



# Economic and Political Role of Women in Panchayat Raj Institutions-A study special reference to Chitradurga Taluk

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## Abstract

*The term empowerment of women refers to the process of providing power to women to become free from the control of others. That is to assume power to control her own life & to determine her own conditions. The study shows that the majority (83%) of the poor communities in Chitradurga taluk and District live in rural areas. And the level of education is very low, majority (71%) of the respondents are either uneducated or educated only up to the primary level. Most of the (62%) women's are engaged in coolie or agriculture labour which has resulted in low individual income and low family income. Most women have not completed their basic primary education and there is considerable number of school drop outs among the respondents. increase in family planning awareness, decline in dowry based exploitation, Increase in educational opportunities for household members, recognition in community, Increase in access to the sanitation facility, increase in access to the immunization, Increase in access to the health services, voicing concern about self development, Increase in nutritional awareness, increase in health awareness, occupational changes,*

**Key words:** *Empowerment, Panchayath raj institution, elected member, traditional disease, village meetings, illiterate,*

## Introduction

Nowhere in the history of humanity men & women were treated alike & assigned statuses like . Women have not been able to lead a life exactly on par with men in spite of their urge for equality.

## Meaning of women empowerment

Swami Vivekananda said, that country, & that nation which did not respect women have never become great nor will ever in future.

The term '**Empower**' first introduced by '**pallow frayer**' in '**Vigilanization**'. Which means '**holding on resources**'.

The term '**Empowerment of women**' has become popular especially after 1980s. It refers to process of strengthening the hands of women who have been suffering from various disabilities, inequalities, & gender discrimination.

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### **Acc to one view;**

The term empowerment women could also be understand as the process of providing equal rights, opportunities, responsibilities, & power positions to women so that they are able to play a role an par with men in society.

## Definitions

**Chandra**-It is one of the process & result of the process about the distribution of authority of male chauvinistic & questioning about principles of male dominance.

### Factors Facilitating Empowerment of women

Various Social-Economic & Political factors facilitate the empowerment of women among them the following may be noted.

#### 1. Acknowledging Women Rights; Society should recognize the like men, women are also entitled to equal rights.

Freedom to take Decisions & make choices; Women should have freedom to decide whether to marry or not to marry & after marriage. The freedom to decide as to how many children that they should have & so on.

#### 2. Access to Education & Empowerment

Women can become stronger only with educational & economic power. Mere expectations cannot help conditions must be created in such a way that women get easy access to education & later on become employed. Sufficient economic freedom is a must for women to lessen their dependence on men.

#### 3. Opportunities for Political Participation;

If women's voice is to carry more weight they must be given political power. They must be free to take part in the administrative process. When a Women in the village gets elected as member of the Gram Panchayat. She becomes automatically powerful in the family. She can expand the facilities of the village school & raise it to higher standard. She can get bore well & a water tank for the village, get community hall, reading room & so on.

## Strategies for Economic and Political Role

Acc to international women's conference the Indian govt, National advertise sector announced three strategies of women's empowerment. i.e.

#### 1. Participation of women in politics

Minimum 33% seats reservation for women and some power positions and posts also reserved for women at rural and bureaucracy level.

#### 2, Provide economically income projects for women

Provide some new opportunities to women. Especially in rural development programmers. We must give importance to women in selection procedure of facilitator. [IRDP, JRY, TRYSEM].

#### 3. Gradually increasing of women literacy in social sector

We must support to women literacy in coordination of govt & NGOs for the women independency.

## Objectives of the Study:

The present study intends to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. To explore into the socio-economic and educational status of women
2. To find-out political awareness among women.
3. To examine their political aspirations.
4. To understand the process of change among women in the changing scenario of the power structure in rural society.
5. To analyze the fundamental challenges and problems women in discharging their duties as members of Panchayat raj institutions.

## Methodology and Sample Size:

The present research work is under taken, in Chitradurga dist. Chitradurga district is one of the big district of Karnataka. Present study is based on primary and secondary data. Data has been collected from the sources such as books, news papers, articles and women development department. The research undertaken covers Chitradurga taluk and district rural areas of Karnataka state. It is proposed to select **50** women respondents who are the members of panhayath Raj Institutions (GP, TP and ZP) from the taluk of the district. The study will be done after brief visit of the field. Random sample technique will be used for the present study, and also group discussions with members of Panchayath raj institutions.

## Collection of data

The responses relating to the women development and PRIs were obtained from the respondents by using an interview schedule, and observation technique coupled with discussions. Informal dialogues and discussions revealed certain facts about the research problem. The design of the schedule administered to elected members covered various aspects. The schedule primarily aimed at collecting information's from members with regard to;

- ❖ Personal data such as age, sex, religion, education, marital status, occupation, annual income, landholding, caste, political affiliation and political awareness regarding functioning of PRI's
- ❖ Special focus on the participation of women representatives by seeking their opinion on the reservation for women, female education and socio-economic participation political career and their participation in decision making;
- ❖ Finally the respondents role in decision making in Grama Panchayats and women's attendance in meeting's, average time spent in village matters, nature of issues handled, ways of improvise their participation and advantages of their participation; and
- ❖ Influence of family on the political career of elected women representatives and future of political career.

## Statement of the problem

Even though in Karnataka local self governance is in existence from 10<sup>th</sup> century onwards, in different forms, the reservation for women was a compulsory only in 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment to Indian Constitution.

After independence, women due to government and other organization's support started to improve their social, economic life. Based on 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment to Indian constitution elections were conducted during October 1996 and women Panchayat Presidents occupied the local self-government from October 1996 onwards. The study deals with Panchayat Raj Institutions and Women Development with Special Reference to Chitradurga District of Karnataka.

It is very interesting to examine the role of elected women members in representation of local development issues in the women empowerment. The women in Indian society enjoy low socio economic position and they have less empowerment compared to the men. In this situation to what extent the elected village council members make represents their local development issues could be an interesting point of view of investigation.

## Area of the Study

The investigation is directed in the Chitradurga locale of Karnataka. The Chitradurga is one of the retrogressive localized regions of Karnataka state. The region is limited by Tumkur, Chikkamagalur, Shivamoga, Davanagere, and Ballary Districts, of Karnataka State. The territory of Karnataka with its topography, recorded and dialect talked by its occupants is a differing state. Its way of life networks, standings and religions are terrifically essential. The area of Chitradurga with its authentic significance, hillocks, and fortifications engravings is additionally exceptional, It is in this background the network contemplates whether huge or little, its size is noted.

## Method of Analysis

Soon after collecting the data the response sheets of interview is edited and scrutinized. Code book is prepared with the help of verbal response and they have been transformed to numerical data to analyze essential statistical tests used to tabulate of the data, descriptive method is followed in data analysis. Both the '**Qualitative Analysis**' and '**Quantitative Analysis**' techniques are used in the analytical method. It is used 'quantifying method' in analysis of primary data of research. The other useful methods of data analysis are also carried on.

**CHITRADURGA TALUK PANCHAYAT ELECTED MEMBERS LIST**

Sl.No.	Name	Sex	Category	Designation	Membership Begin Date
1.	ಆರ್.ಎನ್. ವೇಣುಗೋಪಾಲ	Male	General	President	13/02/2016
2.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಕೆ.ಶೋಭಾ	Female	General	Vice President	13/02/2016
3.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಚಂದ್ರಕಲಾ	Female	ST	Member	13/02/2016
4.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸಿ. ಶಾಂತಮ್ಮ	Female	General	Member	13/02/2016
5.	ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಎಂ. ಲಿಂಗರಾಜ್	Male	General	Member	13/02/2016
6.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಶಿಲ್ಪ ಹುಲುಗಪ್ಪ	Female	SC	Member	13/02/2016
7.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸಿ.ಗೀತಾಬಾಯಿ	Female	SC	Member	13/02/2016
8.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸಿದ್ದಮ್ಮ	Female	General	Member	13/02/2016
9.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ದುರುಗಮ್ಮ	Female	SC	Member	13/02/2016
10.	ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಬಿ. ಬೋರಯ್ಯ	Male	ST	Member	13/02/2016
11.	ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ಮಂಜಣ್ಣ	Male	SC	Member	13/02/2016
12.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಧಾ	Female	General	Member	13/02/2016
13.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ತಿಪ್ಪಮ್ಮ	Female	SC	Member	13/02/2016
14.	ಸುರೇಶ್ ನಾಯ್ಕ ಪಿ	Female	SC	Member	13/02/2016
15.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಪ್ರತಿಭಾ	Female	General	Member	13/02/2016
16.	ಎಂ.ಕೆ. ತಿಮ್ಮಣ್ಣ	Male	General	Member	13/02/2016
17.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ನಿಂಗಮ್ಮ	Female	General	Member	13/02/2016
18.	ಎನ್.ಬಿ. ಪ್ರಸನ್ನ	Male	General	Member	13/02/2016
19.	ಎಸ್.ಸುರೇಶ್	Male		Member	13/02/2016
20.	ಶ್ರೀ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಡಿ	Male	SC	Member	13/02/2016
21.	ಹೆಚ್.ಜಿ. ಶೇಖರಪ್ಪ	Male	General	Member	13/02/2016
22.	ಶ್ರೀ ನಾಗೇಂದ್ರಪ್ಪ	Male	SC	Member	13/02/2016
23.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಅಂಬುಜಾ	Female	General	Member	13/02/2016
24.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಜಿ.ರಾಧಮ್ಮ	Female	General	Member	13/02/2016
25.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ವನಜಾಕ್ಷಮ್ಮ	Female	General	Member	13/02/2016
26.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಮ್ಮ	Female	ST	Member	13/02/2016
27.	ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಕಲ್ಲೇಶ್	Male	SC	Member	13/02/2016
28.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಚೌಡಮ್ಮ	Female	ST	Member	13/02/2016
29.	ಹೆಚ್. ಕರಿಯಪ್ಪ	Male	ST	Member	13/02/2016

In Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat 29 elected members is there, in this statistics seventeen [17] women elected members. 58.62% are represented in Taluk Panchayat. Totally the lack of education, family background, and rigid traditions is obstacle to women participation in politics.

**CHITRADURGA DISTRICT ZILLA PANCHAYAT ELECTED MEMBERS LIST**

Sl.No.	Name	Sex	Category	Designation	Membersh ip Date
1.	Smt.Vishalakshi Nataraj	Female	General	President	04/05/2016
2.	Smt N,P,Sushilamma-Pennobalaswamy	Female	ST	Vice President	04/05/2016
3.	Smt Chetean Prasad-jagadish prasad	Female	General	Member	04/05/2016
4.	Sri Nataraj.R	Male	SC	Member	04/05/2016
5.	Sri C.B.Papanna	Male	Others	Member	04/05/2016
6.	Smt Vijayalakshmi-Prakash	Female	ST	Member	04/05/2016
7.	Sri Obalesha.	Male	ST	Member	04/05/2016
8.	Sri R, Nagendra Naidu	Male	SC	Member	04/05/2016
9.	Sri R, Ananth	Male	General	Member	04/05/2016
10.	Sri D.V.Sharanappa	Male	General	Member	04/05/2016
11.	Sri Prakash Murthy	Male	SC	Member	04/05/2016
12.	Smt.Savith -Raghu	Female	SC	Member	04/05/2016
13.	Smt..Jayaprathibha	Female	SC	Member	04/05/2016
14.	Smt R.Mamatha kumaraswamy	Female	SC	Member	04/05/2016
15.	Sri Ajjappa.C.B.	Male	General	Member	04/05/2016
16.	Sri D.K.Shivamurthy	Male	Others	Member	04/05/2016
17.	Sri Thippeswamy M.B.	Male	ST	Member	04/05/2016
18.	Sri K.C.Maheshwarappa	Male	General	Member	04/05/2016
19.	Sri Krishnamurthy .R	Male	General	Member	04/05/2016
20.	Smt.Rajeshwari	Female	ST	Member	04/05/2016
21.	Smt.Shashikala Suresh Babu	Female	Others	Member	04/05/2016
22.	Smt.R,Geetha-Nagakumar	Female	SC	Member	04/05/2016
23.	Smt.Chandrika	Female	SC	Member	04/05/2016
24.	Smt.Shashirekha H.P.	Female	ST	Member	04/05/2016
25.	Smt.Triveni Shivaprasada	Female	General	Member	04/05/2016
26.	Smt.Sowbhagyamma-basavarajan	Female	General	Member	04/05/2016
27.	Sri K.T. Gurumurthy	Male	General	Member	04/05/2016
28.	Smt.Gowramma H.R.	Female	General	Member	04/05/2016
29.	Sri Manjunatha-Obaiah	Male	ST	Member	04/05/2016
30.	Smt.suma Lingaraju	Female	General	Member	04/05/2016
31.	Sri Thippeswamy (TMP)	Male	General	Member	04/05/2016
32.	Smt.Kousalya Thippeswamy	Female	ST	Member	04/05/2016
33.	Smt.Sudha Ravikumar	Female	General	Member	04/05/2016
34.	Sri Mutturaj.T	Male	General	Member	04/05/2016
35.	Dr,Yogesh Babu	Male	ST	Member	04/05/2016
36.	Sri Mundaragi Nagaraja	Male	SC	Member	04/05/2016
37.	Dr.Indira Reddy-B.T.Nagireddy	Female	General	Member	04/05/2016

In Chitradurga District Zilla Panchayat 37 elected members working there. 19 women elected to Zilla Panchayat one women president and one woman got vice president seat. 51.35% members belong to women. 265 G.P. women members out of 638 total G.P.members.41.53%

## Findings and Discussion:

The study shows that the majority (83%) of the poor communities in Chitradurga taluk and District live in rural areas. And the level of education is very low, majority (71%) of the respondents are either uneducated or educated only up to the primary level. Most of the (62%) women's are engaged in coolie or agriculture labour which has resulted in low individual income and low family income. Most women have not completed their basic primary education and there is considerable number of school drop outs among the respondents.

The major reasons for this are attributed to the negative attitude towards female education, economic problems in the family, lack of awareness about the importance of the education and lack of schools. Majority of (89%) women could realize the importance of education after Political member when they found difficulty in taking responsibilities.

In this discussion the extent of women elected members represents the issues relating to integrated child development scheme, national social assistance scheme, provision of urban amenities in rural areas, health sub-centre rural roads, rural housing scheme, drinking water, drainage, sanitation, rural infrastructure works, rural nonfarm employment, national rural employment scheme, rural livelihood promotion, rural sanitation, immunization for pregnant mother and children, forestry formation, social works, prime minister rural employment scheme, Swarnjayanti gram Swarozgar Yojana, rural industry and women and child development could deserve due attention on the part of the present study.

An analysis of women elected members purposes of power utilization in meetings relating to development works, promotion of village sanitation and health, social development, fight against social injustice, women development, protection women rights, supplying basic minimum needs for poor people and economic development of the women could be analyzed from the point of view of the present study.

It is relevant to examine the women members' mode of communicating with the public about the activities taken in the meetings relating to talking with each household, at weekly meeting, friends and relatives, village council meetings, women self help groups, through party workers and through husband or any family members could be assessed from the point of view of respondents.

An analysis of women members' activities of community works could deserve due attention on the part of the present study. In this connection community works relating to awareness generation against early marriage and child marriage, awareness generation against dowry working against girl-trafficking, conducting eye-camp, nutritional camp, health camp, arranging school-sports, conservation of eco-system of forest and working against drug/alcohol could be examined for the purpose of present research.

The impact of panchayath raj institutions on women development could be examined from the point of view of socio cultural changes gender equality reported among the elected women village panchayath members.

In this discussion the socio cultural changes relating to equity in public speech, decline in child birth per household, decline in joint family system, decline in female infanticide,

Increase in movements of women for education and employment, increase in education female children, freedom access to the all parts of the village, decline in the level of untouchability,

Increase in indicate dining in festivals and festivities, knowledge about human rights violation, shift in marriage and kinship system indicating greater value and autonomy, local campaigns against domestic violence, freedom in spouse selection and marriage timings, participation in development program,

Increase in decision making related to child centered, increase in girl child development awareness,

Increase in family planning awareness, decline in dowry based exploitation,

Increase in educational opportunities for household members, recognition in community, Increase in access to the sanitation facility, increase in access to the immunization, Increase is access to the health services, voicing concern about self development,

Increase in nutritional awareness, increase in health awareness, occupational changes, receiving equal treatment in local bodies, interaction with outsiders and mobility could be examined from the point of view elected village council members through rating method.

**It is interesting to examine the legal and political changes** (political freedom) taken place on the part of the elected village council members through rating method. In this context, the indicators relating to decline in official formalities in getting benefit from the government schemes, decline in political intervention in getting benefits from the government schemes, decline in problems in getting benefits from the government schemes, getting benefit directly from the government,

Representing views and opinions in local body meeting, demanding needed services and facilities from the elected representatives, participation in political meeting, membership in political parties, knowledge of democratic system of government, voting according to own decision, domestic support for exacting rights, community mobilization for rights, effective local enhancement of legal rights, campaign for rights awareness and easy access to the elected representatives.

The study point out the changes in the health care behavior on the part of the elected women members, relating to taking modern medicine and drugs, taking preventive proper health care use, taking preventive health care practices,

Increase in family planning awareness, taking preventive health care practices, proper vaccination of children, endorsing household members to follow healthy practices, boiling water before drinking proper protection of food from flies and insects, proper protection of rooms and home environment, hand washing after defecation, proper washing of rooms and home environment, proper washing and protection of utensils, safe disposal of infant excretion and cleaning latrines and using sanitary latrines could be examined from the point of view of elected women village council members under rating method.

It is very essential to understand the elected women members' problems (basic right and dignity) in participation in meetings and representing their problems, abusive language, self motivate of panchayat members, relative interference, lack of support from the male member, lack of support from the female member, inhabitations in speaking in front of elders, family interference, lack of support from the family member, household chores, economic constraints, domination of husband role, difficult to express some social issues, partiality in allocation of works, inadequate attention to the representation made by women member, domination of state ruling party member domination and low attention towards voicing concern on women issues could be examined from the point of view of the elected women members under rating method.

Further, there is a need to examine the women members' ways and means of overcoming barriers in participation in meetings and representing their problems.

Finally, some policy suggestions could be made to improve the activities of the elected women members in their local government activities.

## **Conclusion**

Women cannot be empowered in a magical manner. It is not an automatic or a spontaneous process, but requires deliberate & consistent efforts. It is combined & co-ordination efforts of the government people & women the task can be fulfilled. Women cannot be effectively empowered by statutory 'provisions or governmental' efforts alone. Women are empowered through women emancipation movement, education, communication, media, political parties & general awakening'.

## **References:**

- 1) Field study
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- 3) Observation
- 4) Social Medias
- 5) Websites
- 6) Department of PRIs of chitradurga.