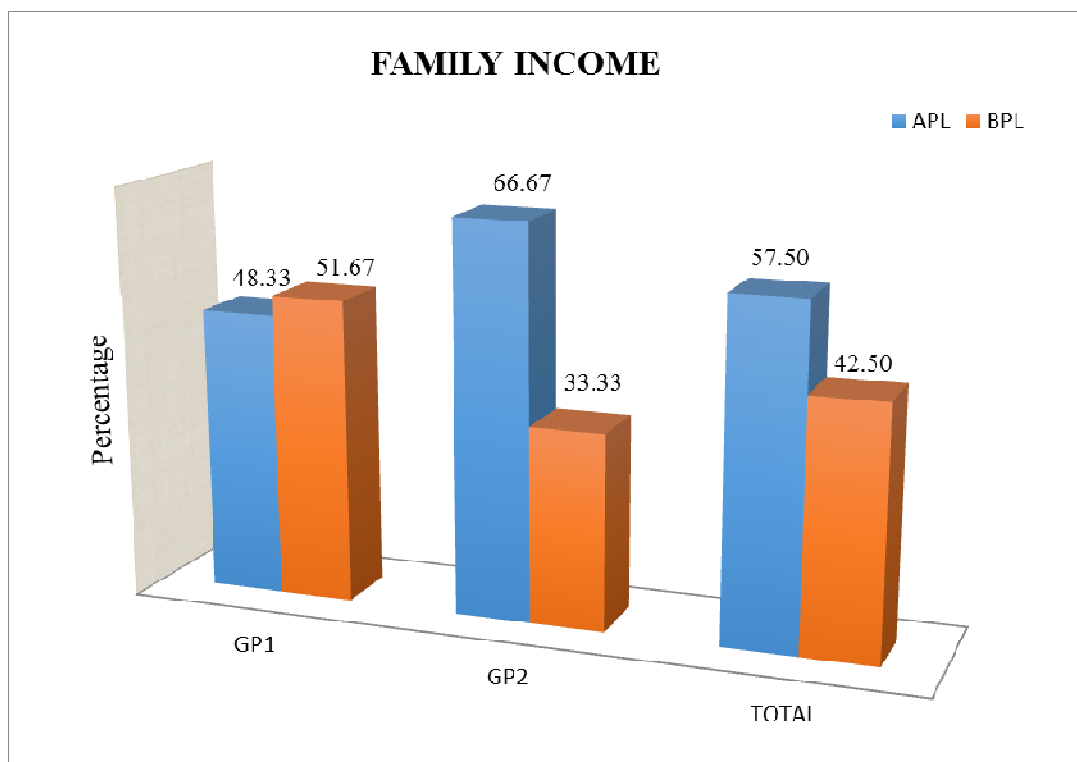


Figure 10: Distribution of respondents on the basis of family income

4.1.9 Cosmopolitness

Data presented in Table 17 show that most of the respondents (69.17 per cent) had medium level of cosmopolitness followed by low level of cosmopolitness (18.33 per cent). Only 12.50 per cent had high level of cosmopolitness.

Table 17: Distribution of respondents according to cosmopolitanism (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (< 3)	22	18.33
Medium (3 to 5)	83	69.17
High (> 5)	15	12.50
TOTAL	120	100.00

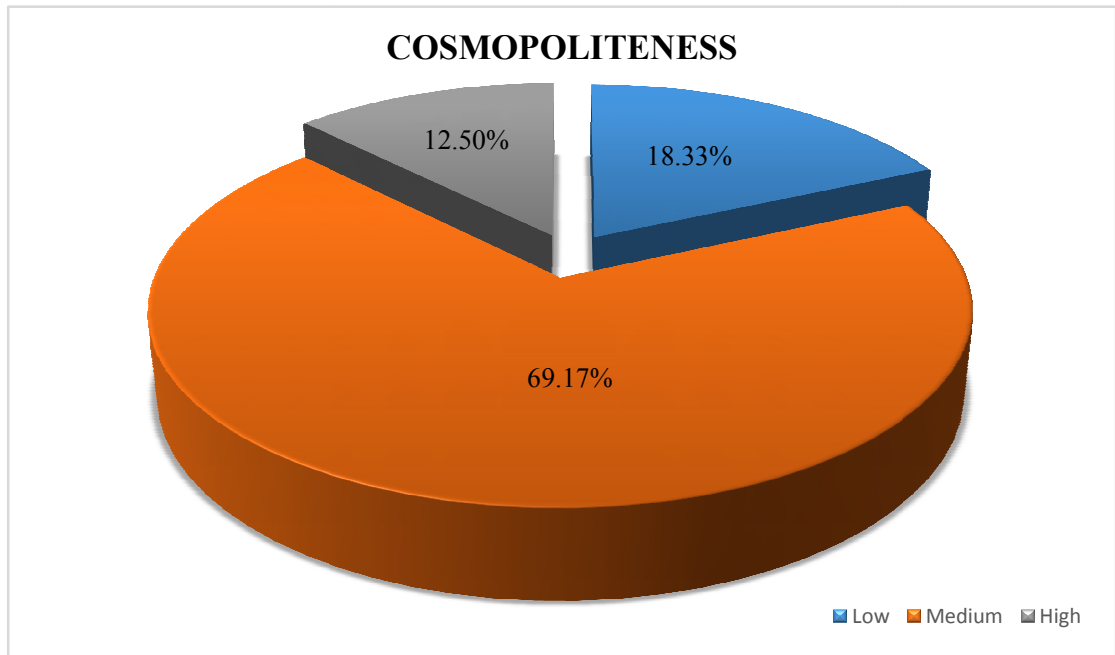


Figure 11: Distribution of respondents according to cosmopolitanism

4.1.10 Social participation

Data presented in Table 18 clearly shows that majority of the respondents (66.67 per cent) had medium level of social participation followed by low level of (20.00 per cent) social participation. Only 13.33 per cent respondents belonged to high level of social participation.

Table 18: Distribution of respondents according to social participation (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (< 3)	24	20.00
Medium (3 to 6)	80	66.67
High (> 6)	16	13.33
TOTAL	120	100.00

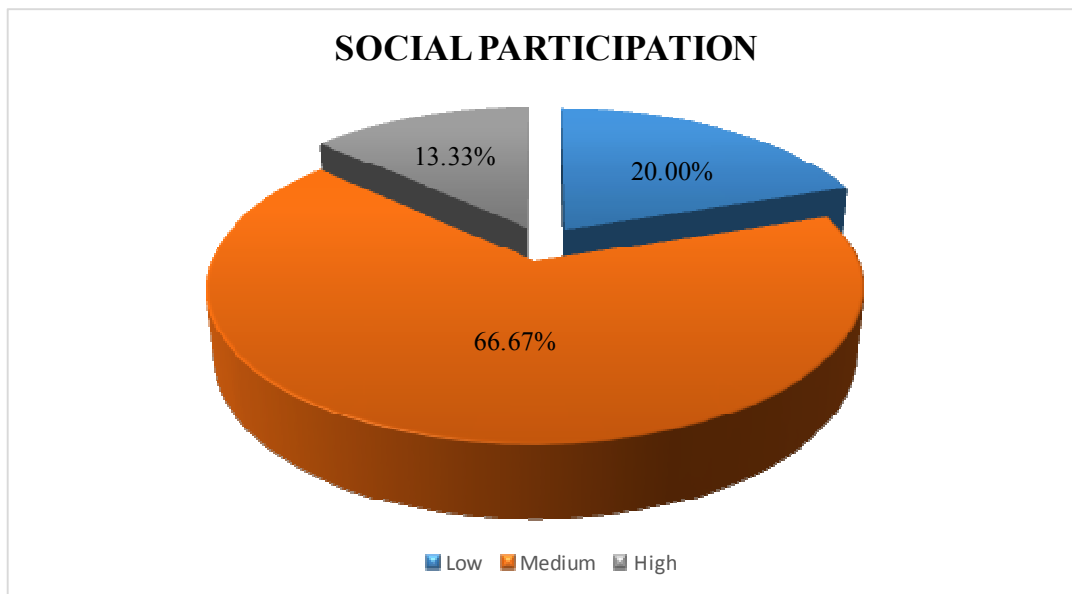


Figure 12: Distribution of respondents according to social participation

4.1.11 Mass media exposure

Exposure to various media is very crucial indicator and plays a useful role in dissemination of information. Data regarding the respondents' preference of different mass media has been depicted in table 19 below.

Table 19: Showing respondents' preference of different mass media

Mass media	Weighted mean score (WMS)	Rank
Radio	2.21	III
Television	3.00	I
Newspaper	1.70	IV
Mobile	2.85	II
Internet	1.33	V

Table 19 reveals that the television (3.00 WMS) was the most preferred mass media and was ranked as I followed by mobile phones (2.85 WMS) and radio (2.21 WMS) which were ranked as II and III respectively. It might be because of high availability and better accessibility of these mass media sources in context of rural areas in comparison with other sources. Newspaper (1.70 WMS), ranked IV and Internet (1.33 WMS), ranked V were the least preferred sources of mass media.

Table 20: Distribution of respondents according to mass media exposure (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (< 5)	24	20.00
Medium (5 to 7)	60	50.00
High (> 7)	36	30.00
TOTAL	120	100.00

From the perusal of Table 20, it can be inferred that half (50.00 per cent) of the total respondents were having medium level of mass media exposure while 30.00 per cent and 20.00 per cent of respondents belonged to high and low level of mass media exposure respectively.

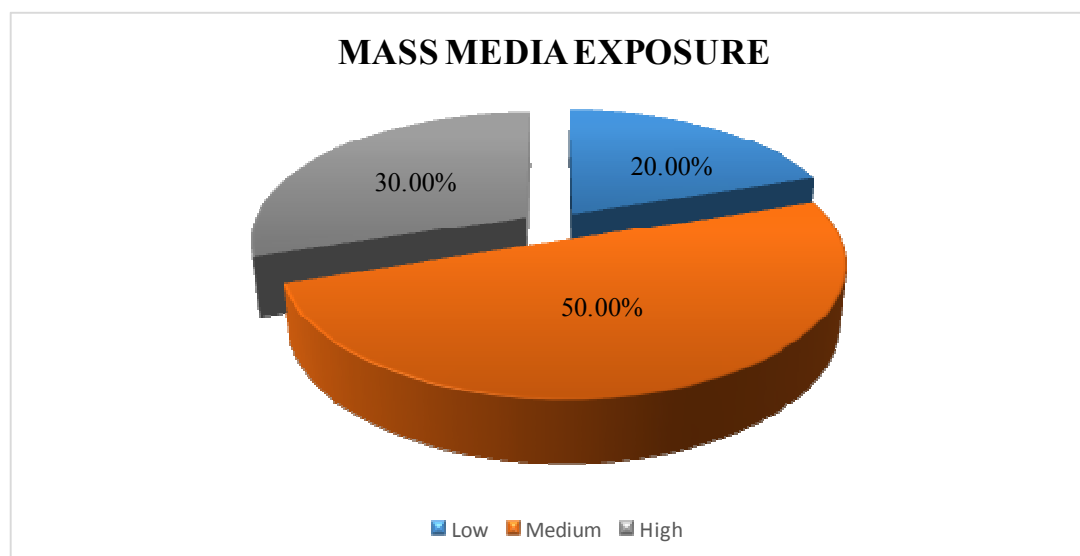


Figure 13: Distribution of respondents according to mass media exposure

4.1.12 Information seeking behaviour

Data regarding the respondents' preference of different information sources in order to seek information related to various activities under PRS has been presented in Table 21 below.

Table 21: Showing respondents' preference of different information sources

Mass media	Weighted mean score (WMS)	Rank
Friends & relatives	3.00	I
Neighbours	2.63	III
Gram Pradhan /Ward member	2.80	II
Local leaders	2.01	IV
Block Development Officer	2.00	V

From Table 21 it was concluded that majority of the respondents used to communicate with friends and relatives (3.00 WMS), as most preferred source in order to seek information related to various activities under PRS followed by Gram Pradhan/Ward member (2.80 WMS) and neighbours (2.63 WMS) who were ranked as I, II, and III respectively. Local leaders (2.01 WMS), ranked IV and BDO (2.00 WMS), ranked V were found to be least preferred sources of information.

Table 22: Distribution of respondents based on information seeking behaviour (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (< 10)	24	20.00
Medium (10 to 13)	80	66.67
High (> 13)	16	13.33
TOTAL	120	100.00

Table 22 reveals that two third (66.67 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of information seeking behaviour followed by 20 per cent respondents with low information seeking behaviour. Only 13.33 per cent of the respondents possessed high level of information seeking behaviour.

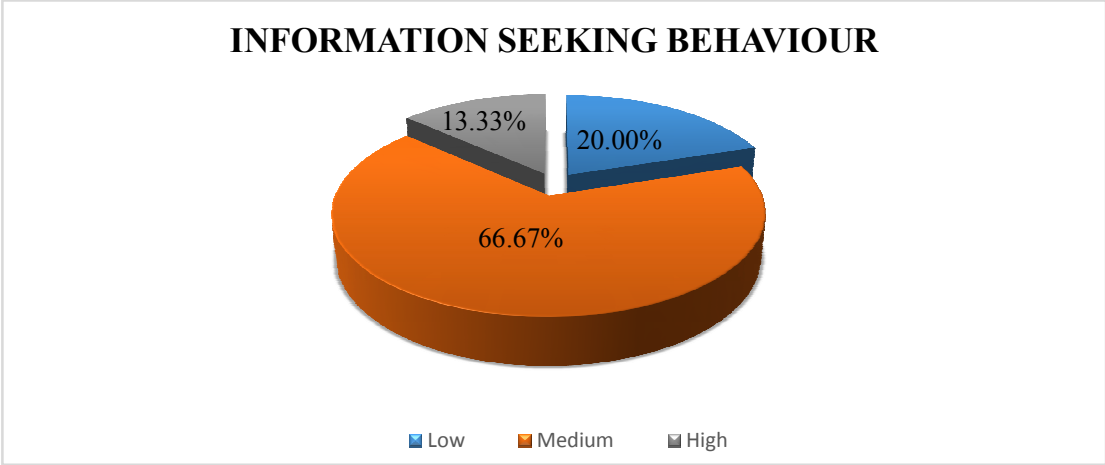


Figure 14: Distribution of respondents based on information seeking behaviour

4.1.13 Achievement motivation

Table 23 indicated that most of the respondents (62.50 per cent) had medium level of achievement motivation followed by 23.34 per cent respondents who had low level of achievement motivation. Only 14.16 per cent had high level of achievement motivation.

Table 23: Distribution of respondents according to achievement motivation (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (< 14)	28	23.34
Medium (14 to 17)	75	62.50
High (> 17)	17	14.16
TOTAL	120	100.00

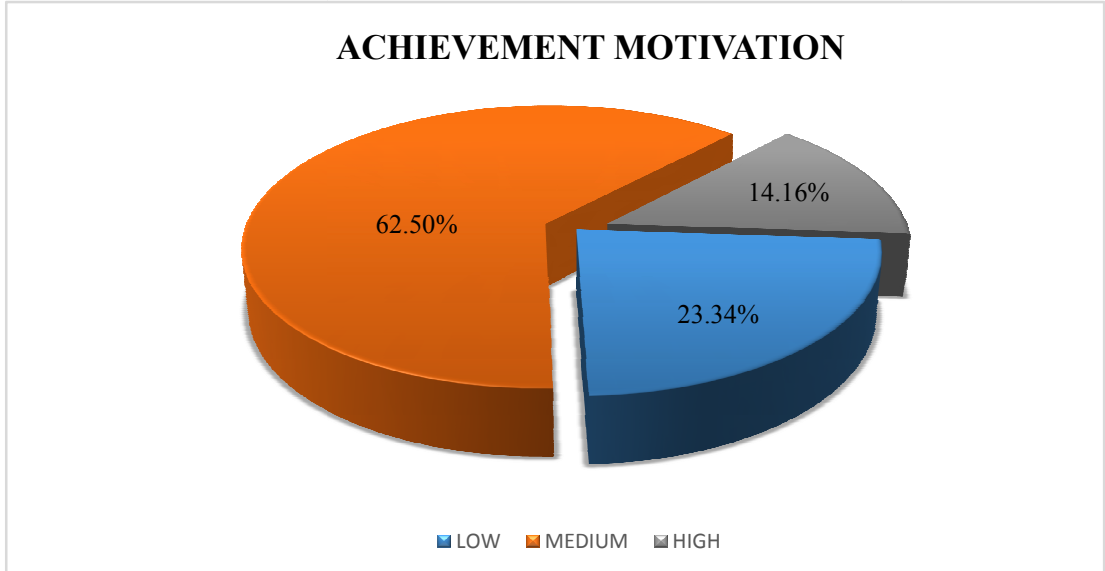


Figure 15: Distribution of respondents according to achievement motivation

4.1.14 Leadership ability

Table 24 clearly indicated that out of the total sample size of 120 respondents, more than two third of the respondents (68.34 per cent) had medium level of leadership ability followed by 18.33 per cent respondents who had low leadership level and rest of the 13.33 per cent had high level of leadership ability.

Table 24: Distribution of respondents based on leadership ability (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (< 17)	22	18.33
Medium (17 to 24)	82	68.34
High (> 24)	16	13.33
TOTAL	120	100.00

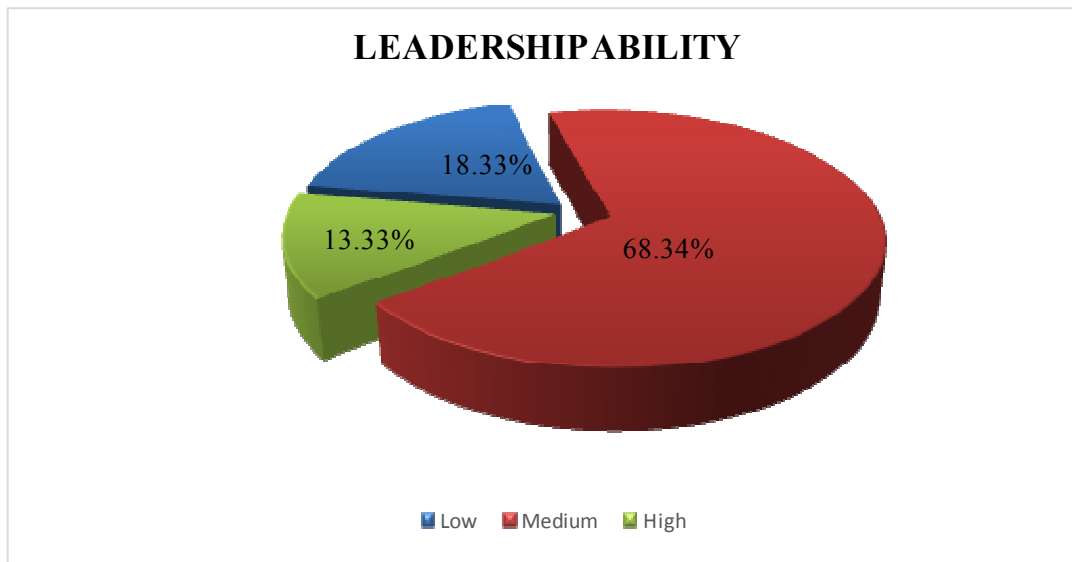


Figure 16: Distribution of respondents based on leadership ability

4.1.15 Awareness about Panchayati Raj System

Table 25 reveals that majority of the respondents (65.83 per cent) had the medium level of awareness about PRS followed by 19.17 per cent respondents who belonged to low awareness level. Only 15.00 per cent of respondents were found with high level of awareness about PRS.

Table 25: Distribution of respondents according to their awareness about PRS (N=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (< 4)	23	19.17
Medium (4 to 6)	79	65.83
High (> 6)	18	15.00
TOTAL	120	100.00

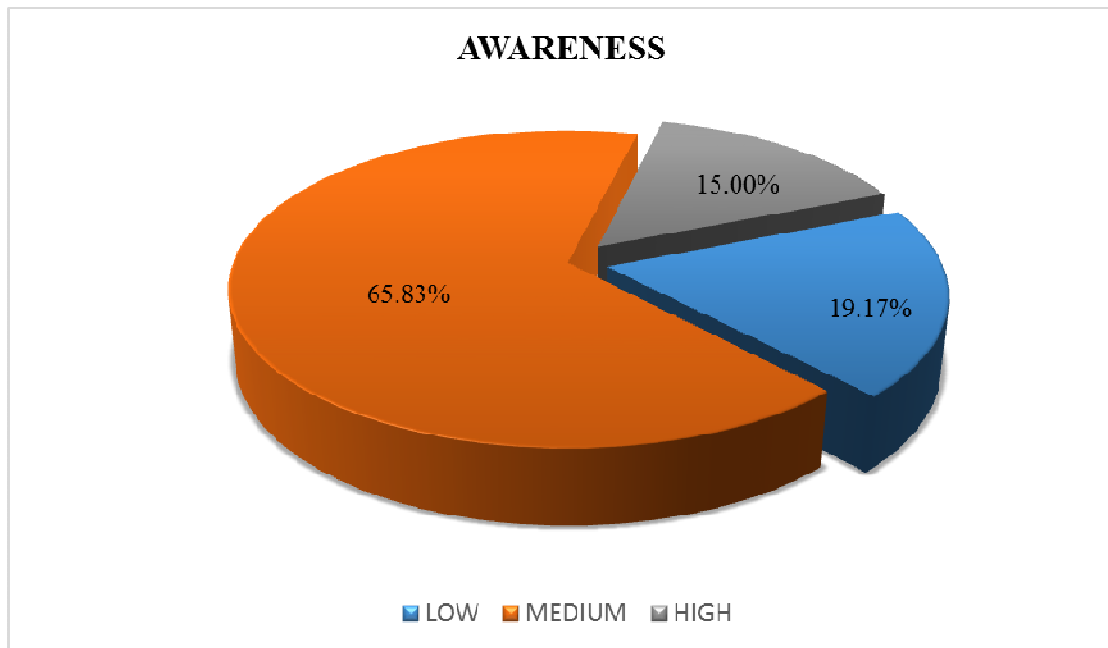


Figure 17: Distribution of respondents according to their awareness about PRS

4.2 Perception about Panchayati Raj System

Perception of the respondents was measured through the scale developed by George and Rajkamal which contains 10 positive and 10 negative statements towards Panchayati Raj System. The respondents were asked to record their feelings on a three-point continuum viz., Agree, Undecided and Disagree with scores of 3, 2 and 1 respectively for positive statements and 1, 2, 3 respectively for negative statements. The data collected through this scale has been interpreted and results have been discussed as follows:

4.2.1 Peoples' response to statement P1: "I believe that there is not enough of awareness campaign under Panchayati Raj"

During the personal interview when the respondents were asked if they believe that there is not enough of awareness campaign under Panchayati Raj, more than half of the respondents (55.00 per cent) agreed followed by 25.80 per cent who did not agree with the statement and rest 19.20 per cent had undecided response. The related data has been presented in Table 26.

Table 26: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P1

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	33	55.00	33	55.00	66	55.00
Undecided	10	16.67	13	21.67	23	19.20
Disagree	17	28.33	14	23.33	31	25.80
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 26 also depicted that in both of the Gram Panchayats equal majority of respondents (55.00 per cent) showed their agreement with the statement P1 while 28.33 per cent and 23.33 per cent disagreed and remaining 16.67 per cent and 21.67 per cent in Vijaynagar (GP1) and Khadakpur-devipura (GP2) respectively had undecided opinion towards the statement P1.

4.2.2 Peoples' response to statement P2: "I feel, true representatives of people are not getting elected under Panchayati Raj"

Table 27 reveals that when respondents were asked if they feel that the true representatives of people are not getting elected under Panchayati Raj, 66.67 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed followed by 21.67 per cent who disagreed and only 11.66 per cent had undecided response to the statement P2.

Table 27: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P2

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	40	66.67	32	53.33	72	60.00
Undecided	7	11.66	5	8.34	12	10.00
Disagree	13	21.67	23	38.33	36	30.00
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 27 also depicted that in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat majority of the respondents (53.33 per cent) showed their agreement while 38.33 per cent disagreed with the statement P2 and remaining 8.34 per cent were undecided. Overall, majority (60.00 per cent) agreed with the statement P2 followed by 30.00 per cent who disagreed. Only 10.00 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P2.

4.2.3 Peoples’ response to statement P3: “Panchayati Raj ensures transparent functioning of the government mechanisms”

Table 28 clearly shows that majority (41.67 per cent) of the respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat, agreed that Panchayati Raj ensures transparent functioning of the government mechanisms followed by 35.00 per cent who disagreed with it and only 23.33 per cent had undecided response to this statement.

Table 28: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P3

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	25	41.67	16	26.66	41	34.17
Undecided	14	23.33	25	41.67	39	32.50
Disagree	21	35.00	19	31.67	40	33.33
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 28 also depicted that in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, majority (41.67 per cent) of the respondents were undecided while 31.67 per cent and 26.66 per cent disagreed and agreed respectively with the statement P3. Overall, the statement P3 received mixed responses in which 34.17 per cent agreed with the statement followed by 33.33 per cent disagreed and 32.50 per cent were undecided to the statement.

4.2.4 Peoples’ response to statement P4: “Monitoring and evaluation of projects are effectively carried out under Panchayati Raj”

Data presented in Table 29 shows that responding to the statement “Monitoring and evaluation of projects are effectively carried out under Panchayati Raj”, majority (41.67 per cent) of the respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed followed by 35 per cent who disagreed and only 23.33 per cent were undecided.

Table 29: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P4

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	23	38.33	25	41.66	48	40.00
Undecided	16	26.67	16	26.67	32	26.67
Disagree	21	35.00	19	31.67	40	33.33
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 29 also depicted that in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat majority (41.66 per cent) of the respondents agreed while 31.67 per cent disagreed and remaining 26.67 per cent had undecided response to the statement P4. Overall, 40.00 per cent respondents agreed followed by 33.33 per cent who disagreed, while remaining 26.67 per cent were undecided to the statement P4.

4.2.5 Peoples' response to statement P5: "Infrastructure development has been satisfactory under Panchayati Raj"

When the respondents were asked whether they think that the infrastructure development has been satisfactory under Panchayati Raj, 65.00 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat and 48.33 per cent in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement followed by 21.67 per cent and 30.00 per cent respectively who did not agree with the statement, while only 13.33 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat and 21.67 per cent in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat had undecided response to the statement P5 (Table 30).

Table 30: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P5

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	39	65.00	29	48.33	68	56.67
Undecided	8	13.33	13	21.67	21	17.50
Disagree	13	21.67	18	30.00	31	25.83
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 30 also depicted that overall, majority (56.67 per cent) of the respondents agreed followed by 25.83 per cent who disagreed with the statement P5. Rest 17.50 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P5.

4.2.6 Peoples' response to statement P6: "I think Panchayati Raj ensures decentralized governance at the grass root level"

Table 31 clearly depicts that majority (56.67 per cent) of respondents in Vijaynagar (GP1) agreed followed by 28.33 per cent who disagreed with the statement P6 while only 15.00 per cent gave undecided response to the statement P6.

Table 31: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P6

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	34	56.67	36	60.00	70	58.33
Undecided	9	15.00	11	18.33	20	16.67
Disagree	17	28.33	13	21.67	30	25.00
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 31 also depicted that in Khadakpur-devipura (GP2), majority of respondents (60.00 per cent) showed their agreement while 21.67 per cent disagreed and remaining 18.33 per cent were undecided to the statement P6. Overall, majority (58.33 per cent) agreed with the statement followed by 25.00 per cent who disagreed. Only 16.67 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P6.

4.2.7 Peoples' response to statement P7: "Panchayati Raj system is a successful tool for women empowerment in rural areas"

When asked about the success of the Panchayati Raj system as a tool for women empowerment in rural areas, overwhelming majority (85.00 per cent) of the respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement followed by 11.67 per cent who disagreed and very few (3.33 per cent) were undecided (Table 32).

Table 32: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P7

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	51	85.00	35	58.34	86	71.67
Undecided	2	3.33	5	8.33	7	5.83
Disagree	7	11.67	20	33.33	27	22.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 32 also depicted that in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, more than half of the respondents (58.34 per cent) showed their agreement while 33.33 per cent disagreed with the statement and remaining 8.33 per cent were undecided. Overall, majority (71.67 per cent) of the respondents agreed with the statement followed by 22.50 per cent who disagreed. Only 5.83 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P7.

4.2.8 Peoples’ response to statement P8: “There is not much group action while implementing projects under Panchayati Raj”

Table 33 clearly reveals that 45.00 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed that there is not much group action during implementation of projects under Panchayati Raj followed by 40.00 per cent who disagreed with it and only 15.00 per cent had undecided response to the statement P8 while in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat majority of the respondents (56.67 per cent) showed their agreement while 23.33 per cent were undecided to the statement P8 and remaining 20.00 per cent disagreed.

Table 33: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P8

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	27	45.00	34	56.67	61	50.80
Undecided	9	15.00	14	23.33	23	19.20
Disagree	24	40.00	12	20.00	36	30.00
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall, near about half of the respondents (50.80 per cent) agreed with the statement followed by 30.00 per cent who disagreed. Only 19.20 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P8.

4.2.9 Peoples’ response to statement P9: “Panchayati Raj has created a group of more responsible local leaders”

When the respondents were asked whether Panchayati Raj has created a group of more responsible local leaders, 51.67 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement followed by 30.00 per cent who disagreed and only 18.33 per cent had undecided response to the statement (Table 34).

Table 34: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P9

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	31	51.67	20	33.33	51	42.50
Undecided	11	18.33	11	18.33	22	18.30
Disagree	18	30.00	29	48.34	47	39.20
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 34 also revealed that in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, near about half of the respondents (48.34 per cent) showed their disagreement while 33.33 per cent agreed with the statement P9 while remaining 18.33 per cent were undecided. Overall, majority (42.50 per cent) did not agreed with the statement followed by 39.20 per cent who agreed. Rest 18.30 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P9.

4.2.10 Peoples' response to statement P10: "People are empowered under Panchayati raj to plan more realistic projects for themselves"

Table 35 reveals that when the respondents were asked if they feel that people are empowered under Panchayati raj to plan more realistic projects for themselves, 46.66 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement followed by 31.67 per cent who were undecided and remaining 21.67 per cent disagreed with the statement.

Table 35: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P10

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	28	46.66	29	48.34	57	47.50
Undecided	19	31.67	17	28.33	36	30.00
Disagree	13	21.67	14	23.33	27	22.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

In Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, majority of the respondents (48.34 per cent) showed their agreement followed by 28.33 per cent undecided and 23.33 per cent who disagreed with the statement P10. Overall, 47.50 per cent of the respondents agreed with the statement followed by 30.00 per cent who were undecided. Only 22.50 per cent were those who disagreed with the statement P10 (Table 35).

4.2.11 Peoples' response to statement P11: "There has been much collective thinking to solve common problems under Panchayati Raj"

When the respondents were asked whether there has been much collective thinking to solve common problems under Panchayati Raj, 58.33 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement followed by 21.67 per cent who disagreed and only 20.00 per cent had undecided response to statement P11 while in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, some respondents (36.66 per cent) showed their agreement while equal number of respondents (31.67 per cent) disagreed and were undecided to the statement (Table 36).

Table 36: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P11

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	35	58.33	22	36.66	57	47.50
Undecided	12	20.00	19	31.67	31	25.80
Disagree	13	21.67	19	31.67	32	26.70
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall, 47.50 per cent of the respondents agreed with the statement followed by 26.70 per cent who disagreed. Only 25.80 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P11.

4.2.12 Peoples' response to statement P12: "Panchayati Raj does not ensure development with social justice"

Responding to the statement "Panchayati Raj does not ensure development with social justice", half of the respondents in Vijaynagar (GP1) disagreed followed by 43.33 per cent who agreed and only 6.67 per cent had undecided response, while in Khadakpur-devipura (GP2) majority of respondents (65.00 per cent) disagreed with the statement while 21.67 per cent agreed and remaining 13.33 per cent had undecided response to statement P12 (Table 37).

Table 37: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P12

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	26	43.33	13	21.67	39	32.50
Undecided	4	6.67	8	13.33	12	10.00
Disagree	30	50.00	39	65.00	69	57.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall, 57.50 per cent respondents disagreed with the statement P12 followed by 32.50 per cent who agreed. Remaining 10.00 per cent were undecided about it.

4.2.13 Peoples’ response to statement P13: “The Gram Sabha meetings are just a formality”

Table 38 clearly shows that when the respondents were asked if they feel that the Gram Sabha meetings are just a formality, majority (58.33) of respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat disagreed followed by 31.67 per cent who agreed and only 10.00 per cent had undecided response to the statement P13, while in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat majority of respondents (45.00 per cent) showed their agreement while 36.67 per cent disagreed with the statement P13 and remaining 18.33 per cent were undecided.

Table 38: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P13

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	19	31.67	27	45.00	46	38.30
Undecided	6	10.00	11	18.33	17	14.20
Disagree	35	58.33	22	36.67	57	47.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall near about half of respondents (47.50 per cent) disagreed with the statement P13 followed by 38.30 per cent who agreed. Only 14.20 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P13.

4.2.14 Peoples’ response to statement P14: “Panchayat representatives are not aware about their responsibilities”

Responding to the statement “Panchayat representatives are not aware about their responsibilities”, majority (51.67 per cent) of the respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement followed by 30.00 per cent who disagreed and only 18.33 per cent had undecided response, while in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, equal majority of respondents (51.67 per cent) showed their agreement while 36.67 per cent disagreed with the statement and remaining 11.66 per cent were undecided to the statement P14 (Table 39).

Table 39: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P14

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	31	51.67	31	51.67	62	51.67
Undecided	11	18.33	7	11.66	18	15.00
Disagree	18	30.00	22	36.67	40	33.33
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall, just more than half (51.67 per cent) of the respondents agreed with the statement followed by 33.33 per cent who disagreed. Only 15.00 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P14.

4.2.15 Peoples' response to statement P15: "Panchayati Raj does not ensure proper management and utilization of common property resources"

Table 40 clearly depicts that only 36.66 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement P15 followed by equal number of respondents (31.67 per cent) who disagreed as well as were undecided to the statement P15.

Table 40: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P15

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	22	36.66	27	45.00	49	40.83
Undecided	19	31.67	15	25.00	34	28.34
Disagree	19	31.67	18	30.00	47	30.83
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 40 also depicts that in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat less than half of the respondents (45.00 per cent) showed their agreement while 30.00 per cent disagreed with the statement and remaining 25.00 per cent were undecided. Overall, majority (40.83 per cent) agreed with the statement followed by 30.83 per cent who disagreed. Remaining 28.34 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P15.

4.2.16 Peoples' response to statement P16: "Beneficiary selection is not fair under Panchayati Raj"

Table 41 shows that when the respondents were asked whether they think that beneficiary selection is not fair under Panchayati Raj, only 45.00 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar agreed with the statement followed by 28.33 per cent who disagreed and only 26.67 per cent gave undecided response to statement P16.

Table 41: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P16

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	27	45.00	33	55.00	60	50.00
Undecided	16	26.67	8	13.33	24	20.00
Disagree	17	28.33	19	31.67	36	30.00
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 41 also revealed that in Khadakpur-devipura, majority of the respondents (55.00 per cent) showed their agreement while 31.67 per cent disagreed with the statement and remaining 13.33 per cent were undecided. Overall, half of the respondents (50.00 per cent) agreed with the statement followed by 30.00 per cent who disagreed. Only 20.00 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P2.

4.2.17 Peoples' response to statement P17: "Agri-business enterprises get importance under Panchayati Raj"

Table 42 depicts that responding to the statement "Agri-business enterprises get importance under Panchayati Raj", 65.00 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar disagreed with the statement followed by 20.00 per cent who agreed and only 15.00 per cent had undecided response to statement P17 while in Khadakpur-devipura, majority of respondents (51.67 per cent) showed their agreement while 23.33 per cent disagreed with the statement P17 and remaining 25.00 per cent were undecided.

Table 42: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P17

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	12	20.00	31	51.67	43	35.80
Undecided	9	15.00	15	25.00	24	20.00
Disagree	39	65.00	14	23.33	53	44.20
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall, majority (44.20 per cent) disagreed with the statement followed by 35.80 per cent who agreed. Only 20.00 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement P17.

4.2.18 Peoples’ response to statement P18: “Panchayati Raj has strengthened the rural economy”

When the respondents were asked whether the Panchayati Raj has strengthened the rural economy, 50.00 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement followed by 31.67 per cent who disagreed and only 18.33 per cent had undecided response, while in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, 40.00 per cent showed their disagreement while 36.67 per cent agreed with the statement and remaining 23.33 per cent were undecided to statement P18 (Table 43).

Table 43: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P18

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	30	50.00	22	36.67	52	43.33
Undecided	11	18.33	14	23.33	25	20.84
Disagree	19	31.67	24	40.00	43	35.83
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall, majority (43.33 per cent) agreed with the statement followed by 35.83 per cent who disagreed. Only 20.84 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement.

4.2.19 Peoples’ response to statement P19: “I feel that there has been considerable uncertainty in funding various projects under Panchayati Raj”

According to Table 44, when the respondents were asked if they feel that there has been considerable uncertainty in funding various projects under Panchayati Raj, 61.67 per cent respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat agreed with the statement followed by 26.67 per cent who disagreed and only 11.66 per cent gave undecided response while in Khadakpur-devipura gram panchayat, overwhelming majority of the respondents (76.67 per cent) showed their agreement while 18.33 per cent disagreed with the statement P19 and only five per cent were undecided.

Table 44: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P19

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	37	61.67	46	76.67	83	69.20
Undecided	7	11.66	3	50.00	10	8.30
Disagree	16	26.67	11	18.33	27	22.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall, majority (69.20 per cent) agreed with the statement P19 followed by 22.50 per cent who disagreed. Only 8.30 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement.

4.2.20 Peoples' response to statement P20: "Lack of viable projects has resulted in people's lack of faith in Panchayati Raj"

According to Table 45, when the respondents were asked whether the lack of viable projects has resulted in people's lack of faith in Panchayati Raj, it was interesting to know that majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat disagreed with the statement followed by 16.67 per cent who agreed and only 10.00 per cent were undecided, while in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, majority of respondents (46.67 per cent) showed their agreement while 33.33 per cent disagreed with the statement P20 and remaining 20.00 per cent were undecided.

Table 45: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their response to statement P20

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	10	16.67	28	46.67	38	31.67
Undecided	6	10.00	12	20.00	18	15.00
Disagree	44	73.33	20	33.33	64	53.33
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Overall, majority (53.33 per cent) disagreed with the statement followed by 31.67 per cent who agreed. Only 15.00 per cent were those whose response was undecided to the statement.

4.2.21 Overall perception of the respondents about Panchayati Raj System (PRS)

Table 46 clearly depicts that in Vijaynagar (GP1), majority of the respondents (60.00 per cent) had ambivalent perception about PRS followed by negative perception (25.00 per cent) and only 15.00 per cent respondents showed positive perception, while in Khadakpur-devipura (GP2), 56.67 per cent respondents had ambivalent perception about PRS followed by 23.33 per cent respondents with positive perception and remaining 20.00 per cent respondents had negative perception.

The table 46 also reveals that out of 120 selected respondents, majority (58.33 per cent) had ambivalent perception followed by 22.50 per cent and 19.17 per cent with negative and positive perception towards PR respectively. The related data has also been depicted in figure 18 below.

Table 46: Distribution of respondents according to their overall perception about PRS (N=120)

Category	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Positive	9	15.00	14	23.33	23	19.17
Ambivalent	36	60.00	34	56.67	70	58.33
Negative	15	25.00	12	20.00	27	22.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

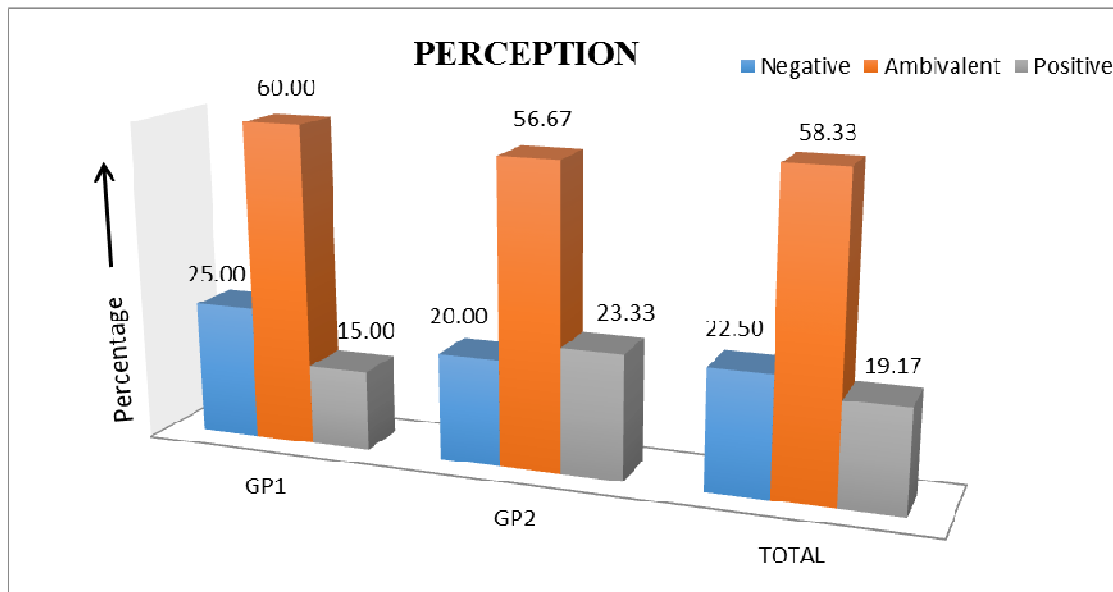


Figure 18: Distribution of respondents according to their overall perception about PRS

4.3 Participation in Panchayati Raj

Participation of the respondents in various activities under PRS has been explained under the following sub-heads:

4.3.1 Participation in Voting and Election

The inquiry of respondents' participation in PR began with the question whether they participated in last panchayat elections, the responses were over-whelming positive.

A perusal of Table 47 shows that out of the total sample size of 120 respondents, a large majority of respondents (92.50 per cent) positively affirmed that they voted in last panchayat elections. Total 98.33 per cent respondents from Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat and 86.67 per cent respondents from Khadakpur-devipura responded the same. The data related to Table 47 has also been depicted in figure 19 below.

Table 47: Showing the respondents' participation in last panchayat elections

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
YES	59	98.33	52	86.67	111	92.50
NO	1	1.67	8	13.33	9	7.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

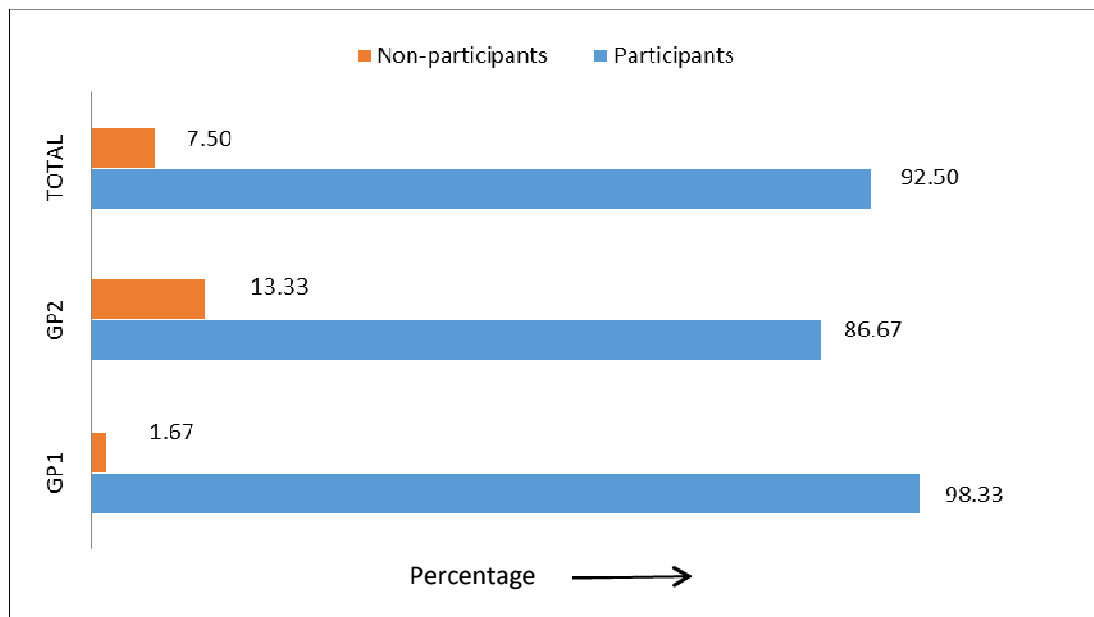


Figure 19: Distribution of respondents on the basis of their participation in last panchayat elections

4.3.2 with Elected Representatives

A question regarding the interaction of respondents with the Gram Pradhan/Sarpanch and other elected members of their respective constituencies was addressed: Do you contact the elected ward member or Gram Pradhan for a problem affecting the local area/ people? The answers to this question clearly suggested that contacting the elected ward member or Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat for a problem has become common.

Table 48: Showing the respondents' interaction with their elected representatives

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
YES	43	71.67	41	68.33	84	70.00
NO	17	28.33	19	31.67	36	30.00
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

It is evident from the Table 48 that in case of any problem affecting the local area/ people, the percentage of respondents contacting ward member or Sarpanch in Vijaynagar was 71.67 while in Khadakpur-devipura, it was 68.33 per cent. Overall 70.00 per cent respondents answered the same question in affirmation.

4.3.3 Visiting the Gram Panchayat office

Visiting the Gram Panchayat office was fairly common among the respondents in both Gram Panchayats. Table 49 reveals that out of the total sample size of 120 respondents including both Gram Panchayats, it was found that 79.17 per cent respondents had visited Gram Panchayat office at least once, while 20.83 per cent respondents replied that they have never visited the Gram Panchayat office.

Table 49: Showing the respondents visiting the Gram Panchayat office at least once

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
YES	51	85.00	44	73.33	95	79.17
NO	9	15.00	16	26.67	25	20.83
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

Table 49 also reveals that majority (85.00 per cent) of the respondents in Vijaynagar and 73.33 per cent respondents in Khadakpur-devipura had visited their respective Gram Panchayat offices at least for once.

4.3.4 Role in Panchayat activities

In response to the query, whether respondents think that they play an important role in panchayat activities, it was disheartening that 71.67 per cent and 76.67 per cent respondents from Vijaynagar and Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayats respectively, answered in negative (Table 50). Overall 74.17 respondents answered that they don't think so. While only 25.83 per cent answered "Yes" in response to the same question.

Table 50: Showing the importance of role played by respondents in panchayat activities

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
YES	17	28.33	14	23.33	31	92.50
NO	43	71.67	46	76.67	89	7.50
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

When a supplementary question was asked to the respondents if they ever participated in any rural development programme undertaken by their respective Gram Panchayat, very few respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat (11.67 per cent) answered in "Yes". Only 16.67 per cent respondents in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat answered positively in response to the same question.

4.3.5 Participation in Village Assembly (Gram Sabha)

In this section, an attempt was made to know the extent of peoples' participation in the Gram Sabha meetings. Two types of questions regarding attendance in Gram Sabha meetings were addressed to the respondents. First question was 'Do you get prior information about gram sabha meetings?' and secondly, respondents were asked whether they attend Gram Sabha meetings in their panchayat area or not?

Answering to the first question, majority (68.33 per cent) of the respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat expressed that most of the time they get prior information about the Gram Sabha meetings. In Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, 63.33 per cent

respondents answered the same. When asked about the source of related information, respondents told that they get information about the meetings directly from Gram Pradhan through telephonic communication or sometimes Pradhan use to invite them personally. Some of the respondents expressed that they get related information through representatives of Pradhan otherwise through the neighbours.

Table 51: Showing the respondents’ participation in Gram Sabha meetings

Response	GP1 (Vijaynagar)		GP2 (Khadakpur-devipura)		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
YES	40	66.67	26	43.33	66	55.00
NO	20	33.33	34	56.67	54	45.00
TOTAL	60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00

It is evident from the Table 51 that in response to the query; ‘if they attend the Gram Sabha meetings’, majority (66.67per cent) of the respondents in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat answered positively while in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, majority (56.67 per cent) of the respondents answered that they do not attend meetings of their Gram Sabha. Overall 55.00 per cent respondents answered that they attend Gram Sabha meetings while 45.00 per cent answered in negative.

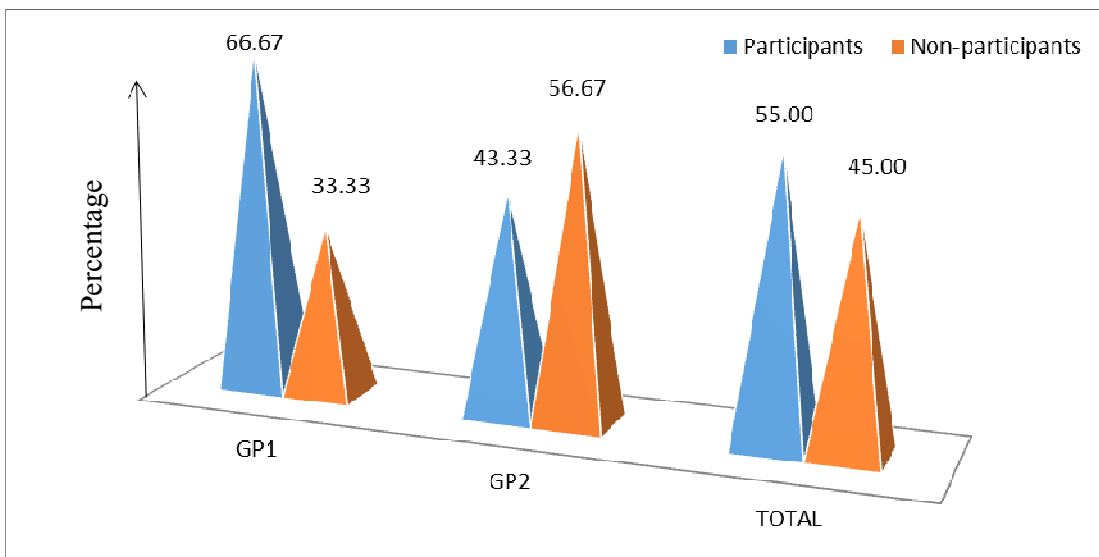


Figure 20: Distribution of the respondents on the basis of their participation in Gram Sabha meetings

Those who attended the meetings of Gram Sabha, when they were asked about the main purpose of attending these meetings, more than half of them 51.51 per cent (34 out of 66) opined that they attend meetings to get knowledge about the functioning of Gram Sabha followed by 28.78 per cent (19 out of 66) respondents who opined that they attend meetings to get the information on the budget of Gram Sabha. While 15.15 per cent (10 out of 66) attended these meetings to get the scheme of their personal benefit and rest of 4.50 per cent (three respondents) gave the other reasons to attend these meetings. Four more supplementary questions were asked to the attendees of Gram Sabha meetings. When asked whether they present the problems of their ward /panchayat in meetings, almost all of them (96.97 per cent) answered in affirmation. Only two of them (3.03 per cent) answered in negative.

Second question was if they take part in decision making process about important issues in meetings. 43.94 per cent and 56.06 per cent respondents answered “Yes” and “No” to this question respectively. The third question ‘Do you feel free to express your opinion fully in meetings?’ received a positive response from 75.75 per cent (50 out of 66) respondents while only 24.25 per cent answered in negative. Another interesting finding was that out of those who use to attend Gram Sabha meetings, 83.33 per cent thought that they played the role of active participant in meetings while rest of 16.67 per cent thought that they used to sit as silent observer in the meetings of Gram Sabha.

When the reasons for not attending the Gram Sabha meetings were asked to the non-participants of these meetings, majority (42.59 per cent) of them answered that they were not able to attend meetings due to their personal issues or family work followed by 27.77 per cent who gave reason that they don’t expect any outcome/benefit from the Gram Sabha meetings. Only 20.30 per cent answered that they were not able to attend Gram Sabha meetings in absence of any prior information about the meetings while few of them (9.25 per cent) gave other reasons like conflict with the Gram Pradhan, prescheduled engagement in any other activity at the same time of Gram Sabha meeting and loss of daily wages, if they will attend the meetings etc.

Answering the supplementary question, whether they try to talk on issues with those who attend Gram Sabha meetings, 64.81 per cent were negative. Only 35.19 per cent of non-participants of Gram Sabha meetings answered that they try to know the issues discussed in Gram Sabha meetings through conversation with the participants of the meetings. Majority of non-participants of Gram Sabha meetings (92.59 per cent) affirmed that they feel they will be heard in meetings, if they participate. Just more than half (51.85 per cent) of the non-participants of Gram Sabha meetings answered in “Yes” when question “Will you attend the

next Gram Sabha meeting, if possible?”, was asked to them, while 48.14 per cent respondents answered negatively in response to the same query.

4.4 Problems faced under Panchayati Raj System

During personal interview, respondents were asked about the major problems faced by them in different activities under PR. The major problems expressed by respondents were identified and have been listed in table 52. Total 15 major problems which came out during personal interview with the respondents were ranked from I to XV by using frequency and percentage as statistical tools. The results have been discussed below.

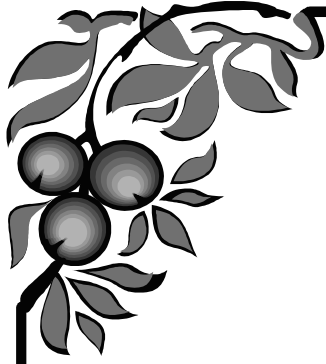
Table 52: Major problems faced by the respondents under Panchayati Raj System

Problems	Frequency	Percentage	Ranks
Inadequate devolution of powers to Gram Panchayat	65	54.16	VI
Dominance of male Panchayat members in decision making process of Gram Panchayat	50	41.66	VIII
Biased behavior of panchayat members/Sarpanch	43	35.83	X
Lack of higher education among elected representatives	71	59.16	IV
Lack of political experience among elected representatives	68	56.66	V
Lack of proper infrastructure like Panchayat Ghar or Panchayat office in the village	40	33.33	XI
Unavailability of funds in time	31	25.83	XII
Interference of political parties in functioning of panchayat activities	26	21.66	XIV
Lack of active participation by the villagers during Gram Sabha meetings	46	38.33	IX
Limited number of schemes allotted by state government	29	24.16	XIII
Distribution of money and alcohol in the society by nominated candidates during and prior to elections in order to seek more votes	97	80.83	I
Proxy representation of women representatives by their husband or any family member in discharging duties/functions/role performance	79	65.83	III
Lack of proper official staff and strength of Gram Panchayat	24	20	XV
Lack of unity among the elected representatives	57	47.50	VII
False voting/proxy voting in panchayat elections	86	71.66	II

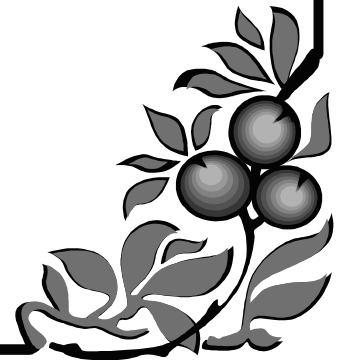
The data presented in Table 52 clearly shows that majority of respondents considered ‘distribution of money and alcohol in the society by nominated candidates during and prior to elections in order to seek more votes’ (80.33 per cent) followed by ‘false voting/proxy voting in panchayat elections’ (71.66 per cent) and ‘proxy representation of women representatives by their husband or any family member in discharging duties/functions/role performance’ as the major problems faced by them under PRS which have been ranked as I, II and III respectively. The proxy representation of women Pradhan was clearly visible in Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat. When researcher tried to interact with lady Veena Sarkar who is elected Gram Pradhan of Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat, her husband (Gaurchandra Sarkar) came out acting as Pradhan. The villagers used to show their respect for him by calling him as ‘Mukhiya ji’ or ‘Pradhan Sahab’. He used to lead his wife Veena Sarkar in all official works and in discharging duties/functions/role performance.

Table 52 also reveals that more than half of the respondents consider ‘lack of higher education among elected representatives’ (59.16 per cent), followed by ‘lack of political experience among elected representatives’ and ‘inadequate devolution of powers to Gram Panchayat’ as main problems under PRS. These problems were ranked as IV, V and VI respectively in the present study. The study also found ‘lack of unity among the elected representatives’ (47.50 per cent) as one of the constraints that has hindered the expected performance of PRIs and ranked as VII. The other problems were found ‘dominance of male panchayat members in decision making process of Gram Panchayat’ (41.66 per cent), ‘lack of active participation by the villagers during Gram Sabha meetings’ (38.33 per cent) and ‘biased behavior of panchayat members/Sarpanch’ (35.83 per cent) which were further ranked as VIII, IX and X respectively.

‘Lack of proper infrastructure like Panchayat Ghar or Panchayat office’ (Rank XI) and ‘unavailability of funds in time’ (Rank XII) were found to be valuable constraints in this study. The other two problems i.e. ‘limited number of schemes allotted by state government’ (Rank XIII) and ‘interference of political parties in functioning of panchayat activities’ (Rank XIV) were found to be as administrative problems under PRS. It was revealed that the village improvement and welfare activities were delayed due to these constraints. ‘Lack of proper official staff and strength of Gram Panchayat’ (Rank XV) was found to be least considered problem during the investigation.



*Summary
&
Conclusion*



Panchayati Raj System (PRS) is identified as an institutional expression of democratic decentralization in India. It is a system of self-governance for rural people electing their own leaders to look after the village administration (**Bhandari, 2013**). Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the grass root units of local self-government have been considered as the vehicles of socio economic transformation in rural India. The term “Panchayati Raj” is relatively new, having originated during the British administration. “Panchayat” is a Hindi word, which literally means assembly (Ayat) of five (Panch) wise and respected elders and “Raj” literary means governance or government. (**Verma et al, 2013**). Conceptually, panchayat can be described as an assembly of the village people or their representatives and chosen and accepted by the local community.

In the year 1993, the Government of India took a revolutionary step by making PRIs a part of the Constitution. The introduction of constitutionally mandated panchayat system through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act was the most significant experiment in reforming governance in India from a participatory democratic decentralization point of view. Mahatma Gandhi’s dream of every village being a republic and panchayats having powers, has been translated into reality with the introduction of the three-tier PRS to ensure people’s participation in rural reconstruction. Since the 73rd Amendment came into force, the process of political empowerment of the panchayats has largely been achieved. While panchayat elections have been regularly held in all the States and Union Territories, reservations have been provided to the women, Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and the Other Backward Class (OBC) in proportion to their share of the population in each panchayat area.

The main objective of the 73rd amendment was to create a new system of PRIs with people’s participation providing good governance at grassroots level. The system of PR was initiated mainly for people’s participation in political and economic process. PR in its initial phase of implementation did succeed in the empowerment of rural people by ensuring their participation in decision making process but there are reports that the PR because of poor implementation has failed to realize the dreams of its architects (**Rao, 2009**).

In actual practice, at the operational level, PRIs appear to have been saddled with a variety of problems. There are many impediments affecting the functioning of the PRIs in several states with regard to structural pattern, composition of panchayats, organic linkages between PRIs, electoral process, concept of rotation in the case of reserved seats, devolution of powers and functions, bureaucratic control over local bodies etc. The ground reality of the working of PRS indicates very weak and ineffective implementation leading to little progress on the path of rural development. The system also suffers from some other difficulties like inadequate financial resources, in egalitarian attitude of officials, mass illiteracy, class consciousness, ignorance, party strife and limited financial and administrative autonomy and lack of faith in grass roots democracy” (Sharma, 1998).

It has been observed that this system has not been able to acquire the status and dignity of viable and responsive people’s bodies due to a number of reasons including absence of regular and fair elections, interference of political parties and criminals, corruption of representatives, prolonged supersessions, inadequate devolution of power and lack of financial resources, lack of participation at grassroots level, lack of information among common people about PR and lack of political experience among the representatives whose political role is critical for effective functioning of panchayats.

Though this system has brought some significant changes in the lives of rural people and has been instrumental in bringing women in political arena; it has not been effective up to expectations in building the reputation of being a democratic development agency among rural people (Gandhi, S.2015). Perception of rural people towards PR has not been favorable due to these lacunae so the present situation poses serious questions on the implementation of the PRS. Thus there is a strong need to study the villagers’ point of view towards the PRIs and analyze the perception of people about PRS.

Therefore, keeping in mind the researchable gaps, the study entitled “**People’s perception about Panchayati Raj System in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand**” was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To study the socio-economic, communication and psychological characteristics of respondents.
2. To find out people’s perception about the functioning of Panchayati Raj system.
3. To analyze the extent of people’s participation in Panchayati Raj system.
4. To delineate the problems faced by people under Panchayati Raj.

The study followed exploratory research design to meet the objectives of the study. The study was carried out in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand state which was selected purposively due to large population in the district. Two blocks Gadarpur and Kashipur were selected randomly out of seven blocks. Two Gram Panchayats namely Vijaynagar from Gadarpur block and Khadakpur-devipura from Kashipur block, were selected for the study by simple random sampling method. Two villages from each selected Gram Panchayat were selected again through simple random sampling method. Thus in all four villages, namely Vijaynagar and Kalinagar (from Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat), Khadakpur and Shyampuram (from Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat) were selected. Those who are registered as the voters in their respective village panchayats, were selected as the respondents of the study. A total sample size of 120 respondents, 60 each from Vijaynagar and Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayats were selected. Out of 60 respondents from Vijaynagar, 30 were from Kalinagar village and 30 were from Vijaynagar village. Out of remaining 60 respondents, belonging to Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat, 30 were from Khadakpur village while another 30 were from Shyampuram village. Structured interview schedule along with personal interview was used for data collection which was developed and modified accordingly based on pilot study. The data collected were coded, tabulated, analysed and interpreted with the help of appropriate procedures and statistical techniques like mean, frequency, percentage and standard deviation.

5.1 MAJOR FINDINGS

The salient findings of the investigation have been summarized as follows:

- Majority of the respondents (65.84 per cent) were of middle age (26 to 48 years) followed by respondents in the old age (20.83 per cent) and young age (13.33 per cent) category.
- Out of total 120 respondents, majority (71.67 per cent) were male while only 28.33 per cent were female. The percentage of male and female respondents from Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat was 78.33 and 21.67 respectively, while in case of Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat it was 64.74 and 35.26 per cent respectively.

- Majority of the respondents (73.33 per cent) were in general category followed by 12.50 per cent of respondents under OBC category and 11.67 per cent under SC category. Only 2.50 per cent of the respondents belonged to ST category.
- Majority of the respondents (33.33 per cent) were at least graduate and 30.84 per cent had education up to intermediate level followed by high school (23.33 per cent) and middle education (8.33 per cent). Only 3.33 per cent were educated up to primary level while only 1 respondent (0.84 per cent) was found to be illiterate.
- 30.00 per cent respondents were engaged in service as family occupation followed by 25.00 per cent respondents in cultivation/farming and 15.83 per cent respondents were labour. It was found that 14.17 per cent of the respondents had business as family occupation and 11.67 per cent of them were doing independent profession. Only 3.33 per cent were engaged in caste occupation.
- Majority of the respondents (54.16 per cent) were landless and 21.67 per cent had land up to 2.5 acres while 13.33 per cent respondents had land up to 5 acres. Only 10.84 per cent respondents were having more than 5 acres of land holdings.
- Majority of the respondents (63.33 per cent) had medium size families followed by small size families (22.50 per cent) and 14.17 per cent respondents belonged to large families.
- Majority (57.50 per cent) were above poverty line (APL) while 42.50 per cent were below poverty line (BPL). Table also indicates that the majority (51.67 per cent) of respondents from Vijaynagar (GP1) were BPL and in case of Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat (GP2) 66.67 per cent belonged to APL category.
- Most of the respondents (69.17 per cent) had medium level of cosmopolitanism followed by low level of cosmopolitanism (18.33 per cent). Only 12.50 per cent had high level of cosmopolitanism.
- Most number of the respondents (66.67 per cent) had medium level of social participation followed by low level of (20.00 per cent) social participation. Only 13.33 per cent respondents belonged to high level of social participation.

- Half (50.00 per cent) of the total respondents were having medium level of mass media exposure while 30.00 per cent and 20.00 per cent of respondents belonged to high and low level of mass media exposure respectively.
- Two third (66.67 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of information seeking behaviour followed by 20.00 per cent respondents with low information seeking behaviour. Only 13.33 per cent of the respondents possessed high level of information seeking behaviour.
- Most of the respondents (62.50 per cent) had medium level of achievement motivation followed by 23.34 per cent respondents who had low level of achievement motivation. Only 14.16 per cent had high level of achievement motivation.
- More than two third of the respondents (68.34 per cent) had medium level of leadership ability followed by 18.33 per cent respondents who had low leadership level and rest of the 13.33 per cent had high level of leadership ability.
- Majority of the respondents (65.83 per cent) had the medium level of awareness towards PRS followed by 19.17 per cent respondents who belonged to low awareness level. Only 15.00 per cent of respondents were found with high level of awareness towards PRS.
- In Vijaynagar Gram Panchayat (GP1), majority of the respondents (60.00 per cent) had ambivalent perception towards panchayati raj followed by negative perception (25.00 per cent). Only 15.00 per cent respondents showed positive perception. While in Khadakpur-devipura Gram Panchayat (GP2), 56.67 per cent respondents had ambivalent perception followed by 23.33 per cent respondents with positive perception and remaining 20.00 per cent respondents had negative perception. The table also reveals that out of 120 selected respondents, majority (58.33 per cent) had ambivalent perception followed by 22.50 per cent and 19.17 per cent with negative and positive perception towards PR respectively.

- Majority of respondents considered ‘distribution of money and alcohol in the society by nominated candidates during and prior to elections in order to seek more votes’ (80.33 per cent) followed by ‘false voting/proxy voting in panchayat elections’ (71.66 per cent) and ‘proxy representation of women representatives by their husband or any family member in discharging duties/functions/role performance’ as the major problems faced by them under PRS which have been ranked as I, II and III respectively.
- More than half of the respondents considered ‘lack of higher education among elected representatives’ (59.16 per cent), followed by ‘lack of political experience among elected representatives’ and ‘inadequate devolution of powers to Gram Panchayat’ as the another main problems under PRS. These problems were ranked as IV, V and VI respectively in the present study.
- The study also found ‘lack of unity among the elected representatives’ (47.50 per cent) as one of the constraints that has hindered in the expected performance of PRIs and ranked as VII. The other constraints were found ‘dominance of male panchayat members in decision making process of Gram Panchayat’ (41.66 per cent), ‘lack of active participation by the villagers during Gram Sabha meetings’ (38.33 per cent) and ‘biased behavior of panchayat members/Sarpanch’ (35.83 per cent) which were further ranked as VIII, IX and X respectively. ‘Lack of proper infrastructure like Panchayat Ghar or Panchayat office’ (Rank XI) and ‘unavailability of funds in time’ (Rank XII) were found to be valuable constraints in this study.
- The other two problems i.e. ‘limited number of schemes allotted by state government’ (Rank XIII) and ‘interference of political parties in functioning of panchayat activities’ (Rank XIV) were found to be as administrative problems under PRS. These above two constraints were found to be bringing delayed village improvement and welfare activities. ‘Lack of proper official staff and strength of Gram Panchayat’ (Rank XV) was found to be least considered problem during the investigation.

5.2 Conclusion

The study was conducted on peoples' perception about Panchayati Raj System in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand. On the basis of the findings, it was concluded that majority of respondents were of middle age (26 to 48 years), males, general caste, had educational qualification up to graduate/above and major family occupation was cultivation and service. Majority of them were landless, belonged to medium family size and above poverty line (APL). It was also found that majority of respondents had medium level of cosmopolitaness, medium level of social participation, information seeking behaviour, achievement motivation and leadership ability. About 50 per cent respondents had medium level mass media exposure and most of the respondents were having medium level of awareness towards PRS.

Another important finding was that the overall perception of majority of the respondents was ambivalent towards PRS and huge majority of the respondents took part in last panchayat voting. Most of the respondents had regular interaction with Gram Pradhan and other elected representatives. Majority of the respondents had visited the Gram Panchayat office at least once. It was disappointing that majority of the respondents thought they did not play important role in panchayat activities. Majority of the respondents get prior information about the meetings of Gram Sabha and used to attend the Gram Sabha meetings.

Majority of respondents considered 'distribution of money and alcohol in the society by nominated candidates during and prior to elections in order to seek more votes' followed by 'false voting/proxy voting in panchayat elections' and 'proxy representation of women representatives by their husband or any family member in discharging duties/functions/role performance' as the major problems faced by them under PRS. The other major considered problems were 'lack of higher education among elected representatives' followed by 'lack of political experience among elected representatives' and 'inadequate devolution of powers to Gram Panchayat' etc. 'Lack of proper official staff and strength of Gram Panchayat' was found to be least considered problem during the investigation.

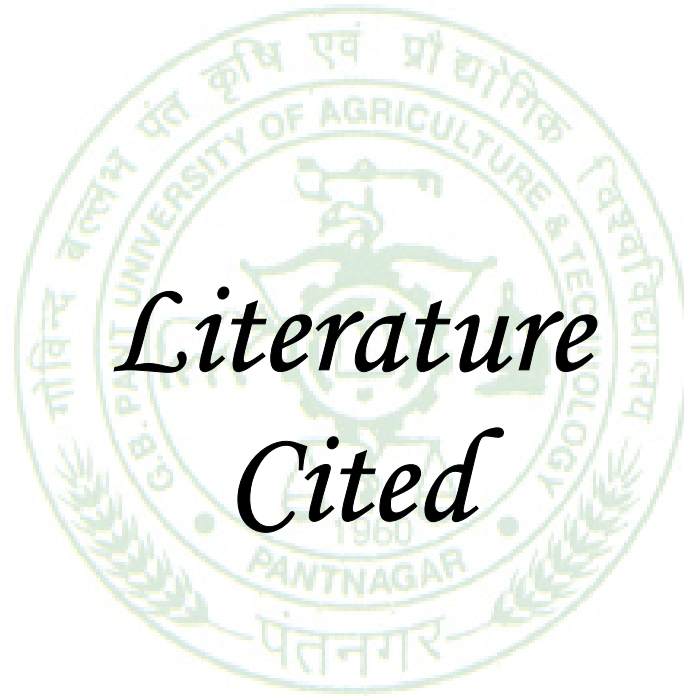
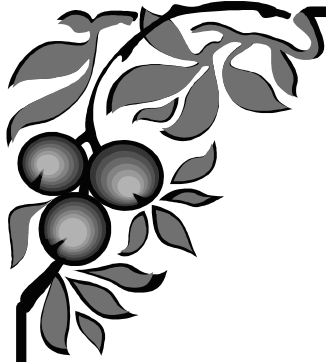
5.3 Implications of the study

- This study will help in understanding the perception of rural people about the Panchayati Raj System.
- The present study also highlights the problems of rural people in availing benefits under the Panchayati Raj programme.
- The study may also help the policy makers to strengthen the implementing machinery of Panchayati Raj.
- The study also describes the level of participation level in Panchayati Raj programme.

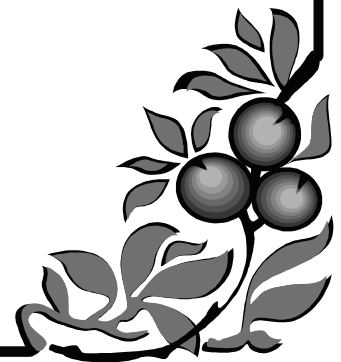
5.4 Suggested areas for further research

Further studies can be conducted to strengthen the implementation of Panchayati Raj programme in India as below.

- Similar study can be conducted with a larger sample size to understand the perception of rural people about Panchayati Raj.
- Gender based studies can also be conducted to assess the implementation of Panchayati Raj.
- Organisation studies can be conducted to assess the role of officials and non officials in the implementation of Panchayati Raj.
- Evaluative studies may also be attempted on the implementation of Panchayati Raj System.
- Studies focusing on the constraints in the implementation of Panchayati Raj can be conducted.



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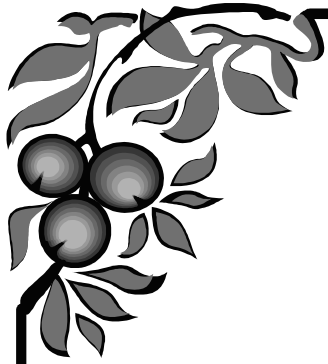
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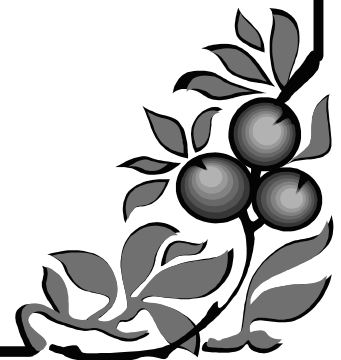
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Appendices



शोध प्रकल्प: पंचायती राज प्रणाली के प्रति लोगों की धारणा

साक्षात्कार अनुसूची

प्रतिवादी संख्या:

1. सामान्य जानकारी:

1.1 ब्लॉक का नाम:

1.2 गांव का नाम:

1.3 प्रतिवादी का नाम:

2. सामाजिक-आर्थिक, मनोवैज्ञानिक और संचार विशेषताएं:

2.1 उम्रसाल

2.2 लिंग: पुरुष महिला

2.3 कास्ट: सामान्य ओबीसी एससी एसटी

2.4 शिक्षा का स्तर:

सं.	श्रेणी	कृपया चुनें
1.	अनपढ़	
2.	प्राथमिक शिक्षा	
3.	माध्यमिक शिक्षा	
4.	हाई स्कूल	
5.	इंटरमीडिएट	
6.	स्नातक/स्नातक से अधिक	

2.5 प्राथमिक व्यवसाय:

सं.	श्रेणी	कृपया चुनें
1.	श्रम	
2.	जातिगत व्यवसाय	
3.	व्यापार	
4.	स्वतंत्र पेशे	
5.	खेती	
6.	सेवा	

2.6 भूमि जोत का आकार:

सं.	श्रेणी	कृपया चुनें
1	भूमिहीन	
2	2.5 एकड़ तक जमीन	
3	5 एकड़ तक जमीन	
4	5 एकड़ से अधिक	

2.7 परिवार का आकार:

क) परिवार में कितने सदस्य हैं?.....

ख) पुरुषों की संख्या

महिलाओं की संख्या

2.8 परिवार की कुल आय:

APL (प्रति वर्ष आय 27,000 रुपये / रु. 2250 प्रति माह से अधिक)

BPL (प्रति वर्ष आय 27,000 रुपये / रु. 2250 प्रति माह से कम)

2.9 कस्मोपोलिटनेस:

सं.	बयान	प्रतिक्रिया
1.	कितनी बार आप निकटतम शहर/नगर की यात्रा करते हैं?	a. अक्सर (दो बार एक सप्ताह में) b. कभी कभी (सप्ताह में एक बार) c. एक माह में एक बार
2.	ऐसी यात्राओं का उद्देश्य क्या है?	a. एंटरप्राइज़ के संबंध में b. अन्य प्रयोजन से
3.	क्या आप किसी भी संगठन के सदस्य या पदाधिकारी रहे हैं?	a. हाँ b. नहीं

2.10 सामाजिक भागीदारी:

सं.	संगठन	सदस्य	पदाधिकारी	भागीदारी की प्रकृति		
				नियमित	कभी-कभी	कभी नहीं
1.	ग्राम पंचायत					
2.	सहकारी समिति					
3.	स्कूल समिति					
4.	किसान क्लब					
5.	महिला क्लब					
6.	पंचायत समिति					
7.	जिला परिषद					
8.	किसी भी अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)					

2.11 मास-मीडिया उपयोग:

सं.	मीडिया	हाँ/नहीं	उपयोग की आवृत्ति		
			बार-बार	कभी-कभी	कभी नहीं
1.	रेडियो				
2.	टेलीविजन				
3.	अखबार				
4.	मोबाइल				
5.	इंटरनेट				

2.12 जानकारी लेने का व्यवहार:

सं.	सूचना का स्रोत	व्यवहार		
		नियमित	कभी-कभी	कभी नहीं
1.	मित्र एवं सम्बन्धी			
2.	पड़ोसी			
3.	ग्राम प्रधान/वार्ड सदस्य			
4.	लोकल नेता			
5.	खण्ड विकास अधिकारी			
6.	अन्य कोई (कृपया निर्दिष्ट करें)			

2.13 उपलब्धि प्रेरणा: (कृपया टिक मार्क करें)

सं.	बयान	प्रतिक्रिया	
		हां	नहीं
1.	क्या आप दूसरों से ज्यादा काम करना चाहते हैं?		
2.	क्या आप अपना भविष्य उज्ज्वल करने के लिए अधिक परिश्रम करते हैं?		
3.	क्या आप साधारण कामों की अपेक्षा कठिन काम अधिक पसंद करते हैं?		
4.	क्या आप चाहते हैं कि आपकी सफलताओं की एक लम्बी सूची हो?		
5.	क्या आप जीवन में सम्मान प्राप्त करने की कोशिश करते हैं?		
6.	क्या आप प्रतियोगिता की भावना रखते हैं?		
7.	क्या आप जीवन में कुछ बड़े कार्य करने के लिए कोशिश करते रहते हैं?		
8.	क्या आप कोई महत्वपूर्ण कार्य करना चाहते हैं?		
9.	क्या आप ज्ञान प्राप्त करने के लिए दूसरों से अधिक मेहनत करते हैं?		
10.	क्या आप लोगों को दिखाना चाहते हैं कि आप किसी काम को दूसरों से अच्छी तरह कर सकते हैं?		

2.14 नेतृत्व की क्षमता:

कृपया निम्न कथनों के साथ सहमति /असहमति दें।(A-हमेशा, ST-कभी कभी, N-कभी नहीं)

सं.	बयान	प्रतिक्रिया		
		A	ST	N
1.	जब भी मैं एक नए अभ्यास देखता हूँ, मैं इसके बारे में अपने दोस्तों के साथ चर्चा करता हूँ।			
2.	अन्य लोग मुझे जानकारी के एक अच्छे स्रोत के रूप में लेते हैं।			
3.	मैं अपने आप को एक सफल नेता के रूप में मानता हूँ।			
4.	मैं अक्सर समूह के सदस्यों को स्वतंत्र रूप से उनके विचार या राय व्यक्त करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता हूँ।			
5.	मैं मेरे समूह के अन्य सदस्यों की समस्याओं के बारे में भी चिंता करता हूँ।			
6.	मुझे मेरी क्षमता में काफी भरोसा है।			
7.	मैं दूसरों के विचारों को सुनता हूँ।			
8.	मुझे लगता है कि मुझमें सदस्यों को निर्देशित करने की शक्ति है।			
9.	मैं अधिकारियों, एजेंसियों या संस्थाओं से बात करने में कभी संकोच नहीं करता हूँ।			
10.	समय योजना/शेड्यूलिंग गतिविधियों के संचालन के लिए आवश्यक है।			

3. पंचायती राज प्रणाली के प्रति जागरूकता: (कृपया उचित विकल्प चुनें)

1. ग्राम सभा की वर्ष में कितनी बैठकें होती हैं?

दो एक चार पता नहीं

2. ग्राम सभा की बैठकें बुलाने का अधिकार किसका है?

बी.डी.ओ. ग्राम प्रधान ग्राम विकास अधिकारी पता नहीं

3. ग्राम सभा की बैठकों की अध्यक्षता कौन करता है?

बी.डी.ओ. ग्राम विकास अधिकारी ग्राम प्रधान वार्ड सदस्य

4. ग्राम पंचायत की बैठक के क्या कार्य हैं?

आय व्यय का अनुमोदन विकास कार्यों का अनुमोदन
उपरोक्त दोनों पता नहीं

5. ग्राम पंचायत की कितनी उपसमितियां हैं?

एक(1) दो(2) चार(4) छः(6)

6. ग्राम सभा में सस्ता गल्ला विक्रेता के चयन का अधिकार किसको है?

ग्राम सभा ग्राम विकास अधिकारी ग्राम प्रधान पता नहीं

7. ग्राम प्रधान को हटाने का अधिकार किसे होता है?

ग्राम पंचायत सरकार कोई नहीं पता नहीं

8. ग्राम सभा के सदस्य की न्यूनतम आयु कितनी होती है?

21 वर्ष 18 वर्ष 19 वर्ष 20 वर्ष

9. इनमें से ग्राम पंचायत का सदस्य कौन है?

सभा के लोग वार्ड सदस्य सरकारी कर्मचारी पता नहीं

4. पंचायती राज प्रणाली में भागीदारी: (कृपया टिक मार्क करें)

4.1 क्या आपने पिछले पंचायत चुनाव में वोट किया था?

हाँ नहीं

4.2 क्या आप अपने क्षेत्र /लोगों की समस्याओं को लेकर ग्राम प्रधान /वार्ड सदस्य से संपर्क करते हैं?

हाँ नहीं

- 4.3 क्या आपने एक बार भी अपने ग्राम-पंचायत कार्यालय का दौरा किया है? हाँ नहीं
- 4.4 क्या आपको लगता है कि आप पंचायत की गतिविधियों में अहम भूमिका निभाते हैं? हाँ नहीं
- 4.5 क्या आपने कभी अपने पंचायत क्षेत्र के किसी ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया था/है? हाँ नहीं
- 4.6 क्या आपको ग्राम सभा की बैठकों की पूर्व में जानकारी मिल जाती है? हाँ नहीं
- 4.7 क्या आप अपने क्षेत्र की ग्राम सभा की बैठकों में जाते हो? हाँ नहीं

4.7.1) यदि **हाँ**, तो कृपया निम्न के जवाब दें।

1. ग्राम सभा की बैठकों में जाने का आपका मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या होता है?

- अ) व्यक्तिगत लाभ की योजना को प्राप्त करना
- ब) ग्राम सभा के बजट की जानकारी प्राप्त करना
- स) ग्राम सभा के कार्यों की जानकारी प्राप्त करना
- द) अन्य कोई कारण

2. क्या आप अपने वार्ड /पंचायत की समस्याओं को बैठकों में प्रस्तुत करते हो? हाँ नहीं
3. क्या आप बैठक में महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेते हो? हाँ नहीं
4. क्या आप बैठकों में अपने विचारों को स्वतंत्र रूप से रखते हो? हाँ नहीं
5. बैठकों में आपकी कैसी भूमिका रहती है? सक्रिय प्रतिभागी मूक पर्यवेक्षक

4.7.2) यदि **नहीं**, तो कृपया निम्न के जवाब दें।

1. भाग नहीं लेने के क्या कारण हैं?

- अ) बैठकों की जानकारी नहीं होती है। ब) व्यक्तिगत कारणों से।
- स) किसी भी लाभ की आशा नहीं होती। द) अन्य कोई कारण (विवरण दें)

2. क्या आप ग्राम सभा की बैठकों में भाग लेने वाले लोगों से चर्चा करते हो? हाँ नहीं
3. क्या आपको लगता है कि बैठकों में आपको सुना जाएगा? यदि भाग लेंगे तो। हाँ नहीं
4. यदि संभव हुआ तो क्या आप अगली ग्राम सभा की बैठक में जायेंगे? हाँ नहीं

5. पंचायती राज के बारे में धारणा: (कृपया टिक मार्क करें)

A=सहमत हूँ। UD=कोई मत नहीं। DA=असहमत हूँ।

सं	बयान	प्रतिक्रिया		
		A	UD	DA
1.	मेरा मानना है कि पंचायती राज के प्रति लोगों में पर्याप्त जागरूकता नहीं है।			
2.	मुझे लगता है कि पंचायती राज के तहत लोगों के सच्चे प्रतिनिधि निर्वाचित नहीं हो रहे हैं।			
3.	पंचायती राज पारदर्शी रूप से सरकारी तंत्र के कामकाज सुनिश्चित करता है।			
4.	परियोजनाओं की निगरानी और मूल्यांकन पंचायती राज के अंतर्गत प्रभावी ढंग से किया जाता है।			
5.	बुनियादी ढांचों के विकास के सन्दर्भ में पंचायती राज संतोषजनक रहा है।			
6.	मुझे लगता है कि पंचायती राज जमीनी स्तर पर विकेन्द्रीकृत शासन को सुनिश्चित करता है।			
7.	पंचायती राज प्रणाली ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण के लिए एक सफल उपकरण है।			
8.	पंचायती राज के तहत परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन के दौरान लोगों के सामुदायिक प्रयास काफी नहीं रहते हैं।			
9.	पंचायती राज ने स्थानीय नेताओं को और अधिक जिम्मेदार बनाया है।			
10.	पंचायती राज के तहत लोग खुद के लिए और अधिक यथार्थवादी परियोजनाएं बनाने के लिए सशक्त हुए हैं।			
11.	पंचायती राज में आम समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए लोगों की सामूहिक सोच ज्यादा रहती है।			
12.	पंचायती राज विकास के साथ सामाजिक न्याय को सुनिश्चित नहीं करता।			
13.	ग्राम सभा की बैठकें बस एक औपचारिकता मात्र होती हैं।			
14.	पंचायत के प्रतिनिधि उनकी जिम्मेदारियों के बारे में जागरूक नहीं हैं।			
15.	पंचायती राज सामाजिक संपत्ति और संसाधनों का उचित उपयोग और प्रबंधन सुनिश्चित नहीं करता।			
16.	पंचायती राज के तहत लाभार्थी चयन की प्रक्रिया ठीक नहीं है।			
17.	कृषि-व्यापार उद्यमों को पंचायती राज के तहत बढ़ावा मिलता है।			
18.	पंचायती राज ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ करने में सक्षम रहा है।			
19.	मुझे लगता है कि पंचायती राज के अंतर्गत विभिन्न परियोजनाओं वित्त पोषण में काफी अनिश्चितता रहती है।			
20.	व्यवहारिक परियोजनाओं के अभाव में पंचायती राज के प्रति लोगों की आस्था में कमी हुई है।			

आपका समय एवं सहयोग देने के लिए "धन्यवाद"।

2.7 Family size

a) How many members are there in the family?

b) No. Of Males No. Of Females

2.8 Total Family Income:

APL (Income more than Rs. 27,000 per annum / Rs. 2250 per month)

BPL (Income less than Rs. 27,000 per annum / Rs. 2250 per month)

2.9 Cosmopolitaness:

Sl. No.	Statements	Response
1.	How often you visit the nearest city/town?	a. Often (twice in a week) b. Sometimes (once in a weak) c. Seldom (once in a month)
2.	What is the purpose of such visits?	a. In connection with the enterprise b. Other purposes
3.	Whether you are member/office bearer of any organization out the village?	a. Yes b. No

2.10 Mass media exposure:

Sl. No.	Mass media use	Frequency of use		
		frequently	Sometimes	Never
1.	Radio			
2.	Television			
3.	Newspaper			
4.	Mobile			
5.	Internet			

2.11 Social participation:

Sl. No.	Organization	Member	Office Bearer	Nature of Participation		
				Regular	Occasional	Never
1.	Gram Panchayat					
2.	Co-operative Society					
3.	School Committee					
4.	Farmers' Club					
5.	Women's Club					
6.	Panchayat Samiti					
7.	Zila Parishad					
8.	Any Other					

2.12 Information seeking behaviour:

SL.NO.	Information Source	Seeking Behaviour		
		Regular	Occasional	Never
1.	Friends & relatives			
2.	Neighbours			
3.	Gram Pradhan/Ward member			
4.	Local leaders			
5.	Block Development Officer			
6.	Any other (specify)			

2.13 Achievement Motivation :(Please tick mark)

SL.NO.	STATEMENTS	RESPONSES	
		YES	NO
1.	Do you want to work more than others?		
2.	Do you work harder to make your future bright?		
3.	Do you prefer difficult work to undertake instead of easy one?		
4.	Do you want to make a long list of your success?		
5.	Do you try to get respect in your life?		
6.	Do you have feeling of competition with others?		
7.	Do you regularly try to achieve something big in your life?		
8.	Do you want to undertake some important work?		
9.	Do you work harder than others to gain knowledge?		
10.	Do you want to show people that you can do any work better than others?		

3. Who is the chairman of Gram Sabha meetings?
V.D.O. Pradhan B.D.O. Ward member

4. What are the functions of Gram Panchayat meeting?
Approval of expenditures Approval of development tasks
The above two Don't know

5. Number of sub-committees in a Village Panchayat?
One (1) Two (2) Four (4) six (6)

6. Who has right to choose the vendor of "Cheaper Galla" (Control Shop)?
Gram Sabha V.D.O. Gram Pradhan Don't know

7. Who has the right to remove village head (Gram Pradhan)?
Gram Panchayat Government None Don't know

8. What is the minimum age of a Gram Sabha member?
21 years 18 years 19 years 20 years

9. Who is the member of Gram Panchayat among the following?
People of Gram Sabha Ward member
Government servant Don't know

3 Participation in Panchayati raj System :(Please tick mark)

3.1 Did you vote in last panchayat elections? Yes No
3.2 Do you contact the elected ward member or Gram Pradhan for a problem affecting the local area/ people? Yes No
3.3 Have you ever visited the Gram Panchayat office of your area? Yes No
3.4 Do you think that you play an important role in panchayat activities? Yes No
3.5 Have you ever participated in any rural development programme? Yes No
3.6 Do you get prior information about gram sabha meetings? Yes No
3.7 Do you attend Gram sabha meetings in your panchayat area? Yes No

4. Perception about panchayati raj system: (Please tick mark)

A=Agree, UD=Undecided, DA=Disagree

Sl. No.	STATEMENTS	RESPONSES		
		A	UD	DA
1.	I believe that there is not enough of awareness campaign under Panchayati Raj			
2.	I feel, true representatives of people are not getting elected under Panchayati Raj			
3.	Panchayati Raj ensures transparent functioning of the Government mechanisms			
4.	Monitoring and evaluation of projects are effectively carried out under Panchayati Raj.			
5.	Infrastructure development has been satisfactory under Panchayati Raj			
6.	I think Panchayati Raj ensures decentralized governance at the grass root level			
7.	Panchayati Raj system is a successful tool for women empowerment in rural areas.			
8.	There is not much group action while implementing projects under Panchayati Raj			
9.	Panchayati Raj has created a group of more responsible local leaders			
10.	People are empowered under Panchayati raj to plan more realistic projects for themselves			
11.	There has been much collective thinking to solve common problems under Panchayati Raj			
12.	Panchayati Raj does not ensure development with social justice			
13.	The Gram Sabha meetings are just a formality			
14.	Panchayat representatives are not aware about their responsibilities			
15.	Panchayati Raj does not ensure proper management and utilization of common property resources			
16.	Beneficiary selection is not fair under Panchayati Raj			
17.	Agri-business enterprises get importance under Panchayati Raj			
18.	Panchayati Raj has strengthened the rural economy			
19.	I feel that there has been considerable uncertainty in funding various projects under Panchayati Raj			
20.	Lack of viable projects has resulted in people's lack of faith in Panchayati Raj			

VITA

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✚ **2007** High School examination, T.R.R.S.V.M.,
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ABSTRACT

Name : Abhinav Yadav **Id. No.** : 39714
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Major : Agricultural Extension & Communication **Department** : Agricultural Communication
Thesis title : “PEOPLE’S PERCEPTION ABOUT PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN UDHAM SINGH NAGAR DISTRICT OF UTTARAKHAND”
Advisor : Dr. Gyanendra Sharma

Panchayati Raj System (PRS) is identified as an institutional expression of democratic decentralization in India. It is a system of self-governance for rural people electing their own leaders to look after the village administration (**Bhandari, 2013**). In the year 1993, the Government of India took a revolutionary step by making Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) a part of the constitution. The introduction of constitutionally mandated panchayat system through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act was the most significant experiment in reforming governance in India. The main objective of the 73rd amendment was to create a new system of PRIs with People’s participation providing good governance at grassroots level. Since the 73rd Amendment came into force, panchayat elections have been regularly held in all the States and Union Territories, reservations have been provided to the women, SC, ST and OBC in proportion to their share of the population in each panchayat area. Panchayati Raj (PR) in its initial phase of implementation did succeed in the empowerment of rural people by ensuring their participation in decision making process but there are reports that the PR because of poor implementation has failed to realize the dreams of its architects (**Rao, 2009**). The ground reality of the working of PRS indicates very weak and ineffective implementation leading to little progress on the path of rural development.

Though this system has brought some significant changes in the lives of rural people and has been instrumental in bringing women in political arena; it has not been effective up to expectations in building the reputation of being a democratic development agency among rural people (**Gandhi, 2015**). The system suffers from miscellaneous difficulties like mass illiteracy, class consciousness, in egalitarian attitude of officials, ignorance, party strife and limited financial and administrative autonomy and lack of faith in grass roots democracy etc. (**Sharma, 1997**). Perception of rural people towards PR has not been favourable due to these lacunae so the present situation poses serious questions on the implementation of the PRS. Thus there is a strong need to study the villagers’ point of view towards the PRIs and analyse the perception of people about PRS. Therefore, keeping in mind the researchable gaps the study entitled “**People’s perception about Panchayati Raj System in Udhm Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand**” was undertaken.

The exploratory research design was used to meet out the objectives of the study. Two blocks namely Gadarpur and Kashipur were selected randomly out of seven blocks of the district. Two Gram Panchayats (GPs) namely Vijaynagar (GP1) from Gadarpur block and Khadakpur-devipura (GP2) from Kashipur block, were selected randomly. Further two villages from each selected GP were selected through simple random sampling method. Thus in all four villages, namely Vijaynagar and Kalinagar (from GP1), Khadakpur and Shyampuram (from GP2) were selected. Those who are registered as the voters in their respective village panchayats, were targeted as the respondents of the study. A total sample size of 120 respondents, 60 each from Vijaynagar and Khadakpur-devipura GPs were selected. The data collected was coded, tabulated, analysed and interpreted with the help of appropriate statistical tools like mean, frequency, percentage, standard deviation etc.

Findings of the study revealed that the majority of respondents were of middle age (26 to 48 years), male, general caste, had educational qualification up to graduate/above and major family occupation was farming and service. Majority of them were landless, belonged to medium family size and above poverty line (APL). Majority of respondents had medium level of cosmopolitanism, social participation, information seeking behaviour, achievement motivation and leadership ability. Total 50 per cent respondents had medium level mass media exposure and most of the respondents were having medium level of awareness towards PRS. Another important finding was that the overall perception of majority of the respondents was ambivalent towards PRS and huge majority of the respondents took part in last panchayat voting. Most of the respondents had regular interaction with Gram Pradhan and other elected representatives. Majority of the respondents had visited the GP office at least once. It was disappointing that majority of the respondents thought they did not play important role in panchayat activities. Majority of the respondents get prior information about meetings of Gram Sabha and used to attend Gram Sabha meetings. Distribution of money and alcohol in the society by nominated candidates during and prior to elections, False voting/proxy voting in panchayat elections, Proxy representation of women Pradhan and representatives by their husband or any family member in discharging duties/functions/role performance, Lack of higher education and political experience among elected representatives etc. were major problems under PRS.



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सारांश

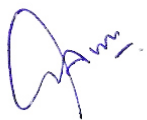
नाम	: अभिनव यादव	परिचायांक	: ३९७१४
षष्ठमास एवं प्रवेश का वर्ष	: प्रथम, २०१४-१५	उपाधि	: स्नातकोत्तर
मुख्य विषय	: कृषि प्रसार एवं संचार	विभाग	: कृषि संचार
शोध प्रकल्प	: उत्तराखंड के जिला ऊधम सिंह नगर में पंचायती राज प्रणाली के प्रति लोगों की धारणा		
परामर्शदाता	: डॉ. जानेंद्र शर्मा		

पंचायती राज प्रणाली को भारत में लोकतांत्रिक विकेन्द्रीकरण की संस्थागत अभिव्यक्ति के रूप में पहचाना जाता है। यह स्व-शासन की एक प्रणाली है जो कि ग्रामीण लोगों को गांव के प्रशासन की देखभाल करने हेतु अपने ही नेताओं का चुनाव करने के लिए सशक्त करती है (भंडारी, २०१३)। वर्ष १९९३ में, भारत सरकार ने पंचायती राज संस्थाओं को संविधान का एक हिस्सा बनाने का एक क्रांतिकारी कदम उठाया। ७३वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियम के माध्यम से अनिवार्य संवैधानिक पंचायत प्रणाली की शुरुआत भारत में शासन सुधार की दिशा में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रयोग था। ७३वां संशोधन का मुख्य उद्देश्य जमीनी स्तर पर सुशासन उपलब्ध कराने के लोगों की भागीदारी के साथ पंचायती राज संस्थाओं की एक नई प्रणाली बनाने के था। जब से ७३वां संशोधन प्रभाव में आया, सभी राज्यों और केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में पंचायत चुनाव नियमित रूप से आयोजित किये जाने लगे हैं तथा महिलाओं, अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति एवं अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग को उनकी जनसंख्या के अनुपात में प्रत्येक पंचायत क्षेत्र में आरक्षण प्रदान किया गया है। पंचायती राज अपने कार्यान्वयन के प्रारंभिक चरण में ग्रामीण लोगों की निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रिया में भागीदारी सुनिश्चित कर उनके सशक्तिकरण में सफल रहा परन्तु शोध बताते हैं कि यह प्रणाली कमजोर कार्यान्वयन के कारण अपने वास्तुकारों के स्वप्न को साकार करने में विफल हो गई है (राव, २००९)। पंचायती राज के काम करने की जमीनी वास्तविकता बहुत ही कमजोर और अप्रभावी क्रियान्वयन के कारण ग्रामीण विकास के पथ पर सूक्ष्म प्रगति को इंगित करता है।

हालांकि इस प्रणाली ने ग्रामीण लोगों के जीवन में कुछ महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन लाये हैं और राजनीतिक क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को लाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है फिर भी पंचायती राज ग्रामीण लोगों के बीच एक लोकतांत्रिक विकास की संस्था के रूप में अपनी प्रतिष्ठा का निर्माण करने में असफल रहा है (गांधी, २०१५)। यह प्रणाली विविध कठिनाइयों जैसे कि बड़े पैमाने पर अशिक्षा, वर्ग चेतना, पार्टी कलह, सीमित वित्तीय तथा प्रशासनिक स्वायत्तता, अधिकारियों का समतावादी रवैया और लोकतंत्र में विश्वास की कमी आदि से ग्रस्त है (शर्मा, १९९७)। इन सभी त्रुटियों के कारण पंचायत राज के प्रति ग्रामीण लोगों की धारणा अनुकूल नहीं रही है एवं वर्तमान स्थिति इसके कार्यान्वयन पर गंभीर सवाल उठाती है। अतः पंचायती राज संस्थाओं के प्रति ग्रामीणों के दृष्टिकोण का अध्ययन तथा पंचायती राज के बारे में लोगों की धारणा का विश्लेषण करने की अहम आवश्यकता है। इस शोध अंतराल को ध्यान में रखते हुए शोधकर्ता "उत्तराखंड के जिला ऊधम सिंह नगर में पंचायती राज प्रणाली के प्रति लोगों की धारणा" के साथ यह अध्ययन उत्तराखण्ड राज्य के ऊधम सिंह नगर जिले में किया गया था।

अध्ययन के उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने हेतु परक अनुसंधान डिजाइन का प्रयोग किया गया। जिले के सात ब्लॉक, गदरपुर और काशीपुर जिनमें से दो ग्राम पंचायत क्रमशः विजयनगर और खड़कपुर-देवीपुरा यादवचिक्क नमूना विधि से चयनित की गयीं। प्रत्येक चयनित ग्राम पंचायत से दो गाँवों का यादवचिक्क चयन किया गया। इस प्रकार कुल चार गाँव, अर्थात् विजयनगर और कालीनगर (विजयनगर ग्राम पंचायत से) तथा खड़कपुर और श्यामपुरम (खड़कपुर-देवीपुरा ग्राम पंचायत से) चयनित थे। जो लोग उनके संबंधित ग्राम पंचायतों में मतदाता के रूप में पंजीकृत हैं, अध्ययन के उत्तरदाताओं के रूप में लक्षित थे। कुल १२० उत्तरदाताओं का नमूना आकार लिया गया, जिसमें विजयनगर और खड़कपुर-देवीपुरा प्रत्येक ग्राम पंचायत से ६० चयनित थे। एकत्रित डेटा को उचित तरह से कोडित, सारणीबद्ध तथा विश्लेषित किया गया एवं आवृत्ति, प्रतिशत, मानक विचलन आदि उचित सांख्यिकीय उपकरणों की मदद से व्याख्या की गयी।

अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष से पता लगा कि, अधिकतर उत्तरदाता मध्यम आयु (२६-४८ साल) के पुरुष, सामान्य जाति, स्नातक /या उपर तक की शैक्षिक योग्यता तथा प्रमुख पारिवारिक व्यवसाय खेती अथवा सेवा वाले थे। उत्तरदाताओं में से अधिकांश भूमिहीन, मध्यम परिवार के आकार वाले तथा गरीबी रेखा (एपीएल) के ऊपर थे। अधिकतर उत्तरदाताओं की कोस्मोपोलिटनेस, सामाजिक भागीदारी, जानकारी की मांग का व्यवहार, उपलब्धि प्रेरणा और नेतृत्व की क्षमता मध्यम स्तरीय थी। ५० फीसदी उत्तरदाताओं का मध्यम स्तरीय मास मीडिया जोखिम था एवं अधिकांश उत्तरदाता पंचायती राज के प्रति मध्यम स्तर की जागरूकता वाले थे। अन्य महत्वपूर्ण खोज थी कि पंचायती राज के प्रति, उत्तरदाताओं के बहुमत की समग्र धारणा द्वैधवृत्तिक थी तथा उत्तरदाताओं ने भारी बहुमत में पिछले पंचायत मतदान में भाग लिया। अधिकतर उत्तरदाताओं की ग्राम प्रधान और अन्य चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों के साथ नियमित बातचीत थी। उत्तरदाताओं के बहुमत ने कम से कम एक बार ग्राम-पंचायत कार्यालय का दौरा किया था। यह निराशाजनक था कि उत्तरदाताओं के बहुमत की सोच थी कि वे पंचायत की गतिविधियों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका नहीं निभाते। ज्यादातर उत्तरदाताओं को ग्राम सभा की बैठकों के बारे में पूर्व जानकारी प्राप्त हो जाती थी और ग्राम सभा की बैठकों में भाग लेने वाले उत्तरदाता बहुमत में थे। नामजद उम्मीदवारों द्वारा चुनाव के दौरान एवं पहले समाज में पैसे और शराब का वितरण, पंचायत चुनाव में झूठा मतदान /प्रॉक्सी वोटिंग, महिला प्रधान /निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों का उनके पति या परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य द्वारा कर्तव्यों /भूमिका प्रदर्शन /कार्य, के निर्वहन में प्रॉक्सी प्रतिनिधित्व तथा निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों में उच्च शिक्षा व राजनीतिक अनुभव की कमी, आदि प्रमुख समस्याएं थीं जिनका पंचायती राज के तहत लोगों द्वारा सामना किया गया।



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