

AN OVERVIEW OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PANCHAYATRAJ

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Abstract

The study attempt to identify the women empowerment through panchayat raj program. This paper is based on secondary data and some observation in channagiri taluk. The educated Indian women have go lo a long way lo achieve equal rights and position because liadillions are deep rooted in Indian society where the sociological set up as been a male dominated one. She as competed with man and successfully stood up with him in every walk of life and

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Introduction

All over the world year 2001 was celebrated as the year “of empowerment of women” with gusto, making realize our existence in a different century. Empowerment refers to increasing the economic political social educational gender or spiritual strength of individuals and communities. The empowerment includes over all development in terms of education, employment asses to the resources, legislative a decision making powers, health and awareness. Political empowerment of women appears to be a much published cliched concept of the 21st century. Mahatma Gandhi had said “Women is the companion of man gifted with equal mental of capacities. She as the right to participate in the minutest details of the activities of man, and she as the same rights to freedom and liberty as he has”.

Objectives

- Against this back ground the following objectives are set far the purpose of the study
- To assess the socio economic, political and legal states of women
- To measure the empowerment of women at work place, within the person, family and society.
- To assess the degree of empowerment achieved by women through employment
- To identify the major problem experienced by employed women

Literature Review

The literature on female empowerment largely follows to approaches. The first set of studies considers the determinants of women empowerment. The second set of studies examines different proxies for female empowerment. Female empowerment is measured by a women’s ability to make house hold decisions, relative to her husband ability to make house hold decisions. Empowerment it self has been measured by a women’s relative physical mobility, economic security, decision making ability, freedom from domestic violence and political awareness and participation.

several analysis have found that access to credit programs whether through micro finance organizations or Rotating Savings Credit Association (ROSCA) has a positive effect on female empowerment (for a study in Kenya ,see Anderson and Baland, 2002;for a study in Bangladesh,

see Hashemi, schuler and Riley, 1996).Studies have also found a positive link between empowerment and contraceptive use (for a study in Bangladesh, see schuler and Hashemi, 1994). author says about only for women empowerment so that's why we are study about the women empowerment through panchayati raj program.

Research Methodology

The research is based on secondary and primary data. It's an exploratory and descriptive in nature. The secondary data is collected from review of past researches and other reports. The factors have been identified then classified into three categories factors responsible for hindrance, reasons for starting the business and reasons for success in women empowerment.

History Of Women Empowerment

Empowerment of women has become a subject of great concern to the development planners and policy makers all over the world. The declaration of the international women's year (1975) and the decade of women (1976-1985) by the United Nations led to the globalization of women's issues. Many nations including India became the signatories to the policies adopted at the international convention on elimination of all kinds of discrimination against women (CEDAW). As a consequence, 'national policy for empowerment of women' was declared by the government of India in 2001.

Panchayats have been the back bone of the Indian villages since the beginning of the history and are a part of her tradition. April 23, 1993 was a landmark day in the history of panchayati raj in India as on this day the institution of panchayati raj was accorded constitutional status through the seventy-third constitutional amendment act, 1992, thereby seeking to transform Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Grama swaraj into reality. This Act mandates provisions for:

- Establishment of a three tier structure (village panchayats, panchayat samiti and zila parishad).
- Establishment of gram sabha at the village level.
- Regular elections to panchayat every five years.
- Proportionate seat reservation for SCs/STs.
- Reservation of not less than 1/3 seats for women.

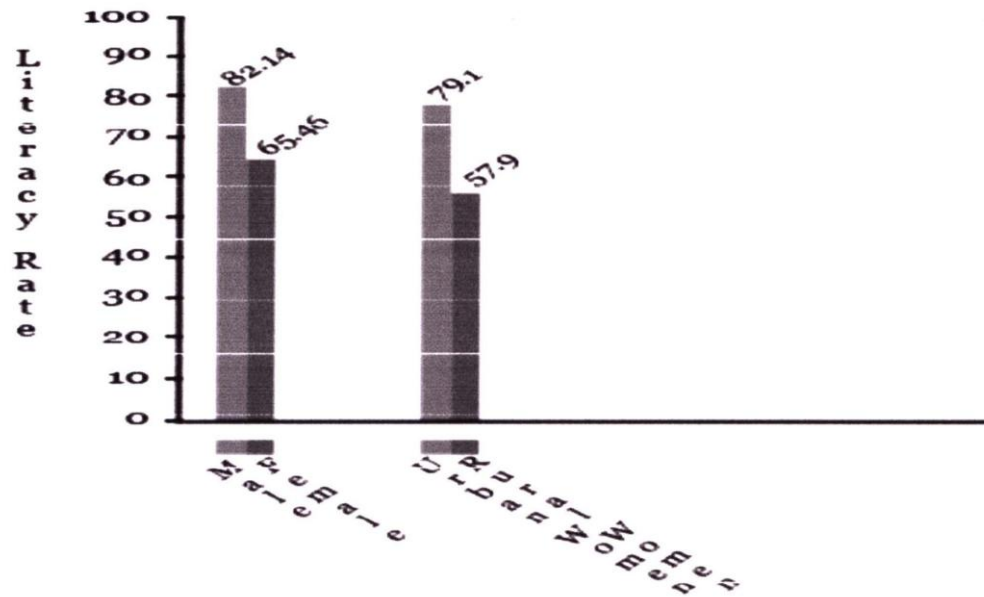
- Constitution of state finance commissions to recommended measures to improve the finance of panchayats.

Representation Of Women In Panchayat Raj Institution's

States	Gram pachayat women	%	Panchayati samiti women	%	Zila pari shad	%	total	All three tiers of panchayat women	%
U.P.	120591	15	13865	23	634	24	862458	135090	16
Gujarat	21351	17	1275	33	254	33	128045	22880	18
Assam	5469	18	669	26	—	-	33769	6138	18
Tamilnadu	31548	25	2295	35	225	35	132999	34069	26
Rajasthan	33566	30	1740	32	331	32	119419	35637	30
Hariyan	16704	31	858	35	82	36	57002	17644	31
M.P.	156181	33	369	35	338	33	484484	159688	33
HP.	6015	33	558	34	84	33	20177	6657	33
Marastra	101182	33	1174	33	587	33	308831	102943	33
Orissa	27036	33	1754	33	284	33	87191	29074	33
Tripura	1809	33	67	34	24	34	5687	1900	33
A.P	78034	34	5420	37	363	33	246266	83783	34
Goa	468	37	-	-	-	-	-	468	36
Manipur	555	36	-	-	22	36	1017	557	36
Panjab	26939	36	-	-	-	-	75473	26939	36
W.B.	17883	36	2997	35	243	34	58461	21123	36
Sikim	326	37	-	-	38	30	965	354	37
Kerala	3883	38	563	36	104	35	12117	4550	38
Karnataka	35305	44	1343	40	335	36	84886	36983	44
Bihar	9620	45	850	40	Si	40	22573	995 i	44

Source: *Narendra Prasad, Women And Development, Aph Publishing Corporation*

This table shows that the variation highest at the lowest sung level of gram panchayats, ranging from 15% to 45%. The best state in terms of highest participation is Bihar in followed by the Karnataka and Kerala, Sikkim and west Bengal. The table also shows below 33% women elected panchayati raj representative in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Assam.



Literacy rates relate to the population aged 7 years & above

Political Empowerment Of Women Representation Of Women In Parliament

Political representation was initially based on the premises that it deal's primarily with individuals, regardless of sex and equal opportunities should be granted for power and influence in society. However, as is apparent that representation of women in the lok Sabah has not crossed 10%.

Number of women elected to lok Sabah

Generai ejection	No of women	Percentage
First	22	4.4
Second	27	5.4
Third	34	6.7
Fourth	31	5.9

Fifth		A ^
Sixth	19	3.4
Seventh	28	5.1
Eighth	44	8.1
Ninth	28	5.29
Tenth	39	7.02
Eleventh	40	7.02
Twelfth	44	8.07
Thirteen	49	9.02
Fourteenth	45	8.25

Source : *lalneihzovi - 'women's development in india a mittal publication.*

Many of the barriers women empowerment and equity life. In cultural norms many women feel these pressures, while others have become accustomed to being treated inferior to men. even if men legislators NGOs etc, are aware of the benefits women's empowerment and participation can have many are the scored of disreputing the status of us and continue to let societal norms get in the way of development. Researches shows that the increasing access to the internet can also result in an increased exploitation of women

Releasing personal information on websites has put some women's personal safety at risk. In 2010 working to online Abuse stated that 73% of women were victimized through such sites. Recent studies also show that women face more barriers in the work place than do men, Gender-related barriers involve sexual harassment unfair hiring practices are progressing and an equal pay where women are paid less than men are for performing the same job. Such barriers make it difficult for women to advance in their work pleasure receive fair compensation for the work they provide.

Mobility Constraints

Rural women in Indian society has got restricted mobility. The carrier of women is limited in four walls of kitchen. The women confined themselves to three Ks -kitchen, kids and knitting.

There are hardly any opportunities to across this boundary (manima kali and rajeshwais 2000). The mobility problem has been solved to certain extent by the explosion of information technology and tele communication facilities.

Opportunities For Rural Women Empowerment Integrated Rural Development Program

A main objective of integrated rural development programmed is to increase the income generating power of family who are below the poverty line to alleviate the poverty. They impart technical and entrepreneurial skills and raise the income level of poor, some of the major employment and anti poverty programs are Regionai rurai development centers S Technology for bank. S Fund for rural innovation. S Social rural entrepreneurship.

Findings

- There is no one can support this type of association financial and economic villages.
- There is lack of education to build the women empowerment through panchayat raj.
- Most of the women representatives are unfortunately illiterates
- IV Government has provided some benefits to the women, but those benefits are not reachine nronerlv to women emnowerment
- Some women's are not participate in panchayat raj program, because of the family is not supported.

Suggestions

- All members or persons to encourage that women association through panchayat raj in out villager.
- To conduct various training programs through the panchayath raj in villages
- Special programs to be launched under panchayath raj scheme.
- Some type of political literacy manual which in brief, precise, easy/ readable and commonly understandable style explains the (general and some specific) rights, govemamental policy, judicial judgments, non-governmental social actions, etc.
- Possibility of creaiing a special fund or efforts for rising resources io help women for fighting elections.

Conclusion

On the basis above analysis it can be concluded that women empowerment or a group of rural women. They represent a trend setting phenomenon that PRIs have been instrumental for women's empowerment and could much more, if the society identifies the gender bias and issues as the obstacles in the way of women's progress. In nearly 17 years from 1983 to 2000. Women's representation in politics and administration has increased by a mere 2.3% increase representation in public sector undertaking has increased by 7.8% between 1971 and 1996. The statistics reveal women are lagging behind men in four major indicator, sex ratio, and mean age of marriage, literacy and participation in decision making process "women's entry in to politics has been a better taste in comparison administration" .

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