CONCLUSION
In this study of the empowerment of the Muslim through Panchayati Raj Institution, the concept of empowerment refers to bringing about change in power relations and capacity for greater participation in decision making and greater control over resources. It is a study of extend to which disadvantaged and marginalized groups such as Muslims get power and so are empowered in the local bodies. The empowerment of the Muslims is crucial for the country because this is the only way to ensure the success of democracy as well as that of development process at the grass root level. The 73rd amendment of the constitution has made panchayats viable and responsive people’s bodies necessary for the success of democracy and the development. Since there is decentralization of power to the people in local bodies, the extent to which different communities participate in decision making bodies such as panchayats will determine their development. The empowerment of a community in panchayat is imperative for its development.

While tracing the history of Panchayati Raj Institution in Bihar, it was observed that, apart from the Upper Caste, there is due representation of the Backward Castes and Schedule Castes in PRIs in Bihar. They have been elected as members as well as Mukhiyas and Chairman of Zila Parishad. There is empowerment of Backward Caste
and Scheduled Caste in Bihar in the PRIs. The empowerment of these communities in the PRIs has resulted in the socio economic development of these communities. The Muslim community in Bihar can be considered to be empowered only if it gets due representation in the PRIs so that they participate in these decision making bodies as members and in positions such as Mukhiyas, Sarpanch and Chairman.

This study of the empowerment of Muslim through PRIs in Siwan shows the unrepresentation of Muslims in PRIs. Their lack of empowerment is evident as numbers of elected Muslims in PRIs are not in proportion to their rural population in the district (71.8%). We find 51% average deprivation of Muslims in PRIs. As no Muslim is elected to Zila Panchayat Adhyaksha their deprivation is cent percent (100%), while 81 percent deprivation is exists at the level of Gram Panchayat Mukhiya or Pradhan position. The scale of deprivation is similar at the level of elected members to Zila Parishad, Sarpanch and Gram Panchayat. 51 percent deprivation exist in Village Panchayat while 86 percent, 81 percent and 79 percent deprivation prevail in Zila Parishad, Sarpanch and Gram Panchayat respectively.

The Sacchar Commission Report noted that low participation of the Muslim in the local bodies resulted in development benefits failing to reach areas of Muslim concentration. Among states having a large
Muslim concentration such as west Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam, the Muslims have lagged behind in development. In fact, by and large, Muslims rank some what above SCs and STs but below Hindu OBCs, other minorities and Hindu general (mostly upper caste) in almost all indicators of development (SCR, 2006:237). The Sacchar Commission posits a direct relationship between the low participation of the Muslims in the democratic process at all levels of the nation, state and grass root and lack of participation of the community in the development process. Sacchar Commission write: “The participation of Muslims in nearly all political spaces is low which can have an adverse impact on the Indian society and polity in the long run.... they don’t have the necessary influences or the opportunity to either change or even influence events which enables their meaningful and active participation in development process” (SCR, 2006:241).

Therefore, there is a need to ensure the proper participation of the Muslims at all levels of the democratic process particularly at the grass root level of Panchayati Raj, in order to bring about development of the community and for the success of democratic process. The mechanism recommended by the Sacchar Commission for true empowerment of the Muslims community is carefully conceived nomination procedure at the grass roots. Such a mechanism would
ensure that a large numbers minority will be nominated so as to increase their participation in local bodies. The Commission further recommended that the state government can enact appropriate state level loans to ensure Muslims representation in local bodies (SCR, 2006:241). Such a major would go a long way for the empowerment of the Muslims in PRIs which is imperative for their development.