CHAPTER-III

PANCHAYAT LEADERSHIP

Politics by leadership is one of the distinguishing features of the twentieth century. If the eighteenth century enunciated popular sovereignty and direct democracy as major theme in democratic thought and the nineteenth century was concerned with the challenge of stratification and group conflict, then twentieth century trends have made us sensitive to the role of leadership. The search for the values of society and equality have led to change in the character of politics.1 If one were to delineate this newer pattern of politics by leadership, it would include the following statement, “the shift in the center of conflict resolution and initiative from parliamentary bodies and economic institutions to executive leadership.”2

Leadership is an essential requirement of any organization. A purpose of any institution or organization can get materialized through leadership. Leadership provides a quick momentum to the every formal and informal organization. Hence the utmost priority is given to leadership in every micro or macro level political organization. Maclver and Page have rightly said, “By leadership our purpose is to excite or to guide the ability of the people which comes from individual’s characteristics except his status or rank.”3 Leadership is sort of influencing the people in order to realize the common desires, which cannot be fulfilled without mobilization. Thus leadership ascertains the people how to react and how things can be realized by pressurizing the society or state through mobilization. That is how Ordway Tead has defined that “leadership is a process of influencing the people in which there is a co-operation of the people for a general aim by which they get their wished aim.”4
According to S. Haiman Franklyn “leadership is an antique art and, therefore, it is remarkable, because civilization not only attempts on efforts continuously for its existence but also for its progress” ⁵ By this we can say that leadership is a process which carries developmental activities not just for the time being but also to ensure it for ever.

**Concept of leadership:**

Leadership cannot be confined to a particular field or organization. It is a universal factor through which every society or organization begins to feel sensitized. But it is very difficult to define what leadership is; it can be explained and defined in the light of situations, problems emerging in a society or state. Leadership does not mean only to guide or lead the people, it can be understood when we look it into the situation and its parameters. Thus leadership has to be clearly and widely understood, where, why and how it emerges and after that again in the same manner how it grows and brings up some remedies to the long pending problems of society at large.

To Chester Bernard “leadership as the quality of behaviour of individuals, whereby they guide the people or their activities in organized effort.” ⁶ According to Mooney and Reiley, “leadership is the form, which authority assumes when it enters into process.” ⁷ Similarly, Lapiere Fransworth defines leadership as “the behaviour that affects the behaviour of other people more than their behaviour affects that of the leader.” ⁸ These definitions help us to understand leadership to some extent but various aspects of leadership have to be taken into consideration to study leadership in view of leaders’ ability, characteristics, charisma, mentality, wit and wisdom, maturity, age, personality, desires, aims, ambitions, objectivities, suitability and so on and so forth. In order to collect these characteristics or qualities we have to refer to various theories of leadership, types of
leadership and various leaders how they emerged to lead the people, society, village, nation, state or world at large.

Theories of Leadership:

We can classify theories of leadership into two types viz., Old Theory and Modern Theory. Old or earlier theory is again classified into two types; one is based on hereditary traits and the other on acquired traits. Modern theory is the “situational” theory and an extension of this is known as situational-cum-personality theory. It refers to the opportunity given to a person in a particular situation to perform a detailed activity. Leadership seems to be a quality that emerges as the group moves about together and is the result of social situation leadership role depends upon the group goal and the capacity of the individual to contribute to the achievement of the goal.

But traditional theory is not like that, leadership depends upon family background, the heir of the family continues to be a leader after elder leader grows older, incapable or die. Traditional leader does not require any talent, personality or charisma. According to modern theory, the talent and shrewdness are essentials to emerge to be good and popular leader. Hence various modernists have viewed that leadership is nothing but mental alertness. True leadership is characterized not by domination but by service.

There is another theory, viz., path goal theory. It connotes that leadership is based on influence of the leader over the followers. According to House and Mitchell, “This approach primarily concerns with how the leaders influence the followers’ perception of their work goals, personal goals and path to accomplishment.” This theory illustrates that the leadership is determined by personal goals and objectives. But this theory is subject to criticism, in the sense that it is not clear whether goals of leaders are aimed at personal
well-being or in general.

The post-world war period witnessed another theory of leadership. It is known as traits. The trait theory attempts to discover the qualities which lead to the success or failure of the leaders. The term ‘traits’ may be taken to mean that the personal characteristics viz., intelligence, dependability, responsibility, scholarliness, social participation and socio-economic status. The above-mentioned traits are essential for leaders to move on successfully, and lack of these traits leads to failure.

Besides traits, there is style theory, which is characterized by behavioral aspects of the leader; this theory emerged soon after the trait theory took a great momentum in evolution and revolution in modern world. Bales an advocate of this theory stated that there are two major functions that the leaders can perform. They are accomplishing the task as satisfying the group members. The accomplishment of a task and an orientation towards people are the hallmarks of the successful leaders.

Leaders in various ways guide, control, direct, counsel, advice, influence and help the people. Leaders must perform any of the following three functions, or all of three.

1. Interpret the group’s meaning to the membership;
2. Help the group to make necessary changes to adjust;
3. Help the group to remain the same, to resist changes or threats.

In the light of the above mentioned functions, we can say that leadership is not just a jest; it involves mobilizing, organizing, and directing the people to achieve the desired goals. Leadership is predominantly a psychological dimension aimed to change the lifestyle of the people. Leadership is not confined to the political field; we find variety of leaders in various disciplines like sociology, psychology, public administration and even in
business management as well.

The theories of leadership have been developed by erudite scholars viz., Vilfredo Pareto, Gaetano Mosca, Roberto Michels, Jose Ortega Gasset and Max Weber. Pareto’s concept of circulation elite has the following statements.

i) They may be between different categories of governing elite; and.

ii) They may be between elite and rest of the population. In this category, individuals from lower strata may form new elite group and enter the existing elite groups or struggle for power.18

Gaetano Mosca opines that every form of government is run by the elite, which he calls oligarchy.19 Roberto Michels enunciates the iron law of oligarchy in which he asserts that the leadership is a necessary phenomenon in every form of social life whether it be public or private.20 Ortega Gasset propounds a theory of masses, and holds that “a man is effective in society as a whole not so much because of his individual qualities as because of the social energies which have been reposed in him by mass.21 Robert Michel and Ortega Gasset theories strongly emphasize the view that leadership is not only because of individual appetite and capacity, but due to the huge support of mass and social organizations. Every form of human organization is grass root for leaders to grow and impress the mass at large. Theodorson found in his study of leadership that in high social cohesion, task leadership and social leadership were united in the same person while under conditions of low social cohesion, in small groups, the performance of these functions were separated.22 Max Weber has classified leadership into three categories, viz., charismatic, traditional and legal-rational type. The charismatic leader in the words of Weber, ‘gains’ and ‘maintains’ authority solely by providing his strength in life.23
Modern leaders have to prove their strength and capacity in a democratic society. They should possess certain traits to become a popular and charismatic leader in the society. In order to understand this necessary visions are to be designed to the process in local democratic set-up. Therefore Ordway Tead has made a list of ten factors, which is cultivated in the process of making of leadership. They are as follows.

1. Physical and nervous energy.
2. A sense of purpose and direction.
3. Enthusiasm.
4. Friendliness and affection
5. Integrity
6. Technical mastery
7. Intelligence
8. Decisiveness
9. Teaching skill and
10. Faith.

Modern leaders in village panchayats require sufficient knowledge of various theories as propounded by traditional and modern theorists. But leadership does not require educational qualification so far as Indian Constitution and the Acts are concerned to develop PRIs in India. As a matter of fact that our leadership fails to perform the duties and tasks entrusted to them; nor is it responsible or accountable to any one. It is this that hampers in bringing out transparency and good governance in micro or macro politics in India.
SOCIO - ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF LEADERS

The socio-economic development of any rural society depends to a great extent on the quality of leadership. The task of rural leadership at the rural level is essentially one of bridging the gulf between the rural folk and government. The rural masses believed that their living conditions, social, economic, cultural and political mode of life were directly or indirectly linked with panchayat raj bodies.

The study of socio-economic conditions of leaders includes caste, sex, age, education, income and occupation. Here an attempt is made to analyze the role of the above said characteristics in the making of the leadership in the micro or grass root level of politics. So far as two Gram Panchayats viz., K. Chandargi in Belgaum District and Sonna in Bagalkot district are concerned, the characteristics of the leaders are mentioned below in comparative manner.

1. Sex

Here, sex necessarily implies the ratio of male and female members elected to Gram Panchayat. It is a known fact that women had rare chances in politics so far as history of India is concerned. But 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 and Karnataka Panchayati Raj Act, 1993 have given an immense scope for women representation in micro politics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>8 (50.00)</td>
<td>8 (50.00)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>13 (59.09)</td>
<td>9 (40.91)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21 (55.26)</td>
<td>17 (44.74)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total
Table No. 3.1 reveals the sex ratio of Gram Panchayat members in Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayat. Out of the total 16 members in K. Chandargi 50 per cent are women and 50 per cent are men, whereas in Sonna Gram Panchayat 59 per cent are men and 41 per cent are women. This clearly indicates that the women representation in both Gram Panchayats exceeds the quota of 33 per cent reservation as provided to women in Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993.

2. Education

The emerging pattern of leadership has accorded greater importance to the educational qualifications of the leaders. Illiteracy restricts one's capacity to give thoughtful judgment on issues of importance. Education facilitates the development of a progressive attitude in individuals towards social and economic problems.

Table No. 3.2.
Educational level of Gram Panchayat Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational level</th>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K. Chandargi</td>
<td>Sonna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>5 (31.25)</td>
<td>10 (45.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
<td>8 (36.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSLC</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUC</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>1 (6.25)</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16 (100.00)</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 (100.00)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

The figures in the Table No. 3.2., reveal that out of 38 members in two Gram Panchayats of K. Chandargi and Sonna, two-fifths are illiterates and three-fifths are literate. Among the literates, 21 per cent have educational level of SSLC and more.
However, there exists significant difference in the educational level of Gram Panchayat members of K. Chandargi and Sonna. In K.Chandargi 31 per cent members of Gram Panchayat are illiterate; while in Sonna 45 per cent of members of Gram Panchayat are illiterate. Further in K.Chandargi 50 per cent of members of Gram Panchayat have educational level of secondary school and higher, whereas in Sonna only 18 per cent of members have their educational level up to secondary school and more. Besides, there is one graduate in both Gram Panchayats.

### Table No. 3.3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>Chandargi</th>
<th>Sonna</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>5 (31.25)</td>
<td>5 (38.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>1 (12.50)</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSLC</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUC</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>1 (12.50)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1 (6.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

The figures in the Table No. 3.3., connote one significant difference in sex ratio between male and female as regards educational level of the members. The educational level among male members as compared with female members is higher.

3. Caste

Caste is a significant variable in the Indian political system. The caste system has been entrenched in the Indian villages. In ancient India the caste of panchayats used to
deal with matters pertaining to their caste only and matters of wider importance affecting the whole village were dealt with by the village council.\(^{28}\) The manner in which the British transferred political power to the Indians enables the caste to assume political functions. In independent India the provision of constitutional safeguard to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has given a new lease of life to caste.\(^{29}\)

Caste plays a vital role in traditional panchayats and leadership in traditional panchayat is generally in the hands of elite caste. But due to introduction of statutory panchayats and provision for reservation of seats for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and women the complexion of panchayats has changed in recent years.\(^{30}\)

**Table No. 3.4.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K.Chandargi</td>
<td>Sonna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominant Caste</td>
<td>7 (43.75)</td>
<td>4 (18.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Caste</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
<td>6 (27.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backward Caste</td>
<td>6 (37.50)</td>
<td>12 (54.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

The figures in Table No. 3.4., indicate that out of 38 members in both Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayats, 29 per cent members belong to a dominant caste, 24 per cent of them belong to a middle caste and 47 per cent to backward caste. Here we find one significant difference in the distribution of castes of Gram Panchayat members in Chandargi and Sonna. 44 per cent of members in K. Chandargi belong to dominant caste whereas in Sonna it is just 18 per cent. With respect to the backward caste the percentage in Chandargi and Sonna villages is 38 and 55 respectively. The percentage of middle caste members in K. Chandargi and Sonna is 19 and 27 respectively.
## Table No. 3.5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational level</th>
<th>Chandargi</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Sonna</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dominant Caste</td>
<td>Backward Caste</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Dominant Caste</td>
<td>Backward Caste</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>(14.29)</td>
<td>(33.33)</td>
<td>(47.62)</td>
<td>(16.67)</td>
<td>(33.33)</td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>(28.57)</td>
<td>(33.33)</td>
<td>(61.90)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(33.33)</td>
<td>(58.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>(28.57)</td>
<td>(33.33)</td>
<td>(61.90)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(33.33)</td>
<td>(58.33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSLC</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Caste and Educational level of Gram Panchayat members
From Table No. 3.5., it may be observed that many Gram Panchayat members are of dominant caste, the percentage of illiterate members is the lowest i.e., only 18.18 per cent, while among the members from backward caste it is 50.00 per cent and 44.44 per cent respectively. Further the percentage of Gram Panchayat members who have studied up to SSLC and more is 54.55 among dominant castes while among backward and middle castes the percentage is 11.11 and 00.00 respectively. This implies that the Panchayat members from dominant caste are more educated than those from backward caste and middle caste respectively. This is the case in both Gram Panchayats.

4. Age

Age has been an important factor in the Indian tradition of leadership. It has symbolized experience, maturity, and equanimity of mind. The aged people were found very popular in traditional type of leadership, but that trend has declined and there is a gradual emergence of modern trend of leadership in the state. People with 50 and above age, usually do not like to contest for elections at the micro level. But those ages is quite admissible and have been working effectively at the macro level of politics. At panchayat level, the youth and young turks take active part. The table mentioned below shows the age pattern of members in the Gram Panchayats.

Table No. 3.6.
Age distribution of Gram Panchayat members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group (years)</th>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K.Chandargi</td>
<td>Sonna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 and less</td>
<td>1 (6.25)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 - 40 years</td>
<td>12 (75.00)</td>
<td>16 (72.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 - 55 years</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
<td>6 (27.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 and above</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total
The statistics in Table No. 3.6 indicate that out of 38 Gram Panchayat members of K. Chandargi and Sonna nearly three-fourths (73.68 per cent) are of age between 26 and 40 years, about one-fourth (23.68 per cent) are of age group of 41 to 55 years. And only one member is of less than 25 years. There is not much difference in the age group of members of Gram Panchayats of Chandargi and Sonna. Only one member less than 25 years of age is found in Chandargi.

5. Occupation:

Occupation is another important factor influencing the rural leadership. Agriculture being the predominant occupation in rural areas, agriculturists are obviously in a majority among the leaders. Some leaders belonged to other occupations though this number is negligible. The influence of urban life has modified the traditional social pattern based on caste as also the traditional occupational patterns, but rural life still moved on its customary grooves. People in the country still followed the same profession as their fathers and grand fathers did. It is true that some castes like Brahmins have given up their traditional occupations and taken to new ones in accordance with the demands of the times.32

Dominance of the agriculturists in the panchayat raj leadership could be possible on the following grounds. Firstly, the agriculturists had plenty of time for community service. They could follow their occupation as well as attend to leadership duties. Secondly, the poorer sections of the village worked on their farms and earned their livelihood. Naturally they tended to look upon them as their leaders and supported them at the time of elections.33 Thirdly, they were bound by many obligations to vote in favour of their master, no matter what private complaints they had against him. Lastly, Panchayat Raj that aimed
at the development of agriculture had naturally to take active part in the system.  

Table No. 3.7.  
Occupational pattern of Gram Panchayat leaders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>K.Chandargi</th>
<th>Sonna</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers (Land holders)</td>
<td>9 (56.25)</td>
<td>12 (54.55)</td>
<td>21 (55.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural labourers</td>
<td>5 (31.25)</td>
<td>6 (27.27)</td>
<td>11 (28.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
<td>1 (2.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House-wife</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>3 (13.63)</td>
<td>5 (13.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16 (100.00)</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 (100.00)</strong></td>
<td><strong>38 (100)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

According to the figures mentioned in Table No. 3.7, it is quite evident that, out of 38 Gram Panchayat members, more than half of the members are agricultural land holders (55.26 per cent), followed by agricultural labourers (28.96 per cent), the two categories of occupation constitute 84.22 per cent of total members. Of the rest of the members, one person is tractor driver and 5 are housewives.

6. Economic status and land holding pattern:

The socio-political status of the leaders is mainly determined by the economic status of man in the society. Thus rural leadership is generally impressed by economic status and their land holding. The influence of wealth on the electorate has been a generally accepted fact.

Besides occupation, land holding is also a crucial factor in establishing dominance in the village. The pattern of land ownership in rural India was such that the bulk of the arable land was concentrated in the hands of a relatively small number of big owners as against a large number who either owned very little land or no land at all.
Table No. 3.8.

Economic status of Gram Panchayat members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Income (Rupees)</th>
<th>K.Chandargi</th>
<th>Sonna</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10,000</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>2 (9.09)</td>
<td>4 (10.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 and above</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>5 (22.73)</td>
<td>7 (18.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 25,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,000 and above</td>
<td>4 (25.00)</td>
<td>5 (22.73)</td>
<td>9 (23.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 50,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 and above</td>
<td>5 (31.25)</td>
<td>4 (18.18)</td>
<td>9 (23.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 1,00,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,00,000 and above</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
<td>6 (27.27)</td>
<td>9 (23.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

The figures in Table No. 3.8 indicate that out of 38 members, nearly half of them belong to higher income group i.e., having annual income of Rs. 50,000/- and more and only 10 per cent of them belong to the lowest income group i.e., annually not more than Rs.10,000/-. Therefore it can be summed up that economic position and their landholding pattern of members play a key role in being elected to Gram Panchayats and also to hold political power. As such with regard to comparative study between the two Gram Panchayats or micro political systems viz., K Chandargi and Sonna, we do not find any difference between the two Gram panchayats with regard to emerging pattern of rural leadership based on their economy and landholding.

LEADERS PERCEPTIONS ABOUT DECENTRALIZATION

Recently decentralized systems of governance have emerged in different parts of the world very considerably. They are structured, functioned and held accountable in different ways, and they entail different modes of degrees of popular participation.37 It is desirable to know the meaning of decentralization, before dealing with the leader's
perceptions of decentralization. The word ‘decentralization’ is derived from Latin root, meaning ‘away from the centre’ 38 (Macmakan 1961:15). “Decentralization denotes the transference of authority, legislative, judicial or administrative, from higher level of government to lower level”39 (White 1959). Keeping these possibilities in view, some authors (Rondenelli et al.1984) indicate the following four types of decentralization.

1. Deconcentration: This is handing over some of administrative authority or responsibility to lower levels.

2. Delegation: This is transferring responsibility for specifically defined functions to organizations that are outside the regular bureaucratic structure and are only indirectly controlled by the central government.

3. Devolution: This is creation and strengthening of sub-national units of the government activities which are substantially out side the direct control of the central government; and

4. Privatization: This is passing all responsibility of functions to non-governmental organizations or private enterprises of the government.40

Decentralization is a process of transfer of responsibility, authority and or functions from a ‘superior’ governmental unit to a ‘lower’ governmental unit (Friedman 1983). Decentralization is ultimately, a political decision, and its implementation is a reflection a country’s political process.41

Here decentralization implies transfer of central or state powers to the micro political units for making and framing their own plans for development. Decentralization also implies handing over the decision-making powers to the lower units of politics. It also signifies the participatory democracy and lets the rural people to take part in the affairs of
their local politics. Finally the intention of implementing the decentralized policy of politics is to make democracy more practical by giving more emphasis to the principle of popular sovereignty as advocated by great modern thinkers like Rousseau and others.

Decentralization is considered as an invention to realize the Gandhian ideals of removing inequalities, ignorance among the rural mass and to give respectability to the philosophy of Social Justice as advocated by Jayaprakash Narayan and Acharya Vinobha Bhave during their freedom struggle.

The main objective of decentralization of power is to empower the local administrative bodies like Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and Zilla Panchayats. Therefore to investigate the reaction of Gram Panchayat members, they were asked to respond to the question whether decentralization has really taken place. The responses of members of the two Gram Panchayats are as mentioned below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No. 3.9.</th>
<th>Sex-wise opinion of Gram Panchayat members on Decentralization of Powers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chandargi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opinion</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(75.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

The figures reveal that out of 38 members, 82 per cent of members are of the opinion that decentralization has taken place and only 18 per cent have given a negative opinion. The percentage of members who are of the opinion that decentralization has taken place is higher among the men (86 per cent) than women i.e., (76 per cent). Another important observation is that the percentage of Gram Panchayat members who are of the
opinion that decentralization has really taken place in Sonna Gram Panchayat 90.91 per cent is much higher than that of K Chandargi Gram Panchayat which is 68.75 per cent.

According to the figures in Table No. 3.10 when the opinions are analyzed on the basis of educational level of members of Gram Panchayat, it is observed that there is not much difference in the opinions of members with different level of education. So from the above analysis Table No. 3.9 and 3.10, it may be concluded that the members are of the opinion that there is nearly decentralization of power.

**Table No. 3.10**

**Education-wise opinion of Gram Panchayat Members on Decentralization of Powers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>Chandargi</th>
<th>Sonna</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>4 (80.00)</td>
<td>1 (20.00)</td>
<td>5 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>2 (66.67)</td>
<td>1 (33.33)</td>
<td>3 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>1 (33.33)</td>
<td>2 (66.67)</td>
<td>3 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSLC</td>
<td>1 (50.00)</td>
<td>1 (50.00)</td>
<td>2 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUC</td>
<td>2 (100.00)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>2 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>1 (100.00)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11 (68.75)</td>
<td>5 (31.25)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

From the Table No. 3.11, it may be observed that the percentage of members who are of the opinion that decentralization has really taken place is much higher among Backward Caste i.e., 94.44 than that of Dominant Caste (72.73 per cent) and Middle Caste (66.67 per cent).
Table No. 3.11.

Caste-wise opinion of G P Members on Decentralization of Powers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caste</th>
<th>Chandargi</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Sonna</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.C.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(71.43%)</td>
<td>(28.57%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(75.00%)</td>
<td>(25.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(72.73%)</td>
<td>(27.27%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(91.67%)</td>
<td>(8.33%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(94.44%)</td>
<td>(5.56%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.C.</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(66.67%)</td>
<td>(33.33%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(68.75%)</td>
<td>(31.25%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(90.91%)</td>
<td>(9.09%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(81.58%)</td>
<td>(18.42%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

D.C. = Dominant Caste, B.C. = Backward Caste, M.C. = Middle Caste.

Awareness of Duties and Responsibilities:

One of the important objectives of decentralization is to create awareness among the rural mass to share political experience and knowledge through participatory democracy. When they were asked to express their opinion about their share and experience in decentralized system, the following responses were observed and included in the Table No. 3.12.

Table No. 3.12.

Awareness of G P Members about Decentralized system of Governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayats</th>
<th>Chandargi</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Sonna</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opinion</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(75.00%)</td>
<td>(62.50%)</td>
<td>(68.65%)</td>
<td>(92.31%)</td>
<td>(88.89%)</td>
<td>(90.91%)</td>
<td>(85.71%)</td>
<td>(76.47%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(25.00%)</td>
<td>(37.50%)</td>
<td>(31.25%)</td>
<td>(7.69%)</td>
<td>(11.11%)</td>
<td>(9.09%)</td>
<td>(14.29%)</td>
<td>(23.55%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
<td>(100.00%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

When the members were enquired about the duties and responsibilities of Gram Panchayat members, the responses were quite positive. Of the 38 members of Gram Panchayat, 82 per cent of the members replied that they were aware of their duties and
responsibilities. The percentage of members who were aware of duties and responsibilities was higher among the male members (85.71 per cent) than that of female members (76.47 per cent). Further the percentage of members who were aware of their duties and responsibilities was higher in Sonna Gram Panchayat (90.91 per cent) than in Chandargi Gram Panchayat (68.75 per cent).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Little bit</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4 (5.00)</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>09 (56.25)</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>5 (31.25)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6 (46.15)</td>
<td>3 (23.08)</td>
<td>4 (30.77)</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3 (33.33)</td>
<td>4 (44.44)</td>
<td>2 (22.22)</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9 (40.91)</td>
<td>7 (31.82)</td>
<td>6 (27.27)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>11 (52.38)</td>
<td>3 (14.29)</td>
<td>7 (33.33)</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>7 (41.18)</td>
<td>6 (35.29)</td>
<td>4 (23.53)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18 (47.37)</td>
<td>9 (23.68)</td>
<td>11 (28.95)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

When the Gram Panchayat members were enquired regarding awareness of policies, programmes, planning, and finances of panchayat, it was found that nearly half of the members (47.37 per cent) were aware of policies, programmes, planning, and finances of Gram Panchayat, one-fourth of the members (26.68 per cent) were not aware of these and remaining (28.95 per cent) were a little bit aware of these things. The awareness of policies and programmes et al., was found to be higher among the male members (52.38 per cent) than among female members (41.18 per cent). The percentage of members who
are not aware of these things was found to be much higher among women members (32.29 per cent) than among the male members (14.29 per cent). The percentage of awareness among Gram Panchayat members of Chandargi (56.25 per cent) was found to be higher than that of Sonna Gram Panchayat members (40.91 per cent).

Experience in Politics:

The purpose of the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution is to strengthen the hands of rural community to share in large number for the successful functioning of participatory democracy in India. Accordingly, when the members were asked to express whether they had an experience in politics, the responses were as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No. 3.14. Experience of Gram Panchayat Members in politics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whether elected for the first time or already had an experience?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panchayat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

According to the figures in Table No.3.14, out of the 38 members of Gram Panchayat, 94.74 per cent were elected to the Gram Panchayat for the first time, while only (5.26 per cent) were elected as members more than once. The percentage of members who
were elected for the first time was found to be higher among men (95.24 per cent) than among the women members (94.12 per cent). Another interesting feature is that all the male members of Chandargi Gram Panchayat have been elected for the first time, while in Sonna Gram Panchayat all the female members have been elected to Gram Panchayat for first time. Only one female member from Chandargi and one male member from Sonna Gram Panchayat were elected for the second and third time respectively. With this analysis, it is quite clear that the present trend in the two Gram Panchayat politics is candidates once elected are not re-elected for the second and third time.

**Influencing factors to enter politics:**

There are various factors such as caste, family background, income, political party and statutory system of reservation to SCs/STs and to women as well as to the backward communities which influence the candidates to contest for elections either in micro or macro level of politics. When they were asked to respond to the question which factor influenced them to enter into politics in the two Gram Panchayats, the following responses were found. Among the factors as mentioned in Table No. 3.15, the most influencing factor is found to be individual factor/reservation factor. It is observed that of the 38 members of the Gram Panchayat, 55.26 per cent of respondents have entered into politics because of individual (or reservation) background. This is followed by caste background 26.32 per cent and economic background 10.52 per cent.

There is not much difference in the factors influencing male and female members enter into politics. In case of Chandargi Gram Panchayat, the individual (reservation) factor is a more influencing factor 82.25 per cent and followed by caste factor 12.50 per cent while in case of Sonna Gram Panchayat these two factors are the influencing factors
36.36 per cent in each. (Table No. 3.15.)

Table No. 3.15.
Sex-wise factors which influenced people to enter into Gram Panchayat elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors to enter politics</th>
<th>Chandargi</th>
<th>Sonna</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Background</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (7.69)</td>
<td>2 (11.11)</td>
<td>1 (9.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (4.76)</td>
<td>1 (5.88)</td>
<td>2 (5.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caste Background</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>3 (38.46)</td>
<td>3 (36.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 (23.81)</td>
<td>3 (29.41)</td>
<td>6 (26.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Background</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (33.33)</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
<td>1 (5.88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (2.63)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Background</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (12.50)</td>
<td>3 (23.08)</td>
<td>3 (13.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 (6.25)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual/Reservation Background</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>13 (81.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
<td>26 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

Inconveniences:

So far as decentralization and its implementation are concerned, it is found that most of the Gram Panchayat members are newly elected and they lack in terms of political knowledge and experience in politics. There is another significant factor which hinders them in taking active part. 33 per cent reservation to women is the factor hindering the active participation in discharging the duties and responsibilities properly. The Table No. 3.16 illustrates the inabilities of Gram Panchayat members while discharging their duties and responsibilities.

The figures in Table No. 3.16., indicate the inconveniences faced by the Gram Panchayat members. It is found, when the members of Gram Panchayat were asked whether they experienced any inconveniences while discharging their duties and responsibilities, three-fifths of respondents 60.53 per cent replied negatively while the remaining two-fifths members replied that they did experience some inconveniences while
discharging their duties and responsibilities. There is not much difference in the opinions of men and women members. However there exists a significant difference in the responses of Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(75.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(12.50)</td>
<td>(87.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(18.75)</td>
<td>(81.25)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(53.85)</td>
<td>(46.15)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(55.56)</td>
<td>(44.44)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(54.55)</td>
<td>(45.45)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(42.86)</td>
<td>(57.14)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(35.29)</td>
<td>(64.71)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(39.47)</td>
<td>(60.53)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

In case of Chandargi majority of members (81.25 per cent) opined that they did not experience any inconveniences while discharging their duties and responsibilities. While in Sonna majority of members (55.56 per cent) opined that they did not experience any inconveniences while discharging their duties and responsibilities. This considerable large difference might be due to differences in socio-economic factors of Gram Panchayats.

**Attendance of Gram Panchayat members:**

The section 52 of the Act, mentions about the meetings of the Gram Panchayats. It states in clause (1) that a Gram Panchayat shall meet for the transaction of business at
least once in two months at the office of the Gram Panchayat and at such time as the
Adhyaksha may determine. Clause (2) states that the Adhyaksha may, whenever, he thinks
fit, and shall, upon the written request of not less than one-third of the total number of
members and on a date within fifteen days from the receipt of such request, call a special
meeting.

Table No. 3.17.
Attendance of Gram Panchayat members in meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(62.50)</td>
<td>(37.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(81.25)</td>
<td>(18.75)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(92.31)</td>
<td>(7.69)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(88.89)</td>
<td>(11.11)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(90.91)</td>
<td>(9.09)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(95.24)</td>
<td>(4.76)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(76.47)</td>
<td>(23.53)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(86.84)</td>
<td>(13.16)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

Clause (3) mentions that seven day’s notice of an ordinary meeting and three days
notice of special meeting specifying the place, date and time of such meeting and the
business to be transacted thereat, shall be given by the secretary of the Gram Panchayat to
the members and such officers as the government may prescribe, and affixed on the notice
board of the Gram Panchayat.

Keeping in view, how many members attend the meetings and show interest in the
meetings for transactions of business is explained in the democratic context. According to figures of Table No. 3.17., it is observed that out of 38 Gram Panchayat members 86.84 per cent of members responded that they are attending the meetings regularly, and only 13.16 per cent could not attend regularly. There exists a significant proportion in the attendance of male and female members. Among the male members 95.24 per cent attend the meeting regularly while among female members 76.47 per cent members attend meetings regularly. However there doesn’t exist, any significant difference in proportion of members who attend meeting regularly of Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayats, the percentage being 81.25 and 90.91 respectively.

**Opinion about Bureaucrats:**

Good governance is an essential tool for the success of democracy. But today democracy is more bureaucracy oriented than people oriented. Hence policy implementation faces some hurdles for the successful functioning of administration in our country. As a result, public are unhappy over the performance of bureaucrats. When asked to opine on the nature and performance of bureaucrats the following responses were gathered in both the Gram Panchayats.

The figures in Table No. 3.18., show that out of 38 members of Gram Panchayat, 38.40 per cent are of the opinion that bureaucrats are sincere and efficient while 68.42 per cent of members are of the opinion that bureaucrats are honest. There exists a difference between the opinions of male and female members of Gram Panchayats with regard to sincerity, honesty and efficiency of bureaucrats. Among men 95.24 per cent are of the opinion that bureaucrats are sincere and efficient and 90.48 percent of the bureaucrats are honest, while among women members 82.35 per cent are of the opinion that bureaucrats
are sincere and efficient and only 41.18 per cent are of the opinion that they are honest.

### Table No. 3.18:
**Opinion about bureaucrats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Sincere</th>
<th>Honest</th>
<th>Efficient</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(75.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(75.00)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(87.50)</td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(87.50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(92.31)</td>
<td>(84.62)</td>
<td>(92.31)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(88.89)</td>
<td>(77.78)</td>
<td>(88.89)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(90.91)</td>
<td>(81.82)</td>
<td>(90.91)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(95.24)</td>
<td>(90.48)</td>
<td>(95.24)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(82.35)</td>
<td>(41.18)</td>
<td>(82.35)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(89.47)</td>
<td>(68.42)</td>
<td>(89.47)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total
* Percentage to total male, female and total members.

Between the two Gram Panchayats Chandargi and Sonna, although there is not much difference in the opinion of members regarding sincerity and efficiency of bureaucrats, there is a significant difference regarding the honesty of bureaucrats.

### Opinion about Government Policies:

In a democracy, the people are the masters to judge the performance of the government and they have every right to make public comments about the policies and programmes framed by the government. The respondents were asked to react to the following question; "Do you agree that policies framed by the state Government suit the village development?" To this particular question the following responses were found.
Table No. 3.19.
Opinion about policies framed by state government for village development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>No comments</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(75.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(87.50)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(12.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(84.62)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(88.89)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(86.36)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(90.48)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(82.35)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(11.77)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(86.84)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(5.26)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

The figures in Table No.3.19., reveal that when the members of Gram Panchayat were enquired about the suitability of the policies framed by the State Government for village development 86.84 per cent of members are of the opinion that the policies are suitable for village development, while 7.90 per cent are of the opinion that they are not suitable and 5.26 per cent members had no comments about it. The percentage of members who agree for the suitability of policies framed by the state government for development of village is almost uniform for Chandargi and Sonna villages. However in Chandargi Gram Panchayat 12.50 per cent of members have no comments on suitability of policies and in Sonna Gram Panchayat 13.64 per cent of members disagreed with the suitability of policies.
In the case of the male and the female members of Gram Panchayat, there is not much difference in the opinion about the suitability of policies framed by the state government on village development. The percentages of the male and the female members who are of the opinion that policies framed by the state government are suitable for village development are 90.48 and 82.35 respectively.

Table No. 3.20
Opinion of people (Public) about Development work undertaken by Gram Panchayat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>No comments</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(75.00)</td>
<td>(12.50)</td>
<td>(12.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(12.50)</td>
<td>(37.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(62.50)</td>
<td>(12.50)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(61.54)</td>
<td>(38.46)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(77.27)</td>
<td>(22.73)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(66.67)</td>
<td>(28.57)</td>
<td>(4.76)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(76.47)</td>
<td>(5.88)</td>
<td>(17.65)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(71.05)</td>
<td>(18.42)</td>
<td>(10.53)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

When the members were enquired about people's opinion about development work undertaken by the Gram Panchayat, nearly three fourths of the members (5.00 per cent) replied that they are happy about the development work, 18.42 per cent of members replied that they are not happy and 10.53 per cent of members have no comment. It is interesting to note that among male members two thirds of members (66.67 per cent) opined that public is happy while among female members more than three fourths of members (76.47...
per cent) opined that people are happy with development work undertaken by Gram Panchayat. Further among male members 28.57 per cent of members responded that people are not happy, while among female members only 5.88 per cent of members said that people are not happy with the development works undertaken by Gram Panchayat. Further in Chandargi Gram Panchayat 62.50 per cent of members opined that people are happy while in Sonna Gram Panchayat 77.27 per cent of members expressed that people are happy with the development works undertaken by Gram Panchayat.

**Conduct of Gram Sabha**

Section 3 and Clause (1) of the Act, 1993 deals with subject to the general orders of the government. The Gram Sabha shall meet from time to time but six months shall not intervene between any two meetings. If the Gram Panchayat fails to convene Gram Sabha, the Executive officer shall convene the Gram Sabha.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No. 3.21. Meeting of Gram Sabha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Does Gram Sabha meet regularly?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gram Panchayat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chandargi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sonna</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

Keeping in view the Gram Sabha meetings, the members were asked to respond to the question *Does Gram Sabha meet regularly?* To this, the following responses were
received. Then the members of Gram Panchayat were enquired about the meeting of Gram Sabha. The entries made in Table No.3.21., enunciate that, all male members i.e., 100 per cent replied that meeting of Gram Sabha takes place regularly where as among female members only 88.24 per cent of them expressed that meeting of Gram Sabha takes place regularly. When responses of members from Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayats were analyzed, it is obtained that in Chandargi Gram Panchayat all male members (100.00 per cent) responded that meeting of Gram Sabha takes place regularly, while only three fourths of female members (75 per cent) said that meeting of Gram Sabha takes place regularly. In Sonna Gram Panchayat all the male and female members (100 per cent) said that meeting of Gram Sabha takes place regularly.

Table No. 3.22.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Send for state approval</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6 (75.00)</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11 (68.75)</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12 (92.31)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1 (7.69)</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21 (95.45)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>17 (80.95)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>4 (19.05)</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>15 (88.24)</td>
<td>2 (11.76)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32 (84.22)</td>
<td>2 (5.26)</td>
<td>4 (10.52)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

When the members were enquired about the strict implementation of suggestions given by Gram Sabha, the opinions of the members were recorded in the Table No 3.22. Of the 38 members, 84.22 per cent of members replied that the suggestions given by Gram Sabha are strictly implemented, 10.52 per cent of members expressed that, the suggestions...
are sent for State approval and remaining 5.26 per cent of the members opined that the suggestions given by Gram Sabha are not strictly implemented. In Chandaragi Gram Panchayat only 68.75 per cent of members said that the suggestions given by Gram Sabha are strictly implemented while in Sonna Gram Panchayat, 95.45 per cent of the members told that the suggestions given by Gram Sabha are strictly implemented. The percentage of female members (88.24 per cent) is higher than that of male members (80.95 per cent) who are of the opinion that suggestions given by Gram Sabha are strictly implemented. In Sonna Gram Panchayat, all the female members (100 per cent) are of the opinion that suggestions given by Gram Sabha are strictly implemented.

Decision making:

The present study aims to see the process of decision making and democratic participation of panchayat leaders at the grass root level politics. In order to realize the objective of democratic decentralization citizens must be given sufficient opportunities to take interest in governmental activities that directly concern them. It has thus created opportunities for the people in the villages to get access to the decision making process. In this sense, an attempt has been made to find out the opinions of the leaders at the panchayat level on decision making. In order to know the freedom enjoyed by Gram Panchayat members with regard to policy implementation, this question was put to them: ‘Are you free while taking decisions relating to policy implementation?’

The responses are presented in Table No. 3.23. Of the 38 members, 55.27 per cent are of the opinion that they are taking decision with regard to policy implementation according to the guidelines issued by the state government, while 39.47 per cent are of the opinion that they are free while taking decision relating to policy implementation and only
5.26 are of the opinion that they are not free while taking decision relating to policy implementation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>According to State Guidelines</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>4 (50.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>4 (50.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6 (37.50)</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>8 (50.00)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5 (38.46)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8 (61.54)</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4 (44.44)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>5 (55.56)</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9 (40.91)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13 (59.09)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9 (42.86)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>12 (57.14)</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6 (35.29)</td>
<td>2 (11.76)</td>
<td>9 (52.95)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15 (39.47)</td>
<td>2 (5.26)</td>
<td>21 (55.27)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

The responses are presented in Table No. 3.23. Of the 38 members, 55.27 per cent are of the opinion that they are taking decision with regard to policy implementation according to the guidelines issued by the state government, while 39.47 per cent are of the opinion that they are free while taking decision relating to policy implementation and only 5.26 are of the opinion that they are not free while taking decision relating to policy implementation. Among male members 57.14 per cent are of the opinion that they are taking decision with regard to policy implementation according to the guidelines issued by...
the state government. And, remaining 42.86 per cent are of the opinion that they are free to take decisions.

However among the female members, 52.95 per cent are of the opinion that they are taking the decision according to the guidelines issued by the state government, while 35.29 per cent are of the opinion that they are free to take decisions and 11.76 per cent are of the opinion that they are not free to take decisions regarding policy implementation. In Chandargi Gram Panchayat 50 per cent are of the opinion that they are taking the decision according to the guidelines issued by the state government, 37.50 per cent are of the opinion that they are free to take decisions. However, only two members who are female members of Chandargi Gram Panchayat opined that they are not free to take decisions relating to policy implementation. In Sonna Gram Panchayat, 59.09 per cent of members are of the opinion that they are taking the decision according to the guidelines issued by the state government while 40.91 per cent are of the opinion that they are free to take decisions.

**Awareness of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment:**

The members of Gram Panchayat are required to know about the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. This has made mandatory to conduct periodic elections to PRIs in the states. Keeping this in mind the question was asked to the members of Gram Panchayat, whether they are familiar with the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Their responses are recorded in Table No. 3.24. Of the 38 members of Gram Panchayat about one-fourth of members 26.32 per cent are aware of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. The awareness among the male members 28.57 per cent is relatively higher than among the female members 23.53 per cent. The awareness is found
to be higher in Chandargi Gram Panchayat 43.75 per cent than in Sonna Gram Panchayat 13.64 per cent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
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<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7 (42.75)</td>
<td>9 (56.25)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2 (15.38)</td>
<td>11 (84.62)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1 (11.11)</td>
<td>8 (88.89)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3 (13.64)</td>
<td>19 (86.36)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td></td>
<td>(26.32)</td>
<td>(73.68)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4 (23.53)</td>
<td>13 (76.47)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>(28.57)</td>
<td>(71.43)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

**Awareness about Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993:**

The Gram Panchayat members are required to know about Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993. Therefore in order to ascertain from the Gram Panchayat members regarding their knowledge of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993, some questions were put to them. The responses of the Gram Panchayat members are presented in Table No. 3.25. From this table it is observed that of the 38 members about one-third of members 34.21 per cent are aware of Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993. However there exists a significant difference in the proportion of the awareness of this Act among male and female members. The proportion of awareness among the male members 42.86 per cent is
nearly two times of that of the female members (23.53) per cent. Further, the proportion of awareness among the members of Chandargi Gram Panchayat 56.25 per cent is found to be three times more than that of Sonna Gram Panchayat members 18.18 per cent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
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<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
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<td>(75.00)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(37.50)</td>
<td>(62.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(56.25)</td>
<td>(43.75)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(23.08)</td>
<td>(76.92)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(11.11)</td>
<td>(88.89)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(18.18)</td>
<td>(81.82)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(42.86)</td>
<td>(57.14)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(23.53)</td>
<td>(76.47)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(34.21)</td>
<td>(65.79)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

Significance of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 and Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993

According to figures mentioned in Table No.3.26, out of the 38 members of the Gram Panchayat 39.47 per cent members are of the opinion that the Acts are helpful for decentralization; 21.06 per cent are of the opinion that the Acts are not helpful for decentralization and remaining 39.47 per cent have not expressed any opinion about the usefulness of these Acts. Further in Chandargi Gram Panchayat, 50 per cent of the members are of the opinion that the Acts are helpful for decentralization, while in Sonna
Gram Panchayat 31.82 per cent are of the opinion that, the Acts are useful for decentralization. However the percentage of Gram Panchayat members who are of the opinion that the Acts are not useful for decentralization is higher in Sonna Gram Panchayat 27.27 per cent than that in Chandargi 12.50 per cent.

### Table No. 3.26.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No Comments</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chandargi</strong></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(75.00)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(12.50)</td>
<td>(37.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sonna</strong></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(38.46)</td>
<td>(30.77)</td>
<td>(30.77)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(22.22)</td>
<td>(22.22)</td>
<td>(55.56)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(31.82)</td>
<td>(27.27)</td>
<td>(40.91)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(52.38)</td>
<td>(19.05)</td>
<td>(28.57)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(23.53)</td>
<td>(23.53)</td>
<td>(52.94)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(39.47)</td>
<td>(21.06)</td>
<td>(39.47)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total.

**Reservation of Seats:**

Clause (2) states that seats shall, subject to the general or special order of the state Election Commission, be reserved by the Deputy Commissioner in a Gram Panchayat,

a. For the Scheduled Castes;

b. For the Scheduled Tribes;

Clause (3) states that such number of seats, which shall, as nearly as may be one-third of the total number of seats of the Gram Panchayat (shall, subject to the general or
special order of the state Election commission be reserved by their Deputy Commissioner) for persons belonging to the Backward Classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>To be continued</th>
<th>Discontinued</th>
<th>To be reduced to some extent</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1 (12.50)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>7 (87.50)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4 (50.00)</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>1 (12.50)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5 (31.25)</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
<td>8 (50.00)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12 (92.31)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1 (7.69)</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21 (95.45)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>13 (61.90)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>8 (38.10)</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13 (76.47)</td>
<td>3 (17.65)</td>
<td>1 (5.88)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26 (68.42)</td>
<td>3 (7.90)</td>
<td>9 (23.68)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

There is also a provision for women to share 33 per cent of seats reserved for them in panchayat elections. Keeping this in view the question was posed to the members to spell out their opinion about reservation of seats to SCs/STs/Backward Community and to women in the present Act, 1993. These responses are presented in Table No. 3.27.

Of the 38 members, about two-thirds i.e., (68.42) per cent have strongly supported the continuance of reservation to SC/ST/OBC and to women in the PRIs, nearly one-fourth i.e., 23.68 per cent are in favour of reduction in reservation to some extent and only 7.90 per cent of them have suggested to stop reservation to the above mentioned. However
there exists a significant difference between male and female members. Among male members 61.90 per cent have opined that the reservation be continued, while among female members 76.47 per cent are in favour of continuation of reservation. Among male members no body favoured discontinuation of reservation, but among female members 17.65 per cent are of the opinion that the reservation be discontinued.

Moreover among the male members 38.10 per cent are of the opinion that the reservation be reduced to some extent, while among the female members 5.88 per cent have favoured the reduction of reservation of seats to the weaker sections in the society.

When compared, a significance difference was observed in the opinions between the Chandargi Gram Panchayat members and that of Sonna. In case of Chandargi Gram Panchayat 31.25 per cent are in favour of continuation of reservation in Chandargi while in Sonna Gram Panchayat 95.45 per cent are in favour of continuation of reservation.

Further in Chandargi 50 per cent are of the opinion that reservation should be reduced to some extent while in Sonna Gram Panchayat only 4.55 per cent are of the opinion that reservation should be reduced to some extent. In Chandargi Gram Panchayat 3 members 18.75 per cent favoured discontinuation of reservation, while in Sonna no body did so.

**Rotation System:**

There is a provision in the Act that the posts - Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha have to be rotated among the elected members for 30 months in accordance to the reservation as prescribed by the Deputy Commissioner of the respective district (Zilla Panchayat). Keeping this in view the opinions from the members were sought regarding the system of rotation and whether it be continued or not.
Table No. 3.28.  
Opinion about rotation system for the post of Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Bad</th>
<th>Undemocratic</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(11.11)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(27.27)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(11.76)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(5.26)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

So far as figures mentioned in the Table No. 3.28, out of 38 members, more than three-fourths of members (78.95 per cent) are of the opinion that rotation system for the post of Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha is good. The percentage of members who are of the opinion that rotation system is good is found to be higher among the female members (82.36 per cent) than among the male members (76.19 per cent). In Chandargi Gram Panchayat 87.50 per cent are of the opinion that the rotation is good, while among Sonna Gram Panchayat it is found to be 72.73 per cent.

**Enhancement of Tenure of Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha:**

There is a proposal in the central government to enhance the tenure of Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha of Gram Panchayat from existing 30 months to 60 months. Keeping this in mind, the question was put to the elected members of Gram Panchayats to elicit their
opinion on the initiation of the central government. The responses of the Gram Panchayat members are presented in the Table No.3.29.

Table No. 3.29.

Opinion about Enhancement of Tenure of Adhyakhsa and Upadhyakhsa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Good Suggestion</th>
<th>Not good Suggestion</th>
<th>No Comments</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1 (12.50)</td>
<td>7 (87.50)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>1 (12.50)</td>
<td>2 (25.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6 (37.50)</td>
<td>8 (50.00)</td>
<td>2 (12.50)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9 (69.23)</td>
<td>4 (30.77)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>7 (77.78)</td>
<td>2 (22.22)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16 (72.73)</td>
<td>6 (27.27)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10 (47.62)</td>
<td>11 (52.38)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>12 (70.59)</td>
<td>3 (17.65)</td>
<td>2 (11.76)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22 (57.90)</td>
<td>14 (36.84)</td>
<td>2 (5.26)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total
Of the 38 members nearly three-fifths of members as shown in Table No. 3.29, (57.90) per cent opined that, the suggestion of the central government with regard to enhancement of tenure is a good and welcome suggestion; about one-third (36.84) per cent replied that it is not a good suggestion, and 5.26 per cent members did not express any opinion. There exist opposite views among the male and the female members regarding the suggestion of the central government. Among the male members majority of them 52.38 per cent opined that enhancement of tenure of Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha is not a good suggestion, while among the female members majority of them 70.59 per cent opined that enhancement of tenure is good suggestion.

The opinions of Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayat members are also opposite to each other. In case of Chandargi Gram Panchayat only 37.50 per cent members (less than half) are of the opinion that the suggestion of enhancement of tenure is a good suggestion, while in Sonna Gram Panchayat 72.73 per cent members opined that the suggestion of enhancement of tenure is a good suggestion. Further in Chandargi Gram Panchayat, the opinions of male and female members are opposed to each other, while in Sonna Gram Panchayat, the views of male and female members are same.

**Relation of members with officials:**

In order to carry out the smooth administration on one hand and taking up the developmental activities of Gram Panchayat on another hand, tact and thorough knowledge and coordination between officials and non-officials are very necessary, without which the objectives of PRIs will not be materialized. With a view to find out the relation between officials and non-officials the question was put to the members of Gram Panchayat, to elicit their responses which are presented in Table No. 3.30.
Of the 38 members of Gram Panchayat 86.84 per cent members have cordial 
relation with officials, while 2.63 per cent members do not have a cordial relation and 
10.53 per cent members reserved their opinions. The percentage of the male members who 
have cordial relations 95.24 per cent is higher than that of the female members 76.47 per 
cent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Cordial</th>
<th>Not Cordial</th>
<th>No Comments</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13 (81.25)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>3 (18.75)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12 (92.31)</td>
<td>1 (7.62)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8 (88.89)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1 (11.11)</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20 (90.90)</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
<td>1 (4.55)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20 (95.24)</td>
<td>1 (4.76)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13 (76.47)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>4 (23.53)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33 (86.84)</td>
<td>1 (2.63)</td>
<td>4 (10.53)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

In Sonna Gram Panchayat the percentage of members having cordial relation 90.90 
per cent is higher than that in Chandargi, 81.25 per cent.

**Threat to Communal Harmony:**

There are few trends which pose a threat to social harmony which was in vogue 
before the emergence of statutory panchayats in India. Now things have turned in opposite 
direction leading to tension and the role played by caste politics has given a severe blow to
communal harmony in the villages. Keeping in view those disturbing factors, and with a view to call out the responses of the Gram Panchayat members, they were asked to answer the question whether there was any threat to communal harmony in their village in the light of the emergence of statutory panchayats. The reactions of Gram Panchayat members are presented as below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Damaged</th>
<th>No Damage</th>
<th>Democracy is like that</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4 (50.00)</td>
<td>4 (50.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1 (2.50)</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>4 (50.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1 (6.25)</td>
<td>7 (43.75)</td>
<td>8 (50.00)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5 (38.46)</td>
<td>6 (46.15)</td>
<td>2 (15.39)</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4 (44.44)</td>
<td>3 (33.33)</td>
<td>2 (22.22)</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9 (40.91)</td>
<td>9 (40.91)</td>
<td>4 (18.18)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5 (23.81)</td>
<td>10 (47.62)</td>
<td>6 (28.57)</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5 (29.41)</td>
<td>6 (35.29)</td>
<td>6 (35.29)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10 (26.32)</td>
<td>16 (42.11)</td>
<td>12 (31.57)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

Table No. 3.31 states that out of 38 members about one-fourth members 26.32 per cent are of the opinion that election to Gram Panchayat has affected the communal harmony, and 42.11 per cent are of the opinion that it has not damaged the communal harmony. While 31.57 per cent are of the opinion that in a democratic set up such things are likely to happen (these are by products of democracy). The opinions of the male and the female members differ. Among the male members 23.81 per cent are of the opinion
that election to Gram Panchayat has damaged the communal harmony while among the female members 29.41 per cent are of this opinion.

Further, among the male members, 47.62 per cent are of the opinion that elections have not damaged communal harmony, while among the female members 35.29 per cent are of this opinion. This implies that the proportion of the male and the female members who are of the opinion that elections of Gram Panchayat have damaged communal harmony is higher than those of female members.

There exists significant difference in the opinion of the members of Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayat. In Chandargi Gram Panchayat only 6.25 per cent members are of the opinion that elections to Gram Panchayat have damaged communal harmony while in Sonna Gram Panchayat, 40.91 per cent members are of this opinion.

Choice of Elections:

As noted earlier, elections affect the long cherished desire of the people to retain social harmony in the village. Keeping this in mind the opinion of members of Gram Panchayat was sought to ascertain whether panchayat elections affected the social harmony in their villages. In response to this the following opinions were found and they are presented in Table No 3.32.

Of the 38 members nearly two-thirds of the members (60.53 per cent) preferred elections to Gram Panchayat rather than uncontested selection of members. Among male and female members, majority of them preferred election. However the percentage of women members in favour of election is higher i.e., about 57.14 per cent. But it is interesting to note that the opinions of the members of Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayat are poles apart. In case of Sonna Gram Panchayat 77.27 per cent members
preferred election, while in Chandargi Gram Panchayat only 37.50 per cent preferred elections.

Table No. 3.32.
Choice of Gram Panchayat Members for Election or Uncontested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Do you support elections to Gram Panchayat?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

Chances for Reelection of elected candidates:

There is a trend in micro politics that the candidates elected once to Gram Panchayats, are not reelected, so far as experiences in the two Gram Panchayat are concerned. Keeping this in mind the question was thrown before the members of Gram Panchayats to collect their opinion about this. The responses of the Gram Panchayat members are presented in the following Table No. 3.33.

Of 38 members, 52.63 per cent have conceded that candidates elected once were not reelected; 42.11 per cent are of the opinion that these are exceptional cases and only
5.26 per cent members have not accepted the views that candidates once elected will not be reelected.

The percentage of the male and the female members who support the statement that candidates elected once are not likely to be reelected for the second time is same that is 52.38 per cent for males and 52.94 per cent for females. However there exists significant difference between Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayat members with regard to this issue.

Table No. 3.33.
Chances for Reelection of elected candidates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Exceptional Cases</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>6 (75.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>11 (68.75)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 (23.08)</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>2 (22.22)</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 (22.73)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8 (38.10)</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8 (47.06)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16 (42.11)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

In case of Chandargi Gram Panchayat only 31.25 per cent members agree with this statement that candidates are not reelected for the second time, while in Sonna 68.18 per cent members support the statement. The percentage here is actually slightly more than double. When we consider the case of reelected members, only one member or candidate
from each Gram Panchayat has been reelected for the second and the third time in Chandargi and Sonna respectively.

**Voluntary Cash Contribution:**

There is a public opinion or expectation that any developmental activity in a state or village only the government should do it and also finance it. This has laid great burden on the state exchequer. Keeping the financial consideration on the part of the state government, the question was asked to the members of Gram Panchayats as to whether they are capable of contributing some cash or in kind for developmental activities in the village. The responses are presented in the following Table No. 3.34.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Capable</th>
<th>Incapable</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(87.50)</td>
<td>(12.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(62.50)</td>
<td>(37.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(75.00)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(38.46)</td>
<td>(61.54)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(66.67)</td>
<td>(33.33)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(50.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(57.14)</td>
<td>(42.86)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(64.71)</td>
<td>(35.29)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(60.53)</td>
<td>(39.47)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total*

Of the 38 members, 60.53 per cent of them responded that they are capable of contributing cash for supporting the PRIs growth, while remaining 39.47 per cent opined
that they are incapable of contributing. The proportion of members who are capable of making contributions for supporting PRIs is higher among the female members (64.71 per cent) than that in the male members 57.14 per cent. Further, the proportion of members who can contribute to support PRIs is significantly higher in Chandargi Gram Panchayat 75.00 per cent than that in the Sonna Gram Panchayat 50.00 per cent.

**Knowledge about state proposal:**

The Karnataka government has a proposal of sanctioning of Rs.40 lakh for each panchayat in financial year 2005-06 for conducting developmental activities. “The main intention of decentralization was to bring transparency in administration, to share responsibilities and to take up developmental activities from the grassroots.

The government had sanctioned Rs.3525 crore for the development of panchayats in the state, of which, Gram Panchayats would get 44 per cent, Zilla Panchayat 34 per cent and Taluka Panchayats 22 per cent”. In the light of this, the members of Gram Panchayat were asked to express whether they know anything about these proposals, and if so, to give their comments. The responses of the members are presented in the Table No.3.35.

**Table No. 3.35.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7 (87.50)</td>
<td>1 (12.50)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4 (50.00)</td>
<td>4 (50.00)</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11 (68.75)</td>
<td>5 (31.25)</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>12 (92.31)</td>
<td>1 (7.69)</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8 (88.89)</td>
<td>1 (11.11)</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20 (90.91)</td>
<td>2 (9.09)</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>19 (90.48)</td>
<td>2 (9.52)</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>12 (70.59)</td>
<td>5 (29.41)</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31 (81.58)</td>
<td>7 (18.42)</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

Of the 38 members more than four-fifths of the members (81.58 per cent) had
knowledge about the intention of government to sanction Rs 40 lakh (44 per cent out of Rs 3525 crore state budget), to each Gram Panchayat. Further the proportion of members who had the knowledge about this aspect is found to be higher among the male members (90.48 per cent) than among the female members (70.59 the per cent). The proportion of members of Sonna Gram Panchayat who had the knowledge about the intention of government to sanction Rs 40 lakhs to each Gram Panchayat was higher (90.91 per cent) than that of members of Chandargi Gram Panchayat (68.75 per cent).

**Reactions of Gram Panchayat members on Government Decision:**

The Government of Karnataka has decided to sanction a grant of Rs 40 lakh to each Gram Panchayat in the financial year 2005-06. Keeping this in view, the members of Gram Panchayats were asked to give their opinions and responses which are presented in the Table No.3.36.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Happy</th>
<th>Unhappy</th>
<th>Doubtful</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(62.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(37.50)</td>
<td>(25.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(31.25)</td>
<td>(18.75)</td>
<td>(50.50)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(53.85)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(46.15)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(44.44)</td>
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<td>(100.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(50.50)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(42.86)</td>
<td>(4.76)</td>
<td>(52.38)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(41.18)</td>
<td>(11.76)</td>
<td>(47.06)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(42.11)</td>
<td>(7.89)</td>
<td>(50.00)</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total
Of the 38 members, 42.11 per cent were happy about the decision of the government to sanction Rs 40 lakhs to each Gram Panchayat during 2005-06, however half of the members (50.00 per cent) of them were doubtful about the sanction of the grant. The proportion of members who were doubtful about the sanction of amount of Rs 40 lakhs is found to be equal in Chandargi and Sonna Gram Panchayats 50.00 per cent and proportion of members who are happy with this decision of government is found to be higher in Sonna Gram Panchayat (50.00 per cent) than Chandargi Gram Panchayat (31.25 per cent).

**Political Linkage:**

Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 has made a provision that election to Gram Panchayat shall be held by ballot on non-party basis in accordance with clause 2 of the section 7 with such rules as may be prescribed. As the politics of Panchayat Raj depends upon its leaders who have links with leaders of higher echelons. Therefore in this study an attempt has been made to find out political linkage of panchayat leaders with other macro or state level leaders. The Act gives emphasis to hold panchayat elections on non-party basis according to section 7 and clause 2 of 1993, Act. Keeping this view the members of Gram Panchayat were enquired about the linkage with political parties. The responses of members are presented in Table No.3.37.

Although Gram Panchayat elections are held on non-party basis, the members of Gram Panchayat have linkage with one or the other political parties either of state or national level. From the Table No 3.37., it can be observed that all members of Gram Panchayat (100 per cent) have linkage with political parties. Though, there are some candidates who got elected in Gram Panchayat elections without any linkage with political parties before they became a member, later on they were lured by some political parties to
have linkage with one or the other political party due to personal likings or political
affiliations or better prospects in higher level politics.

Table No. 3.37.
Linkage of Gram Panchayat Members with Political Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gram Panchayat</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Linkage with BJP</th>
<th>Linkage with Congress</th>
<th>Linkage with Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chandargi</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3 (37.50)</td>
<td>5 (62.50)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>8 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8 (50.00)</td>
<td>8 (50.00)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>16 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonna</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8 (61.54)</td>
<td>5 (38.46)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>5 (55.56)</td>
<td>4 (44.44)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>9 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13 (59.09)</td>
<td>9 (40.91)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>22 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>13 (61.90)</td>
<td>8 (38.10)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>21 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8 (47.06)</td>
<td>9 (52.94)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>17 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21 (55.26)</td>
<td>17 (44.74)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>38 (100.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate percentage to the village total

Further it is observed that the members of Gram Panchayat of study villages
have linkage with two political parties, both are national level parties viz., Congress and
BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). In Chandargi Gram Panchayat the members are equally
divided between the BJP and the Congress, while in Sonna Gram Panchayat three-fifths of
members (59.09 per cent) have linkage with the BJP and two-fifths of members (40.91 per
cent) have linkage with the Congress. However it is indeed interesting to note that majority
of male members have linkage with the BJP (61.90 per cent), whereas majority of female
members have linkage with Congress (52.94 per cent).
FINDINGS:

The study emphasizes the role of leadership in realizing the objectives of PRIs, such as democratic decentralization, politicization, modernization, decision-making, political awareness of village leadership about government policies and programmes and its implementation, awareness of Panchayat Acts and Constitutional Amendments etc. The study of leadership happens to be very significant and interesting subject so far as the study of micro political systems is concerned. The success of Panchayat Raj largely depends upon the quality and commitment of leaders. The credit for such development goes to leaders who worked unselfishly in the micro political system. There is trend being developed for the emergence of young leadership in the village politics. But the success and effective functioning of democracy lie with efficiency and honesty of leaders.
NOTES AND REFERENCES


21. Ibid-P.149.


24. Darshankar A.Y., Leadership in Panchayat Raj, Panchasheel Prakashan, Jaipur, 1979, P.75


34. Ibid.


44. Section 7 clause (2), as per *The Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act of 1993*, Published in the Karnataka Gazette Extraordinary on the 13th April 1993.