

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Perception of women leaders towards holding the leadership for gender upliftment

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SUMMARY : Women are being sharing the half of the population of our country. This study has focused towards the reason behind the involvement of women towards leadership. Constitutions have tried to evict the gender discrimination. 50 per cent reservation of women representatives of Panchayats had blommed the engagement of both the genders equally. The women representatives (Sarpanchs) have several reasons behind to put themselves in this agenda. Here, 112 women Sarpanchs were selected to provide the reason and perception of them towards leadership. The analysis reveals that majority (45.53%) of had participated in the leadership due to reservation for women. Also the 83.03 per cent of them had perception regarding improvement of social status of women among the society. This could be further promoted by encouraging women in every field of leadership.

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KEY WORDS:

Leadership,
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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Panchayti Raj is a government institution which has recently upgraded with the constitution (110th Amendment) bill, 2009 in parliament on 26th November 2009 for enhancing the reservation for women in Panchayats. It is basically a step towards women recognition among the men who are holding the power since independence. There was a demanding need to provide dignity to women through the political institution as a partner. As the initiative of women reservation was done in 73rd amendment but the gender equity was still lacking. Now, the women have also started getting enrolled as leader to bring up the entire local villagers specially females to work upon mass movement, motivating girl

child, taking self decision, etc. A Gram Panchayat is backbone of Panchayati Raj syatem and it has a sarpanchs as its elected head. The Gram Sabha members are generally elected for five years. India is being considered as first country to recognize women to participate in Panchayati Raj constitution in large number. The study has basically tried to find out actual reason for participant in political institutions. Also it is being tried to know the perception women leaders about changes faced by them in various dimensions after holding the power. The increment of women representative is not enough to improve the women condition rather it is necessary to know the pros and cons being faced by them. Also it has to check whether they are free to work accordingly or

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still there are any reasons for their participation.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Chhattisgarh had followed the 50 per cent reservation for women in recent election. Bilaspur being third populous district was taken for this study. All the seven blocks of this district were taken for study. Out of 336 Gram Panchayats, one-third *i.e.* 112 respondents were taken for study. As there are population of tribal and non-tribal people, the respondents were split into two categories of tribal women Sarpanchs (56) and non-tribal respondents (56). Comparative studies among them were done to analyse difference with relation to their perception and their state of mind towards participation in election.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads:

Reason for participation in leadership as sarpanch:

The data regarding reason for participation in leadership given in Table 1 indicate that majority of respondents (45.53%) participated in leadership due to

reservation for women. However, 40.17 per cent respondents participated to help the people of society, 39.28 per cent respondents had the reason of gender discrimination, 29.46 per cent of those respondents participated because of the pressure from family/husband. 21.42 per cent of the respondents wanted to be an office bearer and 13.39 per cent of them had pressure/motivation from political party (Brar, 1966; Buch, 1999; Benke, 2011 and Mande and Kshatriya, 2011).

The study of tribal respondents related to participation reason indicated in Table 1 was highest towards (37.50%) reservation. 33.92 per cent of them mentioned the pressure of family members/husband which was followed by the reason to help the people of society (32.14%). Also, 28.57 per cent of them had other reason like gender discrimination, untouchability, etc. 16.07 per cent of them wanted to hold the power and rest 7.14 per cent of the respondents had pressure from/motivation from political parties. In case of non-tribal respondents it was found that maximum respondents (53.57%) had the same reason of reservation to participate in leadership. 50.00 per cent had other reasons like gender discrimination. However, 48.21 per cent of the Sarpanchs wanted to help the society and 26.78 per cent wanted to hold the power itself. 25.00 per cent of

Sr. No.	Particulars	Non-tribal (n=56)		Tribal (n=56)		Overall	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Hold power	15	26.78	09	16.07	24	21.42
2.	Help to the people in society	27	48.21	18	32.14	45	40.17
3.	Reservation for women	30	53.57	21	37.50	51	45.53
4.	Pressure from family members/husband	14	25.00	19	33.92	33	29.46
5.	Pressure/motivation from political party	11	19.64	04	7.14	15	13.39
6.	Other reason (gender indiscrimination, untouchability, etc.)	28	50.00	16	28.57	44	39.28

*Data based on multiple responses

Sr. No.	Particulars	Non-tribal (n=56)		Tribal (n=56)		Overall	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	No change	5	8.92	18	32.14	23	20.53
2.	Minimisation of hesitation	12	21.42	10	17.85	22	19.64
3.	Improvement in personality	36	64.28	25	44.64	61	54.46
4.	Improvement in economic status	22	39.28	15	26.78	37	33.03
5.	Improvement in social status	51	91.07	42	75.00	93	83.03
6.	Change in self confidence	44	78.57	31	55.35	75	66.96
7.	Improvement in decision making power	38	67.85	26	46.42	64	57.14

*Data based on multiple responses

the respondents had the pressure from family and rest 19.64 per cent of them had pressure/motivation from political party (Chandrashekhar and Kadam, 2012; Chakravarthy, 1965 and Jayalkshmi, 1995).

Perception regarding leadership :

The data related to perception of respondents about changes in various dimensions after holding the position are presented in Table 2. The data reveal that majority of the respondents (83.03%) had perceptions related to improvement in social status, followed by 66.96 per cent respondents had perceptions in change in self-confidence, 57.14 per cent of them felt improved decision making power, 54.46 per cent of personality improvement, 33.03 per cent of improved economic status, 20.53 per cent of no change and 19.64 per cent of minimisation of hesitation.

As about tribal respondents, Table 2 shows that majority (75.00%) of them had perception related to improvement in social status. However, 55.35 per cent of them had found change in self confidence followed 46.42 per cent of them had seen improvement in decision making power. Also, 44.64 per cent had felt the improvement in personality. 32.14 per cent of the respondents did not found any change but 26.78 per cent had the improvement in economic status. Rest 17.85 per cent had found the minimization of hesitation.

Study regarding perception of non- tribal respondents in Table 2 reveals that majority (91.07%) of them had improvement in social status which was similar to the tribal respondents. 78.57 per cent had attained the self confidence and 67.85 per cent had improved the decision making power. However, 64.28 per cent of the respondents felt the improvement in personality and 21.42 per cent of them had found minimization in hesitation. Remaining 8.92 per cent respondents did not felt any change while the leadership (Choukidar, 1964; Deshmukh, 1967; Krishnaswami and Guruswami, 1970 and Kubde *et al.*, 1989).

Conclusion :

The Indian constitution had led 50 per cent reservation for women in Panchayat. Chhattisgarh had followed the reservation and half of the Panchayat were elected with women Sarpanchs. Study was done in Bilaspur district by taking 112 women representatives. Out of those respondents, 56 were tribal and 56 were non- tribal respondents. Reason behind the participation

of women leaders were notified differently. It showed that majority of the respondents had the reservation as the major reason behind the participation whether they are tribal or non- tribal. Other than reason, the perception of respondents towards the leadership was analysed as well. The data indicated that, women Sarpanchs found improvement in their social status. Hence, it was found that the step towards women upliftment by giving equal opportunity had played a significant role and also improvement the importance and value of women representatives among the society.

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