

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN PANCHAYATI RAJ: A PROFILE FROM RAJASTHAN

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Abstract: The study covers women empowerment in Rajasthan and its Panchayat members of the state. As women constitute 50 percent of world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratios whereby female's population has been treated as lower in Indian society. Rajasthan and Haryana are two states in India majorly been in news since so long and still these states are fighting with the situation. Panchayatiraj system introduced through Empowerment of women in India particularly in Rajasthan state. As there are several illiterate women depends on their husband for their basic requirement even. As per Panchayati raj system women will be given equal rights as men, is a biggest victory of village women. Lady name Chhvi Rajawat sarpanch of her village Soda (60 Km from Jaipur city) set an example of women power and status in Rajasthan. In one side where I am talking about Chhvi Rajawat on the second hand there are number of villages in Rajasthan state where we can found zero literacy in women, low sex ratio district like Alwar, Kota, Pali there are several problems of caste, gender discrimination, women illiteracy. To empower women the basic requirement is to give them compulsory education, training and economic freedom. The major this about education is, basic education will certify as literate and empower the confidence in a person but to be in Panchayati System women should politically educated for their-self and society. As by 2009 Indian government has raised reservations for women in all tires of Panchayati Raj system from 33 to at least 50%, which really affects the current scenario of women status in India. In this study the major focus is to find out the real picture of women status in Panchayati raj in Rajasthan State.

Keywords: Panchayati Raj System, Panchayat, Rajasthan State, Women empowerment, Women education.

Introduction and Review of Literatures: In 73rd and 74th Amendments of Indian constitution provide the legal basis for direct democracy at the local level in rural and urban areas of India. The amendments stress the need to bring people belonging to marginalized groups into the political process by reserving the seats for women. Women representation in gram Panchayat is visualized as an impact of over all this amendment only which advocates for one-third to 50 percent of the seats to women members in gram Panchayat. This amendment gives a special right to develop women community in terms of social-economic structure. The constitution of India recognizes the political rights of women and discrimination distinction or qualification, to participate in decision making process at all levels, which gives them individual freedom of taking decisions and their own development.

The state Rajasthan total population is 5.65 crore (2.942 crore men and 2.78 crore women). The literacy rate of Rajasthan is 60.4% as per the census of 2001. The rural population is 76.72 percent. It's not just a story but fact of the state is the profile of women is not as strong as it should be, we can say the development taking time as per women empowerment here. Rajasthan's Panchayati Raj Act was passed on 23/04/1994 pursuant to 73rd Amendment Act 1992 of Indian constitution. This came into effect on April 23, 1994. Certain important amendments were made in 1999, 2000, and 2004 to

make this act stronger and to provide rights to women. Under this legislation, Panchayats at all three levels have been entrusted with duties and functions with regards to all 29 matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule of Indian Constitution.

If we look at the social system women constitute almost 50 percent of the world population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio whereby female's population has been comparatively lower than males. There is a rise of women leaders at grassroots level in Rajasthan villages. The Panchayati Raj department is still collating data to get the precise picture of women's political presence. As per the data of Rajasthan government in 2010, there were 4,829 women Sarpanches in Rajasthan, including 465 on unreserved seats. A 3-4 percent rise is estimated in number of unreserved seats won by women as Sarpanches and ward panchs this time. It's a huge change in a state where women were used to kill in mob only, now there situation of women got change over all. 2015 Panchayat election proofed a lot.

Some Review: Teeja Bai has been elected as ward panch for the third time from Kadaat Panchayat in Sirohi She was offered 5000 to withdraw her candidature, and when that did not work she was threatened. She took it as a challenge and won without spending a single penny on canvassing. Deva Bai, Sarpanch from Kandaja Panchayat, also fought without money or muscle power. She had full support of villagers who promised not to ask for liquor. Her priority is water supply, because she is

pained at the fact that women in the village have to go far to fetch water.

Kamala had lost the election last year but villagers and women self-help groups in Shahbaad of Alwar convinced her to fight again, and she won. Now her mission is to stop irregularities and malpractices at ration shops. Roads and sanitation are next on her list.

Mehraj Khan, a ward Panch from shivdaspora in Jaipur, feels ashamed as there is only one toilet in her area, at the bus stand. Moreover, there is no sewage system; there is no doctor close by. She is committed to improve health and hygiene in her ward.

Uma, elected as Sarpanch from Kumariawaas in Chaksu tehsil, Jaipur had the advantage of her husband being active in village works. The two key candidates for the post of Sarpanch had been fighting and villagers were unhappy over this ugly turn of events. So they found a better candidate in Uma.

Krishna Sharma, Sarpanch of Rajwas Panchayat from Tonk, says "Water is the only thing I need to address now"

Bina Bairwa, from Lalwani Panchayat from the same district highlights another critical issue "Women in my area suffer so much as their men beat them every day.

Basanti Mainat, Sarpanch from Lambabhatada Panchayat in Doongarpur, is chasing the dream of an ideal Panchayat by getting every girl in village in school and putting in place a single-widow system to approve all development work. She like many other women leaders, also find MGNREGA corruption a major concern.

Methodology: This study was conducted in Rajasthan state. The purposive sampling technique was adopted for selection of the sample women status and their work in Blocks and Panchayat's. The tool used for obtaining information was an interview schedule which takes three month to compile the data some personal interviews and some telephonic interviews were conducted during my study. Ms. Shipra Mathur's reseach review by Rajasthan Patrika also helps a lot in data collection. The case study and in-depth interview was also done to validate the quantitative data with qualitative. The secondary data was collected through review of different documents and government sites to verify the actual reports.

The Objective: The main objective of this study is to understand the socio-economic, educational background and other demographic profile of elected women representative in Gram Panchayat's of the study area. This study also focused on women's rights and there actual implementation on ground level.

Results & Discussion:The study is based on the theme on the women empowerment through Gram Panchayat and assessment is done on the basic of socio-economic status, representation in Gram

Panchayat, awareness level, participation in decision and their existing problems.

The research finalize the data as; socio-economic status of women in Rajasthan state- low education status 22 percent illiterate and 51 percent were just primary passed of women elected representatives and marriage 85 percent married. This affects their mental and physical strength and their political career too. But if we look at some positive points which is very important in this study is I noted that four of five means 80 percent of women are in age group of 25 to 55 years and more three-fourth belongs to SC, ST and OBC category, which makes a sense of development in local level. Rajasthan state is more with caste thing like Rajput, Meena Jaat Gurjar, and Rajput community is most dominating community in overall after that ST, SC, OBS are getting good development chance but the major issue is still education only.

Nuclear family culture is on rise in India and here also 71 percent of women elected representatives are living in nuclear families. But the participation of women elected representatives in economic activities is just 49 percent as 51 percent are house wife. If we look at the women Gram Panchayat we are finding a truth 80 percent of women are dependent on their male. There is less number of self-made personalities. So somehow it effects their decision making process too.

With the regard to women's political presence, while the quota has indeed been implemented the presence of SC women was over-proportional. This fact plus the higher prevalence of women from landless families and from households with lower income disproves the supposition that the quota mainly benefits the elites.

The research also reveals that now-days educated young girls don't want to be the candidate at Gram Panchayats. They give more importance to their own works rather that village-works. Taking any jobs outside to village is more enthusiastic for them. Now highly educated women carefully avoid the works of Panchayats. Even some women do not want to join the village political party or any kind of political structure as that seems very odd for them. Education is such a powerful parameter, which is necessary for any value judgment, but if will talk about Rajasthan state the worst we found out about women education.

Conclusion: The result of the study shows that the reservation for women can be an important impetus to women's empowerment in India in village level but it is not the guarantee for participation of elected women. Rajasthan state having a huge number of women participant but another fact is according to population it's still less and the main problem is more of them are illiterate or just basic educated, so

problem is same as it was. The most of women representatives are married and they are uneducated too so all power goes to their husband. Because of illiteracy low self-confidence and low decision making performance are here. Some women representatives are good enough to deal with

situation but they are less in number as I said some. On the basis of the present study it cannot be stated that women are categorically empowered but also it cannot be denied that they have gained a certain extent of authority and confidence as a direct outcome of women reservation in Gram Panchayat.

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