



SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN MEMBERS OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES: A STUDY OF KALABURAGI CITY

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ABSTRACT :

The study of socio-economic background of individual representatives who represent a social organization is as essential as the study of structure and functioning of the urban local bodies itself for a systematic analysis of their views, attitudes and actions. This is more so in respect of representatives in the urban society, as they constitute an element of urban local bodies and represents the urban population keeping this in view, Hence, the present study proved its significance in exploring the socio-economic background of women representatives of urban local bodies.

KEYWORDS : Women, Member, Urban, Socio-Economic.

INTRODUCTION

The Karnataka Government has given relatively better representation to women on urban local bodies through 73rd and 74th amendment. Since they are elected they constitute the legal and statutory leaders with sufficient scope to play an effective role in managing the affairs of urban on the equal plan with male members. Further, the performance of women leaders in the urban local bodies is significantly influenced by their experience in other social organisations as well as by their outlook and attitudes.

The participation of women in political action in the years after independence was distinctly lower without a doubt that was the result of the fact that now, with freedom having been achieved their seed many, formerly active women dropped out of Political involvement of the remaining ones who were still enthusiastic, many become active in the different Political parties. The earlier women's groups and association reorganized under different names and these organization now donned a new mantle, focusing on the rights of women as workers, on concentrating in executing social welfare programmes regarding education, family welfare etc.,

Women's Political empowerment, whether in India or elsewhere, has not come at one go. It has been a continuous process of gaining ground through stages of Political evolution, punctuated by more visible movements of confrontation once in a while. The profiles have been different in different societies and at different junctions. The process of women's emancipation is closely linked to women's empowerment in a conscious manner in the reform movements of the early 19th century. The demand for the abolition of Sati, the advocacy of widow remarriage, the struggle for women's education, are some of the movements which come to mind. The path which the reformists traversed, the problems they encountered, the manner in which they won new ground, the profiles of the main actors have all been extensively documented.

KALABURAGI CITY CORPORATION

The Kalaburagi district as a headquarter for the district, for the first time implemented municipality in the year of 1952, prior to this municipality, town development activities were looked after by the district boards. In the year 1952 first elected board was formulated and in the year 1961 Kalaburagi had 97,159 populations, which is divided into 31 wards. And 34 elected as members of the municipality among them 6 were belonging to scheduled castes.

The municipality was converted into City Corporation in the year 1981, after its making into City Corporation, administrative are it expanded and covered many villages. The city corporation election which held in the year 1996 that contained 55 members of which 27 were general contestants, 14 belongs to the other backward castes (OBC A). The 4 contestants belong to the (OBC B), 9 belonged to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The 19 members were women from all the categories.

Aim and Objective

1. To Know the Socio-economic status of women members of urban local bodies of Kalaburagi.

METHODOLOGY

Data for the present study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources of data formed the data collected from women members while the secondary source involved collection of data from sources such as census reports, books, journals, internet.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mahipal(1998) women in Panchayat experienced of a training camp. Published in Economic & Political Weekly January 24, 1998 observed the training camp in Gangohkshetra Panchayat, U.P. was an eye opener to both males and females of the region regarding the discrimination faced by women inside and outside of the household observed although women are elected representatives of panchayats, they feel neglected. They said that they did not received communication either from the Gram Panchayat or the Kshetra Panchayat to attend the meetings. For the first time they received an invitation from the empowerment and sustainable development initiative for attending the training camps, pradhans and husbands of some women to attend the training camps as they did not want them to learn about their rights and powers. That is why in some villages invitation letters for attending the camps were not distributed among the elected women representatives of PRJ's. It is observed that the organising of the programme created an awareness that would have its spread effect in coming days to faster better working of panchayats. That was the general consensus.

B.S.Bhargava and K.Subha (1994): Emerging trends in Panchayat Raj (Rural Local Self Government) in india. Political Empowerment of women: The case of Karnataka's experience with Panchayat Raj pointed out that empowerment gives women the capacity to influences decision making process. Planning, implementation and evaluation by integrating them into the Political system. This implies Political participation which includes right to vote, contest campaign, party membership and representation in Political offices at all levels and effectively influence decisions thereby leading to Political empowerment. Reservation is one of the instruments of Political empowerment as its gurantees representation. The falling of the 73rd and 74th Amendments can be considered as the greatest events for women's empowerment as one third of the seats are reserved for women in the local bodies.

Usha Mehta(1998) Journal of the Council for social development (Vol8. No.3, September 1978) "Indian Women and their participation in Politics;, writes in a survey conducted amongst the women candidates contesting for 1971 parliamentary and 1972 assembly elections an attempt was made to find out whether the low participation was due to women being afraid of violating the traditional Indian norms or because of their lacking motivation to enter the fray. A majority of them blamed the discriminatory policy of the Political parties. Political parties, they complained not only failed in encouraging them to participate in politics, but sometimes, adopted positively discriminatory and discouraging attitudes.

Vijay Lele (1997-98) in "Media Response to Political Empowerment of Women", with special reference to the 81st Amendment Bill; An Analysis of coverage in English News Papers. She starts with the words "Women's issues are usually not the stuff of which headlines are made nor the gender-related concerns considered good copy. When such questions do draw the attention of the media, they are often either sensationalized, trivialized or otherwise distorted. In a nutshell, their coverage can be summed up as a series of hits and misses

Table-1 Age of the Women councillors

Age	Frequency	Percentage
21-30	4	10.00
31-40	16	40.00
41-50	12	30.00
50 and above	08	08.00
Total	40	100.00

From the above table it is evident, that the age group of the respondent's majority of the women councillors is in the age between 31-40 years of age group i.e, 40.00 per cent between the age group of 41-50 are of 30.00 percent, 08.00 per cent of the women councillors were from 50 and above group. While less representation from the young generation i.e., is 10.00 per cent only from the age group of 21-30 years of age. The data indicates that majority of the women councillors in Kalaburagi Corporation is of from 31-40 age groups. These signify the younger generation women categories emerging by overthrowing the old tradition leadership.

Table-2 Educational level of the Women councillors

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Ill-literate	02	5.00
Primary-Mid	10	25.00
High School-inter	07	17.50
College Education	18	45.00
University Education	03	7.50
Total	40	100.00

According to the above table it is shown that the educational status of the women councillors, women members with the college education is of 45 per cent, and 7.5 per cent of women member have their education at the university level. While primary school education is of 25 per cent, were as high school 17.5 per cent, only 5 per cent of the women councillors were ill-literates.

Table-3 Occupation of the Women councillors

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	06	15.00
Business	13	32.50
Service	05	12.50
Household	16	40.00
Total	40	100.00

From the above table it is shown that the household of the women councillors, 40 per cent, 32.50 per cent of women members are business line, 06 per cent women members are in agriculture, 12.50 per cent are in service sector.

Table-4 Monthly income of the Women councillors

Income	Frequency	Percentage
1000-2000	12	30.00
2001-3000	06	15.00
3001-4000	05	12.50
5000 and above	17	42.50
Total	40	100.00

From the above table it is shown that monthly income of the members is of 42.50 per cent of their income is of 5000 and above, 30 per cent of their income is of between 1000-2000, 15 per cent of their income between 2001-3000, only 5 per cent of their income is between 2001-3000.

CONCLUSION

The participation of women in political action in the years after independence was distinctly lower without a doubt that was the result of the fact that now, with freedom having been achieved there seed many formally active women dropped out of political involvement of the remaining ones who were still enthusiastic, many become active in the different political parties. The earlier women's groups and association reorganized under different names and these organization now donned a new mantle, focusing on the rights of women as workers, on concentrating in executing social welfare programmes regarding education, family welfare extra. With the women's participation and involvement in politics in not complete. There are millions of more women ignorant of politics through they are affected by a number of lowers inherent in the political system society, family and personal attitudes are preventing the women to participate in politics. Some major problems are confronted by women in the process of participation in politics are depressed economic status, inferior socio-religious position, poor literacy levels, organizational handicaps and male dominance.

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