



PANCHAYATI RAJ AND WOMEN SARPANCHS IN HARYANA: A STUDY OF DISTRICT ROHTAK AND SONIPAT

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INTRODUCTION

Local government has been providing basic facilities to the local people since ancient period. Local leadership has been proving significant and beneficial for the local people. It increases political awareness among local people and increases their involvement in government. Local government is of two types: rural and urban local government. The rural local government in India is called Panchayati Raj and urban local government is in the form of Municipality, Municipal Corporation and Nagar Panchayat.

PANCHAYATI RAJ IN INDIA

The panchayati raj system in India is consisting of three tiers of elected representatives. At the district level is zila parishad, at the block level is panchayat samiti and at village level is village panchayat.

The 73rd amendment act, 1992 has provided constitutional status to panchayati raj system in India. According to this Act, periodical elections are mandatory for the panchayats and provisions related to their functions, sources of finance, qualifications of members, reservation of seats are all provided in the Act.

In India, at present in panchayati raj system, about 3 million representatives are elected at ground level and 50% representatives are women. There are 500 districts in India having panchayats, 6000 panchayat samitis and 240000 gram panchayats. This scenario reflects the direct democracy and real decentralization of power in India. Article 40 of Indian constitution provides provision of local government in India.

PANCHAYATI RAJ IN HARYANA

State Haryana was formed on 1st November, 1966 after the separation from Punjab. The panchayati raj system has its existence from ancient period and its importance was highlighted by its many prominent leaders from time to time. Before the enactment of 73rd amendment Act. in Haryana, the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 was applicable to Panchayats in Haryana. 73rd Amendment Act was enforced on 22nd April, 1994 in Haryana.

At present in Haryana, there is total 6,186 gram panchayats which have total 60,436 panchs including 34941 male panchs, 254095 female panchs, 15467 panchs belonged to scheduled castes, 21124 panchs belonged to other backward classes and 23845 panchs belonged to general category.



Sonipat district has total 304 gram panchayats which have total 3246 panchs including 1932 male panchs, 1314 female panchs, 695 panchs belonged to scheduled castes, 764 panchs belonged to other backward classes and 1787 panchs belonged to general category.

Rohtak district has total 139 gram panchayats which have total 1761 panchs including 1044 male panchs, 717 female panchs, 438 panchs belonged to scheduled castes, 290 panchs belonged to other backward classes and 1033 panchs belonged to general category.

At present in Haryana, there is total 6186 sarpanchs which include 3621 male sarpanchs, 2585 female sarpanchs, 1436 sarpanchs belonged to scheduled castes, 1671 sarpanchs belonged to other backward classes and 3079 sarpanchs belonged to general category.

Sonipat district has total 304 sarpanchs which include 182 male sarpanchs, 122 female sarpanchs, 67 sarpanchs belonged to scheduled castes, 35 sarpanchs belonged to other backward classes and 202 sarpanchs belonged to general category.

Rohtak district has total 139 sarpanchs which include 83 male sarpanchs, 56 female sarpanchs, 29 sarpanchs belonged to scheduled castes, 8 sarpanchs belonged to other backward classes and 167 sarpanchs belonged to general category.

Haryana has total 140 block samitis with 2997 members having 1258 female members and total number of members of 416 zila parishads having 181 female members.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women empowerment means to be aware about social, economic and political rights and exercise of these rights. Women should be given the power of taking social, economic and political decisions in the society. The government of India has empowered women by providing reservation of seats in panchayats, state assembly and in parliament.

RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR WOMEN IN PANCHAYATI RAJ

33 percent seats are reserved for women in the panchayats, according to 73rd Amendment Act. Number of candidates elected for different offices in panchayat elections in 2016 in Haryana.

Office	SC	SC(WOMEN)	BC	WOMEN	UNRESERVED	TOTAL
PANCH	7273	6854	5945	16082	26312	62466
MEMBER PANCHAYAT SAMITI	415	274	126	755	1432	3002
MEMBER ZILA PARISHAD	56	36	21	108	195	416

*Report on General Elections to The Panchayati Raj in Haryana 2016

1642 seats are reserved for women in the office of chairperson as sarpanch, 69 as chairman panchayat samiti and 5 as president zila parishad.

PANCHAYAT ELECTION IN HARYANA

In Haryana, in panchayat elections men elected on 59% seats and women elected on 41% seats in 2016. 50 percent sarpanchs belonged to general category. 23 percent sarpanchs belonged to scheduled castes and 27 percent sarpanchs belonged to other backward classes. of total 6186 sarpanchs, 11.3 percent sarpanches have education level of graduation or above it.

PROFILE OF HARYANA

The state Haryana has undergone many jurisdictional changes since its formation on 1st November 1966. Initially it has 7 districts. The number of its districts increased to 12 in 1981. In 1991, the number of districts increased to 16 and then to 19 in 2001. In 2011, the number of its districts increased to 21. At present Haryana have 22 districts. Haryana state is divided into 6 administrative divisions.

PROFILE OF DISTRICT ROHTAK

District Rohtak was formed in 1854 but it many changes were introduced in it. Initially it was the part of Hisar division and it was separated from Hisar division in 1884. Its present population according to 2011

census is 1058683 which include 509038 males and 431090 females, literacy rate is 80.2, and gender ratio is 887females per 1000 males.

PROFILE OF DISTRICT SONIPAT

District Sonipat has population of 1,450,001 according 2011 census, which includes 781299 males and 668702 females. The decadal growth rate in this district is 13.4 percent. The literacy rate is 79.1 percent. The gender ratio is 856 females per 1000 males.

Research Methodology: primary data is collected through structured questionnaire from a sample of 50 women sarpanch in the district Rohtak and Sonipat of Haryana state.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN SARPANCHS IN DISTRICT ROHTAK

Age: 42 percent women sarpanchs are of age group 21-30, 35 percent women sarpanchs are of age group 31-40, 15 percent women sarpanchs are of age group 41-50, 5 percent women sarpanchs are of age group 51-60, 3 percent women sarpanchs are of age more than 60 years.

Education: 52 percent women sarpanch respondents have the educational level of metric and 48 percent women sarpanch respondents have the educational level of inter or more.

Family members: 25 percent women sarpanch respondents are having less than 5 members in the family. 35 percent women sarpanch respondents are having less than 10 members in the family. 40 percent women sarpanch respondents are having less than 15 members in the family.

Family type: 45percent women sarpanch respondents are having nuclear family. 55 percent women sarpanch respondents are living in joint family.

Income: Income increases the economic stability of a family. 30 percent women sarpanch respondents have the annual income from all sources less than 3 lakh. 42 percent women sarpanch respondents have annual income from all sources less than 5 lakh. 28 percent women sarpanch respondents have annual income from all sources less than 10 lakh.

Profession: 29 percent women sarpanch respondents are farmers and agriculture is their main occupation. 49 percent women sarpanch respondents are home makers and 22 percent women sarpanch respondents are involved in private profession.

Caste: 23 percent women sarpanch respondents belonged to scheduled caste. 21 percent women sarpanch respondents belonged to other backward classes and 56 percent women sarpanch respondents are of general category.

Religion: 88 percent women sarpanch respondents are having their religion Hindu and 12 percent women sarpanch respondents are having their religion Muslim.

Educational institution: 38 percent women sarpanch respondents have their education from private educational institution in urban area and 62 percent women sarpanch respondents have their education from government educational institution in rural area.

Marital status: 78 percent women sarpanch respondents are married and 22 percent women sarpanch respondents are unmarried.

Head of family: 56 percent women sarpanch respondents have their family head a senior most lady in the family. 44 percent women sarpanch respondents have their family head a male person of the family.

Number of children: 28 percent women sarpanch respondents have no child. 39 percent women sarpanch respondents have 2 children. 33 percent women sarpanch respondents have less than 5 children.

Have vehicle: 35 percent women sarpanch respondents have vehicle and are trained in riding. 65 percent women sarpanch respondents do not have vehicle.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN SARPANCHS IN DISTRICT SONIPAT

Age: 39 percent women sarpanchs are of age group 21-30, 33 percent women sarpanchs are of age group 31-40, 21 percent women sarpanchs are of age group 41-50, 5 percent women sarpanchs are of age group 51-60, 2 percent women sarpanchs are of age more than 60 years.

Education: 58 percent women sarpanch respondents have the educational level of metric and 42 percent women sarpanch respondents have the educational level of inter or more.

Family members: 22 percent women sarpanch respondents are having less than 5 members in the family. 37 percent women sarpanch respondents are having less than 10 members in the family. 41 percent women sarpanch respondents are having less than 15 members in the family.

Family type: 49 percent women sarpanch respondents are having nuclear family. 51 percent women sarpanch respondents are living in joint family.

Income: Income increases the economic stability of a family. 39 percent women sarpanch respondents have the annual income from all sources less than 3 lakh. 41 percent women sarpanch respondents have annual income from all sources less than 5 lakh. 20 percent women sarpanch respondents have annual income from all sources less than 10 lakh.

Profession: 38 percent women sarpanch respondents are farmers and agriculture is their main occupation. 32 percent women sarpanch respondents are home makers and 30 percent women sarpanch respondents are involved in private profession.

Caste: 29 percent women sarpanch respondents belonged to scheduled caste. 19 percent women sarpanch respondents belonged to other backward classes and 52 percent women sarpanch respondents are of general category.

Religion: 85 percent women sarpanch respondents are having their religion Hindu and 15 percent women sarpanch respondents are having their religion Muslim.

Educational institution: 41 percent women sarpanch respondents have their education from private educational institution in urban area and 59 percent women sarpanch respondents have their education from government educational institution in rural area.

Marital status: 72 percent women sarpanch respondents are married and 25 percent women sarpanch respondents are unmarried.

Head of family: 52 percent women sarpanch respondents have their family head a senior most lady in the family. 48 percent women sarpanch respondents have their family head a male person of the family.

Number of children: 32 percent women sarpanch respondents have no child. 36 percent women sarpanch respondents have 2 children. 32 percent women sarpanch respondents have less than 5 children.

Have vehicle: 28 percent women sarpanch respondents have vehicle and are trained in riding. 72 percent women sarpanch respondents do not have vehicle.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of data collected from the two districts of Haryana, Rohtak and Sonipat, from the women sarpanchs, elected in 2016 panchayat election, following conclusions are drawn.

1. All the women sarpanchs are educated. 80 percent women sarpanch respondents of district rohtak and sonipat are having educational level of inter and 20 percent women sarpanch respondents are having educational level graduate or more.
2. 74 percent women sarpanchs respondents are of age group 21-40 years.
3. 40.5 percent women sarpanch respondents have family members less than 15.
4. 53 percent women sarpanch respondents are living in joint family.
5. 41.5 percent women sarpanch respondents have annual income from all sources less than 5 lakh.
6. 40.5 percent women sarpanch respondents are home makers and performing home duties.
7. 54 percent women sarpanch respondents are of general category.
8. 86.5 percent women sarpanch respondents are having their religion Hindu.

9. 60.5 percent women sarpanch respondents have their education from government educational institution in rural area.
10. 75 percent women sarpanch respondents are married.
11. 54 percent women sarpanch respondents have their family head a senior most lady in the family.
12. 37.5 percent women sarpanch respondents have two children.
13. 66.5 percent women sarpanch respondents do not driving and not have vehicle too.

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