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CHANGING SOCIO- ECONOMIC OF POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF WOMEN IN PATNA METROPOLIS

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ABSTRACT:

Bihar has been economically backward state from very long period. Most of its inhabitants specially belonging to backward deprived, suppressed and poor sections of people have been suffering. Even today no much ice has been cut in regard to emancipate from poverty and scarcity. Among them the socio-economic conditions of remain in Bihar are more pathetic and lamentable. This political consciousness is not appreciable. Most of them who are illiterate and uneducated do not have sound. Knowledge about democracy and political activities. No doubt the Government of Bihar has adopted various measures and steps to enable them to participate in politics. However lack of political consciousness has not provided yet for them to be benefited the measures which have been launched for women for their growth of consciousness and political participation. It is satisfactory to most that the women of Bihar after India's independence have come ahead to join politics and participate the other activities. So far as the case of Patna district is concern the women of this district are more conscious and active because of their nearness to Patna which is the capital of the province.



KEYWORDS: backward deprived, suppressed and poor sections.

INTRODUCTION :

Patna is a liner city which has grown on either side of a main road (Asoka Raj path) running east to west on a ridge, almost parallel to the bank of the river Ganga. Along its length the city now measures about 14 miles and along its breadth about four or five miles which the river Ganga always formed a natural barrier for expansion towards the north any possible south waste expansion was greatly

restricted because of the southern areas being liable to floods by rivers Poonpoo and Ganga. It is fact that I analyse the socio-economic conditions of urban people residing in the different parts of Patna metropolis.¹ So far as man and women belonging to reside in almost all wards of Patna municipal corporation. The socio-economic conditions of people differed. In spite of difference in their socio-economic conditions, it may well be pointed out that their socio-economic conditions must have effectuated their political

awareness in an election or political situation their extent of involvement in political activities their extent of political socialization and their extent or political modernizations. Before analyzing the socio-economic conditions of the respondents ¹, attempt has been made to present brief account of Patna town. The city, today, can be divided into three district zones according to their functions and physical characteristics. The eastern most zone which is the old city and the ancient capital is full of derelict

buildings headed along narrow lanes and by lanes with obsolescence and insanitary conditions rampant.² The zone, contains one of the biggest centers of whole sale trade at Marufganj and Manserovganj and also one of the sacred places of Sikhs in India. The Harmandir, where Guru Govind Singh (the tenth Guru of the Sikhs) was born in 1666 contiguous to this zone and towards it west is middle zone or the centre city covering the area roughly between the Paschim Darwaja in the east and the Patna Ganga road (now Budh marg) in the west. This zone which can be called the business and commercial core of the city, also houses the bulk of the institutional, cultural and district administration buildings. It is the most over crowded zone of the city and offers striking contrast within itself between the group of fine buildings around Gandhi maidan (old race course), the various institutional and cultural buildings mostly lined along the north of the Asoka Raj path and the extremely congested and dense area of Mahendru, Lalbag, Langertoli, Sabzibag and Bakerganj containing obsolete and insanitary dwellings which could be classified as slums. And finally, the western zone which is the new capital area, differs significantly from the other two zones in its monumental buildings and well laid out ring and radial road pattern, highlighted by a 200 ft wide avenue with the secretariat and Raj Bhawan forming its terminal features. A Part from the offices buildings, a considerable amount of private developments have also taken place in this zone during the past few years in this areas of Mithapur, Yarpur, Punaichak etc, but due to absence of proper plan for such expansion, these developments have taken place in a hazard manner.

The Weston zone compromise of five wards and a new housing Colony named Patliputra Colony, the Central zone, of sixteen wards (Nos.1-16) and the eastern zone or remaining 16 wards (No 17-32). The western zone has 37-38 percent of the total urban area and 23.61 percent of the total population, the Central zone, 27.06 percent of total area and 43.82 percent of the population and the eastern zone 34.57 percent of the area and 35.37 percent of the population.³ During the period 1951-61 which was fairly free from large scale natural climates, the city's populations increased by 43.10 percent. The rate of increase during the period 1961-71, somewhat less as compared to that of the previous decade, the total increase during the period being 23.00 percent only. The fastest decennial growth so far took place during the decade 1971-81, when the population increased by 44.32 percent. In this period, death due to natural calamities was perhaps at its lowest and the pace of industrial and the commercial activities were accelerated in the first half of the century.

So far as, miles and miles of roads have grown into shopping streets. Vast residential areas improperly located in relation to each other and also in relation to centres of employment and trade have grown mostly without proper plan or even provision of the basic civil amenities. Industries of all types have grown to small pockets in thickly build up areas. Acute housing shortage and rising rental have been instrumental in promoting the generation of large areas into slums. Continuous drift of the major employment centres from the eastern part of the city towards the west has caused large scale obsolescence in the former. Due to shortage of land all types of open spaces in the city have been continuously built upon. Yet the city continues to grow, though under very stringent limitations.

Patna is a glorious city and capital of Bihar, Patna city, as a commercial and political centre, can appropriately be called as transitional city which shares the characteristics of both an industrial and traditional city, though not in absolute sense. Education has always been an instrument of enlightenment. As Plato told like that "Education is an attempt to cure mental melody by mental medicine." Political consciousness indicates the interest of the women in political matters their knowledge and awareness of political events inside and outside the country. Women in Bihar suffers from a very low literacy ratio and acute economic backwardness. The hold of traditions and feudal values is very strong on the lives of Bihari women. The socio-economic and political structure in this Bihar is also in the domination of these values. In this research paper I will try to examine the political consciousness of women with special reference to Patna. Political awareness is directly related to education and education leads to development. So, political consciousness is one of the major components in the empowerment of women. So the powerful surge of humanism, liberalism and humanitarianism did not have India

untouched. The social change can be perceived in two phases of development – social reform and political independence.

This transition can be observed more or less everywhere and it is quite cultural and political life.⁴ As a result of this one can witness the simultaneous existence of various processes which are contradictory to rather than concomitant of each other. These process are (I) Persistence of traditional forms (II) revision on or modification of traditional forms (III) disappearance of traditional forms, and (IV) the emergence of new structures reshaping of traditional forms in varied cultural sellings viz, economic, political, familial, religious and so on is apparently taking place, though slowly, in order to accord with needs of the emerging industrial urban system. The spatial distribution as well as the forms of ethnic distribution appears to be, more or less, similar to those of traditional and religious cities like Gaya, except the fact business class continues to occupy the centre (Muradpur, Thakurbari road, Sabzibag, Kanker bag etc.) and the political elite prefers to reside in commuters zone (Rajendra Nagar, Shri Krishna puri, Boring road or in the pripher (patliputra colony, Gardanibag, Kankerbag etc. In so far as the political areas of the city is concerned, castes continue to serve as special in the rest group in the metro political politics which has its implieation of both regional and national lovers. Not with standing these attributes, the social structure of the city and political disposition of its inhabitants apparently revolves more around commercial as well as industrial form than around what is known as a traditionally sacred comply. Politics will continue to the strongly affected by the business class and the nature of political orientation varied from one urban sector to the other.

Keeping into consideration the above mentioned facts attempt has been made to the analyse the socio-economic conditions of the respondents i.e. selected urban people who have been interviewed. Political behavior of males would have differed from of the political behavior of female in a political situation, like the level of political awareness possessed by male residing in different part of Patna town would have differed from the political awareness level of females. It may also be inferred in the light of the generalization made by B.K. Kuppaswamy in his work⁵ that makes are politically more socialized than females that the level of political section of urban males would have differed from the level of politicalisation of urban females. Orientations towards political modernization of urban males would have differed from the political modernization of urban females. So the urban people having sound socio-economic condition realized the importance of family planning and adopted its measures. But urban people lacking sound socio-economic conditions evaded in adopting family planning measures. Urban people of Patna having socio-economic conditions and their consciousness make efforts to become member of social institution. In this study we will try to examine the socio-economic condition and political consciousness of people in Patna town.

1. Respondents here indicate selected people who have been interviewed with the help of schedule
2. N. Kumar, Patna, 1973, p. 12.
3. Bihar through Figures, 1982, Government of Bihar Publication, Patna, pp, 240-244.
4. N. Kumar, op.cit., p. 84.
5. B. Kuppaswamy, Social change in India, 1986, p.119.