



## Extent of participation of women members in Panchayati Raj Institution

### KEYWORDS

Panchayati Raj Institution, Women Members, Participation, Problems

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**ABSTRACT** The present study was conducted in Akola Zilha Parishad, Akola And Murtizapur Panchayat Samiti of Akola district of Maharashtra state with the objective to measure the extent of participation of women members in the different activities of Panchayati Raj Institution. It was found that majority of the respondents (98.00%) were having low level of extent of participation in different panchayat activities, followed by 02.00 per cent were observed under medium level of extent of participation. It was further revealed that majority of women members (52.00%) stated that lack of co-operation from male members acted as a major hurdle in performing their role towards village development and for awareness. Lack of knowledge about different schemes (38.00%), lack of time (32.00%) and lack of co-operation from villagers (24.00%) were also expressed as important problem by women members.

### Introduction-

Panchayati Raj is the backbone of Indian democracy. Based on the recommendation of a committee headed by Shri. Balawantrai Mehta, Government of Maharashtra accepted democratic decentralization i.e. Panchayat Raj and Passed the Zilha Parishad And Panchayat Samiti act, which came in to force from 1<sup>st</sup> may 1962. It has three tier system that is village level, block level and district level. In a sector of rural areas there are women participating an important role in family and society as well as in rural development. The union cabinet government of India on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009 approved 50 per cent reservation for women in a Panchayati Raj Institutions. Also provide opportunities to women candidates to understand and solve the local problems. The women PRIs members have to play a vital role in agricultural development scheme of the village. The reservation for women is changing the face of male dominated mainstream in India. The reservation will surely provide the platform for women to decide and generate the policies for welfare.

### Material and Methods-

The present study was based on the exploratory research design and carried out in Akola Zilha Parishad, Akola Panchayat Samiti and Murtizapur Panchayat Samiti. Thus, 20 women members from Akola Zilha Parishad, 10 women members from Akola Panchayat Samiti and 5 women members from Murtizapur Panchayat samiti and 32 and 33 women members from 8 Gram Panchayat of Akola and Murtizapur Panchayat Samiti were selected respectively. Thus 100 women members were formed the present study. Data were collected by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule. Six components

were taken in to consideration for measuring the extent of participation. Participation of women members in PRIs was calculated by using following formula –

$$\text{Participation Index} = \frac{\text{Participation score actually obtained on all six components}}{\text{Maximum obtainable participation score on all six components}} \times 100$$

The collected data was then analyzed with the help of suitable statistical methods.

### Results and Discussion-

#### Extent of participation of women members

The distribution of women Panchayati Raj Institutions members according to their extent of participation is given in Table 1.

The extent of participation women members revealed that majority of the respondents (98.00%) had low level of extent of participation followed by 02.00 per cent had medium level of extent of participation. It is surprisingly to note that none of the respondents were observed in high level of extent of participation in PRIs.

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their overall level of extent of participation**

Sr.No	Categories	Index range	Frequency (n=100)	Percentage
1	Low	Upto 33.33	98	98.00
2	Medium	33.34-66.65	02	02.00
3	High	Above 66.66	00	00.00
	Total		100	100.00

**Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their extent of participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions**

Sr.No	Component and their statements	Always (%)	Most of the time (%)	Sometime (%)	Rearly (%)	Never (%)
A	Political Activities					
1	Door to door convancing.	15(15.00)	22(22.00)	44(44.00)	09(09.00)	10(10.00)
2	Addressing public meeting.	01(01.00)	44(44.00)	30(30.00)	25(25.00)	00(00.00)
3	Distributing Pamphlet and posters.	05(05.00)	20(20.00)	37(37.00)	38(38.00)	00(00.00)

4	Convancing outside the village.	08(08.00)	28(28.00)	26(26.00)	38(38.00)	00(00.00)
5	Affiliated political parties meeting.	08(08.00)	36(36.00)	30(30.00)	26(26.00)	00(00.00)
6	Parties' demonstration.	09(09.00)	30(30.00)	38(38.00)	16(16.00)	07(07.00)
7	Women accompanied by family while coming to a meeting.	28(28.00)	31(31.00)	08(08.00)	20(20.00)	13(13.00)
8	Women representatives express their opinion and ideas during meeting.	48(48.00)	13(13.00)	28(28.00)	09(09.00)	02(02.00)
B	Social Activities					
1	Organizing beneficiaries for construction and supervision of housing project.	28(28.00)	16(16.00)	29(29.00)	14(14.00)	13(13.00)
2	Maintenance of drinking water facility.	28(28.00)	45(45.00)	17(17.00)	08(08.00)	02(02.00)
3	Distribution of fuel and fodder.	13(13.00)	20(20.00)	44(44.00)	14(14.00)	09(09.00)
4	Supervision of village sanitation activities.	24(24.00)	47(47.00)	15(15.00)	11(11.00)	03(03.00)
5	Supervision of formal and non-formal education.	42(42.00)	28(28.00)	17(17.00)	13(13.00)	00(00.00)
6	Supervision of distribution of nutrition for children and women.	54(54.00)	24(24.00)	18(18.00)	01(01.00)	03(03.00)
7	Construction and maintenance of link roads, village roads and bridges.	48(48.00)	26(26.00)	26(26.00)	00(00.00)	00(00.00)
C	Economic activities					
1	Implementation of rural unemployment scheme.	10(10.00)	03(03.00)	55(55.00)	26(26.00)	06(06.00)
2	Implementation of poverty alleviation scheme.	12(12.00)	37(37.00)	32(32.00)	13(13.00)	06(06.00)
3	Implementation of Agricultural extension scheme.	02(02.00)	33(33.00)	33(33.00)	27(27.00)	05(05.00)
4	Implementation of family income scheme.	07(07.00)	44(44.00)	37(32.00)	12(12.00)	00(00.00%)
5	Implementation of irrigation scheme.	17(17.00)	45(45.00)	27(27.00)	11(11.00)	00(00.00)
D	Developmental Activities					
1	Promotion of agriculture and horticulture.	03(03.00)	32(32.00)	19(19.00)	37(37.00)	09(09.00)
2	Promotion of dairy farming, poultry and piggery.	18(18.00)	31(31.00)	22(22.00)	29(29.00)	00(00.00)
3	Planting of trees on roadside, farm forestry and social forestry.	38(38.00)	16(16.00)	32(32.00)	14(14.00)	00(00.00)
4	Promotion of rural and cottage industry.	11(11.00)	40(40.00)	33(33.00)	10(10.00)	06(06.00)
5	Creation of employment and productive assets.	09(09.00)	28(28.00)	43(43.00)	20(20.00)	00(00.00)
6	Leprosy, polio eradication and malaria control.	73(73.00)	20(20.00)	05(05.00)	02(02.00)	00(00.00)
7	Implementation of women and child welfare activities.	12(12.00)	33(33.00)	41(41.00)	14(14.00)	00(00.00)
8	Specific activities for weaker section.	20(20.00)	41(41.00)	29(29.00)	10(10.00)	00(00.00)
E	Decision making activities					
1	Selection of beneficiaries.	29(29.00)	22(22.00)	35(35.00)	10(10.00)	04(04.00)
2	Selection of village artisans and youth of training.	06(29.00)	42(42.00)	28(28.00)	24(24.00)	00(00.00)
3	Group formation activities selection.	01(01.00)	22(22.00)	46(46.00)	31(31.00)	00(00.00)
4	Preparation of workers list.	01(01.00)	19(19.00)	27(27.00)	44(44.00)	09(09.00)
5	Deployment of Anganwadi worker within a Gram Panchayat.	21(21.00)	42(42.00)	21(21.00)	11(11.00)	05(05.00)
6	Preparation of scheme from Gram Panchayat share.	22(22.00)	33(33.00)	22(22.00)	14(14.00)	09(09.00)
7	Identification of families without house/house site for housing under rural housing scheme.	26(26.00)	22(22.00)	32(32.00)	16(16.00)	04(04.00)
8	Distribution of seed fertilizer and pesticides.	16(16.00)	15(15.00)	50(50.00)	19(19.00)	00(00.00)
9	Mini-kit distribution.	11(11.00)	30(30.00)	32(32.00)	23(23.00)	04(04.00)
10	Identification of landless families for land distribution.	12(12.00)	50(50.00)	16(16.00)	19(19.00)	03(03.00)
11	Women representatives take interest in panchayat work.	34(34.00)	29(29.00)	09(09.00)	23(23.00)	05(05.00)
12	Family of women representatives interfere in panchayat work.	40(40.00)	29(29.00)	21(21.00)	10(10.00)	00(00.00)
F	Policy Making Activities					
1	Preparation of annual plans.	14(14.00)	24(24.00)	48(48.00)	14(14.00)	00(00.00)
2	Preparation of annual budget.	10(10.00)	35(35.00)	29(29.00)	26(26.00)	00(00.00)
3	Removal of encroachment on public properties.	25(25.00)	38(38.00)	25(25.00)	07(07.00)	05(05.00)
4	Providing relief in natural calamities.	27(27.00)	20(20.00)	34(34.00)	17(17.00)	02(02.00)
5	Organizing voluntary labour and contribution for community works.	29(29.00)	30(30.00)	32(32.00)	07(07.00)	02(02.00)

Figure in parentheses indicates percentages

### 1 Political activities

Data in Table 2. reported that nearly half of the respondents (44.00%) were sometime participate in door to door convincing, while 22.00 per cent,15.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent were most of the time ,always and never participate in door to door convincing, respectively. Only 09.00 per cent respondents rarely participate in door to door convincing.44.00 per cent people were most of the time participate in addressing public meeting.30.00 per cent and 25.00 per cent respondents were some time and rarely participate in addressing public meeting, while only 01.00 per cent respondents always participate in door to door convincing 38.00 per cent respondents were rarely participate in distributing pamphlets and posters, while 37.00 per cent,20.00 per cents and 05.00 per cent were some time, most of the time and always participate in distributing pamphlets and posters, respectively.

38.00 per cent respondents rarely participate in convincing outside the village, while 28.00 per cent,26.00 per cent and 08.00 per cent respondents most of the time, some time and always participate in convincing outside the village.36.00 per cent respondents most of the time participate in political parties meeting, while 30.00 per cent,26.00 per cent and 08.00 per cent respondents sometime, rarely and always participate in political parties meeting.31.00 per cent respondents most of the time accompanied by family while coming to a meeting, whereas, 28.00 per cent,20.00 per cent and 13.00 per cent were always, rarely and never accompanied by family while coming to a meeting, respectively. Only 08.00 per cent respondents sometime accompanied by family while coming to a meeting. Nearly half of the 48.00 per cent women respondents always express their opinion and ideas during meeting followed by 28.00 per cent ,13.00 per cent and 09.00 per cent respondents were participate sometime, most of the time and rarely to express their opinion and ideas during meeting.

### 2 Social activities

Data in Table 2. stated that More than one fourths of the respondents (29.00%) sometime participate in organizing beneficiaries for construction and supervision of housing project, while 28.00 per cent,16.00 per cent,14.00 per cent respondents always, most of the time and rarely participate in organizing beneficiaries for construction and supervision of housing project respectively. Only 13.00 per cent respondents never participate in organizing beneficiaries for construction and supervision of housing project.45.00 per cent respondents participate in maintaining of drinking water facility, while 28.00 per cent,17.00 per cent and 08.00 per cent always, sometime and rarely participate in maintenance of drinking water facility respectively.02.00 per cent people never participate in maintaining of drinking water facility.44.00 per cent respondents sometime participate in distribution of fuel and fodder, while 20.00 per cent,14.00 per cent and 13.00 per cent respondents most of the time, rarely and always participate in distribution of fuel and fodder respectively. Only 09.00 per cent people never participate in distribution of fuel and fodder.

47.00 per cent respondents most of the time participate in supervision of village sanitation activities, while 24.00 per cent,15.00 per cent and 11.00 per cent respondents were always, sometime and rarely participate in supervision of village sanitation activities. Only 03.00 per cent never participate in supervision of village sanitation activities.42.00 per cent respondents always participate in supervision of formal and non-formal education, while 28.00

per cent,17.00 per cent and 13.00 per cent respondents most of the time, sometime and rarely participate in supervision of formal and non-formal education, respectively. More than 54.00 per cent respondents always participate in supervision of distribution of nutrition for children and women while 24.00 per cent,18.00 per cent and 03.00 per cent respondents most of the time, sometime and never participate in supervision of distribution of nutrition for children and women. only 01.00 per cent respondents were rarely participate in supervision of distribution of nutrition for children and women.48.00 per cent respondents always participate in construction and maintenance of link roads, village roads and bridges, while 26.00 per cent respondents most of the time and some time participate in construction and maintenance of link roads, village roads and bridges.

### 3 Economic activities

It is clear from the Table 2. more than half of (55.00%) respondents sometime participate in implementation of rural unemployment scheme, while 26.00 per cent,10.00 per cent and 06.00 per cent respondents were rarely, always and never participate in implementation of rural unemployment scheme, respectively. Only 03.00 per cent respondents most of time participate in implementation of rural unemployment scheme.37.00 per cent respondents were participate in implementation of poverty alleviation scheme, while 32.00 per cent ,13.00 per cent and 12.00 per cent respondents were sometime, rarely and always participate in implementation of poverty alleviation scheme. Only 06.00 per cent respondents were never participate in implementation of poverty alleviation scheme.

33.00 per cent respondents were most of the time and sometime participate in implementation of agricultural extension scheme, while 27.00 per cent,05.00 per cent and 02.00 per cent respondents were rarely, never and always participate in implementation of agricultural extension scheme.44.00 per cent respondents were most of the time participate in implementation of family income scheme, while 37.00 per cent,12.00 per cent and 07.00 per cent respondents were sometime, rarely and always participate in implementation of family income scheme.45.00 per cent of the respondents were most of the time participate in implementation of irrigation scheme, while 27.00 per cent, 17.00 per cent and 11.00 per cent respondents were sometime, always and rarely participate in implementation of irrigation scheme, respectively.

### 4 Developmental activities

Data in Table 2. stated that more than one third of the respondents (37.00%) respondents were rarely participate in promotion of agricultural and horticultural, while 32.00 per cent,19.00 per cent and 09.00 per cent respondents were most of the time, sometime and never participate in promotion of agricultural and horticultural. Only 03.00 per cent respondents always participate in promotion of agricultural and horticultural.31.00 per cent respondents were most of the time participate in promotion of dairy farming, poultry and piggyery, while 29.00 per cent,22.00 per cent and 18.00 per cent respondents were rarely, sometime and always participate in promotion of dairy farming, poultry and piggyery.38.00 per cent respondents were always participate in planting of trees on roadside, farm forestry and social forestry, while 32.00 per cent,16.00 per cent and 14.00 per cent respondents were sometime, most of the time and rarely participate in planting of trees on roadside, farm forestry and social forestry.40.00 per cent respondents most of the time participate in promotion of rural and

cottage industry, while 33.00 per cent, 11.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent respondents sometime, always and rarely participate in promotion of rural and cottage industry.

43.00 per cent respondents sometime participation in creation of employment and productive assets, while 28.00 per cent, 20.00 per cent and 09.00 per cent respondents most of the time, rarely and always participate in creation of employment and productive assets. Majority 73.00 per cent respondents always participate in leprocy, polio eradication and malaria control, while 20.00 per cent, 05.00 per cent and 02.00 per cent respondents were most of the time, sometime and rarely participate in leprocy, polio eradication and malaria control. 41.00 per cent respondents were sometime participate in implementation of women and child activities, while 33.00 per cent, 14.00 per cent and 12.00 per cent respondents were most of time, rarely and always participate in implementation of women and child welfare activities, respectively. 41.00 per cent respondents most of the time participate in activities of weaker section. While 29.00 per cent, 20.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent respondents were sometime, always and rarely participate in activities of weaker section.

### 5 Decision making activities

Data in Table 2. indicated that nearly one third of the respondents (35.00 %) were sometime participate in selection of beneficiaries, while 29.00 per cent, 22.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent respondents were always, most of the time and rarely participate in selection of beneficiaries. Only 04.00 per cent respondents never participate in selection of beneficiaries. 42.00 per cent respondents most of the time participate in selection of village artisans and youth of training. 28.00 per cent, 24.00 per cent and 06.00 per cent respondents sometime, rarely and always participate in selection of village artisans and youth of training. 46.00 per cent respondents sometime participate in group formation activities, while 31.00 per cent, 22.00 per cent and 01.00 per cent respondents rarely, most of time and always participate in group formation activities, respectively. 44.00 per cent respondents participate in preparation of workers list, while 27.00 per cent, 19.00 per cent and 09.00 per cent respondents sometime most of time and never participate in preparation of workers list. Only 01.00 per cent respondents are always participate in preparation of workers list.

42.00 per cent respondents were most of time participate in deployment of anganwadi worker within a gram panchayat, while 21.00 per cent, respondents always and sometime participate in deployment of anganwadi worker within a gram panchayat. Only 01.00 per cent and 05.00 per cent respondents rarely and never participate in deployment of anganwadi worker within a gram panchayat. One third of the respondents most of time participate in preparation of scheme from gram panchayat share, while 22.00 per cent respondents were always and sometime participate in preparation of scheme from gram panchayat. Only 14.00 per cent and 09.00 per cent respondents rarely and never participate in preparation of scheme from gram panchayat. Nearly one third of the respondents participate in identification of families without house site for housing under rural housing scheme, while 26.00 per cent, 22.00 per cent and 16.00 per cent respondents were always, most of the time and rarely participate in identification of housing under rural housing scheme. Only 04.00 per

cent respondents some time participate in identification of housing under rural housing scheme. Half of the respondents were participate in distribution of seed, fertilizer and pesticides, while 19.00 per cent, 16.00 per cent and 15.00 per cent respondents rarely, always and most of the time participate in distribution of seed, fertilizer and pesticides. Nearly one third of the respondents some time participate in mini-kit distribution, while 30.00 per cent, 23.00 per cent and 11.00 per cent respondents were most of time, rarely and always participate in mini-kit distribution, respectively. Only 04.00 per cent respondents were never participate in mini-kit distribution.

Half of the respondents most of time were participate in identification of landless families for land distribution, while 19.00 per cent, 16.00 per cent and 12.00 per cent respondents rarely, sometime and always participate in identification of landless families for land distribution. Only 03.00 per cent respondents were participate in identification of landless families for land distribution. Above one third of the respondents were always participate in panchayat work, while 29.00 per cent, 23.00 per cent and 09.00 per cent were most of time, rarely and sometime participate in panchayat work. Only 05.00 per cent respondents were never participate in panchayat work. 40.00 per cent respondents family were always interfere in panchayat work, while 29.00 per cent, 21.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent respondents family were most of time, sometime and rarely interfere in panchayat work.

### 6 Policy making activities

It is clear from the Table 2. nearly half of the respondents (48.00 %) sometime participate in preparation of annual planes, while 24.00 per cent respondents most of time participate in preparation of annual planes. 14.00 per cent equal percentage of the respondents always and rarely participate in preparation of annual planes. Nearly one third of the respondents most of time participate in preparation of annual budget, while 29.00 per cent, 26.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent respondents were sometime, rarely and always participate in preparation of annual budget respectively. Above one third 38.00 per cent of the respondents most of time participate in removal of encroachment on public properties, while 25.00 per cent respondents were always and sometime participate in removal of encroachment on public properties, Only 05.00 per cent respondents were never participate in removal of encroachment on public properties.

Above one third 34.00 per cent of the respondents were some time participate in providing relief in natural calamities, while 27.00 per cent, 20.00 per cent and 17.00 per cent were always, most of time and rarely participate in providing relief in natural calamities, respectively. Very few 02.00 per cent respondents were never participate in providing relief in natural calamities. Nearly one third 32.00 per cent of the respondents were sometime participate in organizing voluntary labour and contribution for community works, while 30.00 per cent, 29.00 per cent and 07.00 per cent respondents were most of time, always and rarely participate in organizing voluntary labour and contribution for community works, respectively. Quite few of them 02.00 per cent respondents were participate in organizing voluntary labour and contribution for community works.

**Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to the problems faced by them in the participation**

Sr.No	Problems	Frequency (n=100)	Percentage
1	Lack of co-operation from male members.	52	52.00
2	Lack of knowledge about different schemes.	38	38.00
3	Lack of time	32	32.00
4	Illiteracy	17	17.00
5	Work exertion in balancing PRI and household responsibility.	21	21.00
6	Less attention towards family.	14	14.00
7	Lack of co-operation from villagers.	24	24.00
8	Male dominancy.	07	07.00

It is observed from Table 3. that majority of respondents (52.00%) stated that lack of co-operation from male members acted as a major hurdle in performing their role towards village development and for awareness. Lack of knowledge about different schemes (38.00%), lack of time (32.00%) and lack of co-operation from villagers (24.00%) were also expressed as important problem by women members.

Some of them stated that work exertion in balancing PRIs and household responsibilities (21.00%), illiteracy (17.00%), less attention towards family (14.00%) and male dominancy (07.00%) were also the problem faced by them.

#### Conclusion-

It can be concluded from the findings that majority of the women members (98.00%) were having low level of extent of participation. Lack of co-operation from male members is most important problem faced by women members while participating in different activities of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

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