

**Study of Women Representatives in Gram Panchayats with
Special Reference to Women Empowerment**

By

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**Under the Guidance of
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This is to certify that **Mr. Chandra Bhushan Sharma** student of PGDRM, Batch 3rd School of Rural Management, Institute of Health Management Research; Jaipur has undergone his Dissertation on the topic entitled **“A Study of Women Representatives in Gram Panchayat with Special Reference to Women Empowerment”** from **March 2014** to **May 2014**.

The Candidate has successfully carried out the study assigned to him during dissertation and his approach to study has been scientific and analytical. This dissertation is partial fulfillment of the course requirements for the award of Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management.

I wish him all success in all his future endeavors.



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This is to certify that the dissertation titled "A Study of Women Representatives in Gram Panchayats with Special Reference to Women Empowerment at Hindaun and Nadoti Block in District Karauli, Rajasthan" submitted by Chandra Bhushan Sharma Enrollment No.47 under the supervision of Dr.Goutam Sadhu for award of Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Management of the Institute carried out during the period from 2012 to 2014 embodies my original work and has not formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma associate ship, fellowship, titles in this or any other Institute or other similar institution of higher learning.



Signature
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“It is necessary to acknowledge all those persons who have directly shaped our work as well as lives”

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	2
Abbreviation-	5
List Of Tables	6
List of Figures	7
Map of the Study Area	8
Executive Summary	9
Chapter 1 Introduction	11
1.1 Background	11
1.2 Review of different studies	14
1.3 Statement of Problem.....	16
1.4 Aim and objectives.....	16
1.5 Methodology.....	17
1.6 Difficulties in data collection.....	19
1.7 Importance of the Study	19
Chapter 2: Socio-Economic Profile Of The Respondents	20
Chapter 3: Women Empowerment through Gram Panchayat	25
3.1 Awareness.....	26
3.2 Participation.....	30
3.3 Decision Making.....	36
Chapter 4: Co-relation of Women Empowerments with Socio-Economic Indicators	39
4.1 To sum up.....	49
Chapter 5: Views On Women in Gram Panchayat	50
5.1 District collector.....	50
5.2 BDO(Hindaun & Nadoti Blocks).....	50
5.3 Panchayat Secretary.....	51
5.4 Gram Panhayat Revenue officer(Patwari)	52
Chapter 6 : Case Study	53
6.1 Case Study:1 the journey has just begun.....	53
6.2 Case Study :2 Sushila devi journey into politics	54
6.3 Case Study:3 Fighting for the rights of her community	55
6.4 Case Study:4.....	56

6.5 Case Study of Observation.....	57
Chapter 7: Conclusion & Suggestions	58
Conclusion.....	58
Suggestions	61
Annexure.....	65
Questionnaire	65
List of Women Sarpanch in Hindaun Block.....	70
List of Women Sarpanch in Nadoti Block.....	71
References:	72

Abbreviation-

BDO	Block development officer
DM	District manager
GEN	General
GOI	Govt of India
GP	Gram panchayat
GS	Gram sabha
MER	men elected representatives
NGO	Non –government-organization
OBC	Other backward caste
SC	Schedule caste
ST	schedule tribes
WE	women empowerment
WER	women elected representatives

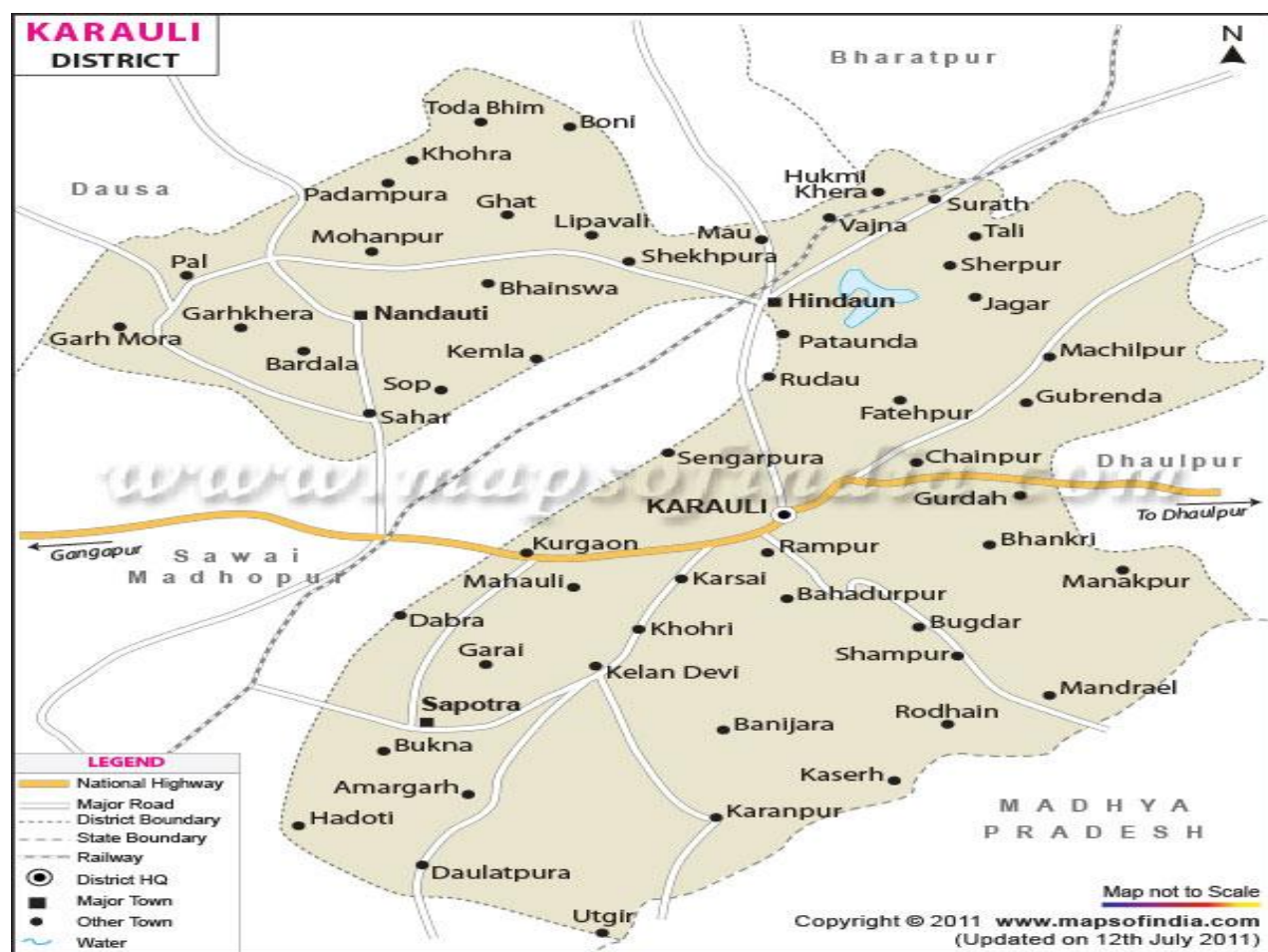
List Of Tables

Table No.	Title of the Table	Page No.
3.1	Number of time respondent elected to GP	27
3.2	Training imparted to newly WERs	28
3.3	Showing the specific problem by WERs in politics	33
3.4	Showing the respondent handling issues independently	37
3.5	Showing the responsibilities discharged by WERs	37
4.1	Caste Wise Problem Face by the WERs in Panchayat	45

List of Figures

Figure No.	Title of the Chart/Figure/Plates	Page No.
2.1	Age-wise Distribution of the Respondents	20
2.2	Educational Status of Respondents	21
2.3	Caste-wise Classification	22
2.4	Marital Status of Respondents	22
2.5	Family Structure of Respondents	23
2.6	Occupational-wise classification of the Respondents	23
3.1	Sources of inspiration	26
3.2	The awareness of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act by Respondents	28
3.3	Opinion on Women's Political Reservation Bill	29
3.4	Member of Local Organization	30
3.5	Nature of participation by Respondents in Panchayat	31
3.6	Frequency of visit by the Respondents to their GP villages	32
3.7	Opinion expressed by the Respondents on Women Empowerment through 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act	33
3.8	Opinion about status	34
3.9	Participation in panchayat meetings	35
3.10	Nature of involvement in the process of decision-making by the Respondents	36
3.11	Specific contributions to their GP	38
4.1	Distribution of Education in both blocks according to Age-group	40
4.2	Educational level of WERs according to Age-group	41
4.3	Educational level of WERs according to Caste	42
4.4	Nature participation in panchayat meeting according to Caste	43
4.5	Nature of participation in panchayat meeting according to Education	44
4.6	Nature of involvement in the process of decision-making by WERs	46
4.7	Nature of involvement in the process of decision-making by WERs according to Caste	47
4.8	Respondents issues handling independently according to family type	48

Map of the Study Area



(source:- district website)

Executive Summary

Introduction

In Indian politics the Panchayat have always a major role to play and the panchayati Raj institutions have the responsibility to give good governance in rural areas. Women representation in gram panchayat is visualized as an impact of 73rd Constitutional Amendment which advocates for one-third of the seats to women members in Gram Panchayat. It was a land mark decision in different initiatives of women empowerment through political means because the socio-economic status of women in patriarchal society of India is still not improved even after six decades of Independence. This study is an attempt to understand that how the quantitative increase in women representation in gram panchayat has paved the way for political empowerment of women.

The **objectives** of the study were:

- To understand the socio-economic, educational background of the elected women representatives to GP's of the area under study.
- To assess the level of awareness of the elected women about their roles and responsibilities and various development programmes.
- To study the involvement of elected women representatives in decision making.
- To study the problems faced by the elected women representatives of GP's.

This study is conducted in two blocks of Karauli district of Rajasthan i.e. Hindaun and Nadoti. The purposive sampling method was used for selection of study area, whereas for the selection of respondent both purposive and random sampling method were employed. In 80 GP's of Hindaun and Nadoti blocks 41 GP's were headed by women and rest by male representatives. The sample women respondents from 41 women headed GPs were selected through purposive sampling. The secondary data was collected through review of different documents, where as primary data was collected by using interview schedule and observation method.

Key findings

The study is based on the theme of women empowerment through gram panchayat and assessment is done on the basis of their socio-economic status, representation in Gram panchayat (GP), awareness level, participation in decision and their existing problems.

Socio-economic status: Factors like low educational status (22% illiterate and 51% were just primary passed) of women elected representatives (WER) and marriage (85% married) are not able to inhibit women from seeking a politics as career. But it is important to note that majority (80%) women were in the age group of 25 to 55 years and more than three-fourth belong to vulnerable social caste categories (SC, ST and OBC). Nuclear family culture is on rise in India, and here also 71% WER are living in nuclear families. But the participation of WER in economic activities was just 49% as 51% were house-wife.

Awareness: The study shows that 73% WER were elected for the first time and only 5% were aware of the 73rd constitutional amendment. It shows their inexperience and gives a reason that why they are still dominated by the male members of the families. The awareness about discharging the responsibilities was also very much varied as only 22% shared their role in identification of the problem of the GP, 39% said that they have to raise problem in the meeting and get approval and 24%

said that they should see the reach of people to Govt. Projects & schemes. Only 6% thought that their role is to take initiation to complete the incomplete project.

Participation: The participation of the women was recorded in terms of SHG, Committees of GP and meetings of GP or member of any other local organisation. It was found that 44% EWR didn't have any sort of participation and out of those who have any participation only 27% participate always. So participation is coming down on every level. The key causes mentioned for poor participation of EWR includes male dominance (34%), lack of political experience (22%) and gender discrimination (17%).

Decision making: The barriers in women participation are also hindering them in decision making due to which only 34% WER responded about their active involvement in decision making.

Male dominance: Although the male members encouraged them fighting election but once after getting elected the male members (husband of elected women representatives) take advantage by keeping them out of important meetings and attending the meetings in place of EWRs and implement their decisions. Some respondents also felt that their views are ignored only because they are women. Husbands handle their work and activities and pressurized them to approve their decisions. The male dominance is proved by the fact that only 56% EWRs told that

Women empowerment: WER are getting limited opportunities and freedom to participate in socio-cultural and educational activities. The women among upper castes and those belonging to economically well-off families have more participation in the panchayat activities as compare to other backward castes and poor women. However, on the issue of women empowerment the voice was strong as 57% has favored it. Also, 56% told that they are handling issues independently.

Suggestions

- Capacity building support should be provided to EWR from the beginning of the election process and through the tenure of the elected representatives. The study shows that 54% did not receive any sort of training.
- An enabling environment was required for the recognition of women as leaders and the elimination of proxy candidates.
- Continued hand-holding support to EWRs should be given throughout their tenure.

Conclusion

The result of the present study shows that the reservation for women can be an important impetus to women's empowerment in India on village level but it is not a guarantee for participation of the elected women. The goal of women's empowerment cannot be accomplished only by giving reservation. To expedite and speed up this process it is essential to implement some supplementary policies which encourage the self-confidence of women, build their negotiation skills and remove operational obstacles in their participation and decision making. On the basis of the current study it cannot be stated that women are categorically empowered but also it cannot be denied that they have gained a certain extent of authority and confidence as a direct outcome of the women reservation in Gram panchayat.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

Panchayati Raj is not a new phenomenon in the country. Its illustration in history goes back to more than a 1000 years. It has its roots in Ancient Indian Institutions when the villages were little republics governed by their Panchayats. During this period, it was not that women could not join politics, but the fact was that they did not take interest in it due to a patriarchal set up. Since independence, various initiatives have been undertaken for improving the socio-economic conditions and empowering women in India. Women in both socio-economic and political levels have been inferior to men in the context of Indian society. In this context, the constitution guarantees socio-economic and political equality and the provision of equal rights for availing different opportunities to all social groups of population, especially women. Various legal reforms and resolutions in the form of social Acts have also been introduced to improve the social status and empowerment of women in the Indian social system. After Independence, little progress has been visualized in the participation of women in different activities. Even when India had a woman Prime Minister for quite a number of years, the situation of women at large did not change for the better. Women's participation in politics remained quite insignificant in India even after 59 years of self-rule, (Nanda 2006) From October 2nd 1959 when the first Panchayati Raj was inaugurated. Recognizing the unsatisfactory progress, that has been achieved in improving the socio-economic status of women, it has increasingly been felt desirable that involving rural women in any political system and ensuring their participation in the activities of such institutions, including in matters related to certain decision-making process, would be instrumental in improving the socio-economic status and political empowerment of women.² In view of these assumptions, the introduction of reservation policy is in favor of women in the Panchayat Raj Institutions. This has been an important Government intervention for maximizing the participation of women in different activities at village Panchayat levels. It is very difficult to study in detail the whole system of Panchayat Raj, as the subject covers vast area. In this study an attempt is made to analyse the empowerment of women representatives in Gram Panchayat – A case study of 28 Gram Panchayats in Karauli district.

Women and the Constitution of India:-

The Indian constitution which came into force on 26th January 1950 provides the framework for the good governance of the country and it is considered to be a comprehensive document containing the principles of "Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity." Keeping in view the different forms of discrimination against women since the time immemorial, the framers of the constitution were conscious enough to incorporate some general and specific provisions for up-liftment of status of women and also to set in motion the legal process to bring gender equity in all the spheres. The scheme and scope of the Constitutional Provisions relating to women could broadly be classified in three chapters.

- 1) The preamble of the constitution
- 2) The Fundamental Rights – part III and directive principles of the state policy part IV

In pursuance of spirit of the constitution; several important enactments and welfare schemes have been brought into operation to ensure gender equity in every walk of life – family, succession, guardianship, employment and economic and political empowerment of women.

Panchayati Raj and Women empowerment :-

Panchayati Raj” is a system of governance in which gram panchayats are the basic units of administration. It has 3 levels: Gram (village, though it may comprise of more than one village), Taluka (block) and Zilla (district). The term "panchayati raj" is relatively new, having originated during the British administration whereby “Raj” means "governance or government". The first Panchayati Raj was inaugurated on October 2nd 1959 . The prime responsibilities of the Panchayat is to contribute significantly to village, taluka and district development activities and implementation of various schemes for social and economic development and collect appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees. In short it is self Government at Gram, Tehsil and Dist level with constitutionally guaranteed powers

Panchayati Raj Institutions have always been considered as means and tool for women empowerment in India and 73rd Constitutional Amendment was enacted in fact, with the intent that it would lead to better governance and vibrant women leadership at the grassroots level. It was also assumed that it would create political space to the disadvantaged section of the society like schedule caste, scheduled tribes and women. The makers of Panchayati Raj System desired rural women should not only become a beneficiary of development, but more importantly contribute to it. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act involves the participation of women as voter, women as members of political parties, women as candidates, women as elected members of PRIs taking part in decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation.

73rd Amendment Act

Main Features

A three-tier panchayat system shall be constituted in every state, comprising panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels. However, states with populations not exceeding 20 lakhs could dispense with the intermediate level and have a two-tier system.

- The **panchayats** will enjoy a five-year term; if dissolved earlier, fresh elections will be completed within six months of the date of dissolution.
- The **gram sabha** (village assembly) will consist of all persons registered on the electoral rolls.
- In the directly elected seats of members in all panchayats, there will be reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), in proportion to their total population in a panchayat area, and one-third of these seats will be reserved for women belonging to these groups. Of the seats to be filled by direct election in every panchayat, there will be not less than one-third reservation of seats in panchayats for women, including the seats reserved for SC/ST women.
- The offices of Chairpersons in the panchayats at all levels will be reserved for the SC/STs and women as the State legislature may decide, provided that not less than one-third of the Chairpersons’ positions shall be reserved for women. Likewise, there

will be reservation in the offices of Chairpersons in panchayats at all levels for members of the SCs and STs, in proportion to their population in the state.

- The Governor of the State will appoint a State Finance Commission to review the financial position of the panchayats and make recommendations regarding the principles which should govern the distribution of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees between the State Government and the panchayats.

(Source: Report on Women in Panchayats, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, 2008)

Reservations for women

While the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution mandate that at least one third of the seats in the panchayats must be reserved for women, at least five states have increased the proportion of reserved seats to 50 percent. Bihar was the first state to do so in 2006 and was followed by Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. All these states have raised their reservation quota to 50 per cent. Sikkim has raised to 40 percent.

1.2 Review of different studies

A review of the previous studies on this topic is quite essential to understand what the other research scholars have already explored through their research studies, books and articles.

Lieten also carried another study on women representatives at Ramnagar block of Midnapore which was reflected in “Rural Development In West Bengal: Views from below”, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Vol. 24, No. 4, 1994. In this study he covered 20 women members through interviews. Main Research question was about their socio-economic profile and advantages and dis-advantages of their public life. This study showed that most of the Women members were direct from the kitchen. They had no experience with politics. But most of them were with class VIII education level. They recognized the improvement of educational achievement and also about their liberty and free movement and access with the people after being elected.

Development Dialogue conducted one study in 1994, namely “Women in Panchayati Raj: A Study in Rajasthan”. This study covered four districts. They interviewed only 50 members, among which 4 were Pradhans and 7 were Upa-pradhans. The main research questions were whether the women representatives could perform smoothly or not; what were the impediments to their empowerment; what were the constraints against proper functioning etc. According to this study, women’s participation was not from the within. Lack of education, lack of awareness and information, traditional rural system etc were the primary constraints towards their proper functioning. Women members also confessed that non-cooperation of men folk outside the family and inside the family and their household responsibilities made them incapable of performing their roles in panchayats. According to general public women members were better from the view point of time management, capability, understanding, leadership but they were the prey of gender sensitivity.

Ashim, “All-Women Gram Panchayat”, Economic and Political Weekly, June 3, 2004, did this case-study covering 13 members of Gram Panchayat. His research question was about the profile of the members and the performance of this all women gram-panchayat. This study showed that all the members were from the peasant –families having no significant academic background and without any experience of serving in any panchayat. But all the women functionaries were “articulate, active and effectively participating in decision making”.

Bhola Nath Ghosh, “Women Leadership in Gram Panchayats : Prospects and Constraints”, Socialist Perspective, June-September 2002, conducted the study in the district of Aligarh. The researcher selected three gram panchayats purposively from each of the districts and covered all the members. The leading question was about the constraints faced by the women members and their prospects. This study portrayed that the women members were very active in identification of problems in their locality and capable enough to pursue any programme. Women were very much conscious about their legal rights (property related or matrimonial cases) and also making aware the village women regarding this. Women

members identified constraints like, their financial dependence on other and lack of attitude towards life.

The National Commission on Women conducted a study in 2001 covering 100 women from each of the six states, namely, Haryana, Madhyapradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. This study also caught the voice of few male members of gram panchayats. The main research question was about the Men's reaction to the Women participation in politics and in decision making. This report showed that women participation in politics had elevated the status of women inside and outside the family. Elected women representatives got weightage in the community

M.S. Usha and Bharati. Mahapatra – Women's Link, Women's empowerment Vol.8, No.2, April-June-2002, p.44 – concluded that there has been empowerment of women in certain fields. The primary goals for the participation of women in grassroots politics for participatory development will help them to increase their empowerment.

Venkat Reddy – An overview of the Panchayati Raj system, Kurushetra, April 1995, p. 120 – have stated that the new Panchayati Raj Act is a revolutionary concept to build democracy at the grass roots level.

G.S. Mehta – Participation of women in the Panchayati Raj system Kanishka publishers, New-Delhi, 2002, p.150 reveals that proportion of women members in Panchayats had visualized at least some degree of improvements in their social standings.

Soni Kaur Jasprit – Women empowerment – New Delhi, 2006, p.24 – points out that the women are very much responsible for their condition and status they get in society.

Dr. Seema Singh – Panchayati Raj and Women empowerment – Ocean Books Pvt. Ltd., New-Delhi, 2003, p.230 – elaborates that the women representatives hesitate to recognize themselves as able and useful organ of the society. The feeling of inferiority complex drags their feet back to their homes.

C. Hemalatha Prasad – Empowerment of women in PRIS – National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, 2005, p.102 – emphasizes that elected women members need to be capacitated to understand their roles, so that they can function effectively.

1.3 Statement of Problem

In India, women have been deprived of various kinds of opportunities and advantages by our traditional society for the past several centuries. Discrimination against women is commonly observed in providing opportunities of socio-economic development, participation in different activities and development programmes and availing the opportunities of various facilities, which are directly or indirectly linked with bringing improvements in the life style and the quality of life. Restrictions are also imposed on participation of women in certain social and cultural programmes and even in moving outside the households for certain purposes. Due to these underlined problems imposed by our traditional form of society against women their participation in different economic activities like education, employment, political system etc. has remained very poor even after six decades of independence. Recognizing the unsatisfactory progress that has been achieved in improving the socio-economic status of women in the past it has increasingly been felt desirable that involving rural women in the political system and ensuring their participation in the activities of its institutions, including in matters related to decision making process would be instrumental in improving the socio-economic status and political empowerment of women. In view of these assumptions, the introduction of reservation policy in favour of women in the PRIs has therefore, been an important government intervention for maximizing the participation of women in different activities at GP levels and thereby to improve their socioeconomic status. Gender inequality has much deeper roots traditionally, socio-economically, educationally and psychologically which make it as a man made complex problem that needs effective measures for its early redressal. The present study has attempted to examine various issues related to the implementation pattern of reservation policy and its awareness among women, the nature of participation of women members in different meetings, activities and various development programmes of GPs, social reform and welfare activities.

1.4 Aim and objectives

The aim of the present study is to find out whether a quantitative rise in the representation of women in political decision-making can transform into qualitative changes in the participation of women, so that it can pave the way for political empowerment of women. Among other objectives, the specific objectives of the study are as under:

- To understand the socio-economic, educational background of the elected women representatives to GP's of the area under study.
- To study and assess the level of awareness of the elected women about their roles and responsibilities and various development programmes.
- To study the involvement of elected women in decision making.
- To study the problems and difficulties faced by the elected women representatives of GP's.

1.5 Methodology

Type of study- Cross sectional Descriptive study(Qualitative and quantitative)

Study area- The study was carried out in Karauli district of East-Rajasthan. Karauli district divided into four blocks. Out of these four blocks of Karauli district, two blocks(Hindaun and Nadoti)were selected using random sampling. Using random sampling method the study area selected. The Hindaun and Nadoti blocks consists of 80 GP's in which 41 GP's headed by WERs(women sarpanch) and other by MERs. In all 41 WERs were selected from the Hindaun and Nadoti blocks as sample . Purposive sampling method was using for selecting the sample.

District Profile

Population of Karauli-

Karauli district is located in Rajasthan. Population of Karauli district is 1458459 as per Census 2011. Karauli is 22th most populous district out of total 33 districts in Rajasthan and.The population density of Karauli is 264 Persons per square Km.

Area of Karauli-

Area of Karauli is 5524.47 Sq. Km. It is 23th largest district in Rajasthan.

Literacy rate of Karauli-

Total Literacy rate of Karauli is 67.34%.. It is ranked 14 in terms of literacy rate out of total 33 districts of Rajasthan and 340 out of total 640 districts of India. Male Literacy of Karauli is 82.96% while female literacy stands at 49.18%.

Sex-Ratio of Karauli-

Sex-ratio of Karauli is 858 female per thousand male.

Note:All the details are as of Census 2011

District	Karauli
State	Rajasthan
Area (square Kilometer)	5,524
Population	1,458,459
Population Density	264 Persons/ sq.km
Male Population	784,943
Female Population	673,516
Sex-Ratio	858
Total Literacy rate	67%

(Note:All the details are as of Census 2011)

Sampling method- For the selection of respondents two stages were followed (Random and a purposive sampling method) . In the first stage random sampling method was adopted for the selection of the study area. In the second stage for selecting the sample of respondents (women elected representatives -GP Sarpanch),

Sample size - The sample frame was developed using a purposive sampling. Hindaun blocks were chosen from karauli district for the study. The Hindaun and Nadoti blocks consists of 80 GP's in which 41 GP's headed by WERs(women sarpanch) and other by MERs . Within blocks 41 WERs of panchayat(women sarpanch) selected as sample. For selecting WERs(women Sarpanch), a list of all ERs of GP's is obtained from the Panchayat samiti Hindaun. After getting the list, a purposive Sampling Method is adopted for selection of the 41 Gram Panchayats those headed by WERs(women sarpanch).

Data Collection- Data was collected both from primary and secondary sources. The study conducted by interviewing WERs (women sarpanch) from the GPs . The interview schedule comprised of three sections viz (a) demographic profile of the respondents (b) factors affecting women members from performing their roles (c) expectations and suggestions for better leadership. The data was collected in the month of March-April 2014.

- **Primary Data-** The primary data will be collected from women elected representatives of GP (GP Sarpanch) by Questionnaire surveys with the respondents . Interviews also taken from selected respondents.
- **Secondary Data-** The secondary data will be collected from the official records of panchayat samiti Hindaun , Ministry of Panchayati Raj., published reports of similar study and literature.

Tools for data collection:

The study conducted by interviewing WERs from the GPs . The interview schedule comprised of three sections viz (a) demographic profile of the respondents (b) factors affecting women members from performing their roles (c) expectations and suggestions for better leadership.

- Structured Questionnaire
- Field observation
- Interview schedule

1.6 Difficulties in data collection

The collection of data was not an easy task. Many respondents did not answer the questions. At the same time, those who responded did not answer them fully. To arrange the time of meeting with women representatives for interviews was also difficult, but the most problematic issue was that husbands of the respondents in some cases demanded to be present. Thus it was decided that the interviews would be best performed if no other person than the respondent and me were present. However excluding the husband in these cases would have meant losing the permission to do the interview. In some interview the husband wanted to give all the answers. It was obvious that her husband, a former politician himself, thought of the election of his wife as a full authority for his continued use of power. Thus, collecting information became very difficult. But a persistent and continuous effort was made to contact them to attain the best information.

1.7 Importance of the Study

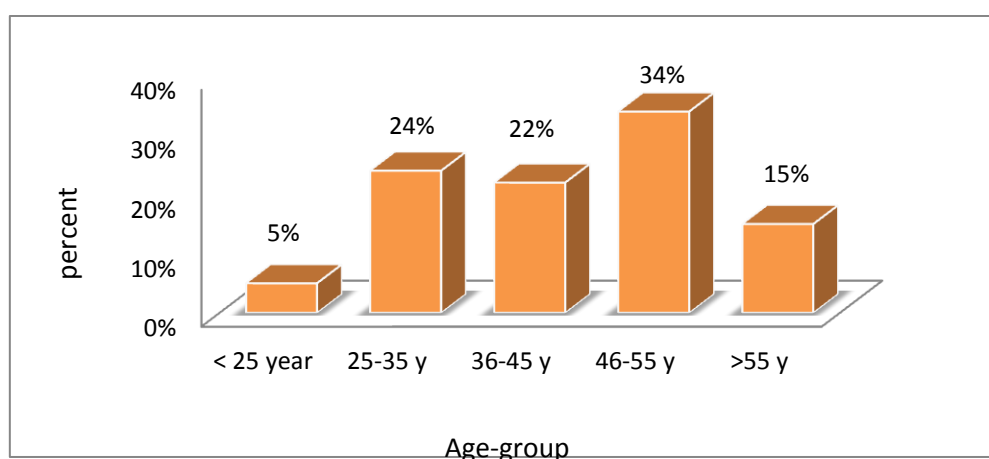
After independence, various initiatives have been undertaken for bringing improvements in the socio-economic status and empowerment of women. In this context, the Constitution guarantees socio-economic, cultural and political equality and the provision of providing equal rights for availing different opportunities to all social groups of population, especially women. Provisions were made in the Indian Constitution to provide equal rights and opportunities of socio-economic development and betterment of living for men and women; including different disadvantaged segment of population so as to establish an prosperous society. The Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution has a special bearing on the status and empowerment of women. In view of bringing improvements in the socio-economic condition of women, provisions have also been made to maximize the participation of women in different levels of education. With this notion that education is the most important instrument to bring awareness about their rights, duties, social standing and as a prime element to maximize their participation in different categories of remunerative employment etc. The outcome of the constitutional and legal measures and the initiatives undertaken under the various plans in the past for bringing improvements in the socio-economic status of women and thus achieving overall equality among men and women have certainly provided an opportunity to women to associate themselves and maximize their participation in Panchayats. Thus it revealed that in spite of the introduction of various development programmes and different categories of legal reforms and social Acts, there has been a little progress in improving the participation of women in different social, economic, cultural and political activities due to the existence of several social and cultural foundations restricting them for availing certain facilities, which can directly or indirectly improve their socio-economic status. The biased attitude of society which is openly disfavours women for availing certain opportunities had also deeply distorted their social status in rural areas. However, it has to be kept in consideration that for achieving goal of bringing improvements in the socio-economic status and strengthening empowerment of women through introducing reservation policy, in each of the three tiers of Panchayats for women.

Chapter 2: Socio-Economic Profile Of The Respondents

Socio-economic and political status of women depend much upon their basic background. The Socio-economic profile is help in building a comprehensive and complete picture of the respondents. In this study that give a good idea about the background and the profile of the WERs of GPs . For find of complete picture of the respondents, a sample of 41 WERs(women sarpanch's) of gram panchayats was purposive drawn from the list of 80 GPs. The individual profile is derived by looking at factors such as age, caste, marital status, type of the family, educational level, occupation and annual income of the respondents. The education and occupation level of the respondent's husband is also taken into account the economic status of the family.

Age:- Age is one of the determinates of examining the panchayts elected functionaries. In our traditional society control & access of any decision making lie in the hands of the elder people. By the study of age we would try to find out whether in this variant society batton of the relay race of Panchayat leadership has been handed over to the younger group by the elder group or not.

Figure No. 2.1: Age-wise Distribution of the Respondents



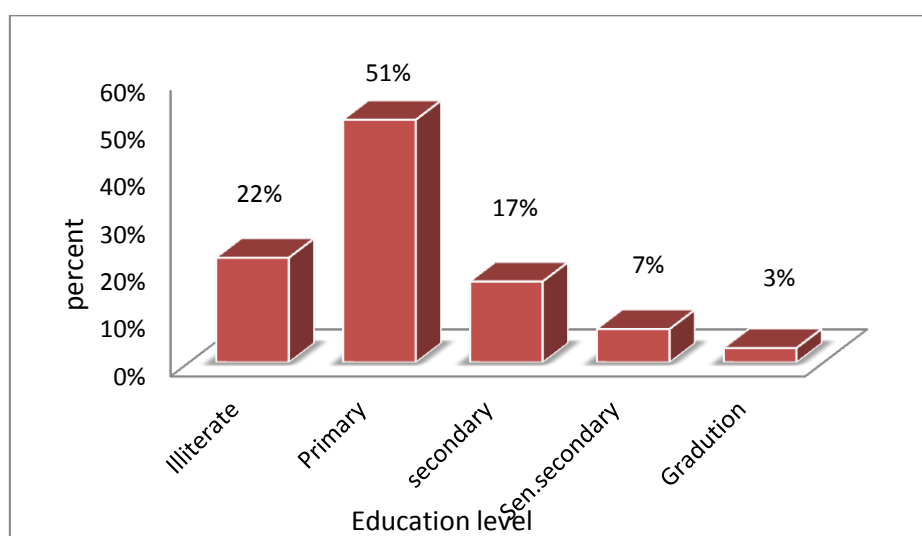
Above figures reveals that about 51 percent of women below 45 year of age and 49 percent of women above 45 year of age. This show that marriage and motherhood do no inhibit women from seeking a political career. They are more mobile in comparison with the older generation and have broken the traditional barriers.

Now-a-days educated young girls of the village don't want to be the candidate at Gram Panchayats. They give more importance on their own works rather than village-works. Taking any jobs outside the village is their priority rather than to be the member of village panchayats. Initially there was an intention among the educated people to stand in the panchayat election. Now highly educated women carefully avoid the works of Panchayats. Even some ladies do not want to join the village party politics. Some women of this village are so much educated that they are engaged in teaching or other jobs but they avoid panchayats. They think that joining panchayats means involvement with party politics.

Shanti devi, sarpanch, Jatwara G.P .,Hindaun

Educational Status:- In 1911, Lenin pointed out : “*The first aim of our party at the forthcoming Fourth Duma elections is to educate the masses....*”. Education is such a powerful parameter, which is necessary for any value judgement, any political participation or any decision making.

Figure No. 2.2: Educational Status of Respondents



This illustrates that the educational level of WERs is lower. It clearly indicates that the participation of respondents with below secondary education tends to be more in a decentralized democracy. It is an accepted fact that the overall educational status of female is quite low in all the GP.

I regret, as I could not study well. I can't read the papers of panchayats or can't understand the GO due to lack of education. Everytime, I have to depend on any panchayat staff or pradhan or any member of my party. Sometimes they are also busy in other works; in that case I have to wait. I am ashamed of depending others to write something. I have to face so many difficulties in panchayats due to lack of education. Education is very much necessary to perform the panchayat works effectively and to understand the works.

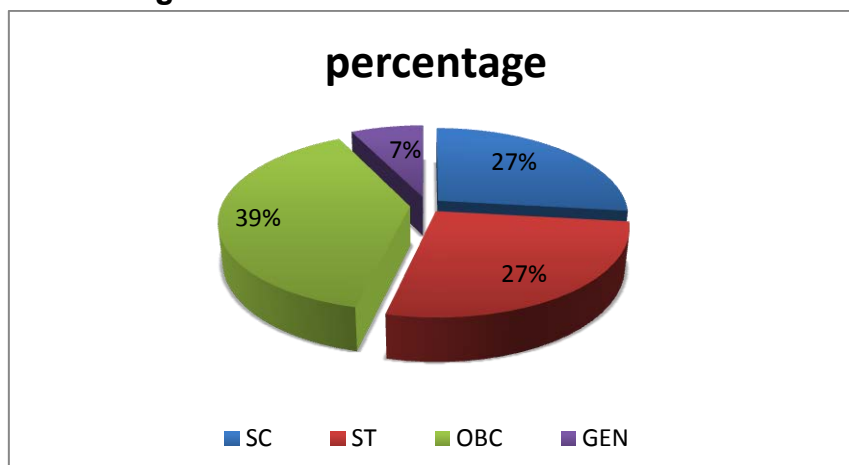
Phool Bai Mali, sarpach-Kema, Nadoti

As women have participated in the panchayat works, importance of women and child development as well as health and education has been increased. Due to lack of education, women cannot take part actively at panchayat works. They have to depend on the male. It needs teacher. I think that to be a Pradhan of a gram-panchayat, one woman should be graduate.

DEI, Sarpanch-Dehra-Hindaun block

Caste:- Caste is another important parameter to guess the type of leadership according to social stratification. It denotes the members' placement, access and control in panchayats. In our sample GPs we have got three types of castes – General, SC, ST and OBC.

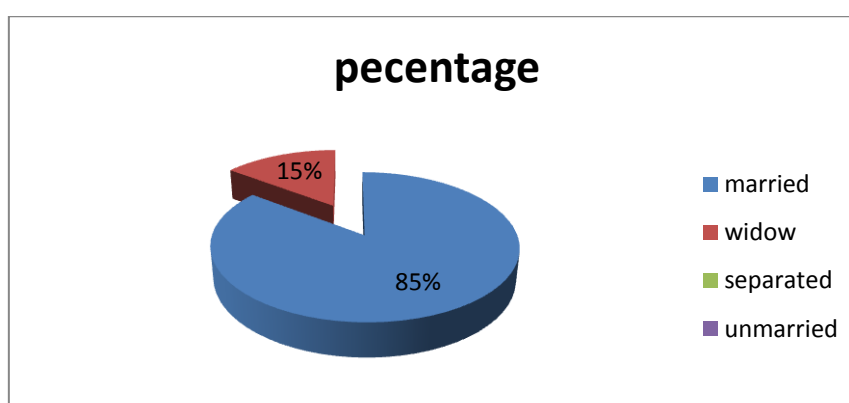
Figure No. 2.3: Caste-Wise Classification



It shows that about 54 percent of the member belonged to the SC&ST castes. The representation for the OBC is 39 percent and for the GEN is 7 percent. This shows that more representation of SC and ST in the GP clearly indicates that reservation of seats for them in general and women in particular ensured the participation of women. This reservation was based on population of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes. It is instrumental in bringing the socially and economically backward sections of the people to the main stream of politics.

Marital Status :- Marital Status is another important parameter to guess the type of leadership according to social stratification.

Figure No. 2.4: Marital Status of Respondents



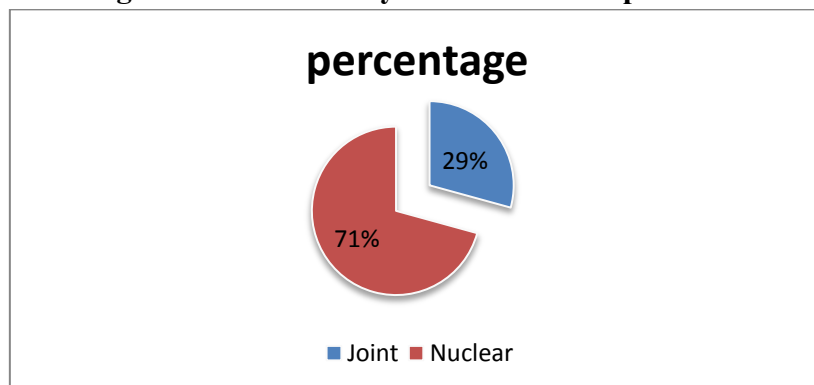
(Note: there is no percentage of separated & unmarried because of N/A)

The figure reveals that majority are married women and they are able to balance their roles as gram panchayat members/vice presidents/presidents with their role in the family. Data on

marital status of WERs show that 85% of WERs were married and 15% were widow and were is no separated & unmarried WERs. Participation of more number of widow indicates the women political empowerment.

Family structure :- Family is vital parameter for measuring social background of the leaders because it build up one's attitude, preference pattern and political outlook. It indicates the class in which the leader belongs to. Occupational pattern of female male leaders & all women GP representatives has been portrayed in the following figure-

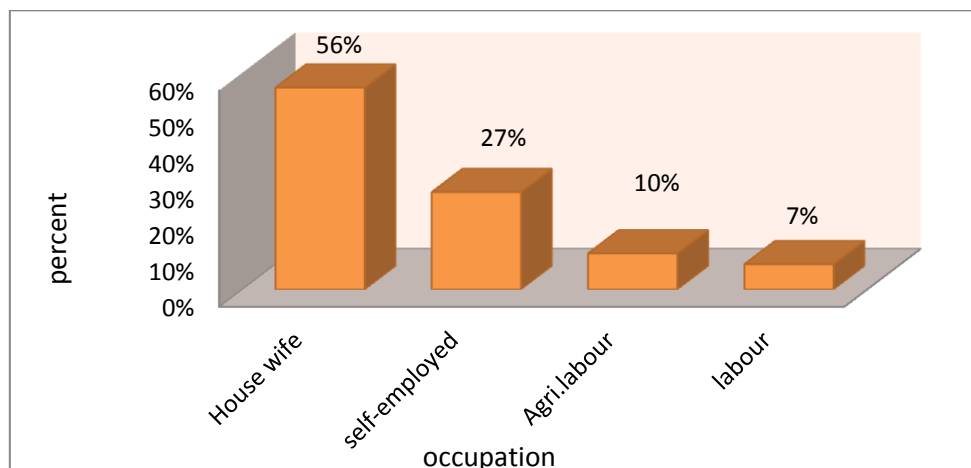
Figure No. 2.5: Family structure of Respondents



It is observed that 71 percent of families were nuclear, while remaining 29 percent were joint families. An overwhelming majority of the respondents is from nuclear family system, that type of family structure reduced some social pressure on women and free to do their job best.

Occupation:- Occupation is a vital parameter for measuring social background of the leaders because it build up one's attitude, preference pattern and political outlook. It indicates the class in which the leader belongs to. Occupational pattern of female male leaders & all women GP representatives has been portrayed in the following figure-

Figure No. 2.6: Occupational –wise classification of the Respondents



The majority of 56 percent of them were engaged in the household related Non-economic activities as house wife, 27 percent of WERs of GPs were self employed engaged in the self business related activities like-small departmental store, Aata chakki, papad-making, tailoring etc and others working as agri-labour& labour. The occupational skills of respondents in all selected panchayats are also uniformly low. This is also reflected in the income levels of the respondents .

It was well visualized that very little opportunities and freedom have been provided to women to participate in educational systems, social and cultural activities. The women among the upper castes and those belonging to economically sound households were more participate in the panchayat as compare to other backward castes and poor women. However, the unmarried girls were hardly participation in panchayat election and other out side activities. The economic activities of different categories of respondents show that agricultural and non-economic household operations were generally performed by the WERs. By and large some WERs of Gram panchayat had relatively higher level of freedom to handle the all work of panchayat and move outside households and to participate in different economic, social, cultural and political activities. The intervention of government to secure the representation of women in panchayati raj institutions through introducing the reservation policy for women could be an important planning initiative for maximizing the role and participation of women in different socio-economic, cultural, political and decision-making processes of the family affairs and to bring out significant change in their socio-economic status and empowerment. However, the level of success of the concerned motives would mainly depend upon the socio-economic and political background and related basic characteristics of women elected as the representatives of different GPs. The advantages of introducing reservation policy have gone largely in favour of women belonging to socio-economically and politically sound background.

Chapter 3: Women Empowerment through Gram Panchayat

The concept of women empowerment is not a new one. Its literal meaning refers to giving women maximum participation in decision making process and power sharing in the representative bodies, employment, access to property, productive assets, common land and financial assets etc (Hatim 2001). Empowerment is often conceptualized as a which not only visualize but helps to have control over their resources and ideology, greater self-confidence and an inner transformation of one's consciousness to overcome external affairs process (Cueva Beteta 2006; Kabeer 2001; Malhotra and Schuler 2005). Empowerment is concerned with power, particularly with changing the power relations between individuals and groups in society. Empowerment means very different things to different groups of women and varies according to the level of development in particular society. Women's empowerment is not against men, but against the system of patriarchy and all its manifestations.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment providing for one-third of the seats to women members in Gram Panchayat is considered a land mark attainment towards women empowerment. This provide more scope and opportunities for women to participate in public life and decision-making process. It is a big step in the process of political empowerment of women. Though initially at least reservation appears to be the only way to bring women into panchayats, there is a need to ensure their effective participation in the functioning and decision making process at the grass-roots level through a process of sustained capacity building. Women are empowered to play an effective role in panchayats, in terms of being fully aware and able to use their full potential in carrying out their roles and responsibilities, in making decisions etc. The present study is aimed at looking at the levels of empowerment of women.

Measurement and Evaluation(Of Women Empowerment):-

In the present study, measurement and evaluation of empowerment has been looked in to based on several important dimensions viz. awareness, participation, decision-making etc. The method of measuring and evaluating women's empowerment and progress is by looking at-

- ✓ Whether women status has improved as a result of being in panchayats?
- ✓ Whether awareness levels of women in panchayats has increased?
- ✓ Whether the ability of effective participation in panchayats has increased?
- ✓ Measure whether the women have been raising problems in panchayat meetings.

3.1 Awareness

Increased awareness is one of the most valuable means of achieving gender equality and the women's empowerment (Beijing conference 1995). The first step towards the empowering process is to become aware about the roles, responsibilities and various development programmes. In the context of gram panchayat, the presence of women for over a decade as members has provided opportunities to become aware of the gram panchayat and its functions. The present study has focused on measuring and evaluating awareness levels of women in Gram Panchayat. The interview schedule prepared a set of questions, aimed at assessing the awareness levels on the general and information relating to gram panchayat. This study has tried to measure the awareness levels of the respondents.

Figure No. 3.1: Sources of Inspiration

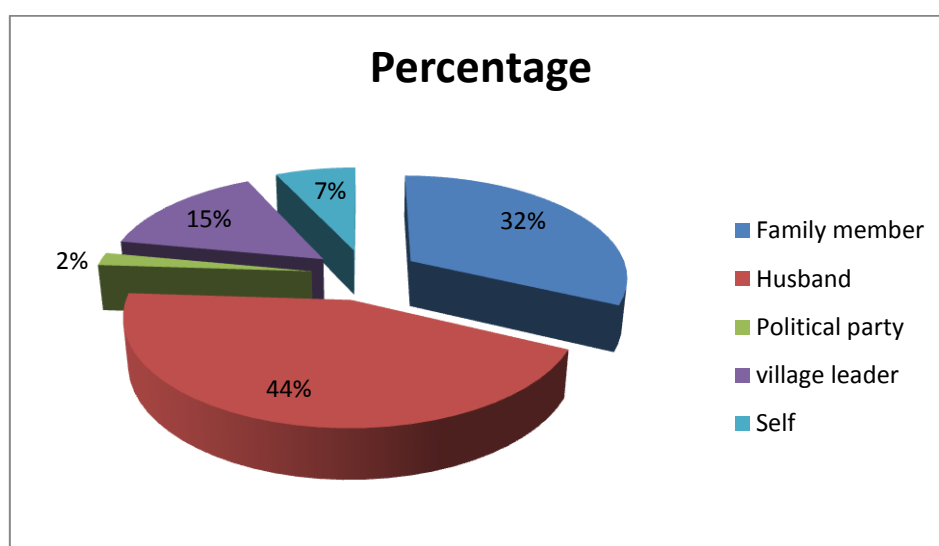


Figure 3.1 indicate the sources of inspiration of respondents into the public life due to the influence of varied factors, such as self interest, compulsion of family members. It is evident from the table that Husband encouragement was the chief factor responsible for large-scale induction of women into Panchayats. It is clear that political parties, husband and family members played an important role in motivating women to enter politics.

I meet with obstruction by my husband and other family members regarding Panchayat, still I come to gram panchayat. My husband says ,” I am exhausted with the toil of wood-cutting and you are serving for the people without any gain spending my money.

Ramkatori Gurjar, Sarpanch GP-Badagaon-Nadoti

I could not continue as member without help of my husband. I can not go to solve any problem of the villagers due to my household work. On behalf of me, my husband present there and solve the various problems.

Mohar Bai , Sarpanch GP-Kedhi Hewat-Hindaun

Truly speaking I do not know the whole constituency of Gram Panchayat. MY family forced me to compete the election.

Kesula Devi, Sarpanch GP-Mendkapura-Nadoti

I am not encouraged by my family. I am working amidst of so many difficulties. I am to get on in order of my husband. I have no liberty. My husband always pokes his nose in every thing . If he does all the things, then what is the meaning of being elected.

Ramoti, sarpanch GP Kachroli-Hindaun

Table No. 3.1:Table showing number of times Respondents elected to panchayats

No.of times elected	Number	percent
First time	30	73%
second time	4	10%
third times	7	17%
Total	41	100%

From the above table it can be inferred that majority 73 per cent of the respondents are representing their GP for the first time, only a 10 per cent are representing their GP for the second time and percentage of 17 per cent are representing their ward for the third time. Thus majority of the members are first entrants to Panchayats and hence are less experienced.

Figure No.3.2 : The awareness of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act by Respondents

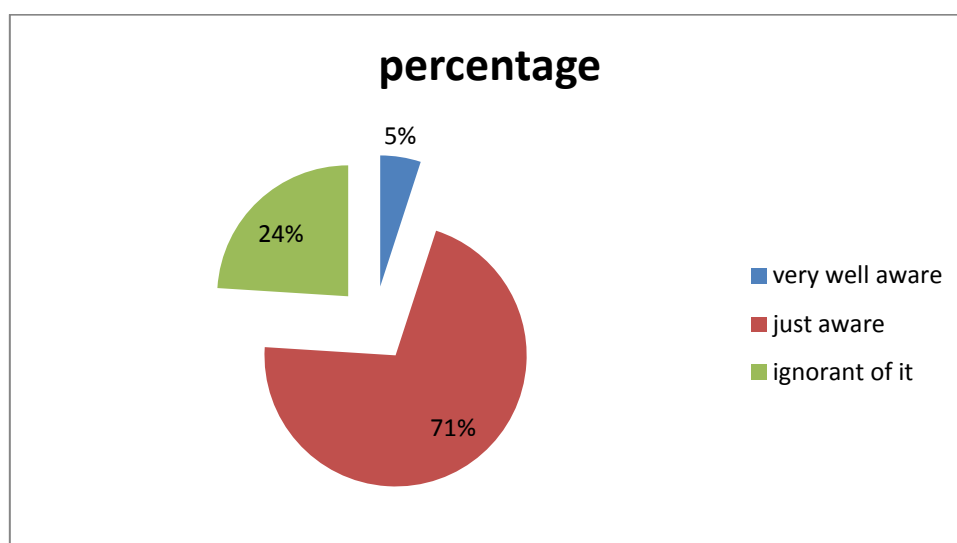


figure no. 3.2 showing the awareness of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act by respondents, in which a provision has been made for 33.33 per cent women's reservation in gram panchayat.

It shows that a majority of 71 percent are just aware of the 73rd constitutional amendment act, only a small number, 5 per cent are very well aware and 24 per cent are ignorant of it. From this, it is concluded that most of the respondents knew that reservation of seats has been made for women as per the Amendment Act. This illustrates that the awareness levels of women in gram panchayat is average level.

Table No.3.2: Training imparted to Newly Elected Women Representatives

Training Imparted	Number	Percent
Yes	19	46
No	22	54
Total	41	100

Table indicates that 46 per cent respondents had undergone some sort of training, while 54 per cent did not get any training. Training is important for better participation of women in political processes. The study reveals that small number of have received training in political participation which has increased their awareness.

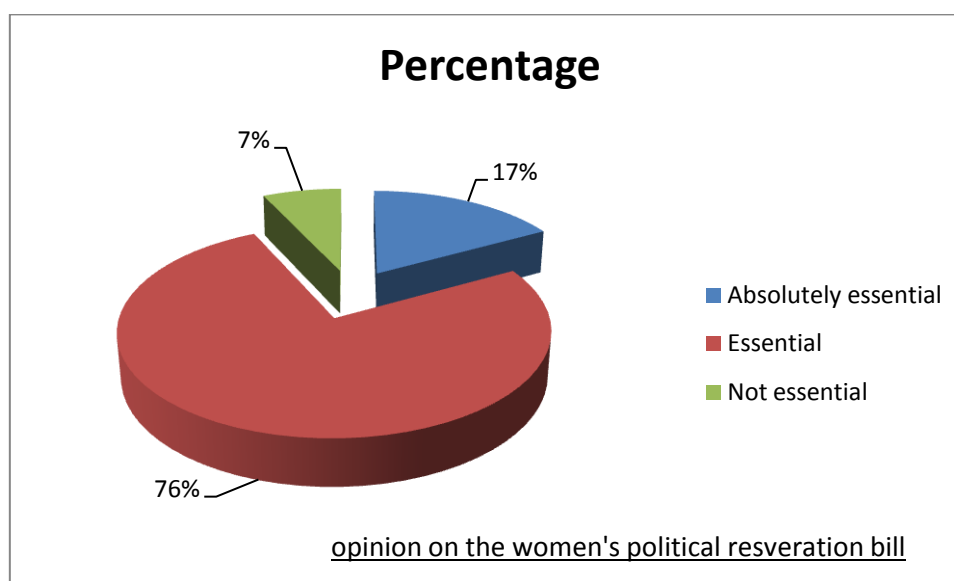
Figure No.3.3 : Opinion on women's Political Reservation Bill

Figure explains about the awareness of respondents on the women's political Reservation Bill. Among them 76 per cent of respondents say that it is essential, 17 per cent of respondents are of the opinion that it is absolutely essential, 7 percent of women expressed the opinion that it is not essential.

It can be concluded that an overwhelming majority of the respondents are in favour of the bill, because, this has enabled a large number of women to enter into politics. Similarly, the reservation for SC/ST, OBC and women has provided opportunities to become members and participate in the development process.

3.2 Participation

Participation is a major component of empowerment. Women participation in GP can play an important role in becoming effective tool of empowerment of women. Women's participation in out door socio-economic and political activities is an effective means to empower women. participation and awareness are also related. It is generally assumed that increased awareness leads to better and more active participation. The 73rd constitutional amendment has created a space for women in political participation and decision-making at the grass-root level. In order to assess the actual levels of participation of WERs of GP, the study looked at specific areas within the panchayats and the participation of women in these areas. An interview schedule on participation was used to collect the levels of participation of the respondents.

Figure No.3.4: Figure showing the Affiliation of Respondents to other Social Organisation

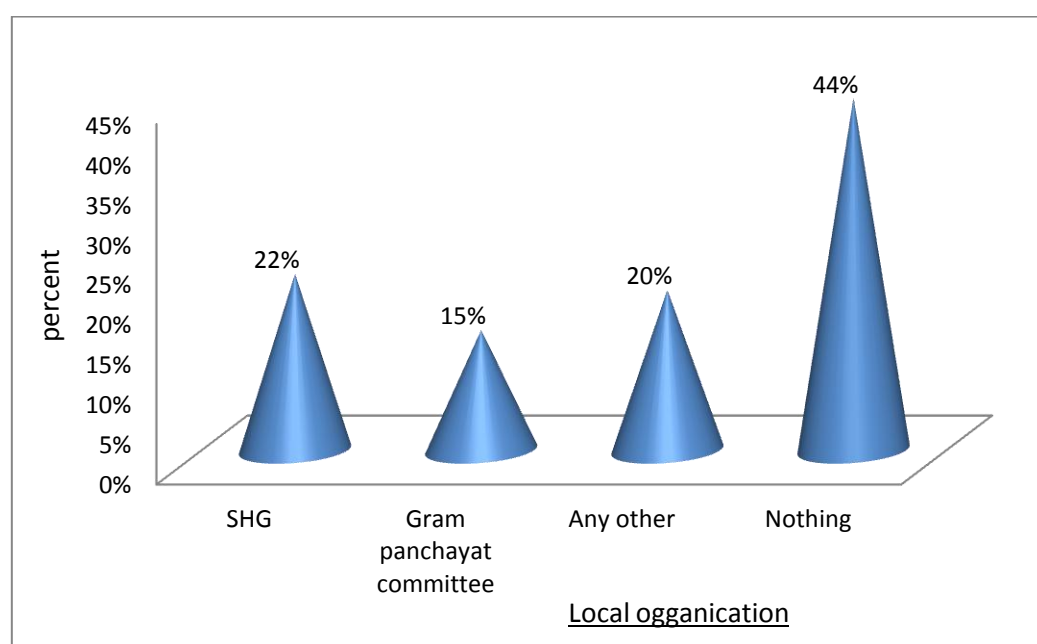


Figure No. 3.4 reveals that 22 per cent of the respondents are the members of self help group. While 20 per cent were the members of other social organization like Bajana Mandali, co-operative society, school trust etc. 15 per cent of respondents are the members of gram panchayat betterment committee. And there is big number of women those nothing to join any local organisation. The participation of respondents in various social organizations shows that women representatives are active as compare to past time. This enhances the empowerment of women members in Gram Panchayats.

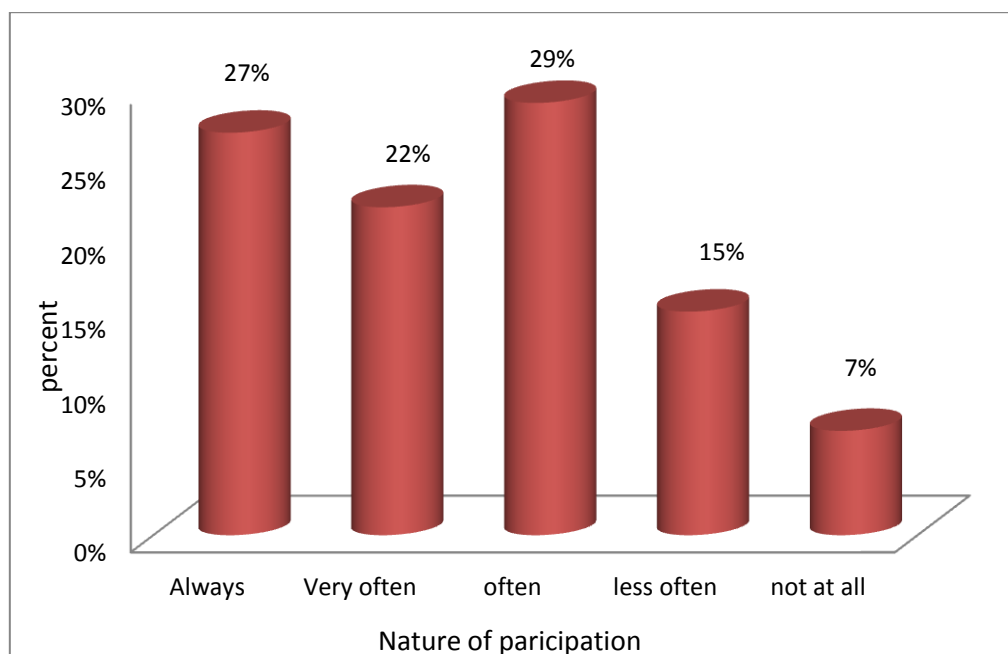
Figure No. 3.5: Nature of Participation of Respondents in Panchayat

Figure explains participation of respondents in the proceedings of Panchayat meeting speaking about issues. 22 per cent of the members take part in the proceedings very often and 27 per cent of them always speak in the meetings. 29 per cent of the members participate in the proceedings often and 15 percent less often. 7 per cent of the members did not take any part in the proceedings. Majority of the respondents thus take part actively in the proceedings of Panchayats.

Figure No.3.6: Frequency of visit by the Respondents to their Panchayat villages

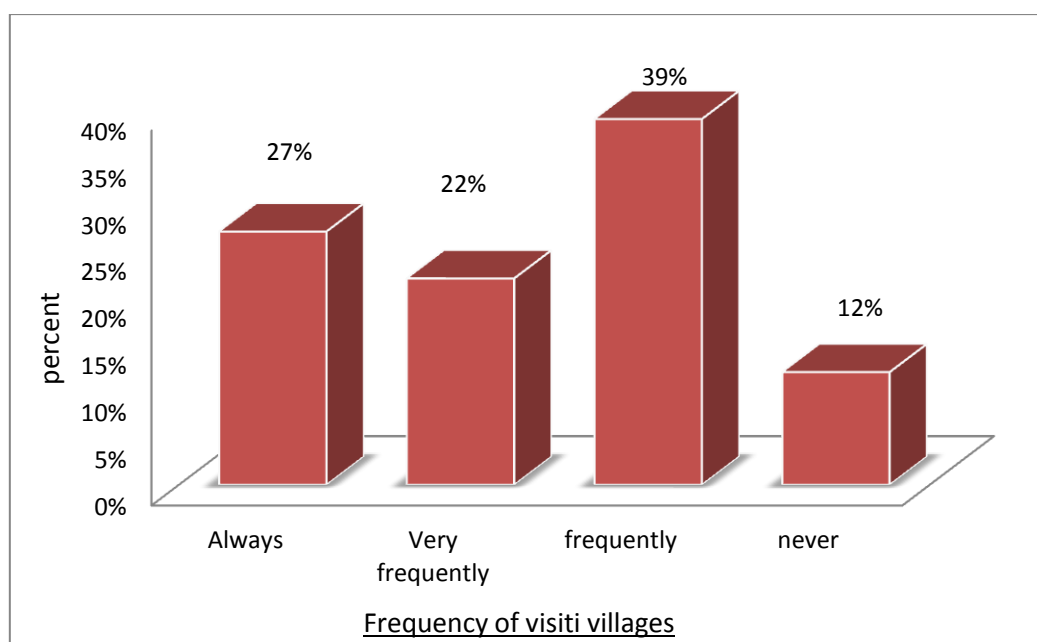


Figure 3.6 illustrates the frequency of visit by the respondents to their panchayat wards. An overwhelming majority of 39 per cent frequently and 27 percent always visit their wards, 22 per cent members very frequently visit their wards, while 12 per cent respondents less frequently and never visit their ward, respectively. It can be concluded that majority of the respondents have the awareness of their roles and responsibilities in panchayats. They visit the ward and interact with people to identify the problems of the wards.

My family helps me a lot. When my father –in-law and mother-in-law were alive, they helped me in contesting elections. They died. Now my husband check up my duties and obviously helps in my works.

Bachhi, sarpanch GP Gadhmore-Hindaun

Figure No. 3.7: Opinion Expressed by the Respondents on Women Empowerment through 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act

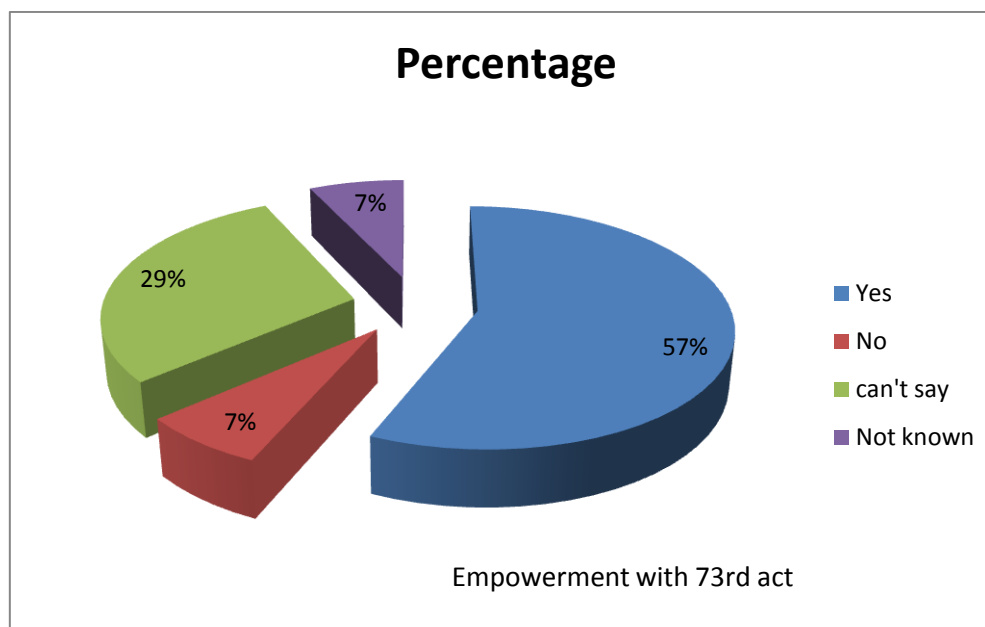


Figure 3.7 illustrates the opinion expressed by the respondents on women empowerment with 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. Majority of the respondents i.e 57per cent are in favour of women empowerment through 73rd constitutional amendment Act, 29 per cent of respondents are neither in favour of the Act nor in disfavour of it, 7 per cent in disfavour of the Act. It can be concluded that, majority of the respondents expressed the opinion that after the advent of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the women had been empowered in politics to a greater extent.

Table No.: 3.3
Table showing the Specific problems faced by women in Politics

Problem	Number	Percent
Gender discrimination	7	17
Family-life and work-life balancing	3	7
Male dominate attitude	11	27
lack of political experience	9	22
Lack of Knowledge of the panchayat Act & other Govt. circulars sent time to time	6	15
Male dominated society	3	7
lack of awareness and self confidence	2	5
Total	41	100

Table shows that over whelming majority of the respondents argued that they face various problems in politics. For 15 percent of the respondents problem is the lack of knowledge of Panchayat Act and other Government Circulars sent from time to time. 7 per cent of the respondents are finding it difficult to balance their family life and political career. For 22 per cent of the respondents the problem is lack of previous political experience. 27percent and 17 per cent of the members admitted male domination and gender discrimination in the society as their major problems. For 5 percent of the members the problem is lack of awareness, inferiority complex and self confidence.

Figure 3.8 :
Opinion Expressed by the Respondents about the Enhancement of Status in society after the membership

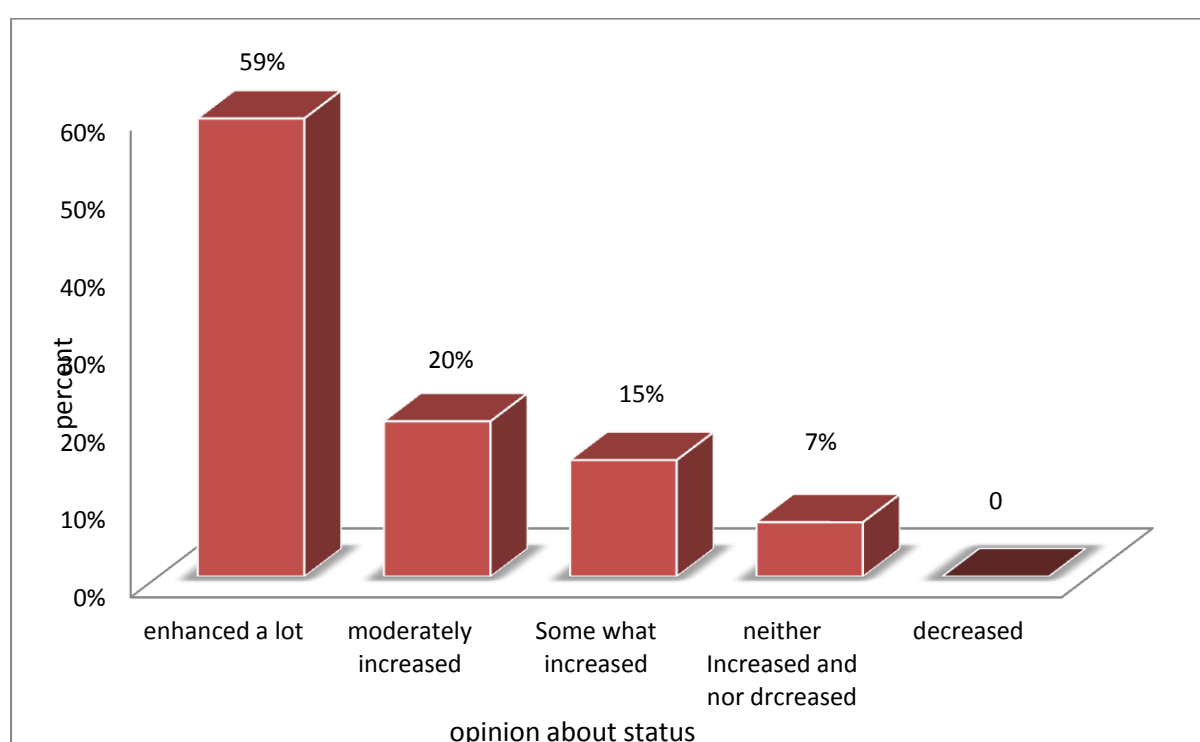


Figure 3.8 illustrates that opinion expressed by the respondents about the enhancement of status in society after the membership. 59 percent of the respondents were of the opinion that membership of Panchayats had enhanced a lot, their status in society. For 20 per cent of the respondents it was moderate enhancement and for 15per cent it was small increase, 7 per cent expressed the opinion that there was neither increase nor decrease in their status in society due to Panchayat membership. No respondent indicated decrease in social status. It can be concluded that Panchayat membership has given better status to women in public spheres.

“.....I have honoured more after being elected at grampanchayat. Previously people didn’t bother me. Now they talk to me while passing by road. They asked about my well-being. They want my opinion in any problem of the village. They call me at any social and cultural programme. I am done up with the marriage – invitations. When they request me foe presiding over the meeting of any school or any public meeting , I can feel that my honour has been increased.

I was in the campaign of the election. After being elected I don't think that my prestige in the society has been increased. Many people of the village can not stand me. I am criticized by the neighbours or by the relatives when I have to go outside at night obviously for a reason.

Harpyari, Sarpanch GP-Shrimahaveerji-Hindaun

Figure No. 3.9
showing the Nature of Participation by Respondents in ward sabha
and panchayat meetings

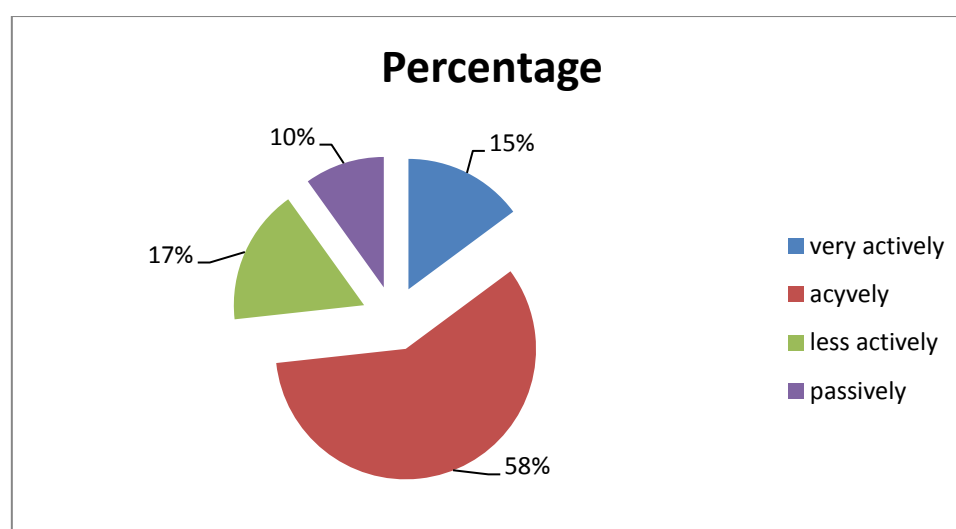


Figure 3.9 shows participation of women members in ward Sabha and Panchayat meetings. 58 per cent of the members take part in the meetings actively and 15 percent have reported very active participation. The participation of 17 percent of the members is found to be less active while 10 percent of the members reported only passive participation.

It can be concluded that Panchayat membership has given better status to women in public spheres.

My husband contacts with public. He also writes certificates, signed by me. As my family is small, my husband helps me a lot. Study of my daughter, sewing, looking after the household etc. are done by him and even he comes daily at GP office..

Sushila devi, sarpanch GP Vijyapura- Hindaun

3.3 Decision Making

The ability to think and take independent decisions is an important dimension in the empowerment process. It also depends to a large extent on the social and cultural background of the individual as well as the values of the society.

Better level of awareness and providing opportunities for participation in public sphere combined with an enabling environment could lead to effective decision making among women.

This study looks at the decision-making levels of the respondents in the panchayat level. In order to assess the levels of decision-making, certain questions were posed to the respondents.

Figure No. 3.10: Nature of involvement in the process of decision-making by the Respondents

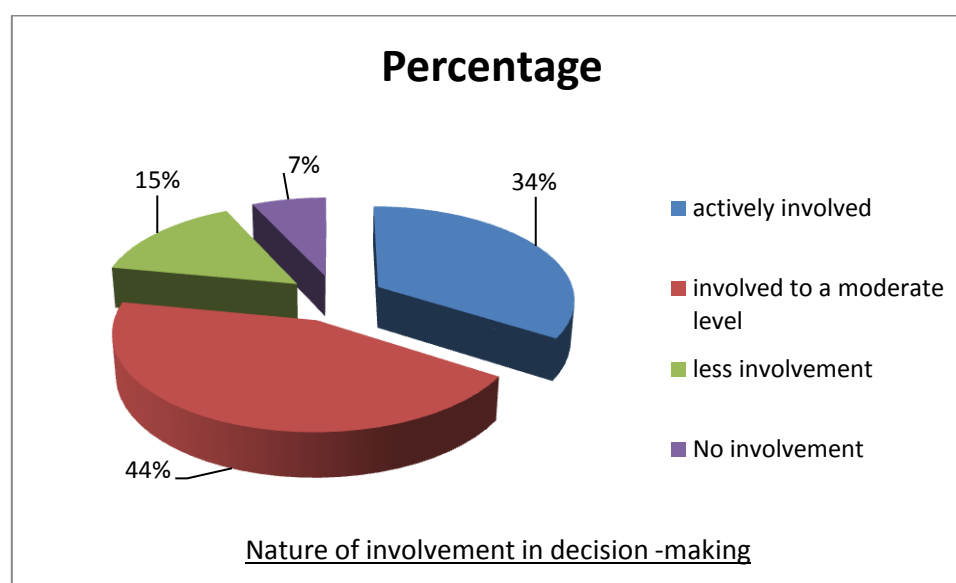


Figure 3.10 explains the nature of involvement of respondents in the process of decision-making. It was reported by a majority of respondents 44 per cent that they involve moderately in decision-making. 34 percent were actively involved in decision-making process of Panchayats. 15 per cent women members just involved in the process of decision-making, while a very small number of respondents 7 per cent were not involved in the process of decision-making. From this it follows that a majority of the respondents are moderately and actively involved in the decision-making process of panchayats. There is a lot of scope and potential for women to emerge as decision-makers. Involvement of women in decisionmaking roles is an important tool for empowerment. Better understanding of rules, regulations and procedures of the panchayats and the various schemes are equally important for the women members to take proper decision at the panchayat level.

Table No.: 3.4
Table showing Respondents handling issues independently

Handling Issues Independently	Number	Percent
Yes	23	56
No	18	44
Total	41	100

Table 3.4 explains the respondents handling issues independently. An 56 per cent are handling issues independently in wards and panchayats, while 44 per cent of respondents are not having the capacity to handle issues independently in their constituencies.

People say that women are now free. But still I have no liberty fully. To go somewhere or to buy something I have to depend on my husband or on my son. He (husband) is boss, this notion plays with me.

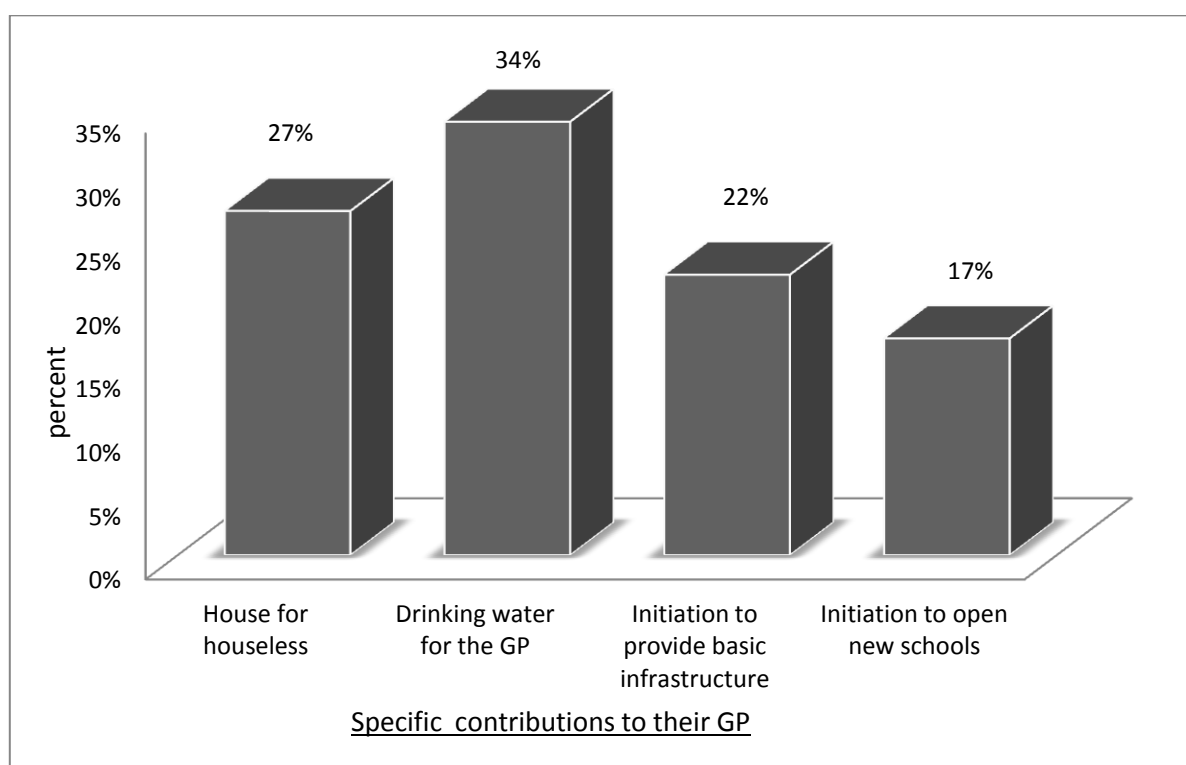
Shanti jain, sarpanch GP Kayarda khurd-Hindaun

Table No.: 3.5
Table showing the Responsibilities discharged by the Respondents

Responsibilities	Number	Percentage
Identification of the present problem of the GP	9	22
Presenting the problem in the meeting & getting approval	16	39
Taking initiation to complete the half done project	6	15
Taking initiation to see the Govt. Projects & schemes reach the people	10	24
Total	41	100

Table 3.5 analyses the fact that a large proportion of respondents 39 percent were discussing the problems in meeting and get the approval, 24 percent take initiative to see that Government projects and schemes reach the people. Only few 15 per cent take the initiate to complete the half-done projects. From this, it follows that majority of the respondents are aware of their responsibilities and independently discharge their functions in Panchayats.

Figure No.: 3.11
Showing the specific contribution made by the Respondents to their GP



From the analysis of the data, it is inferred that 34 percent of the respondents provided water connections in their ward, 22 per cent provided basic infra-structure, 16.5 per cent provided houses for the houseless and 17 per cent took initiative in opening up of new schools and 27 percent respondent provide house for houseless. It can be concluded that women members have better knowledge of roles and responsibilities and knew the functions of the gram panchayats. It can be concluded that WERs have better knowledge of their roles and responsibilities and know the functions of the GP.

In my locality some men torture the women being intoxicated with wine. I protest that. Let me say an incident ----- in my Gram sabha , being informed that one drunk fellow was biting his wife, I went there with all the women neighbours and tied the men with a tree and put off there whole day. He was set free when he confessed all his guilts. Now they are staying happily.

Smt. Man Kanwar Rajput, Sarpanch GP Jeetkipur-Hindaun

Chapter 4: Co-relation of Women Empowerments with Socio-Economic Indicators

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment providing for one-third of the seats to women members in Gram Panchayat is considered a land mark attainment towards women empowerment. This provide more scope and opportunities for women to participate in public life and decision-making process. It is a big step in the process of political empowerment of women. Though initially at least reservation appears to be the only way to bring women into panchayats, there is a need to ensure their effective participation in the functioning and decision making process at the grass-roots level through a process of sustained capacity building. Women are empowered to play an effective role in panchayats, in terms of being fully aware and able to use their full potential in carrying out their roles and responsibilities, in making decisions etc. The present study is aimed at looking at the levels of empowerment of women.

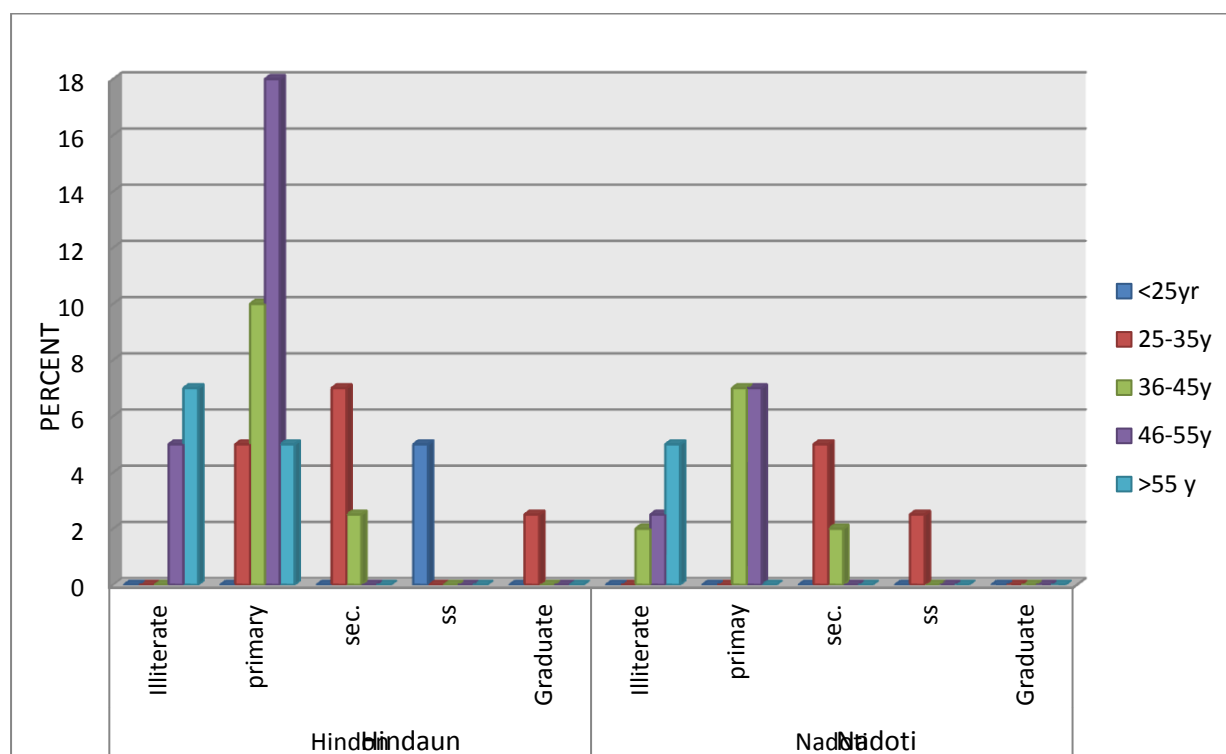
Type of study- Cross sectional Descriptive study(Qualitative and quantitative)

Study area- The study was carried out in Karauli distirct of East-Rajasthan. Karauli district divided into four blocks. Out of these four blocks of Karauli district, two blocks(Hindaun and Nadoti)were selected using random sampling. Using random sampling method the study area selected. The Hindaun and Nadoti blocks consists of 80 GP's in which 41 GP's headed by WERs(women sarpanch) and other by MERs. In all 41 WERs were selected from the Hindaun and Nadoti blocks as sample . Purposive sampling method was using for selecting the sample.

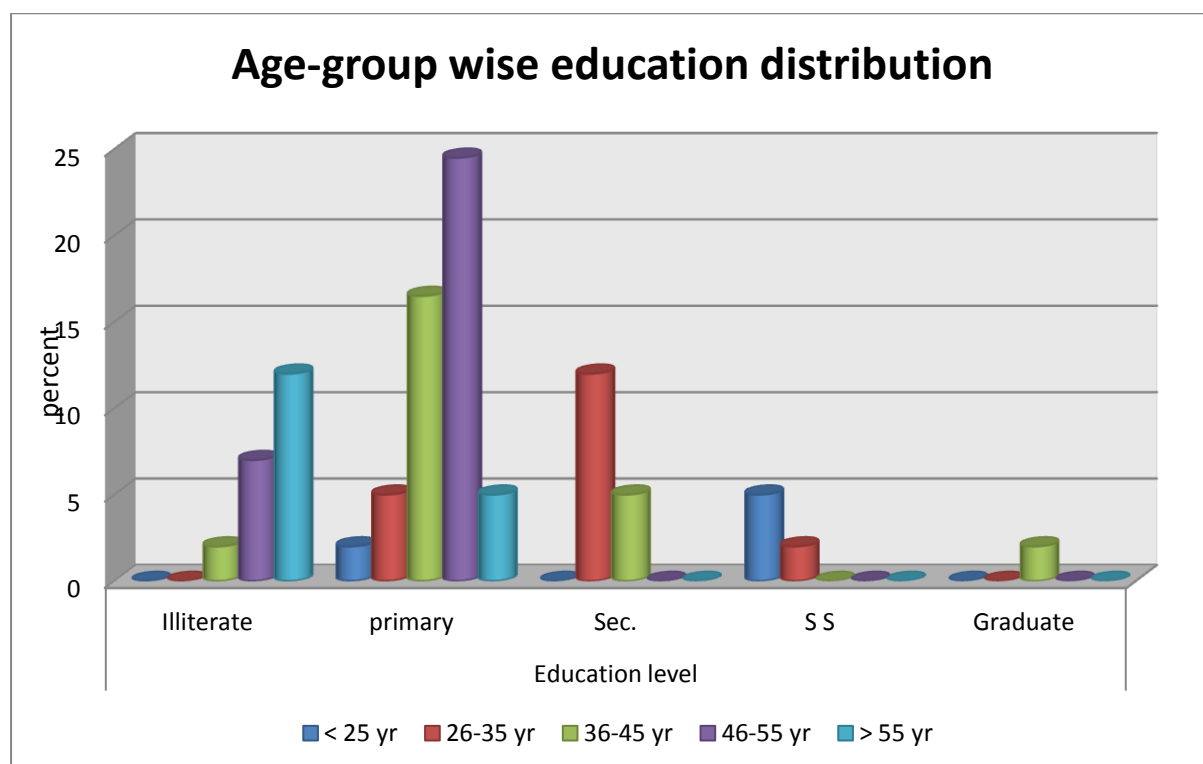
The sample frame was developed using a purposive sampling. Hindaun blocks were chosen from karauli district for the study. The Hindaun and Nadoti blocks consists of 80 GP's in which 41 GP's headed by WERs(women sarpanch) and other by MERs . Within blocks 41 WERs of panchayat(women sarpanch) selected as sample. For selecting WERs(women Sarpanch), a list of all ERs of GP's is obtained from the Panchayat samiti Hindaun. After getting the list, a purposive Sampling Method is adopted for selection of the 41 Gram Panchayats those headed by WERs(women sarpanch).

Statistical tools Average, mean Average, percentage, chi – squire will be used to construct the tables and for analysising the data

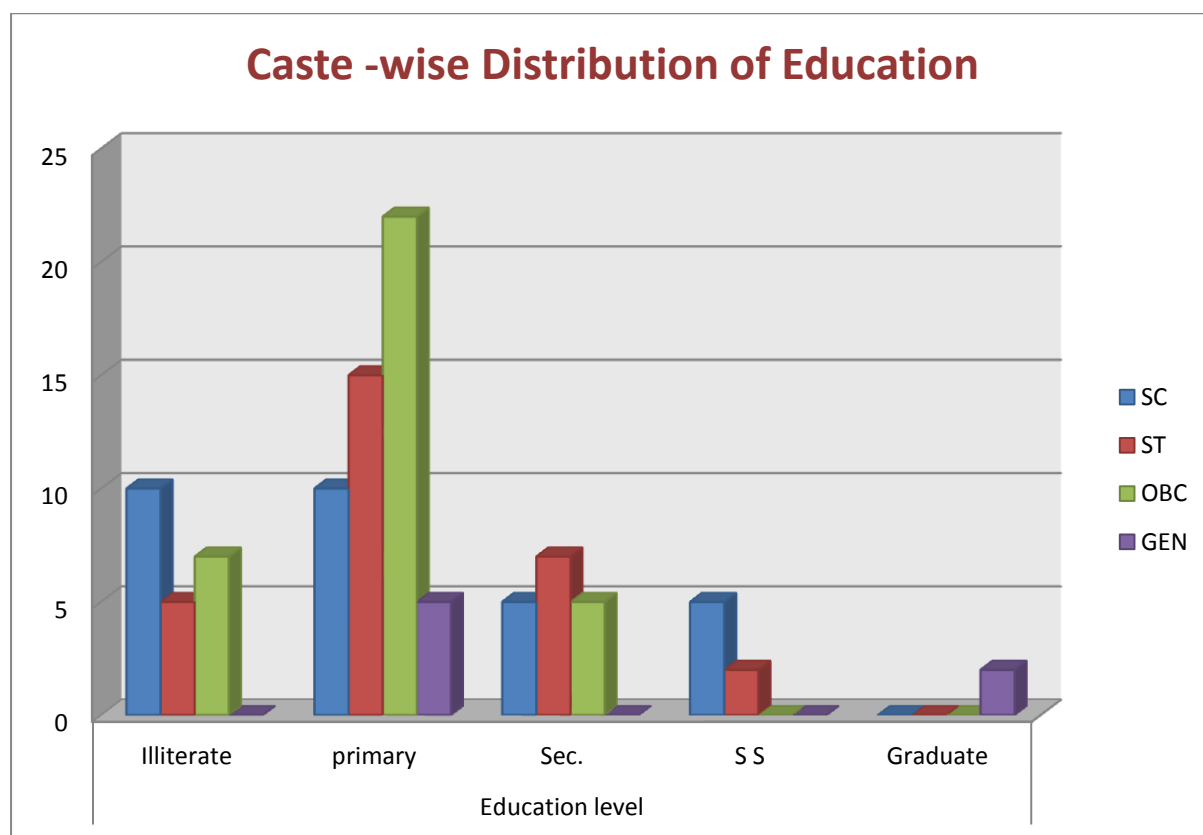
Fig No 4.1: Distribution of Education in both blocks(Hindaun- Nadoti) according to Age-group



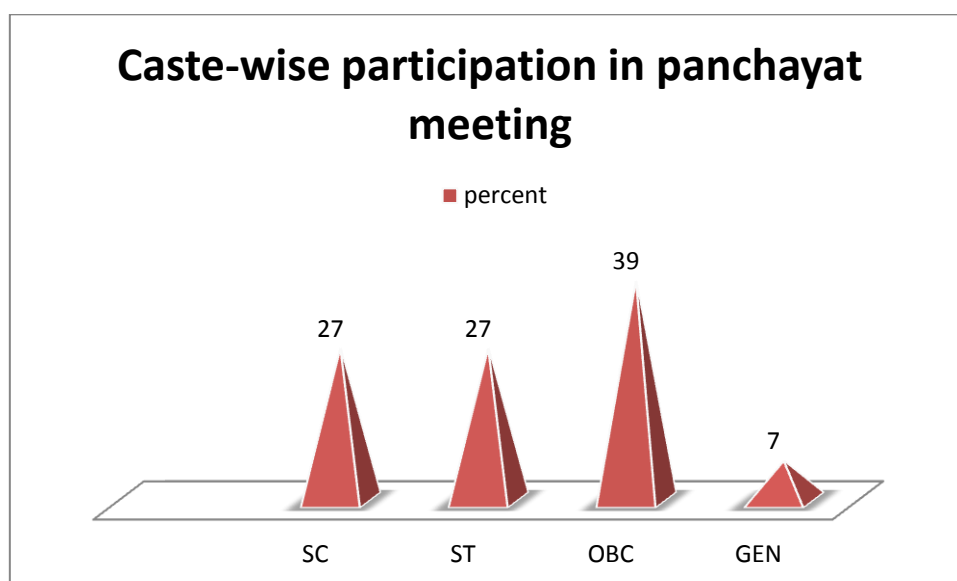
Education is such a powerful parameter, which is necessary for any value judgement, any political participation or any decision making. In our traditional society control & access of any decision making lie in the hands of the elder people. By the study of age we would try to find out whether in this variant society baton of the relay race of Panchayat leadership has been handed over to the younger group by the elder group or not. This illustrates that the educational level of WERs in age group(25-35)is lower. Both blocks have low level of education,mostly primary eudaction is more as compare to other level of education. Only 2 percent member is grauduate in both blocks, it clearly indicates that the participation of respondents with below secondary education tends to be more in a decentralized democracy . Its is an accepted fact that the overall educational status of female is quite low in all the GP.

Fig No:4.2 Educational level of WERs according to Age-group

By the study of age we would try to find out whether in this variant society batton of the relay race of Panchayat leadership has been handed over to the younger group by the elder group with the best educational status or not. It is observed from the above fig. age group <25 yr has low level of education there is low percent in all level of education. The age group- 45-55 have more percent in primary education. Age group, 36-45 yr, is average percent in all level education. Its is an accepted fact that the overall educational status of female is quite low in all the GP.

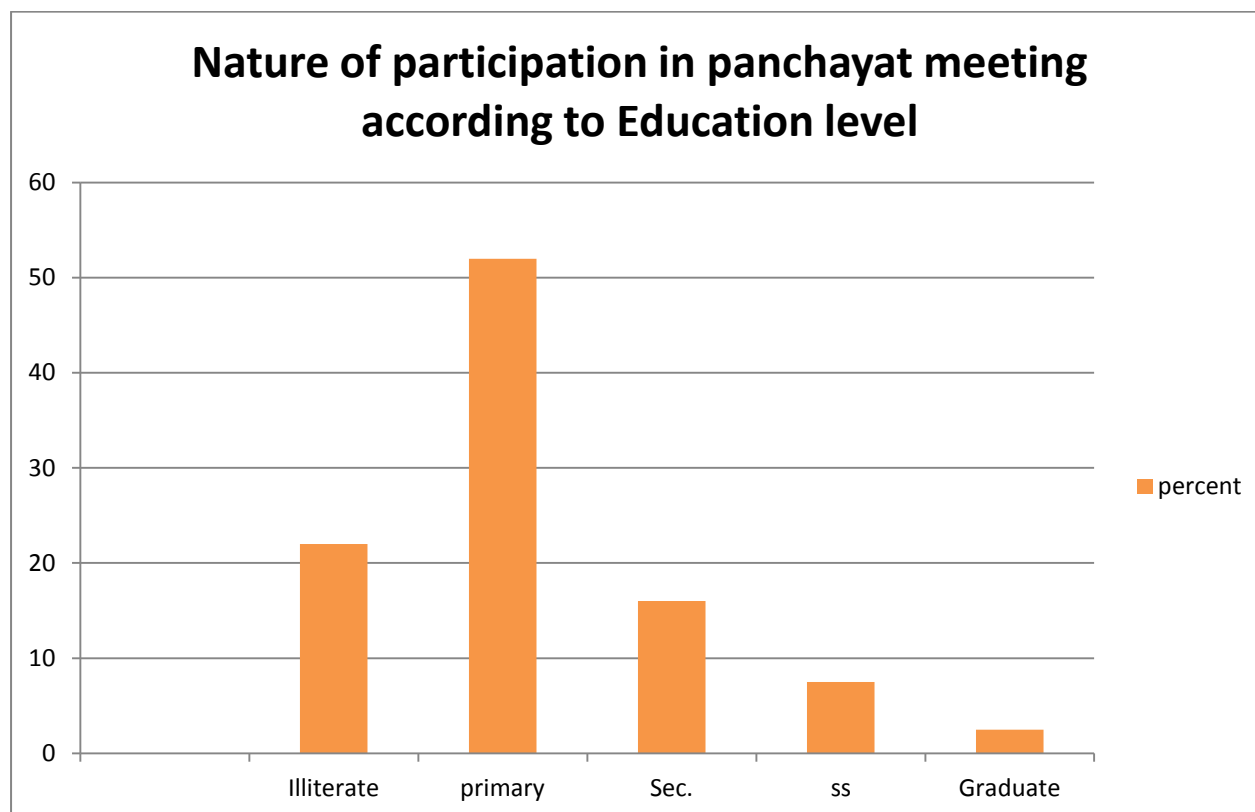
FigNo:4.3 Educational level of WERs according to Caste

Caste is another important parameter to guess the type of leadership according to social stratification. It denotes the members' placement, access and control in panchayats. In our sample GPs we have got three types of castes – General, SC, ST and OBC and Education is such a powerful parameter, which is necessary for any value judgement, any political participation or any decision making. This illustrates that the educational level of all caste WERs is lower. It clearly indicates that the participation of respondents with below secondary education tends to be more in a decentralized democracy. It is an accepted fact that the overall educational status of female is quite low in all the GP.

Fig:4.4 participation in panchayat meeting according to Caste

It is observed that participation in panchayat meeting according to caste, OBC is majority to participation in panchayat meeting 39 percent, SC and ST have same level of participation 27 percent, the GEN is less participate in panchayat meeting so that it is clear that the OBC member is more participate in meeting as compared to other. Caste is another important parameter to guess the type of leadership according to social stratification. It denotes the members' placement, access and control in panchayats. In our sample GPs we have got three types of castes – General, SC, ST and OBC

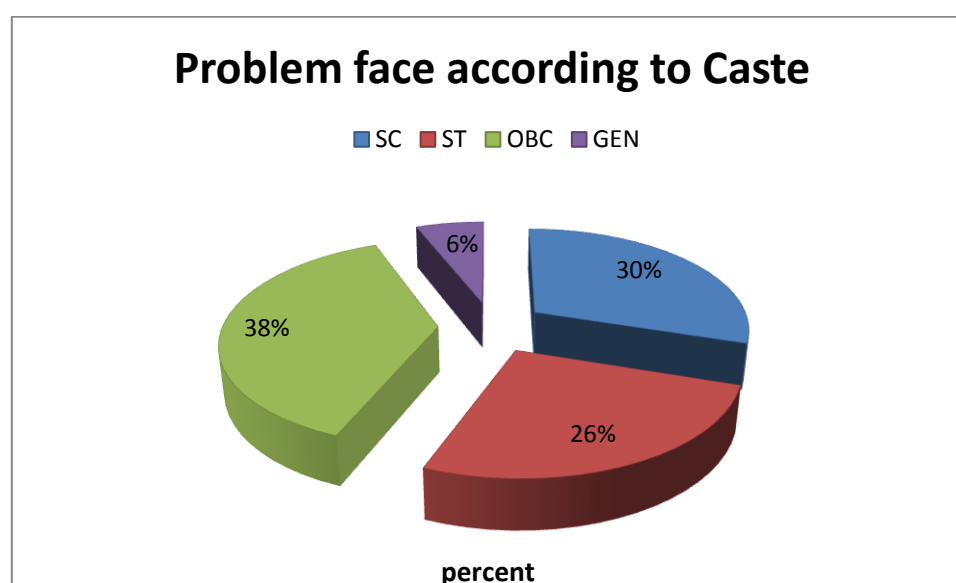
Fig No: 4.5 Nature of participation in panchayat meeting according to Education level



Education is such a powerful parameter, which is necessary for any value judgments, any political participation or any decision making. Because the educated member participate in best manner as to illiterate and primary . Education give the power to member performed well in active manner . Fig. illiterate 22 percent in meeting and 52 percent of primary member in meeting well, Sec. 16 percent and percent of educated member only 2.5 this very low level of participation, reason behind that education level of women is low and other is high educated member not interested in meeting etc.

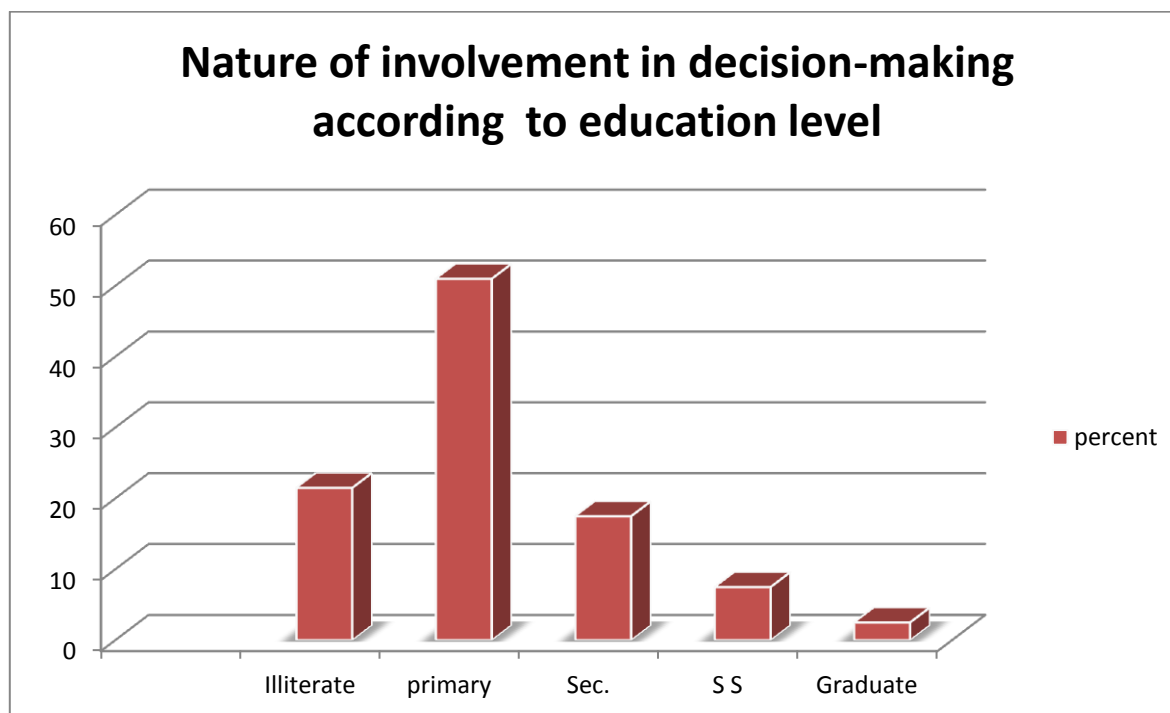
Table No.4.1: Caste Wise Problem Face by the WERs in Panchayat

Problem	Caste(percent)			
	SC	ST	OBC	GEN
Gender discrimination	2	0	5	0
Family-life and work-life balancing	0	7	7	2
Male dominant attitude	7	0	5	0
lack of political experience	0	10	7	2
Lack of Knowledge of the panchayat Act & other Govt.circulars sent time to time	7	5	7	2
Male dominated society	6	2	5	0
lack of awareness and self confidence	8	2	2	0
Total	30	26	38	6



Caste is another important parameter to guess the type of leadership according to social stratification. It denotes the members' placement, access and control in panchayats. In our sample GPs we have got three types of castes – General, SC, ST and OBC. Table and fig. shows that over whelming majority of the respondents argued that they face various problems in politics. 38 percent member of OBC face problem ,30 percent SC member and 26 percent of ST. so that there is OBC face more problem as compare to other but the nature of problem related to only lack of kknowledge and awareness but in SC member's nature of problem is related to gender , self confidence and upper caste pressures.

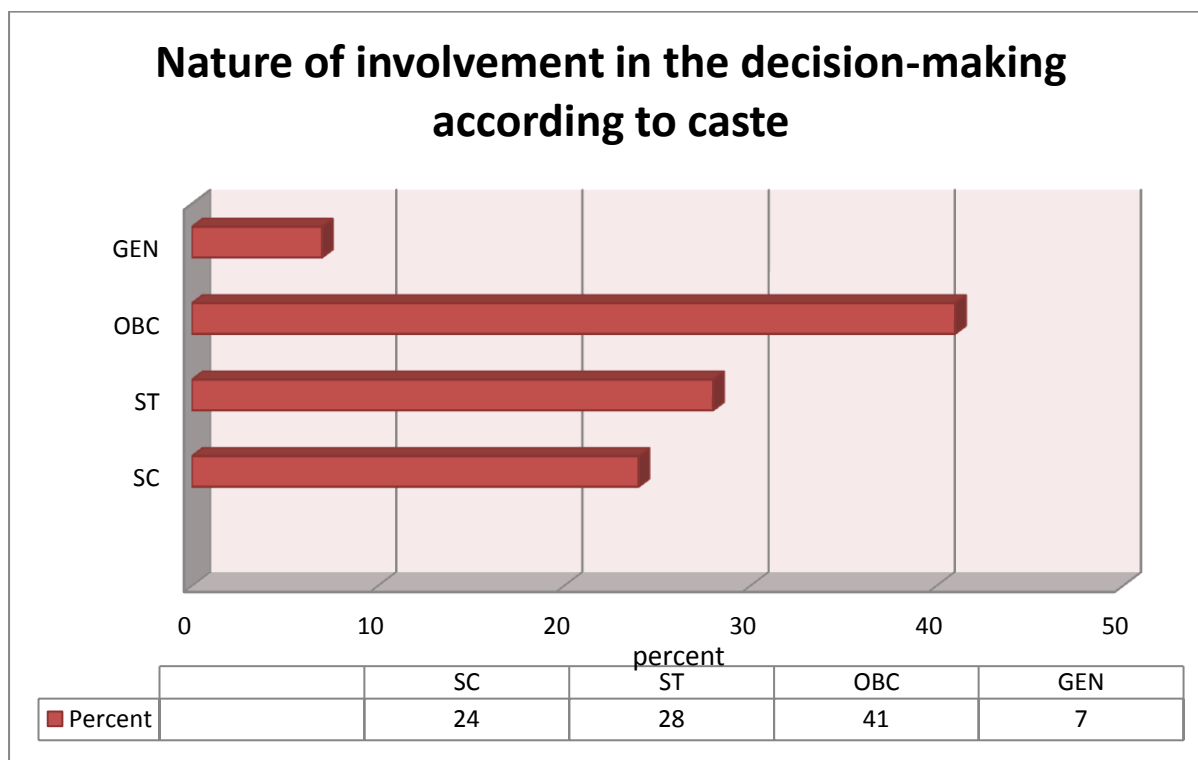
Fig No.:4.6 Nature of involvement in the process of decision-making by WERs



Education is such a powerful parameter, which is necessary for any value judgments, any political participation or any decision making. Because decision power effected by the educational level of the member. Better understanding of rules, regulations and procedures of the panchayats and the various schemes are equally important for the women members to take proper decision at the panchayat level and these understanding from education.

Fig 4.6 indicates that, 21.2 percent illiterate member involve in decision making illiterate, 51 percent primary level member, Sec. 17.5 percent and graduate only 2.5 percent in decision making. It clearly indicates that the participation of respondents with below secondary education tends to be more in a decentralized democracy. Its is an accepted fact that the overall educational status of female is quite low in all the GP.

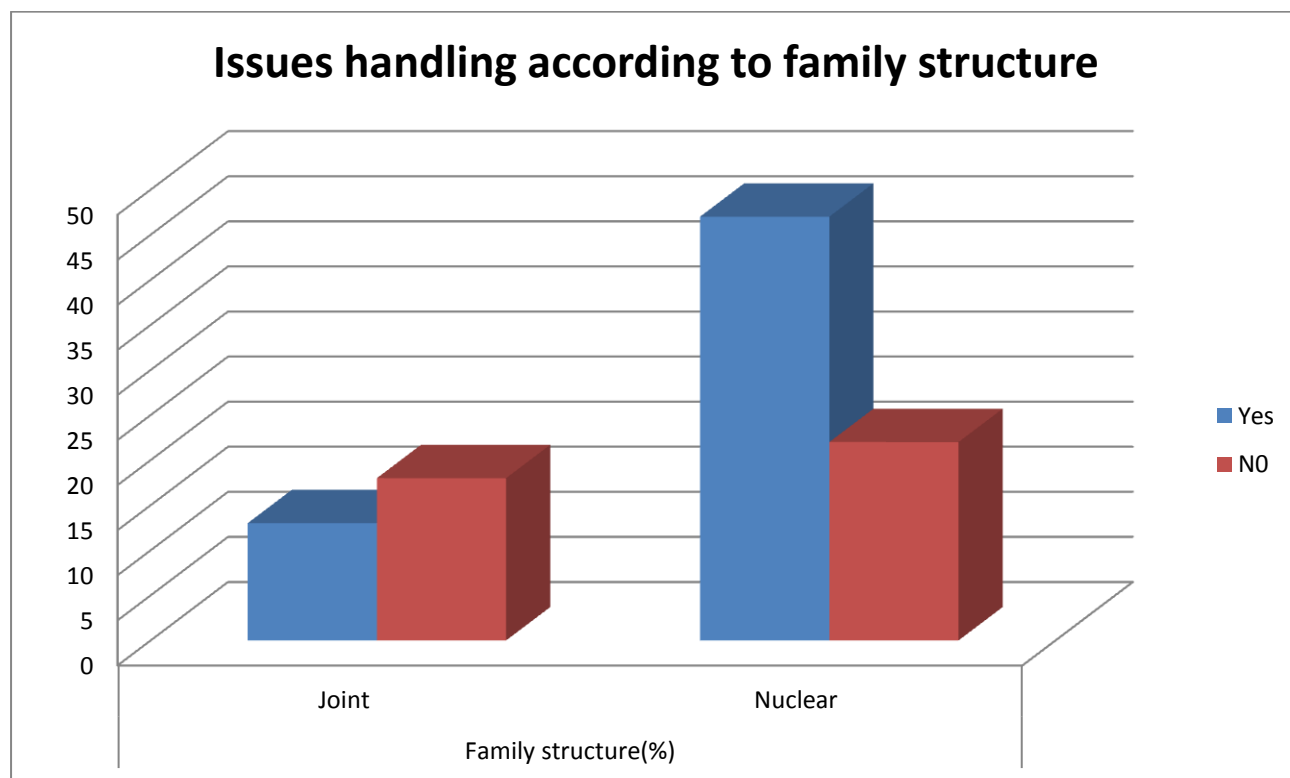
Fig No4.7: Nature of involvement in the process of decision-making by WERs according to Caste



Caste is another important parameter to guess the type of leadership according to social stratification. It denotes the members' placement, access and control in panchayats. In our sample GPs we have got three types of castes – General, SC, ST and OBC. In the rural areas nature of involvement in decision making depends upon the their because lower caste work according to upper caste or high income group .

It is observed that percent of OBC is 41, ST is 28 percent and 24 percent is SC in decision making. It define that OBC is majority in decision making and GEN is lower as only 7 percent .There is a lot of scope and potential for women to emerge as decision-makers. Involvement of women in decisionmaking roles is an important tool for empowerment. Better understanding of rules, regulations and procedures of the panchayats and the various schemes are equally important for the women members to take proper decision at the panchayat level.

Fig No.4.8: Respondents issues handling independently according to family type



Family is vital parameter for measuring social background of the leaders and this type of family influence nature of women's to handling issues independently because it build up one's attitude, preference pattern and political outlook. It indicates the class in which the leader belongs to. Both parameter nature of issues handling and family type connect each other so there is analysis these parameter in this study.

Above fig. reveals that in joint family 13 percent handling issues self and other 18 percent work with help and same as nuclear family 47 percent work self and other 22 percent of nuclear family member work with the help. So that there is clearly indicate nuclear family member work self as compare to joint family because in joint family there is lot off social constraint. There is a lot of scope and potential for women to emerge as decision-makers. Involvement of women in decision making roles is an important tool for empowerment.

4.1 To sum up

Women have made good use of the opportunities provided by the reservation policy and are taking their roles and responsibilities in the GP. An equally positive trend is observed regarding the men's acceptance of the women's capabilities and role in panchayats. Gender sensitization for both men and women to bring about change in mindsets and behavior is crucial for the empowerment process.

This study states that majority of women entered into politics due to the mandatory provision of reservation. Most of the women are from non-political background and entered into politics due to pressure from the political party or from the self interests. The important aspect of the study is that the women who reluctantly entered into politics showed great maturity in outlook enthusiasm, increasing political consciousness and increasing perception of their role and responsibility.

In this study, it is found that a majority of the Gram Panchayats are headed by male presidents. When awareness levels are compared with the socio-economic profile of the respondents, it is found that age, education, caste and economic status might have a bearing on the awareness levels. Education is key to empowerment and it has a definite bearing on the awareness levels. In general respondents seem to play an active role in activities such as participation in panchayat meetings, discussing village problems in Gram Sabha, interacting with people to identify the needs of the community and an interesting revelation is that in a majority of cases it is found that women get lot of encouragement from their family members to attend panchayat meetings. Women seem to be actively participating in creating basic infrastructure at the Gram Panchayat. When levels of participation are compared with socio-economic profile of the respondents, generally education and access to information seem to be the most significant features impacting on participation. By building awareness and creating an enabling environment to participate, women would be effective in their role as members, vice-presidents and presidents in participating and implementing various activities of the panchayat. Majority of the respondent's opinion is that access to information, socio-economic status and literacy rate vital in enabling effective decision making. It finds that a majority of the respondents are actively involved in the decision-making process. To sum up, involvement of women in decision-making role is an important tool for empowerment. It is found that majority of respondents have interest to continue in politics. The major limitations or constraints for women towards the path of achieving empowerment are lack of self-confidence, lack of knowledge of the panchayat Act and household responsibilities. An overwhelming number of respondents perceive their positions in the panchayats in positive light. They feel that it gives them a sense of responsibility, greater respect in family and public as well as helps them to take a keen interest in the community. The ongoing experiment and experiences suggest that periodical training and orientation can help the women leaders to perform the role better.

Chapter 5: Views on Women in Gram Panchayat

The study has attempted to know the opinion of district and block level government officials and the elected representatives to understand their perspective about the gram women representation in gram panchayat and their empowerment through it. Their views are shared as under:

5.1 District collector

Government has implemented reservation, but has no interest to make the women members capable. It seems that government has been crouched. All WRs may not perform upto the mark, but they are more dutiful and responsible than the male members. Trend of corruption is less among the women. Responsibility of their training lies in the hands of government as well as Panchayat department.

Reservation has been successful. Once upon a time women used to talk with the people behind the door, set on fire under the sacred basil. They are now sitting on the chair, going outside to inspect the schools, to monitor the works under NREGS. This is good.

From my experience I have seen that due to reservation, women from SC/ST family are coming in panchayats

B.L. Jatawat(DM-Karauli)

5.2 BDO (Hindaun & Nadoti Blocks)

Reservation of seats in Panchayats is not good as there is no role of women as member. They cannot solve their problem even in their family. Then how they can solve the problem outside the home? In fact on behalf of women, their Husband work. This reservation has no value.

I do not think that due to the reservation of seats for women, a change has come in panchayats. Women cannot perform any work properly. Because they are not educated and smart.

BDO, Nadoti Block

Resevation is not enough. Health , Education, Awareness etc. should be entangled with it. Without power of Health, who will work ; without education, who will understand the task and who will perform ?

As women have participated in the panchayat works, importance of women and child development as well as health and education has been increased. Due to lack of education, women cannot take part actively at panchayat works. They have to depend on the male. It needs teacher. I think that to be a Pradhan of a gram-panchayat, one woman should be graduate.

Suresh chand(BDO-Hindaun block)

5.3 Panchayat Secretary

Women Reservation is good ---- otherwise how do the women speak? They need a platform. This act is necessary for changing this male-dominated society. There is less possibility of misuse of power if it lies in the hands of women rather than men.

Gram secretary , Bagor GP-Hindaun

I do not support the women reservation. Because every women cannot work. Being feared, women cannot go in case of police related issues. So there is no need of women reservation. I think that male performers are better.

Women cannot solve even the women matters. Men solve those. So I think participation of women in Panchayats has not brought any new horizon. There is no need of women in Panchayats.

secretary (Gram panchavat), Rewai-

Women members perform their tasks but the problem is that they can not understand most of the discussions. If they understand something, they forget that also.

Secretary, GP-Jagar-Hindaun

The issue of women reservation in Panchayats is quite perplexing. Most of the women members do not understand the task so well. They are very much busy in handling their household; they cannot give time to perform the works of panchayats. It is very tough for them to keep information's regarding panchayats beyond their household works.

Secretary(GP), Kemla-Hindaun

I attend the developmental meeting but very few people go there. Most of the decisions have been taken by the only myself, that is why the people do not attend the meeting. Those decisions do not emerge from the people. Still few people are going to the GP or PS

Secretary –Gadhmore GP-Hindaun

Women members need training. It is bad luck that most of them have not got training. If the training can be imparted very often, women members can be active more and can understand the works. They need training of Information Technology. Especially they need training on health, education etc.

Secretary, GP-Sherpur-Hindaun

The block level training is of very low quality. Women members need to know the rules and regulations in order to perform effectively. If the training is imparted in good quality and frequently then the women members can perform well

Secretary, GP-Kema-Hindaun

5.4 Gram Panhayat Revenue officer(Patwari)

I support reservation. But strategically, this is not right. Because most of the women members have come here to help their husbands due to “quota”. They have not come for the sake of the organization. But following our party ideology, we are compelled to select such candidates for whom educated and equipped women are kept aside. Because candidates are nominated according to the voters, according to the family members.

Renenue officer,(GP) Patoda- Hindaun

Chapter 6: Case Study

6.1 Case Study: 1 the journey has just begun

(Rajshri, Sarpanch,-Alipura Gram Panchayat, Block – Hindaun)

Rajshri is a *dalit* from the SC community. In 2004, she was elected the *sarpanch* of Alipura GP in Hindaun. Contesting from a seat reserved for Scheduled Castes, she defeated her three male opponents. She has encouraged the women *panchs* to attend *panchayat* meetings and barred their husbands from representing them at these meetings. She has also persuaded women to participate actively in the GS. As a result of her efforts, there has been a noticeable increase in the participation of women. Rajshri did not know how to read and write, but she participated in a literacy campaign which was organized in all the blocks of the district. Trained animators were expected to work with ten elected women representatives. Rajshri was one of them and she was a quick learner. Within the stipulated period, she learnt to read and sign her name and also learnt some basic mathematics. In a subsequent evaluation, she secured the first position amongst all neo-literate women. As a result, she started reading all the proposals before signing them and before finalizing beneficiary lists.

Being a *dalit*, she ensured that the beneficiary list included the correct names and insisted on adding names of people who had been left out earlier. During the development planning process, she participated actively in the finalization of the micro-plan and in its consolidation. Since then, despite her relatively short political career, she has taken up the issue of encroachment of public land and fought against the denial of political space to women. Some private builders have been trying to set up a mini township near the village. Trouble erupted when it was discovered the builders had encroached on public land. She has been fighting for the restoration of the land to the *gram panchayat*. Rajshri has also managed to remove other encroachments from *panchayat* land and from the village commons. Since then, despite her relatively short political career, she has taken up the issue of encroachment of public land and fought against the denial of political space to women. Some private builders have been trying to set up a mini township near the village. Trouble erupted when it was discovered the builders had encroached on public land. She has been fighting for restoration of the land to the *gram panchayat*. Rajshri has also managed to remove other encroachments from *panchayat* land and from the village commons.

For Rajshri the journey has just begun.

6.2 Case Study: 2 Sushila devi journey into politics

(Sushila Devi, Sarpanch – vijyapura Gram Panchayat, Block –Hindaun)

Sushila Devi is an example of a woman who owes her initiation into politics to the policy of reservation for women, but has transcended this to win another election, without the benefit of reservation.

In 2000, the post of sarpanch of the vijyapura gram panchayat was declared reserved for women. Sushila devi an active member of one of the SHGs in the village, was elected to the post. Over the next five years, she successfully carried out her responsibilities as a sarpanch and resolved that the next sarpanch should also be a woman. In the next elections (February 2010), the post was open to candidates of both sexes. However, sushila contested once again, and was elected despite a number of strong male opponents. She has since created a definite political space for herself and made a mark at the village, block and district levels.

Sushila devi journey into politics began with her joining a SHG which was formed in her village with support from BDO. The training from BDO has helped her to be transparent in her functioning. At gram sabha meetings, she made it a point to inform the people about government schemes and discussed with them on how best these schemes could be implemented. The active participation of the community ensured that the quality of work in water supply, road construction and housing schemes was good and that there was no misuse of funds. Sushila and a few other women in the village were also given basic training in computers. The computer in the Vijyapura gram panchayat (GP) office contains up to date information about the village. Vijayapura GP was selected by the District manager as the best GP from 223 GP in Krauli district. Sushila has been instrumental in convincing the people of her village about the need for joint on properties (houses) awarded under the Indira Awas Yojana. She has ensured that the children in the village have access to recreation facilities, by making the club house available to the anganwadi.

Sushila devi has several other initiatives in mind, which she wants to implement. She has the people's support and is confident that she can bring more improvement to her village.

6.3 Case Study: 3 Fighting for the rights of her community

(Guddi Devi Dhobi, sarpanch Gram panchayat-Chiravanda, Block-Nadoti)

Chiravanda is a small panchayat. It is dominated by families belonging to the Other Backward Castes (OBCs), particularly the Jat caste. The tribal population in the area is dominated by the Meena people. Among the SCs, the Dhobi people are predominant. Even though the number of Patel families in the village is not very high, they are powerful and hold most of the land. Members of SC and ST communities work as labourers in their fields.

Guddi devi is 42 years old and was elected unopposed to the post of *sarpanch* in her village. There were no proper roads to her village, no proper access to water or electricity and the ration shop opened only once in three or four months. In the beginning dominant caste Jat created obstacles and no one would listen to Guddi devi, but she was persistent in her efforts and soon began to see some success. Now the ration shop opens at least once every month.

However, a number of problems remain and need to be addressed. Some people belonging to the SC/ST communities had not paid their electricity bills (possibly because they could not afford to), and therefore the electricity connection was cut off, throwing the entire locality into darkness. Access to water is limited, because the hand-pump provided by the government is located at least 200 metres away from the settlement. The absence of a good *khara* (link or access road) is another problem that needs to be resolved. Guddi devi has raised these issues and continues to struggle undeterred, so that her people can claim their basic rights

6.4 Case Study: 4

A woman has accused her spouse of reducing her to titular head of the Gram Panchayat

A woman sarpanch in Rajasthan Karauli district has accused her spouse of reducing her to titular head of the gram panchayat. Malti Devi soni, Sarpanch of Gudachandraji Gram Panchayat under Nadoti block, has alleged before district administration that her husband Ashok has virtually hijacked her power as people's elected representative. An administrative inquiry has been ordered into the charges levelled by the woman Sarpanch. Penal action is accordingly being initiated against the husband, Karauli district Collector, said-

"I am being mentally harassed by my spouse as I objected to his highhanded interference. I am not being allowed to officiate. My husband presides over panchayat meeting instead of me. Various developmental works in the gram panchayat have failed to make steady progress because of such proxy rule," Sarpanch Malti alleged in a petition to the Collector.

Many women Panchayati Raj institution representatives are acting as titular heads and are being dictated by their male relatives behind the screen, she said. Theoretically women are found to be at the helm of top panchayat posts, while their spouses or other male family members exercise the power in proxy on their behalf, said observers of panchayati raj system in the district. There are instances of husbands presiding over the periodic panchayat sessions while their spouses - legitimate GP chiefs - are least aware of the complexities of rules and regulations, the sources said.

6.5 Case Study of Observation

Story of the Streams (source: by field observation)

Tapati and Sandhya, two young village girls, dressed in simple cotton sarees, chappals in their feet, with uncombed hair are seen every day morning coming to Gram Panchayat office by bicycle with a bundle of little rice and potatoes.

They start their day at dawn going to the open field and bank of the ponds with sticks and whistles to forbade the open latrine.

They spend the whole day in the office to help the people by listening their problems, trying to solve the problems, writing their applications, dealing with the official works and so on.

In a short gap they also cook their lunch and in the evening they go out in the hamlets to share people's weal and woe. Spending whole day in outside they return their home late . At home none waits for them except their mothers with the plate of rice.

Chapter 7: Conclusion & Suggestions

Conclusion

An integrated approach is necessary to make the panchayats truly democratic and strengthen good governance. Training and research institutions, concerned state and central departments have a role in strengthening the panchayati raj institutions. The goal of women's empowerment will not be accomplished by reservations alone. To expedite and speed up this process it is essential to implement some supplementary policies which encourage the self-confidence of women, build women's capabilities and remove operational obstacles. To enable women to participate and function effectively at every stage, capacity building support was needed from the beginning of the election process and through the tenure of the elected representatives. An enabling environment was required for the recognition of women as leaders and the elimination of proxy candidates. Continued hand-holding support to EWRs was required throughout their tenures.

Reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions has definitely set a positive trend overall. Despite the many problems and limitations women have proved that given an opportunity they are capable of becoming equal partners in the development process. To an extent women have managed to overcome their lack of access and opportunities whether pertaining to literacy, skills, mobility etc. and yet perform their roles and responsibilities as members of panchayati raj institutions. While reservation has provided a window of opportunity for women to enter the public sphere, much needs to be done to empower women in the true sense. It is important to be aware of the socioeconomic and political background of the women who are elected to panchayats.

Awareness and training programmes to a large extent have focused on general aspects relating to the functioning of panchayats. As seen from the study in a majority of cases the awareness levels of women on these aspects are quite encouraging. Women cannot function and play their roles effectively unless they are able to assert themselves.

Empowerment is a process and multi-dimensional. It cannot be confined to a limited sphere. Planned interventions have to be made in areas including the economic, social and political spheres for true empowerment to take place. Therefore, women have to be provided access and opportunities to the basic rights such as literacy, legal and ownership rights etc. Political empowerment can be better sustained if women have at least a degree of economic independence.

The 73rd constitutional amendment and the reservation policy for women undoubtedly have set a positive trend. Women in large number have been able to create and occupy space in the public sphere. It has given them greater visibility as well as mobility. Women have also been able to enter other sectors and actively participate in local organizations. This has changed the perception and outlook of women and given them greater self-confidence. Women have gained better status both in family and outside. Family members and men in many instances perceive women in a more positive way.

In the context of gram panchayat, more reforms and structural changes are needed that would actually delegate powers and responsibilities to elected women members. Sensitisation of men, both officials and elected members is very essential for women to be able to function effectively. Sharing and cooperation by both men and women would result in better designing and implementation of activities for the benefit of all.

At the same time women need to gain greater role clarity and strike a balance between their household and official responsibilities. While men have to be sensitized to be supportive in this, women need to bring about shifts in their attitudes and outlook.

Unless all these processes take place simultaneously and on a continuing basis empowerment of women in gram panchayats would remain a buzzword without translating into reality. There is a lot of scope and potential for women to emerge as leaders and decision makers and play a key role in the development and good governance of local institutions. It requires dedicated and committed efforts by all concerned.

In the light of the objective the study can be summarized under following points:

- In Karauli district, women were actively prevented from participating in *panchayat* activities by male family members and other members of the *panchayats* itself. The male members often insisted on attending meetings in place of EWRs. Male *panchayat* members took advantage of the low levels of literacy and lack of knowledge and experience to take decisions in the absence of EWRs and tried to keep them out of important meetings.
- The practical realities of poor rural women's daily existence also kept them out of the GP. Burdened with housework and child care responsibilities and sometimes also employment prevented many EWRs from active participation in the activities of their GP. The low self confidence and poor self-image also kept many women away.
- To enable women to participate and function effectively at every stage, capacity building support was needed from the beginning of the election process and through the tenure of the elected representatives. An enabling environment was required for the recognition of women as leaders and the elimination of proxy candidates. Continued hand-holding support to EWRs was required throughout their tenures.
- Low literacy levels, absence of education and limited or no exposure, all lead to a lack of confidence and many women are unable to comprehend the true spirit of decentralization and recognize the opportunities that it provides.
- There was increased voter participation and a larger number of women contested elections on reserved seats, as well as from general seats.

- Lack of reading and writing skill is an important obstacle in role performance of women members.
- In all the 41 panchayats, it has been found that women are young but not fairly young in age, which indicates that the generation change start of women have realized the value of political participation.
- Regarding the caste profile, one third of the representatives belonged to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. The reservation of seats for these groups ensured their participation in GP.
- It reveals that majority of the respondents are married and are able to perform their roles in family life and political life.
- An overwhelming majority of the respondents come from nuclear family background.
- The occupational status of the respondents' shows that, majority of them were housewives engaged in the household related activities.
- A majority of the respondents belonged to low income groups.
- Most of the women are from non-political background and entered politics due to the pressure of political parties, husband and family members.
- Social status of the family tends to bear a strong influence in determining women empowerment in Gram Panchayat than the economic status of the family.
- Majority of the respondents are only the members in Gram Panchayats.
- It is found that a majority of the Gram Panchayats are headed by male presidents.
- Majority of the respondents have represented their wards for the first time. It indicates the lack of experience, skill and ability of participation on the part of members.
- The members have secured self-satisfaction and self respect and also acquired a new identity because of their participation in welfare services.
- Most of the respondents knew that reservation of seats had been made for women from the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act and they were in favour of the Bill. This shows that the awareness level of women in Gram Panchayat is quite high.
- Majority of the respondents have awareness of their roles and responsibilities. always visit the ward and interact with people to identify the problems of the wards.
- The nature of participation by the respondents in Panchayat proceedings and the ward sabha are quite encouraging.

- Involvement of women in the public activity is important for empowerment of women.
- Majority of the respondents have strong consciousness of their role in Panchayats and are capable of handling issues independently.
- The respondents in most of the Gram Panchayats discuss village problems in meetings, interact with people to identify the needs of the community and implement developmental programmes.
- Majority of respondents have made specific contributions in the form of taking initiative to provide basic infrastructure and water connection for ward.
- Decision- making role is important for empowerment. Majority of the respondents have involved themselves actively in decision making process. They have also exhibited potentiality to emerge as decision-makers.
- Large proportions of respondents present the problems in the meetings and get the approval. They are aware of their responsibilities and discharge their functions in Panchayat independently.
- Dominance by male members still exists in the Panchayat. The respondents think that only illiterate and ignorant members are dominated by male members.
- Majority of respondents have shown interest in continuation in politics.

Suggestions

In the light of the above study following specific suggestions can be made for the empowerment of women through their effective participation in political processes-

Radio as a tool for awareness creation and feedback: The radio was used effectively to communicate to reach out to the people. A 15 minute radio programme in the local language was broadcast every week, covering subjects like the role of panchayats in providing basic services and their monitoring, planning and budgeting, identification and verification of the BPL list, micro planning, domestic violence, legal provisions relating to the rights and protection of women, social practices and their impact on women. To attract listeners, drama and quiz formats were utilized. At the end of each programme, a dedicated telephone line allowed listeners to call in with their queries..

Exposure visits and expansion of training: Exposure visits have opened new worlds and provided fresh perspectives. (In March 2005, 15 EWRs went on a 10-day exposure visit to Himachal Pradesh to study the Panchayat Raj system)

Setting up Panchayat Resource Centres(Help-desk): Among the most successful initiatives in the setting of Panchayat Resource Centres and the use of radio for awareness creation among the common people on developmental issues and PRI functioning.

There should be one Help-line or Help-desk either in the district level or in State level so that the representatives can contact them at their need

(In month of May 2014,Rajasthan Govt. Start a helpline service(1800-180-6606) to rural area . By this helpline Govt. Provide information related to Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Dept. And its various scheme running. Complained also take and solve by helpline only in one call. (source: News paper))

Functional course: Lack of reading and writing skill is an important obstacle in role performance of women members. Therefore, in order to develop reading and writing skill, a functional course should be introduced for neo-literate and primary educated women membes, if possible, for all the women members of the GP. This course should be based on the rules, laws, regulations, orders, various programmes and officiating procedures of the GP. This course should be conducted at the GP level for 10 to 15 weeks in the begining of the term. At least two days in a week (three hours in each day) should be allotted for this functional education programmes

Panchayat Samiti news bulletin : A news bulletin should be published on GP activities by the Panchayat Samiti in which the women members should be invited to write their opinions/ thinking/ problems. This will encourage them to develop their writing, reading skill, which according to us, is very important in performing their role as a Panchayat member at the grassroot level.

- ✓ There are certain very active and enlightened women leaders at all level of panchayats, who have been successfully implementing the development schemes and have ensured overall development of their constituencies. Govt. should publicizing the such type of women leaders and their success stories and good practies among other GPs. It will certainly encourage other WERs .

Training programme : training programme should be redesigned keeping in view the needs of the elected members. The training programme should be based on issues and programmes relevant to their performance and covered in step by step .Skill part should be more than the knowledge part and this should Our field experience suggests that selection of trainers and their training are important aspects that should be taken into consideration while preparing for the training module for Panchayat members in general and women members in particular. It is better to give the training to the members at GP level at small package but in continuous manner. Continuous guidance and time-to-time training is much more useful for raising awareness of women representatives

Mobile Training & orientation : The govt should provide proper orientation courses and training programme for WERs . There is to train WERs at regular intervals to enable them to manage the responsibilities assigned to them in the panchayats . It will help enhance their leadership qualities and confidence so that they can perform in a better way. It is better to give training to the women members at there locality so that they can attend the training . It is also necessary to make the training programme obligatory for each women members. (Training organized also at their doorstep)

Circulars in local language: All the Govt circulars should be translated in local language so that the women functionaries can read it.

Financial: The salary should be increased and pension provision should be made.

Some other suggestions are :

- ✓ Reservation for women should be continued to ensure their empowerment through greater participation in political administration and decision making.
- ✓ There should be increased emphasis on ensuring the participation of SC and ST in the elections of panchayats.
- ✓ There need, political awareness programmes should make women understand their rights and the benefits.
- ✓ The Government should provide security to women candidates from criminals, during and after elections, till they are in office.
- ✓ An important requirement for bring about empowerment of rural women about attitudinal change in men.
- ✓ There should be increased emphasis on ensuring the participation of women in the meetings of Panchayats at all the levels. It will help them to promote and enhance their leadership qualities and confidence so that they can perform in a better way.
- ✓ Media play an important role in creating awareness in the rural society . IEC activities should be carried out in a right perspective for the WERs of PRIs.
- ✓ Studies on women in politics have emphasized that contact with outside world makes women more alert and also active in the political process. There could be two ways of doing it. Firstly, interaction between enlightened rural women and illiterate elected one's should be encouraged. Secondly, these women could be taken out to the urban areas and their interaction with educated urban WERs and with state and national level WERs(women leaders).

- ✓ A long-term solution to women's participation in political activities rests in greater awareness about their role, responsibilities and entitlements.
- ✓ Men's hostility, indifferent attitude and domestic responsibilities are the awareness programmes should make women understand their rights and the benefits.
- ✓ Political empowerment of women need more support from officials and the Public.
- ✓ Women members have to be provided access to the basic rights such as literacy, legal and property rights etc
- ✓ Another major component that needs to be strengthened is the interventions that are specifically targeted at women to the marginalized sections (dalits and tribals)

Annexure

Questionnaire

1. Name of the Member:

2. Age:

3. Educational Qualification:

Illiterate	Primary
Secondary	P.U.C
Graduate	Post Graduate

4. Caste:

5. Religion:

6. Name of the Panchayat:

7. Family Background:

i) Marital Status:	Married	Unmarried
	Widow	Separated

ii) If Married

a) Husband's Occupation:	Agriculturist	Government Service
	Private Sector	Self employed

b) Husband's Education:

Illiterate	Primary
Secondary	P.U.C
Graduate	Post Graduate

iii) Size of the Family: Nuclear Joint Family

iv) Occupation:

Agricultural Labour Industrial
Labour

Self Employed House Wife

8. Annual Income: Less than 11,000.00

11,000/= to 25,000/=

50,000/= to 75,000/=

75,000/= to 1, 00,000/=

1, 00,000/= and above

Information relating to Panchayat Membership:

9. The persons who inspired you to enter politics:

Family members Husband
Self Political Party
Village leaders

10. Present Position:

Member Member of Standing Committee

Vice President President

11. Number of terms elected to Panchayat:

a) One

b) Two

c) Three

12. Please state your perceived level of satisfaction of power and position

Excellent	Very Good
Good	Neither good nor bad
Bad	

13. Are you aware of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act?

Very well aware	Just aware	Ignorant of it
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Participation:

14. How often do you speak in panchayat meetings?

Always	Very often	Often
Less often	Not at all	

15. Do you participate actively in ward sabha and grama sabha and panchayat?

Very actively	Actively
Less actively	Passively

16. How often do you have presented the problems of your ward / panchayat in meetings?

Always	Very often
Often	Less often
Not at all	

17. Do you participate in process of decision making?

Actively involve	Involve to a moderate level
No involvement	

18. Do you meet the members of your ward and solve their problems?

Always	Very frequently
Frequently	Less frequently
Never	

19. What are your responsibilities in the Panchayat?

20. Do you observe any domination by the male members in the Panchayat?

Greater Extent	Moderate extent
Minimum extent	No dominance.

21. Do you act on your own in Panchayat?

Yes	No
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If No, Whom do you depend upon?

Husband	Family members	Panchayat leaders.
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22. What is your contribution for the development of your ward / Panchayat?

General:

23. Do you intend to continue in politics?

Yes	Cannot say	No
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24. As a women leader you have got an extra responsibility towards women

Yes

No

25. What is your opinion regarding the women's Political Reservation Bill?

Absolutely essential

Essential

Not essential

Not at all essential

26. Do you think that the condition of women have improved with 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act?

Yes

No

Can't say

Not known

27. Do you think that as a woman you face problems in politics?

Yes

No

If Yes, Give reasons

28. Are you a member of local organization?

Mahila Mandal

Self Help group

School Betterment Committee

Any other

29. Do you feel that your status in society has increased since then?

30. Is training imparted to newly elected women representatives?

Yes

No

31. How women can perform better in Panchayat activities? Give Suggestions.

32. If any other Suggestions?

List of Women Sarpanch in Hindaun Block

S.No.	Panchayat Samiti/ Blocks	Name Gram Panchayat Name	Elected Sarpanch	Sex	Category of Sarpanch
1	HINDAUN	ALIPURA	RAJSHRI	F	SCW
2	HINDAUN	BAIJATT	MAYA DEVI	F	OBCW
3	HINDAUN	BAJHEDA	KESAR DEVI	F	STW
4	HINDAUN	BANKI	PHOOL VATI	F	SCW
5	HINDAUN	BARGAMA	KAMLESH	F	OBCW
6	HINDAUN	BHANGO	VIMESH DEVI	F	OBCW
7	HINDAUN	BHUKARWALI	SHAKUNTALA MEENA	F	STW
8	HINDAUN	CHANDANGAON	POORAN BAI	F	OBCW
9	HINDAUN	CHINAYTA	HARPYARI	F	OBCW
10	HINDAUN	DANALPUR	KAMLA	F	STW
11	HINDAUN	DEHRA	DEI	F	OBCW
12	HINDAUN	GHOSLA	MAYA	F	SCW
13	HINDAUN	JAGAR	SUNEETA	F	SCW
14	HINDAUN	JATNANGLA	KUSUM DEVI	F	SCW
15	HINDAUN	JATWARA	SANTI DEVI	F	GENW
16	HINDAUN	KACHROLI	RAMOTI	F	OBCW
17	HINDAUN	KAYARDA KHURD	SHANTI JAIN	F	GENW
18	HINDAUN	KHEDI HEWAT	MOHAR BAI	F	SCW
19	HINDAUN	KOTRI	KAMLESH MEENA	F	STW
20	HINDAUN	LEHCHODA	SUPHADI	F	OBCW
21	HINDAUN	PATODA	SUA BAI	F	STW
22	HINDAUN	REWAI	RUMALI DEVI	F	SCW
23	HINDAUN	SANET	SUSHMA DEVI	F	SCW
24	HINDAUN	SHERPUR	SOMOTI DEVI	F	OBCW
25	HINDAUN	SHRIMAHAVEERJI	HARPYARI	F	OBCW
26	HINDAUN	SIKRODA MEENA	PRAKASHI MEENA	F	STW
27	HINDAUN	VIJAYPURA	SUSHILA DEVI	F	OBCW

List of Women Sarpanch in Nadoti Block

S.No.	Panchayat Samiti/ Blocks	Gram Panchayat Name	Elected Sarpanch	Sex	Category of Sarpanch
1	NADOTI	BADAGAON	RAMKATORI GURJAR	F	OBCW
2	NADOTI	BAGOR	ANGOORI	F	OBCW
3	NADOTI	CHIRAVANDA	GUDDI DEVI DHOB	F	SCW
4	NADOTI	DALPURA	TOHAFA DEVI	F	STW
5	NADOTI	DHOLETA	KAJODI MEENA	F	STW
6	NADOTI	GADHMORA	BACHHI KOLI	F	SCW
7	NADOTI	GUDACHANDRAJI	MALTI DEVI SONI	F	OBCW
8	NADOTI	JEETKIPUR	MAN KANWAR RAJPUT	F	GENW
9	NADOTI	KEMA	PHOOL BAI MALI	F	OBCW
10	NADOTI	KEMLA	SABO BAIRWA	F	SCW
11	NADOTI	KUNJELA	VIJAYDEVI MEENA	F	STW
12	NADOTI	MENDKAPURA	KESULA DEVI	F	OBCW
13	NADOTI	SALAWAD	SARJU DEVI	F	STW
14	NADOTI	TIMAWA	KESANTI MEENA	F	STW

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