CHAPTER – 8

Summary

This is an era of women empowerment. Rural women are weaker than Urban women in all respect. Panchayti Raj is an Institution by which some people exercise the power. Provision of reservation for women in Panchayti Raj System is a part of the process of women empowerment. Thus how far the Panchayati Raj System is empowering the rural women? This is a burning question for social scientist. Researcher and supervisor made an attempt to solve this question, collectively in a specific region of Sadar and Jansath block of Muzaffarnagar District. This research is based on rural elected women leader in Panchayati Raj System. The data has been collected through interview schedule and observation. The data has been analysed through tables.

The women development programme emphasized on the employment and health of the women. But they reflect the sympathetic attitude of the programme. Thus for proper development of rural women, there should be enthusiastic effort for all over development. Because women are the bases of the family and play an significant role in social development.

The social role of women in India is important to observe. The women are considered as the agent of the Social change & cultured institution. If the women are backward, the society is too also be backward. Thus the women development is an important aspect of society.
It was to improve this situation and to make them to come out the coma of social bandage. That the policy of reservation has been introduced by the state govt. But why reservation? Despite the existence of constitutional and legislative provision designed to guarantee equality to women, the majority of women are still at the bottom of Indian society. Women are still vastly under represented in political and administrative posts that make important policy decisions affecting them while efforts to improve women’s status have some success. It is evident that new measures need to be taken to solve the problems of the continuing inequality of women (Gender).

Today, one of the issue of concern is the level of women’s participation in local politics. This is because achievement of equality in all areas is seen as inseparable from active political participation. Here women participation in politics includes right to vote, right to contest, right to candidacy, women as campaigners, women as members, women’s involvement in the politics and appointment of women at all level of the government, including the participation of women at the grass roots level through the Panchayati Raj institution.

Reservation of the seats is one of the instrument of political empowerment for women leadership in Panchyati Raj Institution. Although this technique guarantees women representative and a recognition of half the population. Many feel that through such a method a small number of women representative can be isolated from decision making and not represent a power to be reckoned within these institution.
However, through reservation, the presence of women in these institutions can be ensured which in turn may encourage other women to slowly come out of the age-old barriers imposed on them by social structure and share political power on an equal footing with men.

India has Panchayati Raj System but the participatory role of the women is negligent. But with the implementation of 73rd constitutional amendment of Panchayati Raj. The women are given 1/3 reservation of seats in membership and they will be playing an important role in development programmes under the Panchayati Raj Systems. The 73rd constitutional amendment act of 1992 mark historic events in the advancement of Indian women as they ensure 1/3 of total seats for women in all elected offices of local bodies in rural areas and urban areas. In the rural areas, about 1 million women are going to emerge as leaders at the grass roots level and enter into public life through the existing 0.25 million bodies of these, about 75,000 will be chairperson at the village, block and district levels. Women have thus been brought to the centre-stage in the nation's efforts to strengthen democratic institutions. The grounds well that is likely to build up as a result will undoubtedly influence of development and impact on the likes of women.

So focus of the present study is on emerging patterns of women political participation in panchayati Raj system. To empower the women means to develop the capacity to influence the political participation by integrating them into our constitutional system. Implementation of this is the policy of reservation. Reserving seat of women in the political institution will provide
them an opportunity to raise the grievance and other related social and economic problems in a formal manner.

To what extent, the women participation in Panchayati Raj would be influence the society can be studied by observing the political aspects of women representation, their role in Gram Panchayat Programmes and their participation in development programmes etc.

The following questions have been formulated in the present study.

1. To find out the mode of political participation of higher and lower caste women’s in village panchayat.

2. To find out the political aspect of higher and lower caste women in village Panchayat.

3. To find out the dimensions and limitation of higher and lower caste women in Panchayat Raj Institution.

4. To find out the effect of area (Rural & Urban) of higher and lower caste women in Panchayat Raj Institution.

The status of women has concerned government worldwide for much of the 20th century. World leaders have sought to devote the female half of the population through a variety of measures legal reforms, education and persuasion. In 1975 participants in the United Nations conference for international women’s year suggested that member governments establish national machineries such as commissions, committees or women’s bureaus.
The organs, they felt, would focus attention on the need of women and encourage beneficial policies. By the end of United Nation Decade for women in 1985 many countries had setup commissions to do just that.

Recently the SAARC has called on all members’ countries to establish commissions in this region. Although India created a status of women committee in 1975, it served only for international women year. The Indian parliament is finally going to take action. At the end a bill was introduced to establish a commission on women. Welcome by women activists, the bill however must be changed to achieve its status goals.

The women’s movement and the declaration of 1975 as the women’s years and later 1975-1985 as the women’s decade brought some changes in the perspectives of political parties towards women’s. The government has also accepted the approach of visualizing women as participants in the process of development and not as mere beneficiaries of welfare schemes. The 1989 election reflected the changing approach of political parties to women prominent were 30percent reservation for women in institution of local self government (Congress); 30percent reservation for women in panchayat (CPIM); 30 percent for women in government jobs (The national Front) and reservation up to 30 percent for women in certain categories of jobs (BJP).

Indian constitution granted equal right of political participation to women in section 15. Explaining the section 14, 15 and 16 assured the opportunity of equal position and government service to women. If we look the political
process and political power of women, we found about the political participation and political awareness of women.

There is need for understanding the nature caste alliances when rural community powers get transferred from dominant caste to the landless caste such as scheduled caste.

Andre Beteilie(1969) shown in his study that power transfer from Brahmins to the non Brahmins but in both cases land plays an important role. However, Vijay Kumar found in his study of four Villages of western U.P. land has been insignificant in the transfer of power for those enjoying ritually high status and belong to landowning castes to the land less scheduled cast. Yogendra Singh 1969 found 6 village of western U.P. where Zaimindar power was declining while the lower and lowest castes showed a tendency to acquire power.

Vinay Kumar (1989) concluded in his that the transformation of power create a tense situation between the upper and lower cast of villages.

The 73rd constitutional amendment act is the mile stone in history of panchyati Raj institutions reservation for S.C., S.T. and women gives a message to traditional Hindu social system, that change thinking about weaker section of society.

So there is a need to inquiry we change in status of women in rural politics and power structure. The proposed study has been conducted with keeping the following objectives in mind.
Summary

1- To find out the political participation of higher and lower caste women in village panchayat.

2- To find out the political aspects of higher and lower caste women in village panchayat.

3- To find out the dimensions and limitations of higher and lower caste women in panchayat Raj institutions.

4- To find out the effect of area (rural and urban) of political participation of higher and lower caste women.

For the fulfillment of the requirement of the first objective we have studied the socio-economic background of higher and lower caste elected women. Through this objective studied, caste, religion, marital status, age, education, occupation, income and political involvement of the family.

Through the second objective the researcher studied the political aspect of higher and lower caste elected women, on the basis of political sources, political understanding, political participation, political knowledge, motivation and the political process for the empowerment as well as rural development.

Through the third objective of the study highlighted the different dimensions and limitations of the higher and lower caste women leader in the Panchyati Raj Institutions. This objective enlightenment the role of leaders in solution the rural problems. There decision making process, working style and hinderness of women leadership in the rural area.
Summary

Through the fourth objective of the study, find out the impact of the urbanization and other process which occurring change in the rural area on the women leadership.

Political participation: The term “Political participation” is applied for the voluntary activities of people from all the level of political system. Some time the term is applied more to political orientations than activities. The term defined in such way so as to include the exercises of power in non-governmental as well governmental spheres. Some definition of political participation include orientations or attitudes such as knowledge and interest in politics, identification with a political unit, sense of political competence, sense of civic duty and political behavior as well.

Higher caste: Those caste constituted in general caste, term used higher caste in the present study.

Lower caste: Those caste constituted in other backward class, scheduled caste, explained the name of lower caste in the present study.

Elected women: The term of elected women used for those women elected as the pardhan and the members of Gram Panchyat in the Panchayati Raj system.

Muzaffarnagar is a district of western UP. The district may generally be described as an alluvial plan. There are five Tehsils and fourteen development Block which consist of total 1027 Villages. In totality there are 887-gram panchyats.
Out of 14 development blocks, two blocks have been selected for the proposed research work. These are Sadar (Muzaffarnagar) and Jansath block. The gram panchayats have been selected on the basis of reservation of women for Gram Pardhan.

The population of Sadar block as 2001 census is 2,60,400. The Sadar block consists of 51 gram panchayats. 14 gram panchayats have been selected out of 51, reserved for women Pardhan in which 24 female respondents have been interviewed from higher caste and 58 female respondents from lower caste (see the table 3.3-1). For the study, 82 respondents out of 160 were interviewed through interview schedule and observation from this block.

The population of Jansath block as 2001 census is 2,14,002. Jansath block consists of 60 gram panchayats. 13 out of 60 gram panchayat have been selected, reserved for women in which 32 female respondents have been interviewed from higher caste and 46 female respondents from lower caste (See the table-3.3-2). For the study, 78 respondents out of 160 total, were interviewed through interview schedule and observation of this block.

To obtain the needed data from the village panchayat for the present study, interview schedule has been used. The data relating to the district and blocks (Sadar and Jansath) were produced from the record office at the district headquarters.

The source of primary data is face to face interview of Gram Pardhans and the members of Gram Panchayats. The source of secondary data was books,
Summary

Journals, district Statistical office, DPRO office and other published material. The data analyzed systematically through the tables.

All the 160 respondent had been the resource of person for gathering the fact at the village level in 27 village panchayat are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher caste women Pardhan</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher caste women member</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower caste women Pardhan</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower caste women member</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>160</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The aim of this study was make an empirical analysis of political participation especially in rural society among the higher and lower caste elected women leaders. The discussion have been composed in three parts. The first part of the research deals socioeconomic background of higher and lower caste women leaders in village panchayat , second part reveals the role of women leaders and third part the political participation of higher and lower caste women leaders in village panchayats .

In this study 27 villages have been investigated through personal contact , Interview schedule and observation, material has been collected . Each Chapter has been considered as an independent variables of this study . The present study has been divided in eight chapters . The total 160 elected women leaders of higher and lower caste group have been studied from 27
village of Sadar and Jansath Block of Muzaffarnagar district of U.P. Marriatal status, religion, education, age, occupation, family income, affiliation of political parties, political background and political participation have been studied of elected women leaders of village panchayats.

Formulation of unit of local self-Government is to out come of the idea of decentralization of power, as it facilities the task of administration. Established under various act and statutes unit of local self-Government, such as village panchayat participate in the excavation at development scheme in the village. The Panchayati Raj System has now completed more than five decades, Hence it is interesting to examine its structure and function.

In order to understand some of the questions raised in the present study.

1. The socio-economic background of higher and lower caste elected women leaders.

2. The political aspect of higher and lower caste elected women leaders.

3. The dimensions and limitation of higher and lower caste elected women leaders.

4. The political participation of higher and lower caste elected women leaders.
The main focus of this research has been to study or examine the role of elected women leaders and political participation of higher and lower caste women leaders in Panchyati Raj System. Since the rural women for the first time were given an opportunity to enter in the local political institution through reservation policy introduced by Uttar Pradesh Government on the basis of 73rd constitutional amendment.

All the elected women leaders are married in both the higher and lower caste group.

Most of elected women leaders are 31 to 40 and 41 to 50 age group. Both the higher and lower caste elected women leaders belong to same age group.

In the field of education most of elected women are illiterate or less educated in both the higher and lower caste group. Among them lower caste women leaders belong to more education than higher caste women leaders. This is very interesting finding in rural society.

In the filed of occupation most of elected women leaders were found housewife in both the higher and lower caste group. But in lower caste elected women leaders were found in other occupation also more than higher caste elected women leaders.

It become evident from the study that elected women leaders of higher and lower caste group in village panchayat find out whose family have below 3000/- monthly income. Among them higher caste elected women’s family
income is less than lower caste women’s family income. Here mostly higher caste elected women leaders hesitate to tell the actual family income clearly.

The elected women leaders in village Panchayat election received donation from family members and community members for contesting the election of village panchayat. Among them higher caste elected women leaders receive donation from family and lower caste elected women leaders from family, caste and community members. It has been clear that the both higher and lower caste elected women leaders find out who told that their husband and other relatives have involvement in politics.

Undoubtedly elected women leaders have been inspired through caste group and women group etc. Among them higher caste elected women leaders through their family and lower caste elected women leaders through their husband respectively.

Elected women leaders in both the higher and lower caste group of village panchayat have no relationship with any political parties at the time of village panchayat election. But mostly elected women leaders have the relations to different political parties at the time of election (except village panchayats). In spite of the fact that political parties voters prefer the caste and function group in the election (except village panchayats).

Mostly elected women leaders have got help from family members in the election of village Panchayat. Among them mostly elected women leaders have no political background in both the higher and lower caste women
leaders. This is very interesting figure after the implementation of 73rd constitutional amendment.

It is also fact that elected women leaders have no direct communication but they have indirect communication especially by their husband or mainly through their family members. Some of them communicate themselves. Among them higher caste elected women leaders communicate to the public specially through their husband and other family members. On other hand lower caste elected women leaders have direct communication to the public.

It is found that the mostly elected women leaders have faced pressure on decision making process but some of them have been found facing no pressure of their decision making. The higher caste women leaders have indicate that they have been pressurized by dominant personalities from their Kinship in village. It is the same position in lower caste elected women leaders.

Mostly elected women leaders were found who have the best mutual and satisfactory relationship with their panchayat members and a few members of elected women leaders have no mutual relations with their panchayat members. Among them lower caste women leaders have good relation and higher caste elected women leaders have better and strong relation with their panchayat members.

Generally elected women leaders were found who are giving priority to implementation of programmes, construction in village panchayat. Among
them higher caste elected women leaders giving less priority comparatively lower caste elected women leaders in reference to village development.

Most of elected women leaders in village panchayat are not satisfied with the co-operation of administration with women leaders. It was the same position among the both higher and lower elected women leaders.

Most of elected women leaders told that construction work, loan facilities, drinking water facilities and awareness programmes for village people are important. Among them both the higher and lower caste elected leaders have less knowledge about programme of rural development and objectives of panchayati Raj Institution. Here it is very much clear that district administration and rural leadership have a communication gap.

Most of elected women leaders told that they do not take decision in village panchayat. Among them both the higher and lower caste women leaders do not take decision themselves they take decision through their husband and other relatives.

It is found that most of elected women leaders participate in election. Among them lower caste elected women leaders play active role comparatively higher caste elected women leaders in election.

So far at the matter of convince of the voters is a positive step in the election process. Most of elected women leaders generally convince the voter during the election. Among them higher caste elected women leaders less convince the voters comparatively lower caste women leaders.
Summary

Most of elected women leaders have knowledge about the capturing both and anti-regularities at the time of election. Among them lower caste elected women leaders have more knowledge about the capturing of booth and anti-regularities comparatively higher caste elected women leaders at village panchayat level. It means lower caste women leaders have more political aware than higher caste women leaders.

The formulation of election manifesto is the important part of election. Most of elected women leaders told that they do not formulate the election manifesto before the election. Among them lower caste elected women leaders more formulate the election manifesto comparatively higher caste elected women leaders.

Generally elected women leaders were found who are less participate in election activities. Among lower caste elected women leaders more participate comparatively higher caste elected women leaders. It is also found that mostly elected women leaders not participate in policy making at gross root level politics. Among them higher caste elected women have less participation in policy making than lower caste elected women loaders.

Most of elected women leaders do not effort to know the discussion of parliament. Among them higher caste elected women leaders have less interest to know the discussion of parliament comparatively lower caste elected women leaders.
Most of elected women leaders have no worry about the political unstability. Among them higher caste elected women leaders have less worry about political unstability comparatively lower caste elected women leaders.

Near about half of the elected women leaders effort to know of validity of political declaration. Among them lower caste elected women leaders do more effort to know the validity of political declaration comparatively higher caste elected women leaders.

Most of elected women leaders used the right of vote. Among them lower caste women leaders use more right of vote as compare to higher caste women leaders.

It is found that mostly elected women leaders are illiterate due to this most of women leaders do not read the magazine for women development and related to panchayati Raj Institution. Among them both have the same position in higher and lower caste elected women leaders.

Number of studies has been completed on Panchayti Raj System and the rural leadership. The power structure in the rural setting was depend only on caste, class, education and age. Although these factor playing an important role for the rural leadership but 73rd constitutional amendment occurring the change in the traditional Panchayti Raj System. The 73rd constitutional amendment focuses on reservation of sheats, people participation, gender justice, women empowerment and development on grass root level. Consequently a great change has been seen through the new Panchayti Raj
System. The present study revealed that the most of elected women leaders were from 31-40 age group, maximum elected women leaders were illiterate, lower caste women leaders were more educated than higher caste women leader and a big proportion of women leaders were house wife. The elected women leaders of lower caste have more income than higher caste women leaders and most of lower caste women leaders have not political background. Now can be said that 73rd constitutional amendment change the traditional power structure and factors at great level (in total power structure in rural society).

The political aspect of elected women leaders reflect that the elected women leaders of higher caste have no direct communication with public. On the other hand lower caste elected women leader have direct communication with public. All the women leaders have pressure of the decision making of the dominant personality of family, all together women leaders were not satisfied with the co-operation of officers and most of elected women leaders taking decision with the help of their husband in both the higher and lower caste women.

The most clearing fact found that the lower caste elected women leaders have play more active role in the election, convince the rural public, have more knowledge about the capturing the booths and antiregulatory in election, have more interest in the parliamentary discussion, they have worry fore the political instability and they used more the right of vote as compare to higher caste elected women leaders. It can be said that the lower caste elected
Summary

women leaders became more conscious, empowered, participated and developed as compare to higher caste elected women leaders through the 73rd constitutional amendment.

The present study has sought to examine the comparative study of political participation of higher and lower caste women in District Muzaffarnagar: A case study of Village Panchayats. Further studies, however, should be made in various directions for formulating a theoretical base of the rural social order and political change visible therein.

1. A large number of intensive case study of political participation of women in rural areas are needed in order to build up the empirical base. The villages under different situational setting and processing, different characteristic should be selected for the field study. Such field study may provide a wide range of empirical data and help in building up hypothesis and evolving generalizations.

2. The patterns of new social and political conflicts and their influences on village community and leadership may be examine in the villages located in different regions and states of India.

3. An independent study of new social and political conflicts should be made.

4. The government should be improve the voting system especially expense in election because women depend on men economically and they are unable to more expense in election.
5. The government should be trained the elected women leaders at grass root level or Panchayati Raj System.

6. The government should be arrange refresher course in which related material and knowledge of women’s empowerment can be provide to elected women leaders.

7. The officers related to Panchayati Raj Institution should be made cooperation with elected women leaders.