

Women Empowerment through Political Participation: A Case Study of Pandua GP and Bairgachhi-I GP

Gita Rajbanshi

Assistant. Professor in Political Science, Rishi Bankim Chandra College, Naihati, North 24 Parganas, W.B.

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*Corresponding Author

Email: [gitarajbanshi21\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:gitarajbanshi21[at]gmail.com)

ABSTRACT

Women participation has an important tool in our social life. Because women have important role in democratic system and women construct half population in our country. The issue of political participation of women has been increasing the interest of election, governmental decisions, policy making and social welfare of democratic system in our country. It can develop the women participation. This paper is basically descriptive-analytical and empirical in nature. The present study is intended to identify the impact of Women Participation and development in Local area. In my present study I have critically analyzed and comparative studied of two Gram Panchayats of Gazole Block at Malda district in the West Bengal. In this work I present the development profile of the study area and of the respondents. It has two sections; first section deals with a brief analysis of women participation of these areas and second section deals with the rural development of the two study areas i.e. elected women members of selected two Gram Panchayat level. I have comparative study on two-GP of Pandua and Bairgachhi-I on nature of family, age factor, educational factor, interest, marital status, family income and p. participation etc.

1. Introduction

Women participation in democracy is important tool for women empowerment in society. Like men Women also integral part in our society. So, without women the country can't develop with properly. Because women have important role in democratic system and women construct half population in our country. The political participation of women has been increasing the interest of election, governmental decisions, policy making and social welfare of democratic system in day by day in our country. In my paper I want to explore the developmental process in Pandua and the Bairgachhi-I Gram Panchayat. The government took a number of initiatives and 'best practices' for improving social conditions and social opportunities. It can develop the women participation. One of the key elements of Gram Panchayat is women's representation in policy-making forums, local authorities and civic organizations in society. Unless women are involved in the decision and Policy-making process of local level changes in women's political and to some extent social and economic status, will continue to be marginal. I have comparative study on two-GP of Pandua and Bairgachhi-I on nature of family, age factor, educational factor, interest, marital status, family income and p. participation etc.

2. Objectives of Study

- The objectives of this study on comparative analysis of the two Gram Panchayat reports
- Find out a picture of women's involvement in local-self-government in two GP
- To analyze the women participation of grass root level with self-interest.
- To show women development in this area.
- To discuss about the preparation on the status of women in two GP.

3. Methodology

This paper is basically descriptive-analytical and empirical in nature. The present study is intended to identify the impact of Women Participation and Social development in Local Self-Government: A Comparative Study between Pandua and Bairgachhi-I Gram Panchayat in Gazole Block district of Malda. For the purpose of identifying the same, the primary and secondary data are used. The data used in it is purely from primary and secondary sources according to the need of this study.

4. Analysis

Women empowerment through Political Participation between two G.P in given below in this way:

Interest in politics of Women (comparative study between two GP) (Table-1)

Interest in politics	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
Low	113	75.33	90	60
Medium	22	14.66	38	25.33
High	15	10	22	14.66
Total	150	100	150	100

(From Field survey)

From my study (table-1) I have pointed out that 75.33 percent women of Pandua GP and 60 percent women of Bairgachhi-I GP have less interest in politics. In this context they have low interest of participation in the decision-making process of politics. 14.66 percent women of Pandua GP have medium interest of participation in political decisions. On the

other hand, 25 percent women of Bairgachhi-I GP have medium interest of participation in politics. Only 10 percent women of Pandua GP and 14.66 percent women of Bairgachhi-I GP have high interest to participate in the decision-making

process of politics. They are aware about the political culture and political decision-making processes. This analysis shows the rate of interest of political participation in two-gram panchayats.

Sense of Political Efficacy of Women GP members (Table-2)

Interest in politics				
GP members and general women	Low	Medium	High	Number
General women of Pandua	78 (52%)	45 (30%)	27 (18%)	150
General women of Bairgachhi-I	81 (54%)	49 (32.66%)	20 (13.33%)	150
Women GP member of Pandua	1 (19%)	3 (30%)	6 (60%)	10
Women GP member of Bairgachhi-I	--	2 (33.33%)	4 (66.66%)	6

(From Field survey)

Above (table-2) I have mentioned Sense of political awareness of women between two GP. In field survey there are 52 percent of general women and 10 percent women of GP members of Pandua and 54 percent of general women of Bairgachhi-I GP who have sense of political efficacy. On the other hand 30 percent of general women and 30 percent

women of GP member of Pandua GP, 32.66 percent of general women and 33.33 percent of GP member of Bairgachhi-I GP have medium sense of political efficacy and 18 percent of general women and 60 percent of GP member of Pandua GP and 13.33 percent women of Bairgachhi-I GP have high interest in politics. (Table no. 2).

Factor for Women enter into Politics (Table-3)

Women in politics	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
Favorable environment	1	10	1	16.66
Family heritage	1	10	1	16.66
Personal interest	2	20	1	16.66
Under some pressure	6	60	3	50
Total	10	100	6	100

(From Field survey)

I have seen in field survey that the Maximum 60% and 50% women GP member are entered into politics with some pressure husband between Pandua GP and Bairgachhi-I GP respectively. 20 % and 16.66% women members are self-

interest, 10% and 16.66% women members are family heritage and 10% and 16.66% women members are favorable environment for participate in politics of the two Panchayat.

Present position and status of Women GP member (Table -4)

Position	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
Pradhan	-	-	1	16.66
Upo-Pradhan	-	-	1	16.66
Only GP member	10	100%	4	66.66
Total	10	100	6	100

From field survey I find out that Present position of the GP women members one member is Pradhan and one member is Upo-Pradhan and others members are only GP members of the Bairgachhi-I GP. All women members are only GP

members of the Pandua Gram Panchayat (Table no 4). So, we have seen that few women are enjoy more power with political participation.

Age group and Women Participation (Table-5)

Age in year	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
18-29	29	19.33	15	10
30-39	56	37.33	69	46
40-49	40	26.66	45	30
Above 50	25	16.66	21	4
Total	150	100	150	100

(From Field survey)

As the socio- economic development determines the levels of political participation, an attempt is being made here to introduce the different socio-economic position of the general women respondents and Panchayat members. It can be analyzed from my survey that the age and socio-economic structure has been playing important role for the participation.

On the basis of my findings it is found that 37.33% and 46% of the maximum participation of the 300 respondents belong to the middle age group (30-39) % and lowest participation of older group (above-50). The middle-aged respondents are the most dominant factor in the study. Table no.5 represents the age structure of the general respondents.

Marital status and P. Participation (Table- 6)

Marital status	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
Married	96	64	117	78
Unmarried	54	36	33	22
Total	150	100	150	100

(From Field survey)

Above table (Table-6) indicates that married women have participated in high than unmarried women between two GP in

politics. So, maturity of age is important determinants for political participation.

Nature in family and Women Participation (Table-7)

Family nature	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
Joint	22	14.66	23	15.33
Extended	7	4.66	10	6.66
Nuclear	121	80.66	117	78
Total	150	100	150	100

(From Field survey)

Table no 7 indicates the nature of the family of the general women in politics. Joint or nuclear family may have an effect on the overall participation in politics. 14.66% and 15.33% women reside in joint families between Pandua and Bairchhi-I GP and

80.66 %and 78% women live in nuclear families between two Panchayat of Pandua and Bairgachhi-I. This survey is an indicator of modernization.

Family Income and political participation. (Table-8)

Family income year	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
0-19000	-	-	-	-
20000-39000	24	16	13	8.66
40000-59000	10	6.66	6	4
60000-79000	52	34.66	61	40.66
80000-99000	43	28.66	45	30
100000 above	21	14	25	16.66
Total	150	100	150	100

(From Field survey)

Above table, I have tried to find out the relationship between the income and political participation. The parameters

of the category of family income have been modified in the course of the research process. (Table no.8)

Occupation and P. Participation (Table-9)

Occupation	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
Service	6	4	7	4.66
Business	20	1.33	18	12
Agriculture	83	55.33	90	60
Homemaker	41	27.33	35	23.33
Total	150	100	150	100

(From Field survey)

Occupation and political participation have been considered as the indicators of status of women. Occupation of

a respondent is an equally important parameter which influences the respondent's participation in politics. Out of the

150 women of Pandua GP, 6 are service, 20 are business, 83 are agriculture, and 41 are having other occupation. Other 150 women of Bairgachhi-I GP, 7 are service, 18 are business, 90 are agriculture and 35 are other occupation. Maximum

difference of the two Panchayat occupation is business category (10.67%) and minimum difference are service category (66%) (Table- 9).

Education and P. Participation (Table-10)

Education	Women of Pandua GP	Percentage	Women of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
No formal education	90	60	48	32
Primary education	39	26	42	28
Secondary education	12	8	30	20
Under graduate	6	4	24	16
Post graduate	3	2	6	4
Total	150	100	150	100

(From Field survey)

There is a relationship between education and participation in table 10. Educational factor determines the mode of participation. 60% and 32% women respondents are no formal education and 2% and 4% women respondents are

post graduate level education of two Gram Panchayat between Pandua and Bairgachhi-I. So, education is low quality in these areas (Table no.10).

Gender equality of GP member between two GP (Table-11)

Gender equality	Member of Pandua GP	Percentage	Member of Bairgachhi-I GP	Percentage
Male	11	52.38	4	30
Female	10	47.61	6	60
Total	21	100	10	100

(From Field survey)

Above table we can see that in Indian traditional society has changed. Now the survey report, women are more acceptable participate in the society. 60% and 47.61% women politician have entered politics in two Gram Panchayat between Pandua GP and Bairgachhi-I GP. Male have participated two Panchayat between Pandua GP and Bairgachhi-I GP, 52.38% and 40% (Table no.11).

5. Important Findings

Empowerment can be considered as the process by which the greatest number of people participate in the decision-making process. So, these types of ways must be included through the process of development.

- The political participation is much more than the Pandua gram panchayat. In the Panchayat level development of the percentage of younger women members is more prominent than the older women members of the two Panchayat.
- As majority of women members (37.33% and 46%) belong to the age group of 31-39, we can say that young women members are emerging in Panchayati Raj system of study areas.
- It is apparent from the above study that in local self government women members comes from various castes in the society as well as all level of education i.e., from primary to higher level of education.
- The study shows that majority of women Panchayats members are Homemaker of the two Panchayat.
- In the present study we find 70% and 50% of the respondents come from nuclear families and other

respondents come from joint and extended families. This result is a reflection to the fact that nuclear family system provides a favorable atmosphere for women to become Panchayat member above the two Panchayat.

- From my study I have pointed out that 75 percent women of Pandua GP and 60 percent of Bairgachhi-1 GP are not interested to participate in the political processes.
- Bairgachhi-GP-I is more advance than Pandua gram panchayat in all aspects of Political Participation.

6. Conclusion

Women participation has increasing in grass root level do not in itself translate in to greater empowerment for women. Measures to increase the quantity of women representatives need to be accompanied by measures to improve the quality of participation. So, the Panchayati raj should be conceptualized as a form of decentralization. Active participation, efficient and effective administrative functions and functionaries and positions will determine the development and success of grassroot democracy which mobilize the progress of state and society. It will build the capacity and capability of civil society organizations to advocate women participation in the political transitions and democratic governance process. At the grass root level on women have, in particular, advocated the need to increase the number of women in decision-making positions.

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