The successful working of democracy hinges on continuous and effective political participation of people. Democracy believes in the sovereignty of people and association of all people in the political process is totally indispensable for securing legitimacy and stability of a democratic political system. Therefore, political participation has been an important and interesting theme of research in political science.

In India, even after so many years of independence, a large chunk of population does not take much interest in the political affairs of the country and many people are yet to show their eagerness to participate in its political process. If political apathy of the common men in India is a matter of great concern, then non-involvement of women in the democratic process, who constitute about half of the country’s population, is a much more serious issue. There has been an increasing demand to involve more and more women in the decision-making process in the country. In this context, political participation of the grassroots level women leaders acquires special importance.

The present research work makes a modest attempt to provide an insight into political participation of grassroots level women leaders along with the pattern of their political culture.
and other relevant facts about the universe of study by making a case study of the district of Sundargarh in Orissa.

Taking into account all these factors the present thesis has been divided into six chapters. The first chapter discusses the methods of study, the sources of study, the hypotheses to be tested, the objectives of the study, the utility of the study, and a brief literature review. The second chapter presents the theoretical framework of political participation. The third chapter gives a broad picture of the universe of the study. The fourth chapter analyses the data collected from the field study and presents the pattern of political culture of the women leaders. The fifth chapter deals with the pattern of political participation of the women leaders. The sixth chapter is the conclusion of the study where a summary of the whole work has been given.

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