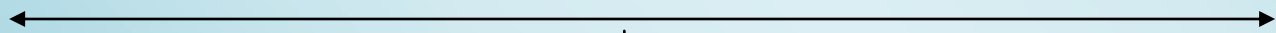


North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

*North Asian International Research Journal of
Social Science & Humanities*

Chief Editor

Dr Rama Singh



Publisher

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malik

Associate Editor

Dr. Nagendra Mani Trapathi

Honorary

Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik

NAIRJC JOURNAL PUBLICATION

North Asian
International
Research Journal Consortium

Welcome to NAIRJC

ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827

North Asian International Research Journal Social Science and Humanities is a research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi, Urdu all research papers submitted to the journal will be double-blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in Universities, Research Institutes Government and Industry with research interest in the general subjects

Editorial Board

J.Anil Kumar Head Geography University of Thirvanathpuram	Sanjuket Das Head Economics Samplpur University	Adgaonkar Ganesh Dept. of Commerce B.S.A.U, Aruganbad
Kiran Mishra Dept. of English,Ranchi University, Jharkhand	Somanath Reddy Dept. of Social Work, Gulbarga University.	Rajpal Choudhary Dept. Govt. Engg. College Bikaner Rajasthan
R.D. Sharma Head Commerce & Management Jammu University	R.P. Pandday Head Education Dr. C.V.Raman University	Moinuddin Khan Dept. of Botany SinghaniyaUniversity Rajasthan.
Manish Mishra Dept. of Engg, United College Ald.UPTU Lucknow	K.M Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	Ravi Kumar Pandey Director, H.I.M.T, Allahabad
Tihar Pandit Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir.	Simnani Dept. of Political Science, Govt. Degree College Pulwama, University of Kashmir.	Ashok D. Wagh Head PG. Dept. of Accountancy, B.N.N.College, Bhiwandi, Thane, Maharashtra.
Neelam Yaday Head Exam. Mat.K..M .Patel College Thakurli (E), Thane, Maharashtra	Nisar Hussain Dept. of Medicine A.I. Medical College (U.P) Kanpur University	M.C.P. Singh Head Information Technology Dr C.V. Rama University
Ashak Hussain Head Pol-Science G.B, PG College Ald. Kanpur University	Khagendra Nath Sethi Head Dept. of History Sambalpur University.	Rama Singh Dept. of Political Science A.K.D College, Ald.University of Allahabad

Address: - Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No. 221 Gangoo, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India - 192301, Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570, Ph. No: 01933-212815, Email: nairjc5@gmail.com , nairjc@nairjc.com , info@nairjc.com Website: www.nairjc.com

IMPACT OF PRI MEMBERSHIP ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE WOMEN

A. SANJEEVA REDDY*

*Research Scholar, Department Of Rural Development And Social Work , Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapuramu.

ABSTRACT

The women in India constitute half of the total population. They are subject to various types of discrimination from cradle to grave. In rural areas they contribute a lot for the economic betterment of the family. But, it is going to be unrecognized in male dominated society. The position of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women in this regard is more deplorable. This economic subordination of women further aggravating the political participation of women. Keeping in view of this the Parliament of India provided 33 per cent of quota for women in rural local bodies. Hence in the present paper an attempt has been made to look in to the impact of PRI membership on economic upliftment of women. The present paper makes an attempt to study the specific impacts of PRI membership on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women representatives in drought ridden and faction ridden Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

Key Word: Empowerment, Resources, Savings, Cash in Hand, Debt.

INTRODUCTION

Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs)- the grass-root units of self-government-have been proclaimed as the vehicles of socio-economic transformation in rural India. Effective and meaningful functioning of these bodies would depend on active involvement, contribution and participation of its citizens, both male and female. India is perhaps the first country to recognize the social fact (*i.e.* women in Panchayat) underlined by Lenin on the International Working Women's Day in 1921 and to have taken concrete measure to draw women into leadership positions and thereby into politics by giving them one-third reservation in what may be called the third tier of governance-the Panchayat Raj.

Empowerment gives women the capacity of influence 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 influences decisions thereby leading to political empowerment Reservation is one of the instruments

of political empowerment as it guarantees representation. The passing of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments can be considered as the greatest event for women's empowerment as one-third of the seats are reserved for women in local bodies.

Securing the participation of women in the institutions of democracy and governance is now an important item on the global agenda. The development of women has always been the central focus in developmental planning, since independence. In the first twenty years, policy makers were primarily concerned with overall economic growth. The third decade of independence witnessed an increase in concerns for equity and poverty alleviation and now the empowerment in the 90s, the department of women and child development, implementing special programme for holistic development and empowerment of women with welfare programme.

India has heralded the new millennium by pronouncing the year 2001 as Women's Empowerment year. In terms of political empowerment, nearly seven lakh women occupy positions as members and chairpersons of grassroots democratic institutions in India, following the reservation clause in 73rd and 74th Amendments providing one-third seats at district, Mandal, village and municipal level for women. This is for the first time in our history that an opportunity has been provided for such substantial entry of women in public life and large numbers have come forward to tackle the challenge of leadership at all levels of Panchayats. In fact, right from the days of freedom struggle the Indian women have been consistently encouraged to take part in the active politics. But due to the vitiated political milieu, resulting from increasing politicization and criminalization of politics, the level of political participation of women has been adversely affected despite the fact that there has been a marked increase in the level of literacy and political awareness of women. It is recognized that the goals of poverty alleviation are difficult to achieve without the full and active participation of women, who constitute a large section of the workforce in the country. Women's empowerment is critical to the process of development of the community and, therefore, bringing them into the mainstream of development has been a major concern of the Government.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the socio- economic and educational background of sample women representatives.
2. To analyze the economic impact of PRI membership on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women representatives in the study area.

SAMPLING

In Ananthapuramu district the total number of elected representatives in rural local bodies is 12,491. Among them 5,762 representatives constituting 46.13 per cent are men and the remaining 6,729 representatives constituting 53.87 per cent are women. There are 508 (4.07 per cent of total representatives) Scheduled Tribe representatives and 2,108 (16.88 per cent of total representatives) Scheduled Caste representatives in the district. Among the Scheduled Tribe representatives 359 constituting 70.67 per cent are women and among Scheduled Caste representatives 1,356 constituting 64.33 per cent are women. For the present study 15 per cent of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste women representatives were selected by simple random sampling method. Care was taken to cover all 5 revenue divisions of the district and all three tiers of PRIs. So the sample constitutes 203 SC women representatives and 54 ST women representatives. The total sample for the study is 257 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women in Ananthapuramu district.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Access to Resource

The membership of PRIs is likely to enhance the access to resources in case some women and will not bring any change in case of other women. The respondent's views on their access to resource are given in table 1.

Table –1
Impact of PRI Membership on Access to Resource

Responses	Caste Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Male		Female		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Significantly Increased	11	20.37	42	20.69	53	20.62
Marginally Increased	16	29.63	64	31.53	80	31.13
Status Quo	24	44.44	92	45.32	116	45.14
Can't say	3	5.56	5	2.46	8	3.11
Total	54	100.00	203	100.00	257	100.00

Source: Field Data

It can be found from table 1 that a preponderant majority i.e.45.14 per cent of women representatives declared that the membership in PRIs has no impact in their access to resources. Among them 45.32 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 44.44 per cent belong to Scheduled Tribe community. Nearly 31.13 per cent of sample women respondents reported marginal increase in the in their access to resources due to membership in

PRIs in the study area. Here Scheduled Caste respondents are ahead with 31.53 per cent and followed by Scheduled Tribe women with 29.63 per cent. Significant increase in their access to resources is reported by 20.62 per cent of women. Here, there are no wider differences between SC and ST women. Negligible percentage (3.11%) of respondents has no opinion on their increase or decrease in their access to resources.

Control over to Resource

The access to resources will yield good results if the control on such resources is there and otherwise not. The control over resources in outside the family is essential for empowerment of women. Table 2 gives such details.

Table – 2
Impact of PRI Membership on Control over to Resource

Responses	Caste Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Male		Female		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Significantly Increased	4	7.41	21	10.34	25	9.73
Marginally Increased	7	12.96	40	19.70	47	18.29
Status Quo	38	70.37	134	66.01	172	66.93
Can't say	5	9.26	8	3.94	13	5.06
Total	54	100.00	203	100.00	257	100.00

Source: Field Data

As per table 2 nearly 66.93 per cent of sample respondents reported that the membership in PRIs has no change on the control of resources in the study area. About 70.37 per cent of ST women and 66.01 per cent of SC women reported no change. Around 18.29 per cent of total sample stated marginal increase in their control over resources and 9.73 per cent reported significant change in their control over resources. In these two positive impacts the women belonging to Scheduled Caste category have pre-eminent position. About 5.06 per cent have no opinion on the impact of PRI membership in their control over resources in the study area.

Personal Savings

The membership of women in PRIs gives some scope for them to have personal savings. As PRI members, they receive honorarium from the government. The details of the impact of PRI membership on savings is presented in table 3.

Table – 3
Impact of PRI Membership on Personal Savings

Responses	Caste Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Male		Female			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Significantly Increased	6	11.11	23	11.33	29	11.28
Marginally Increased	11	20.37	51	25.12	62	24.12
Status Quo	32	59.26	120	59.11	152	59.14
Can't say	5	9.26	9	4.43	14	5.45
Total	54	100.00	203	100.00	257	100.00

Source: Field Data

It can be found from table 3 that as many as 59.14 per cent of sample SC and ST women representatives declared that the membership in PRIs has no impact on their personal savings. About 29.12 per cent of sample women reported marginal increase and 11.28 per cent reported significant change. Nearly 5.45 per cent of respondents have no opinion on the increase or status quo in their personal savings.

Cash in Hand

The increased access to resources as well as control over resources, are likely to enhance the cash in hand. Table 4 gives the details of respondents' responses on the cash in hand due to PRI membership.

Table – 4
Impact of PRI Membership on Cash in Hand

Responses	Caste Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Male		Female			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Significantly Increased	9	16.67	38	18.72	47	18.29
Marginally Increased	12	22.22	56	27.59	68	26.46
Status Quo	26	48.15	101	49.75	127	49.42
Can't say	7	12.96	8	3.94	15	5.84
Total	54	100.00	203	100.00	257	100.00

Source: Field Data

It can be found from table 4 that nearly half of the sample women respondents reported that the membership in PRIs has no impact with regard to cash in their hands. Around 26.46 per cent of sample SC and ST women representatives reported marginal increase and 18.29 per cent reported significant increase. About 5.84 per cent have no opinion.

Impact on Debt Position

The PRI membership's impact on debt position of sample respondent's households' of women representatives is given in table 5.

Table – 5
Impact of PRI Membership on Debt Position

Responses	Caste Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Male		Female		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Significantly Decreased	2	3.70	43	21.18	45	17.51
Marginally Decreased	6	11.11	63	31.03	69	26.85
Status Quo	40	74.07	92	45.32	132	51.36
Can't say	6	11.11	5	2.46	11	4.28
Total	54	100.00	203	100.00	257	100.00

Source: Field Data

Table 5 indicates that the debt position of sample SC and ST women respondent households decreased due to PRI membership as reported by 44.36 per cent of sample in study area. About 26.85 per cent reported marginal decrease and 17.51 per cent of total sample respondents declared that there is significant decrease in debt position of family. Only negligible percentage of (4.28 %) respondents has no opinion on the decrease of family debt. While majority of the respondents i.e. 51.36 per cent have expressed that there is no change in debt position of their households even after becoming members of PRIs in the study area.

Possession of Gold & Silver Ornaments

The particulars of the impact of PRI membership on possession of gold and silver ornaments on sample women representatives is given in table 6.

Table – 6
Impact of PRI Membership on Gold & Silver Ornaments

Responses	Caste Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Male		Female			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Significantly Increased	2	3.70	9	4.43	11	4.28
Marginally Increased	4	7.41	13	6.40	17	6.61
Status Quo	43	79.63	176	86.70	219	85.21
Can't say	5	9.26	5	2.46	10	3.89
Total	54	100.00	203	100.00	257	100.00

Source: Field Data

It can be noted from table 6 that a preponderant majority i.e. 85.21 per cent of respondents reported status quo in the possession of gold and silver ornaments. On the other hand significant increase is reported by 4.28 per cent of respondents in their possession of gold and silver ornaments. Marginal increase in the possession of gold and silver ornaments is reported by 6.61 per cent of sample respondents. 10 out of 257 (3.89 %) respondents have no opinion on the impact of PRI membership on possession of gold and silver ornaments in the study area.

CONCLUSION

Women have gained a sense of empowerment by asserting control over resources, officials and, most of all, by challenging men (Jain 1980; Anveshi 1993). Men and their habits, long outside the realm of female influence, seem to be a major concern of elected women. The men have always ridiculed us, and perceived us as incapable of the management of public affairs. We now make up one third of the councils. This adds to our sense of strength. We must be 50 percent or more. We must overpower them with our numbers.

REFERENCES

- ❖ Ratrn Ghosh & Alok Kumar Pramanik, *Women's Participation in Panchayats: Some Steps*". in Ratna Ghosh and Alok Kumar (eds.)Pramanik, *Panchayat System in India: Historical, Constitutional and Financial Analysis*, Kanishka Publishers, New Delhi, 2007, pp.169-188.
- ❖ Pargunan M., *Women Leadership in Rural Tamil Nadu: Impact of 73rd Constitution Amendment Act* in Biju M.R. (ed.), *Panchayat Raj in India: A Symbol of Participatory Democracy and Decentralized Development*, Kanishka Publishers, New Delhi, 2008.
- ❖ Surat. (2004) *Empowerment of women representatives in Panchayati Raj : a profile from Haryana*. Kurukshetra, 52(10) : 17-20.
- ❖ Nahar, U.R. et al. (2003). *Women and panchayati raj (with abstract)*. Jodhpur : Jai Narain Vyas Univ., Dept. of Sociology, Jodhpur.
- ❖ Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Lucknow. (2005). *Role conflict among women representatives in urban local government : a case study of Uttar Pradesh*. Lucknow : RCUES.
- ❖ India, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi. (2008) *Study on elected women representatives in panchayati raj institutions*. New Delhi : I-MPR.
- ❖ Ramesh H. Makwana, " The Role and Crisis of Women Leader at the Village Panchayat: Concerns of Gujarat Women", *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. LXX, No.1, March 2009, pp.91-105.
- ❖ R. Narayanan, *Women in Panchayati Raj, The Divide between Intent and Implementation*, p.45, Kurukshetra, June 1994.
- ❖ B. Suguna, *Strategies For Empowerment of Rural Women*, *Social Welfare*, Vol.49, No.5, Aug., 2002.
- ❖ Susheela Kaushik, "Women and Political Participation", *Women in Politics*, FES, New Delhi, 1992.

Publish Research Article

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication.

Address:- Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No-221, Gangoo Pulwama - 192301

Jammu & Kashmir, India

Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570,

Ph No: 01933212815

Email: nairjc5@gmail.com, nairjc@nairjc.com, info@nairjc.com

Website: www.nairjc.com

