

# Use of Gram Panchayat Library among Women Gram Panchayat Members: A Study of Bagalkot District, Karnataka

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**Abstract:** This paper explains about Use of Gram Panchayat Library among Women Gram Panchayat Members: A study of Bagalkot District, Karnataka. Data has been collected using questionnaire and interview method from women gram panchayat members. Totally 102 primary data collected from respondents. The article discusses about use of information sources and level of satisfaction of information sources among women gram panchayat members. Study found that the opinion of conduct orientation programs for women gram panchayat members.

**Key Words:** Gram Panchayat, Information Sources, Library, Women Members.

## 1, INTRODUCTION:

Karnataka State Government has initiated development programs by establishing Gram Panchayat Libraries in every village. These libraries provide the sources and services to the citizens and authorities. Authorities are also called as representatives of people i.e. Gram Panchayat Members. Information is required in every aspect of planning; purchase; policy; executive decision; education etc.

Women's role in the political process has virtually remained unchanged since independence. Broad based political participation of women has been several limited due to various traditional factor such as caste, religion feudal attitudes and family status. As a result women have been left on the periphery of political life. Observing this dark picture 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment act came to provide them an opportunity to ventilate their grievances and take active part in decision making process in the local level. The 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment has created space for women in political participation and decision making at the grass root level by providing that 33% of the seats are reserved in all over the country. 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment act 1992 provides reservation for women in PRIs set up in two ways; for the office of the members and for that of the chairpersons as per the at each tier of the panchayats are to be reserved for the women.

By implementing this clause now all the Gram Panchayats have the women members because of the reservation policy. But these women members of Gram panchayats are characterized by

- Educational backwardness
- Financial backwardness
- Lack of administration knowledge
- Lack of awareness about social problems
- Lack of political awareness

Therefore it is necessary to identify the Use of Gram Panchayat Libraries among Women Gram Panchayat Members.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

- **Shivalingappa Anupama and Tadsad P. G. (2009).** Describes reviews the literature on rural libraries with reference to Karnataka State and provides glimpse of gram panchayat libraries in Hyderabad Karnataka region and thereby shows importance of rural librarians in making the visibility of library system and the initiation on the part of Department of Public libraries for a functional and active Gram panchayat libraries. Study explored the concept of rural librarianship emphasizing the development of rural based gram panchayat libraries for human empowerment to build information rich society.
- **Clark Larra and Visser Marijke (2011).** This study transforming public library technology infrastructure examines the need for libraries to position themselves as digital literacy experts, support staff competencies to maintain the level of expertise required in the digital landscape, and explore opportunities to expand digital literacy initiatives. The 2010 releases of the National Broadband Plan brought national attention to digital literacy as a keystone for civic engagement, educational success, and economic growth and innovation.

- **Bo Xie (2011).** The theory-driven electronic health information for life-long learners via collaborative learning (eHILL-CL) intervention, developed and tested in public libraries, aims to improve older adults' e-health literacy.
- **Bernsmann Susanne and Croll Jutta (2013).** The project partners are piloting a two-step approach to attract learning distant groups by offering an attractive starting point to information and social bonding: staffs at non-formal learning places like libraries will be trained for the use of ICT in their daily work with hard-to-reach target groups; they will gain competences in how to motivate socially disadvantaged clients to learn with the help of ICT/social media; adults from learning distant groups will be attracted to the places of non-formal learning by the use of social media thus improving their motivation to learn and empowering them to participate in social life.

**3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- To study the Demographic Information of Women Gram Panchayat Members.
- To identify the use of Gram Panchayat library among Women Gram Panchayat Members.
- To identify the Use of Gram Panchayat library Information Sources among Women Gram Panchayat Members.
- To identify level of satisfaction of Information Sources among Women Gram Panchayat Members.

**4. METHODOLOGY:**

For the present study, survey method was used and the primary data was collected by using structured questionnaire and Interview method. In this study Random sampling method was used to collect data from Women Gram Panchayat Members in Rabakavi-Bannatti taluka, Bagalkot district. Distributed 150 questionnaires for Women Gram Panchayat Members among Rabakavi-Bannatti taluka Villages of this 102 questionnaire were received from the respondents with the response rate of 68%.

**5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:**

Collected data has been classified, tabulated and analyzed with the help of Excel and SPSS software. The following data will be presented in tabular form.

**Table-1 Age of the Respondents**

SI. No	Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 30	22	21.6
2	31 To 40	33	32.4
3	41 To 50	23	22.6
4	50 and above	24	23.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The respondents under study are from different age groups. Table-1 shows maximum number of respondents are from the age group of 31 to 40 years that is 32.4%(N=33), Nearly one fourth of the respondents are from age group of 50 and above 23.4%(N=24), More than twenty two percentage of respondents are from the age group of 41 to 50 while 21.6%(N=22) belongs to less than thirty years of age.

**Table-2 Educational Qualification by the Respondents**

SI. No	Educational Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	36	35.3
2	Primary Education	40	39.2
3	SSLC	14	13.7
4	PUC and above	12	11.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table-2 describes the education level of respondents. It is found that Greater majority of study population have primary education i.e. 39.2% (N=40), and 35.3% (N=36) of them are illiterate. Another 13.7% (N=14) of them have completed SSLC and 11.8% (N=12) had studied up to PUC and above. The majority of the Women Gram Panchayat Members have Primary Education. The very less number of respondents are completed PUC and above education.

**Table-3 Opinion about Gram Panchayat Library among Respondents**

SI. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	102	100.00
2	No	0	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The women gram panchayat members under study were asked whether they have library in their Panchayat. It can be found from table-3 that all most all every village panchayat have library in their village i.e. (100.0%, N=102).

**Table-4 Opinion about Visit to Gram Panchayat Library by the Respondents**

SI. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	43	42.15
2	No	59	57.84
	<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table-4 shows that opinion about visit to gram panchayat library by the respondents. More than 42 percent (42.15%, N=43) of the respondents are visit to the gram panchayat library and remaining 57.84% (N=59) of the respondents do not visit to the gram panchayat library.

**Table-5 Use of Gram Panchayat Library among Respondents**

SI. No	Use	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	28	27.45
2	No	74	72.54
	<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table-5 shows the opinion towards the use of Gram Panchayat Library among the Women Gram Panchayat Members under the study. Out of 102 respondents (27.45%, N=28) are opinioned that they use the Gram Panchayat Library and the remaining 72.54% (N=74) of the respondents do not use the Gram Panchayat Library. It clearly shows that the very less number of respondents are using the Gram Panchayat Library.

**Table-6 Frequency of use of Gram Panchayat library among the Respondents**

SI. No	Frequency	Number	Percentage
1	Daily	0	0.00
2	Weekly	4	14.28
3	Fortnightly	9	32.14
4	Monthly	2	7.14
5	Occasionally	13	46.42
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table-6 reveals the frequency of use of Gram Panchayat Library among the Women Gram Panchayat Members. It is observed that the majority 46.42% (N=13) of the respondents opined that the occasionally they are using Gram Panchayat Library, while 32.14% (N=9) said Fortnightly, 14.28% (N=4) of the respondents are use Gram Panchayat Library weekly, and remaining 7.14% (N=2) of the respondents indicate monthly they are using Gram Panchayat Library. It can be concluded that the majority of the respondents are use Gram Panchayat Library Occasionally.

**Table-7 Opinion towards Membership of Gram Panchayat Library**

SI. No	Member of Library	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	3	2.94
2	No	99	97.05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table-7 provides the opinion towards the membership of the Gram Panchayat Library by the respondents under study. Only (2.94%, N=3) of the respondents are members of Gram Panchayat Library and remaining more than 97% of the respondents are not enrolled for the membership.

**Table-8 Use of Information Sources among Women Gram Panchayat Members**

SI. No	Information Sources	Very Frequently	Frequently	Moderately	Rarely	Never	Total Score	Mean	Rank
1.	Newspaper	4 14.81	3 11.11	9 33.33	11 40.74	0 0.00	81	3	1
2.	Govt Publications	2 7.40	3 11.11	3 11.11	5 18.51	14 51.85	55	2.037	3
3.	Novels	0 0.00	0 0.00	4 14.81	5 18.51	18 66.66	40	1.481	5
4.	Story books	0 0.00	2 7.40	5 18.51	11 40.74	9 33.33	54	2	4
5.	Magazines	3 11.11	2 7.40	14 51.85	7 25.92	1 3.70	80	2.962	2
6.	Reference books	0 0.00	0 0.00	0 0.00	2 7.40	25 92.59	29	1.074	6

Table-8 shows one of the main objectives of the study has to identify the level of use of information sources by the respondents under the study. The questions were asked on a five-point scale from very frequently to never. Among the respondents the frequency of each statement multiplied with the corresponding scale value the total score are calculated by summing all the product value, mean score has been calculated based on the total score than divided by sample size (N=102) based on the mean value rank has been shown in the above table. It is observed that the Newspaper, Magazines, Govt Publications are occupying 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> rank respectively. Further Story books, Novels and Reference books are taking 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> rank respectively.

**Table-9 Level of Satisfaction of Information Sources by the respondents**

SI. No	Information Sources	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Moderately	Less Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Total Score	Mean	Rank
1.	Newspapers	14 51.85	9 33.33	4 14.81	0 0.00	0 0.00	118	4.370	1
2.	Govt Publications	5 18.51	4 14.81	8 29.62	10 37.03	0 0.00	83	3.074	5
3.	Novels	8 29.62	11 40.74	8 29.62	0 0.00	0 0.00	108	4	2
4.	Story books	3 11.11	5 18.51	14 51.85	5 18.51	0 0.00	87	3.222	4
5.	Magazines	2 7.40	13 48.14	4 14.81	7 25.92	1 3.70	89	3.296	3
6.	Reference books	0 0.00	0 0.00	0 0.00	0 0.00	0 0.00	0	0	6

Table-9 reveals that the one of the main objective of the study was to know the level of satisfaction of information sources by the respondents under study. In this context the list of source of information as shown the above table which has been asked in five point scale from highly satisfied to not satisfied. The frequency of each statement is multiplied with their corresponding scale value than the mean value it is calculated by dividing the total score with the sample size. Based on the mean value, ranks were assigned as shown in the table-9. It is observed that the Newspapers, Novels and Magazines have satisfied information sources by the respondents under study having 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> rank respectively. Next Story Books (4) and Govt Publications (5) are moderately satisfied information sources by the respondents. It can be concluded that the Newspaper, Novels and Magazines are more satisfied by the respondents under study.

**Table-10 Opinion about conduct Library Orientation Programme by the Respondents**

SI. No	Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	95	93.13
2	No	7	6.86
	<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table-10 shows opinion about conduct orientation programme by the respondents. A greater majority of the respondents i.e. (93.13%, N=95) are indicates yes and remaining very less respondents (6.86%, N=7) are indicates No. above table shows the respondents are very interested about conduct an orientation programme.

## 6. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- Greater majority of the respondents are from the age group of 31 to 40 Years and have Primary Education 39.2% (N=40).
- All most all Gram Panchayats have library in their village.
- More than 42 percent (42.15%, N=43) of the respondents are visit to the gram panchayat library.
- Very less number of Women Gram Panchayat Members are use Gram Panchayat Library.
- Majority of the Women Gram Panchayat Members are occasionally using the Gram Panchayat Library.
- Very less percent of Women Gram Panchayat members having membership in Gram Panchayat Library.
- Majority of the respondents are using Newspapers from Gram Panchayat Library.
- Highest percent of the respondents are very satisfied with using Newspaper from Gram Panchayat Library.
- Majority of the respondents' opinion is conduct library orientation program.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Motivational programmes should be run by Government organizations and Non-government organizations through which these women can get inspiration and use the Gram Panchayat Libraries.
- Establishment of community learning center.
- Information should be made available to them in local language. Appropriate information structure should be developed and supplied according to the requirements of women.
- Gram Panchayat members as most of them represent the rural women. The libraries have to create such environment that they can understand and use the information sources.
- Libraries should conduct information literacy programs, training programs on use of library and availability of information, personality development program and technical trainings.
- The libraries should be provided with well-equipped books, clean building, reading room, furniture, permanent and qualified staff, information sources concerned to rural development, suitable time, women and children oriented books, magazines, newspapers, government gazettes, and orders, copies of government programs and policies and reports of Gram Panchayat meeting reports should be made available in the library.

## 8. CONCLUSION:

Gram Panchayat libraries are major sources to provide informative information to women leaders in local level government. But in the Gram Panchayat library system suffering with many problems like: trained staff, own building, less collection, financial support, technical support, ICT infrastructure and user. The authorities as well as the public community should support for the development of rural library development.

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