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## STUDY OF WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN JABALPUR MADHYA PRADESH

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### ABSTRACT

In today's changed global context, women constitute an important segment of any kind of society, be it primitive or modern, agricultural or industrial. The evidence is everywhere clear that the voice of women is being increasingly heard in the streets, courts and Parliaments. Yet issues concerning women are not given priority in society. Since ancient times women are facing problems. Their oppression is persistent and universal but its solutions are complicated. Many prophets of women's emancipation have come and gone but discrimination against women and violation of human values persists. Of all the aspects of relationship between women and politics, it is women's political participation that has received the most sustained attention from the political scientists. But the problem is that, the forms of participation studied have been largely



confined to politics, narrowly and conventionally defined. Though the constitutional recognition of equal status for women and progressive legal enactments have undoubtedly endowed Indian women with juridical equality but the right to equal status and opportunities in education, law and political participation have actually remained dead letters for the vast majority of women in India. Most of the Indian women are unaware either of their rights of their responsibilities under the law of the land. Increase of population, modernization, economic planning and the operation of the democratic political processes have not in real

terms reduced their insecurity, poverty and malnutrition. It has been observed that in a few isolated cases women have collectively been able to stand against oppression. Keeping this notion in mind, an attempt has been made in this piece of paper to examine the real position of women from ancient period to the present age, to analyze their related issues & problems, and to highlight the constitutional provisions so far provided to uplift their status in society.

**KEYWORDS:** Emancipation, Discrimination, Modernization, Malnutrition, Status.

### INTRODUCTION:

The twenty first century has been a worldwide

revolution in the extension of all kinds of rights- political, social, economic, educational etc. to women. But less than a century ago there was no major country in the world where women were guaranteed the right to participate in politics on an equal basis with men. Today, only a handful of states, mostly in West Asia, legally bar women's participation in political life. But in many countries an enormous disparity exists even today between women's formal political equality and their meaningful exercise of political power. The near universal recognition of women's political rights and the strength of their voting numbers are nowhere reflected in their direct role in government. In many countries, women's participation in the most basic of political activities such as voting, attending meetings or discussing politics falls far short of that of men.<sup>1</sup>

The MP government has done a commendable work by politically empowering the women

by providing 50 percent reservation to women in local civic bodies, but this reservation did not come easily and the women had to wait for long period for this to happen.

MP was pioneer state in implementing local self-governance after the 73rd and 74th amendments were made to the Indian constitution in 1993. But is the impact of this process visible at ground level in the remote and rural parts of the country. The state faces a number of challenges regarding leadership of women – whether the leadership is at the level of political parties, administrative posts or at municipalities or panchayat level. There are big claims and some efforts towards empowerment of women in state, but the ground reality is totally opposite. Even 13 years after implementation of local self-governance system, women have to do a lot of struggle to maintain their dignity in the system. The biggest reason for this struggle is their being illiterate and uneducated.

The disparity in education starts right at primary level, the reasons being social, political and economic. Keeping the girl children deprived of education as they are 'others' property', keeping them at home to take care of younger siblings, not prioritizing girls as boys are considered support for old age and mainly politicians and policy makers not giving enough encouragement to women's education to maintain the patriarchal form of society.

Thus, after long struggle women might have got success at some fronts, but they are inadequate. Fortunately women are making best use of the opportunities they have got and are trying to remove the historical disparity they face. They know that education is a potent weapon for their struggle and thus the women in leadership positions are pushing for education of girl children.

### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Keeping in view the necessity and importance of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, an attempt is being made to study the role of women in these Institutions to throw light on the actual role played in solving the local problems and their influence on the decision making process in the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

### OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Present study is the part of the project which is being conducting in Jabalpur district awarded by reputed national foundation. The study is still in process, part of the research note is here. The study seeks an effort to Radical Feminism and empowerment & development of women Leadership through Panchayati Raj.

### WOMEN SUBORDINATION

The present study is consists of some case study of 1 ZillaParisad, 2 JanpadParisad and 3 Sarpanch of the women members which tried to analyse the complex attitudes, beliefs and assesses clearly the role of each in a specific situation. A comprehensive questionnaire has been structured to seek information from the respondents specially elected women members. Present talks are deals with two compodents of above information i.e.

1. family background of elected women members
2. meeting with people

Main focus of the study to the participation of women of house wife and littleeducation background of the elected, women members on the institutions, the emerging pattern ofwomen leadership its nature and determinants.

### DISCUSSION:

The elected members are involved in the process of planning and implementation of the development programme. It was observed that the members took more interest in the work undertaken in their areas. This is natural because if they have to contest the elections again then they to prove themselves effective as member. The local needs are also taken into consideration to a great extent when a programme is being implemented. Women's extensive workload forces them to stayaway from many occasions where formal decisions are made. The democratisation of participation often passes them when they do attend meetings but don't speak out. Furthermore, lack of educationand information they may not be able to understand so unless ways are found at the operational levelto secure the active participation of women in projects and programmes, policy intentions will remain idle, resources be wasted and harmful unintended effects persist.

**Table No. -1 A Few Cases of Selected Women Members**

Case No. (Members) Education	Marital Status	Age	Education	No. of Children	No. of other Family Members	Status Family
First	Married	29	9 <sup>th</sup> Pass	2M 2F	6	N
Second	Married	32	7 <sup>th</sup> Pass	2M 2F	8	J
Third	Widow	30	5 <sup>th</sup> Pass	3M	6	J
Fourth	Married	28	10 <sup>th</sup> Pass	2M 1F	5	N
Fifth	Unmarried	25	12 <sup>th</sup> Pass	- -	5	N
Sixth	Married	33	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	3M 2F	7	N

Statutory empowerment of women will become a reality and relevant only when they are given adequate planned, systematic training in the responsibilities, duties and rights which devolve on them as elected representatives. This training in leadership will make them politically conscious and expose them to constitutional and legal rights, functions of Panchayati Raj Institutions and their role in formulating and implementing development policies and programmes. Further it is also necessary to show these women Panchayati Raj Institution members briefly the functioning of democracy in our country. The Panchayati Raj Institutions assume the same responsibility as units of self-government to frame policies and implement them with their active participation duly deliberating and articulating on issues affecting village life.

**Table: 2 Meeting with People**

S.NO.	Party Belong	Meeting People	Solving Problems	Relation With Official	Travelling	Cooperation
1.	INC (Cong)	Self	Self	NS	No	Better
2.	BJP	Self with husband	Husband	S	Yes	Equal
3.	BJP	Brother	Brother	S	No	Better
4.	INC (CONG)	Self	Self	S	Yes	Poor
5.	Independent	Self	Self	S	Yes	Better
6.	INC (CONG)	Husband	Husband	NK	No	Better

The Panchayati Raj Institutions are considered to be good training ground for women to emerge as good and capable leaders and also to cope with responsibilities that usually come along with higher political position and good educational background. It has been observed that among the elected women members, a few were passive, inactive, inert, docile and silent spectators while there were others who demonstrated activeness and dynamism. Keeping this in view, a few cases of select women members are presented for the study.

Lastly Empowerment of women is nothing but given equal opportunity women of this country will rise to the occasion, as they have shown their mettle time, women have proved they will deliver the goods. Society as a whole and men in particular will benefit if they are intelligent enough to share the responsibilities of good local self-government with the women of this land.

### CONCLUSION:-

In spite of perceptible improvement in general socio- economic conditions of women, due to efforts made after independence, the situation continues to be grim. Despite all the constitutional provisions, legislations and court rulings it is found that much benefits are not accrued to the women. Because they are not yet behaving as active citizens. Their political culture is still parochial. Though the Constitution has granted women equal rights, but in practice these rights are not sufficient because their voice is hardly given any weightage in society. The state has not still been able to stop sex barriers completely. Available statistics reveals the continued neglect of female children's health and nutrition needs, their early marriage, high fertility, poverty and inadequate access to health care. In the field of education the massive dimension of the problem of female illiteracy daunts the society which limits the

achievements of women in the field of employment, training, and utilization of health facilities and exercise of their legal rights. Besides the Constitutional provisions and special enactments, in the country like India, women are subject to all kinds of discrimination and humiliation. It is now the right time to give proper consideration to these issues and the laws relating to them so as to implement these provisions for the proper upliftment of women in the country. Thus, one may conclude by saying that women in India have to go a long way to attain the complete gender justice in social, political, economic, educational and cultural field. The need of the hour is: not welfare, but development; not charity, but entitlement; not assistance, but empowerment; not structural adjustment, but structural change; not even social security but social & gender justice, if the women are to survive and flourish in the given situation.

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