Research Paper Social Science

Enhanced Status and Political Participation of Tribal Women in Panchayt Raj System

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ABSTRACT

Political participation of women is broader than their participation in the electoral and administrative process. It includes the whole gamut of voluntary activities with a bearing on the political process including support of political groups, dissemination of political views, involving in any form of organized activities that effect or seeks to effect power relationships. It refers to activities not only formally empowered to make decisions, but also intends to influence the attitudes and behavior or those who have powers for decision-making. The initiatives of empowering women and the marginalized sections are the reflection of its democratic spirit that can be noticed from a number of amendments in these fields. Especially, the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts provide for an opportunity for women's entry into political spheres especially Tribal Women. Hence here this paper focused on enhanced status of Tribal women in panchayat Raj Institutions with special reference to Chitradurga District of Karnataka.

KEYWORDS Tribal Women, Panchayat Raj Institutions, Enhanced Status.

INTRODUCTION:

Political participation of women is broader than their participation in the electoral and administrative process. It includes the whole gamut of voluntary activities with a bearing on the political process including support of political groups, dissemination of political views, involving in any form of organized activities that effect or seeks to effect power relationships. It refers to activities not only formally empowered to make decisions, but also intends to influence the attitudes and behavior or those who have powers for decision-making.

The initiatives of empowering women and the marginalized sections are the reflection of its democratic spirit that can be noticed from a number of amendments in these fields. Especially, the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts provide for an opportunity for women's entry into political spheres especially Tribal Women. These Amendment Acts provide for a 33 percent reservation of seats for Tribal women in the governance of local bodies both rural and urban with target of good governance and fair representation in the development process at grassroots level.

Hence here this paper focused on enhanced status of Tribal women in panchayat Raj Institutions with special reference to Chitradurga District of Karnataka.

Participation and enhanced status:

Here paper collected information regarding enhanced their status due to political participation as member. Out of 300 respondents, 84% (251) respondents have opined that they have good status in the society after participating in politics and 16% (49) respondents have told that don't feel that any difference in the status. The whole data reveals that respondents have said that their status has been enhanced after participating in the politics.

Good decision making power:

Women Participation in panchayats had created good position and status in the society, also increased better decision making power at home in general and particular in the study area also. 93%(280) respondents said that they have decision making power as regarding saving money, education of children and purchase the thing for home, etc, and 7%(20) respondents have said they don't have any decision making power at home. This data reveals that participation of women in panchayat created much decision making power at home.

Opinion about the present status of Tribal Women:

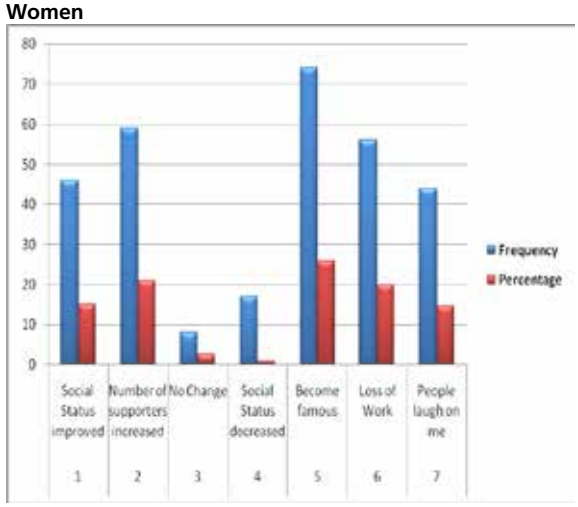
Here respondent's views regarding the present status has been analyzed. The table No 1 gives the details about the opinion about the present status.

Table No 1: Opinion about the present status of Tribal Women

Sl.No	Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
1	Social Status improved	46	15
2	Number of supporters increased	59	21
3	No Change	08	2.6
4	Social Status decreased	17	01
5	Become famous	74	26
6	Loss of Work	56	20
7	People laugh on me	44	14.6
	Total	300	100

Source: Field survey

Figure No 1: Opinion about the present status of Tribal Women



Above table No 1 shows respondent's opinion about the present status. 15%(46) respondents said that social status has been improved, 21%(59) respondents said that number of supporters increased, 2.6%(08) respondents said no change, 1%(17) respondents said that social status decreased, 26%(74) respondents said that they become famous and 14.6%(44) respondents said that people laugh on them. The given data reveals that respondents have given different response regarding their present status.

Empowerment in the family:
Here different opinion collected regarding empowerment in the family. Data shows that the different views on, Is empowerment taken place in their family. 96% (288) respondents said there was empowerment took place in their family and 4% (12) respondents said that no. This data reveals that respondent's participation in the panchayats created empowerment in their family also. We find that problem like illiteracy, economic background and other problems so that empowerment process has not taken place in their family.

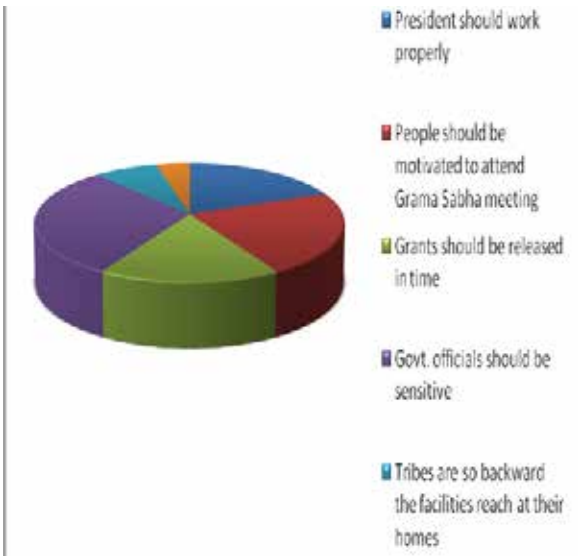
Suggestion to solve the tribal problems as members of panchayat:
We can say that participation of women in panchayat is good opportunity to solve the problems of the community and public. Here we collected different views by the respondents and analyses in the table No 2.

Table No 2: Suggestion to solve the tribal problems as members of panchayat

Sl. No.	Suggestion	Frequency	Percentage
1	President should work properly	57	19
2	People should be motivated to attend Grama Sabha meeting	68	23
3	Grants should be released in time	50	17
4	Govt. officials should be sensitive	90	30
5	Tribes are so backward the facilities reach at their homes	23	08
6	Others	12	03
	Total	300	100

Source: Field survey

Figure No 2: Suggestion to solve the tribal problems as members of panchayat



Above table No 2 shows that the respondents regarding views on suggestion to solve the tribal problems as members of panchayat. 19%(57) respondents said that president should work properly, 23%(68) respondents said that people should be motivated to attend Grama sabha meeting, 17%(50) respondents said that grant should be released in time, 30%(90) respondents said government officials should be sensitive, 8%(23) respondents said that tribes are so backward, so that the facilities should reach at their homes.

Larger political ambitions:
The present paper found out about whether respondent have larger political ambition or not. Different opinion collected by the respondents and analyzed. The present study gives the views regarding respondent is having larger political ambitions. 72% (216) respondents said yes and 28% (84) respondents said no. The data reveals that the most of the women respondents have interested in continuing in panchayat politics and having good ambition in future.

CONCLUSION:
In conclusion it may be remarked that 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. It witnessed that political participation of Tribal Women in panchayat Raj Institutions enhanced their status.

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