

CHAPTER - V

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Preview:

The chapter focuses on the sample selected for the present investigation along with the tool developed to elicit information from the respondents. It also analyzes and interprets the statistical data culled from the sample, keeping in view the objectives and hypotheses of the study.

5.0 INTRODUCTION:

Analysis of data means studying the tabulated material in order to determine inherent facts and meanings. The analysis and interpretation of data represents the application of deductive and inductive logic to the research process.

In the present investigation, the researcher has adopted the cohesion statistical methods for the analysis and interpretation of data.

The present study has been carried out in the most backward District of Telangana (Erstwhile Andhra Pradesh) State. The district consists of **46 mandals** divided into **three Revenue divisions** viz., Sangareddy, Medak and Siddipet.

The population of representatives in local bodies (men and Women) in Medak District may be summarized as follows: ZPTC=46; MPP=46; MPTC=660 and Sarpanches= 1054 altogether 1806. Out of which, 15 ZPTC members; 19 MPP; 254 MPTC and 376 Sarpanches (**652/664**) were the sample selected for the present investigation, as shown in the figure.

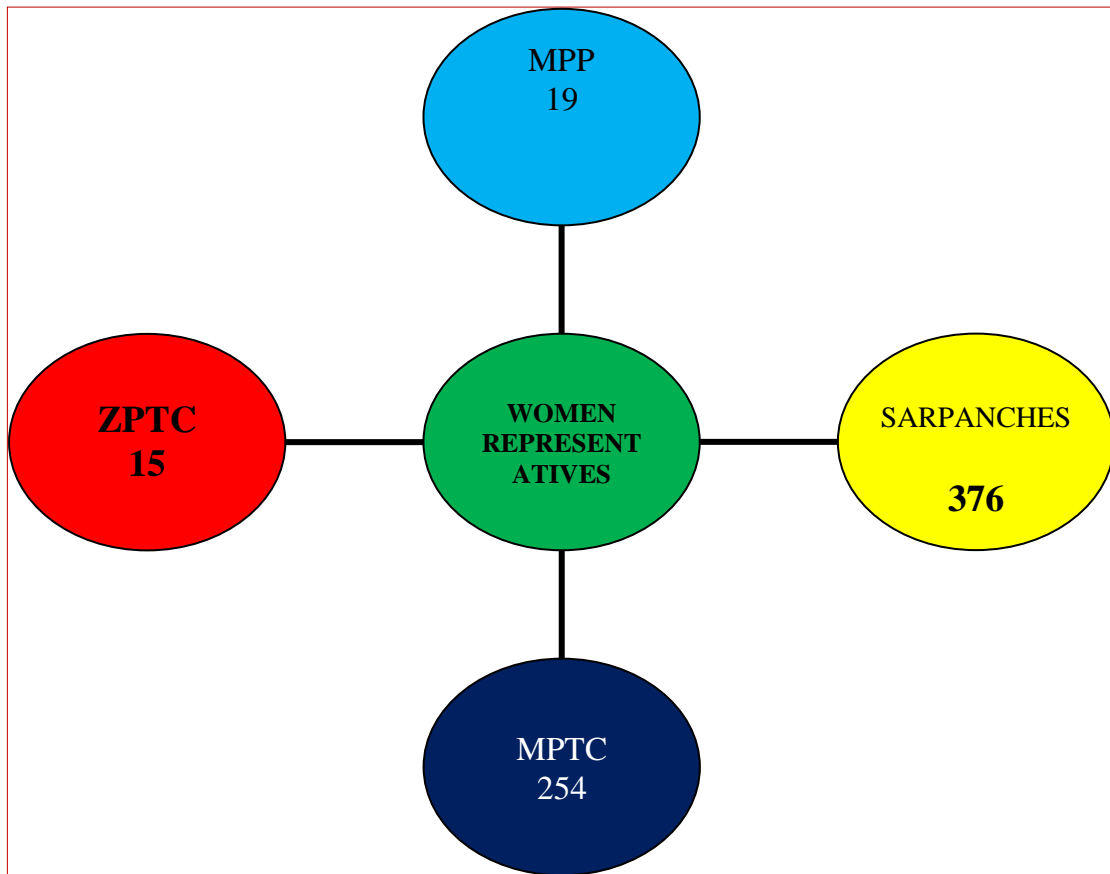
WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN LOCAL BODIES

Figure-2

As stated earlier, the chief concern of this investigation was to *investigate the empowerment of women in Medak District: A Case Study on Local Bodies*. Accordingly, a questionnaire was developed for the clientele selected to elicit appropriate information related to the problem on hand, keeping in view the objectives and hypotheses of the study.

The present questionnaire consists of two parts.

Part- A: consists of ten questions, seeking personal information of the women respondents, which includes personal profile like, name; age; caste; qualifications; occupations; perceptions regarding reduction of age in voting; elections once in five years; source of information on women reservations; efficiency of women in local political positions and mode of electoral participation of women.

Part- B: It consists of ten statements based on the perceptions of the sample related to women participation in local bodies in Medak District.

1. Importance of women's participation in local politics was the first statement, which consists of four sub-themes like (a) Local Government Politics is more accessible than state; (b) Local Government Positions are less competitive; c) Local Government Politics is less intimidated and d) Women tend to gain more political experience in local politics.

2. The second statement is based on the consequences of low level participation of women in local bodies, this has sub-themes like a) Low women political participation at local level is not a good governance; b) It can lead to low representation at decision-making; and c) It is a form of discrimination.

The third area focuses on factors hindering women's participation in local parties, which seeks information on a) Political violence hinders women's participation in local politics; b) Low level of education; c) socio-cultural beliefs; d) Reproductive role; and e) High rate of poverty among women.

The fourth phase is pertaining to factors that motivate women participate in local bodies, which reflects a) Economic independence; b) Family encouragement; c) Communication skills; d) transparency and e) Members support.

The fifth areas is related to reasons in contesting elections a) Capture power; b) Help people in society; c) Pressure from family members; d) Pressure from party and e) Non-availability of women candidates.

The Sixth statement is to find out the problems faced by women elected representatives based on a) Use of abusive language; b) Lack of support from male members; c) lack of support from female members; d) self-motives of members and e) Unnecessary interference of members.

The seventh statement is based on the constraints to overcome which comprises five statements like a) avoiding the situation; b) Building confidence; c) By motivating others; d) Regularly attending meetings and e) Thorough participation in discussions.

As per the change in attitude and practice is concerned (08) , the sub-themes were: a) developed positive attitude; b) Children's marriage age; c) Dowry System; d) Contesting again and e) contesting for higher post or at higher level.

With regard to aspects to perform better as an elected representative (09) four choices were supplied, they are a) Literacy; b) Ability to speak ; c) Self-confidence and d) No male domination.

Finally, measures that encourage more participation of women at local level was given five alternatives viz., a) Government should implement policies earmarked for them effectively; b) women organizations should organize Orientation Programmes for women; c) Religious leaders should encourage women to participate without fear or favour; d) women themselves should come forward to participate and e) women should possess the ability to network with other parties.

To establish the content validity the tools used in the study was referred to a good number of experts in the field of Political Science, as well as to the faculty at the Osmania University and Central University and other higher educational institutions. On the basis of their suggestions the tools were suitably modified/ amended and used for the present study.

A pilot study was conducted to determine the suitability, validity and reliability of the items in the questionnaire. Fifteen (15) respondents from three revenue divisions of the State were selected to test the reliability of the questionnaire. Taking all precautions and by clear instructions, tools were administered for the first time. After a gap of four-week period the same tool was again administered on the same sample. The scores obtained were computed. The value of “r” was found to be (0.78) which indicates positive correlation. This denotes the reliability of the score.

The questionnaire was administered to the sample selected. Every care has been taken to ensure their responses as objectively as possible. The respondents were requested to record their free, frank and independent responses. An assurance was given to the respondents that their responses shall be kept confidential and information

collected will be used only for the purpose for it was collected. Suitable statistical techniques with percentages along with Microsoft excel package and SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) 16.0 were employed to analyze the data and draw inferences. The same was analyzed and interpreted as follows:

Table 5.1.1 showing the caste of the sample

	Caste	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cummulative Percent
Valid	SC	70	10.73	10.7	10.73
	ST	20	3.06	3.06	13.79
	BC	154	23.61	23.61	37.40
	Others	408	62.60	62.60	100.0
	Total	652	100.0	100.0	

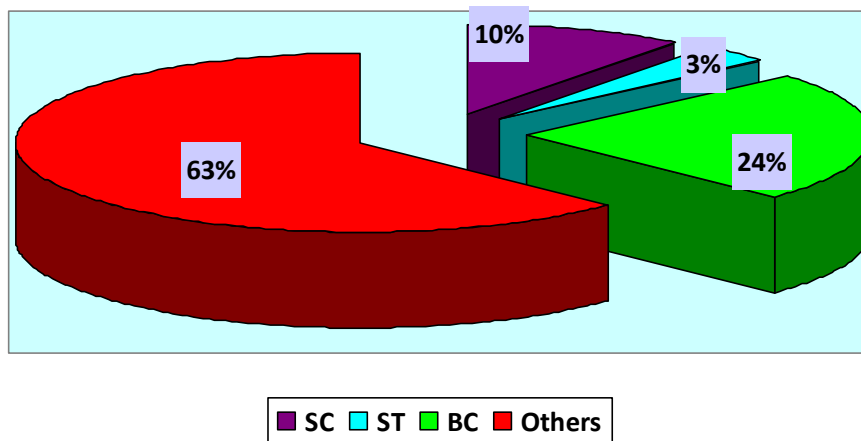


Figure-3

The table and the diagram demonstrate that a great majority of the sample (63%) selected for the present investigation belonged to other castes. On the other hand, it can be seen that a simple majority (24%) were from Backward classes; followed by (10%) from Scheduled Castes and the residual sample (3%) were from Scheduled Tribes.

Table 5.1.2 showing the Education of the sample

	Education	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumm. percent
Valid	a) Illiterate	486	74.5	74.5	74.5
	b) Primary	108	16.5	16.5	91.0
	c) High School	30	4.6	4.6	95.6
	d) Intermediate	18	2.7	2.7	98.3
	e) Degree and above	10	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	652	100.0	100.0	

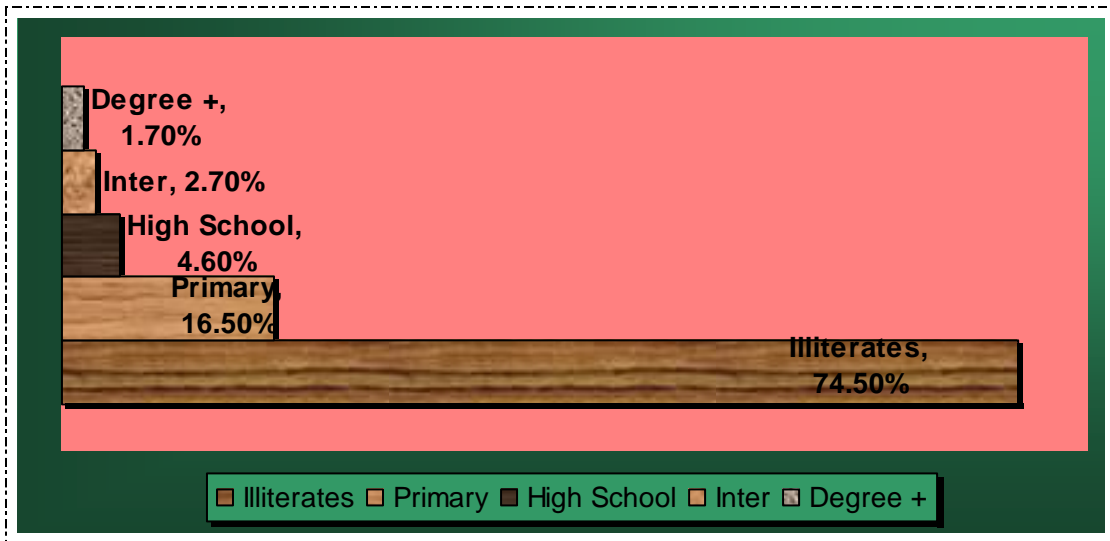


Figure-4

As per the education of the sample is concerned, the table and the diagram reveal that an overwhelming majority (74.5%) of the sample were illiterates; followed by a simple majority (16.5%) studied up to primary school; another (4.6%) completed their High school. Just a meager number (2.7%) studied Intermediate and the remaining (1.7%) could possess degree qualification.

Table 5.1.3 showing the Occupation (Self) of the sample

Occupation (Self)	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumm percent
Valid a)House Wife	259	39.72	39.72	39.72
b)Daily labourer	208	31.90	31.90	71.62
c)Public Service	78	11.95	11.95	83.57
d)Private Service	107	16.43	16.43	100.0
Total	652	100.0	100.0	

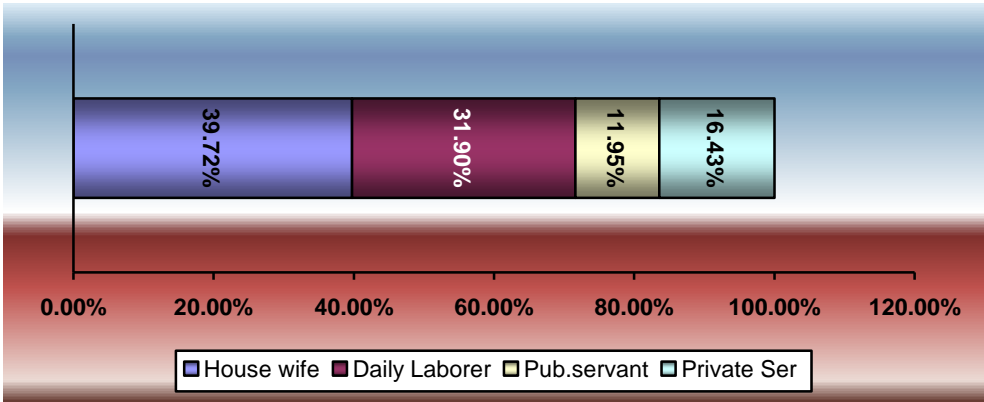


Figure-5

With regard to occupation of the sample is concerned, a great majority of the sample (39.72%) confessed they are house wives and another (31.90%) were daily labourers. At the same time, a simple majority of the sample (16.43%) in private sector and another (11.95%) were from public service.

Table 5.1.4 showing the Occupation (Husband) of the sample

Occupation (Husband)	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumm Percent
a)Daily labourer	376	57.6	57.6	57.6
Valid b)Public Servant	73	11.1	11.1	68.7
c)Private Service	203	31.3	31.3	100.0
Total	652	100.0	100.0	

It is evident from the table that more than half of the sample (57.6%) confessed that their husbands were daily labourers; followed by (31.3%) of the sample confirmed their husbands hail from private services and the remaining (11.1%) belong to public services.

Table 5.1.5 showing the perceptions of the sample

Do you know that the voting age has been reduced?		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumm. percent
Valid	Yes	548	84.5	84.5	84.5
	No	104	15.5	15.5	100.0
Total		652	100.0	100.0	

With regard to a query whether the sample was aware of the reduction of age for voting, a large majority of the sample (84.5%) were affirmative, while, the residual sample (15.5%) were not aware of it.

Table 5.1.6 showing the perceptions of the sample

Do you know that the elections are conducted for every five years ?		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumm Percent
Valid	Yes	508	77.9	77.9	77.9
	No	144	22.1	22.1	100.0
Total		652	100.0	100.0	

The table reveals that a large majority of the sample (77.9%) were aware of the fact that elections are conducted for every five years, whereas, a simple majority (22.1%) opposed the statement.

Table 5.1.7 showing the perceptions of the sample

Source of information on women reservations	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumm percent
Valid a)Family	255	39.2	39.2	39.2
b)Neighbours	161	24.6	24.6	63.8
c)Govt. Officials	43	6.6	6.6	70.4
d)Media	118	18.0	18.0	88.4
e)Women Organizations	75	11.6	11.6	100.0
Total	652	100.0	100.0	

The table clearly shows that a good majority of the sample (39.2%) opined family as the main source of information; followed by another simple majority (24.6%) from their neighbours. On the other hand, (18.0%) expressed media ;(11.6%) attributed to women organizations and just a meager number (6.6%) opined government officials as main source of information on women reservations.

Table 5.1.8 showing the perceptions of the sample

Can women be efficient in Local Political Positions?		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumm. percent
Valid	Yes	403	61.8	61.8	61.8
	No	137	21.0	21.0	82.8
	Not Sure	112	17.2	17.2	100.0
Total		652	100.0	100.0	

For a query whether women are efficient to hold political positions in local bodies, a good majority of the sample (61.8%) were affirmative, while, a simple majority of the sample (21.0%) disagreed, whereas, a meager sample (17.2%) opted not sure.

Table 5.1.9 showing the perceptions of the sample

Mode of Electoral participation		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumm. percent
Valid	a)As a voter	216	33.1	33.1	33.1
	b)As a member of a political party	223	34.2	34.2	67.3
	c) As a supporter	14	2.1	2.1	69.4
	d) As a candidate	125	19.2	19.1	88.5
	e) As a campaigner	74	11.5	11.5	100.0
Total		652	100.0	100.0	

The table demonstrates that a good majority of the sample (34.2%) confirmed that the mode of participation in local elections was as a member of a political party; followed by (33.1%) as a voter. At the same time, a simple majority of the sample (19.2%) as a

candidate and (11.5%) as a party campaigner. Just a meager number (2.1%) confessed as a supporter of a particular political party or a candidate.

PART-B

Table 5.2.1 showing the perceptions of the sample

Importance of Women Participation in Local Politics		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	(a) Local Government Politics is more accessible than state.	196	198	109	103	46	652
		30.06	30.36	16.72	15.80	7.06	100.0
	(b) Local Government Positions are less competitive.	148	152	159	156	37	652
		22.69	23.33	24.39	23.92	5.67	100.0
	(c) Local Government Politics is less intimidated	208	209	106	104	25	652
		31.90	32.07	16.25	15.95	3.83	100.0
	(d) Women tend to gain more political experience in local politics.	201	206	103	101	41	652
		30.85	31.59	15.79	15.49	6.28	100.0

It can be deduced from the table that importance of women participation in local politics with regard to:

- a) The statement local politics is more accessible than State politics was agreed and strongly agreed by almost an equal number of respondents (30.36%) and (30.06%). In the same manner, an equal number of sample (16.72%) and (15.80%) strongly disagreed and disagreed, whereas, a simple number of respondents (7.06%) were not sure of it.
- b) For the statement local politics are less competitive a good majority of the sample (24.39%) strongly disagreed and another (23.92%) disagreed. At the same time, (23.33%) and (22.69%) either agreed or strongly agreed and just (5.67%) were not sure of it.
- c) In another situation like local Government Politics is less intimidated a good majority of the sample (32.07%) and another (31.90%) agreed and strongly agreed to it, while,

- a simple majority of the sample (16.25%) strongly disagreed followed by another (16.25%) disagreed. A meager sample (3.83%) opted not sure.
- d) The last statement was that women tend to gain more political experience in local politics was agreed by a good majority of the sample (31.59%), followed by (30.85%) sample strongly agreed. Contrary to this, almost an equal number of respondents (15.79%) and (15.49%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed, and (6.28%) opined not sure.

Table 5.2.2 showing the perceptions of the sample

Consequences of Low Women's Political participation in Local Politics		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	a) Low women political participation at local level is not a good governance	212	209	102	101	28	652
		32.52	32.05	15.65	15.49	4.29	100.0
	(b) Low women political participation can lead to low representation at decision-making level	211	212	104	103	22	652
		32.36	32.51	15.95	15.79	3.39	100.0
	(c) Low women participation and representation is a form of discrimination	110	115	190	188	49	652
		16.87	17.64	29.14	28.83	7.52	100.0

It can be inferred from the table the perceptions of women with regard to consequences of low women's political participation in local politics as follows:

a) Low women's political participation at local level is not good governance was the statement strongly agreed by a good majority of the sample (32.52%) and another equal number of respondents (32.05%) agreed to it. Opposing to this a simple majority of the sample (15.65%) and (15.49%) either strongly disagreed or disagreed leaving a little space (4.29%) to the option not sure.

b) Low women's political participation lead to low representation at decision making level was another statement strongly agreed and agreed by a good majority of the sample (32.51%) and (32.36%), whereas, a simple majority of the sample (15.95%) and (15.79%) strongly disagreed and disagreed, just a meager number (3.39%) opted not sure of it.

c) In a statement low women's political participation and representation is a form of discrimination was disagreed and strongly disagreed (29.14%) and (28.83%) by the

sample, whereas, a simple majority of the sample (17.64%) and (16.87%) agreed and strongly agreed. The residual sample (7.52%) opined not sure.

Table 5.2.3 showing the perceptions of the sample

Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Local Politics		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	(a) Political Violence hinders women's participation in local politics	186	184	128	126	28	652
		28.53	28.22	19.63	19.32	4.30	100.0
	(b) Low level of education hinders women's participation in local politics.	208	204	108	107	25	652
		31.90	31.29	16.56	16.42	3.83	100.0
	(c) Socio-cultural beliefs hinder women's participation in local politics	175	178	130	132	37	652
		26.84	27.32	19.93	20.24	5.67	100.0
	(d) Reproductive role hinders women's participation in local politics	122	124	182	186	38	652
		18.72	19.02	27.92	28.52	5.82	100.0
	(e) High rate of poverty among women hinders their political participation	158	156	148	144	46	652
		24.29	23.94	22.70	22.08	7.05	100.0

It can be seen from the table the perceptions of the sample with respect to the factors hindering women's participation in local politics, which can be summed up as follows:

- a) As per political violence hinders women's participation in local politics, a good majority of the sample (28.53%) and (28.22%) either opted strongly agreed and agreed, while, an equal number of respondents (19.63%) and (19.32%) have chosen strongly disagreed and disagreed, whereas, a meager number of respondents (4.30%) could stand for not sure.
- b) With regard to the statement low level of education hinders women's participation in local bodies, a good majority of the sample (31.90%) and (31.29%) preferred strongly agreed and agreed. Contrary to this, almost an equal number of respondents (16.56%) and (16.42%) opted strongly disagreed

and disagreed and a little majority of the sample (3.83%) went for the option not sure.

- c) As per the socio-cultural beliefs hindering women's participation in local bodies, a good number of respondents (27.84%) and (26.32%) and have chosen strongly agreed and agreed, whereas, a simple majority of the sample (20.24%) and (19.93%) could strongly disagreed and disagreed. Just a simple majority of the sample (5.67%) were not sure of it.
- d) A good majority of the sample (28.52%) and (27.92%) have disagreed and strongly disagreed to the statement that reproductive role hinders political participation of women in local bodies, while, a simple number (19.02%) and (18.72%) disagreed and strongly disagreed, whereas, the residual sample (5.82%) opted not sure.
- e) Almost an equal number of respondents (24.29%) and (23.92%) either strongly agreed or agreed whereas, a simple majority (22.70%) and (22.08%) preferred strongly disagreed and disagreed, while, the remaining sample (7.05%) expressed not sure of it for the statement that high rate of poverty among women hinders their political participation.

Table 5.2.4 showing the perceptions of the sample

Factors that motivate women to participate in local bodies.		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	a)Economic independence	203	201	116	114	18	652
		31.13	30.84	17.79	17.48	2.76	100.0
	b)Family encouragement	215	213	102	106	16	652
		32.98	32.67	15.65	16.25	2.45	100.0
	c)Communication skills	209	205	103	105	30	652
		32.05	31.46	15.79	16.10	4.60	100.0
	d)Transparency	146	149	152	156	49	652
		22.39	22.85	23.31	23.92	7.51	100.0
	e)Members support	208	205	109	107	23	652
		31.90	31.44	16.73	16.41	3.52	100.0

Adverting to the factors that motivate women to participate freely and frankly in local bodies, the following perceptions were reported by the statistical methods:

- a) Economic independence was the statement agreed and strongly agreed by a good majority of the sample (30.84%) and (31.13%). At the same time, an equal number of respondents (17.79%) and (17.48%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed and just a little number (2.76%) opted not sure.
- b) In another statement which stress on family encouragement, a good majority of the sample (32.98%) strongly agreed and another (32.67%) agreed, whereas, a little number of respondents (16.25%) disagreed and (15.65%) strongly disagreed and just a meager number (2.45%) opined not sure.
- c) With regard to communication skills, a good majority of the sample (32.05%) and (31.46%) either strongly agreed or agreed. Contrary to this, a simple majority of the sample (16.10%) disagreed and (15.79%) strongly disagreed leaving a little space (4.60%) for not sure.

- d) As per transparency is concerned, a good majority of the sample (23.92%) and (23.31%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed, whereas, a simple majority of the sample (22.85%) and (22.39%) agreed and strongly agreed and a little number (7.51%) preferred not sure.
- e) Another factor that motivates women to participate is related to their members support, which was strongly agreed by (31.90%) and agreed by another (31.44%). At the same time, a simple majority of the sample (16.73%) and another (16.41%) strongly disagreed and disagreed, while, a meager number (3.52%) opted not sure.

Table 5.2.5 showing the perceptions of the sample

Reason for contesting elections		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	a) Capture power	196	199	103	107	47	652
		30.06	30.52	15.79	16.43	7.20	100.0
	b) Help people in society	188	182	123	121	38	652
		28.83	27.93	18.86	18.55	5.83	100.0
	c) Pressure from family members	207	206	103	102	34	652
		31.75	31.60	15.80	15.65	5.21	100.0
	d) Pressure from party	209	207	102	103	31	652
		32.05	31.75	15.65	15.79	4.76	100.0
	e) Non-availability of women	189	193	123	126	21	652
		28.99	29.60	18.86	19.32	3.23	100.0

It can be inferred from the table the perceptions of women on the reasons for contesting election, as indicated below:

- a) A good majority of the sample (30.52%) agreed and another (30.06%) strongly agreed to the statement that one of the reasons for contesting elections is to capture power. The same was strongly disagreed by (16.43%) of the sample and another (15.79%) strongly disagreed, just a little majority of the sample (7.20%) opined not sure.
- b) Another reason to help the society was expressed by a good majority of the sample (28.83%) who strongly agreed and another (27.93%) agreed. Almost an equal number of respondents (18.86%) and (18.55%) have either strongly disagreed or disagreed and a meager number (5.83%) were not sure of it.
- c) Pressure from family members was the statement strongly agreed and agreed by a good majority of the sample (31.75%) and (31.60%). On the other hand, almost an

equal number of respondents (15.80%) strongly disagreed and (15.65%) disagreed, while the residual sample (5.21%) opted not sure.

- d) In another statement that pressure from the party, was strongly agreed and agreed by a good majority of the sample (32.05%) and (31.75%). Contrary to this, (15.79%) and (15.65%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed, while, a little number (4.76%) opined not sure.
- e) Non-availability of women candidates was the statement strongly agreed and agreed by a good majority of the sample (29.60%) and (28.99%), whereas, another simple number of respondents (19.32%) disagreed and (18.86%) strongly disagreed, while a meager number (3.22%) attributed this to the option not sure.

Table 5.2.6 showing the perceptions of the sample

Problems faced by women elected representatives		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	a)Abusive Language	201	203	103	104	41	652
		30.82	31.13	15.81	15.95	6.29	100.0
	b)Lack of support from male members	213	211	101	103	24	652
		32.67	32.36	15.50	15.79	3.68	100.0
	c)Lack of support from female members	103	101	211	213	24	652
		15.80	15.50	32.35	32.67	3.68	100.0
	d)Self-motives of members	202	204	106	104	36	652
		30.98	31.28	16.26	15.95	5.53	100.0
	e)Unnecessary Interference	118	121	182	183	48	652
		18.09	18.55	27.94	28.06	7.36	100.0

While stating the problems faced by women representatives, the table demonstrates the perceptions which are summed up as follows:

- a) One of the problems encountered by women representatives was the abusive language employed by the other members or the community, which was agreed by a good majority of the sample (31.13%) and strongly agreed by (30.82%), whereas, another equal number of respondents (15.95%) and (15.81%) either disagreed and strongly disagreed, while, the residual sample (6.29%) opted not sure.
- b) Lack of support from male members was strongly agreed and agreed by a good majority of the sample (32.67%) and 32.36%), the same statement was disagreed and strongly disagreed by a simple majority of the sample (15.79%) and (15.50%) and other (3.68%) opined not sure.
- c) In another statement lack of support from female members, a good majority of the sample disagreed and strongly disagreed (32.67%) and (32.35%), while, an equal number of respondents (15.80%) and (15.50%) strongly agreed and agreed, leaving little space for (3.68%) respondents preferred not sure.

- d) Self-motives of the members was another statement which was agreed and strongly agreed (31.28%) and (30.98%); followed by (16.26%) disagreed and (15.95%) strongly disagreed, while, a meager number (5.53%) opted not sure.
- e) Unnecessary influence of other members (inside and outside) was also one of the problems faced by women representatives, which was strongly disagreed and disagreed (28.06%) and (27.94%), while, an equal number of respondents (18.55%) and (18.09%) either agreed or strongly agreed, whereas, the remaining sample (7.36%) preferred not sure.

Table 5.2.7 showing the perceptions of the sample

To overcome constraints		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	a)Avoid the situation	181	183	122	124	42	652
		27.77	28.06	18.71	19.02	6.44	100.0
	b)Building confidence	208	209	103	101	31	652
		31.92	32.05	15.79	15.49	4.75	100.0
	c)By motivating other members	211	209	101	103	28	652
		32.36	32.07	15.49	15.79	4.29	100.0
	d)Regularly attending meetings	206	203	109	108	26	652
		31.60	31.14	16.72	16.56	3.98	100.0
	e)Through participation in discussions	188	186	122	124	32	652
		28.83	28.52	18.74	19.01	4.90	100.0

The table demonstrates the perceptions of the sample with regard to overcome constraints in local politics, which can be seen as follows:

- a) With regard to avoiding the situation, a good majority of the sample (28.06%) and (27.77%) agreed and strongly agreed, whereas, a simple majority of the sample (19.2%) and (18.71%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed, just a little number of respondents (6.44%) opined not sure.
- b) As per building confidence to overcome constraints, a good majority of the sample (32.05%) and (31.92%) agreed and strongly agreed. Contrary to this, a simple number of respondents (15.79%) and (15.49%) strongly disagreed and disagreed and the remaining sample (4.75%) were not sure of it.
- c) A good majority of the sample (32.36%) and (32.07%) either strongly agreed or agreed to the fact by motivating other members they can overcome constraints. The same was contradicted by a simple majority of the sample (15.79%) and (15.49%) strongly disagreed and disagreed and the residuals ample (4.29%) preferred not sure.

- d) By regularly attending meetings, a good majority of the sample (31.60%) and (31.14%) either strongly agreed or agreed, whereas, a simple majority of the sample (16.72%) and (16.56%) strongly disagreed and disagreed, just a meager number of respondents (3.98%) opted not sure.
- e) In another statement, participating in discussions can overcome constraints was agreed and strongly agreed (328.83%) and (28.52%). On the other hand, almost an equal number of respondents (19.01%) and (18.74%) strongly disagreed or disagreed and the remaining sample (4.90%) opined not sure.

Table 5.2.8 showing the perceptions of the sample

Change in attitudes & Practice		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	a)Developed positive attitude	213	214	101	102	22	652
		32.67	32.83	15.49	15.64	3.37	100.0
	b)Children's marriage age	156	158	153	152	33	652
		23.93	24.23	23.46	23.31	5.07	100.0
	c)Dowry system	206	207	102	103	34	652
		31.60	31.74	15.64	15.80	5.22	100.0
	d)Contesting again	168	169	138	139	38	652
		25.77	25.92	21.17	21.31	5.83	100.0
	e)Contesting for higher post/level	204	206	101	102	39	652
		31.28	31.60	15.50	15.64	5.98	100.0

The table explicitly shows the perceptions of the sample with regard to change in attitude and practice of the respondents as follows:

- a) The respondents developed positive attitude was the statement strongly agreed and agreed by a good majority of the sample (32.83%) and (32.67%). On the other hand, a simple majority of the sample (15.64%) and (15.49%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed and a just (3.37%) were not sure of it.
- b) Change in attitude with regard to children's marriage an equal number of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed (24.23%) and (23.93%). At the same time, (23.46%) and (23.31%) strongly disagreed or disagreed, a little number of respondents (5.07%) opted not sure.
- c) With regard to dowry system, a good majority of the sample (31.74%) agreed and (31.60%) strongly agreed, whereas, an equal number of respondents (15.80%) disagreed and another (15.64%) strongly disagreed and the remaining (5.22%) opted not sure.
- d) Contesting again to the post was the change that can be strongly agreed and agreed by an equal number of respondents (31.74%) and (31.60%), whereas (15.80%) of the

sample disagreed and (15.64%) strongly disagreed. Just a meager number of respondents (5.83%) were not sure of it.

- e) With reference to contesting for higher post or level was agreed (31.60%) and strongly agreed (31.28%) by a good majority of the sample. The same was disagreed (15.64%) and strongly disagreed (15.50%), leaving a little space for (5.98%) who preferred not sure.

Table 5.2.9 showing the perceptions of the sample

Aspects to perform better as an elected representative.		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	a)Literacy	208	209	102	104	29	652
		31.80	32.05	15.65	15.95	4.45	100.0
	b)Ability to speak	206	204	101	102	39	652
		31.60	31.27	15.50	15.65	5.98	100.0
	c)Self-confidence	214	212	103	102	21	652
		32.83	32.51	15.79	15.65	3.22	100.0
	d)No male domination	205	208	102	103	34	652
		31.44	31.90	15.64	15.80	5.22	100.0

In a statement to elicit information on aspects to perform better as an elected representative especially in local bodies, the perceptions of the sample are furnished as follows:

- a) In the first instance, literacy was agreed and strongly agreed (32.05%) and (31.80%) by a good majority of the sample. At the same time, almost an equal number of respondents (15.95%) and (15.65%) either strongly disagreed or disagreed and a simple number (4.45%) opined mot sure.

- b) Ability to speak was another statement strongly agreed and agreed (31.60%) and (31.27%) by a good majority of the sample; and strongly disagreed and disagreed by an equal number of respondents (15.65%) and (15.50%) and just (5.98%) were not sure of it.
- c) With regard to self-confidence, a good majority of the sample(32.83%) strongly agreed and another (32.51%) agreed. Contrary to this, (15.79%) and (15.65%) both strongly disagreed and disagreed and a meager number (3.22%) opted for not sure.
- d) No male domination was the statement strongly agreed and agreed by a good majority of the sample (31.90%) and (31.44%); followed by (15.80%) disagreed and (15.64%) strongly disagreed. Just (5.22%) ticked for not sure.

Table 5.2.10 showing the perceptions of the sample

Measures that encourage more participation of women at local level		Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly disagreed	Disagreed	Not sure	Total
Valid	a)Govt. should implement policies	207	208	104	101	32	652
		31.75	31.90	15.95	15.50	4.90	100.0
	b)Women Organization arrange Orientation Programmes for women	188	187	126	125	26	652
		28.84	28.68	19.32	19.17	3.99	100.0
	c)Religious leaders should encourage women	167	169	142	143	31	652
		25.61	25.92	21.79	21.93	4.75	100.0
	d)women themselves should participate	211	212	97	99	33	652
		32.36	32.52	14.88	15.18	5.06	100.0

With regard to measures that encourage more participation of women at local bodies is concerned:

- a) Almost an equal number of respondents (31.90%) and (31.75%) either agreed or strongly agreed that Government should implement policies effectively. On the other hand, another equal number of respondents (15.95%) and (15.50%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Just a meager number of respondents (4.90%) confessed they are not sure of this statement.
- b) As per organization of orientation programmes by women organizations a good majority of the sample (28.68%) and (2.84%) both agreed and strongly agreed, whereas, another equal number of the sample (19.32%) and (19.17%) both strongly disagreed and disagreed. The residual sample (3.99%) has opted not sure.
- c) The statement that religious leaders should encourage women to represent local bodies, almost half of the sample (25.92%) and (25.62%) either opted agreed and strongly agreed. Another simple majority of the sample (21.93%)

and (21.79%) have disagreed and strongly disagreed, leaving a little space for a little sample (4.75%) choosing not sure.

d) Finally, women themselves should participate was the statement agreed by (32.52%) and another (32.36%) strongly agreed; while, (15.18%) and (14.88%) strongly disagreed and disagreed, whereas, (5.06%) revealed not sure.

SUMMARY

In this chapter, the perceptions of the sample with regard to the importance of women participation in local bodies; consequences of low women's participation in local politics; factors hindering low participation of women as well as factors that motivate women to participate in local bodies; reasons for contesting elections; problems faced by women as elected representatives; change in attitude and practice aspects to perform better as women representatives; and measures to encourage women to participate more effectively were analyzed and interpreted at length.
