

RESEARCH PAPER

Socio-economic profile of women in panchayat

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ABSTRACT

Panchayat raj institution is a network of village panchayats. Representation of women in Panchayat was initiated to provide equal opportunities in political system at grass root level and as a result they rose up to national level. They could do better for their category from lower to upper level. So the aim of present study was to identify socio-economic profile of 60 women Panchayat functionaries. For assessing socio-economic profile of women functionaries, scale of Trivedi (1963) was used with slight modification. Interview schedule was used to collect primary data. The findings of the study show that they were in the age group of 31-40 years, backward caste, hindu, illiterate and educated upto Junior high school, married and from agricultural background, belonged to nuclear families having upto five members. Their annual income was in between Rs.10, 001-Rs.20, 000. They were holding land size upto 2.5 acre and residing in kachcha house. Along with above betterment, they were facing various types of problems namely; problems regarding child rearing practices, social co-operation, and illiteracy. The findings of this study inform about the factual of their knowledge and they are required for make a mark of their thumb on papers besides it nothing. So, there is a need to aware women about their existence as an independent, their role, and responsibilities before giving them administrative incentives, because in this condition, they will not act as required but they will become the puppet of puppeteer.

Key Words : Women, Panchayat, Socio-economic characteristics

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Since the origin of civilization on earth has been a cradle for development of humanity. The process of evaluation arose from womanhood. So there is no chance of people's welfare unless the condition of women is improved. Similarly no development process could be carried on successfully without of women, as a vehicle can not move on one wheel. For creating balance, reservation was initiated for women in Panchayati Raj System. So that the women could get and their appropriate representation in Panchayat, and their true representation could make the dream of village independency true. As a consequence of this provision a massive number of women from all parts of country came forward to participate and improve the status of their category.

Considering the above facts, the present study was conducted to find out the Socio-economic profile and constraints faced by women as panchayat functionaries.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Exploratory type of research design was used. Farrukhabad district of Kanpur division was selected purposively Farrukhabad district comprises seven blocks. Out of seven blocks, Budhpur block was selected randomly. Budhpur block consists 24 villages. Out of these villages, 14 villages were selected randomly. For respondents' selection, a complete list of panchayat functionaries was prepared. Out of the total listed women, 60 women were

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selected. S.E.S scale of Trivedi (1963) was used with slight modification for assessing socio-economic status and percentage was used as a statistical measure.

RESULTS AND REMONSTRATION

Socio-economic profile of selected sample was studied under two heads; personal and family characteristics:

Age :

Table 1 indicates the distribution of respondents that out of the 60 respondents, majority of them (46.67%) were in the age group of 31-40 years followed by (25 %) in the age group of 41-50 years and 51 years and above. Minimum were in the age group of 20-30 years. Results with slight modification were found in earlier studies conducted by Nayana (2008), Government of India, Planning Commission (2008) and Ganguly (2007). Majority of women were aged upto 37 years and above. This indicates that the younger generations of women have realized the value of political participation. They are more mobile in comparison with the elder generation and have broken the traditional barriers.

Caste :

Out of the study population, majority of them were in

backward caste (53.33%) followed by schedule caste (28.33%) and minimum were in upper caste (18.33%). Similar findings were observed in earlier studies conducted by Nayana (2008), Government of India, Planning Commission (2008) and Ganguly (2007) that women were from the reserved category. This is because of 73rd constitution amendment introduced reservation of seats for women in gram panchayats. This is instrumental in bringing the socially and economically backward sections of the people of the main stream of politics.

Religion :

Majority of the respondents was Hindu (93.33%) and remaining was Muslim (6.67%). A conducted by Nayana (2008) is also in support of above findings and a study conducted by Ganguly (2007) is not in support of above findings that majority of women were from muslim community/religion.

Education :

Majority of the respondents were educated (68.33%) and remaining were illiterate (31.67%). Among the literate, majority were educated up to junior High School. Studies conducted by Nayana (2008), Government of India, Planning Commission (2008) and Ganguly (2007) were in support of above findings that maximum of women were

Sr. No.	Variables	Classification	Respondents	
			Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age (years)	20-30	12	20.00
		31-40	18	46.67
		41-50	15	25.00
		51 and above	15	25.00
2.	Caste	Upper	11	18.33
		Backward	32	53.33
		SC/ST	17	28.33
3.	Religion	Hindu	56	93.33
		Muslim	4	6.67
4.	Education	Illiterate	19	31.67
		Primary	16	26.67
		Junior high school	16	26.67
		High school	6	10.00
		Intermediate	1	1.66
		Graduate and Post graduate	2	3.33
5.	Marital status	Married	59	98.33
		Unmarried	-	-
		Widow	1	1.67
6.	Occupation	Labour	13	21.67
		Business	14	23.33
		Agriculture	32	53.33
		Service	1	1.67

educated up to secondary level. It clearly indicates that the participation of women with below secondary education tends to be more in a decentralized democracy. It is an accepted fact that the overall educational status of female is quite low in all the panchayats and they are considered as thumb marking body.

Marital status :

Out of the 60 respondents, majority of them (98.33%) were married and remaining were widow (1.67%). Studies conducted by Nayana (2008), Government of India, Planning Commission (2008) and Ganguly (2007) are in support of above findings (Table 2).

Occupation :

Out of the total study population, majority of the respondents were engaged in agriculture field (53.33%) followed by business (23.33%) and minimum were in service (1.67%). Studies conducted by Nayana (2008), Government of India, Planning Commission (2008) and Ganguly (2007) are in support of above findings.

Type of family :

Out of the study population, majority of the respondents belonged to nuclear families (93.33%) and remaining belonged to joint families (6.67%). A study conducted by Nayana (2008) is not in support of above findings that women were from agricultural background). A study conducted by Government of India, Planning Commission (2008) is in

support of above findings.

Size of family :

Majority of the respondents belonged to family having upto five members (53.33%) and remaining belonged to family having above five members (46.67%).

Type of house :

Out of the study population, majority of the respondents had kachcha house (96.67 %) and very few had mixed type of house (3.33 %).

Land holding :

Majority of the respondents had land upto 2.5 acre (48.33 %) followed by landless (26.67 %) and minimum having land more than 5 acre (6.67 %).

Income :

Out of the 60 respondents, majority of them were having yearly income of Rs. 10,000-20,000 (41.67%) followed by the respondents having yearly income of Rs. 30,000 to 40,000 (23.33%) and minimum were in the income below Rs. 10,000 per year (3.33%). A study conducted by Government of India, Planning Commission (2008) is also in support of above findings.

Conclusion :

It is quite right that after being member of panchayat, women status was improved. As it is clear from the findings

Sr. No.	Variables	Classification	Respondents	
			Frequency	Percentage
1.	Type of family	Joint	4	6.67
		Nuclear	56	93.33
2.	Size of family	Upto 5 members	32	53.33
		Above 5 members	28	46.67
3.	Type of house	Kachcha	58	96.67
		Mixed	2	3.33
		Pucca	-	-
4.	Land holding (acre)	Landless	16	26.67
		Upto 2.5	29	48.33
		2.5-5.0	11	18.33
		Above 5.0	4	6.67
5.	Income (monthly in Rs.)	Upto 10,000	2	3.33
		10,001-20,000	25	41.67
		20,001-30,000	7	11.67
		30,001-40,000	14	23.33
		40,001-50,000	5	8.33
		50,001 and above	7	11.67

that the majority of panchayat functionaries from backward caste was more, belonged to nuclear families having upto five members. Their annual income was in between Rs. 10,000-Rs. 20,000. They were holding land size upto 2.5 acre and residing in kachcha house. Alongwith above betterment, they were facing various types of problems namely; problems regarding child rearing practices, social co-operation, and illiteracy. There is a great need to eradicate to above explain hidden factors for the betterment of women role in panchayat. For it, Government should plan and conduct training programmes to build up their confidence and work simplifications techniques.

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