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PROBLEMS OF WOMEN PANCHAYAT REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT BARAMULLA OF J&K.

Mehraj ud din lone

Abstract:-The current piece of work was carried out to determine the problems of women panchayat representatives of Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir for the conduction of study the women panches of the said district were interviewed by using an interview schedule. After collecting the data it was found that women panchayat members suffer a number of problems in the area of education, family and especially they are not given the equal treatment as male panchayat members are given

Keywords: problems, panchayat, Baramulla.

INTRODUCTION

Panchayati raj system has its roots in ancient Indian Institutions when the villages were little republics¹ governed by their panchayats. During this period, it was not that women could not join politics, but the fact was that they did not take interest in it due to a patriarchal set up. The Britishers mercilessly destroyed these little republics and as well the involvement of women in politics. The view if the British were “Vote of Women” would be premature in the Indian society and prohibition against women’s education.

One of the function of united nation commission on the status of women, set up in 1946, was to further the cause of political rights in all countries. In 1952 the general Assembly adopted the united nation convention on the political rights of women, which was the first instrument of international law aimed at granting and the protection of women’s rights in the world. By 1971 almost all the member countries of the U.N. had allowed women to vote in election and to be eligible for election on the same basis with men. The first countries to grant women electoral equality with the men were New-Zealand (1893), Finland (1906), Norway (1913) and Iceland (1915). Most leading countries gave women the right to vote soon after world war-I this was encouraging, since women constitute half of the world's population. In terms of the Indian electorate, women constitute 24.3 crores. In 1989 general election out of total of 498406429 voters 236861287 were women.

The constitutional 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 which became a part of the Indian constitution in 1993 provides for reservation of 33% of the total seats for women in all the three-tier of panchayats. Since then the state of Jammu and Kashmir had also take certain legislative measures to facilitate the participation of women and other weaker sections (SCs, STs/ OBCs) in panchayati raj institutions. But the state act had adopted a different patten’s for the political empowerment of women and other weaker sections i.e. “nomination rather than reservation of seats”. The Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Act, 1989 was amended in 1999 and a new provision was substituted by virtue of which the number of women members to be nominated by the prescribed authority shall not exceed 33% of the total number of elected panches. But the act also provides that while making such nominations the representation of SC,ST and other weaker sections shall be given due consideration.³ At block level the 'prescribed authority' (Director Rural Development and panchayats) is having the power to nominate two members to give representation to women including SC/ST or any other specified classs.

Jammu and Kashmir was the first state to implement nomination of 33% seats for women and other weaker sections in panchayati raj institutions at the time when the centre was deliberating on the issue of reservation of 33% seats for women in the parliament and state Assemblies. The total number of panchayat representatives are 3335 among these 363 are Sarpanches and 2972 are Panches. Among 363 Sarpanches 02 are female and 361 are male. Moreover out of 2972 panches members 950 are female and 2022 are male as per 2011 panchayati election of district Baramulla. The women panch representatives are shown block wise as under:

Problems Of Women Panchayat Representatives In District Baramulla Of J&k.

S.No.	Name of the Block	Female Married		Female unmarried		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
01	Pattan	84	8.84	07	0.74	91	9.62
02	Rohama	65	6.84	-----	-----	65	6.84
03	Sopore	55	5.78	-----	-----	55	5.78
04	Rafiabad	57	6	-----	-----	57	6
05	Singpora	71	7.47	01	0.10	72	7.57
06	Tangmarg	77	8.10	-----	-----	77	8.10
07	Kunzer	72	7.57	10	1.05	82	8.63
08	Boniyar	78	8.21	02	0.21	80	8.42
09	Baramulla	100	10.52	04	0.42	104	10.94
10	Uri	75	7.89	-----	-----	75	7.89
11	Wagoora	90	9.47	02	0.21	92	9.68
12	Zaingeer	97	10.21	03	0.31	100	10.52
	Total	921	96.94	29	3.05	950	100

The above table shows the women Panch representatives block wise. Out of 950 Women panches 9.62% (F(m) 8.84% and F(u) 0.74%) are in block Pattan, 6.84% in block Rohama, 5.78% in block Sopore, 6% in block Rafiabad, 7.57% (F(m) 7.47% and F(u) 0.10%) in block Singpora, 8.10% in block Tangmarg, 8.63% (F(m) 7.57% and F(u) 1.05%) in block Kunzer, 8.42% (F(m) 8.21% and F(u) 0.21%) in block Boniyar, 10.94% (F(m) 10.52% and F(u) 0.42%) in block Baramulla, 7.89% in block Uri, 9.69% (F(m) 9.47% and F(u) 0.21%) in block Wagoora and 10.52% (F(m) 10.21% and F(u) 0.31% are in block Zaingeer.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is conducted in nine selected Halqa Panchayat in block Pattan of district Baramulla of J&K. The nine Halqa Panchayat are Goshbugh, Dargam, Palhallan-A, Palhallan-B, Ussan, Wanigam-payeen, Wanigam-bala, Tilgam-A and Tilgam-B. All the women Panches of the selected Halqa panchayats formed the respondents of the study. Women Sarpanches are not included in this study. The total number of panches are 20. A semi structured interview schedule is prepared which is administered personally as well as telephonically. Data is analyzed using percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Table 1: showing the number of women panches in each selected Halqa Panchayat.

S.No.	Name of Halqa Panchayat	Name of Block	No. of Panches	
			No.	%
01	Goshbugh	Pattan	02	10
02	Ussan		03	15
03	Daragam		03	15
04	Wanigam Payeen		02	10
05	Wanigam Bala		02	10
06	Tilgam-A		02	10
07	Tilgam-B		02	10
08	Palhallan-A		02	10
09	Palhallan-B		02	10
		Total	20	100

Table 1 shows the number of women panches in each Halqa Panchayat. The maximum number of women panches are three in Halqa Ussan and Halqa Daragam. The remaining Seven Halqa Panchayats of Goshbugh, Wanigam Payeen, Wanigam Bala, Tilgam-A, Tilgam-B, Palhallan-A and Palhallan-B are having two Panches.

Table 2: showing the distribution of respondents on the basis of age.

S.No.	Age group	No.	%
01	25-35	5	25
02	36-45	6	30
03	46-55	7	35
04	56-above	2	10
	Total	20	100

It can be concluded that 55 percent respondents are below 45 years of age and only the remaining i.e., 45 percent of the total respondents are above 46 years of age.

Table 3: Marital status.

S.No.	Marital status	No.	%
01	Married	16	80
02	Unmarried	---	---
03	Widow	04	20
04	Divorce	---	---
	Total	20	100

The above table shows the marital status of 20 women panch respondents. 80 percent are married and 20 percent are widows.

Table 4: Family size.

S.No.	Family size	No.	%
01	2-4	02	10
02	5-7	08	40
03	8-10	07	35
04	11 above	03	15
	Total	20	100

The family size of the respondents is shown above table. Here only 15 percent respondents belong to the category of '11 above' members, whereas 10, 40 and 35 percent respondents belong to the categories respectively.

Table 5: Educational Status:

S.No.	Education	No.	%
01	Illiterate	12	60
02	Primary	4	20
03	Middle	3	15
04	Matric	---	---
05	Higher secondary	1	5
06	Graduation-above	---	---
	Total	20	100

The data about the educational status of the respondents is presented in above table. It shows that a large number of respondents are illiterate as they comprise 60 percent of the total respondents. 20 percent of the respondents are educated upto primary. 15 percent of them are educated upto middle and only 5 percent are twelfth pass.

Table 6: Does your family allow you for the participation of Halqa Panchayat meetings:

S.No.	Response	No.	%
01	Yes	15	75
02	No	5	25
	Total	20	100

The above table reflects the response of respondents about the participation of women in Halqa Panchayat programmes. Out of twenty respondents seventy five percent said that their families does not allow them for the participation in halqa panchayat programmes and twenty five percent said that their families allow them for the participation of halqa panchayat programmes.

Table 7: Do you feel that your suggestions are not entertained as compared to Man`s.

S.No.	Response	No.	%
01	Yes	14	70
02	No	01	5
03	Don`t know	05	25
	Total	20	100

Table 7 shows the response of respondents. Out of twenty respondents seventy percent said that they seems their suggestions are not entertained as compared to Man`s, five percent said their suggestions are entertained and twenty five percent said they don`t know.

PROBLEMS OF WOMEN`S PARTICIPATION:

Table 5 shows that the sixty percent of women are illiterate which is the major problem in the active participation of women in panchayats. Illiteracy is the cause by which women do not understand their role and rights on the one hand whereas, on the other, most of them do not inculcate strong enough aspirations to play an active role in panchayats. They presume that they do not have any significant role in panchayats. Women also lack confidence in their ability and therefore dot not take any initiative. Another major problem is that due to pressure of household activities, live stoke care and from work, rural women is not able to give enough time to panchayat activities. During the interview eighty percent women panchayat representatives says that participation in panchayat activities will create adjustment problems in domestic life.

CONCLUSION:

The female panches in district Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir suffer from a number of problems which mainly include the family conflict, lack of confidence and illiteracy. Also they are not given the active role in the panchayati raj system.

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4.I.d., Section 27 (3).



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