

EXTENT OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN SANT GADGE BABA SANITATION MISSION IN MAHARASHTRA : A FIELD STUDY

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ABSTRACT

With a view to knowing the extent of participation and its correlation with the characteristics of the respondents, this study was undertaken in Amravati district of Maharashtra State. Majority of the people were motivated due to their desire to make the village an ideal one and also to obtain prize for the village. Majority participated in the resolution day or commitment day, in village sweeping and freedom from garbage, and self-cleanliness awareness programme activities because they were highly aware about sanitation. The major constraints for non-participation are lack of time due to busy schedule, being male dominated family and illiteracy etc.

Introduction

The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, Government of Maharashtra introduced 'Gadge Baba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan' to all villages in the State of Maharashtra in the year 2000-2001. It was an invitation to all villages to participate in a competition for 'clean village'. The campaign received overwhelming response and triggered phenomenal change in rural Maharashtra. The Government has declared prizes for encouragement of villages, districts and divisions level for people's achievement. The best Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad is awarded with a cash prize of ₹ 10 lakh each. People's participation in this endeavour made the campaign a grand success and brought laurels to Amravati division. The basic aim behind launching these schemes was to encourage people to actively participate in the process of development.

Though Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti are entrusted to ensure people's participation, efforts must be made to obtain cooperation of the elected representatives.

Sant Gadge Baba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan would be carried out from 2 October to 17 October every year in all the villages of the State and villages would be judged on 95 parameters including potable drinking water, hygienic cleanliness and basic amenities for getting the award. There is now increased awareness about knowledge of sanitation needs, understanding constraints and possibilities. This has stimulated public and private initiatives in the rural areas to evolve and apply simple, inexpensive and socially accepted principles. This study was undertaken to measure the awareness knowledge and participation of the sanitation programme. This study is also necessary because it is likely to throw light on personal and socio-economic

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characteristics of the respondents that influence knowledge and participation of the rural people in the sanitation mission.

Keeping in view the need for participation in the sanitation programme by the rural people, this study was planned and carried out with the following specific objectives :

1. To study the personal, socio-economic and information characteristics of the respondents.
2. To assess the participation level of the respondents in sanitation mission.
3. To examine the reasons for non-participation of the people in sanitation mission.

Methodology

The present study was undertaken in Amravati district of Maharashtra State. There are 14 Panchayat Samities in Amravati district out of which Morshi Panchayat Samiti was selected for the present study. From this Panchayat Samiti, Nashirpur village was purposively selected as this village is awarded four times at various levels. This village has received two awards in the year 2002-2003, i.e. taluka level award and district level award and also received division level award in 2003-2004 and State level award in 2004-2005.

The list of respondents from this village was prepared with the help of Gram Sevak of the village. In all a total of 150 respondents were selected who actually participated in Sant Gadge Baba Sanitation Mission. After the selection of the respondents, they were personally interviewed with the help of the structured interview schedule prepared for the study. The interviews with the respondents were conducted at their residences in an informal atmosphere after establishing rapport with them for getting reliable information. Secondary data were also

obtained from the records maintained by Sarpanch and *Gram Sevak* of that village. The data so collected were again carefully examined before tabulation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the Respondents in Sanitation Mission

The distribution of the respondents who participated in sanitation mission according to their selected personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics is presented in Table 1. It is expected that age is one of the factors which may influence the participation of the respondents in Sant Gadge Baba sanitation mission. Majority of respondents who participated in sanitation mission were found to be young (54 per cent) and middle (23.33 per cent) age group. A very few of them (22.67 per cent) were in old age category of more than 50 years age. The reason being that the respondents up to 50 years are capable of participating in all the activities undertaken in sanitation mission with greater efficiency. The above findings are similar to the findings reported by Sudha Haridasan (1997) that majority of the respondents in fruit nurseries mostly belonged to middle age group of 19 to 35 years.

Education : Education of the respondents may influence the participation level of the respondents in sanitation mission. With respect to education of the respondents, the data showed that 30 per cent respondents had education up to high school level (SSC), followed by 22.66 per cent respondents who had primary school education. About 16.67 per cent respondents had higher secondary school (HSSC) education and 13.33 respondents had middle school education followed by 8.67 per cent respondents who were illiterate and only 8.67 per cent of the respondents had education up to college level (Table 1). Thus, it was concluded that majority

of the respondents had education up to high school level. It is quite logical that their social and economic conditions might have not allowed them to go in for further education.

Therefore, it is concluded that majority of respondents who participated in sanitation mission were found to have high school (SSC) and primary education.

Annual Income: It is observed that 46.00 per cent of the respondents had their income up to ₹ 25,000. followed by 26 per cent

respondents who earned between ₹ 25,001 to ₹ 50,000 followed by 14.66 per cent of the respondents whose income was between ₹ 50,001 to ₹ 75,000, ₹ 1,00,001 and above income was earned by only 8.67 per cent of the respondents. However, 4.67 per cent of respondents earned ₹ 75,001 to ₹ 1,00,000 (Table 1).

From the above findings, it could be inferred that majority of respondents had their annual income up to ₹ 25,000 being landless labour and having rare sources of income.

Table 1 : Distribution of Respondents According to Their Characteristics

S.No.	Category	Respondents (N=150)	
		Number	Percentage
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Age			
1	Young	81	54.00
2	Middle	35	23.33
3	Old	34	22.67
Total		150	100.00
Education			
1	Illiterate	13	08.67
2	Primary school	34	22.66
3	Middle school	20	13.33
4	High school	45	30.00
5	Higher secondary school	25	16.67
6	College	13	08.67
Total		150	100.00

(Contd.)

Table 1 : (Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Annual Income			
1)	Up to ₹ 25,000	69	46.00
2)	₹ 25,001 to ₹ 50,000	39	26.00
3)	₹ 50,001 to ₹ 75,000	22	14.66
4)	₹ 75,001 to ₹ 1,00,000	07	04.67
5)	Above ₹ 1,00,000	13	08.67
Total		150	100.00
Socio-economic Status			
1	Very low	43	28.66
2	Low	43	28.66
3	Medium	50	33.33
4	High	10	06.68
5	Very high	04	02.67
Total		150	100.00
Social Participation			
1	No participation	13	08.67
2	Low participation	32	21.33
3	Moderate participation	58	38.67
4	Moderately high participation	20	13.33
5	High participation	27	18.00
Total		150	100.00
Sources of Information			
1	Low	14	09.33
2	Medium	102	68.00
3	High	34	22.67
Total		150	100.00

Socio-economic Status : The socio-economic status may be one of the important determinants of the respondents' participation level in sanitation mission. It is observed from Table 1 that one-third of the respondents (33.33 per cent) were in medium socio-economic status category, 28.66 per cent of the respondents fall under very low and low socio-economic status category and 6.68 per cent of the respondents were found to be in high socio-economic status category. Very few respondents were found in very high level of socio-economic status (2.67 per cent). Therefore, it could be concluded that majority of the respondents who participated in sanitation mission were found to be in medium category of socio-economic status.

Social Participation : The social participation of the respondents may influence their level of participation in sanitation mission. The data revealed that 38.67 per cent respondents had moderate level of participation followed by 21.33 per cent respondents having low social participation. This was followed by 18 per cent respondents who had high social participation and 13.33 per cent respondents had moderately high social participation. Very few, 8.67 per cent, respondents had no social participation.

It is therefore, concluded that majority of the respondents had moderate social participation because majority of the people were members of informal organisations like, Mahila Mandal, Bhajan Mandal, Ganesh Mandal, etc. The above findings are similar to the findings reported by Katole (2001) that participation in social organisation and activities by higher percentage of the respondents (45 per cent) was of moderate degree.

Bhosle *et al.* (2000) observed that 64 per cent had medium social participation, 21.33

per cent had high and 14.67 per cent had low social participation.

Sources of Information : Sources of information of the respondents may influence their level of participation in sanitation mission. It is observed that 68 per cent of respondents belonged to medium category of sources of information followed by 22.67 per cent respondents having high sources of information. It was found that only very few respondents (9.33 per cent) had low sources of information. Therefore, it is found that majority of the respondents were having medium sources of information.

Motives Behind Participation

Motives of the respondents about sanitation mission may influence the participation level of the respondents. The motive-wise distribution of the respondents shows that majority of the respondents (69.33 per cent) participated because they have a desire to make the village an ideal one. Followed by 64.66 per cent respondents having the motive to obtain prize for the village, 54.66 per cent respondents having a desire to make the village progressive and 47.33 per cent respondents having the motive to make the village self-sufficient in all respects. About 41 per cent have the motive of interest in social work, 38.66 per cent respondents have the motive to keep village atmosphere clean and healthy and 36 per cent respondents have the motive to eradicate diseases completely from village. About 32.66 per cent respondents have the motive to make the village addiction free, 26.66 per cent respondents have the motive to give ideal lesson to future generation and to encourage it, 22.66 per cent respondents have the motive to get publicity to the village. Only few respondents, 10 per cent, said that people participate because others also participate (Table 2).

Table 2 : Distribution of Respondents According to their Motives Behind Participation

S.No.	Motives	Frequency (N = 150)	Percentage
1	For the progress of the village	82	54.66
2	To eradicate diseases completely from village	54	36.00
3	To make the village an ideal one	104	69.33
4	To get publicity to the village	34	22.66
5	To have an interest in social work	62	41.33
6	To obtain prizes for the village	97	64.66
7	To make the village self-sufficient in all respects	71	47.33
8	To give ideal lesson to future generation and to encourage it	40	26.66
9	To keep village atmosphere clean and healthy	58	38.66
10	To make the village addiction free	49	32.66
11	People participate because others also participate	15	10.00

From the above findings, it could be inferred that majority of respondents have the motives like to make the village an ideal one, to obtain prize for the village and for the progress of the village.

Different Activities Undertaken and Participation of People in Sanitation Mission

For the assessment of the activities undertaken in sanitation mission, the researchers consulted the Zilla Parishad and collected information of Sant Gadge Baba Sanitation mission and also collected useful information beneficial for the present study. Internet was also used for getting information about sanitation mission. After going through thoroughly from all these sources it has been noticed that, following activities are undertaken in sanitation mission.

According to the study objectives, attempts have been made to study the participation level of the respondents in sanitation mission. The activities undertaken in Sant Gadge Baba sanitation mission were considered for the study.

Activity-wise Participation of Respondents in Sant Gadge Baba Sanitation Mission : The activity-wise participation of the respondents in sanitation mission was studied and the results are presented in Table 3. It is revealed that more than 50 per cent of respondents always participated in activities of sanitation mission like village sweeping and freedom from garbage, school and public buildings sanitation campaign day, house and environmental sanitation and decoration day, self-cleanliness awareness programme, clean water practical and training day, road repairs, sweeping and shramdan day, cattle sanitation

Table 3 : Distribution of Respondents According to their Activity-wise Participation in Sanitation Mission

S.No.	Activities	Frequency (N = 150)	Percentage
1)	Village sweeping and freedom from garbage	119	79.33
2)	Cleaning/construction of soakpits	65	43.33
3)	School and public buildings sanitation campaign day	84	56.00
4)	House and environmental sanitation and decoration day	75	50.00
5)	Exhibition of literature on sanitation campaign	62	41.33
6)	Publicity, technical knowledge campaign	40	26.67
7)	Latrine repairs/ construction campaign day	55	36.67
8)	Self-cleanliness awareness programme	110	73.33
9)	Clean water practical and training day	80	53.33
10)	Road repairs, sweeping and shramdan day	92	61.33
11)	Cattle sanitation campaign	78	52.00
12)	Ideal cattleshed and clean animal competition	75	50.00
13)	Conservation of trees, kitchen garden, protection and non-conventional energy day	65	43.33
14)	Village level slogan and essay competition	80	53.33
15)	Freedom from addiction	84	56.00
16)	Healthy baby competition	78	52.00
17)	Mother & child care diagnosis and diseases	68	45.33
18)	Control of communicable diseases	71	47.33
19)	Disposal of sewage water	40	26.66
20)	Reuse of sewage water	44	29.33
21)	Resolution or commitment day	130	86.66

campaign, ideal cattleshed and clean animal competition, village level slogan and essay competition, freedom from addiction, healthy baby competition and resolution or commitment day.

Besides the above activities, only those activities with less than 50 per cent participation of the respondents in sanitation mission are cleaning and construction of soakpits, exhibition of literature on sanitation

campaign, publicity, technical knowledge campaign day, latrine repairs/construction campaign day, conservation of trees, kitchen garden, protection and non-conventional energy day, mother and child care diagnosis and diseases, control of communicable disease, disposal of sewage water and reuse of sewage water.

It was observed that there was high participation of people i.e. 86.33, 79.33 and 73.33 per cent in activities like resolution day or commitment day, village sweeping and freedom from garbage, self-cleanliness awareness programme activities, respectively because some people were highly aware about sanitation (Table 3). Medium participation of people was observed i.e. 61.3, 56, 53.30, 52, 50 per cent in activities such as road repairs, sweeping and shramdan day, school and public buildings sanitation campaign day, freedom from addiction, clean water practical and training day, village level slogan and essay competition, cattle sanitation campaign, healthy baby competition, house and environmental sanitation and decoration day, ideal cattleshed and clean animal competition, respectively and low participation of people i.e. 47.33, 45.33, 43.33, 41.33, 36.67, 29.33, 26.66 per cent respondents participated in control of communicable diseases, mother and child care diagnosis and diseases, cleaning/construction of soak pits, conservation of trees, kitchen garden protection and non-conventional energy day, exhibition of literature on sanitation campaign, latrine repairs/construction campaign day, reuse of silage water, disposal of silage water, publicity technical knowledge campaign day, respectively.

From the above findings it could be inferred that majority of the respondents participated in activities like resolution or commitment day, village sweeping and freedom from garbage, self-cleanliness awareness programme.

Reasons for Non-participation of People in Sant Gadge Baba Sanitation Mission

The categorisation of people according to their reasons for non-participation in sanitation mission is presented in Table 4.

It was observed that 36.66 per cent respondents have the reasons like lack of time due to busy schedule for non-participation, 22.66 per cent respondents, mainly females did not participate because of male dominated family, 21.33 per cent respondents did not participate because of lack of awareness and due to parda system for females by 19.33 per cent respondents. About 17.33 per cent respondents stated casteism as the reason for non-participation and 16.66 per cent respondents were not interested in any social activity. Some respondents, 16 per cent did not participate as they were not capable of doing work because of old age (Table 4).

From the above findings, it could be inferred that majority of the respondents have reasons for non-participation such as lack of time due to busy schedule, being male dominated family and illiteracy. The above finding goes with the findings of Deshmukh and Kulkarni (2006).

Major Findings

Majority of respondents who participated in sanitation mission were found to be in young age category i.e. up to 35 years (54 per cent) and higher percentage (30 per cent) of them were educated up to high school. Regarding their annual income, majority of respondents had their yearly annual income (46 per cent) up to ₹ 25,000 and relatively higher per cent of respondents belonged to medium (33.33 per cent) socio-economic status. Majority of respondents (38.67 per cent) had moderate social participation and (68 per cent) had medium utilisation of sources of information. Majority

Table 4 : Reasons for Non-participation in Sant Gadge Baba Mission

S.No.	Reasons	Frequency (N=150)	Percentage
1.	Lack of time due to busy schedule	52	36.66
2.	Lack of awareness	32	21.33
3.	Casteism	26	17.33
4.	Male dominated family	34	22.66
5.	Not capable because of old age	24	16
6.	Parda system	29	19.33
7.	No interest in any social activity	25	16.66

of them (69.33 per cent) have the motive to make the village an ideal one and to obtain prizes for the village. Majority of respondents had (46 per cent) medium level of participation in sanitation mission. In case of relational analysis, age is negatively significant with level of participation whereas education, annual income, socio-economic status, social participation, sources of information, motives behind participation were found to be significant with level of participation. Result of multiple regression analysis indicated that motives behind participation share significant contribution with level of participation whereas remaining age, education, annual income, socio-economic status, social participation, sources of information did not show any significant relation.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that majority of the people were motivated due to their desire to make the village an ideal one and also to obtain prize for the village. Majority people participated in the resolution day or commitment day, village sweeping and freedom from garbage, self-cleanliness awareness programme activities because they were highly aware about sanitation. Major constraints for non-participation are lack of time due to busy schedule, being male dominated family and illiteracy etc. It is therefore, suggested that efforts should be made by giving more and more benefits and awards to the villages, so that all the village people participate in the sanitation mission to make it a grand success.

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