



Empowerment of Women in Politics: A Case Study of Municipal Corporations in Northern Telangana

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT *The present paper deals with the empowerment of women in politics in the case study of municipal corporations in Northern Telangana. Most of the countries participation of women is not impressive as the number of women participating in active politics are smaller compared to men. Women who are able to acquire decision-making power are mostly from urban and elite groups. Large mass of women are kept out of political arena due various reasons. There was no serious attempt to accommodate women in politics. In many countries women had to wage long battles to get their rights. Despite that, they were not able to get rightful position in the arena of politics. In this content this paper discusses on the performance of women corporators at urban level and also elicits the problems and constraints of women in politics.*

Introduction

Political participation is a process by which people take part in political activities. Exercising voting rights during elections is one of the important political activities of the people participation of women in this political activity is almost equal to men. Political participation is not just casting vote. It includes wide range of other activities – like membership of political party, electoral campaigning, attending party meetings, demonstrations, communication with leaders, holding party positions, contesting elections, membership in representative bodies, influencing decision making and other related activities.

Political participation refers to actual participation in the voluntary activities by which members of the society share in the selection of rules and directly or indirectly in the formulation of public Policy (Srivastava Rashmi, 2000).

74th Constitutional Amendment Act

The 74th Amendment to the Indian constitution has served as a major breakthrough towards ensuring women's equal access and increased participation in local government. The constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 aims at constitutional guarantees to safeguard the interests of urban local self government to enable them to function as effective democratic and self governing institutions at the grass roots level. This Amendment provides for reservation of 33, 1/3 percent of elected seats for women at local government level in urban and rural areas (R. Letha Kumari, 2006).

Article 243T (I) of constitution Amendment (1992) states as follows Reservation of seats:

243 T (1) seats shall be reserved for the scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in every municipality and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that municipality as the population of the scheduled castes in the municipal area or of the Scheduled Tribes in the municipal area bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constitution in a municipality. 2. Not less than one –third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the scheduled – castes or, as the case may be, the scheduled Tribes. 3. Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women

belonging to the scheduled castes Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct elections in every municipality shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in municipality/corporation.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the socio – economic and political profile of women corporator in municipal corporations.
- To assess the levels of women participation in local governance.
- To know about the developmental activities done by the corporators in their wards/divisions.
- 33 percent reservation is not enough to encourage women in local politics.
- Women are facing administrative problems while implementing the schemes.
- Due to less grants released by the grants they are unable to develop their wards.

Methodology

The data for the purpose of the study has been collected through primary and secondary sources. In primary sources questionnaire is administered to the corporators. Secondary data has been collected through various books, journals, periodicals, government gazettes, and news paper etc.

Sample design

The study is essentially based on primary data. As evident from the title of the work, it was carried out in three municipal corporations Warangal, Karimnagar and Nizamabad. From each municipal corporation elected candidates were taken as sample i.e. 18 women corporators/councillors from each municipal corporation has been taken for the study. Thus the sample size is confined to 54. The details can be seen from sample table

Table -1 Age particulars of the respondents

S. No	Age	Respondents	Percentage
1	18-25	0	0
2	26-35	14	25.9
3	36-45	25	46.3
4	above 45	15	27.8
Total		54	100.0

Source: Field study

Table1- illustrate the among 54 women councillors /corporators high percentage is noticed in between the age group 36-45, i.e. 25 members (46.3) are present, we can see in the table according to field data there were 15 members, above 45 and finally there were 14 women were present in between the age group 26-45, no women in between the age group 18-20 i.e. 0(0) percent.

Table-2 Suggestion f contestation

S. No	Option	Respondents	Percentage
1	Self Interest	04	7.4
2	Husband	43	49.6
3	Parents	06	11.1
4	Family Members	01	1.9
Total		54	100.0

Source: Field study

According to table- 3, 4 respondents (7.4) per cent contested with their own interest, about 43 (79.6) per cent with the suggestion of their husbands, 6 (11.1) per cent with the help of their parents, only 1 (1.9) per cent through the suggestion of family members.

Table-4 Reservation pattern of candidates

S. No	Reservation	Candidates	Percentage
1	Women Reservation	49	90.7
2	Caste reservation	05	9.3
Total		54	100.0

Source: Field study

Table-4 describes that the reservation of elected representatives at urban level in northern municipal corporations that 49 (90.7) are elected in women reservation and remaining 5 (9.3) are elected in reservation of caste according to Indian constitution provisions provided to the development and upliftment of backward caste people.

Conclusion:

It is a fact that after the implementation of 73rd Constitutional Amendment, awareness, participating political awareness has been increased among women forth. The constitution has opened a channel for women to participate in elections and to become as deciding factor of Indian politics. Women representatives should have the capacity to convince the bureaucracy and higher officials while taking steps to fulfill the demands of the public (Palanthurai, G, 2001). It can be known that most of the women entered into politics with the suggestion of their husbands, but they must have the capability to take decisions independently for the welfare of the ward people.

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