

# Post Effect of 73rd Amendment on Women Representation in Panchayat of NE India

Rajesh Chatterjee<sup>1\*</sup>, Naigopal Debnath<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Assisitant Professor, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Tripura University, India

**Abstract:** Panchayat being local self-government, is a state matter and part of the list of States in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Article (3) of Article 243D of the Constitution ensures the participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions so that not less than one-third of the total seats filled through direct elections and the number of offices of the Chairperson of Panchayats are reserved for women. The 73rd amendment is the tool to reinsure women representation in the PRIs. There is a good relation between women and development of society. Again, development of women means advancement of the populace and the country. So there is a need to observe the actual status of the panchayat in relation to the women representation as per the mandate of the Constitution. An initiative has been taken to make known the actual impact of the amendment on women as well as society.

**Keywords:** women, Panchayat, equality.

## 1. Introduction

Equality before law is laid down in the Constitution of India. It not only guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms but also protect citizen from discrimination irrespective of religion, race, caste, sex, and place of birth. Social structure of India is the indication of patriarchal culture; where women are treated severely. The thought of women as politicians is apparent as entirely saggy in a patriarchal philosophy. It is the rule to dictate women where and how to vote (Shvedova, 1998:33). Women are deprived from social, economic, civil and political rights as the constitutional rights have not been converted into de facto rights in the implementation part. Articles (325 and 326) of the Constitution of India assured political equality, equal rights to participation in political activities and right to vote respectively. Women have been enjoying the latter but the former is a dream only after 75 years of independence. Absence of women participation in the political bodies invites different problems into the every sphere of the country by neglecting the issues and demand of women.

Indian politician felt the need of women representation in the political bodies and government and it has been converted into reservation policy for women and this provision ensures the rights of rural and poor women. This quota system brings ample of opportunities to the women, raised their voice and helped to overcome structural barricade and protected from masculine

society (Dahlerup & Freidenvall, 2005:26-48). Women can influence the political decision because they are more active in politics and this culture helps Indian society to be more uncensored. Prior to the introduction of the women reservation policy, female opinions were neglected (Kumari, 2000:48). Studies revealed that uneducated women are totally ignorant about the political procedure, rules and their rights and for these reason male members of the Panchayat discriminate female Panchayat members. Percentages of educated women are less who is not interested to be associated with politics. Less percentage is always less in every sphere, so necessity is to enhance percentage of educated women. Illiterate, literate, neo-literate or even educated women are being forced to enter into politics. Symbolic participation cannot help society to be empowered and it is called proxy development because powerless women in the political chair is the emblem of backwardness where they are important only for signature but have no knowledge, no idea on role and responsibility in panchayat administration, planning, health and education committee. Here is the importance of holistic approach of women empowerment.

## 2. Women's Empowerment and Panchayati Raj

Empowerment is a multidimensional concept and it is a result of participation in decision-making. So women empowerment is the process of recognition of women at par with the men for the development of society (Palanthurai, 2001). According to the Document on Women's Development (1985) women's role in the political process has virtually remained unchanged since independence. Political participation of women has been severely limited due to various traditional factors creating impediments in front of women such as caste, religion, feudal attitude and family status and for this consequence, women are depressed leaving political arena. After introduction of 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, the status of women is in good condition which has given active role in the decision making process of politics and such evaluation of PRIs brought the functional concept of women participation in politics and now women are taking political decision, involving in planning and executing work of the political body. The act named as 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, is the historical amendment of the

\*Corresponding author: rajeshchatterjee@tripurauniv.in

Constitution of India to incorporate women in the periphery of Indian politics. The mandatory provision of this act is to reserve of seats for women not less than 1/3rd of the total seats and this act were accorded on April 23rd, 1993. There are 29 schedule lists of work to be implemented by the PRIs under the 11th schedule of the Constitution. Few of these main activities are agriculture and extension, land improvement, watershed development, animal husbandries, Poultry and Dairy fisheries, Social forestry and small-scale industries, rural housing, khadi, drinking water and sanitation, community health etc, primary education, health & sanitation, family, welfare etc., to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees. It is observed that there is very limited research on women representation PRIs in Tripura to examine the present status of women in the Panchayats. Representation of women in the PRIs of Tripura is less than the mandate of the Constitution (46%). (Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Representation in Panchayats. SEP 2020)

### 3. Reservations for Women

73rd Amendment Act, 1992, of the Constitution reserved 33% seats for women in PRIs and accordingly this provision has been incorporated in the Tripura Panchayati Raj Act. This reservation policy in Indian politics for the women strengthens the social status of rural deprived women. The women from grass root level are coming forward and taking part in the political system of the country. Not only involving themselves in the political arena but also participation has been increasing in the government endeavour of health, nutrition, children welfare, family care, Mid Day Meal, drinking water as ICDS-ASHA workers and SHG member.

#### 1) Tripura

Tripura is one of the few states in the country where democratic decentralization has been accepted policy for a long time. Elections to local bodies have been held regularly since 1978 when the Left Front was elected to govern the state. Since 1993, following the constitutional amendments in this regard, Tripura has a three-tier structure of elected local bodies or Panchayati raj institutions (PRI) at gram panchayat, block panchayat (panchayat samiti) and district panchayat (Zilla Parishad) levels. In addition, Tripura also has the unique institution of the Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), vested with powers intended to ensure a large degree of self-government to tribals.

#### 2) Panchayat System In Tripura

Panchayati raj was first introduced in Tripura during 1959, by enacting Tripura Panchayat Raj Act, 1959 (adopted from U.P. Panchayat Raj Act with some modifications). In this Act, single tier (Gram Panchayat) was proposed. Tripura Panchayat Raj Rules was framed in 1961. Under the Tripura Panchayat Raj Rules, 1961 (which continued till 1978), the Gram Panchayats were constituted through open election by raising hands. The Rules were amended in 1978 to ensure the constitution of the Gram Panchayats under adult franchise by secret ballot with participation of political parties. At the block level, Block Development Committee (BDC), an advisory body, was constituted with the elected Pradhans of the Gram

Panchayats and the MLAs from the block area. The BDCs were encouraged to act as de facto panchayat samitis.

Following the 73rd amendment of the Constitution in 1992, Tripura was one of the first states to enact Tripura Panchayats Act, 1993 with a provision for setting up of three tier panchayat system- Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad. During 1994, various functions of 12 departments were assigned to the panchayat bodies. Again during 2000, some more functions were transferred to the panchayats. The State Finance Commission was set up in 1994 which has submitted its report in 1996 and is accepted by the Govt. The second SFC has already started functioning. Two elections of the PRIs have been held (1994 & 1999) so far. Similar reforms were done in the Nagar Panchayats following the 74th amendment. The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council was set up on 18th January, 1982 as an Autonomous Body in the State under the 7th Schedule of the Constitution. Later, with the objective of entrusting more responsibility and to give more power to the TTAADC, provisions of the 6th Schedule to the Constitution of India were extended to Tripura from 1st April, 1985 by the 49th Amendment of the Constitution. The TTAADC covers an area of 7133 sq. km, which is about 68% of the state's total area. As per the 1991 Census, the total population in the District Council area is 8.87 lakh which is about one-third of State's population. Of this, 6.62 lakh are tribals, which is about 66% of tribal population.

There exist various political systems in Tripura.

- a) State legislative assembly with 60 seats
- b) 2 seats for Lok Sabha and 1 for Rajyasabha.
- c) 3-tier Panchayat Raj system with 33% reservation for women.
- d) Tribal Autonomous District Council of 30 seats and
- e) Agartala Municipal Council and few Nagar Panchayat Bodies

So, Tripura is a very unique place for study of political systems and women's participation in it. But In My study I examine the women's participation in 3-tier Panchayat Raj system, Mainly in Panchayat.

#### 3) Women in Panchayati Raj in Tripura

Although several progressive steps were taken from 1978 onwards to promote democratic decentralization in Tripura but there was no reservation for women, either by election or by nomination, until the enactment of the Tripura Panchayat Act, 1993, following the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992. The Act provides for one-third reservation for women at all levels and among the seats reserved for SCs and STs as well. The reservation applies both to membership and to the office of the Chairperson at all levels – gram Panchayat, Panchayat samiti and zilla parishad. Following this enactment, women have had a greater opportunity than before to participate actively in politics at the grassroots. As the data show, the overall share of women among elected local body members' at all three levels is more or less at the reservation norm of one-third. Among the elected SC and ST Representatives at the gram Panchayat level, interestingly, the proportion of women comfortably exceeds one-third, through it has come down marginally between 1994 and 2009 in both cases. Among the

elected non-SC/ST representatives, the proportion is below one-third, though there is a marginal improvement between 1994 and 2009. At the Panchayat samiti level, there is considerable fluctuation across the elections of 1994, 1999 and 2004. For SCs, it dips between 1994 and 1999, mainly because many more SCs were elected in 1999 than 1994, and most of the additions were men. The opposite happens between 1999 and 2004, and this leads to a remarkable 42.31% of SC representatives at the Panchayat samiti level being female in 2004. But in 2009 the percentage again fall down. In the case of STs, there is a sharp decline in both male and female representation between 1999 and 2004 at the Panchayat samiti level, and the decline is much sharper for women and in 2009 the women percentage increased. Among the non-SC/ST Panchayat samiti members, the increase in representation is entirely among the males.

At the Zilla parishad level, the percentage of women representatives improves for SCs between 1994 and 2009. Among the non-SC/STs, male representation has increased significantly while that of females has declined marginally. With respect to GP chairpersons, both SC men and women have gained between 1999 and 2004, but men much more so. Among the STs, there is a sharp decline in the number of both men and women elected as GP chairpersons, with the decline sharper for men. In 2004 it has increased sharply & in 2009 it has decline again.

#### 4. Review of Literature

Women are coming into politics for the sake of coming as the mandatory provisions have been enacted by the 73rd Amendment Act-1992 (Panda, 1996). Women are joining in politics mainly from non-political family. They are allowed in this political post by the male politician for their as 'yes boss' attitude. The women are not inclined to join politics and not enjoying their job but those few who are joining willingly and entered into politics showed great maturity outlook, enthusiasm, increasing political consciousness. The perception of the women on politics has been increasing. Women from upper caste are not interested to be the part of panchayat which is benediction to the women from labour and lower caste to prove themselves as a concealed force in politics (Panda, 1999). Women from middle age group (25-45) are found in village politics and they had previous political experience (Jain, 1996). 73rd amendment act ensures women reservation along with reservation of SCs and STs and this mandatory provision fortify the power of unspoken portion of the society which was dominated earlier by the upper caste of the society. Previously village administration was directed by the dominant caste of the society and economically strong person of the society which was abolished after 73rd amendment act. Most of the Illiterate women declared them as homemakers and contesting in the PRIs election. It may be the distortion of power helped them to be empowered, self-confident, politically aware and affirmation in information. These all are the adverse effect of patriarchal society and the male authority and supremacy has been challenged by the politically empowered women. Another study shows (Mohanty, 2000) that most of the women (80-90%)

come and attend Panchayat meeting regularly. These all are prove of grass root level democracy with active participation of rural women. It has been found that some women leaders were arrested due unoriginal work or the administrative power used by others on for the women taking advantage of their illiteracy and unawareness in politics. Again husband and relatives control the panchayat where the women are treated as stepping stone. Above women are being empowered after a certain time when they are controlling every sphere of politics and office administration and only this act (73rd amendment) has given this opportunity and by this way women leader have been playing better role in the process of development ( Gowda and others, 1996) compare to the male members. Studies also revealed that most of the women in panchayat are illiterate (Nirmala, 2000) or uneducated or hardly completed primary level and these all are housewives (Rashmi, 1997, IISS, 2000) and important thing is such women are not interested to campaign in favour of them to be elected in the election (Bohra, 1997). Another studied was conducted by Jayalakshmi (1997) to search the impact of reservation on women gives result in favour of ensured social justice only for women participation in politics. But these women need rigorous training on office administration, orientation, sensitisation, capacity building and counselling through organisations (Palanthurai, 2001).

Eleven states (35%) have less than 50% women representation in the PRIs where 19 state (59%) capable to follow the Constitution on women reservation and they have accomplished 50 % women representation in their three tyre system of Panchayat. Uttarakhand is the most successful state in the issue of women as exemplification (56%) where Dadra & Nagar Haveli is bottommost state in this trait (32 %) (Ministry of Panchayat Raj, GoI, 2020). Half of the population are women in India who are everyday facing different social problems in the patriarchal society which is discrimination against them and denial of their rights. These women are participating in politics from local self-government to upper house and lower house of the democratic assembly and raising their voice to ensure justice. These things are happening after introduction of PRIs Act, 1992 with the help of constitutional amendment. Studies have been conducted in India to distinguish the effect of this act but right now studies are required to recon the actual status of women and effect of the act in NE India especially in Tripura which is unfastened.

##### 1) Tripura Perspective

While searching for material to write the report I realise that there is very limited research on women representation PRIs in Tripura to examine the outcomes of reserved seats for women in the Panchayats. However a book entitled 'A Corpus of Tripura' was written by J.Gan. Choudhuri (1990), dealing with social conditions of Tripury women. Their economic condition was also touched upon. Girijan and Tripuri women's situation was discussed in the book. According to him, Tripuri women's status is somewhere between that of Arunta women of East Africa and the Iroquois women of upper New York. Both men & women have equal opportunity for divorce. The Tripuri women are assiduous but they participate in taking decision on major issues.

A report of “Tripura Commission for Women” and “Tripura University” dwelt on the status of women in Tripura. This discussed the characteristics (demographic, health and nutritional) of women. Besides, educational position was also discussed in the context of their work assignment. In addition, decision-making at home and in the public sphere has been given due to attention. A chapter also made to include women work & status. In addition, decision making at home and in the public sphere by women was also discussed in the report. The report discussed the vulnerability of women and tried to understand the acuteness & severity of their problem. According to a study conducted by SIPARD (Empowerment of women- a case study of democratic decentralization in Tripura) it is found that 70 percent of elected female members in Panchayats of Tripura are in the age group of 20-40, 22 percents are in the age group 40-50 and 8 percent are above 50 ages . Therefore it appears that one third reservation facilitate the younger women to enter into politics and unquestionably their participation is not for a short period but for a long period, which help them to become women leaders. Another important observation mentioned in the study that the women pradhans are mostly married. Total 81 percentage Pradhan are married and the remaining are either unmarried or widow or divorcee. It proves that not only political parties or the women organizations are encouraging and motivating the women, but also in many cases the husbands were found to encourage their wives to take part in rural politics.

## 5. Research Methodology of Study Area

### 1) Study Area

The study Area is selected for the acquaintance of researcher and women participation in Panchayats is maximum. Tripura is one of the 29 states of India, spreading over 10,491 sq.Km. (7,132.56 sq.km. under the TTAADC). It comes within the tropical cancer zone. 59% areas of the state are rich in forest power. The sample households are selected 20 Gram Panchayats from 3 RD Blocks of Two District of Tripura, i.e Dhalai & West District (Salema & Ambassa Block of Dhalai district and Dukli Block of West district). In Ambassa RD Block Women participation in Panchayats is highest in Tripura and there is a women Panchayat in Salema RD Block of Dhalai District namely “Chulubari”. So I have selected Dhalai District as my study area.

### 2) Mode of data collection

Secondary data collection: - Secondary data was collected from Directorate of Panchayat, Panchayat offices of the villages of study area, from some books & Websites.

### 3) Primary Data collection

A survey was conducted by taking 80 women member from 20 Gram Panchayats of the study area in Salema RD Block, Ambassa RD Block (Dhalai District) & Dukli R.D Block (West District) through a well structured questionnaire in this village. Data have been collected of women Socio economic condition, their decision making ability , constraints faced by them etc.

### 4) Sampling Design

For the purpose of the study on “Participation of women in

Panchayat” in Dhalai & West Tripura, it is imperative to choose such an area where women participation in panchayat is maximum. The survey method followed to collect primary data and household survey or Panchayat visit of the villages to find out actual problem. Each and every household of the village has been interrogated about their socio-economic status in the village with the help of pre-framed schedules and questionnaires. Total 80 Women representatives have been taken randomly as the samples from the villages for the study. In the present study all the households have been treated as the primary units of survey.

The following methods have also been done to collect the data from the field area:

1. Semi Structured Interview (SSI)
2. Structured Interview (SI)

### 5) Analytical Procedure

After completion of all these procedure, to collect primary level information with the help of pre-framed schedules and questionnaires, personal interrogations have been conducted among the corresponding villages by adopting home-visit method and also Panchayat Visit. To satisfy the objectives, tabulation and percentage methods and the structured interview, semi structured interview methods have been used.

### 6) Techniques of Interviews

Structured interviews are usually based on pre-designed questionnaires filled by an interviewer. In the strictest quantitative tradition, interviewers working with quantitative interview schedules try to use exactly the same wording, prompts and tone of voice for each interview, to ensure that every interview is conducted as similarly as possible.

### 7) Objectives of the study

1. To investigate the socio-economic profile of elected women members of the Panchayat.
2. To know the obstacles to the women in Panchayat and performance in Panchayat.
3. To know the nature and extent of participation and role in decision- making.
4. To find out the various support system & training facilities of women member & representatives.

## 6. Results

Only 1.25 percentage households having own kancha houses who are under the income category of Rs.11001-16000. It is also viewed that 3.75 percentage households live in own pucca houses and 1.25 percentage households are under the same income group who have own semi kuncha houses with 5 percentage of sanitation facility. Under the lowest income group of Rs. 1100-6000, 57.5 percentage households have own kancha houses with 22.5 percentage of sanitation. So it can be said that most of the households live in kancha houses and next is Pucca houses that are in the lowest income category with maximum sanitation facility. Data represents, 65% Panchayat is female headed but only 7 percentages Panchayat have female Upapradhan which represents that maximum panchayats are female headed in sample size and states that the leadership dominancy of women member has been increasing. Total 45 percentage women have no political pre-experience before

joining Panchayat office. In Dhalai 40 percentage women & in West district 50 percentage women have no political background. Women have political pre-experience and a little more participation than political inexperienced women. Only 11.25 percentages of women sometimes attend meetings & 68.75% women attend meetings regularly reveals that maximum women representatives attends meeting regularly.

Only 11.25 percentages of women have joined panchayat for political party & other for family members' requests. Data reveals only 25 percentages women have decided independently to join panchayat & 28.75 percentages women joint panchayat by taking decision jointly with their husbands and this result is the indications of those women who join panchayat taking decision jointly with their husbands & next is their own decision. Study also represents that only 5 percentages women take their own decisions at home & 62.5 percentages decision made by their husband in family where 23.75 percentages women take decisions jointly with their husband. So the women have poor participation in decision making in family & the maximum decisions are taken by their husband.

Only 6.25 percentages of women handle money & 57 percentages husbands of the respondents manage money at home. The above table also shows 28 percentages households both women & their husbands manage money & only 7.5 percentages manage by other family members and this result signifies most of the households' money is managed by husband and insignificant number of women controls money in the family.

The data narrates that the women representatives do not take most (62.5 %) of the decisions in GP because lack of confidence (40%), ignorance of the authority (16.67%) and male intervention (33.33%). So, it describes that majority of the women do not take part in decision making for lack of confidence. Another important problem has been identified from the data that family are not supportive and not behave friendly and family is the main (85%) impediments in the work place to women. Only 10 percentages women member don't get support from her husband and about 70 percentages women face problem to manage party work & household works. The data is mirrored that most of the women face problem to manage party work & household works & also lack of support from other family members. 83.75 percentages women are facing problem in administering PRIs work for lack of training & 10% do not feel comfortable for using abusive language by their counterparts. It also shows that 81.25% are facing problem for low level of education & knowledge and also 20 % face unsupportive attitude from other male members. 37.5 percentage women gets training from party & also 90 percentage women get party helps through monitoring works of panchayat. The data also reveals that 86 percentage women gets advice & 54 percentage women get help in making annual plan from party. Therefore, maximum women gets help from party through monitoring works of Panchayat & next is through guiding. 55 percentages of women have got training from Govt. institution and only 5 percentage women go for field visit & about 40 percentage women get supports from others. It is observed that most of the women get support from secretary &

other officials. About 75 percentage of women involved in health camps, 65 percentage of women have done awareness generation against dowry, 60 percentage done awareness against alcohol & 51.25 percentage of women involved in legal aids awareness camp. And they are also aware about early marriage, Child labour etc. The women members are engaged in various activities & most of them engaged in health camps, awareness against dowry & alcohol and also in legal aids awareness camps.

## 7. Discussion

Aged women have less participation in political activity. Women belongs to middle age group have a better participation among women in the Panchayat and these families are from APL category. Women belongs to Hinduism have a superior participation; Christian women have no participation & the other religions have very low participation in politics. Women from the reserved category are participating more compare to the women from unreserved category but exception is there like women from the SC category are participating in greater number; Minority women have lowest participation & the other caste have average participation. These women belong to nuclear family. Women who completed upper primary are visible in politics but the highly educated women did not accept politics as method of women empowerment. Women in the study area have no definite livelihood and like to recognise her selves as house wife. Kancha house of the low income groups is the staying place where negligible pucca houses of high income group exist. Wood is the main fuel of their cooking next to cow dung and coal. Some of the very optimistic aspects out of various harmful sides of social development should be mentioned like electrification of all households with sanitation facility and all children go to school which indicate the prosperity of society specially the women. The family size of the uneducated women is big compare to educated one. Households use own tube well & government supply water for drinking purpose. It is clear that leadership quality of the women has been increasing as the pachayats are headed by the women and their family experience is helping them to administer the office. More inexperienced women are found in politics compare to experience. This is only for the sake of maintaining reservation ration as per the 73rd amendment act, 1992. Women representatives attend meeting regularly which proves more responsible personality of them.

Decision making is the crucial part of any activity and it helps people to achieve success. Women take maximum decision in their panchayat but husbands take all decision in the family. It is the effect of patriarchal thinking of male dominated society. But the act helps the women to prove their quality apart from housewife. Lack of confidence is the impediment of decision making another is family culture since time immemorial where women are treated as taken for granted. But every sphere in the politics women are substantiating themselves as the successful person of the society. Participation speed up development

Table 1  
Qualitative data

Topics	Views of the interviewers
Do not approve	Respondents do not approved- Widow marriage Divorce Child marriage
You eat food after your husband & children finish their eating	Women should serve first to their husband & children and after that she should eat.
Opinion about husband abuses their wives on a regular basis	Try to correct him At first try to correct him, after that if husband does the same then should go to police for complain. He should be Punished Put the matter in GS.
Women can leave her husband if he regularly abuses her	Women said that women should not leave her husband
Thinking about eve-teasing	Eve-teasing need to be controlled , Need to be punished, Try to make understand the eve-teasers, Avoid the situation
Opinion about what action to be taken if a girl is sexually abused	Should inform police and the accused should be punished, Family should act Village leaders should act
Women can run any organization successfully	Women thinks that if women get chance, support from family & gets training, proper information then they also run any organization alone because they have also equal potential to run.
Patriarchy intervention	In decision making, Gram sabha meeting, Other party works.
Women Involved	Most of women are involved in SHG, Immunization, IAY.

Table 2  
Qualitative data of women Panchayat only

Problem(s) faced by your Panchayat in society as a women Panchayat	After evening or night is the constraint of work in the panchayat
If there are male members in your panchayat the organization would run more successfully	Majority of women think it right because- a) At night women can't go out but men can. b) It is not possible or safe for women to go everywhere , c) Women have domestic works & other duties at home. d) Always not get permission to go out.
Women & girls in general have more voice in your village because of the women panchayat	Majority of women thinks no.

momentum that may be inside or outside the family but perceptual, conceptual and rational support is essential for success and such help is held up effecting confidence of that person. Women are the witness of these all endorsing them not to participate in any activity. Illiteracy or low level of literacy, political unawareness, language and dominating attitude of men are adding impetus in the activity of male counterpart of the female. Even family does not support the women but husband supports her cannot bring success to the women because others are acting as constraints on the other hand one or two male are supporting the women in workplace but others are working as impediments and these all make obstacle in women empowerment.

Social structure of the country compelled women to think unsafe outside the home and needs help of male. Male take this advantage and female are forced to accept all decisions taken by their male counterpart. Women are also the impediments to the women by helping the male in taking various decisions against other women of the family like permission to go outside the home, do not stay outside the home after evening, and take permission to go specific places of the area. Women think that women cannot look after her outside the home. Women have been working as social motivator by discharging their duties in engaging themselves in health camps, awareness against dowry & alcohol and also in legal aids awareness camps.

## 8. Conclusion and Recommendation

### 1) Conclusion

Act and law help to accelerate the progressive status of a country but it cannot change mentality of a family. Act is the tool to control ill treatment against weaker section of the society or to ensure justice but law works as helper to the people. The study established that only reservation for women in Panchayat cannot change their status, women are not involved in decision making in panchayat properly. One of the reasons behind it is that most of women have been suffering from lack of confidence, lack of knowledge & information. They think that decision can't be taken suitably as they are not highly educated. Another reason is male intervention in decision making. Women in the family also do not take decision for patriarchal society. They face problem in work place for lack of training. Few women are getting training from Govt. but majority of the women needs more training. NGOs should also come forward give them proper training facility so that they can work properly.

Women are the social mobiliser as they participate in in various programmes like Immunisation, IAY etc and various other awareness camps regarding health, legal aids, Dowry system etc. Constraints from male help them to enhance mind power to triumph over rights from the male dominated society.

Unless equality will not be ensured in the society irrespective of gender, the society will not touch highest level of development. Development means positive change of current status giving importance to all as social justice. Social justice of the women has been ensured by the act.

2) Recommendations

Women should have participate more in decision making of panchayat & as well as in the family. But most of the women do not take part in decision making for lack of confidence. Maximum women face problem to manage party work & household works and also lack of support from other family members in family. She has to ask her family members for help and family member should support her & help her in household works, thus she can manage both domestic as well as administrative works. Women member should get more training for proper implementation of works, as they face problems in work place for lack of training. More participation of highly educated women is important to control the office with confidence. Young aged women also should take interest in politics. The presence of young women in considerable number will indicate social change in rural society and greater participation of them makes this possible. Female headed panchayat should be increased to emerging leadership quality among the women members.

9. Appendix

Table 3  
Political profile

Pradhan		Upapradhan	
Male headed	Female headed	Male	Female
35	65	13	7

Source: Field visit, 2020

Table 4  
Meetings attend by women representatives

Attendance in meeting	Percentage (%) of respondents
Regularly	68.75
Usually	20
Sometimes	11.25

Table 5  
Decision making of the respondents

Decision taken by	Percentage (%)
Own	25
Husband	23.75
Both	28.75
Other family members	11.25
Party	11.25

Source: Field visit, 2020

Table 6  
Decision making in family

Decision of family taken by	Percentage (%)
Own	5
Husband	62.5
Both	23.75
Other family members	8.75

Source: Field visit, 2020

Table 7  
Reason for not take part in decision making

Reasons (%)		
Lack of confidence	Views not consider	Male intervention
40	16.67	33.33

Constraints faced by female members

Table 8

Problem of the respondents faced in family

Face problem in family	
Yes	No
85	15

Source: Field visit, 2020

Table 9

Problem faced in family

Problem faced in family	Percentage (%)
Lack of support from Husband	10
Lack of support from other family members	35
family interference	26.25
To manage the party work & household works	75

Table 10

Problem faced in Work place

Constraints	Percentage (%)
Lack of training	83.75
Low level of education & knowledge	81.25
Distant location	52.5
Party conflict	25
Male intervention	33.33
lack of support from other male staffs	20
Interaction problem	45
Abusive language	10

Source: Field visit, 2016

Various support systems for women members

Table 11

Support from family

Family support	Percentage (%)
Full support from family	25
Husband Support	90
Husband helps	45
Husbands dominates	10

Source: Field visit, 2016

Table 11

Works done by women for women

Works	Involvements
Awareness generation against early marriage	37.5
Awareness generation against child labour	35
Awareness generation against dowry	65
Awareness generation against Alcohol	60
Breaking the Wine-shops	7.5
Working against girl-trafficking	23.75
Health Camp	75
Birth control and family planning camp	13.75
Handicapped camp	11.25
Arranging school sports	3.75
Conservation of Echo system	6.25
Eye-camp	13.75
Nutrition-camp	25
Plantation	18.75
Legal aids	51.25

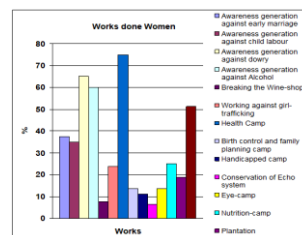


Fig. 1. Works done women

Table 12  
Percentage of women Representatives in PRIs

Percentage of women Representatives in PRIs			
	32-49 %	50 % & Above	Data not Available
No. of States	11	19	2
Name of the states	Dadra & Nagar Haveli Jammu & Kashmir Uttar Pradesh Andaman & Nicobar Islands Goa Lakshadweep Arunachal Pradesh Punjab Haryana Tripura	Daman & Diu Gujarat Madhya Pradesh Andhra Pradesh Karnataka Himachal Pradesh Sikkim Telangana Manipur Rajasthan West Bengal Jharkhand Bihar Kerala Odisha Tamil Nadu Maharashtra Assam Chhattisgarh Uttarakhand	Puducherry Ladakh

Source: computed from the data of Ministry of Panchayat Raj, GoI, 2020

### References

- [1] Sachidananda Satapathy , Researcher (Project Base), ISEC, Bangalore Women's Empowerment And Panchayati Raj: A Case Study From Orissa (India)
- [2] Saxena, N, C, What is meant by people's participation, A note, Journal of Rural Development.
- [3] Palanthurai, G, and 2001: The Genre of Women leaders in local bodies: Experience from Tamil Nadu, Indian Journal of public Administration.
- [4] UN Document on Women's development 1985.
- [5] Panda Snehalata 1996, "Emerging Pattern of Leadership among Rural Women in Orissa, Indian Journal of Public Administration, vol. 42, no. 3-4
- [6] Gowada,S and Others, Developmental Role of Women members of Panchayati Raj institutions :A study in Karnataka,Journal of Rural Development,vol.15, no. 2, pp,249-259, 1996.
- [7] Arun ,Rashmi,1997,Role Of Women in Panchayati Raj,Administrator, vol,x11, April-June
- [8] Status of Panchayati Raj in the States and Union Territories of India, 2000, Institution of Social Science, New Delhi.
- [9] Lakshi, 1993, Women And Politics-A study in Political Participation, Book link Corporation, Hyderabad.
- [10] Buch, Nirmala, 2000, Panchaytis and women, Status of Panchayati Raj in the states and union Territories of India, 2000,Institute of social science.
- [11] Kiran Sankar Chakraborty ,2008, Empowerment and status of women in Tripura.
- [12] S. Nagendra & Shilaja Nagendra,2006, Role of Women in Panchayati Raj
- [13] Bhola nath Ghosh, 2008, Women in governance in Tripura.
- [14] Puran Chandra, 2005 , Political Dynamics of Women
- [15] K C Smitha, Socio-Economic Determinants Of Women Leadership At The Grass-Roots , Institute For Social And Economic Change 2007 Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Representation in Panchayats. SEP 2020.