

The Participation of Dalit Women Representative in the Local Self-Governance: With Special Reference to Ujjain District of Madhya Pradesh

¹Madan Lal Bamniya and ²Dr. Sushil Kumar

¹Research Scholar, School of Studies in Political Science and Public Administration, Vikram University, Ujjain (MP)

²Assistant Professor, Shri Vaishnav Vidhyapeeth Vishwavidhyalaya, Indore (MP)

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 15 September 2020

Keywords

Dalit Women, Local Self-Governance, Panchayati Raj, Decentralisation, Political Participation

Corresponding Author

Email: [sushil.political88\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:sushil.political88[at]yahoo.com)

ABSTRACT

Women in India, especially in a state with a long medieval history, face determined segregation based on sexual orientation as well as various different variables like position, network and religion. Most Dalit young women in the nation are as yet dropping out of schools attributable to destitution however much more so to get away from mortification, harassing and shunning by their cohorts, society and indeed, even the educators. Behind these 'abominations' lies a much grimmer reality that various Dalits experience each day of their carries on with—a reality that seldom makes the news. Through various commonplace acts, Dalits are continually helped to remember their subordinate status. Quantitative study strategy was utilized in the investigation. Observational information was accumulated through organized structured interview in the 6 blocks of dalit women headed gram panchayat of Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh. The exploration discoveries showed that rural women representatives face various limitations in gaining admittance to and taking an interest in nearby administration.

1. Historical Perspective of Panchayat in Madhya Pradesh

The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India not just gives a Constitutional command to the Panchayats, it likewise gives the consistency and formal structure to these conventional establishments of self-administration important for viable working. The previous endeavours at systematizing the Panchayats were weak and bombed because of the nonappearance of steady Constitutional measures and absence of political will. The 73rd Amendment demonstrates an essential rebuilding of the administration and authoritative arrangement of the nation, in light of the way of thinking of decentralization and capacity to the individuals. The new Panchayati Raj establishments can possibly introduce another period of progress and improvement as per individuals' needs and needs, and to revive a profoundly grieved arrangement of vote based system.

The spearheading and inventive activities of Madhya Pradesh in fortifying and regulating decentralized country self-administration in the post 73rd Amendment stage have produced tremendous enthusiasm among a wide scope of eyewitnesses and specialists. These endeavours have brought trees and thoughtfulness regarding the State from the global network and media, which presents Madhya Pradesh as one of the better-represented States in India. Madhya Pradesh spearheaded the execution of the 73rd Amendment by, for example, directing Panchayat races in 1994. Critically, the Madhya Pradesh government sees decentralization and individuals' support as key to its administration plan, of which the Panchayati framework is the most basic structure block.²

In the post 73rd Amendment stage various States have reacted with fluctuating degrees of eagerness. Madhya Pradesh has reacted with imaginativeness and striking responsibility to making the framework economical and effective. The State's push to standardize the framework is

clear in the quantity of changes that have been made to the State Panchayat Act as a dynamic reaction to the issues at the ground level. During the usage of the Panchayati Raj framework, Madhya Pradesh has confronted a few chances and troubles. The experience of the State is very rich and gives indispensable experiences into the way toward regulating Panchayati Raj. From one perspective, is the narrative of regulatory opposition, practical issues, political and institutional difficulties, monetary deficiency and confound of limits and jobs. On the other hand, it includes the grassroots level in a majority rule and participative administration framework, and in this manner conceivably releases its significant vitality.³

2. Women's Participation in Local Self-Governance

At present article 330 of the constitution provides for the reservation of seats for schedule caste and schedule tribes in the house. Of the people; article 332 makes a similar in the state assemblies, while article 243 D does so at the panchayati raj level. This was fixed at 22.5 per cent of the total seats. Following the 73th amendment, providing for reservation for women at the panchayat level, clause 2 was added in this article, reserving one third seats for SC and ST women within SC and ST quota, and clause 3 resaved one third seats for women, including the number of seats reserved for Women, under SC and ST quota. In the other words, we can say, in a local body of 100 seats, 23 were reserved for SCs and STs, of which 7 or 8 would be adjusted to include the 7 SC/ST women. The 33% seat reserved for women would also be adjusted to include the 7 SC/ST women seats, so that the general category of women reserved seats would come down from 33 to 26. The most striking feature in regarding to 73rd and 74th amendment is one third reservation of elected offices for women and for SCs and STs in proportion to their population. Representations of women and Dalit will certainly bring qualitative change in the

functioning of panchayat. In initial stages, some cases of functioning by proxy may be reported, but once women taste power they would assert their independence as it evident in case of west Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and to certain extent Himachal Pradesh. The provision of women reservation for women will be only "naam ke waste"(just for name sake) and the women will be panchayats as proxies to their male counterparts.⁴

As a result of reservation, a large number of women belonging to SCs and STs has got an opportunity to participate in the decision making process. The recent Constitutional amendments (73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments) however have brought about significant changes in the situation. With the advent of these Acts, today India has more than 500 district panchayats, around 5,100 block/taluka panchayats and about 2,25,000 village panchayats, 90 municipal corporations, 1,500 municipal councils, and 1,800 nagar panchayats. All these bodies would jointly elect three million representatives and a considerable number of them would be women. The trend owes impetus primarily to the provisions made in the Act that one-third of the seats (33.33 per cent) in the local bodies such as panchayats, nagara sabhas, municipalities and corporations shall be reserved for women. This one-third reservation means the possibility of one million women in the panchayats and municipalities of India. It is estimated that there are already 7,16,234 women in panchayats in all the States excluding Manipur, Bihar, and Jammu and Kashmir and several States went ahead and elected even more than one-third women members required under the Acts. The UPA government's Cabinet had, in its second term, cleared the Constitution 110th Amendment and the Standing Committee on Rural Development had also gone through the Bill as per norms. The Bill had first been introduced in the Lok Sabha in November 2009, after which it went through the committee process. It was re-introduced in the Lok Sabha in 2010 after the report had been tabled, after which it lapsed at the end of the 15th Lok Sabha in 2014.⁶ Currently, the bill is still pending in the Lower House of Parliament, which is Lok Sabha. The bill will only be passed if the ruling government supports the bill with full force, as they have the majority in Lok Sabha. Though there has not been any major development regarding the passing of Women's Reservation Bill in the recent months, if the current government takes steps for its upliftment, there is hope that the bill will be passed in Lok Sabha soon.⁷ The Constitutional Amendment was to ensure that 50% of total seats filled by direct elections in every panchayat be reserved for women. Among the States that already follow 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are Bihar, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.⁸ There are still major gaps or structural constraints that women's organisations have to negotiate and overcome. Although the presence of women in Panchayat in large numbers through reservations, empowerment remains indefinable.⁵

There is have to have an improved exact base with regards to low monetary turn of events, particularly from Ujjain region, where no beneficial examination on women strengthening and interest in gram Panchayat has so far

occurred. Taking a comprehensive view, the term "participation" in the present study was conceptualised in three ways, namely, symbolic or physical presence in Panchayat meetings, substantive role of women play in PRIs, and personal or internal development of women experienced as a result of their participation in PRIs.

3. Objectives

Madhya Pradesh was the main State to sort out decisions to the Panchayats after the Constitutional Change and comprise these as organizations of neighbourhood self-administration. The Madhya Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act radically modified the current administration framework and constitutionalised grassroots vote based system. Panchayati Raj foundations, filling in as problem solvers, are changing country society. The study expects to inspect the socio-political status of dalit women representatives and the troubles and obstruction looked by dalit women representatives in the PRIs.

4. Research Questions

In accordance with destinations to examine financial profile, support, mindfulness, work and obstacles of women delegates and nature and degree of women strengthening in gram panchayat, the managing inquiries for research were distinguished as under:

1. What is the nature and degree of interest of women delegates in gram sabha gatherings and the advancement plan of gram panchayat?
2. What are impediments do women face in their working adequately as political delegates and chiefs?
3. Have the chosen women had the option to have an effect on the Panchayati Raj Institutions and their general strengthening in the distinctive social and political settings?
4. What are the backings do women require so they can accomplish their work effectively in gram panchayat?

5. Methodology

Universe of Study

The principle focal point of this examination is on the women headed gram panchayat inside the panchayati raj framework in Madhya Pradesh. For the investigation, the purposive choice of Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh was to think about political cooperation and strengthening of rustic women through panchayati raj organizations. The area was picked keeping in see that the locale speaks to practically all the station classes with a sizeable population of Scheduled Caste, classification.

Sampling Design and Unit of Observation:

There are 4 blocks in Ujjain District and Out of 4 blocks just 2 blocks named Badnagar and Mahidpur was deliberately chosen. The determination of blocks depended on the reasonable portrayal of the respondents SC classification. From the chosen block, six women headed gram panchayats were chosen. The determination of women headed gram panchayats were based efficient irregular examining.

Table No. 1
Sampling Design: Gram Panchayat (Dalit Women Headed)

District Ujjain				
Sr. No.	Blocks	No. of Gram Panchayat	No. Of Dalit Women Headed GP	Selected Dalit Women Headed GP
1.	Badnagar	107	35	3
2.	Mahidpur	120	40	3
Total				6

Source: District Statistical Office, Ujjain (MP)

Elected dalit women representatives, gram sabha members and govt. officials were the part of units of observation. From each selected women headed gram panchayats, 5 elected women representatives, 5 gram sabha members (woman), 5 gram sabha members (male) were

interviewed for the study. Thus from selected 2 blocks 30 elected women representatives and 60 gram sabha members (30 male and 30 female) were selected.. Thus, total size of sample was 90.

Table No. 2
Sampling Design: No. of Respondents

Sr. No.	Gram Panchayat	Respondents			
		Elected Dalit Women Headed Panchayat	Gram Sabha Members (Female/Male)		Total
			Woman	Man	
Badnagar (Block)					
1.	AMLA	05	05	05	15
2.	CHIROLA	05	05	05	15
3.	KADHAI	05	05	05	15
Mahidpur (Block)					
4.	BHIMAKHEDA	05	05	05	15
5.	GOGAKHEDA	05	05	05	15
6.	SEKAKHEDI	05	05	05	15
Total		30	30	30	90

Source: District Statistical Office, Ujjain (MP)

The organized interview helped in choosing objective just as abstract reality, identifying with study. While interview, each endeavour was made to set up the inquiries in a more straightforward way, keeping in see the intrigue of respondents and language preferred by them in order to get precise data. So in the current investigation, the chosen women representatives, gram sabha members (male and female) and government officials (male) were met independently through the organized interview schedule. The interview schedule depended on country women political mindfulness, political interest, dynamic, their strengthening and hindrances. Secondary data was gathered from government offices, common society associations interfacing with panchayati raj organizations and existing examination considers.

6. Discussion

The current investigation would inspect the extent of strengthening of dalit women through panchayat raj organizations with uncommon reference to region Ujjain of Madhya Pradesh with regards to expanded support and job execution of chose women representatives delegates and individuals in gram panchayats. In summing up, it very well may be said that the legislature of India is attempting to enable

the women through different political arrangements and projects yet there still a few holes to be crossed over.

The consequence of the investigation shows that the booking for women can be a significant impulsion to women' strengthening in gram panchayat yet it's anything but an assurance for the interest of the chosen women delegates and individuals. The objective of women' strengthening can't be cultivated uniquely by giving reservation, the other social and segment factors likewise affecting the chosen women representatives and individuals to take an interest and work effectively in decentralized administration. The investigation discoveries depend on a review of 90 respondents (Dalit Women Representatives, Women Gram Sabha Members and Male Gram Sabha Members and Govt. Authorities) from the an intentionally chosen square of Ujjain District of Madhya Pradesh. This assessment presents the blend of key discoveries and features generally end and proposals.

The vast majority of the respondents were from the age gathering of 26-35 years and None of them were from the age gathering of 56 or more years. Notwithstanding, extent of women respondents from booked position and planned clans was additionally answered to be noteworthy. The mind greater part of the respondents met were hitched, least of them were separated/isolated. A large portion of them are ignorant people and furthermore less taught. The family primary occupation was accounted for as agribusiness. The greater part of the

respondents were housewives while rest are in the calling of business, proficient work, handcraft and work were the fundamental calling of the companions of respondents. Most of respondents uncovered that they don't have their own horticulture land while greater part of the respondents revealed that the size of their landholding is little, so they has a place with the negligible and little ranchers classes. Monetarily, their families originate from low and centre salary gatherings. Dominant part of respondents further uncovered that their yearly pay is between Rs. 48001 to Rs. 72000.

The lion's share of the chosen women representatives has partaken during the time spent last appointment of gram panchayat and most of respondents detailed that they having connection with the individuals who are in governmental issues. Their family members of the respondents are separately functioning as Sarpanch/Up-Sarpanch/Panch and Zila Panchayat/Janpad Panchayat Members. Ideological groups are interfacing with the panchayat political race and impacting the individuals of town by supporting them all the essential needs which they need at the hour of the Gram Panchayat political decision, so that's why the individuals of village are additionally connecting with panchayats, however in the investigation practically 50% of the respondents respond that they were not related with the any ideological groups or regional/national parties.

Most of women respondents accept that the gatherings of the gram panchayat and gram sabha are occurring consistently and the critical number of gatherings of gram panchayats is additionally happen based on the need of panchayat. The most extreme number of chose women representatives is likewise going to the gatherings and littlest measure of respondents accepts that because of home-grown work, they had not gone to meeting of gram panchayat/sabha.

Most of respondents don't have the foggiest idea about the necessary number of majority of the gathering of gram sabha. Anyway the noteworthy number of chose women delegates have not information on the fundamental presence of women in the majority of the gathering. So it's anything but a positive sign that a significant number of the respondents don't have the foggiest idea about the verifiable data of the necessary majority in the gathering of gram sabha.

The half of the chosen women representatives were constantly obliged others in the gathering of gram panchayat and most of them were additionally pointed that they generally used to go with their neighbour in the gathering of gram panchayat and extremely least of them announced that they went with their better half in the gathering of panchayat.

The huge number of chose women representatives are routinely partaking in the conversations of the gatherings of gram panchayat which identified with, the arrangement of the country improvement program, savagery against women and wellbeing and sustenance of though 50% of the respondents have additionally took at some point investment in the conversation identified with development of financial plan, public government assistance programs, making the rundown of recipients and drinking water, disinfection and condition.

Exceptionally least of respondents have answered that family not permitted them to challenge appointment of gram panchayat and some of them additionally answered that having some home-grown issue, so that's why the reason they had confronted trouble to challenge the appointment of gram

panchayat. Practically all respondents accepts that occasionally their better half/male individual from their family join them in the gathering of gram panchayat/gram sabha and their significant other or male individuals are remaining with them till the finish of the gathering of the gram panchayat/gram sabha. The greater part of them have acknowledged that normally their better half or other male individual has given them proposals/counsel to them at the hour of the conversation in the gram panchayat/gram sabha. Yet, in this delicate issue like ladies strengthening it is critical to discover the issues and furthermore discover the arrangements and recommendations to take care of the issues. There are a few issues in the method of ladies delegates in PRIs. It appears to be that it is foul play with the ladies until we can't take care of such issues. A portion of the principle issues distinguished during the investigation are:

1. Political mediation in the working of panchayats.
2. Women go about as intermediaries for men.
3. Husband's intercession of chose lady in her working.
4. Lack of political mindfulness among the ladies in country territories.
5. Negative general conclusion with respect to ladies' initiative limit.
6. Illiteracy or low norm of instruction among the ladies in rustic territories.
7. Dominance of male elected members from the panchayat; and
8. Cultural qualities; savagery against ladies; absence of advantages and absence of shared help among ladies are some preventing.

7. Conclusion and Recommendation:

The exploration discoveries demonstrated that rustic dalit women in Ujjain District face two issues specifically: underrepresentation and low interest contrasted with dalit ladies in metropolitan chambers and men in formal political and financial organizations and formal and casual country foundations. The elements normally distinguished as hindrances to dalit women support incorporate political brutality, sexual orientation generalizations and through and through separation, individual snags, for example, absence of certainty, racially recommended home-grown work, absence of instruction, absence of monetary and financial capital, and political establishments that are not helpful for adjusting family and public life.

Male-ruled various levelled power regularly deliberately prohibits ladies' investment or cheapens their commitments, making a handicapping domain for dalit women's development. These meagre casual institutional qualities, standards, structures, and cycles are hard to perceive and frequently establish a more noteworthy boundary than formal guidelines. For dalit women to profit, administration needs to turn out to be effectively associated with the social change of male centric standards and values and should remember ladies' viewpoints for and interest in the change cycle. Ladies in authority positions in like manner need to challenge the guidelines and not to play by them.

8. Recommendations to Increase the Participation of Women's in PRIs:

1. There ought to be some Mobile Training just as Advisory Team (or can be said Counselling Team) who can mind after the individuals uncommonly, of dalit women representatives.
2. There must be some subsequent meeting after each preparation, which can recuperate the preparation holes of the dalit women representatives.
3. Participation of ladies delegates in the Self Help Group exercises is an invite pattern. This ought to be supported especially for helpless dalit women representatives.
4. Panchayat staff ought to be well prepared to play out their jobs, Political lack of bias of the Panchayat staff ought to be kept up while releasing their duties. This viewpoint ought to be thought about genuinely during preparing of the Panchayat staff individuals.
5. There ought to be one Help-line or Help-work area either in the locale level or in State level so the agents can reach them at their need.
6. The experience from the field of the exploration likewise recommends that separated from the compensation being paid to the Pradhan and Up-Pradhan, there ought to be month to month compensation framework for individuals all in all and ladies individuals specifically.
7. Monthly honorarium for Pradhan and Up-Pradhan ought to be expanded as their work-pressure has been expanding step by step. It isn't feasible for anybody to go through entire day in office as opposed to winning breads.
8. Activities of dalit women elected members other than the plans ought to be supported by surveying the presentation and granting them in every year.
9. For the turn of events and strengthening of the rural dalit women, we have to bring to the table an opportunity to ladies to go into people in general and political circle of the dynamic, which is significant for them.
10. Motivate dalit ladies to take an interest in the political cycle and battle the appointment of the gram panchayat.

References

- [1]. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/2702.pdf> (visited 10th July, 2020)
- [2]. http://www.undp.org/content/dam/india/docs/national_workshop_capacity_building_of_elected_women_representatives_and_functionaries_of_pris%20report.pdf (visited 21st July, 2020)
- [3]. Kumar Dr. Sushil, Parmar Dr. Vinita. Dalit Women's Representation and Participation in Local Governance: Ujjain District of Madhya Pradesh. Research Review International Journal of Multidisciplinary. ISSN:2455-3085 (Online). Vol. 05. Issue-05. May, 2020: 108
- [4]. Baira Om Prakash. Women Empowerment in Panchayati Raj Institutions. Professional Panorama: An International Journal of Management & Technology. 2016: 3