



## Impact of Reservation Policy on Tribal Women

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### ABSTRACT

*Reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women was guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Scheduled Tribes women have been elected at the village, block and district levels, following the landmark 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India, reserving 33 percent of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women. 73rd constitution Amendment Act in 1993 provided uniformity to the Panchayat raj system throughout India. Here, this paper examines the Impact of Reservation policy on Tribal Women through Panchayat Raj Institutions with special reference to Chitradurga district of Karnataka state.*

**KEYWORDS : Reservation policy, PRIs, Tribal Women.**

### INTRODUCTION:

Reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women was guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Scheduled Tribes women have been elected at the village, block and district levels, following the landmark 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India, reserving 33 percent of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women. 73<sup>rd</sup> constitution Amendment Act in 1993 provided uniformity to the Panchayat raj system throughout India.

The Scheduled Tribes are tribes notified under Article 342 of the Constitution, which makes special provision for 'tribes, tribal communities, parts of, or groups within which the President may so notify'. There is no definition of a tribe in the Constitution but one may distinguish some characteristics that are generally accepted: self-identification, language, distinctive social and cultural organization, economic underdevelopment, geographic location and initially, isolation, which has been steadily, and in some cases, traumatically, eroded. Karnataka Human Development Report defines Tribe as "Primitive, geographically isolated, shy and socially, educationally & economically backwardness" (Karnataka Human Development Report: 2001:235).

Here, this paper examines the Impact of Reservation policy on Tribal Women through Panchayat Raj Institutions with special reference to Chitradurga district of Karnataka state.

### RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservation of women in the panchayat raj is not only increasing the number of women members but also allow the women in rural and tribal areas to develop themselves and contribute to the society. Participation in the development process brings about a variety of new opportunities and challenges for the elected representatives need to enhance their ability and confidence to handle the responsibilities. Here, paper studied whether respondents were elected under reservation policy or not.

The data illustrate the impact of reservation on women participation in politics. The common perception is that due to reservation, women representatives are able to participate in the affairs of panchayats with much more confidence and they also feel much more secured. Majority of (94%) (283) of respondents entered politics with reservation policy and only 6% (17) of respondents say that they have not taken any reservation. This data give clear scenario of fruitfulness of reservation policy. Here majority of women members' i.e 95% of them are in politics because of women reservation. Perhaps this is positive impact of reservation in favour of women in panchayat raj institutions.

### Awareness about their voting power:

The paper deals with the political awareness among the tribal women respondents in panchayats. It is an important to assess the awareness about voting in every election by respondents. The present study shows that the respondents are aware of voting power in every election

and shows the responsible citizen.

Here data shows 99% (297) i.e. all most all of respondents are voting in every election and very small portion of the respondents that is 1%(3) were not voting in every election. This data reveals that majority of women respondents have awareness of fundamental duties and powers because of its social relevance. Only one 1% of respondents have not aware of these fundamental duties and powers because their ignorance, illiteracy and don't have interest.

### Family member's involvement in election campaign:

In any contest motivation is push factor to participating competition matters as such this especially case of schedule tribe women in the present paper. There are various factors which influenced the respondents to win the election. Family and family members support is also necessary to understand the factors of winning the election. Hence, here the data shows the different opinion regarding the family member's involvement in election campaign.

A large majority, 94% (281) of respondents received their family involvement in election and 6% (19) respondents have not received any family support to win the election. Here, noticeable thing is that reservation was not considered as important reason to win the election but it also considered that their family members involvement and their continuous support. Data reveal that women were given the opportunity to participate in the election through only by the family supports like husband, brothers, parents, in-laws and children. This indicates that women alone cannot participate in any kind of development process especially in rural and tribal areas.

### Nature of experience in panchayat system:

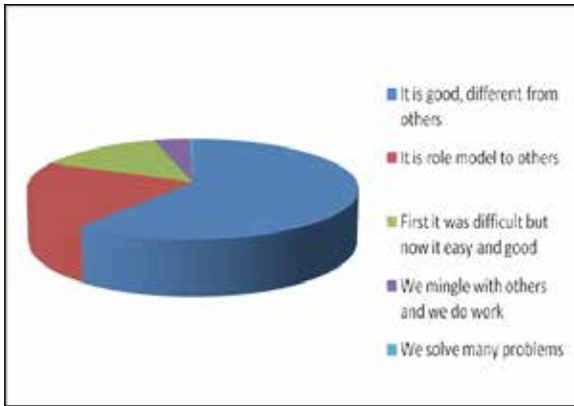
After entering the politics women respondents have their own experience in the political field. With their active and continuous participation in this field, they are encouraged to enter in the rural development process. The table No 1, shows that the different opinion regarding the experience received in the political field.

**Table No 1: Nature of experience in panchayat system**

Sl.No.	Experience	Frequency	Percentage
1	It is good, different from others	181	60.33
2	It is role model to others	64	21.34
3	First it was difficult but now it easy and good	42	14
4	We mingle with others and we do work	12	4
5	We solve many problems	1	0.33
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Figure No 1



In above table no 1 shows that, 60.33%(181) respondents are have experienced that it is good, different from others, 21.33%(64) respondents have experienced that it is role model to others, 14%(42) respondents experienced that beginning it is difficult to handle but now it is easy, 4%(12) respondents have experienced that they mingle each other and do work, and 0.33%(1) respondents have experienced that they can able to solve problems. The data reveal that majority of women respondents shown interest in this field because it is good and different from others that means, that is main gateway to change and develop the rural area and tribal areas through grassroot level governance. The experience in politics makes them perfect and builds capacity in the development process.

**CONCLUSION:**

Reservation of women in the panchayat raj is not only increasing the number of women members but also allow the women in rural and tribal areas to develop themselves and contribute to the society. Participation in the development process brings about a variety of new opportunities and challenges for the elected representatives need to enhance their ability and confidence to handle the responsibilities.

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