

P R E F A C E

Socialization is a process through which individual acquires the norms, values and rules pertaining to social relations that enables him to be an effective member of society. On the other hand, political socialization inculcates political attitudes and values in individual through which the political culture is sustained and transmitted from one generation to the other. It is through this process of political socialization that the individual is oriented towards political object. The aim of this process is to train or develop the individuals in a way that they become well functioning members of a political community. This makes people aware of the fact that the institutions affecting their social life could, in turn, be affected by them. Large number of people who had participated only in village politics are now looking at things in the perspective of national politics in which they feel constantly involved.

However, participation of women in politics did not change the ideals of Hindu womanhood. The role of a wife and mother continued to be more important, particularly in rural Orissa. They have no right to choose between a career as a politician or as a housewife and mother. Though, to some extent they have been modernized, yet they have not been fully free of the cultural values and mores of our society. In all spheres of life they have been systematically dominated by men.

The participation of women in the nationalist movement created a tradition of female involvement in politics. The Constitution of India, electoral laws and other legal instruments enabled them to have equal participation in the

social and political affairs of the country. This can be possible only when the rural women become politically more conscious and have understanding of the political environment. But till now no serious study on the political socialization of rural women has been made in Orissa. This is the reason which has prompted us to take up a study on the aforesaid problem. We have probed into this problem by selecting Dhenkanal district as our sample area in the state of Orissa.

The present study deals with the political socialization of rural women in Orissa, particularly in the context of Dhenkanal district. The researcher has limited her study on the position of women in rural areas of Orissa and to what extent and how they are politically socialized. The study also covers the impact of various agencies like family, friends, television, radio, newspapers, educational institutions and political parties in the process of political socialization of rural women.

The first chapter briefly deals with the importance, the objectives and the scope of study. Special focus is given on the review of most relevant literature on the problem which has helped us to shape our course of analysis. We have also shown the hypotheses which have been formulated to guide us in this humble attempt. The method of study, nature of our universe and the technique of data collection have been projected in this chapter.

The second chapter analyses the concept of political socialization. Here, an attempt has been made to analyse the meaning, nature, approaches to its study, theories and types of political socialization. It also covers the various stages and agencies of political socialization.

The third chapter has been devoted to the study of the status of women. This has been analysed in the context of their role during pre-independent and post-independent India. We have emphasized on the role of women during ancient, medieval and modern period. A vital part of the chapter deals with the constitutional provisions in regard to women in India. Attention has been made to highlight women's position in Orissa as well.

The fourth chapter is concerned with the study of the profile of the area under our survey. Here the scholar has attempted to show the geographical location, historical background, economy and demography of Orissa with special focus on the district of Dhenkanal and the sample Blocks as well as the villages.

The fifth chapter deals with the awareness of rural women about formal and informal institutions, electoral process and the functioning of different political institutions. In course of our analysis we also focused upon the role of various agencies which helped promoting political awareness among the women.

The sixth chapter is concerned with the political orientation of women. Our chief purpose was to analyse the political motivation and political interest of our women respondents. We also focused on the agencies that inculcated such interest in women. The socio-economic background of women who had political interest has also been highlighted in this chapter.

The seventh chapter presents the degree of active involvement of women in politics. This chapter focused on the factors responsible and the agencies that prompted political participation among them. We have made a study into

whether the women were politically socialized, whether they believed in the democratic system and support its principles. This chapter also deals with the role of agencies inculcating political socialization in women and the degree of their influence on them.

The eighth chapter comprises the summary of our findings and establishes the validity of the formulated hypotheses.