

# WOMEN IN INDIA THROUGH THE AGES - A GLANCE



*Editor*

**Smt. N. SIVAPARVATHI**

# Role of Women in Grama Panchayat Politics

K. Probhudas

## INTRODUCTION

Women in India have played greater role in our social life and in our history. Women's role in the political process has remained unchanged since independence. (Document on women's Development, 1985) Political participation of women has been limited due to various reasons; such as caste, religion, feudal attitude and family status. Even the reservation under the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, it has been difficult to mobilize enough women candidates due to the lack awareness among them. It is necessary to create a positive and healthy socio-political condition to participate of women actively and effectively in the village panchayat. The position of women in politics has always been very low. Barriers to women's political participation exist throughout the world, and India is no exception. The Government had declared 2001 as the year of women's empowerment by adapting a national policy to offer "Swasathi" to women. Several laws have also been in cooperated to empower women socially, economically, legally and politically.

The gender equality is enshrined in the Indian constitution in its preamble, fundamental rights, fundamental duties and directive principals of state policy. The empowerment of is the central issue since the Fifth Five Year plan (1974-7). The national commission for women was set up in 1990 to protect the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the constitution in 1993 have given for reservation of seats in the local bodies of panchayats a chance for women to participate in decision-making at the grass-root level. The dire need today is to remove the disparity between women's formal political equality and their meaningful exercise of political power.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional Amendment Act has been major steps in the direction of decentralized governance in rural India. The Act has added a new part -IX to the constitution of India. It is entitled as the Panchayat and consists of provisions from Articles 243-243o. In addition, the act has also added a new eleventh Schedule to the constitution. This Schedule contains 29 fundamental items of the panchayats. Under the Andhra Pradesh panchayat raj Act 1994; the three tier panchayat raj system was constituted. The three tiers are Grama panchayat, Mandal parishat and Zilla parishat. Andhra Pradesh took the bold step of reserving 50 percent of the panchayat seats for women and held election under the new arrangement in August 2013. Presently the elected women in the Grama panchayat are more than 50 percent.



# **“Role of Women Self Help Groups on Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment of Women in the Globalised Era”**



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**Dr. RUKMANI MALLEPU**

# Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups (S.H.Gs)

K. Sreedekshamma<sup>1</sup>, K. Prabhudoss<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Reader in Political science, Hindu College, Guntur, <sup>2</sup>Lecturer in Political Science KURU Govt. Degree College, Adilakoti, Prakasam (DT)

Email: kornndipatiprathabha1971@gmail.com

## INTRODUCTION

The constitution of India has provided equality of men and women but the family status in Indian context is judged on account male superiority. Even the women consist of half of the population in the society but they are neglected and away from the active participation in the economic development process of the country. Low literacy and education among females, lack of skills and awareness, social taboos and conventions and above all lack of economic independence and lack of participation in the decision making process among them are principal reasons for inequality between men and women. (Sarangi& Mishra, 2011). UN Decade for women, Copenhagen, July 1980 reported that while women constitute 50 percent of the world adult population and a third of official labor force, they perform nearly two thirds of all working hours, receive only a tenth of world income and own less than one percent of the world property. The 10th plan document is well defined on the Economic empowerment, to ensure provision of training, employment and income generating activities with both forward and backward linkages with the ultimate objective of making all potential women economically independent and self-reliant.

According to the world summit for Social development (1975) found that empowering people, particularly women to strengthen their capacities is the main objective of development and its resource. Empowerment requires full participation of the people in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of decisions determining the functioning and well-being of our societies. To ensure provision of education, training, employment and income generation activities with both forward and backward linkages with the ultimate objective of making all potential women economically independent and self-reliant (Dr. G Sandhya Paul 2012).

## SELF HELP GROUPS (SHG) - ANDHRA PRADESH

Self Help Groups (SHG) is considered as one of the most significant tools to take participatory approach for economic empowerment of women. It is an important institution for attaining the standard of life of women in various social contexts. Self Help Group is homogeneous group of poor women. Members can be formed with maximum 5 people and the maximum 20 members. The groups can utilize their self

help offered by the financial institutions and government. However, there are certain norms and procedures to obtain credit. Frequently, the group should convene meetings its members and discuss all the issues of relating to the groups on a common flat form. This provides an opportunity to members to express their views freely and suggestions for strength the function of the group.

The government of Andhra Pradesh has adopted the theme of women's empowerment as one of the strategies to tackle the socio-economic poverty. SHG movement through savings has been taken as a mass movement by women to shape their life in better way. Development agenda of the state have been pushed the women to form several groups and enabled them to save money to improve their status. The state government is consciously making an effort to assist SHGs by providing Revolving fund / under various programmes.

There are about 5 lakhs of women SHGs in Andhra Pradesh covering nearly 61.70 lakhs poor women. The state alone has been organized more the SHGs in the country. The SHGs are also popularly called DWERA groups in Andhra Pradesh. SHGs are not only resorting a thrift but also are taking small loan out of the corpus available with the group. The group corpus consist of savings, government assistance and also bank loan. Members are use the loan out of group corpus for their personal needs initially. However in the long run such loans are utilized for income generation activities. The Andhra Pradesh is now engaged in intense pursuit of developing programme utilizing information technology (IT) and strategies as how to the benefits of it could be taken to rural areas. SHGs are encouraged to get PCs and soft ware for accessing information and developing their business (Dr. Narembh 2016).

## OBJECTIVES

- To study the socio-economic conditions of DWERA members.
- To understand the income level of group members.
- To study the social involvement of members.
- To study the economic empowerment of women after joining DWERA Group.
- To study the involvement of DWERA Members in social and service activities.

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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN THROUGH PANCHAYAT GOVERNANCE (A CASE STUDY OF ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES OF PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

K. Prabhudas<sup>1</sup> and K. Sreelakshamma<sup>2</sup>

1. Department of Political Science, KRK Govt. Degree College, Addanki, Andhra Pradesh, India.
2. Department of Political Science, Hindu College Guntur.

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#### Abstract

Women's participation in politics has been an issue of discussion in recent years. The dominance of caste, culture and patriarchy has resulted in ignorance among women about public life. The process of women's participation in local governance is in the transitory stage and needs to be carefully scurried to bring about an improvement in the better participation of women in rural politics. The leadership of women at grassroots democracy level still requires validation for effective participation. The goal of enlightening rural women will be achieved only if women are brought up to a level where they can participate in all walks of life. The goal of political equality can be achieved through women's involvement in the process of empowerment. The objective of this study is to examine the political status of women in the local institution of Grama Panchayat in the Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh in India. 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Indian Constitution has been given a space to women to enable them to participate in the village development through gross root governance. It is seen in recent local body elections that the huge number of women is being elected to panchayat institutions. However, it is observed that lack of leadership is being created various types of problems while performing their legitimate roles in the public sphere. This paper deals the poor leadership faced by the women elected representatives from the coastal area of Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. The findings revealed that the political participation of women in the functioning and the electoral process of panchayats are not satisfactory at the grassroots democracy. A parochial society and low level of education are responsible for their inactive participation in the rural local democracy.

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#### Introduction:-

Women's leadership is crucial in the effective implementation of any development project. Majority of schemes and projects fail due to lack of women's involvement in its planning and implementation.

Gender discrimination is an ongoing debate worldwide. Women's participation in politics has been an issue of discussion in recent years. The dominance of caste, culture and patriarchy has resulted in ignorance among women

Corresponding Author:- K. Prabhudas

Address:- ,Department of Political Science, KRK Govt. Degree College, Addanki, AP, India.



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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### MARGINALIZED WOMEN IN GRAMA PANCHAYAT GOVERNANCE (AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

K. Prabhudas<sup>1</sup> and K. Sreelakshamma<sup>2</sup>

1. Department of Political Science, KRK Govt. Degree College, Addanki, Andhra Pradesh, India.
2. Department of Political Science, Hindu College, Guntur.

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#### Abstract

An attempt is made to understand in a comparative perspective, the various dynamics involved in the functioning of marginalized women in panchayat raj in the context of reservations provided to these categories under 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 1992. The reservation has been initiated in the country in the back-drop of illiteracy, male dominance, and caste predominance, deep-rooted cultural beliefs and values. The scholars in different studies pointed out that the reservation for marginalized women has not been made remarkable in roads in realizing the democratization of village governance. A large number of under-privileged women have been got elected to all tiers of PRI's through reservation. However, the quality of participation of women members in these PRI's is not satisfactory. Actually, how far they are effective in decision making are a pertinent question and how far the Schedule caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) women participate in the PRI's. The Study explored the role of reservation, awareness of Grama Panchayat, powers and functions and decision making with regard to the functions of S.C and S.T marginalized women panchayat members at grass roots grama panchayat governance. It also indicates pertinent observations regarding the limited and restricted political space given marginalized elected women in Grama panchayat politics. The present study is undertaken in the developed and under-developed mandals of prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh in India) elected women of disadvantaged groups from political local body of Grama Panchayat. Besides, it also suggests suitable measures towards policy formulation for ensuring effective participation of marginalized women.

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#### Introduction:-

SC and ST women constitute a lower segment in Indian society. The women are treated as a separate category and these are faced different problems as compared to other women in our society. The constitutional provisions of reservation for marginalized women in Panchayat Raj Institutions have given paradoxical results leading to structural implications. The presence of these deprived groups in the Panchayat system was resisted by traditionally dominates caste groups in the rural local bodies. The marginalized women are generally under poverty, agriculture laborers, economically poor, low education and social background, less influence on political power.

Corresponding Author:-K. Prabhudas

Address:-Department of Political Science, KRK Govt. Degree College, Addanki, AP, India.

# Self-Employment Through Petty Business (A Case Study of Unorganized labour of Addanki town in Prakasam district)

*K. Sreelakshamma<sup>1</sup> and K.Prabhudas<sup>2</sup>*

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## Abstract

Petty business or small business has become the vehicle of change for poor and marginalized sections of the society. This business is playing a prominent role increasing financial inclusion of the urban population. This small business is found in urban areas mostly running by 2 or 3 family members. It is a solution to uplift poor people. It has become the wise tool to improve socio-economic development. It is a small business activity to uplift them financially and economically. Petty business is fast emerging as instruments of socio-economic changes in rural as well as urban areas.

The study has been carried out in Addanki Nagara Panchayat of Prakasam district. The study covered 50 small businesses, petty shops maintained by different unorganized laborers. The study is focused on the unorganized labor who involved small business through self-employment. The population of study includes Fruit Vendors, Mobile Tiffin centers, Dairy units and Petty Shops.

## 1. Introduction

Poverty is a socio-economic phenomenon in which a section of society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessities. Humanity faces pains and miseries if it does not attain basic needs. 20 percent of world population lives in urban areas where income differences are widening.

Petty business plays a important role for the economic empowerment of poor people. In today's world petty business is playing very vital role and they have become an important part of the global environment and it is really important for sustained economic development and social progress. This business constitute 80 per cent of

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<sup>1</sup>Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of Political Science, Hindu College, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.  
<sup>2</sup>Lecturer in Political Science, KRK Govt. Degree College, Addanki, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh