

Leadership nature in progressive and less progressive villages – An Indian experience

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in the Parbhani and Ahmedpur talukas of Parbhani and Latur districts of Maharashtra state in India respectively to study the leadership nature and its relation with their personal, socio economic characteristics of leaders in progressive and less progressive villages. For this study multistage sampling procedure was used for selecting villages and respondents. In the first stage 40 villages from both talukas were studied for their progressiveness with the help of village progressiveness scale of Singh *et al.* (1972). Then ten progressive and ten less progressive villages were selected and seven Grampanchayat leaders from each village were selected randomly by positional approach method. Thus total 140 Grampanchayat leaders from 20 villages were selected for the study. Data were collected with the help of specially designed and pre tested interview schedule. Leadership nature was assessed with the help of leadership behaviour continuum. The statistical methods such as mean, correlation coefficient, multiple regression and 'Z' test for comparison were used for analysis of data. From the study it is found that leaders from both the progressive and less progressive villages performed their leadership role in mixed manner. Correlation analysis shows that as age, occupation, land holding, annual income, socio-economic status, social participation, training received, cosmopolitnness, leadership experience, linkage with development agencies and knowledge increases which increase the autocratic nature of leaders. Multiple regression shows that age, socio-economic status, achievement motivation and linkage with development agencies significantly contributed to 'autocratic' nature of leadership.

Key words :Leadership pattern, Progressive village, Autocratic, Democratic.

INTRODUCTION

The Panchayat Raj Institution which is rightly named as Rural Self Government, has played a major role in developing the rural leadership. It is needless to say that the effective functioning of the Rural Self Government depends on effective functioning of Panchayat leaders in the democratic manner. The Panchayat Raj leaders have dual role of educating and motivating rural people and making them to accept and adopt scientific technology on their farms. This operation need involvement of leaders among the people because without co-operation of them the no programme will be successful. In other words success or failure of programme depends on leadership pattern and leaders - followers interaction in the village. Abida Samiuddin (1977) concluded that leadership pattern is neither completely traditional nor entirely modern but is drawn to and marching ahead towards modernity.

Therefore, there is need to understand more about the nature of leadership and its relation with profile of leaders. Therefore, the study was undertaken with following objectives.

1. To study the leadership nature in progressive and less progressive villages.

2. To study the relationship between personal, socio-economic characteristics of leaders with their leadership nature.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in the Parbhani and Ahmedpur blocks of Parbhani and Latur districts of Marathwada region, respectively. The districts and the blocks both were selected randomly. The villages were selected for the study in two phases. In the first phase twenty villages from each of the talukas were selected randomly thus making a sample of 40 villages. The selected villages were studied for their progressiveness with the help of village progressiveness scale of Singh *et al.* (1972). In the second phase, score was given to each village according to its progressiveness. The 40 villages were arranged in ascending order of their progressiveness scores. Then top ten villages with highest score were selected as progressive villages and lowest ten villages with lowest score were selected as a less progressive villages from both the talukas. Thus finally 20 villages were selected for the study. The list of Grampanchayat and its members of selected villages was collected from Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti of respective talukas. Then seven Grampanchayat leaders

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