

ABSTRACT

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Panchayati Raj Institution provided an ample opportunity for women to participation in developmental process of democratization. It advocates for the participation of women in political process of the country, to enhance their empowerment and making them an active partner in the part and parcel of political process. Empowerment and participation both are essential phenomena of the all-round development of women. PRI are providing participation and empowerment to the country women. In rural sector, Panchayati Raj Institutions are already working towards women's empowerment by reserving not less than one third of total numbers of posts of members and chairpersons at all three levels.

As the Panchayats have been functioning actively for the few decades, it is interesting as well useful to know as to how the women representatives perceive their roles and responsibilities in the Panchayat's function, resources, constitution, and responsibility. With this, it is also necessary to determine the achievements made by the women members, and also to find out the problems faced by them. Thus the present study has been planned on the "Empowerment of Tribal Women thorough Panchayati Raj Institution".

The study was conducted in the selected villages of Girwa and Kherwada Panchayat Samities of Udaipur district, Rajasthan where, high number of tribal communities are living. The sample consisted of selected 400 tribal women. 27 Gram Panchayats were selected purposively for EWR and 5 Panchayats were randomly selected from NEWR. From total sample, 200 EWR were selected purposively and 200 NEWR were randomly selected for the study. The data was collected through personnel interview using the tool especially constructed for this purpose. Frequency,

percentage, mean score, mean weighted score and Chi Square test were used for analyzing the data.

It was found that more than half of respondents socio-economic status were came under the low category, while few of them belonged to high category. It was measured that knowledge regarding the PRI and their related features, almost half EWR and three fourth NEWR have low level of knowledge, while some percent of respondents fell under the high level of knowledge. The association of demographic variables with knowledge indicated that out of the selected variables as age, education, family composition, type of house, well availability, type of livestock of EWR and NEWR were significantly associated with knowledge related to the PRI. Similarly family occupation and socio economic status were associated with the NEWR only. Women's participation in most areas was viewed empowered while some were reported poor performance in terms of personal development, addressing public meetings and dealing with official authority. Participation gaps were noticed in deliberations, ability in handling Panchayat work and areas of self-development. It was found that NEWR have less level of participation as compare to EWR. It showed that majority of EWR had low level of perception, whereas less than one forth possessed high level perception followed by 14.50 percent. Similarly role performance was found low level among high percentage of respondents (i.e. 70.50%). With regard to the efforts and achievements of EWR it was revealed that a majority of them put their efforts on constructive, village development work and very nominal percentage of respondents had achieved. Majority of EWR were faced problem of lack of self-confidence, while majority of NEWR were faced self-motive of panch members and lack of support from Panchayat members.

It can be concluded that PRI were plays an important role in empowerment of rural women. It has focused on decentralizing the power at grass root level in rural community. Based on the findings it has been observed that empowerment has been initiated through these acts among tribal areas in some extent, simultaneously there is a need to address the specific barriers or constraints which have been identified in present study.