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“ELECTORAL POLITICS AT GRASS ROOT LEVEL IN DISTRICT KINNAUR: ASSESSING THE EMERGING LEADERSHIP PATTERNS”

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ABSTRACT:

The main objective of the paper is to investigate the Electoral Politics at Grass Root Level in District Kinnaur and Assessing the Emerging Leadership Patterns. The study specially investigates assessing the emerging leadership Patterns in tribal politics in district Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh before and after 73rd Constitutional Amendment. The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 came into force w.e.f. 23rd April, 1994. As per provisions of the Constitution and the State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, the three tier Panchayati Raj System was established in the State. Like all districts in Himachal Pradesh, the elections of PRIs in district Kinnaur have some points of difference upto the year 1972. The Panchayat Members i.e. Sarpanch and Panch used to be elected by voters by raising the hands. In Pre-amendment era the State Government could not hold Panchayat elections periodically. After 1995 when Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 came into operation the Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions were elected by the Gram Sabha. In post-amendment era it is mandatory to hold elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions in a period of every five years and bye elections after six months if seats are vacant. The voting turnout in Panchayati Raj Institutions elections in Himachal Pradesh on an average has been higher than in Vidhan Sabha and Parliamentary elections. Approximately, 85 to 90 percent voters exercise their franchise. It was found that the overall percentage of female voters in PRIs were higher in District Kinnaur. Literacy percentage in district has increased from 31.96 percent in 1971 to 80.77 percent in 2011. The literacy rate in District Kinnaur is higher than the nation average. Majority of leaders belonged to the age group between 21-30 and 30-40 years. This tendency was noticed in the PRIs Election in 2015. The spread of education, family planning and modern facilities are also a major contributing factor to the demise of polyandrous marriages. Migrated employees in hydro power projects, tourism, culture, globalization and climate change played very important role in these PRIs elections.

KEYWORDS: Emerging patterns, Tribal Politics, Panchayati Raj Institutions.

INTRODUCTION

India is a land of villages and her economy is mainly rural. The village is an important unit in the organization of Indian social life. More than seventy percent population still lives in the villages. The concern of the government for the life, liberty and prosperity of the rural people, soon after independence, was reflected in various measures adopted by the government to better their lot. Panchayats have been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning of the recorded history. As a matter of fact, the prominent leaders of freedom struggle such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Jai Prakash Narayan had already indicated that the major task of rural masses in independent India is to take democracy to the grass-root level and to involve the

rural masses in the task of national re-construction. Gandhi, for example, advocated that, "True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village." Democracy is rooted in the Indian villages through Panchayati Raj. People of rural areas have been given an opportunity to implement the grass roots planning as desired by them through their elected representatives. The task of selecting the leaders is in their hands now. The rural masses are involved in the rural re-construction work. Their participation has been ensured through 73rd Constitutional Amendment. All the sections of society are involved in the democratic process.

Panchayati Raj System in Himachal Pradesh was established in the year 1954 under the provisions of Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1952. Only 280 Gram Panchayats existed prior to the enactment of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1952. Then, Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1968 was enacted which came into force w.e.f. 15th November, 1970 and the two tiers Panchayati Raj System was established throughout the State. Besides this the Nyaya Panchayats were also in existence in the State for discharging judicial functions. But during the year 1977, the Nyaya Panchayats were abolished and the judicial functions were transferred to the Gram Panchayats. With a view to bring law relating to the Panchayats in conformity with the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1968 was repealed and the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 was enacted which came into operation w.e.f. 23rd April, 1994. As per the provisions of the Constitution and the State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, the three tier Panchayati Raj System was established in the State. The main focus of this empirical research paper is to examine the Electoral Politics at Grass Root level in district Kinnaur and Assessing the Emerging Leadership Patterns. An analysis has been made to present a description of different issues and patterns of Leadership and other factors of the PRIs elections before and after 73rd Constitution Amendment are based on personal interviews with 480 respondents i.e. Kalpa, Pooh and Nichar Subdivision Blocks in District.

Table 1
Universe and Sample size for the study

GP,PS,ZP	Total	Selected	Sample	Composition
Gram Panchayat	65	30	245	Panchayat Pradhan, Up-Pradhan and Ward Members.
Panchayat Samiti	3	3	45	Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Ward members
Zila Parishad	1	1	10	Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Ward members.
General Public	30	6	180	Six from each Selected Panchayats.

Source: Primary Probe.

Map of Surveyed Panchayats in Study Area

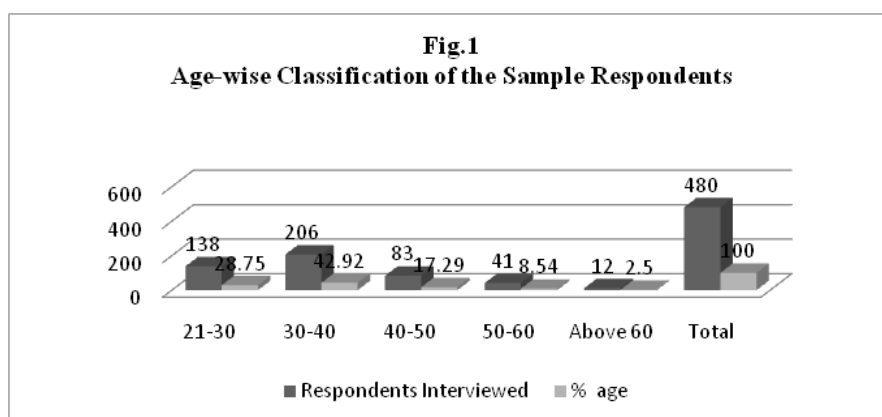


Distribution plan of sample respondents based on age- wise classification has been shown in Table 1 and figure 1.

Table 1
Age-wise Classification of the Sample Respondents

Age Group (Years)	Respondent Interviewed	%age
21-30	138	28.75
30-40	206	42.92
40-50	83	17.29
50-60	41	8.54
Above 60	12	2.50
Total	480	100.00

Sources: primary Probe.



The Table 1 shows that 480 respondents were interviewed out of which 138 (28.75%) respondents were in the age group of '21-30 years', 206 (42.92%) were in the age group of '30-40 years', 83 (17.29%) in the age group of '40-50 years', 41 (8.54%) respondents belonged to the age group of '50-60 years' and 12 (2.50%) respondents were in the age group of 'above 60 years'. The Fig.2 graphically shows the number and percentage of respondents of different age groups.

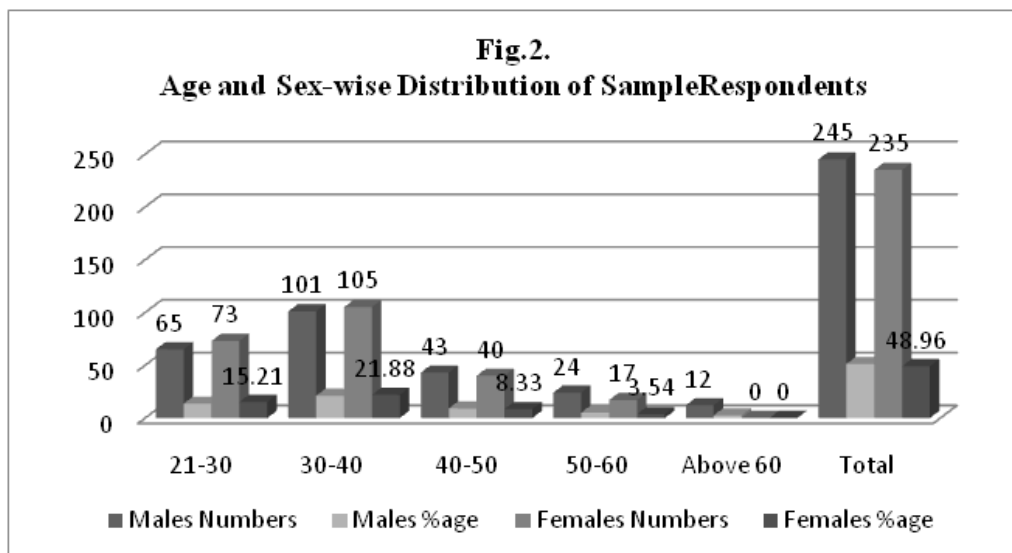
The data available for analysis is the outcome of 300 respondents of PRIs and 180 from General Public. The earlier strong hold of elder leaders in the PRIs has been eroded by the leadership of relatively young generation and especially women started getting recognition in government bodies. This picture is clear from the following Table 5.2 showing the age-wise and sex-wise distribution of sample respondents.

Distribution plan of sample respondents based on Age and Sex- wise classification has been shown in Table 2 and figure 2.

Table 2
Age and Sex-wise Distribution of Sample Respondents

Age (Years)	Males		Females	
	Numbers	%age	Numbers	%age
21-30	65	13.54	73	15.21
30-40	101	21.04	105	21.88
40-50	43	8.96	40	8.33
50-60	24	5.00	17	3.54
Above 60	12	2.50	0	0.00
Total	245	51.04	235	48.96

Sources: primary Probe.



The above Table 2 shows that out of the 480 sample respondents, 245 (51.04%) respondents were males and 235 (48.96%) respondents were females. Of the total 65 (13.54%) males and 78 (15.21%) females respondents were in the age group of '21-30 years', 101 (21.04%) males and 105 (21.88%) females were in the age group of '30-40 years', 43 (8.96%) males and 40 (8.33%) females were in age group '40-50 years', 24 (5%) males and 17 (3.54%) females were in the age group of '50-60 years' and 12 (2.50%) males respondents were in the age group of 'above 60 years', and interestingly there were no female respondents in this age group. The comparative analysis of the age-wise data in district Kinnaur reveals that the number of female respondents was more than males.

ASSESSING THE EMERGING LEADERSHIP PATTERNS

The present study thus is an attempt to evaluate the Electoral Politics at Grass Root Level in District Kinnaur and Assessing the Emerging Leadership Patterns and of the PRIs elections. According to the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, the following analysis has been made to present a description of different issues and patterns of leadership before and after 73rd Constitutional Amendment:

Leadership in Panchayat Elections: The leadership of PRIs mainly belongs to the relatively young strata. The earlier strong hold of elder leaders in the PRIs has been eroded to a greater extent. It is evident that during the period of field study when the age of PRIs leaders in the three development blocks was recorded, it appears that the participation and involvement of young leaders have increased to greater extent due to education and awareness at three levels. The majority of leaders participated in Panchayati Raj Institution's election belonged to the age group between 21-30 and 30-40 years. This tendency was noticed in the PRIs Election 2015. It indicates that people from all the age group, especially, '30-40 Years', participated in the process of democratic decentralization in District Kinnaur. The analysis of educational status of sample respondents reveals that the concentration of respondents was found between Middle and Matriculation level. It indicated that people with higher educational standard had showed their indifference and did not participate in Panchayati Raj Institution's elections. The index of their political empowerment can be judged from the single fact that most of the time their representatives have been part of either the council of Ministers or held equally influential offices of Speaker/Deputy Speaker of H.P. Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary/ Administrative Secretaries, Director General of Police/ Superintendent of Police and Himachal Pradesh Administrative Services. At present the M.L.A. of Kinnaur Legislative Constituency is holding the office of Deputy Speaker in HP. Vidhan Sabha.

Role of Lama in Panchayat Elections (Buddhist Monks): There are three sub-divisions in district Kinnaur viz. Pooh, Kalpa and Nichar. Lamaism has a very significant impact in society of district Kinnaur. Lama (Buddhist

Monks) plays very important role in social, cultural and political matters. Before pre-amendment era of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Lamas used to play crucial role in those elections. During the field study it is found that there was strong holding of Lamaism in Pooch and Kalpa Block. Whereas, there was no strong hold of Lamaism in Nichar Block in the Panchayat elections. But in post-amendment era, the role of Lamas is decreasing day by day. The role of Lamas on three points scale i.e. very important role, no role and no opinion, we find that 150 respondents (31.25%) agreed to the point that Lamas have played very important role in the Panchayat elections. On the other hand 302 respondents (62.92%) denied the role of Lamas and 28 respondents (5.83%) held no opinion on either side. During the field survey it was observed that the respondents were using their franchise on their own choice. After post-amendment era, the role of Lamas in PRIs elections has minimized to a good extent as a decline of 18.75% has been registered.

Role of Village Deity in Panchayat Elections: District Kinnaur is known as the land of village Deity (Dev Bhumi). According to the census 2011 district Kinnaur has 282 villages and every village have its own village deity. The village deity plays the role of physician, master and judge in the village. Their authority is considered supreme in various village matters. The village people perform their duty according to the direction and order of village deity. In these elections village deity played crucial role. Before contesting election candidates used to toss before the village deities. If toss favored of them, only then candidates willing to contest elections used to file nomination paper for the particular post. The people also cast their votes to the candidate who won the toss before deity and do not contest election against winner of the toss. Now the time has changed and no more coin tossing takes place. People believe that village deity has no role in democratic system. Village deity is the symbol of spirituality only. The current study establishes that there has been a slight decline in the role of village deities. Only 50% respondents believed that village deity has any role to play in PRIs elections. So a decline of 10% can be noticed in the pre-amendment and post-amendment era.

Role of Village Head in Panchayat Elections: In the rural society village head (popularly known as Mukhiya or Lambardar) has great importance. In district Kinnaur every village has its own village head known either Lambardar or Mukhiya. Before casting vote people tried to know the views of their village head about the candidates and after that they used their franchise. The Data reveals that in these elections village heads have played crucial role almost in all the elections. During the field survey, it was observed that before 73rd Constitutional Amendment voters were pressurized by the village head to cast their votes to their choice candidates and after that they use their franchise. But now time has changed. 280 respondents (58.33%) opined that they used franchise on their own choice. After post-amendment era the role of village head in PRIs elections has minimized to a good extent as a decline of 25% has been registered.

Role of Family Head in Panchayat Election: In district Kinnaur joint family system is still in vogue. In joint family system family's head controls the family. Every work is being done as ordered by the family head. Although, men and women have equal rights in District Kinnaur, though man plays the role of family head. So the family members used to cast their votes according to the suggestions of the family head. The data in the above analysis reveals that majority of respondents favoured that the role of family head was very important in these Panchayat elections. He played very active role in the victory of the candidate. All the family members cast vote according to the choice of family head. During the field survey, it was observed that before 73rd constitutional Amendment sample respondents said that family members exercised their franchise according to the choice of their family head. But now time has changed. 250 respondents (52.08%) said that they exercised franchise on their own choice. So a decline of 16.67% can be noticed in the pre-amendment and post-amendment era.

Role of Elite Group in Panchayat Elections: Due to the lack of political awareness and low literacy rate the elite group (social, economic and political senior influential people) constitutes a small number in this district. However, this group had played active role in these elections. The people used to cast their votes according to the choice of this group. In these Panchayat elections elite group have played very important role. Village people

respect this group and favoured their views in support of their candidate. In the pre-amendment era elite group played very active role in Panchayat elections. During the field survey it was found that the elite group now plays insignificant role in the PRIs elections as a decline of 18.75% has been registered in the pre-amendment and post-amendment era.

Role of Political Party: In democracy political parties are indispensable. Political parties are playing key role in the democracy of the world. These are one of the major developments of 20th century. Now, the study of politics is the study of political parties. The development of political parties and their role are determinate of the stability of governmental set-up. Therefore, political parties are regarded as a life line of the modern politics. Political parties can be called the backbone of political system. Modern democratic system cannot work effectively in the absence of political parties. Lord Bryce has rightly said the political parties are the life blood of the democracy. Without political parties a democratic system is like a vehicle which has no wheels. They are groups organized for the purpose of achieving and exercising power within a political system. The term political party has since come to be applied to all organized group seeking political powers, whether democratic or by revolution. A political party in the most general sense of the word is body of persons who are united in opinion, as distinguished from or opposed to the rest of the community or association. A group attempts to bring about the election on its candidates to public office, and by this means to control or influence the action of the government. These are incrementing of democratic or republic regimes in which the chief governmental official is chosen by election. According to HPPR Act, 1994 the state election commission shall not allot any contesting candidate any symbol of recognized political parties. Although political leaders advocate that there should be no party politics in PRIs, but elections of PRIs were held in different political issues and patterns. Political leaders are irresistible and get involved. Moreover, elections to these bodies are held by and large on political considerations. In H.P. only municipal committees and municipal corporation's elections were held in political party lines. Otherwise, election to Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Panchayats and Nagar Panchayats were held on non-party basis in December, 2015 Panchayat poll. Although, elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Himachal Pradesh are not held on the basis of political parties but the political parties have been playing very active role. During the field survey it was found that majority of respondents have admitted that the political parties are playing an important role in the Panchayat elections.

Role of Government Employees in Panchayat Elections: The government employees had played active role in the Panchayat elections. They motivated the voters through thick and thin in their favour and due to the lack of political awareness, people used franchise according to the choice of government employees. The data in the above analysis reveals that the majority of respondents, i.e. 62.50% admitted the important role of government employees in Panchayat elections. The government employees played very active role in the election under reference. Majority of the respondents did not favour the role of government employees in Panchayat elections. During the field survey, it was observed that 62.50% respondents did not favour the role of government employees in these elections. In pre-amendment era the role of government employees was 62.50 % which has now witnessed a decline of 31% in pre and post-amendment era.

Role of Women in PRIs: The role of women was like sleeping partner. Hence women did not play an active role in Panchayat elections in that era. Ever since the advent of women's suffrage, women activities are considered with increasing their participation in political life. Women all over the world now vote in near equal participation to men, but they nowhere serve in equal number in political life. Over the years, more women have exercised their right to vote and choose the government of their choice for the governance. In the current elections, female voter's turnout was more than the male counterparts. It is significant indicator to judge the women awareness and desire to be a part of decision making process. However, number of women candidates is abysmally low. Accordingly, Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 2005 has been amended to give way for 50% reservation to women in PRIs. The pattern of traditional leadership in the grass root institutions have changed considerably. Earlier, there was monopoly of male members in the PRIs. Since the very concept of Panchayati Raj was based

upon the Panch Parameshwar only the aged male people were at the helms of affairs. Before 73rd Constitutional Amendment women joined PRIs in many States only as co-opted members. In rural areas when a woman entered into politics, she was considered as an exception. But after 73rd Constitutional amendment, the provision of 33% reservation for women was made in the three tier of PRIs. One of the remarkable features of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act of 2005 is that women were given 50% representation at three tiers of PRIs. Resultantly, women have come to occupy more than 50% seats in all the three level of PRIs. In our study the number of women exceed in Gram Panchayat as compare to Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti. The fact shows that the women captured more seats beyond their due share in the elections of PRIs held in December, 2015. It was found that the overall voting percentage of females in Panchayati Raj Election was higher in District Kinnaur as compare to other district of the State. Now women have become politically more powerful and their educational standard is rising day by day. During the field survey researcher observed that 44.79% respondents agreed to the fact that women are playing vital role in PRIs elections.

Role of Different Organizations in Panchayat Elections: There are different organizations such as weavers (Takchya), shepherds (Palas) and horticulturists/agriculturists (Jimidaras) in the tribal district of Kinnaur in H.P. Weavers are technically skilled while other two organizations are financially sound. The different organizations had strong holding in rural masses in pre-amendment era. So they used to play active role in Panchayat elections. The majority of the respondents i.e. 66.67% expressed that these organizations were part and parcel of these elections. But after 73rd Constitutional Amendment though the strong holdings of different organizations in the rural masses have still continued yet a decline of 14% can be seen. During field survey researcher observed that 41.67% respondents were of the opinion that these organizations do not have active role in these elections.

Role of Charismatic leadership in Panchayat Elections: Like all districts in Himachal Pradesh, the Panchayat elections are not held on party symbol in Kinnaur district also. However, the political leaders left no stone unturned in bringing the full majority of their own choice and they canvassed for this during Panchayat elections. Late Mr. Thakur Sen Negi, Late Shri Dev Raj Negi and Dr. Gopi Chand Negi had been charismatic leaders of District Kinnaur. Mr. Jagat Singh Negi, Mr. Tejwant Singh Negi has been charismatic young leaders and people had full confidence in them. Being devoted to their popular leaders, people used to elect the leader of their choice. It is clear that the charismatic leadership plays a significant role in these elections. The majority of the respondents (i.e. 52.08%) expressed that they used franchise according to the choice of their popular leaders. In Post-amendment era 50% of the respondents expressed that the people used franchise according to the choice of their popular leaders. No huge variation in pre-amendment era and post-amendment era has been registered.

Role of Money in Panchayat Elections: In Pre-amendment era established that the role of money in influencing the behaviour of respondents was less. Majority of them (58.33%) have denied the role of money in these elections. The different respondents i.e. 37.50% are of the opinion that money plays an important role to fight and win the Panchayat elections. In the pre-amendment era, money had played least role in Panchayat elections. But in post-amendment era money it has played very active role in these elections. Majority of the respondents i.e. 58.33% claimed that money plays important role to fight and win the Panchayat Raj Institutions elections. So an increase of 20.58% in the role of money is registered. This makes a major trend in the current PRIs elections.

Role of Muscle Power in Panchayat Elections: In order to know about the role of muscle power in Panchayat elections, majority of the respondents rejected the use of muscle power. In these elections muscle power has played least role. Only 31.25% respondents believed that the muscle power played vital role in Panchayat elections. After 73rd Constitution Amendment, it was mandatory to the States to hold election after every 5 years in general and after six months if seats fall vacant. In the above data researcher found that role of muscle power has been increasing day-by-day. 40.63% respondents accepted that in some parts of study area, muscle power was used during these elections. This indicates a major trend in the current PRIs politics in the district of Kinnaur.

Role of Caste Composition in Panchayat Elections: There is a wide spread feeling, though not unfounded, that in determining rural leadership, caste plays an important role and it is generally persons of higher castes who rise to leadership positions. This is a generalization in regard to rural leadership as a whole. But the focus of the present study is on the leadership role at Panchayat level only. It is, therefore, essential to find out as to what extent caste plays its role in determining leadership in Panchayati Raj Institutions. In HP caste is still most important variable in voting behavior in all types of elections including that of the Panchayati Raj. When informally, this issue was discussed with different shades of people, it was a general feeling that for the purpose of electoral victory of a candidate caste was to be counted as a unit. This naturally made possible for politically active and numerically strong castes to have more or less representation in proportion on PRIs. The percentage of Scheduled Tribe category was highest followed by Scheduled Caste respondents. This trend was followed in all three tiers of PRIs. Only 8.22% representatives of S.Cs category was elected due to reservation of seats to them in the grass root institutions. It is evident that the percentage of S.Cs is still very low which is due to less population of these groups. There are two dimension castes in district Kinnaur i.e. upper caste (Kanait) and lower caste (Koli, Blacksmith, Goldsmith, Carpenter) etc. It is clear that in pre-amendment era caste factor played major role. Lower castes were not given key post. Key post was meant for the higher caste. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act provides reservation for the women and Scheduled Caste enabling them to hold the Key Post in the PRIs. During the field survey researcher observed that 50% of respondents expressed that caste factor played active role in these elections. No huge variation in pre and post amendment era has been registered.

Role of Malpractice in Panchayat Elections: In order to know about the role of malpractice in pre-amendment era, mal-practices were prevalent during Panchayat elections and liquor, cigarette, meat, biddies and gift etc. were offered in term of votes. The majority of respondents (60%) accepted that the malpractice played an important role in the Panchayat elections, and (35.83%) respondents rejected that malpractice during Panchayat elections. In post amendment era, new trend of gift-giving has been noticed besides malpractices and hard cash. The gift items (e.g. transistors, CD players, cell phone, LCDs, watches, Washing Machine, Umbrellas etc.) are distributed to the voters to earn their favour.

Role of Mass Media in Panchayat Elections: A better exposure and access to mass media such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television and internet is expected to raise awareness level among people regarding various developmental programmes and such other aspects which are very vital for their mobility and growth. It is a matter of great concern that tribal people do not have much exposure to the mass media. It is clear that during these elections, radio was the only source of news. It has been observed that only 20% of respondents were having radio. The majority of respondents i.e. 65% were not having even radio in the study area. Access to newspapers and magazines is extremely low. The mass media played least role in Panchayat elections during the years taken up for the study. When we compare the data in the above analysis it reveals that in pre-amendment era mass media has least role in those elections. In post-amendment era majority of respondents, 290 (60.42%) were in favour of the important role of mass media in PRIs elections. This is the era of mass media. In these elections mass media played very active role in the PRIs elections. New trend of SMS, What's app, Facebook, and internet has been registered during field survey.

Role of Education in Panchayat Elections: Literacy and education becomes an important tool for the economic growth for the effective decision making and empowerment of the women. Quality of life and human development attainments invariably are high in the country which has invested heavily on education. The country which is in transition phase and is increasingly recognized as knowledge economy in the global market, education to women becomes of paramount importance, not to speak of basic right to access to education and determinant of worth of society by the literacy rate of women. The growth rate for female have shown better attainment than their male counterparts, yet in absolute terms, females are less literate than males. Traditionally literacy and leadership were not associated with each other. But with the spread of education, more and more people have started realizing the importance of education and its role in the life of a man. It is being

increasingly believed that education facilitates the development of progressive ideas and attitudes among the people. It is very important for leaders who are interested to take part in Panchayati Raj institutions. The educated persons can understand better the programmes and policies of the government for the welfare of the rural people. They can better understand the objectives of Panchayati Raj and appreciate their role into its functioning. Experience suggests that a leader, suitably educated proves more capable of taking rational decisions, whenever situations call for. Education has become an important qualification or acquiring leadership in modern society generally, in the villages, an educated person is highly regarded. The complex problems of Panchayati Raj and rural society demand educated leadership. Education is the major instrument of social change. In these elections education has not played a significant role. It has been observed that in pre-amendment era Panchayat representatives were mostly under matric. Majority of respondents i.e. 61.46% did not agree that education had any role in Panchayat elections. But in post-amendment era the role of education in PRI elections is very important. In the field survey researcher observed that a majority of the PRIs representatives are 10+2 or graduates.

Role of Migrated Employees: Migration is the movement of people across regions and territories. Migration can be internal or international. In district Kinnaur many hydro power projects have been running across the Satluj River and its tributaries. Many people are getting employment in these hydro power projects. Migration plays a very significant role in changing composition and distribution of PRIs elections. Migration is an important determination of voting behavior in Panchayati Raj Institutions elections. Employees working in hydro power projects in Panchayat area do not know the problems of local area and cast franchises at their own interest. They cast their vote for money or malpractices. It has been observed during the time of interview of different respondents that 69.96% have opined that these outsiders were affecting our society culturally, economically and politically. The migrated employees working in hydro-power projects in Panchayat area have played their active role in the Panchayat elections. These people used their franchise in their own interest and in favour of the candidates under the influence of mal-practice. In PRIs election voting right should be given only to those residents who are registered in Panchayat Parivar Register.

Role of NGOs in PRIs Elections: NGOs play a very important role in mobilizing communities and in linking PRIs/ULBs with corporate sector entities for initiating DRR related activities. In Himachal Pradesh NGOs have been working in diverse backward area; organize various awareness programmes for women and children that include training programmes for women rights and growth. At present various programmes are being run by NGOs that include social, justice and political rights among the people. The others include human rights, women rights, children rights, protection and proper utilization of natural resources, health awareness programmed gender awareness for the upliftment of rural and urban areas by organizing awareness programmes for their physical, mental and economic development. The strong linkages which NGOs have with grassroots communities can be effectively harnessed for creating greater public awareness on disaster, risk and vulnerability, initiating appropriate strategies for strengthening the capacity of stakeholder groups to improve disaster preparedness, mitigation and improving the emergency response capacities of the stakeholders. In addressing the emerging concerns of climate change adaptation and mitigation, NGOs can play a very significant role in working with local communities and introducing innovative approaches based on the good practices followed in other countries. NGOs can play a very important role in mobilizing communities and in linking PRIs/ULBs with corporate sector entities for initiating DRR related activities (Kinnaura Kisan Sang, Him Lok Jagriti Munch and Him Agriculture and Rural Development promotion Society). In Himachal Pradesh, the NGOs have been working in diverse backward areas and organizing various political awareness programmes among the people.

Role of Globalization: Globalization is a process whereby state-centric agencies and terms of references are dissolved in favour of a structure of relations between different global actors operating in truly global rather than merely international context. The term 'globalization' is imprecise and its use often heavily laden with

ideological baggage. Apart from its lack of precision, globalization needs to be placed in some kind of historical context. It also provokes crucial questions about governance. National and international economic policies shifted sharply in the 1970s and 1980s towards more reliance on the market-diminishing the role of the state. Ever-growing numbers of developing countries adopted an open trade approach, shifting away from import-substitution policies. The change have speeded up the pace of globalization and deepened the interactions among people. And they have created an era of globalization that is intensifying contacts-not just between countries but also between people. The landscape is changing in tree distinct ways:

Shrinking space: People's lives- their jobs, incomes and health are affected by events on the other side of globe, often by events they do not know about.

Shrinking time: Markets and technologies now change with unprecedented speed, with action at a distance in real time, with impacts on people's lives far away.

Disappearing borders: National borders are breaking down, not only for trade, capital and information but also for ideas, norms, cultures and values. Borders are also breaking down in economic policy-as multilateral agreements and pressures of staying competitive in global markets constrain the option for national policy, and as multinational corporations and global crime syndicates integrate their operations globally. In the year 1999-2000 world Development Report argues that globalization is like a giant wave that can either capsize or carry them forward. The national government will face frustration in dealing with globalization and that these will be sharper or magnified for small developing nations; at the same time, these countries would stand to gain more from international trade and finance than their larger counterparts. Grass root politics of tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh is affected by above mentioned points of globalization.

Role of Cultural: Inhabitants of Kinnaur are found of dancing, singing and meat. Due to cold climate condition life of Kinnaura's is very hard. In keeping with the beauty of nature, the men are handsome generally tall with sharp well cut features. The women, particularly of certain areas, have a beauty and charm of their own. They have the reputation of being superior in energy, honesty and general capacity. The people loved them for their prowess, loyalty and truthful nature. As traders they did well though they were not as astute as the Baniyas (Shop keepers) of the plains. Their love is of second to none. God-fearing and simple they reveal the creative urge of the community and disclose its aesthetic cravings. Robust of character; they exhibit its chief characteristics in the form of dignity of labour and enterprising spirit. Life in Kinnaur is undergoing change with a bang. It is a warning signal lest it destroys what is sound and wholesome in the traditional mores and in its place inducts what is seen westernized and modern. One wish a conscious effort is made to strike a harmonious blend between the good of the old and the best of the emerging scenario.

Role of Tourism in Panchayat Election: Kinnaur has tremendous scope of adventure tourism. There are many trekking routes in the district. Ski slopes are available at Kalpa and rock climbing can also be started in this district. Walking has been a mean of recreation and physical fitness. Trekking is essentially waking in ancient times people walked through the dense, untouched forest and they walk across unknown passes and mountains in search of grazing grounds and game. Numerous passes connect the two valleys across the range. These passes have legends and even today they are mysterious, challenging and revealing to the world. The valley they have some of the most interesting meadows, view points, lakes and lush green pastures to add to its beauty and mystery. Majority of the people of Kinnaur district are engaging in tourism industry. They are get economically, socially and Linguistic benefit from the tourism activities.

Role of Power Sector in Panchayat Election: Many hydro power projects have been built across the river Satluj and its tributaries. Due to hydro power projects road connectivity has been increased in district Kinnaur. Every village has been provided water and electricity. Educational and health services have been reached to every

doors of district Kinnaur. But climate of district have been changed due these power projects. The people of district Kinnaur are facing different climate problems.

Role of Industry in Panchayat Election: Himachal Pradesh has made significant achievements in the field of industrialization in the past few years. With ushering in the liberalized economy and consequent de-licensing and notification of special package of incentive for the state, the flow of investment in the Pradesh has increased manifold resulting very good response for setting up new industrial venture in the state. It is matter of great concern that tribal people do not have much exposure to the Industrialization due to non availability of raw material and market approach.

Health, Sanitation and Urban Facilities: Besides the general facilities available for health, new Ayurvedic/Unani/Siddha/Naturopathy clinics have been opened in District Kinnaur. Under Rural water supply, SCP budget is being used for provision of drinking water in district Kinnaur. All 282 villages have been provided electricity and drinking water.

Status of Women in Kinnaur: A woman in Kinnaur enjoys a unique position. She is not only the keeper of her hearth but contribute equally, if not more, to outside work. She is an equal partner in dances and takes leading part folk songs. In practice women are very hard worker and from constant exposure to the strain of physical work and weather, soon look much older in appearance than men. They do all the laborious work, such as carrying loads, weeding, harvesting the crops, washing clothes and cooking meals etc. In fact, in agriculture operations they do all the work except ploughing. They also take part in the social and economic activities.

Role of Women in Polyandry System: In Kinnaur district polyandrous marriages had been very popular. Polyandry is a form of polygamy in which a woman is married to multiple husbands. Fraternal polyandry, in which brothers all share one wife, is the common form of marriage. Men in polyandrous marriages also take on domestic responsibilities, such as cooking and childcare, contrary to most men in monogamous marriages. Polyandrous relationships are beneficial to our societies' functionality because families are organized on a joint system, living and working together to cultivate land. One main reason polyandry remains popular in the Himalayan region are the economic benefits. Land is scarce, therefore if each brother married a different wife they would have to split their small piece of inherited land and needs for sustenance would be hard to meet (from Multiple Husbands). Polyandry also functions as a form of population control, a woman can have multiple husbands yet she can only get pregnant every so often. If each woman has children with more than one husband, it limits the birth rate in the population. On the other hand, if each woman bares children with only one man, the population could skyrocket (from Multiple Husbands). Until recently, isolation preserved the way of life in these Himalayan societies. Technological and cross-cultural inputs are making polyandrous marriages more obscure. Roads connecting isolated areas to cities increase the spread of media. As these societies enter the modern world, contemporary lifestyles and monogamous marriage seem more appealing to younger generation. The spread of education, family planning and modern facilities are also a major contributing factor to the demise of polyandrous marriages.

Role of Women in Property Right: Tribal women had no rights in ancestor's property. Women in district Kinnaur had been excluded from the ancestor's property. In customary Law women had no right of ancestor's property. An order passed by District judge Chamba in 2002 to grant legal rights to the women in the family property. In a landmark judgment, this will bring a new revolution in the tribal society to grant equal rights to the daughters. The High Court of Himachal Pradesh ruled that daughters are entitled to equal share in the family property and cannot be discriminated on basis of their gender. It is made clear by way of abandoned precaution that the observations made above only pertain to right to inherit the property by the daughters under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 and not any other privileges enjoyed by the tribal's in the tribal areas of H.P.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The present paper is an attempt to investigate the Electoral Politics at Grass Root Level in District Kinnaur: Assessing the Emerging Patterns and the nature and extent of change that has taken place during the elections held in before and after 73rd constitutional amendment Act, 1994. The study has revealed that the number of members have been increased in recent elections at the levels of Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and Panchayat whole in Himachal Pradesh and study area. Their educational qualifications and age group has been changed. Participation of male and female section has changed during these elections. Maximum representatives are belonging to scheduled Tribe categories. One particular thing in these elections shows that there were only three female Up-Pradhan elected in the District Kinnaur. Majority of PRIs members were having qualification of matriculation and 10+2. It has also been seen that many members of PRIs were graduate and post graduate. It has been observed that the participation of female section was more than male in these PRIs elections. It has been observed that young generation is now playing a significant role. The role of Lamas (Monks), village deity, village head, family head, elite-group, government employees and different organizations in these elections has been minimized from the pre-amendment to post-amendment era. Political parties were having very active role in pre-amendment era; no significant deviation (50%) has been registered in the pre-amendment and post-amendment era in Panchayat elections. The role of women has been increased in post-amendment era. No huge variation in pre and post-amendment era is noticed the role of charismatic leadership in the Panchayat elections. The role of money, muscle power, caste factor has been increasing day-by-day. The role of malpractices were quite popular in pre-amendment era while in post-amendment era new trends of gift and hard cash giving has been noticed. In pre-amendment era mass media has least role in these elections; radio was the only source of news. As for as awareness of leadership of PRIs is concerned, it was found that radio and television are the most popular means of communication in the rural areas of the State. Majority of the respondents used to hear news on the radio and televisions and were aware of the day to day happening at the national and world level. Access to newspapers and magazines is extremely low in the tribal area. Affixing posters, sending message through cell phones, hosting dinner and musical parties are the new trends in PRIs elections. The role of NGOs and migrated employees employed in hydro-power projects in Panchayat areas is also significant in PRIs elections. It suggests that the representative should be well qualified and female representation also be promoted. There is dire need to aware the innocent villagers about the importance of Panchayati Raj so that the aim of Panchayati Raj System may be achieved.

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