CHAPTER 6

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AREA OF DHULE DISTRICT
Chapter 6

WOMEN’S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN
MUNICIPALITY & MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AREA OF
DHULE DISTRICT

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Chapter 6

Women’s Political Participation in Municipality & Municipal Corporation Area of Dhule District

6.1 Introduction:

The concept “political participation” is the core part of this present research. On the basis of this concept, the researcher tried to find out the scale of women’s political participation. The main objective of this chapter is to analyse the nature of the political participation of women and to find the agencies of women’s political participation. Besides this the impact of 74th amendment into constitution on the political participation of women; what is the proportion of women’s participation at different levels? which problems are created regarding the political participation of women? What is the status of women when they will be in ruling power? The study of the nature of the political apathy and the remedies will be is done in this chapter by surveying all above points.

Political participation is a relative concept. It is observed in more or less proportion relative to time, place and person. It differs in different nature. The influence of it also seen on the life of the person the effect of this influence is trying to find out in this present chapter.

6.2 The nature of the political participation of women:

The people are contributing their active participation with state and simple way through the general elections in a democratic government system. Consequently the democracy becomes strong. In different government system, people show their participation sometimes by directly – indirectly, openly – secretly, spontaneous – by force and sometimes people may show the participation which is either showing solidary or defensive. In democratic government system, the political participation of people has tremendous significance. But the reality is observed in modern democracy that, the political involvement of citizens in political decision making process is not seen as wide
as expected. It is observed that, in democratic government system generally the opportunities and the tools for open political participation are available in more amounts.

The proportion of political participation in different factors of society depends upon many things and the proportion of political participation is seen in more or less proportion at different levels of society. According to Limbrith, “when a person is active in any political action, then with that action many other political processes are also taking place (completing) e.g. the person who is casting a vote is also canvassing for voting”. Such type political participation is of personal type. Casting of votes, taking part in canvassing, discussing on politics etc. is included in personal type of political participation. Such type of political participation of women is observed in the areas of Municipalities & Municipal Corporations in Dhule District. Among it the participation in voting is seen in more proportion. The survey was done about proportion of women voting, it can be explained by the Graph No.6.1.

**Graph 6.1 (Scale in %)**

**Rate of Women voting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Type</th>
<th>Rate of Women (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Election of Municipality + Corp</td>
<td>83.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election of State Assembly</td>
<td>73.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election of Parliament</td>
<td>71.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

The above Graph 6.1 indicates that the proportion of casting votes by women is highest i.e. 83.6.9% in the elections of Municipality and Municipal Corporations. This proportion decreases upto 73.6% in State Assembly (Vidhansabha) elections and again declined upto 71.6% in parliament (Loksabha) elections.
Table No.6.1 (Scale in %)

Rate of Political issue discussor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>In Family</th>
<th>With Friends</th>
<th>In Leisure time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Discusser</td>
<td>78.10</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>61.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Non-discusser</td>
<td>21.90</td>
<td>32.10</td>
<td>38.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

Besides that, it is observed that, the proportion of women who are discussing on political issues with families is 78.10%, the proportion of women discussing on political issues with their friends (female friends) is 67.9%, proportion of women discussing on political issues in leisure time is 61.2%, and the proportion of women involving personally in canvassing programmes is observed as 34.7%.

It means the nature of the women’s political participation is seen as personal. “The political participation is seen in women. “The political participation of an individual depends upon four kinds of motives such as defentional, solidary, instrumental and civic.”

The women’s political participation seen in the municipalities and municipal corporations of Dhule district is of personal type and solidary in nature and such type of political participation is considered as ‘passive political participation.’ “To consider voting in the election as a political participation is not significant.” Because many times it is seen that well educated citizens also get monotony for the voting. Such citizens have the tendency to enjoy the voting day as a holiday. Behind this tendency there lies an apathy and disconcern towards the voting process. Just like the voting, to attend the political speeches, will be considered as passive political participation. To listen the political speeches broadcast on radio, or to watch the scenes, documentaries etc. on political issues on the television is also included in the above type. All these above things indicates that the citizens have a nominal interest in politics.

Therefore, the nature of political participation of women in Municipalities and Municipal Corporation area in Dhule district is passive, individual and solidary. With reference to this, Snehlata Panda writes in her research paper that, “The interplay of sociological factors and
psychological resources in women is very important in shaping their participatory attitude in politics.”(5)

6.3 The Agencies of the political participation of women in Municipalities and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district:

There are many agencies of political participation. The citizens can show their political participation through these agencies. These agencies are related to various problems, and issues of citizens. Political participation can be defined as per Almond and Powell that, “the involvement of members of the society in the decision making process of the system.”(6) According to D.R. Mathews and W.J. Partho, “The activity through which people which expresses their own opinions is called as political participation.”(7) People express their political participation by different ways; some discusses on political issues with their friends, some may show their political participation by attending the political meetings, ralleys etc. Some get involved in the canvassing programme of any political party; some shows their interest by watching or hearing or reading in various political programmes broadcasted on radio or telecast on T.V., in newspaper. Some shows it by casting their votes. It seems that, the women in the Municipalities & Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district show their political participation through all these agencies.

6.3.1 A Family:

A family plays a significant role in developing the personality of a person. A person gets the social, political and other ideals from the breeding of the parents and other elders in the family. “Family is the first window of a person to look towards the world.”(8) These political breedings are useful for the political participation of a person on his future. Because the formal or informal discussions on political issues are done in the family gets lifelong effect on a person. From such incidents a personal opinion was developed it may be positive or negative. This process of discussions on political issues in a family is called as political socialization. “The political socialization is a life long process.”(9)
The political roles of the family members are decided through the political discussion done in the family. Davis says, “A family plays an important role as a medium for transformation (canvassing) of the personality of a nude child by adorning him mentally. The maximum political personality of a person from a common citizen to a significant political activist is mainly determined from a family only.”(10) Definitely, family is a significant agency for deciding a political participation of a person. Based on this view, the survey is done to find out how many women in Municipalities & Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district are participate in such political discussions in their families? The data collected through this survey can be illustrated with the help of the following Table No.6.2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Dhule Munc.Corp.</th>
<th>Shirpur-Warwade Municipality</th>
<th>Dondaich-Warwade Municipality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>79.85</td>
<td>93.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>20.15</td>
<td>6.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the Fig. shown in the Table 6.2 it is seen that 93.30% of the answering women units from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality have made discussions in their families on political issues. While in Shirpur-Warwade Municipality 79.85% of answering women have discussed with their families on political issues. Such type of discussions is done in the families of more than 75% of answering women units in the area of Dhule Municipality and Municipal Corporation. It means women in modern period are now showing their interests in the discussions on political issues.

Family institution is an agency of an indirect political participation. A collective observation of survey of women in the area of Dhule Municipality and Muncipal Corporation about the question – Are the women discuss on political issues in their families? can be illustrated from the Graph No.6.2.
From the Graph No.6.2 it is observed that more than \( \frac{3}{4} \) means 78.10\% answering women are participated on political debate with their families. Besides it only 21.9\% women are not participated on political debate with their families. From this it seems that women in the area of the Municipality and Muncipal Corporation of Dhule District are participated in political debate in family in more amounts hence they are participated in political process. It means, the women in the district are used family institution as agency of political participation. From this it proves that political participation of women is increased.

6.3.2 Education:

“Hyman, Wright and Lipset have found in their studies that educated people have greater degree of tolerance.”\(^{(11)}\) Education makes man politically aware. A man as much educated as its thoughts gets wider and he gets politically alert; and as political awareness is more as political participation get increased. Due to the effect of the education, “political and social behavior defers in the literate and illiterate person; and due to education, social, political and mental level of person is increased.”\(^{(12)}\) The person gets not only education but also political and social ethics from the knowledge of the subject like social science and philosophy. The knowledge of political parties, elections, governing systems etc. are getting in a student life of person, so political awareness is developed in that person. Due to education quality of leadership and politics are develop
from infancy to the person indirectly. Education is a tool to develop society and person hence Harbour Spencer says that, “education means practice to live whole beautiful live”(13) In short due to a medium of education politicalization of person is happened and his political participation is determined.

The survey about education of women from the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district is taken and then the collected data is illustrated by Graph No. 6.3.

**Graph No.6.3 (Scale in %)**

Rate of women Literacy. (Munci. and Munci Corp. area of Dhule district)

It is observed from the obve Graph 6.3 that, in the area of Dhule Municipality and Municipal Corporation, 94.70% of answering women are educated and only 5.30% of answering women are uneducated. In educated women, the women are includes whose education ranges from primary education to higher and vocational education.

The areawise survey of education of women can be illustrated by the following TableNo.6.3.
Table No.6.3 (Scale %)  
The proportion of Education of Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literate</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>97.76</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>2.24</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Table 6.3 it is observed that in the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation, Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and in Dondaich-Warwade Municipality serially 93.3%, 97.76% and 100% of answering women are educated. It means that the proportion of uneducated women is negligible. As the effect of the education of women, “37 women candidates were elected in spite of only 35 reserved seats in general elections of Dhule Municipal Corporations in 2013 and for the 70 seats of corporator out of 468 candidates, 247 women candidate announces their candidature means more than half of the total candidates were contesting the election.”(14) It shows that the political participation has been increased due to the education of women.

At present it is observed that women are used their education qualities for increasing the political participation with improving their careers. So, most of the women in urban area of Dhule district get benefit of education. It can be explained easily from Table No.6.4 collected from the survey related to this.

Table No.6.4 (Scale in %)  
Is the development occurs due to education?

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>97.01</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>93.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>8.10</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey
From the above Table No.6.4 it is observed that in the area of Dhule Municipality and Municipal Corporation, 93.6% of answering women says there is a development due to education and only 6.4% a women think that there is no development due to education. When the researcher tried to know the reason behind this reply, then he found the problem of increasing in number of educated unemployees youth. If considered areawise, then 91.9% answering women Dhule Municipal Corporation area, 97.01% women in Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and 100% women in Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area thinks that development occurs due to education.

Most of the women think that the development occurs due to education, it means that, education is one of the medium of women empowerment and it becomes possible to make the women competent with the help of education.

Conclusively it can be said that education is an influencing factor in the political socialization of women in the areas of Dhule Municipality and Municipal Corporation and thus the process of political participation of women is going to be continued constantly through the media of ‘education’.

A political awareness and the knowledge of political processes are developed in the women due to education and a positive attitude towards political participation is developed among the women.

6.3.3 A friend Circle:

One of the primary factors which have a tremendous and deep influence on the life of any person is a friend circle or a peer group. Just after a family members and elders, the friend circle and peer group members are acts to give a direction to the nature, thoughts and opinions of any person. Because a person enjoys a free atmosphere in a friend circle and in peer groups as compared to family and educational institutes. A free and informal discussion on political issues in the friend circle and peer group has a great influence on a person which also determines his political behavior.

According to Martin Lewin, “An individual has a tendency that he accepts the groups of having majority among all similar groups.” In friend circles only a person accepts the particular ethics by becoming politically empower. In a friend circle, the
political socialization of an individual takes place through the discussions, debate on some issues, different opinions, conversations, communications etc and according to it, the nature of political participation of that person is determined.

Generally maximum women are busy in their household chores. In their leisure time they talk and discuss with their female friends at different places like the colony or market etc. Working women, business women, women working on daily wages, also discuss with their friends and co-workers about politics. In the urban areas of district, women meet together through Rotary Club, Lion Club, Women’s Saving Groups, Women Groups of Lokmat & Sakal Media, and Various Mahila Mandal etc. In such meetings formal discussions are arranged on political social issues. These discussions are seen to be more extensive during the period of elections. But it is seen that such type of meetings are limited for up to about local self government issues. The survey was done with respect to it can be explained with the help of Table No.6.5.

### Table No.6.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>62.69</td>
<td>93.30</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>37.31</td>
<td>6.70</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Table 6.5, it is observed that, 67.9% women from the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district have makes discussion with their friends on political issues. It means still 32.1% women are there who do not discuss with their friends on political issues. But as compared to Dhule urban area, the proportion of women discussing with friend on politics is maximum Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area and it is 93.30% and only 6.70% women in this area are away from such discussions. The proportion of women having political discussions in the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation is observed as 75.6% while in Shirpur-Warwade Municipality are it is 62.69%. From this information, it can be said that the proportion of
women participating in politics through the indirect agency like “friend circle”, is seen more. In spite of all 32% women in urban areas of Dhule district are still away from with political discussions. Therefore they have to depend upon the **male members of their family for any political decision.** From this, it can be proved that through women have political reservations but a male domination is still continue.

### 6.3.4 Mass Media:

Mass media are considered as a significant pillar of democracy. There is a constant effect of mass media on the public opinion. Various programmes, news broadcast and telecast by mass media creat particular values, tendencies and beliefs in society. The political education is given to the society by mass media. From such education the political opinions, mindsets thoughts of society are determined “Very subtle and secret political messages can be carried to the public through mass media.”\(^{(16)}\)

It is the mentality of people what they see or heard on television and radio and read in newspapers is always true. So, all the audio-visual mass media like television, radio, newspaper, movies plays a significant role in democracy. In the political socialation of society, Government always makes the use of mass media to convey their various government policies to the society. “All political leaders, political parties and government organizations are trying to impart a particular political education to public”\(^{(17)}\) through mass media.

Thus mass media are performing the important function of determining the political opinion of the person, from which the direction of the political participation of the person is determined. The study of the political participation of women on the basis of mass media was done in the area of Dhule Municipality and Municipal Corporation are as follows:

#### 6.3.4.1 News papers:

Considering the literacy of Dhule District, 71.65% of total population is literate.”\(^{(18)}\) The present research is related to the women of urban area in the Dhule district. So the “rate of literacy in urban area is 69%, 63% & 65% in Dhule, Shirpur and
Dondaicha cities respectively. “(19) In the urban area the rate of illiteracy in the women is negligible due to the several facilities available in the education field and so the newspaper reader is of maximum in urban areas of Dhule district. Through this media, the political thoughts are conveyed to the women intentionally or unintentionally. From such type of reading, the direction of these women political participation is determined. The proportion political participation of women through the medium of “newspaper” is shown in the following Table No.6.6.

Table No. 6.6 (Scale in %)
The rate of newspaper reader women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>62.69</td>
<td>93.30</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>37.31</td>
<td>6.70</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

A person is showing his or her political participation knowingly or unknowingly through the newspapers. Their political attitudes and opinions gets determined through reading news in newspaper and fixed their views in a particular direction. The figures in Table No. 6.6 indicate that, 79% women in the area of Dhule Municipality and Muncipal Corporation are seen to be showing their political participation through the medium of ‘newspaper.’ It is observed that in Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area 94.45% means maximum women have shown their political participation through the newspaper. While in the Dhule Municipal Corporation area and in Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area 76.60% and 79.85% women respectively shows their political participation through newspapers knowingly or unknowingly. Consequently their political aspirations and awareness is developed.

6.3.4.2 Television:

In this modern age television has become an integral part of our life. The important characteristics of the audio-visual tool of mass media are that, there is constant
and tremendous influence by every scene on the viewers. Audio-visual aid influences 
by the scene shown on it on the viewers even if they do not understand the language and 
meaning. So the television is considered as a boon for illiterate people. Now-a-days in 
the competition of electronic media and in the news-war of breaking news, the popularity 
of Doordarshan and numerous channels like Star News, Zee News, TV9, Sahara News, Z24 
Tas, Ajtak, NDTV, India TV, BBC, IBN etc is increasing. Literate-illiterate, educated-
uneducated, rich-poor, men-women, young-old all get are getting political information 
through various programmes and news on these channels. So the person gets directly or 
indirectly political knowledge develops political attitude and political values which 
determine his political participation.

The women in the area of Dhule Municipality and Municipal Corporation are not 
apart from the ‘Television’. At present television sets are seen in almost every 
economical echelon condition holder’s house. Now a days various channels are available 
very low cost rent to the families of average economic conditions, due to the revolution 
of information and technology. It is observed that there are maximum women works as 
housewives and this television is considered as the medium of political participation of 
such housewives. These houseviews spend a lot of their leisure time in watching T.V. 
As well as, the labourer women, working women or industrialist women are also 
watching TV after returning home. While watching TV they watch the affairs happening 
in the country as well as in the different countries of the world. Such a way they are 
getting a political knowledge and education. Now a days in almost every city, ‘city 
channels’ is telecasting the news of those particular city; with help of these city channels 
also the person get the information about the local political affairs. Through these city 
channels, the level of political participation of person is determined. In Dhule district; 
local channels like Dhule TV, Mi Marathi, Aai Ekveera, City Channel etc are present.

The proportion of the women from urban area of Dhule district which is watching 
these local channels as well as national and international channels is shown in the Graph 
No.6.4.shown on next page.
By studying the Graph No.6.4, it is observed that the women in the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation in the Dhule district are seen to be using the medium of television to watch the news comparatively more than newspaper and radio.

From Dhule urban area, 79% women are reading newspaper, 61.3% women are listening the news on radio while the proportion of women watching news on TV is 91.2%. Only 8.8% women do not watch news on TV. It means that, the women in Dhule urban area are seen to be showing their political participation through the medium of television.

The comparative analysis of the women showing their political participation through television in the areas of Dhule Municipal Corporation and Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality can be done with the help of Graph No.6.4. According to the Graph it is observed that from the urban area of district 96.70% women of the area of Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality are using the medium television. This is the maximum proportion. Below it, 91% women from Dhule Municipal...
Corporation area and the lowest means 88.8% women from the area of Shipur-Warwade Municipality are seen to be using television as the medium of political participation.

Conclusively, mass media have played an important and significant role; as well as developing the political participation of women in urban area of Dhule district. Besides this, it also plays an important role in deciding the direction of political participation of women. Every news telecast in television has a political reference and so the women in the urban area of Dhule district show their political participation indirectly by watching the news on television, so Television is also considered as the significant medium of the political participation of women. Due to this agency the political awareness is developed among women.

6.3.4.3 Radio:

Before independence, radio was used as an effective medium for conveying the messages. During the war of independence, many freedom fighters broadcast their speeches on radio to develop the patriotism among people. But in this modern age of television and computers, radio is now disappearing from urban society. But still F.M. Radio is now becoming the centre of attraction of urban youth. This media can be used by literate as well as illiterate people. It’s impact is seen more than newspaper because the messages is speedily conveying than newspapers. Actually radio is used mainly for entertainment. But through various programmes based on brainstorming topic, Radio is now performing the function of spreading awareness, accompanied with entertainment. Through such programs a specific attitude of a person is formed and there is a reinforcement of his or her thoughts. Also to these programs a political socialization occurs into the person. This becomes convenient for women to use this medium because they can hear the radio programmes while performing their household works without spending a separate time. The following Graph No.6.5 shows the analysis information collected about the political participation women in Dhule Municipality and Muncipal Corporation area through the agency of Radio.
From the available information from the above Graph No.6.5 more than 50% women in the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district uses media of Radio. But the women are Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area are exceptions to this. Here only 44.03% women are listening radio. Maximum number of women, listening the radio is from the Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area and it is 82.20% while 62% women from the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation are listening the radio. Area of Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality is less developed as compared to the Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area and Dhule Municipal Corporation area as well as it comes under the rural area, so the radio listeners are minimum in number other than Dondaich-Warwade area. In such circumstances it is observed that radio a comparatively cheaper medium that other media is used in this area. But certainly radio is useful in developing the political awareness in educated as well as uneducated women.

6.3.5 Membership of a Political Party:

In modern period various political parties are seen to be in existence in every government system. “The co-ordination and expression of vested interests as well as the important work like the political recruitment and training of political leadership under the
political system are done by political parties and that's why they became the mediator between the two-way interactions of the government and the people.\(^{(20)}\) The political parties have to perform the work such as canvassing and propagating the party’s work policy, for entering into the power of governing. For this, they perform to arrange rallies, speeches etc, to convey the facts about the government up to people and to register more and more members to make the party strong. Political parties not only register more and more people as a member to make the party strong but also they play an important role in increasing the political participation of people. By accepting the membership of any political party, people try to solve their own problems or the problems of society. Due to this enrollment of new members by a political party it causes increase in the political participation of people automatically. Due to this political membership, a person becomes politically effective and gets actively participated. The information collected by the survey done with reference to the membership of political parties of the women in the area of Municipality and Muncipal Corporation of Dhule district can be explained with the help of Graph No.6.6.

**Graph 6.6 (Scale in %)**

**Rate of Women Membership in Political Parties.**

![Graph showing rate of women membership in political parties](attachment:graph.png)

Source: Sample Survey
The above Graph of sample survey indicates that 28.8% of the answering women from Dhule Municipal Corporation area are the members of political parties while 12.69% and 40% women from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area respectively are the members of the political parties. While considering the Dhule district, then in Dhule Municipality and Municipal Corporation area, only 27.5% of the answering women are the members of political parties. From the above study it can be concluded that still 72.5% women are away from the active politics. Consequently, it is seen that there is a negligible participation of women in decision making process. As further classified into local self government institutions, only 28.8% in Dhule Municipal Corporation area 12.69% in Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area; and 40% women in Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area respectively are participating in a decision making process by showing their active political participation. But this participation is negligible. The main reason behind it is there are some limitations on their active participation due to their ‘femaleness’.

Overall, the rate of women accepting an active membership in a political party is not seen satisfactory. From the above graph it is observed that, even in this modern period women are not interested in participating actively as a member of any political party. It is seen that very few women from the area in the municipality & Municipal Corporation of Dhule district are showing their political participation through the medium of political party.

6.3.6 Likes and Dislikes of Political Parties:

A person is a social animal, as well as he is considered as political being also. So he is also performing the function of political observer directly or indirectly; knowingly or unknowingly. From this observation, he develops his particular attitude about political system, political processes political parties and overall politics. Hence, on this attitude his likes and dislikes are also developed and from this his political participation is ascertained. In democratic system political parties are playing a significant role to developing the political participation of people. In democratic system “political parties are performing an important function of developing political assumptions and mass education”(21) Through this work, their popularity get increased and people get attracted
towards them and decides likes or dislikes about particular political parties; accept the agendas of that political party. After sometimes they cast their votes in the favorite of that party in general elections. Overall, likes and dislikes for a political party play an important role in determining political participation in democracy.

Women, in the area of the Municipality and Muncipal Corporation of Dhule district are seen apathetic in accepting the membership of political party. While information was collected through the survey about their favorite political party then the obtained data is shown in Table No.6.7.

Table No.6.7 (Scale in %)
Preferable political party to the women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.J.P.</td>
<td>9.20</td>
<td>17.16</td>
<td>16.70</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shivsena</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>14.93</td>
<td>8.90</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>18.80</td>
<td>44.02</td>
<td>18.90</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.P.</td>
<td>8.70</td>
<td>6.72</td>
<td>37.80</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>2.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No any one</td>
<td>14.50</td>
<td>16.42</td>
<td>15.50</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Table No.6.7 it is observed that, the womens of Dhule district in the Municipality & Muncipal Corporation prefers ‘Shivsena’ as the favorate party means 36.9% women like that party. It highlights the popularity of a regional party. 22.8% answering women likes ‘Indian National Congress party’; 11.4% women like ‘Nationalist Congress party’ (N.C.P.) while 11.2% women prefers ‘Bhartiyal Janta Party’ (BJP). The proportion of women liking other parties is only 2.7% while 15% women do not like any party.

While areawise analyzing of Municipality and Muncipal Corporation area in the Dhule district, it’s seems that, ‘Shivsena’ is the most popular party among the women in
Dhule Municipal Corporation area and the proportion of women preferring Shivsena is 45.6% while 18.8% women likes Indian National Congress, 9.20% women likes BJP; 8% of answering women like NCP and 3.20% women likes other parties. But 14.5% of the answering women do not like any political party.

In the area of Shirpur-Warwade Municipality Indian National Congress are the most popular party and 44.2% answering women likes it. While 17.16% women like BJP; 14.93% women like Shivsena; 6.72% women like NCP; and 0.75% women like other party, besides this there is a remarkable things that there is a big group of women which have not liking any party and it is 16.42%.

In Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area NCP is the most popular party there is 37.80% answering women like it. 18.90% answering women like congress, 16.70% women like BJP; 8.90% women like Shivsena and 2.20% of women like other parties. Here 15.50% women do not like any party.

From the above analysis it is seen that women in the urban areas of Dhule district prefer the national level parties and the parties in alliance with them. In this 48.1% preference is given to Shivsena-BJP alliance; while 34.2% preference is given to Indian National Congress-NCP allians. 15% women have not to any party. This shows that in the urban area of Dhule district, political awareness is developed among the women.

6.3.7 Participation in Voting:

Indian constitution has given a right of voting to the Indian citizens completing the age of 18 years. Women in the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation in Dhule district are using this agency of voting for showing their political participation. The survey is conducted with respect to this and the data is collected. This collected data is indicated by the following Graph No.6.7.
From the above Graph No.6.7 it is observed that 83.4% of answering women from the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation cast their votes. While 16.6% women show their apathy. In Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area 79.85% of answering women cast their votes in the Municipality elections; but 20.15% do not shows interest in the voting. In the area of Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality 91.10% of answering women cast their votes and only 8.90% of answering women do not participate in voting.

The women in the area of Municipality & Muncipal Corporation of Dhule district are also show their political participation by casting votes in national and state level general elections. The following Graph No.6.8 shows the analysis of the data collected from survey with reference to rate of participation in voting of national and state level elections.
Graph 6.8 (Scale in %)
Participation of women in voting process.

From the above Graph No.6.8, it is observed that the proportion of women voting at local elections is more than the state level election, while on the national level election is decreases in greater amount.

In the local stage election, local problems, local government, personal relationship, brotherhoods, intimacy with the candidate etc. these factors also affects on the rate of participation in voting. The elections of the local self government institutions are directly related to the personal development and the development of the surroundings. But in the State Assembly and Central Assembly elections differs from such elections. In this both elections, there is no direct contact of the candidate and hence, the rate of casting votes of women in such national & state elections goes on decreasing.

From this, it is observed that, women in urban area of Dhule district, shows their maximum and direct participation in local politics than national or state level politics. While going to highest level the participation goes on decreasing or while coming to the lower level the participation goes on increasing.
Survey was done to find out the factor to which the women in the urban area of Dhule district give more preference while voting in the elections. Obtained data from this survey can be analysed from the Table No.6.8.

**Table No.6.8 (Scale in %)**

Factors preferred while voting by women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caste</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>7.46</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Issues</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>20.15</td>
<td>32.22</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>68.50</td>
<td>63.43</td>
<td>43.33</td>
<td>65.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No any one</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>6.72</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Table No.6.8 it is observed that in the urban area of Dhule district, women prefer the factor ‘development’. 65.10% of the answering women prefers to this factor. While, 21.3% of answering women prefers to the local problems. 4.7% and 2.8% of answering women consider the factors ‘caste’ and ‘religion’ respectively while voting.

Areawise analysis shows that, 68.50%; from Dhule Municipal Corporation, 63.43% from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and 43.33% answering women from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality prefer the factor ‘Development’ while casting votes. 20%, 20.15% and 32.22% of answering women from Dhule Municipal Corporation, Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality respectively prefers local problems. The factor ‘cast’ is preferred 3.65%, 7.46% and 7.80% respectively. 2.85%, 0.75%, 5.55% answering women respectively consider the factor ‘Religion’; while voting.
Overall, from the above available information, it is observed that, women in urban area of Dhule district gives more importance to the ‘local problems’ and ‘development’ and not prefers any importance to ‘religion’ and ‘caste’. This indicates that, **there occurs a development of political awareness among the women in the urban area of Dhule district.**

6.3.8 Contesting in the Election:

A person declares his candidature for the protection of common interests of his group or society either through any party or as an independent candidate. The candidate tries to attract the people by declaring his thoughts, aims, objectives, policies, in the form of manifesto. He wins, if he becomes successful to attract the people through his manifesto.

In India there is a decentralization of power due to the formation of local self government institutes and the power is reached up to the lowest factor of society which has given the opportunity for rising of new leaderships. Women leadership is now got the wide scope in local self government institutions due to the political reservations for women. In the beginning it was seen that womens were not daring for leadership. But now, in modern times, women leadership is rising, because women got confidence due to education. It is observed that, Kamlabai Ajmera, Shalini Borse, Nayan Kunwar Raval are the women in urban area of Dhule district who had left a special impression in political field. Women leaders like Sangita Deore, Manjula Gavit, Jui Deshmukh, Jayshree Ahirrao are risen through the urban local self government institutions in Dhule district. But it is also observed that, a women candidature is seen at negligible amount at state level and national level elections (legislative and parlimental elections). This situation becomes due to various reasons like lack of political awareness, weaker organization etc. in women.

Following Table No. 6.9 shows the information collected through the survey done in the Municipality and Muncipal Corporation area of Dhule district regarding to the candidature of women.
From Table No.6.9 it is observed that, from urban area of Dhule district only 10.70% of the answering women have been contested in elections. 11.40% of answering women have been contested in election of Dhule Municipal Corporation, while 4.48% from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality have been contested in elections. From the above analysis it can explained that the rate of women showing their candidacy is less than 16% and thus the number of women not contesting for the elections is extremely much more. It is observed that large class of women is still away from the competitions of elections. Overall we can say that, the political participation of women through the candidature in election is seen very less.

6.3.9 Co-operative Movement:

In the localities of Muslim majority area of Dhule city, ‘Handlooms’ are the main resource of their livelihood. In such localities, many cooperative handloom organizations are established. Besides these in Shirpur, Dondaicha and Dhule cities many organizations such as housing societies, co-operative banks, co-operative credit societies, crop defence institute, cultural and social organizations are established and functioning there works. These social organizations are working for the economic development of society by keeping the social interest secure and trying to distribute the equal and impartial distribution of profit. Through the co-operative self-help micro financing saving groups, the women are seen to become economically independent and thus they are now getting the opportunity of displaying their qualities. Development can be brought up through such organizations “Co-operative organizations are nothing but the workshops of
the politics in the democratic system and the beginning of the future political participation is done through these co-operative organisations informally. Co-operation organizations and politics are closely related to each other.”

Therefore a new attitude is now developing to increase the political participation of people through such organizations. With reference to it, the analysis of participation of women in co-operative organizations can be done with the help of the Table No.6.10.

**Table No.6.10 (Scale in %)**

The rate of the membership of women in co-operative organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20.40</td>
<td>17.16</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>79.60</td>
<td>82.84</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>79.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From above Table No.6.10 it is seen that, in the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation only 20.40% of the answering women are the members of co-operative organizations. In Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area 17.16% and in Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area 30% of the answering women are actively participating in co-operative movement. From Municipality and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district only 20.90% women are working in co-operative movement, while 79.10% women are not active in any co-operative organization. The main reasons behind it seems that there is a limitations on women of their ‘femaleness’ and existence of male dominance in spite of reservation for women. Consequently, the participation of women in co-operative movement is seen very less and so women’s active membership in political parties and their involvement in co-operative movement is seen very less.

**6.4 Political participation and political awareness and awakening:**

In democratic system, a political awareness is necessary in a society to maintain the political stability. The society is not only alert for its political system and its nature
but it also shows the active participation in various programmes. “Citizens in the society having political awareness consider themselves as integral part and responsible element of political system and thus continuously participating in political processes. They are completely aware about their rights as well as their duties. They know the whole structure of political system, its functions, input and output factors.”

(23) The role politically aware person is that “we are not simply the audience or subject of the political system but an element of it and their contribution is necessary in the functions of the political system and is achieving it’s objectives. They have not or only the knowledge of this data but they apply it in their actions and thus they always have active in politics and shows there active participation in political processes.”

(24) In the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district, the survey was done to find out the political awareness of women with reference to political participation and political awareness and awakening. The survey was based on following factors:

6.4.1 Knowledge about various government schemes:

Various schemes and policies are implemented for the welfare of people by the government, the information and benefits of these schemes are conveyed to the society by local government institutes. For the successful implementation of such schemes, a mutual co-operation is required between the public and the government. So after says that, “participation in such public welfare schemes is nothing but the political participation.”

(25) Because a person can not get the knowledge of various government schemes without political participation, and he can achieve the expected benefits of those schemes so the political awareness of person of most needful. The survey is done in the Municipality and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district about is the women have got the benefits of any government scheme or grant? The collected information can explain with help of the following Table No.6.11.
Table 6.11 (Scale in %)

Are you the beneficiary of any government scheme or grant?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19.50</td>
<td>18.66</td>
<td>38.90</td>
<td>21.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>80.50</td>
<td>81.34</td>
<td>61.10</td>
<td>78.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the figures shown in the Table No.6.11 it is observed that, 19.50% of answering women in Dhule Municipal Corporation area, 18.66% of answering women from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area and 38.90% of answering women from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area are the recipients of the government schemes. In Municipality and Municipal Corporation area in Dhule district only 21.30% of answering women have got the direct benefits of government schemes, while 78.70% of answering women do not have any benefits of any government scheme. It indicates that, many women still are still unknown about the government policies and so they cannot get benefits of such schemes. This lack of knowledge, ignorance and unawareness about the government schemes create a barriers in the political participation. In Dhule district comparatively more number of women has taken the benefits of government schemes, in Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area. Here the picture is quite satisfactory and hence the political participation of women through the agency of various government schemes is seen in a transitional state.

6.4.2 Knowledge about the government:

In a democratic system, the public representatives elected by the public decide various policies for the welfare of public. The public gives them this power. They cannot use this power without the approval of public. The endorsement of public and wide polularity gives the constitutional approval to the government. To achieve this popularity, the public representatives increase their public contacts during the period of elections. Special efforts are done to increase the public relations. Besides this, a
person also tries to solve his problems by communicating with public representatives, but for this, a people should know who are their public representatives. A survey is done in the present research to collect the data whether the women know there local, state level and national level (Corporators, M.L.A. and M.P.) public representatives.

6.4.2.1 Knowledge about the Corporators or Councellors:

Usually people have direct contact with the corporators. The survey was done to find out whether the women have information about these local public representatives. The collected data can be explained with the following Graph No.6.9.

Graph No.6.9 (Scale in %)

Do you the name of the corporator of the area.

From the above Graph No.6.9 it seems that in the urban area of the Dhule district 90.7% answering women knows their corporators or councillors. It indicates that the women of the urban area aware about local self government, because in this level they have political reservation and hence they have emotionally attached to this local elections. Except this, in this election the contestant are our area, they are in the relationship with these women any these contestants are among the women so the women shows enthusiastic participation in election. It means that women in the Municipality and Muncipal Corporation area of Dhule district are aware about their political
representatives. Consequently, political participation of women is increased into the local self government institutes.

6.4.2.2 Knowledge about Mayor:

Due to the 74th amendment into the Indian constitution women from urban area are actively participated in politics. If there is a lady representative then they remember her specifically. The information about who is Mayor of your city? Is collected from survey and can be explained with the help of following Table No.6.12.

Table No. 6.12. (Scale in %)

Do you know the Mayor of your city?

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>91.05</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.80</td>
<td>8.95</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Table No.6.12 it is observed that, 90.2% of answering women in Dhule Muncipal Corporation area; 91.05% and 90% of answering women from Shirpur and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area respectively knows the names of the Mayor or President of their respective Muncipal Corporation and Municipalities. Women less than 10% are observed ignorant about this. In the area of Municipality and Muncipal Corporation in Dhule district 90.3% women have the knowledge about their president or mayor of their Municipality and Muncipal Corporation. From this it can be concluded that, women have developed the awareness about the urban local self government and due to this awareness; the nature of their political participation at local level is seen to be wide, developed, increased and positive. This type of political participation is considered as consentive and positive but it is not consisered as an active participation because such type of information can be gained through the mass media too.
6.4.2.3 Knowledge about M.L.A., M.P. and Chief Minister of concerning area:

The survey was done in the research area to know whether the women in this area are aware about the M.L.A., M.P. and Chief Minister of there concerning area. Then the data collected through this survey is represented and explained with following Graph No.6.10.

Graph 6.10 (Scale in %)

Knowledge about the public representative.

From the figures shown in the above graph, it is observed that, the women in the Dhule Municipality and Muncipal Corporation area of Dhule district have the knowledge about the M.L.A. & M.P. and Chief Minister. 90.9% of the answering women have the knowledge about the M.L.A. of their respective areas while 81.3% of answering women have the knowledge about M.P. of their area and 91.7% women have information about the Chief Minister of her state (Maharashtra).

From the above data of women which have the information about their M.L.A., M.P. and Chief Minister then it’s seems that the women of the urban area of the Dhule district are awakened about politics and their political awareness is developed.
6.4.3 Information about Women Reservation:

In independent India many efforts were done for the empowerment of women 73rd & 74th amendments were done in to constitution, due to which women have got 1/3 reservation in local self government institutions. In Maharashtra in recent times 50% reservation is bestowed for women in local self government institutions. The survey was done to test the awareness in the women about the information of this reservation. Analysis of this collected information is represented in the Graph No.6.11.

**Graph No.6.11 (Scale in %)**

Do you know that women have a reservation in local self government?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Munc. Corp. And Munc. Area of Dhule dist.</td>
<td>83.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dondaicha-Warwade Munc.</td>
<td>88.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirpur-Warwade Munc.</td>
<td>83.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhule Munc. Corp.</td>
<td>83.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Graph No.6.11 it shows that 83.8% of the answering women from urban area of Dhule district know about women reservation in local self government. While only 16.2% of answering women do not have the knowledge about such reservation. In area wise survey, 83.10% of answering women in Dhule Muncipal Corporation area, 83.58% from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area, and 88.90% from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area, has the knowledge of reservation for women in local self government. In total more than 80% women urban area of Dhule district are well-known about women reservation. From this it is observed that women in the urban area of Dhule district not only have awareness about their rights but also they are...
contesting into the elections to make the proper use of reservation. It means that, there is a **development in the political awareness among women after 73rd and 74th amendments to constitution.**

Conclusively, we can say that women in urban area of Dhule district are aware about their elected representatives as well as about their rights. While giving the opinion about the question, “who can solve your problems properly?” then 75.9% of answering women responded that the women representatives can solve their problems properly. This indicates that women have the attitude to look at the politics and political issues with developing their political awareness. This can be proved from the following points also –

1. Political awareness is developed in women through the mass media.
2. Political participation and political awareness are seen to be developed through the discussions in friend circle and the family.
3. Due to education, political knowledge of women increases, resulting in the increase in political participation. Political awareness is developed due to the development in political participation.
4. Women in urban area show their political participation through the processes of voting in a great extent.
5. It is observed that women are well known about government system, Corporators, M.L.A., M.P. and Chief Minister of concern area and thus it is seen that political awareness is developed among women.
6. Women are well known about the reservation for women as well as their political participation is seen to be increase. While the political awareness is also developed.

**6.5 The rate of the political participation of women:**

The 73rd and 74th amendment into the constitution have brought the women to the doorsteps of development in real sense. After these amendments they have given the opportunities for development through the entry in local self government. Due to these opportunities, women are steeping out far from their household chores ‘chul & mul’ and now they are able to hold the leadership from ‘Galli to Delhi’.
In a democratic government system, each person and each group of society shows their political participation in different ways. We cannot measure the political participation of that particular person, because that person is showing this political participation at different manners at different levels and by various ways at the same time. In general “the proportion of political participation depends upon many things like convenience; availability of mediums, leisure, social assumptions or bearings, personal abilities, the lack of restrictions on political participation and levels of political participation.”(26) Surroundings in which a person lives, there atmosphere and social circumstances also affect on the rate of political participation of the person. “Education, profession, income, sex discrimination, and age, place of living, religion, race, and groups are the main social factors responsible for political participation.”(27) The participation of males in male dominated social system; organizes people in democracy; Rich in capitalism is more than females, unorganized and poor. But these social factors are seen to be changing for different persons in different periods and therefore the political participation of different society or different person is of different nature.

Rush and Altoff has divided the proportion of political participation “into eleven stepped political processes ascending on the basis of levels”.(28) The person shows his political participation at any level from these eleven levels. Highest level among these is for achieving the administrative post. While at the lowest and primary level shows a total apathy. In between these two levels casting votes, to participate in formal or informal discussions, to participate in speeches, ralleys, get togethers, oppositions, to accept the membership of political or semi political organizations, to do efforts for achieving political or government post etc. levels are there. As we go from lower level to higher level, the participation of persons or society goes on decreasing and the proportion of personal participation goes or increasing. But in descending order the number of participants goes on increasing but a personal participation goes on decreasing because while showing the participation at the lowest level no any particular skill or efforts are required.

For the achievement of political or administrative post a person has to prove his competence and so every one in the society cannot get these posts. But many persons are
making efforts to get these posts. Many persons join in the organization to fulfil their demands and their interests, and in below of that level the number of person casting votes is more than all levels.

The proportion of political participation of women in Municipality and Muncipal Corporation area of Dhule district are analysed on the basis of the various levels of the hierarchy of political participation and explained as follows.

6.5.1 The rate of a total apathy:

The people who keep themselves away from any type of political processes are totally apathetic for politics. Researcher had surveyed various general elections to check the proportion of apathy among women in the area of Municipality and Muncipal Corporation of Dhule district. In this survey it is observed that 23.64% of answering women did not participated in voting into the elections, means they have shown apathy towards elections. But it is seen that 76.36% of the answering women are seen to be casting their votes being a responsible citizen of India. From this we can conclude that more than \( \frac{3}{4} \)th of the total women cast their votes. 24.83% women from Dhule Municipal Corporation area, 25.62% from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area, 12.24% from Dondiacha Municipality area were not participated in voting. Thus the rate of total apathy in the area of Muncipalities and Muncipal Corporations of Dhule district is seen very low and the rate of political participation is seen more.

6.5.2 The rate of participation in voting process:

The main medium of determining the political participation is a voting process, because it is considered as the most easy and convenient medium of political participation. The lowest and primary level in the hierarchy of political participation is a ‘voting’ is a continuous activity done by the citizens in the great extent”(29) Indian constitution has given equal value to both men and womens votes. Women in the area of Municipality and Muncipal Corporation of Dhule district are seen to be using this right of voting in a greater proportion. Average 76.36% of answering women from the urban area of Dhule district are seen to be casting votes in general election.
In urban area of Dhule district average 75.17% women in the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation are seen to be casting votes in all types of general elections, while 74.38% of answering women from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and 87.76% women from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area use their right of voting. From these figures, it can be said that, women in Municipalities and Municipal Corporations area of Dhule district are aware about the voting to a greater extent. As the levels of the hierarchy of political participation are considered, the rate of women showing their political participation at this basic level is seen in a great extent, in the research area of Dhule district.

In the general election of “Dhule Municipality held in 2008, 56.19% women had casted their votes”.(30) While “in the elections held in the year 2013, the proportion was increased and rate of voting is 59.71%.”(31) “In the general elections of Shirpur-Warwade held in 2011 it is seen that 60.55% women had casted their votes.”(32) “In Dondaicha-Warwade general elections held in 2001 it is seen that 69.46% women had casted their votes. In the election of Municipality held in 2006 the women voting rate is 68.97%, while in the elections held in 2001 the rate of voting of women was 69.15%” (33)

6.5.3 The rate of participation in informal discussions:

While living in the society, there are informal discussions on political problems and issues directly-indirectly, knowingly-unknowingly with families, friend circles. By means of such discussions and talks, a person gets a particular direction to his thoughts and hence develops his particular political attitude. This attitude gets transformed in to political participation. Therefore, such type of informal discussions, talks is the one of the medium of personal political participation.

In Municipality and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district, it is seen that 78.10% of answering women participated with the family in informal talks, discussions on political issues. While 67.9% of answering women are seen to be participating in informal talks with their friend circles. In the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporations of Dhule district 21.9% women are not participate in discussion with families, while 32.10% women do not have any discussions on political issues with their
friend circles. In area wise survey, it is seen that in the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation 75.6% of answering women have take part in the discussion on political issues with families while 66.80% women have participated in formal talks, discussions on political issues with their friend circle. In Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area, this proportion goes on increasing and 79.85% of answering women have take part in the discussions about political problem and issues with their families while 62.69% of answering women have make discussions on political issues with their friend circles. It is seen that the number of women is discussing about political issues in Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area. There is a rate of women discussing with family is 93.3% while with friend circle is 83.3%

From all above figures it is clear that women in the Municipality, Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district show interest in informal discussion on politics. Through the medium of informal talks and discussion, they show their political participation. This proportion is less than the political proportion by means of voting. But, even after it is more important to increase the political participation as well as to increase the percentage of voting. Consequently, the political participation of women has increased.

6.5.4 The proportion of participation in public meeting, ralleys, canvassing campaigns etc. and attending the politing meetings:

To attend the political speeches and ralleys, to participate in the various movements, for to protect the interests or to fulfill the demands are nothing but the indications of political participation. Such type of political participation is considered as group participation. This type of political participation is done through any organizations or any groups of common interests. “In a true democratic political system, the participation of organized groups in decision making process is not objectionable; in fact it is recepable and welcomable.”(34)

A survey was done to find out whether the women in urban area of Dhuel district participle in the canvassing campaigns. Analysis of the data collected. From survey is represented with the following Graph No.6.12.
From the above Graph No.6.12, it is observed that in the urban area of Dhule district 67.20% women are housewives. All these housewives are busy. For the whole day in their household chores like cooking, washing, cleaning etc. While the women which are engaged in jobs or professions and the labourer women, have to lookafter their official work with their regular household chores, so they are busy whole day in their office and house work. Therefore, the participation of women in public speeches, protestations etc. is in very less proportion. As well as in canvassing it is also seen very less. In the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district only 34.7% of answering women are participating in canvassing campaigns. The proportion of participating in canvassing campaign of women in the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation, Shirpur & Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality is 32.7%, 22.39% and 28.90% respectively.

Conclusively, at the level of speeches, protestations, canvassing campaigns of the hierarchy of the political participation **the women from urban area of Dhule district seems minimum participation in political field.**
6.5.5 The rate of political participation at the level of a passive and active Membership of Semi-Political Organizations:

A person always tries to solve the social and political problem in groups of people. For this purpose he accepts the passive or active membership of any semi-political organizations or co-operative institutions. This type of participation is considered as an individual type of participation. “In this type of political participation, a citizen do not completes the action of participation with alone, he tries to pressurize the government with other citizens.”(35) Hence, he accepts the membership of interest groups having common aims or interest.

At this level of political participation the rate of political participation of women in the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation in Dhule district is seen very low as compared to any other levels. Only 20.9% of answering women in this area are seen the members of co-operative institutions, while 79.1% of answering women are not seen the members of any co-operative institutions. In Dhule Municipal Corporation, Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality the rate of women showing participation at this level is 20.4%, 17.16% and 30% respectively.

Conclusively, it is seen that the women in the area in Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district are not showing their participation at this level as they are seen busy in their household routine work and jobwork. Consequently, their participation in political decision making process is very less.

6.5.6 The rate of political participation at the level of passive and active Membership of Political Organizations:

Political activists are performing the work to convey the various demands of society to the government. So they have a special status in society. “The social status of a person who is a political worker is generally higher than the person who is not a political worker. Besides it, their thinking is more social than any common persons. To motivate their social thoughts, they accept the active or passive membership of any political organization”(36). It is seen that in the Municipality and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district, 27.5% of the answering women have accepted the active
membership of political parties, while 72.5% of answering women are seen to be keeping themselves away from political parties. In the survey it is found that, the proportion of membership of women of urban area of Dhule district in any political party is very least as accepting the active or passive membership of any political parties is in Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area and it is only 12.69%. In Dhule Municipality area 28.8% of answering women are seen to be active members of any political party. In district, the most proportion of women accepting active membership of political parties is observed in Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area and it is 40%. From the above figures it can be said that as compared to the research area population of women, the proportion of women accepting the membership of political parties is very low as compared to the other levels of political participations. In spite of this it can be concluded that, with related to present political situation or the Indian politics, the proportion of political participation of women at this level is satisfactory. Because still due to their family responsibilities 32.3% of women and 35.1% women due to the bad remarks on their characters are not ready to participate in politics.

6.5.7 Trying to achieving political or administrative post:

After becoming active in politics a person try to upgrade him step by step of political participation. Every person expects to get any political post and he try to get that post. The persons working in society, socialized person, person active in any public oriented and public beneficiary works strongly desire to get in powers. “This power hungerness in is the main characteristic of politics and social works”(37) So the political participation of person always show their active political participation through the efforts to get any political or administrative post. In Dhule district from urban area women, it is seen that not more efforts were done to achive the posts like president of India, prime minister or for the M.P. of Rajyasabha, and it is observed that they are not getting a type of an opportunity. But it is observed the women had trying to get the post of M.L.A. through legislative assembly and M.P. through the Loksabha elections. But this is very few manners. The efforts of getting political post it to be done by women due to the reservations in local self government institutions, after the 74th amendment into
constitution. In the survey done with concern to this, it is observed that in the area of Municipality and Muncipal Corporation of Dhule district, the rate of women trying to get the political post is only 10.7% of answering women. In areawise survey, it is seen that 11.4% women in Dhule Muncipal Corporation area have tried to get the posts. It is also seen that in Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area 4.48% and 15.55% women respectively have tried to get the posts.

“131 women have contested in the elections of Dhule Muncipal Corporation held in 2003.”(38) While in the “elections held in 2008 120 women candidates”(39) are seen to tried to get the posts.

“The election held in 2001 of Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality, 32 women have contested for the post of councilor/ corporator, while 5 women have contested for the post of president of Municipality.”(40) “In 2006 and 2011, 31 & 45 women respectively have contested for the post of councilor/ corporator.”(41) The election held in 2001 of Shirpur-Warwade Municipality, 27 women are contested for the post of councilor.”(42) “In the elections held in 2006, 22 women have tried to get the post by declaring their candidacy.”(43) While in 2011, 39 women have declared their candidacy for the post of councilor.”(44) Conclusively, it can be said that, after the provision of reservations in local self government institutions women are giving their candidacy either by their own wish or due to the need of the political party. From this candidacy a competition was occurred and women started trying to get any political and administrative post. With respecte to political participation, this is considered as an important point and thus through these efforts, it is seen that there is increase in political participation of women.

Overall, after the 73rd and 74th amendment into constitution, there is a development of political awareness in women in the area of Municipality and Muncipal Corporation of Dhule districts. Due to this awareness women are contesting elections in local government institutes. Consequently, the leadership qualities are developed among them.
6.5.8 Achievement of political or administrative post:

Voting is the most primary medium of political participation. While to achieve a political or administrative post is the highest level of political participation. While studying the political participation of women in the urban area of Dhule district, it is observed that women of this area show their political participation at this higher level also. But this was seen very less before the reservation provision. After reservation provision the political participation at this level is seen increasing.

It is observed that, the women in Municipality and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district have achieved political or administrative posts. Previously, when there is no any provision of reservation, but that time also “in 1954, Jayavantibai Gulabchand shah and in 1969 Nalini Sudhakar Madane had honoured the post of president in Dhule Municipality.” From the Dhule (urban) legislative assembly constitution, Kamalabai Ajmera and Shalini Sudhakar Borse had gained the posts of M.L.A.’s and they also works as responsible minister in the cabinet of Maharashtra. After 73rd and 74th amendment into constitution and the provision of reservation for women in local government institutes, it seems that women are achieving the posts of corporator as well as presidents or mayor. In general election held “in 2002 of Dhule Municipality, 22 women were elected as corporators” and “Hema Anil Gote had achieved the highest post of the last president of Dhule Municipality.” After the establishment of Dhule Municipal Corporation in 2003, “in the general elections held in 2003 and 2008, 23 womens had achieved the posts of corporators.”

In the period from establishment of Dhule Municipality 1992, means in a 132 years, only two women had got the opportunity to held the post of president. While during the period from 1993 after the provision of reservation for women upto the year 2001 means in 19 years; one lady get the post of President and one lady get the post of Mayor in a short time period after 74th amendment. Now in the forcoming elections in 2013 the post of Mayor is reserved for women. If the period of 132 years before the provision of reservation and 19 years after the provision of reservation are compared, then it is seen that, women have got the opportunity in the short period means after the
provision of reservation. Consequently, **the qualities of leadership are developed in them due to reservation.**

The survey is done to collect the information about the achievement of political or administrative posts before the provision of reservation in Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality. In this survey it is observed that, “before provision of reservation, in 1978 Riyasadbee Abdulla Pinjari and in 1973 Shakuntalabai Mevalal Bantuge had adorned the presidenship of Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality.”(49) After the provision of women reservation, “Shiubai Sahebrao Kakde; during the period 21/12/1998 to 17/4/2000 and 1/9/2000 to 20/12/2006, Nayan Kunwar Jitendrashing Rawal had adorned the post of president.”(50) “In the elections held in 2001 and 2006, 8 women are seen to be achieving the post of councilor.”(51)

It is seen that, “in the general elections held in 1991 of Shirpur-Municipality, 11 women; in the election of 1996, 8 women; in the election of 2006, 9 women; and in the election of 2001, 9 women; were elected as councilors.”(52) Besides it, “during the period of 1990 to 2001 two women has achieved the highest position of presidentship in these local self government institutions.”(53)

Overall, after the research about the achievement of the political or administrative post; the researcher observed that in all three urban areas of Dhule district, women has got more opportunities for the achievement of political and administrative posts after the provision of reservation. And they have encouraged, they are now self motivated and trying to get the highest post in local government. Thus due to the provision of reservation women got more opportunities for the achievement of the political and administrative posts therefore, **leadership qualities are developed among women.**

After the provision of reservations, the participation of women is not only for the voting but they are taking part in canvassing also with great enthusiasm, as well as making the efforts to get the highest political position in great extent. Some posts are already reserved for women, so they got the opportunity to reach upto that posts easily. Consequently, **due to reservation, a political awareness is developed among women and the leadership qualities are also developed.**
6.6 The affect of Women Reservation:

After independence, in India, more and more efforts are done to make the local self government institutions, autonomous and strong. India has started a new important chapter in decentralization of power by passing 73rd and 74th amendment into constitution. Due to this revolutionary amendment into constitution, a provision of 1/3rd reservation for women in local self government was done. Due to this an emergence of a women leadership is seen in a greater amount. Besides it, the political participation of women gets increased and the processes of social reformation and awareness get accelerated. Due to 74th amendment into constitution, a group of large number of women became active in politics, and then the door of development got opened up for women by renouncing the old customs, traditions, Women got out of the notion of their traditional household chores including ‘chul & mul’ and now are leading as a leader of the common people.

In Maharashtra, in the local self government the political participation of women have increased due to the 74th amendment into constitution and this helped to develop the leadership qualities in women. Women in the various categories like, other backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, also started to participate in politics with the open category women. Though, due to reservation the quantitative participation of women is increasing but also they are seen to be participating in various political and administrative processes. Thus, due to reservation women leadership gets more and more opportunities to prove their qualities and abilities.

6.6.1 A political participation has increased due to reservation:

Indian constitution has bestowed the political rights to women based on equality. But it is observed that due to (patriarchy) male dominated social system women are not taking part in political actively, so firstly many states have given 1/3rd political reservation to the women. Consequently, in 1993 the women were given reservation in the proportion 1/3rd in local self government by the 73rd and 74th amendments into constitution. Due to these reservations the active participation of women has increased as well as the women who are participating only at the level of voting, now get involved in
the canvassing campaigns, becoming the active members of political parties, contesting in elections and adorned a highest political position. Overall, the political participation is seen increased at levels of participation. This participation was not increased an option, alternative to men but also they are involving in political processes by their own. This participation of women is spontaneous, self motivated. This can be explained by the table Table 6.13.

Table No.6.13 (Scale in %)
Are the women involving willingly in politics, due to political reservation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>58.9</td>
<td>75.37</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>64.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>24.63</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Table No.6.13 it is observed that, from the Dhule Municipal Corporation area 58.9% of answering women think that due to reservation, women are involving in politics willingly by their own. But 41.1% women do not think like this. In the area of Shirpur and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area 75.37% and 90% of answering women respectively said that due to reservation, women are participating in politics spontaneously by their own will. Overall in the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district 64.7% of answering women thinks that due to reservation women are participating in politics by their own will.

From all these figures, it seems that, women are involving in politics by their own will due to reservation. Consequently, their participation in politics has also increased and due to this increased political participation their political awareness is also developed.

6.6.2 Due to reservation, women are participating frankly in politics:

As the women have got the political reservation, they are entering in politics by their own wish and involving in many political processes with great enthusiasm. Due to
reservation, they are getting opportunities to involve in ruling power and thus getting the opportunity to make their dreams of development to come in the true sense. **They are getting the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.**

The information collected from the survey related to this is explained with the following Graph No.6.13

**Graph No.6.13 (Scale in %)**

Are the women involving in politics frankly and with zeal due to reservation?

![Graph showing the percentage of women involved in politics frankly and enthusiastically.](image)

**Source: Sample Survey**

The above graph indicates that, 84.90% of answering women from Municipality and Municipal Corporation area in Dhule district agree with the fact that due to reservation, women are involving in politics frankly and enthusiastically, while only 15.10% of answering women do not feel like this.

**6.6.3 Women have developed interest in politics due to reservation:**

Women have got opportunities in politics due to reservations. They are adorning the ruling positions and now the power is in their hands. Thus, the positive effect occurs in their political participation and so they get interest in politics. Their interest in politics is now developing. They are becoming aware about politics and political processes. As their interest in politics has increased, their political participation has also increased. With reference to it, women in urban area of Dhule district were asked the question.
Is the interest of women in politics is increased due to ruling power got her? It can be explained with the collected information of Table No.6.14.

**Table No. 6.14 (Scale in %)**

*Is the interest of women in politics has increased due to the ruling power in her hand?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75.3</td>
<td>70.90</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>29.10</td>
<td>6.70</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Table No.6.14 it is observed that 75.3% answering women from Dhule Municipal Corporation area think that women have developed the interest due to reservation. In Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area 70.90% and 93.3% of answering women respectively have developed interest in politics due to reservation. If the aggregate reference of the district is taken in consideration then 76.50% of answering women have developed interest due to the opportunities of the ruling power in hand. It is seen that, due to these opportunities, a positive attitude about politics is developed among women.

Conclusively, from Table No.6.14 and Graph No.6.13, it is observed that, due to reservation, women are participating in politics spontaneously besides it, a great enthusiasm is developed in them due to which their interest in politics is increased. From this it is proved that *women’s political participation is increased due to political reservation.*

**6.6.4 Political awareness is developed:**

As the political participation of the person goes on increasing their political awareness and political awakening also goes on increasing. As the person goes up at the
higher levels of the hierarchy of political participation, his political awareness also go on developling. As the women of Municipality and Municipal Corporation in the Dhule district shows, their political participation at each level of the hierarchy of political participation. Hence their political awareness is developed. The researcher has verified about the development of political awareness among the women in research area by a conducting a survey. The analysis of the collected data can be explained with the help of the Table No.6.15 and Table No.6.16

Women in the urban area of Dhule district were asked the question “Do you know about the women reservation in local self government?” Then obtained data is represented in the Table No.6.15.

Table No. 6.15 (Scale in %)

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>83.10</td>
<td>88.90</td>
<td>83.50</td>
<td>83.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>16.90</td>
<td>11.10</td>
<td>16.42</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From the table 6.15 it is observed that 83.10%, 88.90% and 83.58% of answering women from the area Dhule Municipal Corporation, Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality and Shirpur-Warwade Municipality respectively knows about the women reservation in local self government. While only 16.90%, 11.10% and 16.42% of answering women respectively don’t know about the reservation. As an aggregate in the urban area of Dhule district 83.8% of answering women are well-known about reservation of women and only 16.20% of answering women do not know about reservation.

From the above figures, it is found that, in Municipality and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district almost many women knows about reservations. It
means that the women in this area are politically aware. Their political awareness is developed.

The women in research area were asked the question “do you know about the public representatives in your area?

The collected information as the answer of the above question can be represented by following table 6.16.

Table 6.16 (Scale in %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name of Corporator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>90.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

From above Table No.6.16 it is observed that, the women in the urban area of Dhule district are well known about the public representatives in their area. 90.7% of answering women in urban area of Dhule district are known about the corporators of their respective wards. While only 9.3% women are unknown about it. 90.3% women know about the president or mayor of their respective city and only 9.7% women donot know about it. It is natural and most common to know about the corporators and president or mayor because they are at local level. But when the information about the M.L.A. & M.P.’s was asked, then it is observed in great proportion in urban area of Dhule district know about the M.L.A.’S and M.P.’s. 90.9% of answering women are well known about M.L.A. and 81.3% of answering women are well known about M.P.’s Means only 9.10% and 18.7% women were unknown about MLA and MP respectively. 91.7% women has given the correct answer of the question ‘Who is the Chief Minister of Maharashtra?’

Conclusively, women in urban area of Dhule district are well aware about the representatives of their respective area.
6.6.5 Leadership qualities are developed:

By 73rd amd 74th amendment into constitution a provision is made for the reservation for the women in the proportion 1/3rd of total seats in local self government. (Now a day’s in Maharashtra the women reservation is 50 %.) So on reserved places only women representative is there. Thue there is an increase in number of women representatives in local self government institutes. The survey is done to find out the awareness about the women representatives in their respective area.

The question was asked to women Is there a woman representative in your area? The collected data by the survey based on this question, can be analysed as follows as Graph No.6.14.

Graph No. 6.14 (Scale in %)

Is there a woman representative in your locality?

From the above survey, it is observed that 65.2% answering women have a women representative are working in her area. While, in the urban area of Dhule district; in the field of Dhule Muncipal Corporation, Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and
Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality 71.4%, 70.9% and 86.70% respectively, women answered that, in their area there is women representative. It means that more number of women are leading in their respective areas. In 2002, in Dhule Municipal Corporation, 22 women, in 2003 and in 2008, 23 women and in 2013, 37 women were working as corporators by means of representatives.

In Shirpur-Warwade Municipality 11 women in 1991, 8 women in 2006 and 2011 works as corporator by means of representatives. In Dondaich-Warwade Municipality 8 women representatives in 2001, 8 in 2006 while in 20011, 11 women representatives were works as corporators. This shows that women are now leading from the people and the society in a proper way and thus accomplishing their partnership in power in a proper way. Thus, it can be said that, due to reservation, women got the opportunity for leadership and due to it, the leadership qualities are developed.

Besides this, it is also observed that women in the urban area of Dhule district are well-known about the women representatives in their respective localities. Thus, women in the urban area of Dhule district have developed the leadership qualities in them as well as the development in their political awareness is also seen.

6.6.6 The status of women in political decision making process:

The political participation of women has increased due to 73rd and 74th amendment into constitution. Today it is seen that they are showing their participation right from the level of voting to the highest level of achieving the of political post. But even after this situation, an influence of a male dominated patriarchy is seen on the politics in the urban area of Dhule district. Consequently, even though the participation of women has increased, the qualities of leadership are developed among them, but women participation in decision making process is seen very low. The researcher had done the survey about the participation of women in decision making process in research area. The analysis of the collected data can be explained with the Graph No.6.15 and Table No.6.17.
It seems that there is no increase in women members in leading political parties, even though there is an amendment into constitution giving 1/3rd reservation to the women. This information is represented by following Graph No. 6.15.

**Graph No. 6.15 (Scale in %)**

**Are you an active member of any political party?**

![Graph](image)

Source: Sample Survey

From the above Graph No.6.25 it shows that only 27.5% women from the urban area of Dhule district are the active member of any political party. While 72.5% women are not accepted any active membership of any political party. Similarly, from the area of Dhule Municipal Corporation only 28.8%, from the Shirpur-Warwade and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area, only 12.69% and 40% answering women respectively are the active members of political party. While respectively 71.20%, 87.31% and 60% means near about 2/3rd women are not active member any political party yet. This proportion is very large in number. This large number of group is away from the decision making process of political party internally. The women which are active member of political party, but we cannot say that, all these are also involved in the process of decision making, because many of these women are accepted the membership for contesting the election on the reserved seats by the party; while some women are accepted the
membership because the male of her family are member of that particular party. While taking into consideration the rate of membership of women in the urban area of Dhule district it’s seems that, the participation of women in the decision making process in the political party is small.

Due to the political reservation many women from urban area of the Dhule district are elected as corporator, president and mayor in the urban local self government. But any importance is given to them in the political decision making process? With reference to above question the researcher done the survey and obtained data can be explained by the Table No.6.17.

**Table No.6.17 (Scale in %)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>38.06</td>
<td>25.55</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>61.94</td>
<td>74.45</td>
<td>63.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sample Survey

Table No.6.17 indicates that, the 63.1% of answering women from Municipality and Muncipal Corporation area of Dhule district thinks there is no any importance given to the women’s opinion in decision making process. 61.7% answering women in Dhule Municipal Corporation area, 61.94% of answering women from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality area, 74.45% from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality area responded that Women’s opinion are not considered in political decision making processes. Accordingly to 82.7% answering women gives the reason behind it is that, the woman representatives do not handle the power by their own way.

56.9% women works with the help of men in their family and 24.5% women representative takes the help of other gent member in the party. It means that the contribution of women in decision making process is very less and it also indicates that though women have got reservation but the male dominance still exists.
Conclusively, constitution had given reservation to women and on the basis of that reservation, they got in powers, reached to the highest political position, but in less number and there is men dominance in politics, the opinions of women are not taken in consideration and not given any importance in decision making process.

6.7 The nature, reasons and the remedies of the political apathy of women:

Political apathy means, no any interest in politics, dislike about politics and no desire to participate in politics. This political apathy is developed due to the some social, political experiences and by developing a special mentality through these experiences. In the Municipality and Municipal Corporation area of Dhule district, it is seen that the political participation of women goes on decreasing while going from local self government to the national level politics. Women are seen to participate at the level of local self government in greater extent due to reservation. Here at this level the participation of women is seen satisfactorily in solving the local problems, to fulfil the need of people. But at this level, the participation is seen in the nature of voting only. Therefore, “only voting is not considered as a meaning of political participation.”

Besides that, to attend political meetings, to discuss on political issues, to read political news, to watch them on television though it is considered as political participation but actually it is a passive type of political participation. Due to 74th amendment the political participation of women is seen increased but still, due to family responsibilities, social limitations, caste limitations, limitations due to women hood; women are not agree to participate in politics. Thus, they are seen to be participating only in the voting process and are seen to be apathetic about other political processes.

6.7.1 The nature of political apathy of women:

The persons showing political apathy can be classified into two types. In first type the person does not participate in politics due to the lack of political awareness. While in other type the person avoids the political participation purposely instead of having abilities and opportunities. The women in the Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district are seen to be in both types. In this district some women are away from politics due to the lack of political awareness. While some women shows
only a primary type political participating by keeping themselves away from active participation though they have political abilities and opportunities.

More than 92.3% answering women in Municipality and Muncipal Corporation area of Dhule district know the method of voting. It means that more than 92.% of answering women use the right of voting. So in a less proportion of political apathy is seen in the women in urban area of Dhule districts. Besides the voting, type of political participation; the women in district now giving their candidacy in elections, due to the reservation bestowed them by 74\textsuperscript{th} amendment into constitution. But only 10.7% of answering women give their candidacy in elections. It is also observed that, the participation of women in this area in other political processes is very less. As we go to upper level of the hierarchy of political participation; then the political participation of women goes on decreasing and there is an increase in political apathy. There may be various reasons for political apathy. The reasons may include the pressure of family, social pressure, male dominance in politics etc. As per Ronsberg, “The main reason of political apathy means, the fear of the consequences of participation in political activities.”(55) Thus, due to all these reasons the nature of political apathy goes on increasing as we go higher and higher levels of political hierarchy.

6.7.2 The reasons of political apathy among women:

Many reasons are observed for the political apathy in politically apathetic persons. Political apathy is created due to the mentality of a person. Political apathy is observed due to reasons, like the effect of politics on profession and business, effect on mutual relations, lack of confidence or the fear that what the others will say?”

Analysis of the reasons of political apathy seen in the women in the urban area as of Dhule district may be done as follows -

1. In the area of Municipality and Muncipal Corporation in Dhule district 67.20% answering women are busy in their household chores while 20.70% of answering women are busy in professional work. They have the feeling that if they will participate in politics, then there will be a negligence towards their household chores, hurting of children; and they thought that this negligence will not be fair
with respect to their family and children. Consequently except the participation in
t Voting, they are apathetic towards the higher levels of hierarchy of political participation.

2. 77.4% of answering women in the urban area of district seeks the advice of men, because still a male dominance exists in society. As a result, due to this interference of men, apathy is seen in women. ‘Politics is the field for only men’ this type of mentality is found to the researcher and this is the main reason of women’s apathy.

3. Though women are seen active at local level due to reservation in local self government but they are not seen active in parliament and legislature because there is no provision of reservation at parliament or legislature. So their participation at higher level is seen very less. Consequently their apathy goes on increasing.

4. It becomes compulsory for women to contest on the seats which are reserved for women due to this political reservation in local self government. At such time the high commands of political parties gives the nominal candidacy to the women and make her use only as a rubber stamp. Actually her political work is done by the men either from her family or from the party.

The survey is done with related to this and the collected information is explained by following Graph No.6.16.

**Graph No.6.16. (Scale in %)**

*Who actually do the political work of lady representative?*

![Pie Chart showing distribution of political work of lady representative](source: Sample Survey)
From the above graph No.6.16 it is observed that according to 56.9% of answering women, the men in the family of lady representative’s look after her work. As per 24.5% of answering women, the men from the party work actually the political responsibilities of the woman representative. It means that 81.4% women think that, men actually work the political works of woman representatives. Remaining answering women responded that the political work of lady representative is seen by her friends, or other women, or the women in her family. But the proportion of such type of response is very few.

From this it is seen that, though women are elected as representatives, they remain only as a ‘rubber stamp’. Gents actually works the political work on the behalf of lady representatives so political apathy is developed in women.

5. The attitude of the society to see towards the women politician is somewhat different. The society sees towards her with suspect. Doubts are taken about her character. It becomes difficult for her to go out of the house at all type the party work or social work. There is some limitation on her due to femaleness and for these reasons also, women generally avoid to participate in politics and apathy towards politics get developed.

The survey was done to find out the reasons behind the political apathy of women as well as reasons behind why women are not participating in politics. The information collected through the survey is analysed by the Graph No.6.17. shown on next page.
From the above Graph No.6.17, it is observed that women from the areas of Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district have explained various reasons behind the apathy towards politics. 35.1% women do not participate in politics because they have to face bad remarks and doubts about their characters. While, 32.3% women are not participate in politics; due to their family responsibilities. 16.1% women feel infirmity. They thought that, being woman they are weak and so they do not participate in politics.

7.5% of answering women has given that due to bad economic condition women cannot participate in politics. 9% women responded that women have to face sexual discrimination in politics and so they do not participate in politics.

In areawise survey, 37.8%, 32.84% and 18.90% answering women from Dhule Municipal Corporation, Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality respectively have responded as due to bad remarks on character, they not participate in politics actively. 30% answering women from Dhule Muncipal Corporation, 34.33% answering women from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality, 45.16%
answering women from Dondaicha-warwade Municipality area have given the reason of family responsibility. While 16.3% women from Dhule Municipal Corporation, 18.66% women from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality, 11.10% woman from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality have accept that they think themselves weak as they are women and so they could not participate in politics. Reason of economical infirmity was given by 6.20% women from Dhule Municipal Corporation, 8.20% women from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and 15.60% women from Dondaicha-Warwaade Municipality. 9.70% women, 5.9% and 8.9% answering women from Dhule Municipal Corporation, Shirpur-Warwade Municipality and Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality respectively responded that they do not participate actively in politics because they have to face sex discrimination in politics.

Besides the above mentioned reasons, it is observed that, women cannot participate in politics actively because they have bare many limitations only due to their femaleness. In Indian society, sex discrimination is seen in larger extent. Still today it is also observed that society has developed the attitude that males have given higher status and woman is subordinate ‘Man is superior and woman is inferior him’ this thinking is still existing in our society. Hence, if a woman achieves a higher post than man and if he has to work under her order; then the ego of man gets hurt and he considers it as his insult. The men of such attitude are observed in society in great extent. This attitude affects on women’s active participation in politics. With this concern a survey was done and collected data can be anaylised with following Table No.6.18.

Table No.6.18 (Scale in %)

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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60.80</td>
<td>67.16</td>
<td>86.70</td>
<td>64.50</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>39.20</td>
<td>32.84</td>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>35.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

Source: Sample Survey
From the above Table No.6.18 it is observed that 64.5% women in the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district responded that, Due to feminity their political participation is affected. 86.7% of answering women from Dondaicha-Warwade Municipality, 60.8% from Dhule Municipality and Municipal Corporation and 67.16% from Shirpur-Warwade Municipality also responded that due to feminity their political participation is affected.

Therefore, a large class of women shows political apathy due to above mentioned reasons. Women’s mentality is one of the reasons from all above mentioned reasons. They do not have time due to their family’s responsibilities, they fear that, their activeness in politics will ruin their family relations and stability of family, similarly bad remarks on characters, sexual discrimination, and the fear of the consequences of any political activity also create political unawareness in them. They also think that politics will ruin their relations with other. Due to all these reasons, women in the area of Municipality and Municipal Corporation of Dhule district try to keep themselves away from politics.

6.7.3 The remedies on the political apathy of women:

6.7.3.1 Necessity to intensify the process of socialization:

By the study of the political participation of women in Municipal Corporation and Municipality area of Dhule district on the basis of the hierarchy of political participation, it is observed that, while going to the higher levels of this hierarchy, this participation decreases by quality but increases by quantity. But when the level of complete apathy is studied; then in the election of Municipality and Municipal Corporation 16.4%, in legislative assembly elections 26.1% and in central assembly (Lok Sabha) election 28.40% apathy is seen. To increase the political participation of women by removing their political apathy, it is necessary to increase the speed of the socialization process. The political participation of women is seen less because they are busy in accomplishing their family responsibilities. To increase their political participation, first their social participation must be increased. Besides that, it is necessary to create awareness and vigilant among women about voting.
6.7.3.2 Necessity of giving training on government level:

Though women have got reservations, it is observed that, they have given candidacy as an alternative to male. Consequently she cannot carry her work without the help of men. It creates a lack of political decision taking competence into them. It is observed that women remain apathetic in the process of decision making when they are holding any higher position. To remove such type apathy, it is necessary to give training to the elected lady representatives on administrative or government post by arranging special training courses for them. Through such training they can take the proper advantage of the reservations given to them.

6.7.3.3 Necessity to bring a change in mentality of women:

Even though the women have got political reservation, but in the Muncipalty and Muncipal Corporation area in Dhule district, 32.3.% women due to family responsibilities, 35.1% women due to remarks on character, while 16.1% women due to their feminine infirmity they are away from the politics. It is necessary to change the mentality in women caused due to the above mentioned factors. To bring this change, it is necessary that, political parties, women organisations, women social groups, voluntary institutions, social workers and the government should give political mass education to the women through various media and should bring a political awareness in them. All of these organisations with became successful in changing this feminine mentality if then and then only their political participation will increase qualitatively.

6.7.3.4 Necessity of bestowing the political reservation to women at state and National level:

If the women will be bestowed the reservation at the state or national level just like as the local government level, then it will help to decrease the political apathy of women about politics. It is also necessary that men should not pressurize the woman at the time of voting they should give the discretion of voting. It is also essential that women representatives must look after their own political work themselves without depending on men. For this political parties as well as men in society must give them freedom to do their own work themselves.
6.7.3.5 **Necessity to give the candidature not only for political convenience but to the capable women:**

While giving candidacy to women, party should not consider only the family background of her, candidacy should not give to the women instead of men in that family for political convenience of any type; but the candidacy should be given to only woman who is actually capable, active in social work & having the leadership qualities. If such happened; then and then other women in the society also get attracted towards politics.

6.8 **Limitations on political participation of women:**

In modern period, especially after the year 1950, women are seen to be developing in almost every field. In spite of this it is observed that upto 1990, there was negligible participation of women in the field of politics & political processes. Consequently a contrasting situation was seen that in one side women were getting empower but backward in politics. In such situation, to increase their participation of women in politics, government have opened the doors of opportunities to them by bestowing them 1/3rd reservation in local self-government through 73rd and 74th amendment into constitution. But even after the reservation it is seen that, the participation of women not increased qualitatively. Researcher finds that this situation becomes due to the limitations on the political participation of women and also due to some barriers.

6.8.1 **Political dependency due to their ‘femaleness’:**

In the age of the modernization, many systems such as production system, social systems have changed, but the male dominance in the society remained as it is. “Due to the dividation of work, ‘house is women’s – door is men’s’ like this type of dividation of work due to the male dominance, some equations and assumptions were assumed in the history that, the woman and her womanhood means passiveness, dependence, while the man muscularity of man means activeness, creatively. History also assumed the assumptions that, the woman must be pure and pious but the man has given freedomness from this morality.”(56) Due to all these reasons, a mentality of dependentness was developed in the maims of women. Due to inferiority complex they developed a feeling
into themselves that they could not impress on the politics. Consequently, limitations are seen on the political participation of women.

Women are participating in politics after 73rd and 74th amendment into constitution, they are contesting elections, but they have to depend upon men to meet the senior political leaders for solving their social problems. A survey related to this is done, then it is found that 59.4% of answering women do not meet political leader. Only 40.6% women are meetings with political leaders to solve their problems. The questions were asked to woman as, “Is a significance given to the opinion of woman in decision making process?” Then 63.1% of answering women have given the answer as ‘No’ from this it can be observed that, due to dependency of men, women have to face some limitations because of ‘femaleness’.

Women have to depend upon men because there is an influence of male dominance on them and all unproductive works are given to them. This mentality also affect on their voting behavior. From a survey related to this, it is observed that, the 77.4% women are taking advised from the family mens at the time of voting, while only 22.6% of answering women are not taking the advice of men. 61.8% women agree that they are pressuried by the men if the family while voting. Hence, due to dependency of women there are limitations on women’s political participation.

6.8.2 Sexual discrimination:

After giving membership to the women at any political party, “they are given the work suitable to their womanhood or the department of comparatively less importance is given to them like women and child welfare; to arrange the cultural programmes etc. While the departments in which politics, power or decision making field, such department were allotted for men. But the excuse is given that; women do not come forward to take a lead in elections politics by themselves.”(57) In the comparative study of the political participation of women at the organizational level of various political parties, it is seen that, “in congress party only 10% women have given the posts at organization level. While in B.J.P. 8% and in the parties of Third Front 7% women are given such positions”(58) From this study, it is seen that, in the political parties women have to face sexual discrimination. The main factors of society, women which are almost 50% of the
total population, have a negligible position in political parties, only due to their ‘femininity.’ “Always woman is assumed in the home in the society.”(59) No one let her to prove herself. Due to reservation, she gained a position some what in local self government but comparatively very less representation is given to her at state and national level the survey conducted related to it, gives an information that 9% women from research area says that they do not participate in politics due to sexual discrimination.

Overall it is seen that, in political parties women have to do subordinate type of tasks due to their feminity (as they are women) as well as due to sexual discrimination they do not get opportunities early for active participation even if they are capable. Thus we can say that sexual discrimination creates limitations on political participation of women.

6.8.3 Economical infirmity:

It is necessary to make the woman economically capable to bestow her equal and honorable status in the society. Karl Marks and Angles have agreed, “the upgradation of women and equality with men is not possible, not achieved till upto keeping her away from social unproductive work by engaging in the household chores”(60) A person cannot have a confidence unless he becomes economically competent. It is mentioned in one report about the economic status of women in Maharashtra, “The proportion of works participation of urban women in 2001 is 12.57% (61) while “the contribution of women in national income is only 27%”(62) This shows that, the economic condition of women is very poor. They will not become self dependent unless they will get economically competent. They will not develop their confidence. Most of the women do not have economic freedom that’s why they can not participate confidently in social work as well as in politics. In Dhule district, according to the 7.5% of answering women in urban area; women cannot participate in politics due to economic incompetency. The active participation of women will increase only when they will become economically competent. “Presently only 22-26% women of the total women population are earning but still a big class of women is depending upon men”(63) From this it is seen that, maximum women are economically dependent on men and so their decision about the
participation in politics are also depends upon men. Though political reservation is their, according to 35.3% of answering women, women don’t participate in politics by their own wish or desire. According to 81.4% of answering women, the elected lady representative lookafter their political work by the help of men. From this it is observed that, most womens depend upon men and due to this dependence, they have to face some limitations on their political participation.

6.8.4 Responsibilities about family:

Family is one of the important institutes in society. A woman plays a significant role in a family. She has to fulfil the responsibilities of a mother, wife, daughter-in-law etc. simultaneously. Perhaps, in our Indian social structure and tradition though she accomplishing all these responsibilities but she is not getting an equality of men and women principle. Right from the nurturing of a child and all other domestic responsibilities are fulfilled by women. Due to this “burden of responsibilities” she does not get time for any social or political work. Due to the traditional framework it is etiquette that, some specific household works should be done by only women, women are taken accountable for those works. Men feel insulting in doing such works. If the woman goes outside of house for earning, then after returning from job, she has to complete all those works of women, so she can not spare any time for participation in political work, even if she desires to do that work. According 32.3% of answering women from urban area of Dhule District, women do not participate in politics due to the family responsibilities. Studies conducted on urban local body states that, “in Maharashtra elected women continued to perform all duties which are expected from a full time house wife.” A expensive example of this is the newly elected president of Zilha Parishad of Dhule Mrs.Saralabai Patil “she engaged herself in kitchen just on the next day of her appointment.”

The difficult task of struggling with domestic responsibilities duty is well-known to all working women. But for a woman politician it is very difficult because one thing similar to domestic and political work is that both involve total commitment and not fixed timings.
Thus, there are some limitations seen on the political participation of women due to social system, customs and traditions based domestic duties. It means there are limitations on political participation of women due to responsibilities about family because of her femaleness.

6.8.5 Remarks on characters of women:

There is assumption that politics is a field of men, politics is a dirty, filthy, squalid field, politics is a half of indecent, foul people etc. and so if a woman enters and participates in this field, the attitude of the society to see towards her get changed. When the women participate in politics, she has to remain out door for political and social works. Firstly as the less number of women are working in this field, she has to work with men, she has to go outdoor for political party, works, with other gents in the party. Most of the time, she has to spend time with gents of party to solve the social problems or to get the knowledge of the field. This work do not have any specific time and so some worst natured people take doubts on her character, discuss about them in bad manner in a society, spread ill rumours about her character in society. In Indian social system importance is given to preserve her honour, character and dignity of a woman so due to political participation a challenge is given to her existence. Consequently, they avoid the political participation. In Indian social system the virginity of a woman is at highest importance. After entering the women in politics if some on points out on a question mark on her character, she prefer to leave the politics. Thus in the fear of loss of her virginity, virtuousness, she is not interested to participate in politics. In a book, we were making History (1989), a fighting spirited activist Swarajjam writes in her preface that, “To face many troubles, barriers was not difficult, but to face the character assassination became difficult and unbearable.”(67) This shows that, to avoid the gratuitous discussion about character, as well as endorsements, bad remarks about character, hence women prefer to remain away from politics. In the survey conducted related to this, the woman in urban area of Dhule District were asked the reason about their not entering in politics, then 35.1% women have given the reason that due to bad remarks on their charcters, they do not enter in the politics.
Thus, it can be said that, **due to bad remarks on characters of women the limitations occurs on the political participation of them.**

**6.8.6 The infirmity as being a woman:**

Now a day women are seen to be working effectively is almost all fields of life. But still, it becomes difficult and troublesome and one of the daringful for women to go alone to wander alone. As per the report of NCRB of the year 2011, “in Mahrashtra 15,728 crimes of women are reported, in which most of the crimes are of rape.”\(^{(68)}\) It means that the women have go out, to any time when they are working in politics, but still today also, so many question marks, doubts arise about their security. This can be felt more intensely by the ‘Nirbhaya’ case in Delhi.

It is not possible for women to walk out of house at any times due to their physical capacity, physical structure, physical problems due to gynaecological/health problems. In the survey conducted with respect to this, it is observed that according to 16.1% women, due to the infirminity as a woman they do not participate in politics. While 64.5% women have expressed their opinion as being a woman, their participation in politics was affected.

While living in the society women have to follow some restrictions and those limitations create barriers in their political participation. So there are some limitations on the political participation.

Conclusively, it can say that, women are getting more and more opportunities in the field of politics due to 73rd and 74th amendment into constitution. Due to these amendments their political participation is seen to be increased. But even after, their qualitative and active participation is affected by the factors like political dependency, sexual discrimination, economically adverse condition, responsibilities about family, fear about the bad remarks, endorsements on character etc. Besides these even today also woman has got a subordinate status in society due partriarcheal system. Consequenty though they have bestowed reservation, it is seen that they brought forward by experience holder gents politician as an alternative to men. But due to above discussed factors, there are some limitations observed on a common woman for political participation.
6.9 Epilogue:

The political participation of women in the Municipality and Muncipal Corporation field of Dhule district is seen at various levels and of different types and in various proportion as well as nature. Women in research area are seen to be showing individual, consentive and unorganized type of political participation. It is observed that voting, friend circles, newspapers, television are the main medium are used for political participation. While family system, political speeches ralleys, political party meetings with political leaderas, co-operative organisations are the secondary medium of political participation. But it is seen that after the 74th amendments into constitution, contesting in the elections for achieving the power and achieve the political designation are the significant medium for the women.

While observing about the proportion of political participation it is seen that women show their participation mostly through the medium of voting. While studying the hierarchy of political participation of Rush & Alttoff, it is seen that, while going from lower level to higher level, the proportion of political participation gets on decreasing and while in descending order the political participation goes on increasing.

But after 74th amendment into the constitution, the proportion of political participation of women at higher levels is seen to be increasing. Consequently, the political awareness is developed and the qualities of leadership are seen developed.

In the area of Municipality and Muncipal Corporations of Dhule district, political apathy is seen to some extent. The main reason behind this apathy is their household domestic chores. They are busy in their household routine work and do not walk out of the four walls of house and so they do no get any contact with political field. Hence, they become apathetic. To remove this apathy and to develop political awareness into them, it is necessary to accelerate the process of political socialization among them.

It is also observed that, while participating, in politics, they have to face some limitations as being a woman. These restrictions, limitations are seen due to the factors like political dependency, sexual discrimination, economically adverse condition, responsibilities about family, fear of remarks on character etc.
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53) Public Information Officer, Shirpur-Warwade Municipality,
    Letter No.6000, dt.25/3/2013.


57) Ibid-56.

58) Ibid-51.


64) Ibid-59.

