QUESTIONNAIRE
THE REAL STRENGTH OF GRAM PANCHAYATS IN ANDHRA PRADESH
A CASE STUDY OF S.P.S.R. NELLORE DISTRICT
(QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF GRAM PANCHAYATS)

I. Socio Economic and Demographic Characteristics

1. Name of the respondent

2. Name of the Village / Panchayat

3. Name of the Mandal

4. Name of the District

5. Designation: Village Panchayat
   President / Member

6. Age

7. Sex: Male / Female

8. Religion: Hindu / Muslim / Christian


10. Educational Status: Illiterate / Primary Education / Secondary Education /
    Intermediate / Graduation / Post Graduation

11. Marital Status: Married / Unmarried

12. Type of family: Joint / Nuclear family

13. Occupation: Cultivation / Business / Labour / Self Employed /
    Un Employed

14. Annual Income: a. 10,000 to 20,000
    b. 20,001 to 30,000
    c. 30,001 to 40,000
    d. 40,001 to 50,000
    e. 50,001 to 80,000
    f. 80,001 and above
II. Knowledge of Panchayat Raj System

1. Are you aware of year of origin of Panchayat Raj in India?
   - Yes / No

2. Are you aware of year of implementation of Panchayat Raj system in Andhra Pradesh?
   - Yes / No

3. Are you aware of year of implementation of Panchayat Raj system in Andhra Pradesh?
   - Yes / No

4. Are you aware of the Constitutional Provision of Panchayat Raj system?
   - Yes / No

5. Are you aware of schedule and its subjects?
   - Yes / No

6. Are you aware of Article 40 of Panchayat Raj system?
   - Yes / No

7. What are the sources through which you are aware of Panchayat Raj system, Constitutional provision, XI Schedule and Article 40?
   
   5. Contact with Govt. Officials, 6. Contact with the leaders.

8. Do you know the subjects entrusted to Panchayat Raj institutions?
   - Yes / No

9. If yes, mention the subjects entrusted to Panchayat Raj institutions?

10. Whether the copy of Panchayat Raj Act is given to the Panchayat Raj institutions?
    - Yes / No

11. Have you ever read and discussed on the Act in the meetings?
    - Yes / No

12. If yes, whether the discussion on the Act is helpful?
    - Yes / No
13. If yes, in what way it is useful—specify.

1. Helped to ensure efficient administration.
2. Helped to understand proceedings, powers and financial resources.
3. Helped avoid duplication of programmers.

14. Do you understand Panchayat Raj Act of 1993?

Yes / No

15. If, Yes, what does Panchayat Raj Act of 1993?

a. Fulfilment the basic amenities of the people
b. Implementing development schemes on war footing.
c. Promotion of unity of the community.
d. Maintaining records and accounts properly.
e. Fulfilment of people's needs with their active participation.
f. Acting as a bridge between people and Govt.
g. Providing corruption free administration.
h. Educating the people on Panchayat Raj system.
i. Developing responsive leadership qualities.
j. Promotion of participatory democracy and planning.

III. Power and Resources for Functioning of Panchayat Raj Institutions

1. Whether the devolution of power, resources, decision making etc., as per the 73rd Amendment Act of 1993 is sufficient?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Devolution of power</th>
<th>Sufficient / Insufficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money Sanctioned</td>
<td>Sufficient / Insufficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent decision making</td>
<td>Given / Not given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having responsibility of implementing only Schemes as instructed by the State Government</td>
<td>Yes / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowered to participate in and implement the Government schemes based on felt needs of people</td>
<td>Given / Not given</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. If not, give your suggestions of devolution of power, resources, decision-making as per 73rd Constitutional Amendment?

   a. Allocation of funds on the basis of hamlet-wise population.
   b. Powers to be given as per constitutional Amendment of PRS.
   c. Officials may guide and educate the elected representatives.
   d. Maintaining transparency and accountability.
   e. Provision for implementation of Village Panchayat schemes under the guidance of upper bodies.
   f. Direct election of PUC and District PP.
   g. Avoid intervention of bureaucrats and politicians in the Panchayat Raj administration.
   h. Timely release of funds.
   i. District planning process to be democratic.
   j. Ensure people’s participation.
   k. Remove joint account operation.
   l. No idea

3. Was there any difficulty / difference of opinion among the Panchayati Raj institutions in coordinated functioning Panchayat Raj system?

   Yes / No

4. If yes, give your suggestions for coordinating functioning of Panchayat Raj institutions?

   a. Participation of elected village Panchayat representatives in Zilla Parishad and Mandal Parishad meetings.
   b. Promotion of integrated approach within PRIS Transparency in all Panchayati Raj matters
   c. Consult elected bodies and finalise schemes
   d. Participation of Zilla Parishad and Mandal Parishad councilors in village Panchayat meetings.
   e. Change negative attitude of officials
   f. Avoid intervention of political parties
   g. Assigning power to match responsibilities
   h. Don't know
5. Opinion on Additional powers required for Panchayat Raj Institutions

a. Provision of power as that of revenue department.
b. Provision of power and resources to Zilla Parishad and Mandal Parishad as in the case of Gram, Panchayat.
c. Power to reform the tax system.
d. Adequate power to deal with local problems as in the case of DRDA.
e. Power to issue certificates of community / income / gas connection and to obtain benefits from welfare schemes.
f. Power to monitor PDS, primary schools, mid-day meal, etc.
g. Prevent unnecessary interference of officials and redtapsim.
h. Power to mobilize local resources to avoid Govt. Interference
i. Power to give tender only to Mandal Parishad Councilors and not for other contractors.
j. Provision of power to elected representatives to call for tenders
k. No idea.

6. Do you feel that the Panchayat Raj institutions functioning as units of local self-government, permission required from government, for decision-making, responsibility of State Government and power to modify Government schemes to suit local conditions?
   
   Yes / No

7. If no, specify the reasons?

IV Training for Functionaries of Panchayat Raj Institutions

1. Have you attended training programme?
   
   Yes / No

2. If yes, mention the place and the period of training?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mandal development office</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. D.R.D.A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. APARD</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. NIRD</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Do you find the undergone training on Panchayat Raj system is useful?
   
   Yes / No
4. If yes, narrate the use.

5. If no, state the reasons?
   a. Training content should be on Panchayat Raj System
   b. Training to be organized at village itself.
   c. Proper learning materials should be supplied.
   d. Invite experts as resource persons.
   e. Arrange group discussion sessions.
   f. Avoid theory classes and arrange for field visits.
   g. Training to all the elected representatives.
   h. Incentives to the trainees.
   i. Period of training must be increased to 10 days.

6. Do you think training on Panchayat Raj system is given to the Secretaries of feeder organizations?
   Yes / No

7. If yes, how to say?
   a. Help to promote micro-level planning
   b. Enable to develop leadership qualities
   c. Enable to establish rapport and enlist people's participation in development programmes.
   d. Help to create thought provoking and problem solving capacity.
   e. Help to create awareness on PRS
   f. Help to develop participatory democracy at grass-root level.
   g. Enable to identify and analyse the needs and problems of the people.

V Needs Assessment and Fulfillment

1. Are you understand People's expectations?
   Yes / No

2. If yes, list out their expectations?
   a. Basic amenities
   b. Drinking water
c. Health and sanitation

d. Transport and communication

e. Income generation activities.

f. Subsidised loans.

g. Group houses.

h. Higher education including construction of additional buildings.

i. Putting village on power grid (street light)

j. Marriage assistance, pension for old age people and widows.

k. Primary Health Centre.

l. Provision of house pattas to homeless

m. TV room / community hall

n. Proper utilization of funds.

3. Are you able to fulfill people’s expectations?
   Yes / No

4. If no, state the reasons?
   a. Inadequacy of delegation of power

   b. Inadequate funds

   c. Delay in releasing funds

   d. Lack of unity among the elected representatives

   e. Lack of people’s participation

   f. Lack of official cooperation

   g. Interference of local political parties and community leaders

   h. Delayed approval of resolutions

   i. Limited number of schemes allotted by State Government

VI Qualities of Leadership

1. Do you think that the leadership qualities of influencing the effective functioning of Panchayat Raj system?
   Yes / No
2. If yes, how?
   a. Responsible and responsive leadership
   b. Educated leaders
   c. Administrative capacity
   d. Social service mind
   e. Prior experience in leadership
   f. Micro-level planning and development

3. What are the factors determining leadership?
   a. Social Factors (Religion & Caste)
   b. Economic status
   c. Service mind
   d. Political background
   e. Affection
   f. Equal treatment
   g. Self-discipline

4. Whether the religion, caste and politics influence affects the performance of Panchayati Raj institutions?

5. If yes, give your suggestions to prevent this?
   a. Legislative measures
   b. Avoiding caste politics
   c. Unanimous selection of candidates
   d. Imparting education on secularism
   e. Prohibition of political parties
   f. Formation of people's committee from all section of population

6. Have you attended any leadership training Programme?  
   Yes / No

7. If yes, mention the training institutions?
   a. Mandal development office
   b. Collectorate-Nellore
   c. APARD
   d. NIRD
8. Do you find the undergone training is useful or not? Useful / not useful

9. If useful how?
   a. Micro-level planning
   b. Sorting out local issues
   c. Promotion of efficient administration
   d. Understanding the needs of the Community
   e. Coordination with higher level Planning agencies
   f. Developing responsible and responsive leadership qualities
   g. Systematic use of funds
   h. Ability to function as a bridge to function as a bridge between people and Government
   i. Maintaining records and accounts properly

10. What are the methods/techniques adopted for becoming a leader?
    a. Family and economic background
    b. Action-oriented services
    c. Good behaviour
    d. Equal treatment to all sections of the people
    e. Never giving false hope
    f. Political influence
    g. Explaining to people about various schemes/programmes
    h. Offering solutions for common village problems
    i. Dominant Caste
    j. Reservation policy
    k. Fulfilling people’s expectations
    l. More popularity among people and participation in all social functions

VII Reservation Policy for Women and Scheduled Caste

1. What have you to say in general about the reservation for women?
   a. Need of reservation for females
   b. 33% sufficient
   c. Increase to 50% No need of reservation for females
Advantages of female leadership

a. Quick decisions
b. Immediate implementation of the decisions taken
c. Priority for women’s welfare schemes

2. What would you say the ways and means of winning election without reservation

3. If yes, state the ways and means of winning election?
   a. Good conduct with strong principles
   b. Had equal potentiality and ability like men
   c. Public have faith in women and they are responsive
   d. Rendered social service to community acts as foundation
   e. Economic background
   f. Women will prefer women to men to take care of their welfare

4. If no, specify the reasons for not winning election?
   a. Males dominant over females
   b. Voters elect mostly men candidates
   c. Women’s lack of courage
   d. Less importance for women in the society
   e. Lack of administrative experience
   f. Women are not hard working
   g. No popularity among public
   h. No political identity for women
   i. Women are unfit to work in odd hours

5. Are you willing to function under female leadership?
   Yes / No

6. If no, state the reasons?
   a. Inefficiency in administration
   b. Lack of courage to face problems
   c. Lack of courage to face problems
   d. Female elected representatives act on the advice of their family members
   e. Delayed decision making process
f. Unwillingness to meet the people

g. Schemes are not efficiently implemented

h. Inexperience and immaturity in public activities

i. Male members dominated

j. Favouritism to their own kith and kin and their own caste groups

k. Lack of leadership qualities

7. Do you feel that female leaders are better in administration than male leaders? Yes / No

8. If yes, specify the reasons for being better administrator.

   a. Evincing more interest in solving people's problems

   b. No egoism

   c. Maintaining impartiality

   d. Maintaining transparency from bottom to top

   e. Promotion of grass-root planning

   f. Avoiding unnecessary expenditure

   g. Being able to coordinate colleagues and officials

   h. Fighting for women's rights

9. If no, describe the reasons for not able to provide better administration

   a. Inexperience in administration

   b. Family members' interference

   c. Female elected representatives showing favouritism to their kith and kin and caste groups.

   d. Lack of leadership qualities.

   e. Hesitant to move with colleagues, people and officials for getting things done

   f. Lack of recognition for women representatives

   g. More family responsibilities and family problems.

VIII Method Adopted in Facing Problems

1. Do you feel that any problem arising when your involving public service? Yes / No
2. If yes, specify the problems and how to tackle the problems?
   a. Personal influence of family background
   b. Political influence
   c. Individual experience and mature administration
   d. Legitimate action as per the rules
   e. Give-and-take policy
   f. Enlisting people's participation
   g. Support of colleagues and NGO's
   h. Through individual and collective discussion

3. Do you think that introduction of reservation Policy should improve the status of women?
   Yes / No

4. If yes, specify the nature of improvement?
   a. Public contacts
   b. Social recognition for solid performances
   c. Opportunity to meet officials and discuss problems
   d. Women elected representatives respected
   e. Ability to solve social problems

5. Whether the reservation Policy is required for scheduled caste?
   Required / Not required

6. State the reasons for not required reservation for schedule caste?
   a. Will create caste conflicts
   b. Scheduled Caste people have already improved status both in education and employment
   c. Reservation developing dependency syndrome
   d. Reservation develops lethargic attitude

7. Do you think that chances of winning election by the scheduled caste without reservation?
   Yes / No
8. If yes, explain.
   a. Fulfilled the people's demand
   b. Habit of mingling with people and participating in social functions
   c. Rendered community services
   d. People's support Personal influence Family background
   e. Political background
   f. Reasons for not winning
   g. Economic backwardness
   h. Social backwardness.
   i. Existing caste system
   j. Unable to compete with caste Hindus and political parties
   k. SC people do not cast their votes to their own caste people

9. If no, why?

10. Do you feel that due to reservation help to improve in socio-economic and political life of scheduled caste?
    Yes / No

11. If yes, state the nature of improvement
    a. Chance to meet Govt. Officials, public and NGO's
    b. Chance to enter into administration
    c. Get benefits from the development
    d. Change of traditional attitude
    e. Creation of awareness among SC elected representatives suiting to the present conditions
    f. Change of life style
    g. Chance to enter political life

IX  Supportive Agencies

1. Did you received co-operation from other elected representatives and Government Officials?
   Yes / No
2. If no, specify the reasons?
   a. Govt. officials enjoyed much prior to Panchayati Raj institutions
   b. Leaders are swindling money out of development programmes and hence members are not co-operating
   c. Ego and misunderstanding between representatives
   d. Officials do not discuss with the elected representatives
   e. Elected representatives showed favouritism to their own kith and kin hence colleagues do not cooperate

X Obstacles Faced and Means of Solving them

1. What are the obstacles faced while implementing schemes and means of overcoming them?

2. If yes, specify the nature of obstacles.
   a. Problems by local politicians and dominant caste groups
   b. Non-cooperation between the elected members and Govt. officials
   c. Lack of people's participation
   d. Lack of power and financial resources
   e. In the name of inspection Govt. Officials directly implementing the programmes
   f. Not releasing the fund in time
   g. People demand more without knowing the financial position of the Panchayat
   h. Creation of tension due to the District Collector's power to dissolve

XI Discussion of Elected Representatives with community

1. If yes, State the reasons for discussion
   a. Community will understand the administrative constraints
   b. Transparency will help healthy administration
   c. Eschew hatred and help smooth functioning of Panchayat Raj Institutions
   d. People will understand financial position and act accordingly
2. If no, describe the reasons.
   a. Due to fear that people will demand speedier implementation of schemes without knowing financial position and procedure to be followed
   b. Political parities will create problems if they come to know the procedure and functions

XII Participatory Democracy in Panchayat Raj Institutions

1. Do you participate in discussion related to planning/decision-making, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation?
   a. Identification of problems
   b. Mobilization of resources
   c. Protected water / cleaning the tank and chlorination
   d. Help to identify those who are in need for water pipe connection
   e. Distribution of water pipes
   f. Collection of money form each households for repairing bore wells and street lights
   g. Supply of labour and bricks for construction of drainage and toilet
   h. Identity beneficiaries for construction of group houses
   i. Streamline rural electrification including distribution of electricity
   j. Maintain health and sanitation including Primary Health Centres and Dispensaries
   k. Organize family counseling (Women welfare and issues)
   l. Regulate public distribution system
   m. Education including Primary and Secondary education
   n. Distribution of schemes
   o. TV Set / TV Room

2. If yes, explain the nature of participation

   Participation in decision making process

   Nature of participation
   a. Discussion
   b. Nodding their heads
   c. Accepting the decision without any objection
   d. Suggestion given based on the people’s needs
   e. Helped to solve local problems
Participation in programme implementation

Nature of participation

a. Creating awareness about the programme
b. Motivating people to participate in the programmes
c. Forming committees
d. Providing technical ideas / guidance

Participation in Monitoring and evaluation

Nature of participation

a. Keenly watching the programmes for preventing misuse of funds
b. Distribution of schemes equally to all the wards / councils
c. Help in evaluating the implemented programmes

3. Explain the level of participation by scheduled caste related representatives in discussion, decision-making and implementation of schemes?

a. Depend on majority group
b. Their suggestions are never considered
c. Major schemes are implemented only in the Non-SC areas

4. Whether the Government Officials is cordial/strained relations with the Panchayat Raj institutions?

Cordial / strained

5. If cordial, specify the nature of relations.

a. Good rapport
b. Sanctioned schemes in time
c. Received guidance from officials
d. Officials respecting elected representatives

6. If strained - state the reasons.

a. Not recognised elected leaders
b. Officials do not guide
c. Officials regarded leaders as their competitors
d. Threatening by quoting rules
e. Not informed of schemes and allocation of funds
7. Do you have any idea that the NGO's participation in Panchayat Raj institutions development programmes?

   Yes / No

8. If 'yes' enlist the nature of participation:
   
   a. Creating awareness about the various development programmes
   b. Creating awareness about the concept of Panchayat Raj system
   c. Motivating people to participate in Gram-Sabha meetings
   d. Help in implementing Panchayat development Activities
   e. Help in removing misunderstanding among elected representatives
   f. Implementing different type of development programmes with their own funds

XIII Opinion on the Role of Gram Sabha by Elected Representatives

1. Are the Gram Sabha Members (Adult voters) participate in Gram Sabha meetings?

   Yes / No

2. If 'yes' state the nature of participation.

   a. Enlisting participation
   b. Involving in active discussion
   c. Helped in identifying local needs
   d. Suggested solutions to solve the needs
   e. Helped in finding resources
   f. Helped in identifying beneficiaries for various schemes
   g. Discussed the method of implementation
   h. Helped in forming committees at different levels
   i. The Presidents and Members evince interest in the functioning of Gram Sabha
   j. Effort taken to avoid internal politics among the elected representatives
   k. Helped in conducting meetings
   l. Helped in solving caste disputes
   m. Suggested to bring MLAs' and MPs' areas development schemes
   n. Ensuring effective women's participation in Gram Sabha meetings
   o. Raised voice against favouritism and corruption
   p. Approval of the Village Panchayat budget
3. Mention the (Adult voters) Gram Sabha Members percentage of attendance
   a. 1-20
   b. 21-40
   c. 41-60
   d. 80 and above
   e. Average

4. Specify The Role Of Gram Sabha Members In Panchayat Raj System
   a. Helped to evict he encroachment of lands with people’s participation
   b. Helped in maintaining rural libraries and streamlining water supply
   c. Helped to organize medical and eye camps
   d. Persuaded the villagers to take part youth in sports and shramdan work
   e. Identified beneficiaries for the development programmes
   f. Supplied manpower, agri-implements, tractors for desilting of tank bed areas and river channels
   g. Shared expenses on repairing street lights, hand pumps, TV set, school buildings and temples
   h. Persuaded People to donate land for Panchayat office building
   i. Persuaded people to supply materials for laying of pathway to graveyard

5. List out the nature of development programmes implemented after assuming charge as leader in Panchayat Raj institutions
   1. Arrangement for installing and maintenance of street light
   2. Construction and maintenance of public latrine and drainage
   3. Getting pension for senior citizens
   4. Construction of TV room and supply of TV set
   5. Constructed groups houses for SC/ST under Indira Awas Yojana
   6. Rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents
   7. Establishing and maintenance creche and day care centre
   8. Marriage allowance for poor brides
   9. Registration of births and deaths
   10. Construction and maintenance of rural libraries
   11. Construction of Primary school and Non-meal centre
12. Implementing wage and self-employment schemes
13. Execution of Road work including construction of bridges and foot paths
14. Construction of OHTs with pipe connection for public and private use
15. Establishing and maintaining veterinary sub-centre
16. Construction and desilting of check dams, irrigation channels and Village tanks
17. Laying pathway to graveyard
18. Construction of graveyard shed
19. Construction of Passengers Umbrella
20. Construction of Community hall
21. Getting house site pattas for SC and ST
22. Construction of mini health centre
23. Tree plantation in Village poramboke and waste lands
24. Construction of threshing floor
25. Organisation of health and eye camps.
26. Coordinating watershed development Programmes
27. Establishment of Agri-cultural co-operative credit societies
28. Establishment of market complexes and regulatory markets
29. Maintenance of environmental sanitation
30. Dissemination of information regarding the Govt. Schemes
31. Identification of beneficiaries and getting Gram Sabha approval
32. Creation of community assets through funds raised from the public
33. Eviction of land encroachment
34. Organising awareness camps

6. For election whether candidates were selected on party basis or candidates contested the election on their own?

7. During the election can you tell whether the election were held peacefully or some incidents of violence also took place?

8. In the old system the biggest drawback of the Gram Panchayats was that Gram Sabhas were not effective at all / whether in the new system in your state Gram Sabha's are effective or not ? Effective / Not effective
9. Under the relevant schedule of the constitution, PRIs have been given various powers and functions. In your state since the Panchayat Raj system had started functioning, that's why we would like to know whether the three tiers of Panchayat Raj are using these powers independently and in proper manner.

10. If yes, how and why?

11. It is said that Panchayat Raj can function properly only when local level bureaucracy and Panchayat Raj representatives work with proper coordination among them. Do you agree with this statement.

12. If yes, why?

13. If no, why?

14. It is said about PRIs that the main reason for their failure has been the lack of resources.

15. If yes, what suggestion would you give to improve their financial position?

16. Decentralised Planning is the main element of rural development. Do you agree with this statement?

17. If yes, please give details?

18. It is often said that though by way of reservation 1/3rd of seats will go to the women but in actual practice, they will be acting on the promoting and dictates of male members of their family. Whether you really had such type of experience in your state?

19. If no, why?

20. Do you agree with the view that there should be a separate bureaucracy for PRIs?

Yes / No

21. If yes, please give reasons.
22. Give your valuable suggestions for effective functioning of Panchayat Raj system.

a. Timely release of funds
b. Organizing State level workshop/conferences for reviewing schemes
c. Providing training allowances
d. Preventing political interference
e. Establishing linkage Among PRIs
f. Officials should co-operate with elected representatives
g. Govt. should accept resolutions passed by the PRIs
h. Joint account operation may be removed
i. Bringing primary education under the control of PRIs
j. Kerala, Karnataka and West Bengal model of PD MAY be followed.
k. Two-tier PRS gives more efficient administration than three-tier system
l. Police department should cooperate with PRIs in effective maintenance of law and order in rural areas
m. The District Collector may not dissolve the local body. Gender bias should be removed
n. Educated and experienced leaders may be elected
o. Recruit additional staff to attend to administrative work
p. Allotting funds based on population
q. PRIs should be considered as unit of local self-Government and not only as an implementing agency