

Participation of Women in Panchayati Raj Institution: Special Reference to Kaunt Village in Haryana

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ABSTRACT:

The present paper entailed “Participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institution” Conduct on the sample of 70 women respondent from village Kaunt, Bhiwani district, Haryana. For collecting data both primary and secondary method are used. Purposive sampling is used for selecting the sample from village and for it interview schedule was used as a technique to collect primary data from the respondents. Analysis of data revealed that the awareness and constitutional Knowledge of women was not satisfactory. Participation level of women in Gram Panchayat only limited, only to remain as voter. Some of the women respondents even do not know the functioning of Gram Panchyat. There is no role of women only their husband and family decided that to whom they have to give vote; women do not have their own choice.

KEY WORDS: women, Panchaati Raj Institution, Decision Making.

INTRODUCTION:

Women constitute more or less than half of the population of any country but their involvement in politics is insignificant compared to men. Many Psychological, Social and Physical factor hold women back from active Political involvement. This is true as far as the state and national level politics is concerned a democratic country cannot progress if energies of its half population are concerned in the kitchen only. They have to participate in the process of decision making and others factors related to family and society because they can better understand the problem of society or another thing. So through its various amendments are for these women. In India with 73rd amendment act (1992) resulted in transition of political power to the grass root democracy .As stated by the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee we can find that decentralization of power has led the local bodies to take active participation in all soci economic –political decision. Panchyati Raj institution (PRI) provides the opportunities to the rural opportunity to the rural masses to involve them from grass root level to achieve all the national challenges for complete involvement of the society, participation of rural women is ensured with 50 % women reservation. Currently the Panchyati Raj system exists in all the state except Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Mizoram and the all union territories except Delhi. Accordingly we now find women are also elected as the member of PRI. But it is often found that rural women are lack in decision making in aspects whether economic –political –social or family matters and area dictated by their male counterpart. So through this paper its explains the condition of women of Kaunt Village.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY:

In the Present study the emphasis on women participation in Panchyat. To understand this phenomenon the researcher has formulated the following objective-

1. To know the awareness and constitutional knowledge of PRI in women.
2. To know the involvement of rural women in PRI.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is explanatory, which comes under the paradigm of qualitative research methodology. Since the study would follow qualitative research approach so here researcher try to collect the social realities which are being experienced but the communities of kaunt village by being in field or fieldwork.

The research seeks highlights the participation of women in PRI. The data was used primary and secondary .Primary data was collected by interview schedule and quasi observation was also used to understand the reality of community .Apart that secondary data was collected from various governments' records and others sources.

DATA ANALYSIS:

The data was analyses using the thematic mode .The key concept of study were kept in mind during the data collection and the analysis was done in accordance to them taken as the key concept of whole study. The finding of data analysis is presented and elaborated.

FINDINGS:

The finding of the present study reveals that the major obstruction in the effective participation of rural women of kaunt village in the Panchyati Raj.

LOWER FEMALE INVOLVEMENT:

Literacy rate of India in 2011 is 74.04%.The male literacy rate is 82.14 and female literacy rate is 65.46.The female literacy rate in Haryana is 65.94 Percentages (According to census 2011).As large number of rural women are literate but women does not have realizing of their capabilities ,potentialities and the role in social development. The lack of the experience and knowledge of public affairs would hinder the active participation in decision making process. It has been constantly seen that half of total participant had no idea of meeting. Paper was generally sent to their house for signature or thumb impression. Lacking of awareness and ignorance are two main stumbling blocks in the way of effective and meaningful participation.

Women are ill informed about powers, procedures and functioning of these bodies, the kind of the role they have to play and the problems they are likely to face in male dominated political institution.

TRADITIONAL AND CONSERVATIVE ATTITUDES:

The traditional attitudes in rural society, inhibited most women from articulating their problems It is essentials to recognize the true nature of the social economic inequalities and disabilities that hampered in the active decision making process. These women members are facing situation of marginalization and deprivation. Even in the states where the panchyati-Raj system is functioning quite satisfactory. It was found that were working very often to the advantage of the dominant groups and upper casts. Rural Women is being exploited at home and outside, and facing gender biasness and this does not allow them space for independent thought and action in the Panchyati Raj in its existing rural scenario. The present rural society is male dominance. Therefore finding women to contest election is difficult task. It is the male member of families who persuades women contest the election women are generally projected as someone wife or mother or sister or widow as the case may be. Women are even not allowed to speak in the meeting or raised questions, the male members silenced them. A number of women members merely playing as dummy for their men folk, who in variably escorted them meetings. Generally in village of Haryana the women observe purda in the presence of elder people of society. Hence this age old system of purda women talking active participation in decision –making process.

UNFAVOURABLE SOCIAL STRUCTURE:

During research study As a farmer in kaunt, Haryana shrugged, when asked why he had not recorded his wife s on his farm “But that is my land and that is my wife.

It well that rural working women are victims of various type of oppressive social control ,the division s such as class ,cast feudal attitudes patriarchal system of family structure, ethnic and religious separatism all these do affect women adversely

Caste is significant factor in socio –political interaction and more so far women. Women of lower caste may find it extremely difficult or almost impossible to make the panchyat of mixed casts here them and give them their due respect and importance as members of panchyats. Such women may lack confidence

to express their option and on many occasions they may be reluctant to attend meeting for not finding them useful.

LOWER ECONOMIC STATUS:

Women in the rural areas from homogenous groups Women belonging to lower status of the society play a direct role, along with men. in the economic activities of families .A majority of rural women work in unorganized sector and as unpaid family worker in rural occupations. It is seen in the trade and rural industries and various services, operation biases are work against women just because of gender biasness. In the power structure of rural India land play an important role. The ground reality is that women have no control over it. It is surprising to note the agricultural census does not have classification of women vis-à-vis others. Given this background it has been observed during data collection most of women economically on the male or head of family.

BIASED POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT:

In the traditional rural society, politics is regarded as “important role”. The traditional attitudes prevent women from talking an active role in the politics. It is true that men by nature do not encourage their women folk to enter in local politics. But with reservation being made statutory, local people have to support some woman or the other during elections. It has been seen that no woman could contest from general constituency and win because of the dominance. In order to asses women s political participation, one has to look at their involvement in different types of mobilization such as movement and struggles, but their presences not felt in structured decision making institution settings. Even in the structures where women s participation is substantial may not been given position of powers. It has been seen that very few women on their own to contest election. They had been encouraged by these male family members to fight election. The reason is not that they were interested to bring in the mainstream by allowing them to participate in the political process. Rather the reasons are that the seats are already reserved for women and their male counterpart could not contest the elections. Hence they had the advantage of getting women of their families elected.

SUGGESTIONS AND EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY:

1. Empower the women with in hence different kinds of skills for income generation so that they are to able to earn from such activities and become financially empowered.
2. Make arrangements for professional training of rural women so that are able to handle their new role in panchyats. Arrange for study visits of rural women to different areas to perceive for themselves how other women have been empower.
3. The information pertaining to PRIs role of women and other issues connected with panchayat should be easy to access the all women members.
4. Efforts should be made increase the level of education among female so that they Becomes aware their rights
5. To crate healthy enviournment and attitude fir acceptability of women as a leader.

CONCLUSION:

This factor, which inhibits aural women effective participation Panchyat, can be overcome if training and awareness programs are undertaken on priority basis. Women s welfare organization should be formed at District/Block/Panchyat/Village level so as to give women both interest and experience in development activities. This will have a direct impact on the general status of women in rural society and their increasing experience and responsibility may be expected to improve women’s keenness capacity for greater participation in political process .After 73 rd amendment in constitution has provided an opportunity for their former in evolvment in development and political process. Since women are more sincere and dedicated it is hoped that the scenario would change with their participation in panchyats. The empowerment of women is social changed and it is true that social change occurs slowly over a period of time and cannot be brought about suddenly through legislation. It is no doubt very difficult to change values systems and social mores and beliefs in a short span of 30 or 40 years .It has been found that the

rural society is going through transmutation phase and this positive change will give women more power and confidence to get more power.

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