

A Study on socio-economic status and problems faced by rural women of Panchayati Raj Institutions: Ghaziabad district

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ABSTRACT

The makers of Panchayati Raj system desire that rural women should not only become beneficiaries of development but more importantly contributors to it. An analysis of the socio-economic characteristics and problems faced by rural women about their political participation would help the planners to reorient the rural development programmes in a meaningful way. Most of the rural women faced problems regarding male dominance, house hold responsibilities, criminalization, illiteracy, castism, economic dependence, sex-stereotype role in the participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions. The presence of appreciable women in a visible at effective and meaningful levels will help in heralding a humane and equitable social order.

KEY WORDS : Rural women, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Participation

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INTRODUCTION

India could attain Ramarajya only by going back to certain golden traditions of ancient India as well as by revising the indigenous Institutions that will suit the Indian culture. – **Mahatma Gandhi.**

Panchayat Raj Institution is one of the most important political innovations of independent India. Panchayat Raj is identified as democratic decentralisation; it means democracy at grass root levels. The 73rd constitution Amendment Act 1992, which came into force from 24th April 1993, had the objectives of placing the power in the hands of SC-ST and women. Women have come to position in the local bodies as provision has been made in the constitution. The out look towards the rural women has started changing. But there are hurdles in the process of empowering women. Steps are being taken their own to overcome the hurdles. It is a long drawn process. A structure which had been created over centuries to work against interest of rural women can not be altered overnight.

Reservation of seats helps to create a political space for women in the male dominated political system and lead to social justice, equality of status and political empowerment. The present study is the need of hour.

The findings of the study will provide the attributes required among politically active women which will influence the decision making process, raise their grievances and other social economic problems in a formal way. Their knowledge about their political rights will seek outside support terms of NGO's women's organisations mass media so that women will relatively more vocal and will actually by participating in PRIs. The present study will be helpful for the policy makers, women's organisation educationalists researchers, sociologists, curriculum planners, NGOs for formulation of micro-level planning to develop leadership qualities among rural women.

Kaushik (1999) revealed that the politics is essentially an art of acquiring and exercising power-the power effectively influences the decision-making processes and policies, to reverse the exercise of power is very much a necessity, particular for the disadvantaged group, in this instance, the women.

Further, she depicted that the participation of women in the formal political institutions, such a participation is very much a condition and indication of women's own present power and status, it is also requirement for influencing the decisions in the future for promoting women's rights and development. The lack of sufficient

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