

1 Assessment of E Government measures at Village Panchayaths in Karnataka (Panchayath Data)

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1.1 Abstract

The paper analyses the E measures initiated by the government to strengthen the Panchayat Raj system.

1.2 Keywords

Technology, E measures, E swattu, Panchantantra, Panchamitra

1.3 Introduction

The Government of Mysore passed an act, known as 'The Mysore Local Boards Act, 1902'. The act adopted a three-level arrangement of local self-government. The three levels of provisions were Village Panchayath (VP) at the village level, Taluk Board (TB) at the Taluk/Centre level and District Board (DB) at the district level. The authorities at the personnel levels were made as chairpersons of these bodies.

During the reforms stage, the period 1949-54, it was necessary since the legislature established two expert advisory committees during this period to investigate the issues of local bodies and propose suitable suggestion to improve them. The advisory committee headed by Venkatappa recommended a two-level framework with *Mandal* Panchayath at the lower level and District Board at the district level. In addition, the committee prescribed the direct elections to the District Boards. Following these suggestions, the legislature passed the Mysore Village Panchayaths and District Boards Act, 1952.

Recommendations of Balwanth Rai Mehta committee and reforms of PRI in other state caused the then Government of Mysore to sanction 'The Mysore Village Panchayaths and Local Boards Act, 1959'. Because of this Act, a three-level framework, precisely, Village Panchayath at the village level, Taluk Development Board (TDB) at the taluk level and

District Development Council (DDC) at the district level were set up. The local Panchayaths and the TDBs were granted executive powers, and DDCs were made as just advisory and coordination bodies. Under this Act, the functions of Village Panchayaths entrusted for local administration, providing civic amenities and other related services. The purpose of TDBs was of providing necessary school structures, minor water system, drinking water works, industry, agribusiness, and some administrative capacities.

At the point when PRIs were deteriorating, the report of Ashok Mehta proved to be useful for those pioneers who started to restore the framework. Karnataka state was one among the couple of states, which had demonstrated enthusiasm for and started activity towards, building up decentralised local bodies in the mid-1980s. The then Government of Karnataka passed 'The Karnataka *Zilla Parishads*, Taluk Panchayath *Samithis*, *Mandal* Panchayaths, and Nyaya Panchayaths Act, 1983' (Government of Karnataka, 1983). This Act received the President's consent on 10th July 1985. Under this act, a three-level Panchayath framework, to be specific, *Zilla Parishads* (ZP) at the district level, Taluk Panchayath Samithi (TPS) at the taluk level and *Mandal* Panchayath (MP) at the village level constituted in the year 1987. This development provided many arrangements, and a couple of significant observations: Delegation of an enormous number of authority and responsibilities to *Zilla Parishad* and *Mandal* Panchayath, integration of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) with *Zilla Parishads*.

Later, the State government transferred 350 scheme plans to the Panchayaths for implementation and sanctioned the developmental plan and non-plans grants on the principle of decentralization to these PRI for effective implementation.

To strengthen the system, the Government introduced many E government measures.

1.4 Methodology

The study aims at recognising and analysing the impact of E Government measures at Panchayaths.

1.4.1 Objectives

1. Identify the E Government Measures adopted at the Village Panchayats.
2. Analyse the role of E Government measures adopted in the Village Panchayaths

1.4.2 Research Questions

1. Is E Government Measures are helping the Panchayats.

1.4.3 Research Design

The study is descriptive-analytical (Bowling, 2014) and the study is conducted in the State of Karnataka.

1.4.3.1.1 Research Gap

The literature review revealed that substantial study has undertaken in this area on the efficiency of Panchayath Raj Institutions (PRI) and Local Governance Organizations (LGO). However, the relative research has not been found with respect to identifying and analysing the impact of E Government measures. Further, similar kind of study has not been undertaken in the region of Karnataka. Hence, this study tries to fill this gap and address the related issue.

1.4.3.1.2 Study Area

The area of the present study is limited to the State of Karnataka. However, the outcome of the research would be applied broadly for any other part of India.

1.4.3.1.3 Sampling

Multistage stratified sampling had employed to select 100 random samples for the study.

1.4.3.1.4 Sampling Framework



1.4.3.1.5 Sample Design

At the first stage, based on the convenient sampling method, the researcher had chosen Karnataka for the study to identify impeding factors, which cause obstacles for Village Panchayath to act as genuine self-government.

The state of Karnataka divided into four administrative divisions, 30 districts, and 6022 Village Panchayaths for Administrative convenience. At this level, two Panchayaths

selected from every district based on a purposive method of sampling considering the Highest and Least Income revenue generated Village Panchayaths in each district.

At the second stage, out of 60 Village Panchayaths, 08 Panchayathshad considered; four each from highest and least Income revenue generated Village Panchayaths for the study based on quota sampling method to ensure equal representation from all the four administrative divisions respectively.

Finally, 100 respondents from 8 selected Village Panchayaths were interviewed based on simple random sampling.

1.4.3.1.6 Sampling Frame

The sampling frame for the proposed study is the List of Districts and administrative divisions from the Department of Revenue and List of Village Panchayaths from the Department of RDPR.

Focus Group for the study were

1. Government officials in Village Panchayath-PDO'S and Secretaries.
2. Group-D Employees.
3. Elected Members of the Panchayaths.

1.4.4 Source of Data

The research depends on both Primary and Secondary data sources.

1.4.4.1.1 Primary Data

The present study mainly depends on primary data and to mobilise primary data, survey - through structured questionnaires and discussions had adopted. The interview schedules prepared specially for the study and pre-tested for their validity and reliability.

1.4.4.1.2 Secondary Data

The extensive literature review had undertaken. It includes records available with the Village Panchayath, government agencies, previous works, related books, official sources,

and other publications like journals, periodicals, newspapers, books and in-house journals, which mentioned in the appendix and reference.

1.4.4.1.3 Pilot Study

Identify variables of interest and decide how to operationalise each one and also to check the methodology, a Pilot Study was conducted for 30 samples drawn randomly in the Village Panchayath of Kakkargolla.

1.4.5 Time Framework

The table below mentions the significant activities and the time duration that was taken approximately to undertake the study.

Particulars	Duration
Literature Review	4 Weeks
Research Methodology Design	4 Weeks
Data Collection Tools	2 Weeks
Pilot Study	2 Weeks
Conduction of Survey	8 Weeks
Analysis	2 Weeks
Article writing	2 Weeks

1.4.6 Statistical Techniques used

Data collected from the respondents were processed and analysed by employing both descriptive and analytical statistics. Appropriate statistical tools like Central tendency techniques, Correlation analysis been adopted for the analysis purpose. MS Excel and SPSS- version 17 for quantitative analysis.

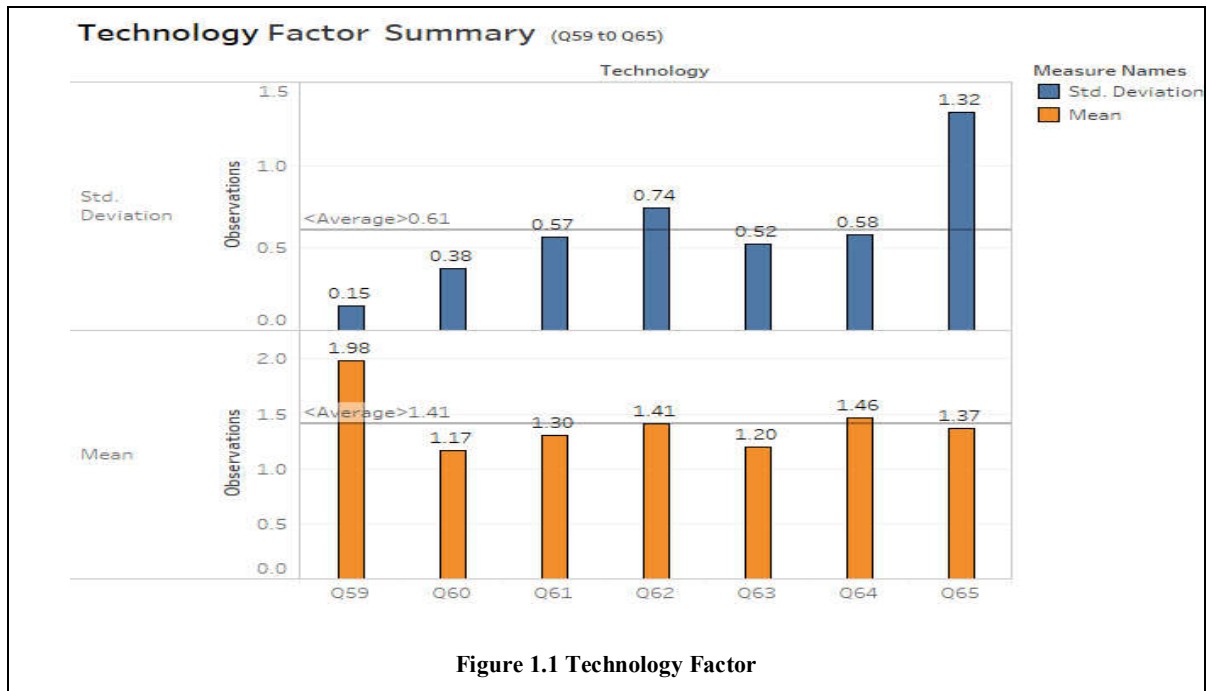
1.5 Analysis

E-government measures are helping the Panchayath to function effectively (Q60 to Q65).

Variable	Position	Staff	Member	Secretary	PDO	President	Total
PRI has its website in the virtual platform.	Yes	-	-	-	-	2.1%	2.1%
	No	11.7%	69.1%	4.3%	6.4%	6.4%	97.9%
	Total	11.7%	69.1%	4.3%	6.4%	8.5%	100.0%
Panchatantra	Yes	11.7%	52.1%	4.3%	6.4%	8.5%	83.0%
	No	-	17.0%	-	-	-	17.0%
	Total	11.7%	69.1%	4.3%	6.4%	8.5%	100.0%
Panchamitra	Yes	11.7%	46.8%	4.3%	6.4%	6.4%	75.5%
	No	-	17.0%	-	-	2.1%	19.1%
	CS	-	5.3%	-	-	-	5.3%
	Total	11.7%	69.1%	4.3%	6.4%	8.5%	100.0%
Eswattu	Yes	8.5%	48.9%	4.3%	4.3%	7.4%	73.4%
	No	-	10.6%	-	-	1.1%	11.7%
	CS	3.2%	9.6%	-	2.1%	-	14.9%
	Total	11.7%	69.1%	4.3%	6.4%	8.5%	100.0%
Ration Card	Yes	8.5%	58.5%	4.3%	6.4%	7.4%	85.1%

	No	3.2 %	5.3%	-	-	1.1%	9.6%
	CS	-	5.3%	-	-	-	5.3%
	Total	11.7 %	69.1%	4.3%	6.4 %	8.5%	100.0 %
Bapuji Seva Kendra	Yes	7.4 %	36.2%	4.3%	5.3 %	5.3%	58.5 %
	No	1.1 %	33.0%	-	1.1 %	2.1%	37.2 %
	CS	3.2 %	-	-	-	1.1%	4.3%
	Total	11.7 %	69.1%	4.3%	6.4 %	8.5%	100.0 %
NAREGA Measures	Yes	11.7 %	61.7%	4.3%	6.4 %	8.5%	92.6 %
	No	-	7.4%	-	-	-	7.4%
	Total	11.7 %	69.1%	4.3%	6.4 %	8.5%	100.0 %

Source: Primary Data



The mean score in Figure 1.1 indicates that except one variable viz having website under the Technology variable, Panchayath is not having any issues with this factor. However, the mean score of the website in the virtual platform (Q59) in the Figure 1.1 and **Error! Reference source not found.**, indicates that, none of the positions in Panchayath have accepted that, Panchayath has its website in the virtual platform to connect with villagers and mainly with emigrants of the village to provide real-time services and even mobilize the resources.

1.6 Findings/Suggestions and Conclusion

1. Panchayath is not having its own website in virtual platform.
2. *Panchatatantra, Panchamitra, NAREGA and Eswattu* software is helping the system to serve the public effectively.
3. Bapuji Seva Kendra is not helping the system as expected to serve it better.
4. Panchayath is facing lack of adequate staff to function the Bapuji Seva Kendra effectively.

1.7 Suggestions

1. Panchayath must have its own website to connect with emigrants and to serve public more effectively.
2. Panchayath must explore various options to mobilise the revenue from adopting technology factor effectively.
3. Government initiative on E measures need more staff to function effectively.

1.8 Conclusion

The government is taking many E - Government measures to strengthen the Panchayath Raj system to function effectively. Staff of the Panchayath must be educated to adopt the technology to serve better.

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1.10 Questionnaire

E-government measures which are helping the Panchayath to function effectively are tabled below (Q.No 01 to Q.No 06).		
1.	Panchatantra.	
2.	Panchamitra.	
3.	Eswattu.	
4.	Ration Card.	
5.	BapujiSeva Kendra.	
6.	NAREGA measures.	

