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Problem and Prospects of Schedule Tribe Women In Local Governance with Reference to Chitradurga District of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Local governments have relevance now in responsive, transparent, participatory and accountable to the people and in the Indian context, the most deprived sections of society such as the dalits, tribals, and women. It is said that 'politics is about power', but democratic politics is and should be about bringing power down to the people or empowering them. Decentralization therefore may be defined as the empowerment of the local population through the empowerment of local governments. The constitution defines Panchayats as "institutions of self-government" and requires the state legislature to create such institutions. Here, this paper examines the problems and prospects of schedule Tribe Women in local governance with reference to Chitradurga district of Karnataka state.

KEYWORDS : Local Governance, Panchayat Raj Institutions, schedule tribe Women

INTRODUCTION:

Local governments have relevance nowdays because they are responsive, transparent, participatory and accountable to the people and in the Indian context, the most deprived sections of society such as the dalits, tribals, and women. It is said that 'politics is about power', but democratic politics is and should be about bringing power down to the people or empowering them. Decentralization therefore may be defined as the empowerment of the local population through the empowerment of local governments. The constitution defines Panchayats as "institutions of self-government" [Article 243 (d)] and requires the state legislature to create such institutions. Tremendous political opportunities emerge from the extension of participatory democracy through the institutions of village Panchayat, Gram sabha, affirmative provisions for dalits, tribals, women and so on. Real improvement in the self-esteem of the vulnerable sections of society can come only through a process of meaningful participation. The nature of the accountability arrangements is also expected to move downward to the people rather than to the bureaucratic superior officers. The efficient use of local resources through decentralized spatial planning mandated in the constitution is an important means to promote economic development. Enhancing the quality of public service delivery, be it primary school, primary health care, drinking water supply, sanitation and so on can be ensured only through citizen's involvement and participation. This is an important means to promote horizontal equity in a country known for its widespread disparities in the level of endowment and development. Within the context of rural governance structures, work was done on three main levels to increase confidence and participation of tribal people in local governance: a) democratic education for children, resulting in the "March for Citizen's Participation in the Electoral Process"; b) political awareness training for youth; and c) the formation of mass level organizations so that they may realize their collective strength and have confidence that collectively they can change the world. A significant move in this regard is the adoption policy to enlarge the base of political participation of women and Tribal women in PRIs. Attention is drawn to the Karnataka Panchayat Raj policy Act of 1983. This Act is unarguably the first of its kind in the history of evolution of PRIs then formulated. This reservation was extended to the posts of presidents participation through increased political representation 25% of reservation to women was raised to 33% in a span of 10 years from 1983 to 1993 witnessed an important amendment to the constitution of India. The amendment namely 73rd Constitutional amendment provided for 33% reservation to women at all levels of PRIs covering the rural India. To see that women representatives perform as leaders of these organizations 33% of the posts of Member, President and Vice-President was earmarked for women representatives.

Here, the main objective of this paper is to study problem and prospects of schedule Tribe Women in local governance with reference to Chitradurga district of Karnataka state. This paper is based on primary data and study was conducted in Chitradurga District of Karnataka State.

Influencing factors enter into politics:

The information collected regarding entrance to politics by tribal women respondents with their own interest. They said different opinion regarding their interest in entering politics. The study reveals that majority of the respondents of 95% (286) entered politics with their own interest and only 5%(14) respondents have entered politics without their own interest. The data clearly reveals that PRIs system has given the direct and active participation for Tribal women in local governance in study area.

Problems faced in Political participation

It would be appropriate to sum up that there are number of obstacles in the way of effective participation of women respondents of panchayat raj institutions. They may face all kind of obstacles in the field. For this purpose researcher has collected the information about the problems in active participation by the tribal women respondents in this paper.

The data shows that, out of 300 interviewed respondents 43%(128) of the respondents have faced all type of problems like economic, social, political, cultural, 15%(45) of the respondents have faced the problems in participation because troubles from upper caste people, 31%(94) of the respondents have faced problem of economic and other problem, 08%(24) of the respondents have faced problem in participating in panchayats due to social problem, 02%(07) of the respondents have faced problem by the influenced groups, 01%(02)of the respondents have faced problem of non-cooperation from male members. The table reveals that they have faced all kind of problems like economic, social, political and cultural. Basically study area is most backward and tribal's area in the state; hence respondents in the study area face many problems regarding the participation. In this context, it requires more concentration by the state to develop this region and provide the new economic opportunities for their development is concern.

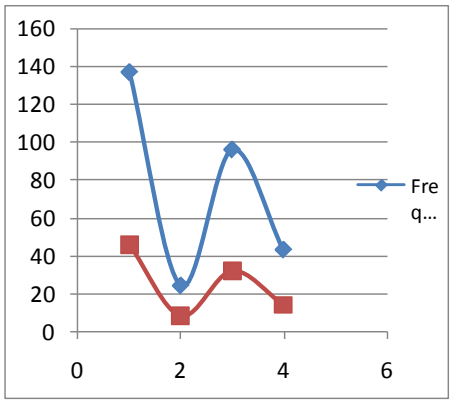
Problems faced by tribal women in politics:

Tribal women have faced several problems with respect to the economic, social, political and cultural. Here tribal women were asked the questions in this regard and different opinions were collected by the respondents and are analyzed below.

Table No 1: Problems faced by tribal women in politics

Sl. No.	Problems	Frequency	Percentage
1	Political, social, economic and educational	137	46
2	Social disabilities	24	8
3	All type of traditional problems	96	32
4	Illiteracy, ignorance,& other problems	43	14
Total		300	100

Source: Field Survey



Above table No 1 shows that the Problems faced by tribal women in politics. Out of 300 respondents, 46%(137) respondents having political, social, economical and educational problem, 8%(24) respondents having problem of social disabilities, 32%(96) respondents having all type of traditional problem, and 14%(43) respondents having problem of illiteracy, ignorance and other problems. This data reveals that the majority of respondents are having problem of political, social, economic and educational problems in politics in the study area.

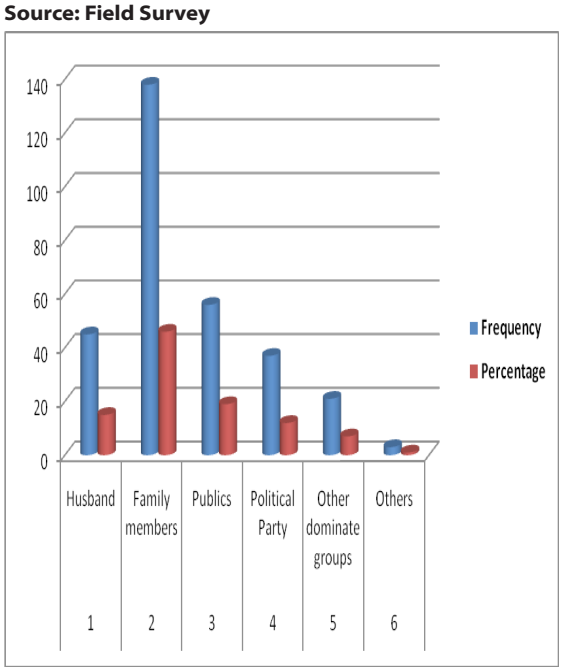
Problem in discharging the duties:

The problems which are faced by elected tribal women while discharging the duties as shown in below explanation. The table No 2 shows the difficulties faced by the elected tribal women such as family members, husband, public, political party, other dominate groups and other people

Table No 2: Problem in discharging the duties

Sl. No.	Problems	Frequency	Percentage
1	Husband	45	15
2	Family members	138	46
3	Publics	56	19
4	Political Party	37	12
5	Other dominate groups	21	07
6	By Others	03	01
Total		300	100

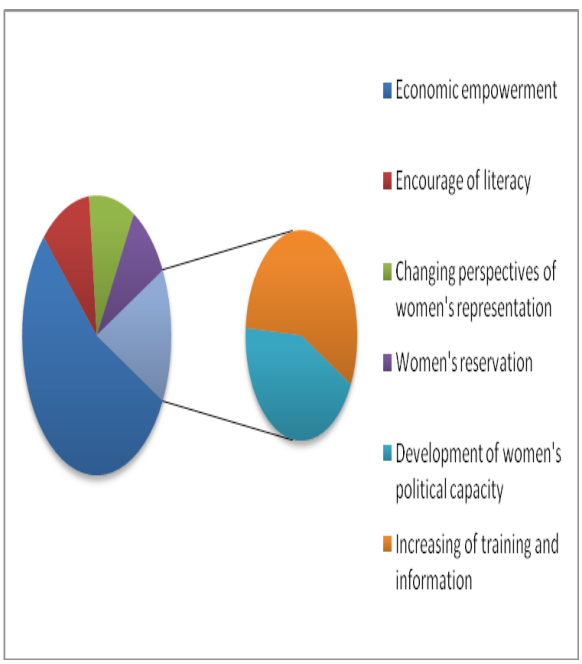
Source: Field Survey



The above table No 2 shows the problems faced by the members in discharging their duties. Out of three hundred respondents, 15%(45) respondents have faced this type of problem by their husband, 46%(138) of respondents have problem in discharging the duties by family members, 19%(56) respondents have problem in discharging the duties by publics, 12%(37) respondents have problem in discharging the duties by political party, 7%(21) respondents have problem in discharging the duties by other dominant groups and 1%(3) respondents have discharging the duties by other factors. The paper reveals that respondents were agreed that the family members and their husband interfere in discharging the duties in day to day functioning of the PRI.

Motivational factors and political participation

Participation of tribal women representation in politics is mainly motivated by several factors like educational opportunities, empowerment process, changing roles by the women, reservation policy and decentralization of power. Hence, researcher tried to find out the motivating factors of tribal women representation in study area.



Here data and chart shows the motive factors of the women representation in political participation. 54.66%(164) respondents have motive factor like economic empowerment, 11%(33) respondents have motive factor of encourage in literacy, 10%(30) respondents have motive factor of changing perspectives of women's representation, 9%(27) respondents have motive factor of women reservation, 6.67%(20) respondents have motive of development of women political capacity and 8.67%(26) respondents have motive of increasing in training and information. The data reveals that economic empowerment is the main important motivating factor for tribal women representation in politics. And such other factors also influenced by the motive factors like education, reservation, information, training, enhance the capacity of women representation in politics.

Women's personal and self decision and appreciation:

Here, paper observed that whether male members are appreciated the women respondents personal and self decision. Different opinion has been collected and analyzed here. Data examined the women's personal and self decision is appreciated by male members. Out of 300 respondents, 86%(259) respondents told that their personal and self decision were appreciated by the male members and 14%(41) respondents told that there is no appreciation for personal and self decision by male members. This data reveals that most of the respondents got appreciation by the male members but small portion of the respondents are not getting the appreciation by the male members.

Conclusion:

Tribal women must get greater social and political exposure so that they can be dynamic in active politics. If they take active participation,

they can contribute a lot to the all-round development of their regions. They must be provided with better education facilities and offered necessary training at all levels. Efforts must be made to bring about a thorough transformation in their attitude and mindset. Only then the process of Tribal women empowerment through political representation becomes meaningful and realistic. This is not impossible but requires committed and dedicated efforts. All these observations should not lead us to a negative conclusion about the very policy of reservation to Tribal women. It has opened many opportunities to them in terms of participation and to fight against negative impact of patriarchy. Though, schedule tribe women facing problems still she has so many opportunities to grow. So, here participatory democracy has great significance in the process of women empowerment.

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