CHAPTER VII
CONCLUSION, OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS
In the present study an attempt is made to examine the different political activities of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes’ people and their concern to panchayat raj institutions in Dharwad district.

The political parties in Dharwad district successfully have managed to penetrate deeply into the society. Thus the political parties have become the only effective and motivational factor for increased political participation of people belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes people in rural Dharwad district. It does not mean that the role of caste association or the social groups are irrelevant to the political processes. When we compared and analysed the role of political party in moulding the people’s awareness is fairly high.

Thus the hypothesis that the political parties are the main agents of mobilizing the common mass of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has proved right.

The common mass of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes people have shown a great interest in voting to panchayat bodies. All the sub-castes, different income group people, educated and uneducated people within scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, shown a great interest in voting.
The common mass of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people in Dharwad district are receiving information about politics from various sources. Newspapers, Radio, Television, Party meetings, Handbills, Villagers, Party candidates serve as major sources of information to these people. Among these party meetings, newspapers and party candidates play a vital role in communicating the information about politics in Dharwad district.

The awareness about politics is high among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people in Dharwad district and they are more conscious about the political activities and happenings in central, state and in local level.

Thus hypothesis that the extent of politico-electro consciousness among common mass of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is high is proved right.

The common mass of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are more affiliated to congress party in district. More than 68% of the people showed affiliation towards congress party during election and wanted the rule of congress party. All the income groups, sub castes within scheduled castes and scheduled tribes showed much affiliation towards congress party. Other parties like Bharatiya Janata party, Janata Dal United, Janata Dal Secular party played a less role in winning the affiliation of these people.

Thus the hypothesis that common mass of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are much affiliated to the major national party i.e. congress party, is proved right.
The majority of panchayat members communicate the problems related to the masses. The majority of lower group castes among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe members were not satisfied the way in which the panchayats identified the beneficiaries.

The majority of higher income group castes among scheduled caste and scheduled tribes were not satisfied the way in which the panchayats identified beneficiaries.

Majority of the common mass were satisfied with the programmes initiated by the panchayats. The lower income groups among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes living conditions were improved by the programmes initiated by the panchayats. Where as majority of higher income group among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes opined their living conditions has not improved by the programmes initiated by the panchayats.

Caste played a prominent role in motivating the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes leaders in contesting elections for panchayat bodies. All the sub-caste leaders of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders agreed that their respective caste people motivated them to contest elections for panchayats.

Thus the hypothesis that, caste plays a vital role in motivating scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders in contesting the elections of panchayats is proved right.
The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes leaders have participated in almost all the party activities, among them canvassing is the major party activity in which these people are participated.

Thus the hypothesis that canvassing is the major party activity of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders is proved right.

Caste is the main factor in winning the elections for panchayat bodies to the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Different sub-caste leaders within their people held the opinion that their respective caste is the main factor in winning the election for the panchayat bodies.

Thus the hypothesis that, caste is the main factor in winning the elections of leaders belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is proved right.

The leaders of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes played a moderate role in influencing the other members during panchayat meetings. Majority of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders wanted to use their political power to serve the people. The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders wanted the political parties in panchayat elections.

In Dharwad district the common people have shown their faith in panchayati raj system. Overall study observes that, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have shown the great interest in using their political right that is voting. All subcastes of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes like Madar, Holer, Valmiki, Bedar, Samgar, Lamani etc., showed faith in
panchayat raj institutions, political parties done well in capturing the confidence of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people in Dharwad district. Political parties are the important agents in mobilizing the people. The obvious reasons for their attachment to the political parties is the political parties announces certain special welfare measure to the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in their party manifesto. Therefore these people have shown great faith in political parties and have shown less interest towards the caste groups. Party meetings, news papers, party candidates are the important source of information to the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Dharwad district.

People of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are very keen in knowing the political happenings in central, state, and at local level and their knowledge about politics is very high. Congress party has played a greater role in winning the confidence of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people. It is very common notion among these people that the congress party will represent the wishes of downtrodden. These people have much hopes on congress party right from the days of late prime minister Indira Gandhi. Other political parties like Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata Dal Secular, Janata Dal United played a very less role in winning the hearts of rural people in Dharwad district.

The majority of the leaders communicate to the common mass in asking the problems of the masses. The leaders do not discriminated the rich and poor masses in the matter of communication. The panchayats initiated various
programmes in order to improve the living conditions of the people. The lower income group among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes satisfied the way in which the panchayats identified the beneficiaries, but the majority of higher income group among these group were not satisfied the way in which the panchayati identified the beneficiaries, because majority of the programmes initiated by the panchayats are meant for the poor people.

The leaders among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are motivated by their own caste members. This shows that the importance of castes in politics of India. The majority of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes leaders opined that their respective caste is the important factor in winning the elections for panchayati bodies. It is noticed during the field work that majority of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders are elected from the reserved seats. It shows that till today these people are not able to stand for elections in general category. The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people participated in almost all party activities among party activities, canvassing is one of the main party activities of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders none of these leaders are able to donate money for party activities. The obvious reason for this is majority of these leaders are poor. The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders play a moderate role in influencing the other members in panchayati meetings. This is very good move that the other general category members in panchayat are supporting these people during party meetings.
The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders in rural Dharwad district want to use their political power to serve the people. This is so because these people had the experience of miseries and problems of poor people. So, now these people want to utilise their political power in serving the people and want to look for a way to solve their problems, majority of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe leaders want political parties in panchayati elections. They are of the opinion that political parties ventilate the problems related to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people and they solve the problems of these people.

Suggestions:

1. People belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should come forward to contest election in general seats.

2. More importance has to be given to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes members during the panchyat meetings.

3. Number of reserved seats for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe may be increased.

4. The government has to fix certain minimum qualifications to contest elections for panchyats.

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