



Research Article

Constraints faced by women member of Gram Panchayat

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in randomly selected Majalgaon, Parali and wadwani tehsils of Beed district of the Marathwada region in Maharashtra state. Twelve villages from each tehsils and 3 women member from each Gram Panchayat were selected randomly. In this way total 36 villages from three tehsils were selected to comprise total sample of 108 respondents. The information was collected with the help of structured interview schedule by interviewing personally to the respondents. It was revealed that women member of Gram Panchayat faced number of constraints like family male member dominated in decision process, oppose from family member to do Gram Panchayat work having while, the other problem expressed were no time to participate in Gram Panchayat work, non co-operation from Gram Panchayat members, Gram Panchayat members not obey the given instruction, as a women member less importance is given to them in Gram Panchayat, not participation due to lack of confidence, low income of Gram Panchayat, not interested in Gram Panchayat work.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Gram Panchayat is the most potential school of social and political training for the rural masses. It is key organization for overall progress of the village. In India women are bounded by traditions, customs, culture and the way of thinking and also they are not educated to take their own decisions.

By the centuries gone women of India went through the long traditional harassment which made them mentally poor. But it is also true that rural women are aware about whatever happening, changes and development across the world. Women of 21st century must have to change themselves because of its need for self Government. Women acquire required quality of leadership and quality of work but all round social binding kept her behind. Her participation is low as compared to men's participation in any social activity. (Anonymous, 2006).

Many of the politicians were not ready to include women in the field of election or support them in the elections. Moreover, in the traditional rural society, politics is regarded as 'unwomanly'. (Kanango Shukla, 1996). The last 73rd amendment was brought into force on 22 December 1992 at

different level of Panchayat Raj institute. According to it Government has announced (33%) reservation of seats for women in Gram Panchayat. Recently chief minister of Maharashtra announces (50%) reservation in local self governing institutions. The present study was searching out the constraints faced by the women member of Gram Panchayat with following specific objective.

To indentify the constraint faced by the women member of Gram Panchayat while performing their role.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in randomly selected Majalgaon, Parali and Wadwani taluka of Beed district of the Marathwada region (M.S.) in 2010-2011 with specific objective to indentify the constraints faced by the women member of Gram Panchayat while performing their role. The twelve villages from each tehsils and 3 women members from each Gram Panchayat were selected. In this way total 36 villages from three tehsils were selected to comprise total 108 respondents by nth method of sampling for present investigation. Simple statistical techniques like

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Table 1 : Constraints faced by the women member of Gram Panchayat while performing their role

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Ranks
1.	Family male member dominated in decision process	107	99.07	I
2.	Oppose from family member to do Gram Panchayat work	106	98.14	II
3.	There is no time to participate in Gram Panchayat work	105	97.23	III
4.	Non co-operation from Gram Panchayat members	104	96.30	IV
5.	Gram Panchayat members not obey the given instruction	101	93.51	V
6.	As women member less importance given to them in Gram Panchayat	100	92.60	VI
7.	Not participate due to lack of confidence	99	91.67	VII
8.	Low income of Gram Panchayat	94	87.03	VIII
9.	Lack of sufficient knowledge to participate	92	85.18	IX
10.	Not interested in Gram Panchayat work	88	81.48	X
11.	Unavailability of development funds in time	79	73.15	XI
12.	Castism	77	71.30	XII
13.	Lack of Information technology	61	56.48	XIII
14.	Lack of training	53	49.07	XIV
15.	Illiteracy	50	46.30	XV

frequency, percentage, for analysis of the data were adopted.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

Constraints faced by the women member of Gram Panchayat:

It can be observed from Table 1 majority (99.07 %) of the women member of Gram Panchayat expressed the constraints as an important were family male member dominated in decision process followed by the constraint oppose from family member to do Gram Panchayat work having rank second with 98.14 per cent. The other problem expressed were no time to participate in Gram Panchayat work (97.23 %), non co-operation from Gram Panchayat members (96.30 %), Gram Panchayat member not obey the given instruction (93.51 %), as women member less importance is given to them in Gram Panchayat (92.60 %), The women member of Gram Panchayat not participate in Gram Panchayat activities due to lack of confidence (91.67 %), low income of Gram Panchayat (87.03%), not interested in Gram Panchayat work (81.48 %), unavailability of development funds in time (73.15 %), castism (71.30 %), lack of information technology (56.48 %), lack of training (49.07 %), no literacy (46.30 %).

This finding is in line with the observation made by the findings of Choudhary *et al.*(2004), Suradkar (2005) and Khadge (2006).

Conclusion:

The constraints encountered by the women member of Gram Panchayat were of varying types and intensity. The constraints classified into different ranks were family male member dominated in decision process, oppose from family member to do Gram Panchayat work having while, the other problem expressed were no time to participate in Gram Panchayat work, non co-operation from Gram Panchayat members, Gram Panchayat members not obey the given instruction, as a women member less importance given to them in Gram Panchayat activities.

Implications:

Hence, women commissions or NGO's working for women, should organize the training programmes for women to aware they about their rights. If, almost all the recommendations of Grampanchayat are adopted by women Grampanchayat members in right perspective, we increase the standard of living of rural women and achieve target of rural development.

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