

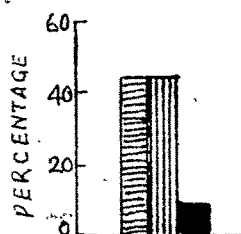
ANNEXTURE

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF LEADERSHIP IN TALUKA
PANCHAYATS OF THE MEHSANA DISTRICT

There are eleven Talukas in the Mehsana District. In each Taluka, the responsibilities entrusted to the Panchayati Raj under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 are discharged by the Executive Committee of the Taluka Panchayat which is chaired by the Taluka Panchayat President. In the present investigation, the research tool used has yielded, besides those presented in the thesis, some further significant facts about the leadership in the Taluka Panchayats of the district. In this note, these data are briefly summarised.

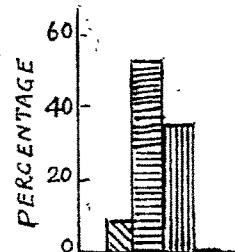
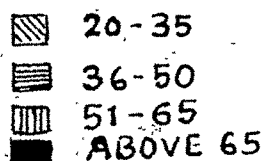
The Presidents of around 55 percent of the Taluka Panchayats belong to ages over 50 years and only around 45 percent fall in the age-group of 36 to 50 years. Thus, the leadership of the Presidents in the Taluka Panchayats is of advanced age. Not a single president is below the age of 36 years. This has proved to be advantageous in the sense that the leadership is matured, seasoned and experienced. But, then, it does not possess that youthful vigour, progressivism and dynamism which is usually associated with young leadership. This is in contrast to the leadership at the Gram Panchayat level where around one-third of the Sarpanchas belong to the

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF LEADERSHIP IN TALUKA PANCHAYATS.



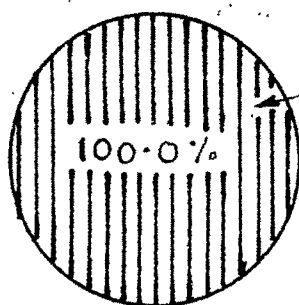
PRESIDENTS

AGE GROUP



PANCHAYAT MEMBERS

CASTE

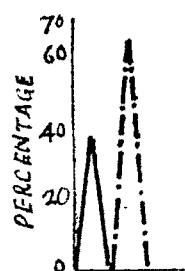
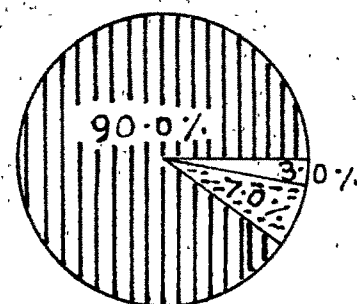
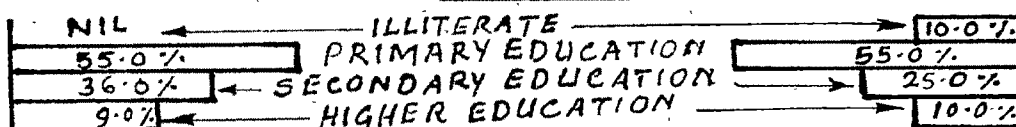


UPPER CASTE

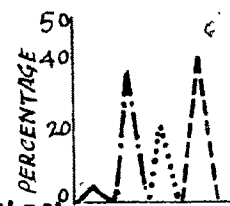
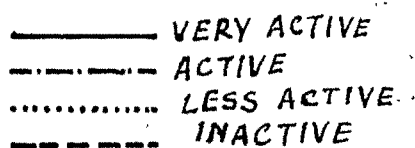
SCHEDULED CASTE

OTHER COMMUNITIES

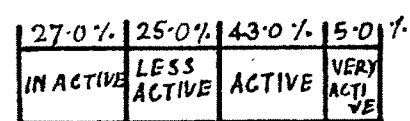
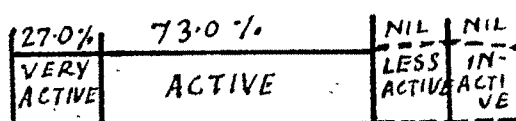
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS



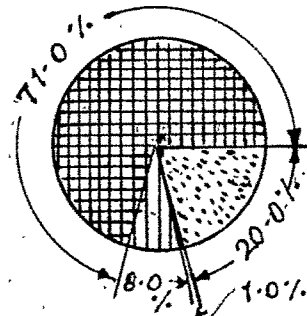
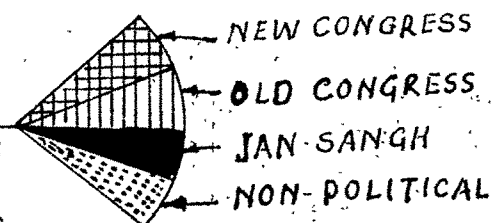
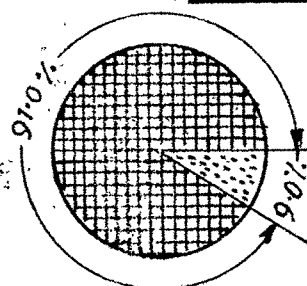
SOCIAL SERVICE PARTICIPATION



DEGREE OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION



AFFILIATION TO POLITICAL PARTY



age-group of 20 to 35 years. The leadership at the District level is middle-aged as the Chairman of the District Education Committee is about 42 years old.

The investigation included a randomly selected sample of 220 members of the Taluka Panchayats. The collected data show that around 64 percent of the members belong to an age below 50. The highest frequency is in the range 36 to 50 but a significant point is that around 36 percent of the members belong to the age range of 51 to 65 years.

As regards the Caste Composition of the Presidents, the prominent fact is that all of them belong to the upper caste among the Hindus. The same dominant trend is to be noticed in regard to the caste of the members of the Taluka Panchayats. Here, around 90 percent are from the upper caste groups, 7 percent from the Scheduled Caste groups and only 3 percent from other communities. It would be interesting to note here that even at the Gram Panchayat level all the Sarpanchas were found to be from the higher caste. Even among the members of the Gram Panchayat 88 percent were from the Upper Caste and the remaining 12 percent from the Scheduled caste. In the District Education Committee, 75 percent members were from the upper caste, 8 percent from the Scheduled caste and the remaining 17 percent from other castes and communities.

The analysed data show that 55 percent of the Taluka Panchayats ^{Presidents} ~~show that they~~ have only primary education, 36 percent secondary education and the remaining 10 percent higher education. The fact that 10 percent Presidents that have received higher education is a significant evidence in Panchayat leadership. However, among the members there appears to be significant variation. Eleven percent are even illiterates. Around 55 percent have received primary education and the remaining 34 percent have either received secondary education or higher education. In this category the proportion of those who have secondary education is two and a half times than those who have higher education. It is really a significant point that 20 members out of the total 220 studied have higher education. It should be recalled that at the Gram Panchayat level, 13 percent of the Sarpanchas were found to be illiterate, 70 percent possessing primary education and the remaining 17 percent having secondary or higher education. Among the Gram Panchayat members, 15 percent were illiterates, 57 percent had primary education, 25 percent had secondary education, and 3 percent had higher education. The position in the District Education Committee, in 1973, was that 75 percent members had received only primary schooling and 25 percent were college educated members.

Panchayat members are usually social and political workers. In the Mehsana District, the participation of the Presidents

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of the Taluka Panchayats in Social Service work was rated

very active by about the 37 percent respondents and 63 percent of them rated it as active. The members of the Taluka Panchayat showed variations in the rating of their social participation. Four percent respondents rated them as 'very active', 36 percent as 'active', 20 percent as 'less active' and 40 percent as 'inactive'. The rating of the Sarpanchas of the Gram Panchayats was 21 percent 'very active', 31 percent as 'active', 20 percent as 'less active' and 28 percent as 'inactive'. In social service participation, 11 percent were found to be very active, 27 percent as active, 28 percent as less active and 34 percent as inactive. The members of the District Education Committee were found to be very active to the extent of 25 percent, active to the extent of 50 percent and less active to the extent of 25 percent.

Politically around 23 percent of the Presidents of the Taluka Panchayats of the Mehsana District ^{are very active} and the remaining 77 percent are active. The position in this regard is slightly different in the case of the Taluka Panchayat members. Only 5 percent of them are very active and 43 percent are active. One fourth of them are less active and 27 percent have no political affiliation at all. The political affiliation is not so remarkable at the level of Gram Panchayats. Only 18 percent of the Sarpanchas are politically very active and 38 percent are active. Of the remaining 21 percent are less active and 23 percent do not have political interest in the

sense that they do not have political affiliation. In this regard, of the total membership in the District Education Committee, 25 percent are very active, 50 percent are active and 25 percent are less active.

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