CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS
Chapter - V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The present study entitled “Role of Women in Panchayat Raj Institution in Karnataka: A Case Study of Belgaum District”. Is an explorative and comparative enquiry undertaken with a view to study and understand political participation of women in panchayat raj institution functioning at the grass root level in the rural area. This study is also pertinent as to understand competencies, skill and knowledge of the women representatives and other various issues related. This study also make a sincere attempt to suggest feasible suggestions, which moreover boost the competencies and functioning of women representatives to induce them to work effectively and extensively in the political institution of their own.

Women have been an integral part of every social structure. Her role in the society is very prominent on account of fact that she is perpetuator of human race and significant contributor to socio economic progress within and outside the family. Despite this, women are subject to discrimination, ill treatment and in most cases she has been confined to the four wall of family and to domestic work. The gender bias in the social outlook and social practices widely prevailed resulting in denial of equality of status and opportunities to them in social economic and political spheres.

The place of women in rural India in social, economic, and political spheres is more deplorable, although women constitute almost
half of the country's population. Her contribution to the social and economic progress of the country is very immense. Inspite of this women's participation in development programmes have not been appreciated. They have been merely considered as passive beneficiaries rather than active contributors. On the political front women largely remain as inactive and indifferent due to various socio-economic constraints and also due to the absence of serious political and social motivation. Political participation of women in the past has been confined only to a few who belong to better socio economic strata and come from affluent families. Most of the women otherwise remain either as campaigner for the election contested candidate or otherwise remain as mere voters. Thus, women remained at the periphery of political and developmental issues.

It has been felt since long that the earlier indifferent attitude that, which confines women to mere domestic core need a change and unless women do not involve in the developmental pursuit the overall socio-economic development of the country cannot be fully realized. Further, the participation of women in political sphere has been felt as essential because they adequately represent women folk and they deal more effectively the problem of women and children their issues and need. In addition to this, they can be effective link between women and the development functionaries and ensure proper development of women and the whole community.

The need for decentralization of political machinery and giving power of self-governance to common man in the rural area has been felt
essential. This advocacy and understanding has been laid to the
development of Panchayat raj system at grass root level. This institution
relates to provide power to rural people to decide and implement their
own needs. The true impetus for the development of this institution has
come only in the post independence period of our country and
particularly in the last decade of the 20th century. The significant feature
of this system is, it has made provision for reservation for those
downtrodden, exploited and disadvantaged as well as for women.
Women's participation has been strongly emphasized.

Women's participation in panchayat is having immediate as well
as long term implications in as much as their leadership in quantitative
term is just too much below their own potent, reason why social evils
afflicting women folk could not be banished despite various legislations
are enacted. Women in some progressive countries of the west are
leading non-discriminatory and effective role in the public life. In those
countries there is no work in urban and rural areas, which is the sole
preserve for men folk. Both would work together with unity and
understanding, with no discrimination of any sort. However, women in
India are entering into the politics more in number in recent years than
earlier. Hence, rural women should reap the full advantage of the
opportunities available to her, beside this, the cooperation and support
of men folk is inevitable in this endeavour.

The fact remain is that women do make panchyat active and
respond favorably to the needs of community. Although every woman
is good to this system, but it is only such women who have skill,
knowledge and competencies, positive frame of mind, self-motivation and spirit of dedication, commitment and sincerity, prove to be the best asset. Hence the true spirit is to make efforts to develop women and make them to work for the prosperity.

Those years are gone, when women were merely looked upon as passive beneficiaries, autonomy was not given to them and they were treated very badly. In recent years the attitude of society has become more soft and considerate towards women. Women development has been on top priority of society in these days. Many progressive thoughts have already responded to this cause of developing women and emphasized their effective participation in the panchayat raj system as well. The need of the hour now is that women representatives are needed to imbibe essential qualities such as understanding importance of human resource, openness of communication, self encouragement to risk taking and experimentation, feedback regarding their own strengths and weakness, a general climate of trust, faith in people capabilities, tendency to help each other and to collaborate with each other is essential which put them in the advantageous position to work as effective representatives. Researcher was thus motivated to take up research work in the area of women’s participation in panchayat. The present study had done a sincere effort to find out the political awareness among women representatives and their political participation and role in panchayat raj system. Attempts were also made to understand the problems faced by the women with reference to their participation and to explore role of professional social worker in
the enhancement of role of women in P.R.I. this need has prompted for a thorough examination and elaborate look in view to understand these aspects lucidly, a comprehensive research study was needed. Perhaps the present one being undertaken would be a relevant answer to that.

**FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:**

Having made interpretation of various data offered by the respondents in the form of responses in the previous chapter, a quest has been made in this chapter to summarize and conclude the major findings of the study with a view to attempt at a few suggestions based thereon, which if incorporated have been of lasting impressions. It is hoped, it would bring, change in the work environment in the desired direction by enhancing participative effectiveness of women representatives in panchayat institution.

**Socio Demographic Profile:** Socio demographic profile of the respondents of research work is a matter of greater interest; it reveals personal aspect of the respondents. This category of respondents includes women representatives who are working in three-tier system of Panchayat Raj system. It is logically assumed that the socio demographic profile and the social background of the respondents could have a significant bearing on the outcomes of women participation.

A prominent socio demographic data to begin with is, Age which is an important variable. It may be observed here that, a highest number of women representatives of total sample of both taluks belong
to the age group 41-50 years i.e., 79(34.05%). Where as 24(10.34%) women representatives of both taluks belong to the age group of 21-30 years, which consists of minimum number of women representatives. Quite interestingly more number of women representatives were belonged to higher age group, on account of this they are not entering politics as compared to the women representatives belong to higher age group. As they were having more family and social responsibilities and even social practices of their own play a role of restriction for their entry into politics at such young age. In the Indian tradition it is common practice that women of higher age group are normally entrust the family responsibilities either to their grown up sons and daughters or to daughter-in law of their married sons. Hence they have more leisure and free time, this turn out to be a greater advantage for them and hence it is significantly noticed that their participation is quite high.

Religion has been another variable, majority of women representatives of the total sample were quite understandably i.e., 208 (89.65%) belonged to Hindu Religion. Rest of other women representatives were belonged to the other religions. This is understandable because majority of people in India were belonged to Hindu religion, hence most of women representatives functioning in this system were belonged to this religion. Besides this India is also secular state, therefore people professing other religions were having legitimate right to enter the politics.

Even caste wise distributions of women representative were analyzed. It is found that women representatives i.e., 81(34.92%) were
belonged to the forward caste were more in number. A minimum number i.e., 22(9.48%) women representatives were belonging to the schedule tribe.

Education has been another independent variable. Which indicates the educational background of women representatives. Data thus collected and as presented already, on the basis of this it may be observed here that, an overwhelming majority of women representatives of both the taluks i.e., 149(64.23%) were illiterate. Further, quite a few i.e. 57 (24.57%) were fortunate to have education upto primary level and 22(09.48%) women representatives were educated upto S.S.L.C. This reveals quite understandably that over the years, the education level of women were not so much high. But findings reveal that a paradigm shift is necessary among women representatives. They must aspire to improve their education. A woman representative with no education find her-self in difficulty, further this may increases her dependency on others for doing activities.

Marital status is another prominent variable. The finding thus reveals that, about 199(85.77%) women representatives of the total sample were married. Followed by this category 25 (10.77%) women representatives were widows and having second position. And 08(03.46%) women representatives were divorced and occupied the third position.

Occupation pattern of the women representatives were as follows. As many as 117(50.43%) of women representatives worked as
coolie and majority of them belonged to Gram Panchayat of both the taluks. Followed by this, quite significantly about 114(49.14%) women representatives were housewives. This finding suggests that most of the women representatives working in both the taluks were either confined to their domestic work and quite a good number of women representatives worked in unorganized sector as well. Therefore the occupation of women representatives of both taluks is mixed.

Type of family to which women representatives belonged to was another prominent variable. Finding thus revealed that as many as 139(59.92%) of women representatives were belonged to the nuclear family. This finding thus suggests that nuclear families were also becoming a common feature of rural community. Besides this as many as 93(40.08%) of women representatives were belong to joint family. This has been a common family tradition in India.

Social class to which women representative were belonging to was another variable. It is quite interesting to understand that almost equal number of women representatives i.e. 80(34.48%) were belonged to both upper and middle class. In addition to this about 72(31.04%) of women representatives were even belonging to the lower class. This is understandable that many women representatives were having occupation such as coolie.

The further discussion has made an endeavor to reveal the findings regarding the responses of women representatives belonging to both the taluka, relating to the aspect of socio demographic profile.
The responses obtained exhibited good insight, which contributes to the better revamping of the whole activity of promoting women's effective representatives in the Panchayat system.

The attempt of analyzing the other findings begin with a quest of understanding comparatively the awareness, which women representatives were having about their participation in political activities. The finding outlined that a majority 147(63.36%) women representatives of all the three tier of the Panchayat system were participating in the political activities of the Panchayat only in recent years especially after the enactment of constitutional amendment of 1993, quite a few i.e. 69(29.74%) were taking part in the political activity since long time. The finding thus showed that, most of the women representatives' participation in the Panchayat system was increased on account of pertinent legislation enacted by the government in 1993.

Women representatives of all the three-tier Panchayat system belonged to both taluks of total sample offered their opinion regarding the future plan for their constituencies. An overwhelming majority 149(64.23%) women representatives feels that provision of drinking water to people were the top priority of future plan for their constituency. Even quite a few others opined that to extend governmental programme for the welfare of rural poor, and working for rural development were also priority area for them. Thus, the finding reveals that most of them feel water is most desperate need of the people in future, Along with this even paying good attention to the need of rural development has to be always an most priority area.
Another quite an interesting query was related with regarding the reason for joining the politics the finding is quite remarkable. As many as 128 (55.17%) women representatives representing gram, taluk, and Zilla panchayat expressed that, they joined to the politics because of their family force. And others ascertained that their self-interest has brought them to this field. Thus it may be observed here that social custom and practices prevailed in our society acted these many days to confine most women to their domestic chores. The enactment of new Panchayat system has helped to come out of their family and take part in the affairs of the society.

Activities of the Panchayat is carried through the media of holding of Panchayat meeting, most women representatives belonged to the entire Panchayat system of both the taluks i.e.103 (44.40%) women representatives stated that Panchayat meetings are held regularly once in every 45 days. Most of others have other opinion regarding this. The finding thus revealed that most of the women representatives were unaware of proper conduct of meeting as per the norms prevailed. Therefore there is a need to hold the meeting as per schedule.

Panchayat activities are moreover a team activity therefore both male and female-elected members and rest of others who may be related to this system are required to work together like a team. An important query was asked regarding whether women representatives' discuss openly any subject with their male counterparts. The finding was thus remarkable as many as 141 (60.77%) women representatives
were agreed to this, however quite a few negated this. In a system especially like Panchayat system every body is required to work together like team with maximum support and cooperation between themselves.

Panchayat system stands for promotion of democratic functioning from the grass root level. It also ensures everybody whether male or female member have equal rights of participation in Panchayat Raj Institution. With this backdrop information a question was raised the finding revealed that as many as 195 (84.05%) women representatives agreed to this. a small portion of respondents negated this. It could be concluded through this finding that women's views and opinion were heard properly and are not neglected, as revealed by the study.

A majority of women representatives offered positive opinion with regard to the issue whether preference was given to women development programme during the Panchayat meeting. As many as 169 (72.85%) women representatives agreed to this. It is a symbolic that women issue of empowerment and development is catching the attention of all in these days.

Another interesting enquiry raised was with regard to, whether women representatives apart from their participation in the activities of Panchayat, do they also associate with any other organizations and association of their interest. A majority of women representatives i.e. 161 (69.40%) gave negative response to this. This clearly reveal that there
is a desperate need for them to associate with many organization and
association functioning in rural area and also think of involving them
for the well being and social change of their community.

Further it was found that as many as 161(69.40%) women
representatives revealed there is the need for women's organizations in
resolving women's problems. It is found through this finding that a
women's organization is more appropriate because it can understand
women's issues and problems in much better way than any body else.

As stated earlier with regard to the finding, since how long
women were participating in the Panchayat. Most of women
representatives endorsed a view that since recently. On account of this
as many as 201(86.64%) women representatives expressed opinion that
they do not have much political experience. This may be a great hurdle
in the effective functioning. Most of women representatives have a good
interest to work for the community betterment, but on account of their
inadequate knowledge they find hurdle in performing their role
properly.

Competent authorities in the Panchayat system take steps to
organize training programme to increase the skill and knowledge of
people's representatives. As many as 161(68.39%) of women
representatives had attended training programme twice. And rest
others had opportunities of attending training programme once.
Attending training programme put them in a better position of working,
as this may provide better skill and knowledge also this would put
them in competent position to perform their role.
Further on an enquiry regarding duration of the training programme attended by the women representative, the finding revealed that a majority of women representatives i.e., 123(53.02%) of panchayat of both the taluks had attended training programme for a period of two days. About 79(34.05%) women representatives had attended the training programme for a period of three days.

It is gratifying to note that majority of women representatives found that participation in the training programme had helped them to understand about various aspects of panchayat system and provided a confidence in them.

It is found through the finding of the study that about 139(59.92%) women representatives stated that training programme helped them to understand about law. Further as many as 93(40.08%) responded that training helped them to know about the government programme. Thus training a good programme help to get good benefits.

Another query to which responses was obtained the finding revealed that as many as 156(67.24%) women representatives of both the taluks have opined that they take part in the activities of the Panchayat to the extent of about 50%. Whereas even quite a few others opined that their participation were about 25%. However, a negligible 5(2.16%) of women representatives have stated the percentage of their participation were 100%. Thus in view of dearth of full participation, therefore there is a desperate requirement to boost participation to 100% by women representatives themselves is very essential.
As it is well known that the women is perpetuator of human race, child bearing and child rearing is prime obligation of her life. As many as 122(52.58%) women representatives of both the taluks did respond that they did not experience problem in caring for small kids at home while attending the activities of the Panchayat. As many as 100(43.11%) women representatives were positively endorsed this. It would seen that on account of attending dual responsibility within and outside has made women to be busy and stressful.

Further on enquiry regarding who look after kids while attending the meeting and activities of the Panchayat. About 201(86.61%) women representatives were positively opined that family members help them to look after the kids. So women representatives certainly require support and help from others in case they have small kids.

It was also matter of great concern regarding how they look after their household work along with the attending work of Panchayat. The finding thus revealed that as many as 121(52.16%) women representatives have stated that they helped in aspect by the family members. Thus once again it has been established that the support, cooperation and help from the family members is most badly required to them.

Another query was raised whether women representatives attended the work of Panchayat along with the family members. As many as 160(68.97%) women representatives were negatively responded. Whereas remaining women representatives attend along with their husband.
Women representatives while taking decision relating to their work, do they seek advice of their husband's. 148(63.79%) women representatives opined that they seek advice sometime. Most of respondents responded negatively. Thus it is found that the practice of seeking help in the discharge of activities was found in the women representatives.

Women representatives whether they face problem while attending work within and outside the home, about 154(66.38%) women representatives were negatively responded to this.

Further an enquiry regarding society's attitude towards them, most of the women representatives opined that society look at them with respect. Rest of the other women representatives do not endorse this opinion. Thus it is understood through the finding that the attitude of society is changing favorably towards women. And this would enable them to play their role properly in the society.

Women representatives responded to another query regarding do they get proper encouragement from other women while taking decision. Most of the women representatives i.e., 201(86.64%) endorsed a view that they were ably supported by other women member in this endeavour. This sort of mutual cooperation is desperately required for women to play their role as women representatives of the Panchayat adequately.

With regard to another question pertaining to men counterparts and their encouragement and support to women representatives in the
aspect of decision-making, on this an overwhelming majority of women representatives ascertained that they get good encouragement in their work. This however is most welcoming trend that gender bias is not intervening in the discharge of their activities by the women members.

With regard to the society's attitude towards women representatives relating to their participation in Panchayat activities whether is it favourable. As many as 85% of women representatives positively endorsed to this. However, another small percentage of women representatives negatively responded to this. Thus it would seen on the basis of this finding that women representatives were getting now a proper encouragement and support from the society. And their participation in the activities of Panchayat was viewed quite favourably.

An attempt of keeping administration as clean and efficient is a major goal for every government. Inspite of this some sort of misappropriation has almost become quite common at varies level, including the developmental institutions functioning at the grass root level. Women members' opinions were sought with regard to whether corruption in the functioning of the Panchayat is there and whether officials take bribe if any while selecting beneficiaries. On this as many as 80(34.48%) women representatives were negated to this. But 77(33.19%) women representatives were positively responded to this. however quite interestingly as many as 75(32.33%) women representatives opined that this happens sometime. It may thus, be concluded that corruption is always a black spot in the administration
and it deprives eligible people to enjoy benefits to which otherwise they were most legitimately eligible. The tendencies of these types are to be curbed at an appropriate level before things become worse.

Every body faces problems of different nature such as personal, family and community problems. Most of these problems would seriously impede the effective functioning, suppose these problems were not resolved as early as possible. Women representatives' opinions were elicited to the aspect whether they would face the problems. As many as 148(63.80%) women representatives stated that they have family problems. Similarly about 51(21.98%) women representatives have stated they have financial problems. Others have stated they have problem of employment and personal problems confronting them. Thus it may be concluded that women when entered public arena to take part in the affairs of the society, they must prepare themselves adequately to handle these problems and should not allow these problems to became hurdle in their functioning.

Women representatives' opinions were further sort regarding what are the major problems of their constituency. As many as 118(50.86%) women representatives ascertained that financial problem is the main problem of their constituency. About 54(23.28%) women representatives were stated that illiteracy is major problem. However rest of the respondents opined that family problem and unemployment problems were main problems. Thus it may be concluded that problem of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and family problems were the major problems at present in our society. Therefore an immediate
measure on war footing basis is required to be undertaken to overcome all these problems. This effort of resolving may start from the rural area, and women representatives need to play a major role in this regard.

Women empowerment is most attention-seeking term these days, government both center and states were pledging their commitment towards this aspect. Already the popular concept such as self-help groups gained lot of ground especially in the countryside to inculcate a saving habit among rural women towards rainy day. The opinion of women representatives is quite surprisingly mixed one. An overwhelming majority of women representatives i.e., 180(77.58%) belonging to both the taluks endorsed a positive view that the formation of self-help groups would solve women’s problem. However, remaining respondents responded otherwise. Thus it may be said that self-help concept is excellently playing vital role to promote women empowerment. In this regard women representatives are playing an important role.

Real test of the women representatives’ strength lies in responding to women’s needs and problems. Because a common saying is in vogue that women problems can better be understood by women only. As many as 137(59.05%) women representatives of both taluks positively responded that, they were successful in resolving the women problems most of the time. However, rest of others have opined that they were successful sometime. Thus it may be gratifying to note that all women representatives have concern to work for the betterment of
all in general, and women in particular. So this positive tendency of contributing prosperity to all need to continue forever.

Welfare in any field is judged on the basis of change and development taken place. Especially the development agency such as Panchayat system is related to bring change and development to society. An interesting query was raised regarding extent of change achieved. A majority i.e., 157(67.67%) of the respondents reported that almost 50% of changes have taken place. However, rest of others have opined otherwise. It is important to note that apart from economic changes, social change is also most important and especially in the rural area. As people in rural area divided on the basis of caste, creed, religion etc. therefore the most priority work required to do in the rural area would be to do the social mobilization to endeavour for the development of their own community.

Progress and improvement in any area depict the picture of development. Similarly any improvements were noticed especially among the condition of women was a matter of great interest. A query was raised regarding this. As many as 104(44.83%) women representatives ascertained that education improvement is the prime change noticed among the women like wise rest of the women representatives opined that economic improvement and improvement in the participation in political activities and improvement in the women life has been stated as subsequent changes noticed among women. Thus it may be concluded that on account of changes taken
place in recent years, the society has became favourable to help women for their development.

With regard to a question whether women in the rural area has benefited by the Panchayat Raj institution further this has helped them to find financial improvement was a matter of interesting question. The responses offered by the women representatives on this were mixed in nature. As many as 176(75.86%) women representatives positively responded to this. but remaining respondents strongly denied this. Thus it may be concluded that on account of prevailing rural poverty which is quite unique in nature it require much more deep probing to come to specific conclusion.

An excellent aspect of Panchayat Raj institution is that it has made provision for reservation for women in Panchayat. On account of this women entered the politics at grass root level. An interesting question was asked to women representatives regarding reasons for reservation to women in Panchayat. As many as 104(44.83%) women representatives were stated that to help women improve financially, reservation was required to them. Further to increase women participation politically also to help women socially also reservation to them in the Panchayat is required.

The attitude of society in recent years has become more soft and considerate towards women. Women development has been on top priority of development in recent years. Progressive steps have already been initiated in this regard for comprehensive development of women
in every spheres of life. With the enactment of Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 this act has made provision for reservation for women, with a purpose to help to them to involve in the political activities at the grass root level. On account of these women participation in the Panchayat institution has increased thereafter.

Since women already functioning in this system therefore the need of the hour now is that whether these women representatives need to imbibe essential qualities such as understanding importance of human resource, openess of communication, self encouragement to risk taking, and experimentation, feedback regarding their own strengths and weakness, a general climate of trust, faith in people with capabilities, tendency to help each other and to collaborate with each other, etc., are essential which may put them in the advantageous position to work as effective representatives.

Present study had done a sincere effort to find out the political awareness among women representatives and their political participation in Panchayat Raj system. Even attempt were also made to understand the problems faced by the women with reference to their participation and to explore the knowledge of professional social work to feasibly find avenues to contribute to effective functioning of this system in general and stimulating women's involvement in the functioning of this system in particular. This need has thus prompted for a thorough examination and elaborate out look to understand these aspects lucidly, a comprehensive research study was needed. Perhaps the present one being undertaken would be a relevant answer to that.
SUGGESTIONS:

Panchayat Raj is unquestionably Indian in origin. Panchayat bodies, which are genuine and effective democratic decentralized institutions, provide ample opportunities for a large number of rural people to take genuine and effective participation in the development and democratic decision making process and to infuse in the minds of the rural people a spirit of self help, self dependence and self reliance and to obtain the experience in the art of local self government. Panchayat Act, 1993 has provided a new dimension to the concept of people’s participation.

On account of basic structural changes in the Panchayat system in India, one of the striking features of it is, it has made provision for reservation for the poor, downtrodden and exploited class of society to find place in its functioning. Another important legacy in this regard is, it has made a provision for the entry of women into the Panchayat system. Therefore women were successfully functioning under this system since quite a long time now. The present study has been undertaken with a view to know the women participation in the Panchayat Raj system in Belgaum district restricting to two important taluks there. On account of this research study and based upon on the finding and conclusion in the foregone pages, an attempt has been made in this section to mention some vital suggestions which researcher feel that it may help to bring vital changes in terms of stimulating better participation of women in the Panchayat Raj system. Thus the following suggestions were listed out based upon this research study.
i. Participation of more women representatives in the Panchayat system in recent years is most remarkable and outstanding change in India. The present study revealed that, more women were entering this system after the age of 40 years. Whereas women under 30 years of age were entering minimum in number. Therefore it is important to think of ways and means, which promote their more representation in this system. This would facilitate a good mixture of young and experienced coming together and both can contribute to the effective functioning of the system.

ii. An overwhelming majority of women representatives of both the taluks were illiterate. Further, quite a few were fortunate to have education upto S.S.L.C. This certainly reveals that over the years, the education levels of women were not so much high. But finding have thus revealed that a paradigm shift is necessary with regard to the education among women representatives. They must aspire to improve the education of those who were already in politics. Woman representatives with no education find herself in difficulty, further this may increases her dependency on others for performing her role.

iii. Majority of women representatives of all the three tier of the Panchayat system were participating in the political activities of the Panchayat only in recent years especially after the enactment of constitutional amendment of 1993. Therefore there is need for
them to involve more and more in number to achieve rapid changes to their environment.

iv. With regard to women representatives future plan for their constituencies was concerned provision of drinking water to people were the top priority of future plan. Extension of governmental programme for the welfare of rural poor, and working for rural development were another priority area. Thus, the finding revealed that most of them feel water is the most desperate need of the people in future.

v. Most of the women representatives were unaware of proper conduct of meeting as per the norm and schedule prevailed. Therefore there is a need to appraise elected women representative on this aspect, so that they can own responsibility for the conduct of the meeting as per schedule.

vi. Panchayat activities are moreover a team activity. Therefore both male and female-elected members and rest of others who related to this system need to work together like a team. Women representatives’ should open up and discuss openly any subject with their male counterpart with maximum support and cooperation between themselves. Women’s views and opinion are to be heard properly without neglecting them, as was the case earlier.

vii. A majority of women representatives offered positive opinion with regard to the issue such as good preference were given to
women development programme during the Panchayat meeting. It is symbolic that women issue of empowerment and development is catching the attention of all in these days. And quite naturally this requires emerging from the grass root is essential.

viii. Another interesting enquiry raised with regard to, whether women representatives apart from their participation in the activities of Panchayat, do they also associate with any other organizations and association of their interest. A majority of women representatives had negated this. In view of this there is a desperate need for them to associate with many organization and association functioning in rural area and also think of involving them for the well being and social change of their community.

ix. It is found that a women's organization is more appropriate as it understand women's issues and problems in much better way than any body else. Hence there is a need for development of coordination of women's organizations with Panchayat representatives in resolving the problems.

x. Since most of women representatives were not having much political experience on account of their recent participation in politics. This may have been a great hurdle in the effective functioning. Most of women representatives have a good interest to work for the community betterment, but on account of their inadequate knowledge they may fail in performing their role
properly. So there is a need to inculcate better functioning skill in them.

xi. Women representatives were attended training programmes; competent authorities were take steps to organize training programme to increase the skill and knowledge of people's representatives. Attending training programme put them in a better position of working, as this will provide better skill and knowledge also this would put them in competent position to do their activities. It is gratifying to note that majority of women representatives found that participation in the training programme has helped them to understand about various aspects of Panchayat system and provided confidence to take part in various activities. Hence there is a need to organize training programmes regularly.

xii. Women representatives of both the taluks have opined that they take part in the activities of the Panchayat to the extent of about 25% to 50%. Thus there is a need to take up detailed study on this aspect, so that such studies may help to boost women's participation to 100%.

xiii. Many women members expressed that officials take bribe while selecting beneficiaries. Corruption is always a black spot in the administration and it deprives eligible people from getting their benefits. The tendencies of these types are need to be curbed at appropriate level before things go worse.
xiv. Women representatives stated that they have family, financial, employment and personal problems confronting them. Thus it may be concluded that women when entered public arena to take part in the affairs of the society, they must prepare themselves to adequately handle these problems and should not allow these problems cause hurdle in their functioning.

xv. Women representatives' opined that financial, illiteracy; family and unemployment problems were main problems of their constituency. It may be concluded that problem of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and family problems were also the major problems of our society or nation. Therefore an immediate measure on war footing basis is required to be undertaken to overcome all these problems. This effort of resolving to be started from the rural area. Women representatives need to play a major role in this regard.

xvi. It may be gratifying to note that all women representatives have concern to work for the betterment of all in general, and women in particular. So this positive tendency of contributing to the prosperity of all, need to be continued forever.

xvii. The responses offered by the women representatives with reference to improvement in their financial condition were mixed in nature. Therefore arriving at any conclusion such as Panchayat Raj has helped women financially require much deeper probing.
An excellent aspect of panchayat raj institution is that it has made provision for reservation for women in panchayat. On account of this women have entered the politics at grass root level. Women representatives have stated that reservation of seats in Panchayat Raj Institution may help women to improve financially, socially and to promote their participation in politics, hence, this provision has to be continued in future also.

SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE:

This research study bears a social work perspective. For this social work backdrop is essential, and as the finding of this research study would become more relevant to carry the application. Social work as a profession is based upon the scientific skill and knowledge to help the people to help themselves. The basic philosophy of this profession is to help the client and help him for the continuity of change initiated in him, which empowers him to lead a self-reliant dignified life. On account basic structural changes in the Panchayat system in India, one of the sticking feature of it's is, it has made provision for reservation for poor, downtrodden and exploited class of society to find place in its functioning. Another important legacy in this regard is, it has made a provision for the entry of women into the Panchayat Raj Institution. Therefore women are successfully functioning under this system since quite a long time now.

Social work intervention into the field of women welfare has been there since many decades. Over the years this intervention is initiated at
micro and macro levels. Social workers have demonstrated their utilities both to the client and to the society; they have knowledge and skill that helps them to work very successfully to work at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to find remedies to various personal and work related problems of many.

SOCIAL WORK IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT:

Ever since social work has emerged as a helping profession it has demonstrated very successfully its utilities in every field. It has grown up very successfully by utilizing the knowledge of related social sciences. The problem solving process adopted in this profession is truly scientific. It play a strategic role in stimulating effective functioning of social order in general and democratic decentralized political institution at grass root level. Role of social work relates with lot of authority and advocacy in the following way to help women members of the Panchayt Raj Institution.

❖ Social worker need to induce the people’s representatives especially women representatives to attempt for integrated rural development.

❖ In view of low literacy rate prevailing in rural area, social work intervention is feasibly required and it need to concentrate in the direction to universalization of primary education, with emphasis on enrollment and retention of first generation learners in the school system. Prevention of school dropouts especially of the girls and paying attention to the need of providing basic
infrastructure to the school such as better class rooms, equipments, toilet facilities for all and adequate personnel and playground facilities. Attention should need to concentrate on issue of popularization of adult and social education.

- Social work intervention is further required in the direction to popularize the system of small family norms, helping these representatives, people of their own community to adopt both permanent as well as spacing methods of birth control.

- Steps should also be initiated to promote health condition of both mother and children through achieving effective service delivery of the ICDS scheme. And achieve goals of universal immunization and prevent IMR and MMR rates.

- Rural people are also guided to pay an attention to promote environment and sanitary condition in their localities and undertaking community development work such as road, lights, schools, hospitals with major emphasis on water management and bringing more and more land under forest cover.

- Development of primary occupation of rural people, especially agriculture to transform from traditional to modern by adopting innovative agricultural practices, soil conservation, vermiculture and also inducing people to make use of non-conventional energy sources.

- Helping non-formal organizations to maintain peace and good understanding and harmonious relationship between people.
❖ Identification of apt needies under different development scheme and to ascertain that these beneficiaries are benefited.

❖ Helping rural masses to adopt positive liberal outlook and develop spirit of participating in the developmental activities.

❖ Endeavoring for women empowerment through adaptation of women empowerment schemes and on-going programme.

❖ Work in the direction to eradicate social inequality from the social fabric of society and achieve growth with social justice.

The above-mentioned measures and social work intervention is desperately required for a country like India. Social work role in stimulating effective functioning by all and women representative in particular is very immense; it can play a vital area to comprehend the change and development to the society through this political system.