

CHAPTER – VIII

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Importance of the study, scope of our study, its major aims and objectives have been focused in the foregoing chapters. We have tried to analyse the concept of political socialization, its origin, growth and the agencies that promote political socialization. Nature of women and their importance in the society have also been projected in course of the discourse. Before analyzing political awareness, political orientation and interest, and political involvement of the rural women; we have given a broad profile of the area under our study. In the present chapter, we are presenting a summary review of what we have done in the preceding chapters alongwith our concluding observations.

In the introductory chapter, we have dealt with the approaches to the study of political socialization. In this context, a brief review of the available literature concerning political socialization has been presented. We have also shown the aim and objective of the study, the scope of study, hypothesis, methodology, sample and coverage respondent structure, data collection and data analysis.

In the second chapter, while analyzing the conceptual discourse of political socialization, we have discussed the meaning, nature, development, theories, types of political socialization in addition to the agencies that contribute to such socialization. Political socialization has

been conceived as one of the important social processes. It is, in fact, a socialization process. It happens to be a significant 'input function' of the political system that regulates the society through "authoritative allocation of values". It is a life long process that starts from the early age and continues throughout the life span of the individual. Political socialization encompasses all kinds of political learning. The individual develops his awareness, orientation, interest and involvement in the political objects through the process of political socialization. He is socialized to his political culture and realizes his political identity. It is through the process of political socialization, the political culture is not only maintained, but also transmitted from one generation to the other. The concept of political socialization has been approached both from macro and micro levels. Under the said two broad levels, a number of theories have been evolved like, psychoanalytic theory, learning theory and cognitive development theory. However, political socialization has been chiefly approached from three different angles – attachment to the political system, partisan attitude and political participation. Political socialization is of two types – Manifest and latent. And the important agents of political socialization are the family, educational institutions, peer groups, work place, mass media, etc.

Our chief concern, in the third chapter was to put forth the status of women in India with particular reference to Orissa and the area under our study. In the process, we have analysed the status of women during the ancient period, medieval period and the modern period. We undertook this problem because the women issues have gained international recognition all over the globe. Women have become more conscious of their constitutional rights. The rural and even the tribal women are now aware of

it. Modern education has also changed the outlook of the women to a large extent. The women movements are gaining momentum. The educated women do not want to be confined to the four walls of her house. Today, women are organized and articulating their interest through demonstrations, dharanas, and strikes. Even they are demanding for 33% of reservation in the legislative bodies. On the other hand, the national government have taken up a number of policies for the welfare and development of the women so also the state governments. In this context, political socialization of women has been considered to be most essential, which would ensure women participation in the political objects.

The fourth chapter of the study has been devoted to project the profile of the study area. Here, we have analysed the demography, resources, physical infrastructure like roads, communications, transportation, educational institutions etc. of the gram panchayat where the field studies were conducted. We did select two revenue villages of the Nizzigada gram Panchayat under the Hindol Block of Dhenkanal district in Orissa for the purpose of our survey. The block of Hindol was taken for the field work as it comprised the highest number of women population in the district.

In the fifth chapter, our major focus was on the analysis of the political awareness of the rural women. For the purpose, we probed into the awareness about formal and informal institutions, political roles and functions. And it was studied on the basis of the responses of the women to our structured questionnaire which was administered to them in the villages which were selected for this research work. It was observed that a

vast majority the women were aware of various political institutions. Interestingly all such women were aware of different political parties. Majority of them knew about the cultural associations. And a sizeable number of them had knowledge about the peer groups and the voluntary associations. Of the women who were aware of the aforesaid informal institutions, most of them were young, unmarried, educated, economically better off from higher castes, employed and had habitation in the locality for a long period. Further, a good majority of the women were also aware of the formal institutions and their functioning. Most of such women knew the sarpanch and the Gram Panchayat. Majority of them as well knew about the Block Development Officer and the Chief Minister. Quite a good number of them had information about the legislative Assembly and the Women Commission. It is observed, that among the women who were aware of the formal institutions, majority were young, educated, unmarried, from higher castes, economically sound, employed and habitated the area for shorter period of time. However, almost all of them knew their Sarpanch.

Most of our sample women, on the other hand, knew about the electoral processes. Party symbols, election campaigns, reservation of seats, etc. were known to majority of the women. On the other hand, many of them did not know about reservation of seats for the women, age for contesting the elections, model code of conduct, etc. However, of the women who were aware of electoral process, majority were youth, higher castes, educated, unmarried, economically sound, and employed.

Majority of the women also were knowledgeable about the functioning of different political institutions, or roles like the M.LAs, MPs and the panchayat members. Also majority knew about the Supreme Court. Of the women who knew about political institutions, majority also were young, educated, unmarried, from the higher castes with better standard of living and employed.

It is further noticed that the family members, peer groups, television, and educational institutions played a vital role in promoting political awareness among the women.

The aforesaid findings, as such, prove that our hypothesis, "Rural women have political awareness to a large extent" is found to be true.

Political awareness generally leads to political orientation and political interest. As such, the sixth chapter contains an analysis on political interest of rural women. It is strange to find that although a small number of women had political orientation in the two villages under our study, a good number of women had political interest. When such women had greater orientation towards political campaign, political meetings demonstrations, strikes, voluntary group activities, etc; conspicuously none of them had orientation towards the pressure groups. Further, among the women who had political interest, majority took interest in the functioning of political parties, in political issues and in working of the government. We also found that generally such women belonged to the younger generation, were married, housewives, from higher castes and majority of them were illiterates. And television, peer groups and family members

were instrumental in inculcating political interest among majority of such women. Hence, our hypothesis, "Rural women in vast number have political orientation and interest" is found to be partially valid".

Women having interest in politics are expected to participate and involve themselves in political activities. Hence, our concern in the seventh chapter was to evaluate the political involvement of the rural women. Because political involvement along with political interest, to a great extent, promotes political socialization. It is discovered that a vast majority, that is 81% of the women, had political involvement in the two villages of Hindol Block of Dhenkanal district. They were particularly involved in voting; played important role as critic of government policies and activities; in electoral campaign in panchyat politics, political demonstration etc. However, about 94% of the women did exercise their franchise during the elections. Remarkably, none of them had any involvement with the pressure groups. Further, of the women who involved themselves in politics, majority were young, unmarried, educated, higher castes, employed and had longer inhabitation in the locality. When 'family' promoted political participation in large number of women, peer groups and television did so among a good number of the women. On the other hand, voluntary organizations and government officials had a little contribution towards promoting political involvement.

Further more, it was found that 95% of the women respondents had developed their faith in the democratic system. A majority also believed in the existing political culture. It is therefore proved that majority of the women had political participation and had developed their trust in the

democratic political system and in the political culture. As such, our hypothesis, "Rural women largely participate in political activities" stands to be correct. Moreover, our major hypothesis, "Most of the rural women are politically socialized" is found to be almost valid. The socio-economic conditions like education, better standard of living, the work place, longer habitation, etc. had a positive impact in regard to political socialization of the women. Institutions like family, school and colleges and the electronic media were found to be effective in promoting political socialization among the women.

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