



A CASE STUDY ANALYSIS OF ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES OF KHAMMAM DISTRICT OF TELANGANA

Dr. B. Venkateswara Reddy
Associate Professor of Political Science
Government Degree College,
Nelakondapally, Khammam Dt.
bandiv.reddy@gmail.com

Abstract:

The developmental articulations across the spaces tend to produce differential political processes. Though this happens at the spatial aggregate i.e. at the level of socio-economic strata, the political process undergoes rapid changes. The inequalities among socio-economic groups may give rise to contestations in the public space. The differentiation of social groups is largely dependent on the economic conditions of the people, resource accessibility and cultural modernization. It is an established fact that Indian women in spite of the constitutional and legal safeguards are still in the process of struggling for equality of status and equality of participation in the development process. It was also presumed that these rights would automatically get translated into political development of the women in the country. However, it is sordid to note that, despite their vast strength, women occupy a marginalized position in the political system. The present study is conducted on the sample of 100 women representatives of local self-governance system of khammam district Of Telangana State (India). Interview schedule was used to collect primary data from the respondents to analyze their participation in Panchayat Raj Institutions and identify their socio-economic and psychological factors which contribute to the self-governance system.

Key Words: Governance, gender equality, human resources, marginalization

1.0 Introduction

Today all development agencies agree on the importance of educating women in order to promote and maintain family education, health, nutrition and general well-being. The aim of education should be to train women in such a way that they apply their acquired knowledge to the pursuits of daily life and fit them for the position they have to fill. Education for women should always be directed towards their holistic development. Education enhances a woman's sense of her own health needs and perspectives and her power to make any health and family planning decisions. This in turn, helps to reduce child and maternal mortality and morbidity rates. The increase in the education of women and girls contributes to greater empowerment of women, to a postponement of the age of marriage and to a reduction in the size of the families.

Participation of Women in Governance:

The Constitutional Provisions Before coming to the real picture of women's participation in Panchayat activities, it is essential to have a focuses on the constitutional provisions for the emancipation of women. The Preamble of the Indian constitution recognizes the principles of social, economic and political justice to all its citizens and also equality of status and of opportunities. The fundamental Rights guaranteed by the constitution (part III, Articles 12-35) try to remove inequalities which Indian women had suffered a lot. In this regard Article 14 promises equality before the law and equal protection of laws. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth and also enables the State to make special provisions for welfare of women and children. Article 15 (3) enable the State to make special provisions for the advancing of women and children.

Article 16 guarantees equality of opportunity in public employment. Article 23 prohibits traffic in human beings as well as forced labour

Women leaders in PRIs:

The Pitfalls Despite reservation for women, effective participation in PRIs have failed due to misuse and manipulation by the local power-brokers. Ignorance of women about their rights and procedures and about their potential and responsibilities has kept them far behind men in the local bodies. Unless structural changes are brought about, a sincere effort is made to educate women and the power structures existing in rural areas are neutralised, nothing much can be achieved. Women representatives often run into barriers (especially of family and society) and are hindered from participating effectively. The family, community and the state (represented by the officials) have together created a situation wherein elected women representatives are facing many operational constraints while playing their roles and discharging their functions in the PRIs.

Following is some of the shortfalls in respect of the women leaders in local governance.

- Overburdened with family responsibilities.
- Introversion due to the lack of communication skills.
- Poor socio-economic background with which the women have come into the system and poor capacity building.
- Political intervention in the functioning of Panchayats.
- Lack of political awareness among the women in rural areas

2.0 Literature review

Dr. Karunkar Virugu et al [1] In the geographical literature, we tend to come across the studies related to age groups, occupational mobility, gender-based studies, religion, ethnicity, caste etc., All such categories are merged into hegemonic and subaltern groups. The essence of such articulations centre around access to resources such as land, water, forest, institutions and public spaces. The electoral exercise will advance the democratic process and that will facilitate the public space for marginalized groups Mandakini Pant [2] remarks that out of an estimated 1.2 billion poor people in the worlds, over two-thirds are women. They face object poverty in want of adequate food, clean water, sanitation and health care. They often lack access to the critical resources of credit, land and inheritance. They are denied opportunities, choices, access to information, education and skills without any sense of power whatsoever, their participation in division making is minimal, both at home and in the community. Kumari Seema [3] The general election of 2014 saw the formation of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha riding on the largest election exercise ever. As per the report of the Election Commission (EC), 834 million Indian were eligible to cast their vote. Out of this humungous number, an equally impressive 553 million exercised their voting franchise. This election was historic in many aspects Singh [4] found that in Haryana relatively younger women are replacing older women. Formal empowerment and women leadership in Panchayati raj is a result of reservation of women in local self-women now enable to participate and decide in day by day's activities Mandal [5] Assesses Social and Political Background of Women Members in One District of West Bangal, evaluates various facets of their participation and role performance in PRIs, ascertains the nature, their social acceptability and informs both the positive and negative aspects of reservation policy for women. The study brought forth few



exclusive and absorbing features: women members are not dummy or docile; their participation both at formal Panchayat process and informal levels is no less exalting

3.0 METHODOLOGY

A significant aspect of participation is the casting of one's vote. Voting by the citizens leads to the formation of a government, which then takes decision for all the citizens. It is, however, noticed that though the percentage of women voters has increased, the figures for female voters have always been less by approximately 6%, as compared with men. This increase in the number of voters has led various political parties into paying greater attention to organizing the women and campaigning among them. In the past, such efforts were made only at the time of elections, in the form of certain 'populist and opportunistic short-term' promises. In accordance with the changed circumstances, the parties have established regular party forums, cells etc. for mobilizing women and seeking their support. Subordination of women to men in the home, in work place and in politics is a dominant socio-political reality has its roots in the patriarchal Social System, wherein, the relationship between men and women was "grounded on force" and the law of the strongest has been the phenomenon in their relationship.

The notion that men are the natural masters of women has continued to hinder the progress of egalitarian society where women enjoy equal status. Yet another significant aspect of political participation of women is by way of contesting the elections. It is unfortunate to note that, even in this front, the representation of women right from local-Self-governing institution to the parliament is as low as 11 percent the reasons for the same are not far to seek. It is a known fact that, women remain at the periphery of the power structure. They lack the political consciousness needed to formulate and implement policies in accordance with the aspirations of women. Their presence is mere 'symbolism' rather than 'real power wielding'. A successful democracy requires a participant society in which power is shared and authoritative decisions are made by representatives of all the citizens. Indian democracy, unfortunately, lack the effective participation of all its citizens khammam district Of Telangana State (India) is purposely chosen for the study. 250 samples were selected to explain the reasons for dropouts.

Telangana State – A Brief Profile On 2 June 2014, Telangana became the 29th state of India, consisting of ten districts with Hyderabad as its capital. The State of Telangana is located in the Southern region of India. Most of it was part of the princely state of Hyderabad, which was ruled by the Nizams during the British Raj until 1947, and later until 1948, when it joined the Union of India. In 1956, Hyderabad state was dissolved and Andhra state was merged with the Telangana region of the state of Hyderabad to form the state of Andhra Pradesh. The State of Telangana spans over an area of 1, 14,840 sq.kms. It is bound by the states of Andhra Pradesh on the south and east, Maharashtra on the north and north-west, Karnataka on the west and Chhatisgarh to the North-east. The state comprises ten districts, namely, Hyderabad, Khammam, Nalgonda, Warangal, Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Mahaboobnagar and Ranga Reddy. Presently the state has 31 districts. The total strength of the ZPTC, MPTC and Sarpanch of the Telangana State is as follows:

ZPTC – 0197,

MPTC – 6473,

Sarpanch – 1397

khammam district profile:

The present name of Khammam is derived its name after a local hill, which was called as 'Stambhadri'. The town was called with different names starting with Stambhadri, Kambhadri, Kambham mettu, Khammam mettu and then finally as Khammam. In which was the seat of Taluk Administration was part of the larger Warangal District, till 1st October, 1953. Five taluks of the Warangal district viz., Khammam, Madhira, Yellandu, Burgampadu and Paloncha (Now Kothagudem) were carved out and a new district KHAMMAM with Khammam as District Headquarters. The district was situated between 79° 47' and 80° 47'E, of the eastern longitudes and 16° 45' and 18° 35'N, of northern latitudes.

The Boundaries of Khammam district are East Godavari district in the East, Warangal and Nalgonda districts in the West, Krishna district in the South and Madhya Pradesh State borders in the North directions. The district has population of 27, 97,370 as per the 2011 census which accounts for 7.95% of the total population of the State with 8.47% decadal growth. Khammam Lok Sabha constituency is one of the 17 Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament) constituencies in Telangana state in southern India

4.0 A Case Study of Panchayat Institutions in K District

The data collected during the study in respect of the socio-economic and political status of women and their performance and perceptions in respect of PRIs in khammam district Of Telangana is presented below in tabular form, followed by an analysis and findings of the data:

Table 1: Age Wise Distribution of Respondents

| AGE | ZPTC | MPTC | SARPANCH | TOTAL |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 21-35 Age | 15 (64.00) | 35 (34.60) | 20 (25.30) | 71 (33.50) |
| 36-50 Age | 08 (42.00) | 40 (55.6) | 54 (55.00) | 121 (56.00) |
| 51 & above | | 08 (6.8) | 20 (16.8) | 28 (12.52) |
| | (23) 100 | (83) 100 | 94 (100) | (220)250 |

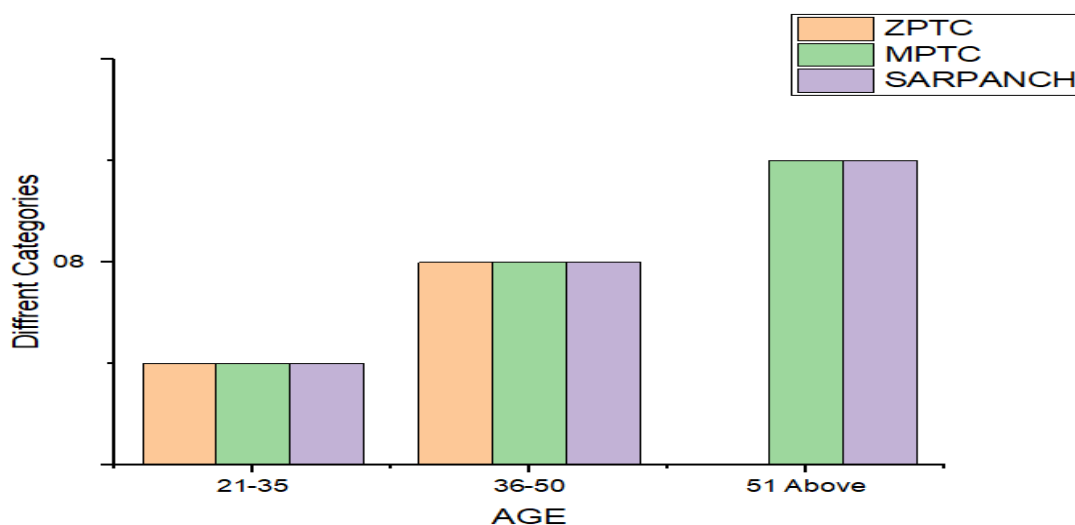


Figure: Age Wise Distribution of Respondent Variations

It is interesting to note from the above table that, while majority of the respondents that is 56 percent, are in the age group of 36-50 years, 35 percent of the respondents are in the younger age group of 21-35 years and only 12.52 per cent of the respondent women are above 51 years of age. This shows that, by and large, the women from younger age group are coming forward to contest the elections and become a part of the local governance. The table also shows that while women in the APTC category constitute the highest percent of younger age group that is 64 .00 percent, the women in the categories of MPTC and Sarpanches majority of the women are in the middle-age group that is 35-50 years. On the whole, it is significant to note that, the younger generation of women in the Warangal district are eliciting more interest in local politics and asserting their right to participate in local governance.

Table: Profession Wise Distribution of Respondents

| PROFESSION | ZPTC | MPTC | SARPANCH | TOTAL |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Agriculture | 15(90.00) | 63 (70.7) | 25 (75.15) | 149 (80.15) |
| Agriculture Labour | 06 (30.00) | 15 (16.45) | 16 (17.65) | 37 (18.12) |
| Business | | 04 (20.00) | 17 (18.70) | 21 (13.00) |
| | 21 (100) | 82 (100) | 58 (100) | 197 (250) |

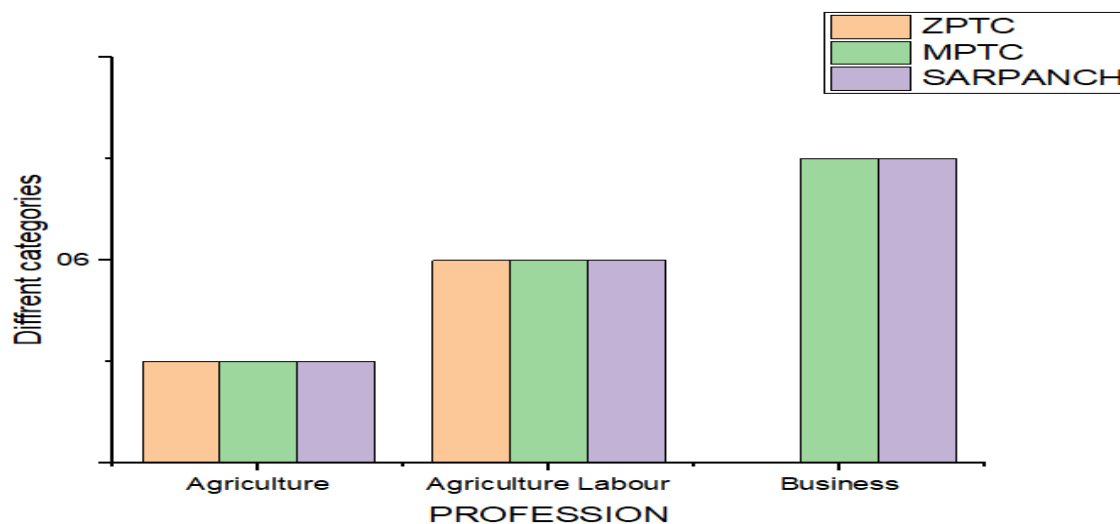
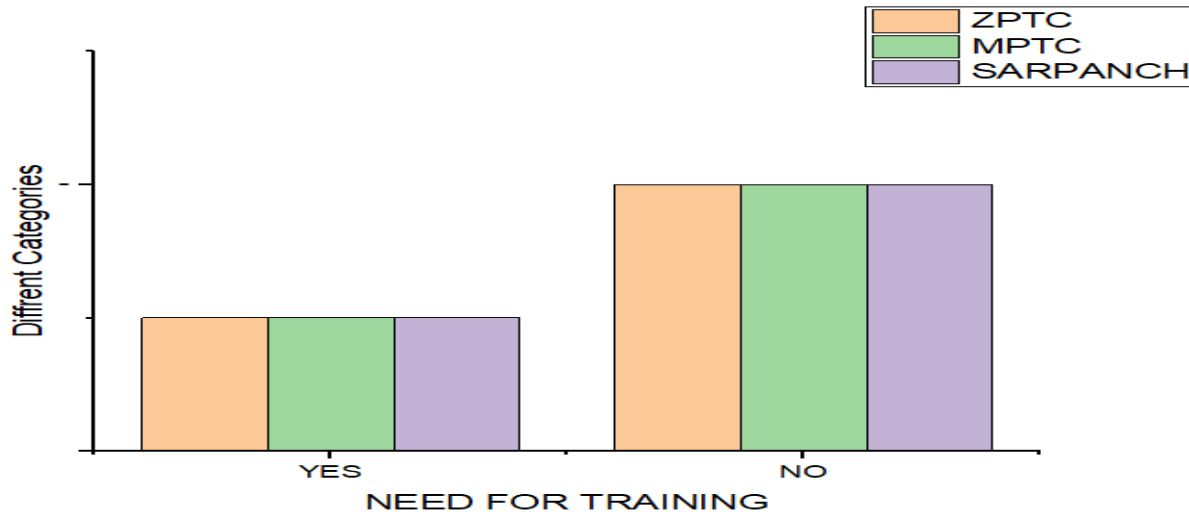


Figure: Profession Wise Distribution of Respondents

Profession and occupation of women is also an important factor, which has a bearing on the political empowerment of women. It is interesting to note from the above table that, large majority of the respondent women representatives that is 80.15 percent have agriculture as their main occupation, while only 18.12 percent of the women representatives are eking their livelihood as agricultural labour. This is an appreciable fact that, the women representatives, in spite of their regular family chores, and working as agricultural labour, are still able to spare time and energies for political activities. It is pertinent to note from the above table that, only 21.00 percent of the women respondents are doing business, while none of them are neither carrying out their traditional occupations nor are they in government service

Table: Do you think that the Elected Leaders Need Some Training

| NEED FOR TRAINING | ZPTC | MPTC | SARPANCH | TOTAL |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| YES | 20 (100.00) | 83 (90.67) | 80 (84.78) | 190 (90.00) |
| NO | - | 05(9.33) | 15 (15.22) | 14 (10.00) |
| TOTAL | 20 (100) | 88 (100) | 95 (100) | 250 (100) |



Elected Leaders Need Some Training Variations

Training is one of the essential components in any field of career for not only improving ones performance at work place, but also to keep them updated in terms of knowledge and emerging challenges. This is equally important in the case of a political career. It is significant to note from the above table that, large majority of the respondent women representatives in all categories (ZPTC, MPTC and Sarpanches) that is 90.00 percent have stated that periodical training is essential for the women representatives, while only 10.00 percent of them have felt that there is no need for such training programs.

Conclusions:

Women's entry into PRIs, both as members as well as heads of Panchayats, has pushed them into the policy-making and policy-implementation process in a very big way. Whether their husbands, fathers, brothers or other relatives compelled them to take up these roles, or whether they assumed these roles as dummy incumbents, one thing is certain: they crossed the rigid boundaries drawn through their households by the same male relatives Their qualitative participation can be achieved through training besides of course the literacy educational programmes. Mahila Mandals could be activated for this purpose where women could learn skills and acquire confidence. Links have to be strengthened between the village and the bureaucracy at the lower level. Special programmes on the role of women in PRIs, on rights of women and procedures should be prepared and highlighted through the mass media so as to make women aware and improve the quality of their participation in the socio-political system. It has been observed that women representatives are honest are not indulging in corrupt practices and accurate in presenting issues to the decision-making bodies and authorities.



- Domestic violence has substantially declined due to women Surpanch. These women representatives take pro-actively take up such violence. The victims are also feeling free to share their grievances to women representatives

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