



AWARENESS OF RESERVATION, ROLES AND DUTIES AMONG WOMEN MEMBERS IN GRAMPANCHAYAT OF KARVEER TALUKA: A PREVIEW



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ABSTRACT:

A reservation right gives golden opportunity of leadership to the women. And women become started to come out slavery of the old customs and culture. But it is not sufficient. Only reservation itself can't make change in a society. There is a need to change in attitude of people. Gender inequality is the main reason behind the women's weak performance in the Pachayati Raj. Women's are socially and cultural backward, they have some rights but women are unaware about their rights. The family members of these women, other member of the Panchayati, and political leaders are interfering in their work. In some cases women not present in regular Panchayat meeting so they are far away from decision making process.

Indian constitution gives legislative support to Panchayati Raj and Gram Swaraj. Also gives 50% reservation to Women, SCs, and STs. But this reservation and these representatives are on paper only. The researcher has taken up this study entitled "Awareness of reservation, roles and duties among women members in Grampanchayat of Karveer Taluka: A Preview".

KEYWORDS : *golden opportunity , attitude of people , Panchayati, and political leaders.*

INTRODUCTION

Panchayati raj system has been the backbone of local self administration. 73rd amendment Act introduced the three tier of Panchyati Raj. It gives constitutional support to women's participation in local governing body. Act provides reservation of not less than one third of the total number of seats for women. It was revolutionary change in women's empowerment. Act insures to women to participate in direct election. It can be help for reduce male dominating culture in local administration as well as reduce corruption.

OBJECTIVES

- To study awareness about political reservation and Panchayati Raj among women representatives in Gram Panchayats of Karveer block.
- To study the participation of women Grampachayat representatives in decision making.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

All the women Gram Pachayat's representatives of Karveer block of Kolhapur district constituted the universe. A sample size of 138 respondents was selected for the purpose of study using Lottery method selecting 20% of the total 687 women representatives working in 117 Gram Pachayats of the Karveer block. Well structured interview was used as a tool to collect the primary data applying interviewing techniques and apart from this observation and discussion methods were applied to illicit relevant data from the selected sample of the respondents. Secondary data were collected from the books, journals, written

documents, manuals available in Library and as well as internet surfing and also dissuasion with Grampanchayat. The researcher applied Descriptive Research Design for the purpose of study.

FINDINGS

- 91% women members of Gram Panchayat are unaware about Panchayati Raj institution though they are already members of Panchayati Raj institution. The problems they face in performing duties due to lack education, lack of leadership capacities and similar reasons.
- 75% women members of Gram Panchayat are unaware about Political reservation even though they take advantage of political reservation. This is due to external pressure.
- 87% women members of Gram Panchayat are unaware about their duties related to post. It means large number of women Grampanchayat members are used as rubber stamp and they do not actively participate in Grampanchayat's work.
- Now a day's almost all women Grampanchayat member are present in Panchayat's meeting. But don't share their opinion in discussion.
- Some women representatives of Panchayat's were not taking initiatives in meeting and they had lack of leadership capacity. They can't express their opinion in Panchayat's meeting.
- The women Grampanchayat members express their opinion in meeting and they get different type of responses for their opinion.
- There is need to increase leadership capacity of women representatives for increasing their participation and taking initiative in their work.
- Interference of outsiders in decision of Grampanchayat is harmful for women development in Panchayati Raj.

TABLES

Table No. 1
Awareness About Panchayati Raj

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	12	9
No	126	91
Total	138	100

Table No.1 shows that awareness about Panchayati Raj institution among women members of Gram Panchayat in Karveer Taluka. Only 9 Per Cent of women members of Gram Panchayat are aware about three tier Panchayati Raj system. And 91 Per Cent women members are unaware about Panchayati Raj institution

It is clear that 91 Per Cent women members of Gram Panchayat are unaware about Panchayati Raj institution though they are already members of Panchayati Raj institution. The problems they face in performing duties due to lack education, lack of leadership capacities and similar reasons.

Table No. 2
Awareness about Political Reservation

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	34	25
No	104	75
Total	138	100

Table No.2 shows that awareness about Political reservation among women members of Gram Panchayat in Karveer Taluka. Only 25 Per Cent of women members of Gram Panchayat are aware about

Political reservation which is given by 73rd amendment Act. And 75 Per Cent women members are unaware about Political reservation.

It is clear that 75 Per Cent women members of Gram Panchayat are unaware about Political reservation even though they take advantage of political reservation. This is due to external pressure.

Table No. 3
Awareness about Duties related to post

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	18	13
No	120	87
Total	138	100

Table No.3 shows that awareness about duties related to Post. Only 13 Per Cent of women members of Gram Panchayat are aware about their duties related to post. And 87 Per Cent women members are unaware about their duties related to post.

It is clear that 87 Per Cent women members of Gram Panchayat are unaware about their duties related to post. It means large number of women Grampanchayat members are used as rubber stamp and they do not actively participate in Grampanchayat's work.

Table No.4
Participation In Meeting

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	128	93
No	10	7
Total	138	100

Table No.4 shows that women member's participation in meeting. 93 Per Cent respondents said they regularly participate in Panchayat's meeting and 7 Per Cent respondents are not participating in Panchayat meeting.

Now a day's almost all women Grampanchayat member are present in Panchayat's meeting. But don't share their opinion in discussion.

Table No. 5
Expression Of Respondents Opinion In Meeting

Response	Frequency	Percentage
NA	10	7
Yes	80	58
No	48	35
Total	138	100.0

Above table predicts women's expression of their opinion in meeting. 58 Per Cent respondents expressed that; they were sharing their opinion in Panchayats meeting. And 35 Per Cent respondents were not sharing their opinion in meeting. And 7 Per Cent respondents were not participating in meeting so this question was not applicable for them.

It is clear from the table some women representatives of Panchayat's were not taking initiatives in meeting and they had lack of leadership capacity. They can't express their opinion in Panchayat's meeting.

Table No. 6
Reaction To Expression Of Respondents Opinion

Response	Frequency	Percentage
NA	58	42
Good	40	29
Neutral	18	13
Very few	19	14
None	3	2
Total	138	100

Above table described that Reaction to Expression of respondents Opinion. In 42 Per Cent respondents, some respondents were not participated in meeting and some respondent were participate in meeting but they don't share their opinion in meeting so this question were not applicable for them. 29 Per Cent respondents get good response by other members in Panchayat meeting. 13 Per Cent said they get neutral response in meeting. 14 Per Cent respondents said very few other members responding to them. And 2 respondents said they get no any kind of response by other Grampanchayat's members.

It is clear by this table the women Grampanchayat members express their opinion in meeting and they get different type of responses for their opinion.

Table No. 7
Reasons To Non Expression Of Opinion In Meeting

Response	Frequency	Percentage
NA	80	58
No one considers this decision	17	12
Fear about leadership	19	14
Gender discrimination	8	6
Traditional thoughts	14	10
Total	138	100

Above table shows Reasons to Non Expression of respondent's opinion in Meeting. 58 Per Cent respondents were sharing their opinion in meeting. So this is not applicable for them. 14 Per Cent respondents expressed that they were scared about initiating leadership. 12 Per Cent respondent said no other Grampanchayat member considers their decision. 10 Per Cent respondents were not sharing their opinion because of their traditional thought. And 6 Per Cent respondents suffered from gender discrimination in Grampanchayat.

It is clear by this table there is need to increase leadership capacity of women representatives for increasing their participation and taking initiative in their work.

Table No.8
Opinion To Person Who Interference In Decision

Response	Frequency	Percentage
NA	30	22
Other members of Grampanchayat	33	24
Political leaders	18	13
Relatives	51	37
Any other else	5	4
Total	138	100

Above table shows that interfere in decision of women members in Panchayat. 37 Per Cent respondents expressed that, their relatives interfere in Panchayat. 24 Per Cent respondents said other Grampanchayat members are interfering in their decision. 13 Per Cent respondents said local political leaders interfering in decision. And 4 Per Cent respondent said any other else interfering in their decision related to Grampanchayat's.

It is clear by this table; interference of outsiders in decision of Grampanchayat is harmful for women development in Panchayati Raj.

CONCLUSION

Panchayati Raj system was founded in south Asiatic countries like India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Trinidad, Bangladesh and Tobago. In India three tiers Panchayati Raj system were seen. 73rd amendment act was revolutionary step in women participation in Panchayati Raj. Women's in political process was first steps towards women empowerment. It gives advantage to disadvantaged group. 73rd amendment act gives equal opportunity to women in their development.

Yet women member faced so many problems in Grampanchayat like gender discrimination, lack of accessibility in decision making process, traditional thoughts. In rural area most of times women engaged in household work and other agri allied activity so they don't have enough time for self development.

This study shows that husband, other relatives and local political leaders were pushing women into politics. Women work in Grampanchayat without any motive that's why women don't show their interest in political activities. Women Grampanchayat's members were part of Panchayati Raj institution but also they don't have any kind of information about the Panchayati Raj institution. And they don't aware about their duties, their rights. Women were attended Grampanchayat meetings regularly but very few members given their opinion in meeting. Most of the time opinion of women member was neglected in Grampanchayat. As this reaction the women members got frustrated and they avoided to participate in discussion.

Women Grampanchayat members don't handle their work related to their post by them self other members always interfering in their work. It means women Grampanchayat members were name sake. Very few leaders take decision in their initiatives. Women don't think they were able to handle village's administration its reason was lack of education, lack of confidence, financial independency.

On that researcher concluded that, after independence to still today rural women were deprived, and away from development. And so many factors were affected on their development. And there were need to strengthen the laws and policy for women empowerment. Women political leaders wanted some training for skill development, to develop confidence, to overcome fear of gender discrimination and built leadership capacity.

SUGGESTIONS

The researcher feels that problem of the women members of Gram Panchayats can be solved by leading various sectors like government administrators, villagers, NGO's and social workers.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT:

- There is need to take regular follow up by government officers to avoid any others interference in Grampanchayat's work.
- Government shall make a team which can observes working of women Grampanchayat members.
- There is need to arrange training for elected women Grampanchayat member within three months after election.
- After completion of financial year government can take follow up of financial affairs of Grampanchayat to avoid corruption in Grampanchayat.
- There is needed to take strict action if women Gramsabha was not counted in village.
- To make minimum education criteria for participation in Panchayati Raj representative for better development.

ROLE OF VILLAGERS:

- Promoting female participation in higher education.
- Give equal treatment for male and female.
- Give liberty to women representatives for taking decision on their own.
- Gives respect for decision which taken by women.
- To replace traditional beliefs with modern thought.

ROLE OF NGO'S:

- To prepare and present a report regarding the problems faced by women during Grampanchayat proceedings.
- To encourage the female Grampanchayat members to work in the village.
- Aware the women Grampanchayat member about the Panchayati Raj institution. Gives them all information about Panchayati Raj system.

ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER:

- To act as a connecting link between the government and women Grampanchayat members.
- For creating awareness among women Grampanchayat members about their roles and rights arrange some programmes. For that use some tools like street play drama etc.
- To make the women Grampanchayat members conversant with the working pattern of Grampanchayat.
- To provide information to women Grampanchayat members about various government schemes regarding women empowerment, too make them economically capable.
- To avoid interference while the women members are working in Grampanchayat. Also give them liberty for taking decision on their own.

ROLE OF WOMEN GRAMPANCHAYAT MEMBER:

- The women member must have developed themselves for their empowerment.
- If someone interfere in their work women member must have to strive against them.
- Women member must have to take initiatives in implementation of schemes without any fear.
- Always take steps to enhance their leadership capacity and decision making ability.

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