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## ROLE OF WOMEN IN INDIAN POLITICS

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### INTRUDUCTION

#### Political empowerment of sc women:

Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making, including decision making in political process at all levels will be ensured for the achievement of the goals of empowerment. All measures will be taken to guarantee women equal access to and full participation in decision making bodies at every level, including the legislative, executive, judicial, corporate, statutory bodies, as also the advisory Commissions, Committees, Boards, Trusts etc. Affirmative action such as reservations/quotas, including in higher legislative bodies, will be considered whenever necessary on a time bound basis. Women-friendly personnel policies will also be drawn up to encourage women to participate effectively in the developmental process. The 73 and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Indian Constitution have served as a breakthrough towards ensuring equal access and increased participation in political power structure for women. The Panchayat Raj Institutions will play a central role in the process of enhancing women's participation in public life. The Panchayat Raj Institutions and the local self Governments will be actively involved in the implementation and execution of the National Policy for Women at the grassroots level.



### REVIEW OF LITARATURE

Abrahams (1996) stated that women's community participation collective identities that are built around motherhood, Latino empowerment, and political activism are examined via in-depth interview data obtained from 39 Anglo and 11 Latina women in a central CA. The reflexive relationship between communities and identities in relation to class background, gender, age, generation, and race ethnicity is considered.

It is argued that women embrace –as well as negotiate –cultural expectations of mothers, homemakers, and elders through their community participation. Work in the community is explored as a venue for women to stretch across class- based interests and race- ethnic identities, even while both influence women's community involvements. Neglected relationships between women's community participation and discourse of state responsibility for citizens are considered by indicating how women channel state resources and expand the parameters of the needs and meaning of community.

Al-Mughni (1996) writes that early women's organizations in Kuwait in the 1950s eg, the Arb Women's Development Society, made persistent demands for civil rights for women, but state intervention to protect the traditional family structure reduced their influence. Since the 1980s, state licensing of women's groups and other voluntary associations has inhibited the development of a feminist movement. The five licensed women groups, controlled by elite and upper class women, largely conform to official state

policy on traditional role practices and social reform. These groups oppose any change in the status of women. They empower only a small minority of the women already in control and reinforce women's subservience to patriarchal rule. In addition, the lack of unity among the different women's subservience to patriarchal rule. In addition, the lack of unity among the different women's groups has undermined the women's political rights movement.

### **Importance of the study:**

After the independence, provisions were made in the Indian Constitution to provide equal rights and opportunities of socio-economic development and betterment of living for men and women, including different disadvantaged segments of population to establish an egalitarian and prosperous society. In view of grinning improvements in the socio-economic condition of women efforts were made to maximize the participation of women in different educational levels, with the notion that education is the most important instrument to bring awareness about their rights, social status, as a prime element to maximize participation in different kinds of productive employment. Of course general belief is that women were benefited from these opportunities. But the schedule caste women are not benefited completely from these kinds of privileges and opportunities. For this purpose, there was need to frame policies for the empowerment of the SC women in this way the self-Help groups, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Mahila Mandals playing an important role in empowering the women. There is need to know about the women empowerment activities in under development city areas and the role of these self-help groups and NGOs in women empowerment. Hence an attempt was made in the present study about the women empowerment in under developed areas like Gulbarga.

### **Scope and limitations:**

Considering the objectives of the study, the current research is based on a sample survey. That is the researcher visited all the self help groups owned by SC women in Gulbarga city. It is noted that about 10 self-help Groups were formed by the women in this city. approximately 150 schedule caste women members of these groups are actively participating in the different activities. Hence it is being only the M.Phil dissertation and considering the time limitation in consultation with the Guide it was decided to have a small sample size but ideal to be analyzed. thus the 150 scheduled caste women were surveyed through interview schedule considering them as a study sample unit.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Study Sample:**

Data on various social, economic and demographic characteristics, of respondents used in this study pertain to 150 scheduled caste women who are members of SHG. Gulbarga City of Karnataka state. All the SHGs in this city were surveyed at the time of data connection for an in-depth study by a researcher. During the course of enumeration, SHGs having only scheduled caste women members identified and all such available scheduled caste SHG women were interviewed. Data collected have been used in this study.

### **Data Collection:**

The data were collected by using the direct interview method, with the help of a structured interview schedule. The schedule consisted of pages pertaining to conceptual information of various important concepts. The actual schedule administered is provided on appendix.

Data for the study were collected in phase wise. During the first stage all the SHG in the study area were listed in order to collect basic data such as SHG address location and members strength. In the course of listing care was taken to identify all SC women members. The second stage of data collection involved visits to respective SHG where there were SC women available for conducting detailed interviews about the research study purpose. The data was collected during the months of November and December in the year

2009. Throughout the period of data collection, the researcher rather spend full day in the SHG and had the opportunity to have a first –hand experience of living and working amongst the respondents.

**Analysis of the Data:**

The data collected were coded, verified and processed on the personal computer at the University. A single frequency distribution of each variable was generated to validate that data was treated as dependent variables as they are influence by educational and occupational levels and other socio-economic variables such as religion, reasons for joining SHG on members and the type of residence. The dependent variable was cross-tabulated with each of the social and economic variables, an analysis of covariance (chi square X2 text ) was used which will be discussed in detail in the following chapters.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Table No. 1.1 : Even voted in the elections**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	108	72.0
No	31	20.7
Not remembering.	11	7.3
<b>Total</b>	150	100.0

Political participation is also equally essential in case of SC women so as to know about the administrative policies. Hence, voting is a fundamental right for these respondents. It is noted that many of the SC women would not vote during the elections. The following table presented the information whether the Sc women, who are members of the self-help groups, are voted in the elections. The table revealed that about (72.0%) of the respondents have exercised their voted in the last election and round about (20.7%) have not voted in the elections. Whereas (7.3%) respondents stated that friendly if matter whatever lave voted or not voted.

**Table No. 1.2: Discuss political issues in meetings**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	38	25.3
No	98	65.3
Not remembering.	14	9.3
<b>Total</b>	150	100.00

Discussion of political issues is made in some groups meetings. Hence, it was asked to the respondents. Whether there is discussion about the political issues during the self-help groups meetings. The information colleted is presented in the following table. The table revealed that (25.3%) of the respondents stated that they discuss the political issues in the self-help groups meetings and the remaining (65.3%) of the respondents stated that they do not discuss the political issues in group meetings where as (9.3%) of the respondents stated that these days it has become mandatory discussions on political issues without any meaning .

**Table No. 1.3: Even contested the elections**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	19	12.7
No	121	80.7
Withdrawn.	10	6.6
<b>Total</b>	150	100.0

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution pertains to reservation of women in Gram Panchayats. After this amendment. Certain Gram panchayts become reserved for women candidates. Hence here onwards. There is increase of Sc women to participate in political activities, especially in Gram Panchayats. It was asked to the respondents, whether they have contested in elections. The responses of these Sc women are tabulated as under. The table revealed that only (12.7%) of the respondents have been contested in the elections and vast majority that is (80.7%) of the respondents have not contested any elections. Till today even there is passion. further interesting finding is that (6.6%) present of the women stated that they did field the nomination peppers but laser on they withdraw also.

**Table No. 1.4: Which election you contest**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Gram Panchayat	10	6.6
Municipal Corporation	6	4.0
Taluka Panchayat.	3	2.0
<b>Total</b>	19	12.7

It was decided to know whether respondent have only knowledge about today’s politics or did they take active part in it and it was found that (6.6%) of the respondents found to contested in gram panchayath election and about (4.0%) respondent tried their luck in municipal corporation where as very little (2.0%) of the responded tried at highest level that is T.M.C. election.

**Table No. 1.5: Primary member of political party**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Congress	20	13.3
BJP	14	9.3
B.S.P	5	3.3
J.D.S.	3	2.0
C.P.M	7	4.7
No.	101	67.3
<b>Total</b>	150	100.0

An attempted was made to know which political party is more. Popular in this party the state, in order to substantiate the question was put among the Sc SHG women are they primary member of only political party and it was observed that (13.3%) of the respondents said they belong to the congress I party followed by (9.3%) of the members of B.J.P but majority of the respondents are not related any political party.

**Table No. 1.6: Why prefer this party only**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Secular	11	7.3
Religious base	3	2.0
Caste base	5	3.3
Regional base	9	6.0
Equality base	21	14.0
No	101	67.3
<b>Total</b>	150	100.0

Further investigation was carried out by probing them why they preferred particularly political party. And the response got from the women respondent meaning full, on an average (33.7%) of the respondents said that they prefer national political parties in comparison to regional political parties because they hold the ideology, secular character and stability of Govt. they provide but remaining (67.3%) stated that they did not prefer any political party it is a useless business.

**Table No. 1.7: How franchise your vote in election**

	Frequency	Percent
On Pressure	15	10.0
In Fear	8	5.3
On Bribe	9	6.0
Voluntary	43	28.7
As a duty .	75	50.0
<b>Total</b>	150	100.0

Looking at the existing political atmosphere in India research tried know that in what condition the voters are franchising their rites and the finding suggest from the above table.(28.7%) of the respondent they said it is the duty of the all citizen to vote Dearing the elections followed by (21.3%) of the respondent said either they voted in pressure , have accepted the Brief formed party to suspense it is a ussosal practice these days in Indian democratic steps.

**Table No. 1.8: Opinion about today’s political leaders**

	Frequency	Percent
They are good	54	36.0
They are bad	45	30.0
They are worst	23	15.3
They are useless.	28	18.7
<b>Total</b>	150	100.0

One of the important guest ion was asked to the respondents to know the perception about their political here (leaders) never the less only (36.0%) percent of the respondents said political leaders are good, however, the majority of the (64.0%) respondents not at all hesitate to mentioned that know a days leaders one not good enough to be a leaders rather they all are bad, worst and useless and fit for nothing except few of leaders one can counter on finger tips.

**CONCLUSION:**

Women’s Empowerment is critical to ensure the socio-economic development of my community. To bring women into the mainstream and to encourage their participation in the process of national development has, therefore, been a major concern of the Government. Despite all legislations, planning and developmental government schemes women remain a vulnerable group. The policy makers have to go in for a more broad based approach that addresses planning, adequate resource allocation, programme design and formulation, targeted intervention and implementation based upon the requirement of women residing at the field level with their participation. Gender mainstreaming has to be a guiding force in all these activities to maximize outreach of public expenditure and benefits for women. Further universalizing access is very important for meaningful outcomes. Inter-state and intra- state imbalances have persisted for a long time and need to be addressed more forcefully. Some overlap of gender and developmental issues will take place- this is inevitable given the wide gap in availability and requirement of socioeconomic infrastructure in the country.

The Self-Help Groups are aimed for economic empowerment in Karnataka. To achieve their purpose, the women have to start productive occupations. But the study revealed that the women are borrowing loan from the Self-help groups for domestic and unproductive use. But it is worth to note that majority of the Sc. women respondents agreed that the women should have to work outside the family, so as to get respect and status. Further, education to the women is emphasized by the rural women respondents. It is surprising to note that majority of the Sc women knows about the self-employment schemes of the government, but most of them have not got benefit from these schemes, Hence. There is need to increase awareness among the Sc women regarding these schemes and the Non-Govt mental Organizations have to play an important role in such activities.

The majority respondents agreed that they are making decisions with their husbands in their family, which shows that the equal participation of the women in the family. Majority of the Sc women also agree that the women are equal with men in all respect. It shows that the present women are aware of their rights in the family and society. The women do not support intercaste marriage and love marriages, which show their narrow mind about the castes in the society. Such psychology of the rural women should need to be developed. The efforts of the Government are also appreciating, as majority of the women got seed money to form Self-Help Groups. It is also noted that majority of the women respondents stated that the Village Panchayats do not interfere and solve the problems of the women effectively. Many of the women respondents agreed that the Non-Governmental Organizations are also unable to solve Sc women s problems due to some reasons already stated in the study. For this purpose, there is need for the Panchayats and Non-Governmental Organizations to look after the women empowerment activities so as to provide equal status for the women.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

1. There is need to increase the banking attitude of the Self-Help Group Members.
2. The emphasis on the active participation of the members in meetings of the groups is essentially needed.
3. The decision making should be developed by all the members of the Self- Help Groups.
4. Increase in attendance to the meetings of the groups on the part of members is emphasized.
5. Regular training of the members of self-help groups for undertaking income generating activities is essential. For this purpose, new small scale occupations are discovered and in which the rural women must be trained.
6. There is need to emphasis the political participation of women as only limited respondents were contested in the elections.
7. There is need to increase awareness of the Sc women in different social practices such as dowry system.
8. Based on the findings it can be that SHG are expeted to extend financial services to the poor. Sc women and contribute to the allevialtion of poverty.
9. SHG members reflect a diverse membership covering different social and economic categories , including the poor . from the one group that Sc community .
10. It seems more significant that for Sc women who have been an SHG member for seven years (or more) half (still) poor, including 13% very poor.

#### REFERENCE

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