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POLITICAL AWARENESS OF THE DALIT COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE IN BELAGAVI DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

Dr. Prakash S. Kattimani

Assistant professor, Dept. of Political Science,
Rani Channamma University, Belagavi, Karnataka.

ABSTRACT:

People's participation in local government and developmental process has been one of the central themes in present democratic political discourse. Their participation in developmental process has contributed towards socio-economic changes and political upliftment. Elected Schedule Caste 1105 members and scheduled Tribes 912. For the project work 10 elected members from each talukas from Belagavi district. 14 talukas considered for collection the data from 140 samples. Descriptive and explorative research design for undertake the project on Political Awareness of the Dalit Community and Participation in Local Decentralized Governance in Belagavi Distract. It has been considered that people's participation in developmental processes has not only led to individual's development but also contributed to the development of a given society as a whole. Though people have not been able to actively participate in all forms of developmental process the Panchayati raj institutions has never less contributed in engendering democracy.



KEYWORDS: Dalits, Political Participation, Reviews.

INTRODUCTION

The democratization in Indian government system is stances on the edges of local self-governance. It intends involvement and participation of people at every level. Such an architecture of government system termed as by the people, of the people and for the people and it undergoes devolution of powers, responsibilities and functions thus forming a largest democracy ubiquitously. Indian society virtually the higher echelons of power are dominated by the upper castes. Despite the prominence of a few Dalits who have gained high political positions in our country, the political status of Dalits has changed much less than what the individual successes show. All over the world under-privileged sections, whether they are racial and ethnic minorities or low castes and classes, are organizing themselves to fight against inequalities, discrimination and deprivation. They often violently agitate for their legitimate share in economic opportunities, educational privileges and political power. Widespread collective mobilization centered on such interests has led to organized social movements with defined ideologies and leadership, which have brought significant structural and organizational changes in the societies from where they originate.

Dalit, meaning "divided" in South Asia, is the self-chosen political name of castes in India which are "untouchable". Though the name Dalit has been in existence since the nineteenth century, the economist and reformer B. R. Ambedkar (1891–1956) popularised the term. Dalits were excluded from the four-fold Varna system and formed the unmentioned fifth varna; they were also called Panchama. In post-colonial India, the Untouchable class were often referred to as "The Persians of India."

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF DALITS :

Participation in processes of public decision-making. For a more general discussion of participation in decision processes, and reference to other contexts in which participation is of (growing) relevance to dalits. Political participation simply means that a person is participating in the political process by making his or her opinions and beliefs known. In the social sciences, the term 'political participation' is often used to describe an action taken by a citizen to influence the outcome of a political issue. There are about 250 million Dalits in India. There is one million Dalit and women entered Panchayats after 73rd constitutional Amendment Act (Palanithurai, 2005). In Karnataka, Panchayatraj was enacted in the year of 1993. These were also supplemented by the Karnataka Panchayats (Reservation of Seats and Rotation of Reserved Seat) Rules, 1995. Reservation of seats by adopting a list of wards and Panchayats arranged in the descending arrange of the percentage of women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribes and affecting the cut off at an end where the number of reserve seats and offices is equal to the prescribed ratio.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER:

1. To create awareness on political reservations and identify the status of dalit people in regard to participation in local self government.
2. To sustain a culture of cooperative living for inclusive and rapid development of dalits.
3. To recommend suggestions based on the findings of the project.

REVIEWS:

The following work in this area attempt to show the peoples' participation so called democratic people's participation

Manor (2004) points out, "reforms can make government more open, responsive and accountable and can increase its legitimacy and popularity, even when conditions are difficult.

Andy Inglis and Ced Hesse (2002)The involvement of self appointed activities and local opinion of leaders, community participation development of participatory planning process need to be encouraged.

Kaushik Asha (1998) The discussion made supra gives a positive impression and slightly so, the decentralization in politico-administration arena bringing positive results and peoples' participation in decision-making and its processes are ensured by decentralization.

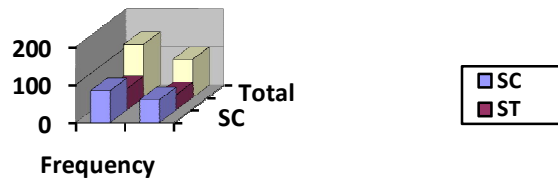
Sivanna (1997) "finds many operational constraints which come in the way of meaningful planning process. Added to this is the inter-relationship between the officials and the non-officials, which was seen as one of 'love-hate' relationships. To him Gram Sabha is a mechanism people could participate as beneficiaries of the programs and there is need for the decentralization process to be strengthened by further devolving necessary powers and resources to the panchayats.

METHODOLOGY:

Methodology is the systematic, theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field of study or the theoretical analysis of the body of methods and principles associated with a branch of knowledge. Elected Schedule Caste 1105 members and scheduled Tribes 912. For the project work 10 elected members from each talukas from Belagavi district. 14 talukas considered for collection the data from 140 samples. Descriptive and explorative research design for undertake the project on Political Awareness of the Dalit Community and Participation in Local Decentralized Governance in Belagavi District.

FINDINGS:

CHART NO 1: Caste Wise distribution



The above chart shows that caste Wise distribution of the respondents. 60 percentage of the respondents are belongs to the scheduled caste and 40 percentage of the respondents are scheduled tribe. The reservation for scheduled caste is more than scheduled tribes, therefore scheduled caste people participation in local government in decision making.

Table No 01: Knowledge of about 73rd constitutional amendment act

Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	97	69
No	43	31
Total	140	100

The above table a shows that Knowledge of about 73rd constitutional amendment act among the respondents. 69 percentage of the respondents said understood partially by others and self, 31 percentage of the respondents said don't understood Knowledge of about 73rd constitutional amendment act.

Table No 02: Opinions on attend panchayat meeting or gram sabha

Opinions	Frequency	Percentage
Regularly	42	30
Occasionally	36	26
Sometime	58	41
Never speak.	4	3
Total	140	100

The above table shows that opinion regarding attend panchayat meeting or gram sabha among the respondents. 30 percentage of the respondents are regularly participation in panchayat meeting and gram sabha, 26 percentage of the respondents are occasionally participation in panchayat meeting and gram sabha, 41 percentage of the respondents are sometime participation in panchayat meeting and gram sabha, and 3 percentage of the respondents are never speak about the participation in panchayat meeting and gram sabha. By the study come to know that 41 percentage of the respondents are sometime participated in between their personal work. In the study recommended for effective participation in term of the dalit development.

Table No 03: participate in decision making system

Decision Making	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	112	80
No	28	20
Total	140	100

The above table shows that participate in decision making system. 80 percentage of the respondents said that yes in regarding participate in decision making system in local government in

rural life. 20 percentage of the respondents said that no in their opinions in regarding participate in decision making system in local government in rural life.

DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS:

After independence, the new Congress-led government invited Dr. Ambedkar to serve as the nation's first Law Minister, which he accepted. On August 29, 1947, Dr. Ambedkar was appointed chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee, charged by the Assembly to write free India's new Constitution. The text prepared by Dr. Ambedkar provided constitutional guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties for individual citizens, including freedom of religion, the abolition of untouchability and the outlawing of all forms of discrimination. He argued for extensive economic and social rights for Dalits. The study makes an attempt to examine to what extent affirmative action has helped the dalit community to get politically empowered. It attempts to explore the extent to which the Act has succeeded in pursuing the agenda of equal rights for dalit community and concern for recognition of dalit community as equal to others in local administration. It examines the various dimensions of 'Political Empowerment of Dalit community through GPs on the basis of empirical investigations in the Belagavi District of Karnataka state in India. In fact, this study is an attempt to ascertain whether Dalit community has been taking place in these particular districts by analyzing their political participation in the PRIs.

CONCLUSION:

It is a fact that Peoples' participation plays a crucial role for the development of any village. During field study on local-self Government and people's participation, it was found that the nature of peoples' participation are different in the local governments. The successful development of any village is depends upon how people participate in planning, decision-making and implementation of various schemes of the center and state Government and also how people participate in their respective village. Peoples' participation makes an affirmative part to organization and development efforts through the input of different ideas and knowledge in the given society. But the people do not want to actively involved in local Governmental activities and are not serious about the governmental policies and schemes.

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