

## PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN THE TRIBAL DISTRICT MAYURBHANJ IN ODISHA

SUMANTA KUMAR PAUL<sup>1a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Lecturer, Political Science Sahid Memorial College, Manida, Mayurbhanj, Odisha, INDIA

### ABSTRACT

*Participation of women in Panchayati Raj System in tribal based district of Odisha like Mayurbhanj is an important discussion. It is more critical to the Socio Economics/Progress of the community and to bring women into the major parts of National development for the Government. The empowerment of rural women is very important for the development of Odisha as well as the backward district of Mayurbhanj. The empowerment and autonomy of women and development of women's social, economical and political status is more essential for the achievement of an ideal Government, administration and sustainable development in all areas of life. It has been seen that the relations of power prevent women from leading fulfilling lives operate at many levels of society from personal to public.*

**KEY WORDS:** Panchayati Raj, Womens Participation, Odisha, Mayurbhanj

To gain the goal of equal participation of women and men in decision-making will provide proper function in a democratic Government. Women's equal participation in decision-making is not only a demand for simple justice but also a necessary interest for women. Without the active participation of women at all levels of decision-making the goal of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved. Due to these aspects we can focus the role of women as political leader in three factors, such as -Pre-Independence Era, Post-Independence Era and Present Era

### PRE-INDEPENDENCE ERA

In the Pre-Independence period there was an outstanding record of women's participation in the political struggle. According to Gandhi – Women is the companion of men gifted with equal mental capacities. She has the right to participate in the minute detail activities of men and she has to same right to freedom and liberty Gandhi also said. I am uncompromising in the matter of women's right. Most of women had joined in the freedom struggle. As Jawaharlal Nehru mentioned during Civil disobedience movement women came to the front and took change of the struggle. The significant event is the movement for women's political rights in India was the demand for equal political rights made by delegation of distinguished women led by Sarojini Naidu to the British Parliament in 1917. A part from this there are other so many women political leader who had joined in the civil disobedience movement on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1930 by the

leadership of Roma Devi and Malati Chaudhuri and other were joined by Bhagyabati Devi.

### POST-INDEPENDENCE ERA

On the Post-Independence Period the women were involved in the important task of constitution making. Jawaharlal Nehru was known that they should share in the task and in hammering out provisions, which would ensure an equitable treatment and in honored place for women in the new and independent India. Eminent women like Sarojini Naidu, Hansa Mehta, Renuka Ray, Durgabati Desmukh and Begum Aizaz Rasul took part in the constitution making. There are so many study on role of women as political leader like Raja Laxmi's study in Tamilnadu, Rama Mitra and N.R. Mitra's study. Ram Chandra and Laxmi's study and Kranti Rana study are more important for it.

### PRESENT ERA

In the modern society the various National Political parties are not at all encouraging women to involve in politics. On the other hand there are some States, where women participation in politics is very poor like Odisha. In this situation the seventy- third constitutional amendment provides reservation of seats for women which has brought a new hopes of all the states. After that reservation of seats 50% for women in the Panchayati Raj system have brought rural women to the front. After that constitutional amendment, a large number of women in grass-root leaders of Mayurbhanj district have taken more active interest than their male relatives in the affairs of their Panchayat. But they

are becoming unable to empower them-selves due to some major problems which are discussed below.

## PROBLEMS

After all so many problems are creating among the elected women to participate in Panchayat level politics.

**PROXY SYSTEM:** In Panchayat level is a serious problem among the elected women. In Panchayat level election women are elected but practically offices are being functioned by their husband or related male members. Female feticide and infanticide is a common event in this district. So they are going to insult by false character association when they talk with the view that they have illicit relations with the men. The women are asked to put off and put on shoes of her husband in regular routine against her will.

**Vote Bank System:** The top level politicians are finding their potential rivals hidden under the Panchayat Raj representatives. She acts as a Vote Bank during the general election for top level leader.

**The Male- dominated Policy:** The Male dominated policy is another major problem. Due to this policy the women leaders are not free from their male.

**Little Learning :** Little learning is also a major problems for tribal area women leaders. Due to their less Qualification they are going to bound to well come their inferiority.

**Role of Muscular and Money power:** Now-a-days democracy runs on muscular and money power of leaders. So the tribal area women are not participate in politics due to their life risk. Apart from this there are other so many problems which are going to suppress the tribal women to take part in politics.

Some suggestions may be taken into consideration to make the Panchayat Raj women leadership in more democratic, effective and perspective.

**Training Course:** Training Course is most important to make empowerment, dynamic and well conversant with duties and responsibilities of the women in Panchayat raj leaders who are running Grampanchayat & Panchayat Samiti.

**Abolish of Proxy System:** Government should take hard decision to abolish proxy system and male dominate affair on women rural leaders.

**Remuneration should be increased :** The step should be taken by the Government that the remuneration of the elected local leaders should increase on the ground of social crisis.

**Minimum Qualification:** Government Role should be form regarding a minimum qualification must be needed for Panchayat elected leaders due to modernization for implementation of modern Governmental programmes.

**Emphasize on Pollisabha & Gramasabha:** Government should emphasize on the pollisabha and Gramasabha and working committee in each Grampanchayat. The step should be taken to create attraction among the women citizen by taking photograph of physically present citizens.

**Co-operation of Bureaucracy :** Bureaucracy is not been co-operating to empowering the women. They are feeling more superior than the women elected representative of the Panchayat.

Providing reservation only for women does not enable them to effectively participate in decision-making through Panchayat. They are facing a number of problems inside and outside of the household which need to be solved. It is a hope that through the PLO 9Participating Leading and Organizing) system the tribal area women surely be empowerment. Participation of women in Panchayat Raj system in a tribal based district of Odisha is very very important to inject consciousness, responsibility and ability among the women.

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