



IMPACT OF PANCHAYATHRAJ ON WOMEN POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT- A STUDY

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Abstract

Panchayathraj in India has long history from Mouryan period and chalukyas period but in modern history Rippon called father of local self government but after independence Balwanthroy mehtha, Askok mehtha committees recommendations and finally LM Singhvi committee recommendations the 73 constitutional amendment act made in 1992 it is the milestone provided reservations to women in local bodies and strengthened panchayathraj.

Constitution of India part 4, under directive principles of state policy article 40 provides for the formation of local panchayats. This, however, is unjustifiable. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992-93), and established new democratic institutions for local governance, significantly increased political involvement and grassroots democracy. There is a great impact of 73 constitutional amendments on women political empowerment in panchayathraj.

Key words: *Panchayathraj, 73 constituional amendment, Women empowerment, Reservations, Grassroots Democracy.*

Introduction

Women's empowerment has become a very important topic among academics, social workers, and policymakers in India in recent years. There has been a huge growth in the number of women representatives in panchayati raj institutions since women were granted reservations in local authorities. Women's empowerment, on the other hand, is neither a simple process nor a result of institutional arrangements for women's representation.

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The present paper will focus on women political empowerment in Panchayathraj Institutions after 73rd constitutional amendment act, 1992. The research study is conducted in Nizamabad district of Telangana state. Data collected from field study was tabulated and analysed to know the impact of panchayathraj on women political empowerment.

Methodology

The methodology adopted for this study is Analytical and descriptive using both the primary and secondary data collection.



Data collected through the structured Questionnaires which administered to the respondent particularly women and also public representatives.

It is decided to interview female Sarpanches, Ward Members, MPTCs, MPPS, ZPTCs, ex-elected women representatives, and members of the community (local citizens and group/committee members). For the qualitative survey, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with the community, as well as reviews of the Minutes of Meetings (MoM) of Gram Sabhas.

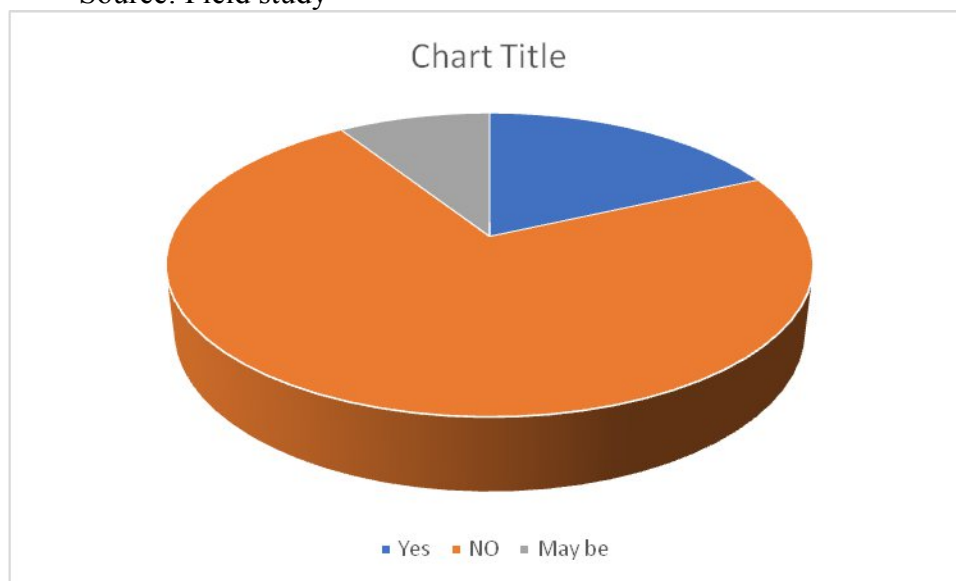
This paper covers Gram Sabha and policies. Researcher conducted Survey with interview schedules of 165 samples randomly selected and only women respondents above 18 years of age interviewed with questionnaire in field area of Nizamabad district of Telangana state.

This paper also covered awareness on politics particularly on Panchayathiraj institutions and functioning of Gram Sabha and other welfare programmes of government towards the local administration. Researcher also considered Women participation in PRI and also Gram Sabha, Decision making, Hurdles and other participation levels in Rural development.

1: Knowledge on 73rd constitutional amendment Act

S.No	Knowing 73 rd Caa	Response	%
1	Yes	30	18.18
2	NO	120	72.72
3	May be	15	9.09
	Total	165	100

Source: Field study



The table 1 reveals that the respondents knowledge on 73rd Constitutional amendment act 1992. Out of total 165 total respondents as many as 30 respondents said Yes, they know about 73rd Constitutional amendment act 1992. which is about 18% and 120 respondents said No which means they are not known about 73rd Constitutional amendment act 1992 and this is about 72% and remaining 15 respondents said may be they know this is just 9%. From the field study analysis it can be understood

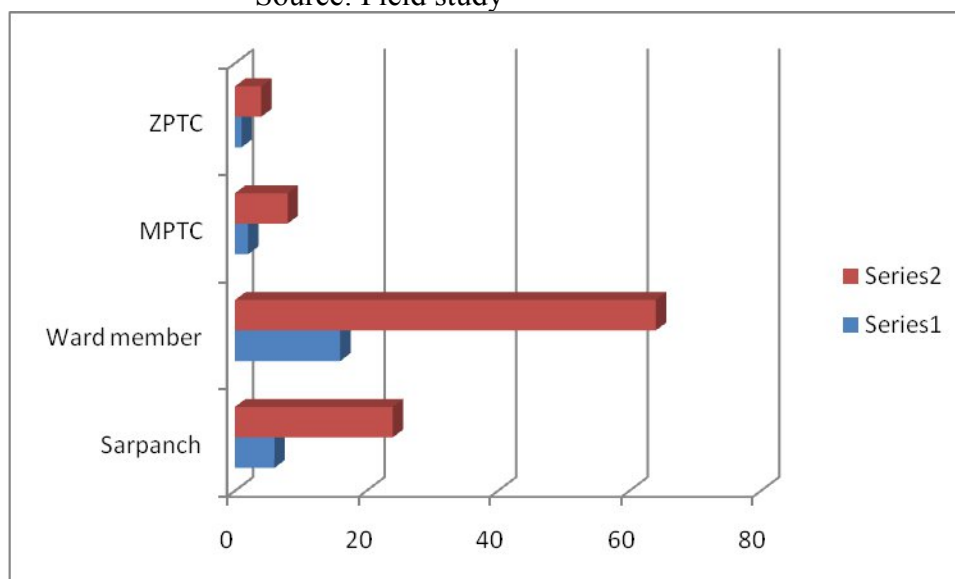


that the majority of the respondents have no knowledge on about 73rd Constitutional amendment act 1992.

Table-2: Position contested in Panchayathiraj

S.No	Position	Response	%
1	Sarpanch	6	24
2	Ward member	16	64
3	MPTC	2	8
4	ZPTC	1	4
	Total	25	100

Source: Field study

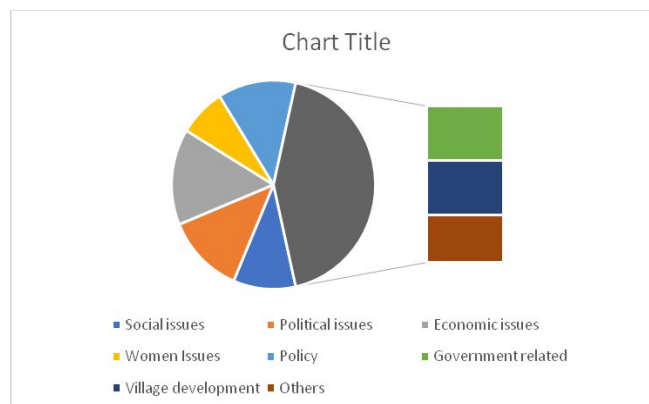


The above table 2 gives the position held by the respondents in panchayaths. Out of 165 respondents only 25 contested taken for consideration. Out of 25 respondents as many as 16 won and held position as ward member which is 64% and 6 respondents said they held position as Sarpanch which is 24% and 2 respondents said they held as MPTC which is 8% and remaining 1 respondents said they held as ZPTC. From the analysis it can be said that the majority of the respondents got ward member position.

Table-3: Important Subjects of discussion in Gram Sabha

S.No	Subjects	Multiple Response	%
1	Social issues	60	36.36
2	Political issues	75	45.45
3	Economic issues	90	54.54
4	Women Issues	45	27.27
5	Policy	75	45.45
6	Government related	90	54.54
7	Village development	90	54.54
8	Others	80	100

Source: Field study

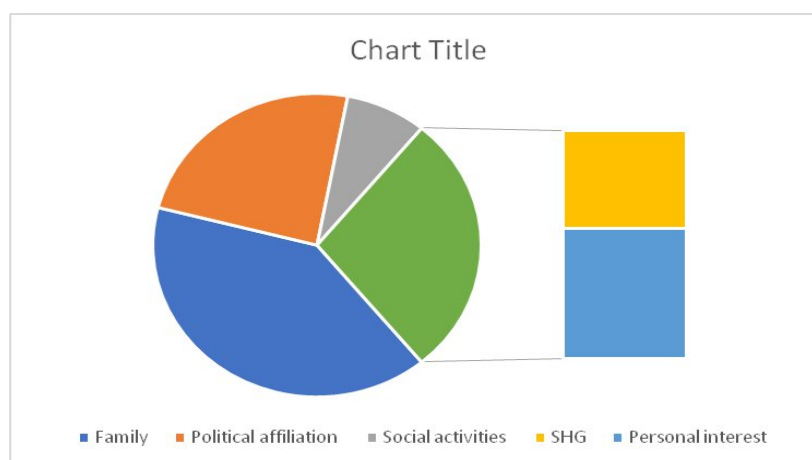


The table 3 explains from the field study that important subjects discussion in Gram Sabha. Out of total 165 respondents revealed their opinion out of which 60 respondents said social issues are important and 75 respondents said political issues are important 90 respondents said economic issues are important and 45 respondents said women issues are important and 75 respondents said policy issues are important and 90 respondents said government related GOs and issues important another 90 respondents said village development issues are important and 80 respondents said other village and panchayathiraj issues are important matters taken for discussion in Gram Sabha. Finally from the field analysis it can be conclude that the Gram Sabha discusses various important issues related village welfare and development.

Tbale-4: Reasons Motivated To Contest Election

S.No	Reasons	Response	%
1	Family	10	40
2	Political affiliation	06	24
3	Social activities	2	8
4	SHG	3	12
5	Personal interest	4	16
	Total	25	100

Source: Field study



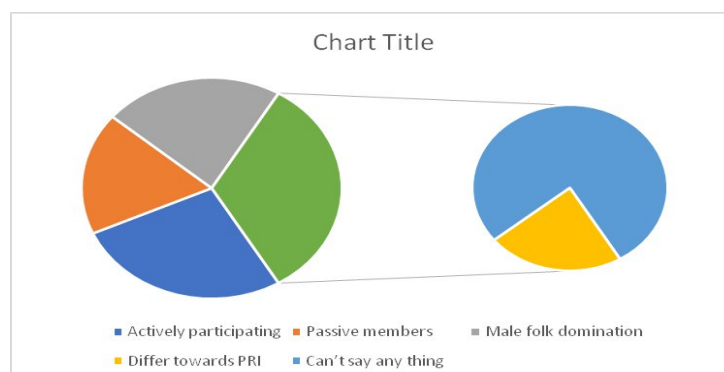


The table 4 reveals about the reasons motivated to contest in panchayath raj elections. Out of total 165 respondents only 25 contested in Panchayath raj elections out 25 respondents 10 said family motivated to contest in elections which is 40% and 6 respondents said political affiliation motivated them to contest in elections which is 24% next 4 respondents said personal interest motivated to contest in election is 16% and 3 respondents said Self help groups given confidence and leadership and motivated towards contesting elections which is 12% and remaining 2 respondents said social activities motivated to contest in panchayath elections. From the field study analysis it can be said that majority of the women candidates motivated to contest in panchayath raj elections through family back ground and political party affiliation.

Table-5: Perception on women participation in PRI after 73 CAA

S.No	Perception	Multiple Response	%
1	Actively participating	90	54.54
2	Passive members	60	36.36
3	Male folk domination	75	45.45
4	Differ towards PRI	25	15.15
5	Can't say any thing	85	100

Source: Field study



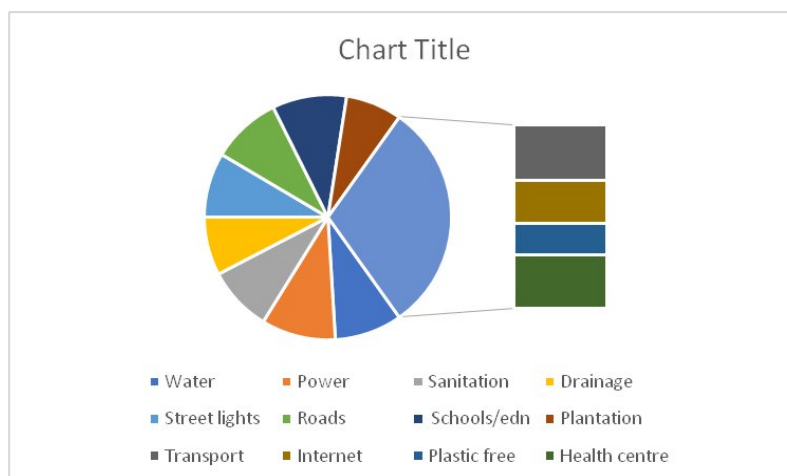
The above table discuss about the perception of women participation in panchayathraj after 73rd constitutional amendment act 1992. Multiple responses given by respondents out of total 165 respondents 90 said they are actively participating in panchayathraj after 73rd constitutional amendment act which is 55% and 60 resonded as they are passive members in panchayathraj and 75 expressed that male folk domination and 25 responded as differed towards panchayathraj and 85 said cannot say anything on this matter. From the table analysis it can be conclude that the majority of the respondents have good opinion on panchayathraj after 73rd constitutional amendment act 1992.

Table-6: Measures to improve Rural development & welfare

S.No	Development& Welfare	Multiple Respondents	%
1	Water	150	90.90
2	Power	165	100
3	Sanitation	145	87.87
4	Drainage	130	78.78
5	Street lights	145	87.87
6	Roads	155	93.93
7	Schools	165	100



8	Plantation	125	75.75
9	Transport	155	93.93
10	Internet	120	72.72
11	Plastic free	90	54.54
12	Health centre	150	90.90
		165	100

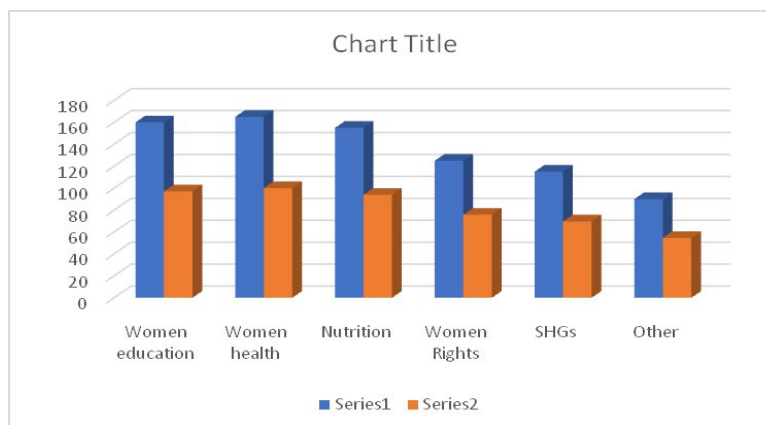


The above table 6 reveals about the welfare and development measures for rural area. Out of total 165 respondents given different multiple opinions. 150 respondents said drinking water and health facilities are necessary measures for rural development, 165 respondents given opinion that education by establishing schools and providing of electricity is important measures for development, 145 respondents said sanitation and street lights should be provided 130 responded for drainage facility and 125 responded for plantation and greenery 155 responded for roads and transportation 120 responded for internet facility and 90 respondents asked for plastic free environment. Finally from the analysis it can be conclude that majority given different opinions on necessity needs and welfare and development measures for rural development.

Table-7: Need of Women Empowerment Programmes

S.No	Women Programmes	Multiple Response	%
1	Women education	160	96.96
2	Women health	165	100
3	Nutrition	155	93.93
4	Women Rights	125	75.75
5	SHGs	115	69.69
6	Other	90	54.54

Source: Field study

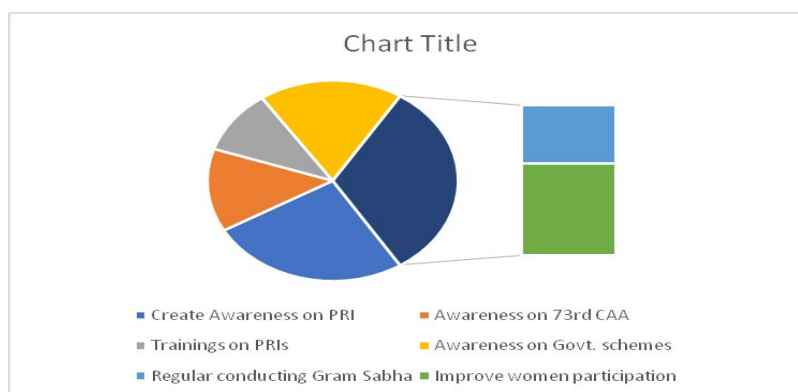


The above table 7 reveals about the respondents opinion on need of the women empowerment programmes. Total 165 respondents given multiple opinion 160 respondents said women education is necessary for empowerment which is 97% and 165 respondents said women health and 155 said nutrition and 125 said women rights and 115 said Self help group and 90 responded as other programmes. From the field study analysis the majority respondents given perception on need for women empowerment programmes.

Table-8: Suggestions

S.No	Suggestions	Response	%
1	Create Awareness on PRI	125	75.75
2	Awareness on 73 rd CAA	65	39.39
3	Trainings on PRIs	50	30.30
4	Awareness on Govt. schemes	90	54.54
5	Regular conducting Gram Sabha	60	36.36
6	Improve women participation	95	57.57

Source: Field study



The above table 8 offered suggestions from 165 respondents. Respondents given multiple responses that awareness should be created on panchayathraj institutions, and also awareness and training needed on 73rd constitutional amendment act and also need of awareness on government welfare schemes and there is a need for regular conduction of Gram sabha meeting to create awareness among the people, there should be more need and active participation of women in panchayathraj institutions.



Conclusion

The present paper analyses role of women in panchayathraj and impact of 73rd constitutional amendment act 1992 on political empowerment of women in Telangana. The researcher conducted field study in Nizamabad district of Telangana state and collected data analysed based on perceptions of women representatives of panchayathraj institutions on various subjects like reservations, functioning of Gram Sabha, functions of PRI and the impact after amendment act etc. The researcher found that there is a great impact of Panchayath raj after 73rd amendment act 1992 and women participation has been increased and women actively playing significant role in Panchayathraj and also in rural development, even though there is a need to conduct awareness programmes for women in rural areas to educate and motivate.

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